

# *the* word

The Magazine of The Maynard School Alumnae  
Spring 2019







# WELCOME

May we wish you all the warmest of welcomes to this edition of The Word, the magazine which seems to be growing with each and every year that passes. This is in part due to the sheer amount there is always to report from our Maynard community, but also largely due to the ever-increasing contact that we have with our wonderful alumnae. We love to hear and share your news so please do keep the updates coming in!

Something that struck us this year was just how many of our Old Maynardians have made the bold decision to up sticks and set off in search of a new life abroad and we celebrate just a tiny fraction of these ladies in our feature on pages 30 – 37.

Many of you will no doubt have fond memories of our wonderful Tricia Wilks (see page 17) who has been here at The Maynard for 27 years and will be so sadly missed when she retires from teaching at the end of the academic year. We wish her all the luck in the world for an equally busy and fulfilling life ahead as an author and as a doting grandmother to her growing number of grandchildren.

As ever, the pages here cover only the briefest synopsis of everything that is going on but do keep an eye on our website ([www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk)) or our social media platforms for a bigger picture of it all.

In the meantime, may we wish you all a wonderful summer ahead and do please keep in touch!

Sarah Dunn (Headmistress)  
Rachael Board (Editor)



Conserving big cats and empowering communities  
**Amy Dickman**

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**Tricia Wilks**

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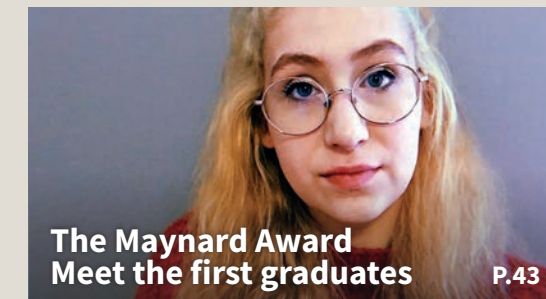
40 Years of Head Girls

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The Maynard Award Meet the first graduates

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## The Story Behind The Cover...

You may wonder at the connection between a majestic tiger, a Californian beach and The Maynard School... Well, the answer lies with former pupil Belinda Jones. This is the cover for her bestseller *The Californian Club* and ties in with her new release - *The Hotel Where We Met* (out this summer) - as both feature the paradise island of Coronado, set across the bay from San Diego. If you like books to spirit you away to another world, these are ideal and the new one even features some romantic time travel to take you that extra mile! Belinda is also the author of *Bodie On The Road* (*The Dogged Pursuit of Happiness*) which is out now in the UK (Summersdale), Germany (Benevento) and USA (Skyhorse) [www.bodieontheroad.com](http://www.bodieontheroad.com)



# News

## Girls score excellently under new GCSE grading system



In a year of uncertainty and change with the well-publicised reforms to the GCSE system, our students performed superbly to triple the national average of the top grades of 7, 8 and 9.

There were some remarkable results across the academic departments; of the girls taking Physics, an enormous 90% achieved grades 7-9, the equivalent of an A or A\* (and 43% gaining the top scoring grade 9). In fact, across all three separate sciences 87% of the students gained grades 7-9 (A\* or A). 93% of those taking Drama scored 7-9 (35% with a grade 9) and History was also impressive with 70% achieving 7-9 (24% with a grade 9).

As a result of these outstanding results we were rated within the Department for Education's Performance League Tables as the 5th= (out of 1311) best performing independent school in England for the percentage of students who achieved grade 5 or above in the English and Maths GCSEs, as well as 15th nationally for the Attainment 8 score based on how well students have performed in up to eight mainstream qualifications.

## Top of the A-level tables for the fourth consecutive year



The 2018 A-level cohort once again excelled across the board with a 100% pass rate and an incredible 81% achieving A\*-B. Year on year, the school always far exceeds the national average of the top grades and this was no exception with 52% achieving A\*-A putting us as the highest ranking independent school in Devon according to the Department for Education's Schools Performance League Tables based on A-level results from summer 2018.

## Biz Whizz Careers Club: Thanks to our alumnae speakers

A huge thank you to our many wonderful Old Maynardians who have popped back over the past few months to take the weekly Senior School and Sixth Form careers talks. We have been truly fortunate to have hosted such a fascinating array of professionals and we really are indebted to you for so willingly giving of your time to share your experiences and wisdom with our girls.

We are keen to expand our careers network for future talks so please do contact [rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk) if this is of interest to you.



## New Health & Fitness Suite a welcome addition



The new Health & Fitness Suite adjoining the Performing Arts Centre/Gym building is proving an almighty hit. Opened in November last year, all Sixth Formers are allowed to use the facilities during their free periods, it is home to regular fitness classes for the Senior girls and it has also proven very popular with many members of staff. Not only that, but it also doubles up as an invaluable welcome area for all the many shows and concerts that take place next door!

The Dining Centre also underwent several refurbishments last summer, most notably a new Sixth Form Bistro in what used to be the old changing rooms. The lockers here have been relocated to a covered area alongside Bradley Hall and girls can use the changing facilities inside the sports hall to prepare for matches, games and PE lessons.

## Paving the way in the new Youth STEM Award

At a time when careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine are crying out for women to join their ranks, we were delighted to become the first school in the South West to sign up this year to the new Youth STEM Award.



Although launched in 2015, the Award was only opened up last year to independent schools in the UK and, with our fantastic track record of high-level achievement in the STEM subjects, we are proud to be the first to step up to the plate in supporting the initiative.

Several girls in Years 10 and 11 are enrolled in the programme which encourages participants to log STEM-related activities across four strands: 'Inspiring the next generation', 'Engaging the public', 'Developing skills and knowledge' and 'Shaping your future'. In a similarly shaped structure to that of the much more established Duke of Edinburgh Award, in this first instance, the Maynard students will be working towards their Bronze Award and will be required to complete a minimum of 10 hours per section whilst covering all five STEM areas. A silver and gold variation, working towards more advanced skills, will ensue.

## One of the top ten 'best value private schools in the UK'

We were delighted to be voted, once again, as one of the top ten best value private schools in the UK by The Daily Telegraph in September last year. The Maynard was also the only school in the South West (extending as far afield as Reading and Oxford) to feature in the ratings. These were based on the Telegraph's theory that "academically, most of these schools compete results-wise with their more

expensive counterparts, as well as offering much the same array of extra-curricular options and sporting prowess."

Most importantly, and as testament to our enduring affordability and enormous value, this is the second time in three years that we have been included in this listing!

## "Three little maids from school" celebrate their 80th birthdays



Old Maynardians Freda Jackson, Elizabeth Brown (née Drake) and Rosemary Parsons (née Ponsford) enjoyed a mini-reunion in March 2019 at Elizabeth's home. If you also left The Maynard in 1957, where are you now? We would love to hear from you so please get in touch via Rachael Board ([rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk) or The Maynard School, Denmark Road, Exeter EX1 1SJ).

## Stunning Sports Tour to South Africa

Twenty one girls had the trip of a lifetime during the summer holidays when travelling to South Africa for their hockey and netball sports tour. Aside from playing superbly in all their training opportunities and matches against local sides from Cape Town and beyond, they also had plenty of time to soak up the area's many wonderful and eye-opening sights.



*The Sport Tour girls meeting Raynick, the young girl whose education they help sponsor.*

It started with a tour of the Cape Peninsular where the girls had the opportunity to get up close to seals, penguins and all the other wonderful South African wildlife. Then there was Robben Island with a former prisoner giving them all a thought-provoking insight as to the appalling living conditions of its inmates, a cable car trip up Table Mountain, a surfing lesson on one of the many gorgeous beaches, the Garden Route, tours of an impoverished township and meeting some of the locals, the unforgettable Elephant Park and the chance to spot the Big Five on safari. All of these were all only eclipsed by one thing – meeting the little girl whose entire education the sports tour girls have pledged to sponsor until she finishes school.

Long before setting out to South Africa, the girls had decided that they would like to give something back to the community out there and, in collaboration with Somerset-based charity SOS Africa, it was decided upon that they would organise some fundraising events to help raise the necessary monies to cover a young girl's education. At nine years old, Raynick's family could not afford any of her schooling so several cake sales, tea parties, film nights and the inaugural Maynard's Got Talent later the necessary £600 was raised for the first year of sponsorship. And with bags crammed with books, pens and other necessary school items the girls arrived at Grabouw High School to the warmest of welcomes from Raynick and her friends.



“It was truly wonderful,” said Mrs Wood, one of the three members of PE staff responsible for overseeing the whole trip. “Meeting Raynick was a complete highlight and only served to spur the girls on with yet more fundraising events to come. Pledging £600 per year to see out Raynick’s entire education is no mean feat but being able to meet her and see her school has instilled in us renewed purpose and the girls have taken on this sponsorship wholeheartedly.”



We are already booking the next round of fundraisers for this year and we will look forward to seeing Raynick again in 2020 when we head back there for the next tour. I also have to say that it was a complete pleasure to spend those two weeks with our talented young sportswomen. We have all brought home lifelong memories of a very happy and fun-filled trip.”

## Creative and Performing Arts continue on a high



Our diary continues to be filled with numerous concerts, plays and showcases across the school

from Pre-Prep through to the Sixth Form. In March, we were treated to another of Mrs Bellamy’s fantastic play productions, this time Brecht’s ‘Caucasian Chalk Circle’ which received rave reviews during its three night run.

The sheer talent of so many of our students never ceases to amaze; as an example, the recent Spring Performing Arts Concert featured 88 girls from Year 6 to Upper Sixth, four choirs, two chamber ensembles, the chamber orchestra, soloists, recitations, drama, dance and the incredible Jazz Band.

Then, of course there is the Junior School and Pre-Prep with all their budding performers coming together with a string of excellent showcases, culminating in the Summer Showcase Spectacular. There’s no such thing as a dull moment at school!

## ISI Regulatory Compliance Inspection 2019

Following the Regulatory Compliance Inspection in February 2019 by the Independent School Inspectorate (ISI – the Ofsted equivalent for independent schools), we are delighted to have met every single standard set by the Department for Education with no action points to follow up on and no improvements necessary.

This is not an easy outcome to achieve as the inspection covered all aspects of school compliance with over 500 guidance statements covering 39 legal requirements. These regulations look closely at safeguarding and welfare, safer recruitment of staff, provision of education, health and safety (on and off site), behaviour management, fire safety, attendance and admissions monitoring and risk assessments.

The full report is available to read on the homepage of our website – [www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk)

## ‘Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning to dance in the rain.’



Student and staff wellbeing continues to be a huge focus and we have welcomed several fresh initiatives spearheaded by our new Assistant Head, Mrs Caroline Leigh. The PSHE curriculum has undergone a revamp with yoga (Pre-Prep and Junior School included), pilates and fitness classes being introduced across the spectrum as well as mindfulness classes led by Mrs Wilks.

Additionally, the students have been party to numerous wellbeing talks, most notably in March when Dick Moore returned to the school for a second time.

Dick is a hugely experienced speaker, not just in terms of having spent the last seven years delivering over 350 talks to schools and educational establishments around the world, but because he is a man who has gone through the horrors of his own son committing suicide as a result of depression. Since that point, Dick has made it his life mission to

equip young adults and teenagers with the coping mechanisms to manage the highs and the lows that life might throw at them. Despite the very sad motivation behind these talks, Dick is a fantastically upbeat, humorous speaker and he left all of his audiences from The Maynard with an unforgettable message – whatever your circumstances, try never to lose sight of all the good things in your life.

## Students unveil blue plaque to honour Tregear’s Stephen Simpson

We marked a huge historical moment earlier this year with the official unveiling of the Exeter Civic Society’s blue plaque to honour the life and work



of Stephen Simpson who lived in Tregear (housing the Art and Music Departments) from 1899-1912. This was particularly significant as three of his great, great grandchildren attend the school and his great granddaughter works here – all of whom were able to join in with the celebrations.

Mr Simpson was an incredibly philanthropic man although he is perhaps most celebrated for inventing the ‘coin feed mechanism’ (or slot machine) for prepayment gas meters in 1893-1894. Subsequently, he moved down from Mansfield to work for the Exeter-based firm, Willey & Co Ltd, in producing these, becoming chairman for many years. In total, the firm patented 200 of his

inventions and a number of these are still in use today.

During the post-war era, Mr Simpson was the biggest employer in the area, bringing hope and an income to a vast number of households. Many of the foundry’s workers came from the poor West Quarter and could walk to work but when the slums were cleared in the 1920s and 1930s the population moved away to modern council housing in Burnthouse Lane. What did Mr Simpson do to help them to continue working at the factory? He built the Trew Weir pedestrian suspension bridge across the River Exe so they could carry on walking to work. He was also a major benefactor for the reconstruction of Exeter Cathedral during and after the bombings of World War II. His good work and philanthropy was recognised at the time by the Royal Household who offered him a knighthood but he declined this on the grounds that, “I want to die plain Stephen Simpson”. We are so incredibly proud to honour his memory.

## Food & Nutrition Room a hub of activity

Like bees to a honey pot, the girls flock to the Food & Nutrition room where they can let their creative



juices flow whilst knocking up some quite incredible looking (and tasting!) dishes in the relaxed company of the lovely Mrs Fanous and Mrs Finnegan. Even

when the GCSE students were undertaking their three hour examination assessments in February there was nothing other than a great sense of calm and purpose as they set about producing some truly gorgeous three course meals. It must surely only be a matter of time before we launch The Maynard Masterchef!

## Several reunions planned for the coming months



We are very much looking forward to hosting several reunions this summer for the 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50 year leavers. It’s always great fun welcoming back so many of our Old Maynardians especially as, for some, this is often their first time returning since they left all those years ago! Last year’s reunion were enormously successful, made all the more glorious by the stunning weather, and we hope for more of the same in the coming months!





# Dr Amy Dickman

***Dr Amy Dickman, a leaver in 1994, is now a National Geographic Explorer and a Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University. Here, she shares some insights into her work conserving big cats and empowering communities in Tanzania's remote Ruaha landscape.***

## **What inspired you to become a wildlife conservationist?**

I have always loved animals, and was keen on saving them from a young age – I saved day-old chicks, would buy live crabs in the market to (probably ill-advisedly) release back into the sea, and adopted lambs destined for the slaughterhouse. I remember going along Exmouth seafront, and as my family collected cockles and mussels, I trailed behind throwing them back into the sea! I was particularly inspired by big cats, and loved going to Paignton Zoo whenever I could to

watch them and learn about them. For a long time I wondered about being a vet, but then decided I really wanted to commit fully to wild animals, so did a Zoology degree with the aim of working in big cat conservation.

## **In what way did your time at The Maynard help prepare you for the challenges of your career?**

The Maynard was very positive for me indeed – I think being in an all-girls setting meant that an interest in science was not seen as 'non-girly', and was strongly encouraged. I also had such strong

female role models all around, and the focus on achievement really made me work hard to chase my dreams. There was a strong feeling that you could achieve anything you wanted as long as you worked hard and committed to it, and I tell so many students the same thing today!

## **Talk us through your typical working day.**

There is almost no typical day. In the field, I can be out with the staff on one of our programmes, meeting villagers, going into the Park to look for carnivores and talk to partners, or working with our managers to keep all the programmes running. In Oxford, I help supervise students, write grant applications and reports, and write academic papers. When I travel outside Africa, I am meeting funders and sharing the story of our work in the field. All the days are long, but I love the many different aspects of the job.

## **Who employs you and how is your work funded?**

I am employed by Pembroke College, in the University of Oxford, and my position is held at the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit ([www.wildcru.org](http://www.wildcru.org)), which is part of Oxford's Zoology Department. My salary is paid for through the Recanati-Kaplan Foundation, and I raise all the funds for our fieldwork and other costs.

## **What are the major challenges you face now?**

Securing the funding for the project is the biggest challenge – the traditional conservation funding model is short-term and relatively small but, as the project grows, we need larger and more secure funding sources. We really want to scale our work up, but the time and energy involved in securing the funds is a huge challenge.

## **What would you say is your greatest achievement to date?**

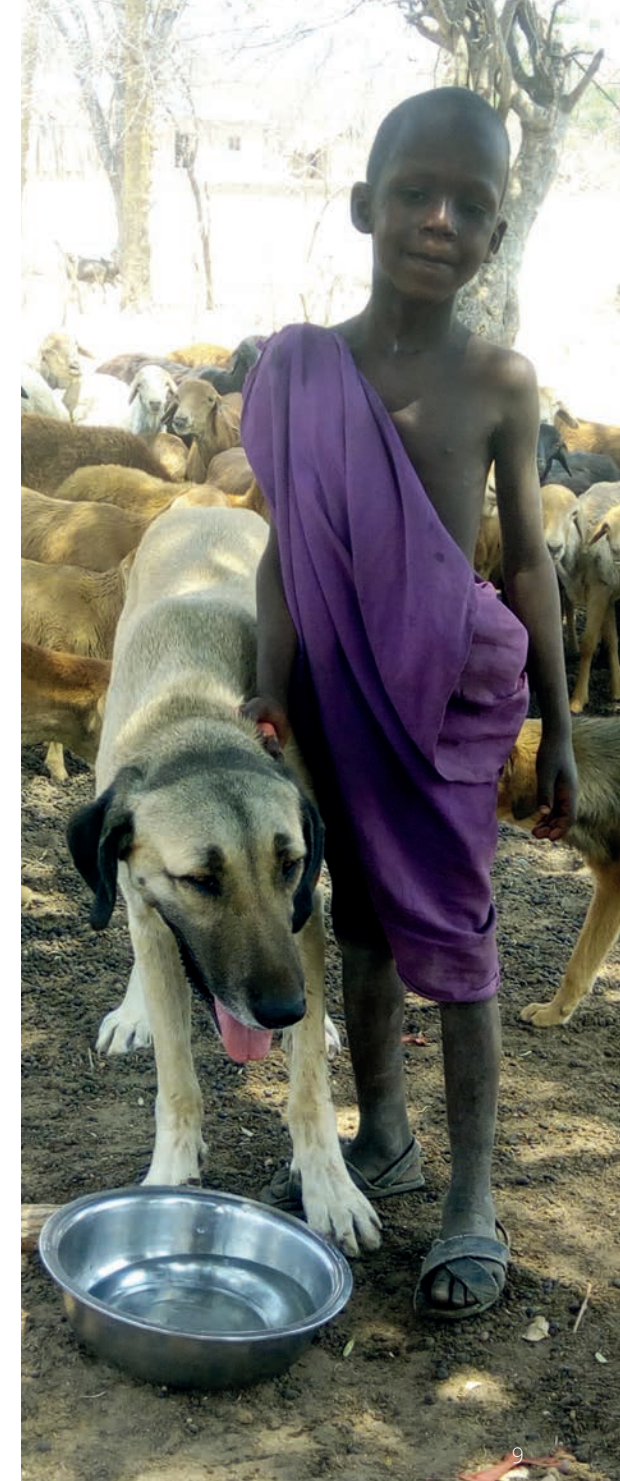
Really engaging the Barabaig tribe in conservation. This is a sister tribe to the Maasai that is known to be very secretive and hostile, and we were told they would never engage with conservationists. They were doing the majority of the lion killing in our study area, so we did all we could to engage with them. It took over two years for us to get any communication with them at all, and was extremely challenging. However, over the past eight years we have built a really good relationship with them, and they have worked with us to prevent many lion killings, so that has been wonderful.

## **What are the highs and the lows with what you do?**

There are many highs and many lows. I love it when we know we have made a real difference – for instance by preventing a lion hunt, saving poisoned or snared animals, or enabling a poor child to go to school and improve their future. Conversely, it is very hard for the whole team when we have a poisoning or spearing incident, especially if many wild animals are killed. There are other lows as well – leaving my young children when I travel, dealing with the risks of poisonous snakes and other dangerous animals in the bush, feeling isolated from 'normal' life, family and friends, so it can be difficult.

## **Most recently, through the Ruaha Carnivore Project you have branched out to help more than just the wildlife community. Can you tell us a little more about this?**

Our approach has always been that for long-term conservation, local people need to see a real benefit from the presence of wildlife on







their land. We asked the communities what their main priorities were, and education was their top priority. Therefore, we developed the Kids 4 Cats programme, where international schools provide books and equipment to village schools, and now provide Simba Scholarships to the best students through secondary school, and Carnivore College scholarships for higher education.

We also found that students were struggling at school as they had no food all day, so we have worked with local women's groups to provide a nutritious porridge every day, which increases pupil attendance and attainment. These kinds of programmes – as well as our healthcare and veterinary ones – seem far from big cat conservation, but actually they are crucial in improving local attitudes towards the presence of these species.

### What do you see happening to the big cat populations throughout the world in the future?

It will be very challenging as we move towards an ever more crowded world, as big cats need a lot of space. If we want them to exist long-term in any meaningful way, we will need to invest more in protected areas, and also in solutions to help people and big cats coexist more easily around and outside existing Parks. I do think we can do this and still maintain wild cats in the future, but it will need more funding and resources than it has done so far.

### Do you agree with animal conservation in zoos around the world or is managing them in their natural habitat a better answer to increase the dwindling populations?

This is not one or another – while zoos can never replace natural habitat and conservation in the wild, they can do a lot to support that. Zoos are one of the biggest funders of wild conservation work, and have been vital to our project. This funding is critical, and they can also reach millions of people and get them interested in conservation, and help show those people how they can take direct action to support wildlife conservation.

### Have you ever feared for your life and, if so, what happened?

Yes, a couple of times. Once a huge male lion slept on my tiny tent, which absolutely terrified me – he lay down on me, and the only weapons I had were a small multi-tool knife and a can of deodorant spray! The full story can be seen on <https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/00000144-0a29-d3cb-a96c-7b2dd9d00000> I was also once attacked by a cheetah when I went into an enclosure (which we did as standard) – that ended up with me being



in a Namibian hospital for three days, which was more scary than being attacked! I have also been scared by interactions with people – for instance when we are trying to stop angry, armed warriors from killing lions – but overall, I usually feel safe as we have a great team around us.

### How do you juggle your job with life back at home in Devon?

With a huge amount of support! I could never do all this without the amazing support of my husband, mother, mother-in-law and other family – they pick up childcare while I travel, and are just wonderful all round. It is still very tough, and I hate leaving the children, but I hope that in the future they will see that it was worth it.

### The very nature of your job and the extensive travel must be quite gruelling. Where do you see yourself in 20 years' time?

I still want the project to be running, and be stronger, and to have expanded similar models to other locations. There is so much that needs to be done, so I don't see stopping this pace any time soon!

# Where are they now?

## Elizabeth Hamon

(née Beeny) – Leaver in 1945

If there's anyone out there who remembers me, I celebrated my 90th birthday in September 2018. I now live in Sevenoaks and my family gave me a lovely day in a hotel in Tunbridge Wells. We had a big tea so that my three great grandchildren could join in (a fourth has since arrived!) and then the adults stayed on for dinner.



With regard to The Maynard, I have mixed feelings as it was wartime and I was very lonely having been sent down alone by my parents to Exeter from our home in Eltham, London. After two years as a day girl, staying with acquaintances, I was glad to join the twenty four or so boarders at Rixlade, the house on Stoke Hill. Apart from homework, there was little to do and I was glad to have my bike with me, enjoying weekend cycle rides with Ann Boyd and Patience Gee.

My parents were bombed out of our home in Eltham by a flying bomb (V1) in 1944 so when I left The Maynard in 1945 it was to West London that I returned and took a secretarial course at the Regent Street Polytechnic. The next few years included a year in France with a family, helping their older children with their English and a few months in Switzerland in a children's home.

When I married we had 4 children, followed by some illness, so secretarial work had to take a back seat. I am still in touch with one Maynardian who lives in Norway.

## Ruth Fox

(née Blake) – Leaver in 1982

I have had a slight change of activity recently. We have been fostering babies for the last 11 years and it's fair to say we were quite tired. We worked out that in 25 years of marriage



there had been a pre-schooler in the house for at least 19 of those years. And in that time, for nearly 15 years we had at least one under three in the house!

As our youngest has gone into Year 10, and we knew she would need support through GCSEs, we have decided to take a break for a couple of years (although I still do day care and holiday cover).

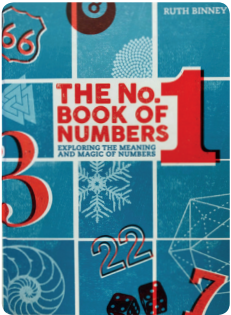
Instead, I now volunteer for the local council on their Doula programme, working with vulnerable women. This involves giving weekly support to a mum from week 34 of their pregnancy, attending appointments with them if they need support, being their birthing partner, and giving six weeks of post-natal support (it also means that I get my baby fix without being up all hours - unless mum goes into labour at night!).

So many women are isolated, or find themselves in difficult situations, and it is a real privilege to be able to stand alongside them at such a personal moment in their life.

Ruth Binney

(née Chanter) – Leaver in 1961

I was a pupil at The Maynard from 1951 to 1961, following which I graduated from Girton College, Cambridge in Natural Sciences. I began my career as an editor in illustrated non-fiction with Thames and Hudson and worked for many prestigious publishers including Mitchell Beazley (where I was an editor of the Joy of Knowledge Encyclopedia), Marshall Cavendish and Reader’s Digest.



Since ‘retiring’ back to the West Country in 2002 I have written numerous books and my latest is the recently published 'The Number One Book of Numbers' (Rydon Publishing £12.99):

Why is 7 such a lucky number and 13 so unlucky? Why does a jury traditionally have ‘12 good men and true’, and why are there 24 hours in the day and 60 seconds in a minute? This fascinating new book explores the world of numbers from pin numbers to book titles, and from the sixfold shape of snowflakes to the way our roads, houses and telephone numbers are designated in fact and fiction. Using the numbers themselves as its starting point it investigates everything from the origins and meaning of counting in early civilizations to numbers in proverbs, myths and nursery rhymes and the ancient ‘science’ of numerology. It also focuses on the quirks of odds and evens, primes, on numbers in popular sports – and much, much more.

So whether you’ve ever wondered why Heinz has 57 varieties, why 999 is the UK’s emergency phone number but 911 is used in America, why Coco Chanel chose No. 5 for her iconic perfume, or how the title Catch 22 was chosen, then this is the book for you. Dip in anywhere and you’ll find that numbers are not just for adding and measuring but can be hugely entertaining and informative whether you’re buying a diamond or choosing dinner from the menu.

My publisher, Robert Ertle of Rydon Publishing is based in Exeter and I now live in Yeovil, Somerset. My sister Lois, who has lived in Vancouver since 1962 is also an Old Maynardian.

Melanie Etherton

Leaver - 2011



I thought you might like to hear about some cool stuff I’ve been working on. I don’t actually work in science so much as around it, and my team and I have just won a biennial award from the Royal Society for our work increasing the number of female scientists in the media:

<https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/awards/athena-prize/>

We are working to try and rebalance the ratio of male to female experts quoted in the news (across all mediums: print, radio and broadcast) which in 2014 was a pretty shocking four male experts for every one female expert. More info here: <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/more/news/increasing-women-experts-in-the-media-academy-of-medical-sciences-wins-diversity-prize>.

Gillian Attwell

(née Brown) – Leaver in 1964

After returning from South Africa where I taught Physical Education for 20 years, my husband and I came to live in the New Forest and I embarked on an MSc in Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia) at the University of Southampton. Whilst all my contemporaries were contemplating retiring - the heady days when women could retire at 60 - I was lucky enough to gain a post at the University of Winchester as a dyslexia tutor. It was a wonderful 12 years and I met some fabulous young people.

I retired last year and took up grandparent duties looking after my two grandsons for two days a week. When I’ve recovered from that, I walk, go to Zumba and swim. I’d love to know what my school peers (1957-1964) are up to.



Gillian Attwell (left) and her sister Patricia Roach.

Patricia Roach

(née Brown) – Leaver in 1961

I moved to an old cottage in a small rural village in North East Fife last August, and I have a lot of work ahead to modernise it!

Several years ago I joined the Dundee U3A, with whom I now play the ukulele and sing in a folk choir. Our ukulele group is in great demand to play at care homes, Women’s Institutes and other venues, and we won a Community Music award in 2017. We have played at the Scottish Parliament Café twice now and have been invited back again later this year. It’s all great fun!

I also belong to a U3A Walking group and an Outings group - so far we have had holidays in Amsterdam, Iceland, Paris and Prague. This year we are trying a cruise, travelling from Dundee as far out as The Faroes and down to Liverpool.

My sister Gill Attwell (Gill Brown) still lives near Southampton and has now retired. She enjoys walking and zumba and of course visiting her two grandchildren.

With best wishes to you all for 2019! Photo - Gill’s the one on the left, with her lovely wavy, still blonde hair (sibling envy!!).

Clare Sayce, Katherine Mellanby, Georgina Selby, Michelle Holford

Leavers in 1996

Last October four of us of the Class of ‘96 spent a weekend in Amsterdam to celebrate turning 40. (Waah! We all still feel about 17 and a half, especially when we’re together.) Many, many hours were spent talking and talking and then laughing

and laughing some more about, and at, ourselves back then and now.



What with families and jobs and many miles between us, moments like these are too few. But we have vowed to make them happen more as we race towards 50 and beyond. Also to note that we didn’t sing Filiae Devoniensus nor There’s Something About The Maynard at midnight on the banks of the Amstel but we could have done had we wanted to because we all still very much remember the words.

Tessa Woodward

Leaver in 1967

Tessa, a prolific author in the field of Teacher Education, has just had another book published, ‘Teacher Development Over Time: Practical Activities for Language Teachers’ co-authored with Kathleen Gaves and Donald Freeman and published by Routledge.



The book addresses teacher learning over the span of the careers of both novice and experienced teachers in English Language Teaching (ELT).

Holly Trusted

Leaver in 1973

From January 2019, Holly (previously Marjorie) Trusted became an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Victoria and Albert Museum, having stepped down from her position as Senior Curator of Sculpture. She was Lead Curator of the V&A’s Cast Courts, which re-opened in December 2018,

and her most recent publication is a co-edited book on the Cast Courts. She is currently preparing a book on German baroque sculpture, and continues to lecture at art history conferences. She gave the keynote lecture at a conference in Leuven in December 2018, and is speaking at a conference in Lisbon in May 2019. She is also on the vetting committee for the art fair at Maastricht (TEFAF) in March. She was Honorary Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries (2018-19), and serves on numerous other scholarly committees. She has two children, Thomas and Isabella, and now three grandchildren: Cassius, Arthur and Cecily. She divides her time between West Sussex and Oxford.



Abbey Southall

Leaver in 2008

I trained to be a teacher after studying Literature and Philosophy at university then taught in mainstream schools in some very deprived areas of Sheffield and Leeds before moving to London to work at Little Forest Folk. I want to train in psychology and then develop therapeutic techniques based on forest school ideals which could be used to support pupils who are at risk of exclusion or who are being educated in pupil referral units. There are quite a few Old Maynardians in London and we meet regularly, mostly to eat delicious food.





## Heather Goddard

(née Simons) - Leaver 1957

I entered Maynard in 1953 and what a year that was as I had not only gained a scholarship to Maynard, but had a brand new bike for my birthday which was in June and which was just a few days after the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and I had a cake which was beautifully decorated by a professional icing artist in red, white and blue! We did not own a television but my auntie had bought one especially for the coronation - a 9 inch one with a magnifying glass over the screen to make the black and white picture bigger (no colour television in those days!). Several families crowded around this contraption in a small terraced house in Heavitree.



I enjoyed my time at Maynard especially as I was a keen diver and was able to train before and after school at Exeter Swimming baths. I won the South Western Counties Girls Diving Championship in two consecutive years which took place on an open air board off Plymouth Hoe. The sea left a lot to be desired as ice cream tubs, and skins of bananas and orange peel and crisp packets, all collected in the sea at that point. No luxury like the Life Centre that Tom Daley had to progress his diving career! I left school after two terms in the Sixth Form with 5 GCEs and turned my General Science examination into further O-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

I then entered teacher training college at Brighton and Seaford College of Housecraft and after

three years took up a post in Bristol in a large comprehensive school as the “Cookery teacher”! From there, I taught for a further 33 years in a Catholic secondary school situated in a very deprived area, ending up as Head of Faculty. The children were great characters and enjoyed a great feeling of success when they did well despite their humble backgrounds.

I took early retirement in 1999 but then worked for the City of Bristol further education college with students who were recovering from drug addiction and adults suffering mental health problems; this was probably the most rewarding teaching I ever did. I also had a Home Office appointment as a member of the Board of Visitors at a youth offending prison which took young men up to 21 years of age. My special responsibility was the education section of the establishment which was in contrast the most disappointing experience as, when they were short of staff, these young people’s education was stopped and they spent 23 hours per day locked in their cells!

I have been married to my husband John for 55 years and have one son, Stephen, who has his own business training school in medical gases. Along the way I entered the political arena and was first elected in 1979 when Margaret Thatcher was first elected (the district and national elections were held on the same day). I was a district councillor for 17 years and chaired several of the main committees as well as being the first and only woman chair of the council in 1986/87.

This council was disbanded in 1997 to form a new unitary authority. This year I will have completed another 16 years. I have held two Cabinet posts - that of Communities and Tourism and Leader of all Strategic Partnerships, European issues and represented the Council of many West of England

associations which meant I travelled to a hotel on Woodbury quite frequently and I also visit Devon County Council offices.

This year, to commemorate the 100 years of the suffragette movement, my authority has been recognising the role of inspirational women in the community and I have the nomination for inspirational politician.

This celebration is in March and we will be talking to many young girls to inspire them to achieve their dreams and I am looking forward to that opportunity very much. It will be a fitting end to a long career in politics and a good way to finish and start retirement!

## Jacqui Martin

Leaver in 1999

To cut a long story short after I left school in 1999 I went to York University to study History, which I loved.



After graduating in 2002 I did a few different jobs before considering my career options and concluding my best bet was to go back to university and try something else. That something else was a BSc in Diagnostic Radiography at Exeter University, quite a turnaround for someone whose worst subject at school was Physics!

After qualifying in 2008 I worked in York for over eight years, then moved back to the Westcountry in 2017 to work in Plymouth.

Finally, in late 2018, I came full circle and moved back to Exeter as a Senior Radiographer in CT & MRI. It’s definitely a challenging job but can also be incredibly rewarding. My family still live near Exeter and I have a small nephew and niece who I love spending time with.

It hardly seems like 20 years but I’m looking forward to the anniversary celebrations later in the year and hearing what everyone has been up to since our Maynard days.

PS. The baby in the picture is my newborn niece, born last summer.

## Pandora Mather-Lees

(née Cook) - Leaver in 1976

Pandora Mather-Lees lived in the big red house on the corner opposite school and started in the Kindergarten in 1964. After The Maynard, she went to St Godric’s College in London for a year’s secretarial course and got her first job in PR with Biss Lancaster. From there, she joined what is now Publicis Advertising as an assistant. Then she had a stint for a few years in South Africa to explore a new world. In the early 90s Pandora went to Manchester University as a mature student and obtained a 1st Class Degree in the History of Art. Following this she was accepted by Keble College Oxford to read Ancient History.



Then followed 20 years with the Bridgeman Art Library and Arnet, followed by a ‘plural’ career

in consultancy with logistics companies, a laboratory testing paintings for authenticity and then becoming a founder member of The Art Due Diligence Group.

Pandora then set up a training business, to train captains and crew on Superyachts about how to care for fine art. A major part of this role is teaching art appreciation to crew who often don’t know what is around them. “I love the mental stimulation from the people I meet, the places I visit and working in a creative industry. I am so lucky to have been able to make a career out of being an art historian. Art History is a fabulous subject to study, but the options after leaving university can be hard to find. To work in the art world with like-minded people is fulfilling and enriching. Moreover, it has also been very stimulating to be able to combine my work in fine art with work in related areas such as interior design and the marine environment.

These are areas where fine art, sculpture and design feature heavily, so it is a natural transition, however it also demands that one learns about new markets, new players and a whole new set of industry regulations and considerations.”

## Anastasia Bruce-Jones

Leaver in 2015

Anastasia gained a First Class degree from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, last year, after which she took her adaptation of The Tempest on a tour of the USA then returned to the UK for a week’s run of the production at Cambridge. She is now living in London and successfully pursuing her ambition to direct and write.

She was Assistant Director for a production at the Leicester Square Theatre, then was invited to be

one of the Directors in an Actor-Writer Gym.

She is currently working on two spring productions: as Director and Dramaturge for a new play – The Four Horsemen - to be performed in Manchester and as Assistant Director for The Amber Trap in London.

There are a number of other projects in the pipeline, including plans for a TV documentary. Anyone interested in finding out more can visit: [www.anastasiabrucejones.co.uk](http://www.anastasiabrucejones.co.uk)

## Cathy Elliott

Leaver in 1994

Having graduated from the University of Manchester, I began a career in the charity sector in 1999 at the Hallé Orchestra. I became a charity Chief Executive in 2009 in the community foundation movement which led to many opportunities, including presenting to the Home Affairs Select Committee on youth crime prevention, chairing a business leaders roundtable with the Governor of the Bank of England, and completing an International Fellowship with the City University of New York. I now have a portfolio of work which includes a Ministerial appointment for an HS2 funding programme with the Department for Transport, being a Non-Executive Director of a NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester, and being a member of the Advisory Council for Tate Liverpool. I live in south Manchester with my partner and five-year-old son.





**Alice Carse**

*Leaver in 2002*

I have just become engaged to be married to Joseph Dunn, formerly of Exeter School. We met in the Sixth Form and remained close friends for 18 years.



We finally started going out in 2018 and got engaged in February. We now live in Hampshire. Joe is a senior engineer in the aerospace and defence industry and I am a barrister practising in London.

We will be married in Exeter on 30 July 2019. Our wedding celebrations will be attended by our friends from The Maynard and Exeter School.

**Alison Eves**

*(née Hughes) - Leaver in 1983*

Alison has found her dream job! Since leaving the Maynard and completing a Maths degree at Royal Holloway (University of London) Alison has fulfilled a number of roles, paid and unpaid. Initially training and working as a Chartered Accountant, Alison soon followed her heart into teaching. She began by tutoring graduates studying for their professional accountancy exams and, after a seven year career break to be at home with her three young children, Alison returned to teaching.



Beginning with teaching economics A-level for eight years, she then returned to her first academic

love, maths, and trained as a secondary maths teacher. For ten years she worked in schools near her home in Berkshire, enjoying sharing her love of maths (and earning the title of “Maths evangelist”!). In 2017 she was appointed Primary Mathematics Masterclass Coordinator by the Royal Institution (Ri).

The Ri Masterclass programme began in 1978, flowing from the famous Ri Christmas Lectures, with the thought that maths and science are not just for Christmas! The Masterclasses allow some time and space for school children to enjoy some complex mathematical topics, meeting with peers from a number of different schools, usually on six or eight occasions; in this way there is a sustained engagement with a variety of inspiring workshops. These Masterclasses are led by enthusiastic experts from a wide variety of backgrounds, including academia and industry.

Alison is inspired by a phrase sometimes used by the mathematician Marcus du Sautoy; “The Shakespeare of Mathematics”. His point is that we show young children the beauty of Shakespearian language without expecting them to understand every detail... we should do the same with maths, allowing pupils to see how wonderful and how beautiful (and how useful) mathematics can be. Her main role is to work with the network of volunteers across the country to enable hundreds of 10 and 11 year olds every year to access the exciting and inspiring Primary Mathematics Masterclasses; she is always looking for new schools and organisations to work with to extend the network, as well as new speakers.

If you might like to be involved in the programme in any way please get in touch!

And if you find yourself at a loose end in London,

come to 21 Albemarle Street to see the beautiful building and the Faraday Museum: it is little known but well worth visiting.

**Abby Cresswell**

*(née Hunt) - Leaver in 1994*

After moving all over the UK for university and subsequent jobs, I have now settled in Wales, living just inside the Brecon Beacons National Park. This move was cemented by my marriage to James in August 2018. We married in Llangorse (where James has family connections going back centuries) and enjoyed a wonderful day - among the guests was fellow Old Maynardian Debbie Khiytani (née Jones)! We share our home with our two cats and James’ son, Harry, is with us regularly.



I have worked for a spatial data management company for the last three years, specialising in heritage data and mapping (having spent 10 years as an Archaeological Investigator with English Heritage, amongst other jobs!). In my spare time, I also help James run his geology tourism company (GeoWorld Travel), doing admin and accounts, and even doing a spot of archaeological guiding in various locations when required!

I have many happy memories of my time at The Maynard and am pleased to still be in contact with a number of my old classmates via Facebook. We arranged an unofficial reunion in 2015 at Double Locks, which was really well attended and great fun! I’m now looking forward to our ‘official’ reunion at the school later this year, although I can’t quite believe it’s 25 years since we left...!



TRICIA  
WILKS  
*a tribute to many  
years of fabulous  
service*



IN JULY WE WILL SAY A VERY FOND FAREWELL TO THE WONDERFUL MRS WILKS AFTER 27 YEARS HERE AT THE MAYNARD. SHE HAS COVERED A NUMBER OF ROLES AT SCHOOL, MOST RECENTLY AS DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS AND ALSO DESIGNATED LEAD OFFICER ON SAFEGUARDING.

*She will be very sadly missed by colleagues, students and our Old Maynardian community but we will always be enormously grateful for her significant contribution to the school and wish her the very happiest of retirements.*

**How many years have you worked at The Maynard and what roles have you covered in that time?**

This is my 27th year and I really can’t believe it. The years have sped by and it has been a joy and a privilege to work in such a great school. I joined the Maynard as Head of History, then became Head of Sixth Form and then Deputy Head. During my time I have also taught some Latin and Classical Civilisation, Critical Thinking, General Studies and Careers. The one constant has been teaching History which is my passion.

**What have been your best or most memorable moments here?**

Some of my most memorable moments have been performing in five staff plays, finding my office covered in drawing of owls on “muck up” day, being given a surprise birthday celebration by the Sixth Form on my 50th birthday when I thought I was going to teach General Studies, watching take offs of myself in numerous Sixth Form entertainments, taking trips to Berlin and the First World War battlefields and seeing generations of leavers ready

for the next stage in their lives - confident and excited about what lies ahead. The reading from the works of Albert Schweitzer that I have done for a number of years at the Leavers’ Assembly sums up this feeling.

**What was your own school experience like and do you think this in any way related to your ethos whilst working at The Maynard?**

I loved my school years. Between the ages of 10 and 12 I attended a stage school, the Arts Educational, which explains my love of musical theatre and tap dancing in particular. From aged 12 onwards I was lucky enough to attend Queen’s College in Harley Street in the heart of London during the “Swinging Sixties” when everything seemed possible and members of the Beatles and Rolling Stones were often seen driving around. The school is well known for the number of pioneering women who have been educated there over the years, including Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (one of the first women doctors) and Octavia Hill, one of the founders of the National Trust. The school was relaxed and non-competitive and the Headmistress during my time was wonderfully tolerant and unconventional.



**“ THE YEARS HAVE SPED BY AND IT HAS BEEN A JOY AND A PRIVILEGE TO WORK IN SUCH A GREAT SCHOOL.**

She called me Hacky Wacky (my maiden name was Hackforth). I was very proud to have been elected Senior Student (Head Girl) in my final year. I have tried to make Maynardians’ experience of school as positive as my own.

**There are so many success stories from The Maynard but we never really hear about the other things that go on! What are the naughtiest things that you have had to deal with?**

A few years ago one of the Upper 3’s poured a cup of water out of the window of room 12 and it landed on the head of a visitor to the school. I managed to keep a straight face.

**How would you like to be remembered?**

I would like to be remembered as helping Maynardians to grow in confidence, discover the joy of life and the importance of a positive mental attitude, as well as for my collection of owls and coloured pencils.

**For those in the know, you have a reputation as a bit of a culture ‘buff’. What do you enjoy most in your free time?**

I love Radio 4, detective stories, the novels of Sebastian Faulks and visiting historic sites, imagining the lives of people who have lived there, especially Hampton Court. I also enjoy watching Inspector Montalbano and Beck on BBC4.

**You have taught history throughout your Maynard career. What is your favourite era or moment in history and why?**

Whist every period of History is fascinating (I have to say that) my main interest is in 20th century inter-war European History because it saw so many huge changes in peoples’ lives which have had such lasting effects. I hope to learn more about the history of Eastern Europe over the next few years.

**You were of ‘police interest’ in the Salisbury poisoning incident last March. Can you explain how this came to be?**

On 4th March last year I met up with my family in Zizi’s restaurant in Salisbury for a pre Mother’s Day lunch. Unknown to me, the Skripals were sitting a few tables away. As a result I had two phone interviews with the police followed by a visit at my home by two members of the anti-terrorist squad who had driven down from London. It was all very unsettling.



**“ I HAD A COUPLE OF PHONE INTERVIEWS WITH THE POLICE FOLLOWED BY A VISIT FROM TWO MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD.**

**What will be the first thing on your list to do once you have said your goodbyes to the School?**

I will go down to Budleigh Salterton and sit looking out at the sea thinking about the past, present and future. I then hope to go on a cruise of the Norwegian fjords.

**What has made you especially proud during your career at The Maynard?**

I have been thrilled to see a number of past pupils become History teachers and, in their turn, pass on their passion for History.

**What are your retirement plans?**

I am hoping to write a novel based loosely on my mother’s experiences at the end of World War II, spend time with my children and four lovely grandchildren and volunteer with the charity Shine which helps people with spina bifida as one of my grandsons has this condition.

**If you won the lottery, what would you do with all the money?**

If I won the lottery, I would build a theatre for the Maynard, travel to Vietnam, Canada and South America and support the charity Shine.

**And finally, what do you think you will miss the most when you leave?**

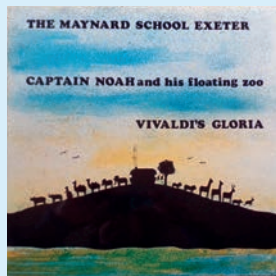
I will miss the joy of working with such great young people and wonderful colleagues.



# News from the ARCHIVE

**School reports, a long-playing record, an autograph book, photographs – what these have in common is that they were all donations to the school archive in the past year.**

I am always pleased to receive items of interest, as everything helps to build up a picture of the school over the years. Memories are prompted by items such as the record of ‘Captain Noah and his floating zoo’; some readers will remember with fondness Mrs Barton, whose choir made this recording and another of ‘Joseph and his amazing technicolour dreamcoat’.



Record sleeve

The school reports from the 1930’s were a contrast to those that we use now; most teachers gave only one or two words in comment on their subject, and the form mistress (assumed to be female!) had to copy them all onto one piece of paper. Great emphasis was given to the student’s position in the form, though there was no indication of how many pupils she was competing with. The list of subjects available for study included ‘Drill’, as well as French, German, Latin and Greek. Science was represented

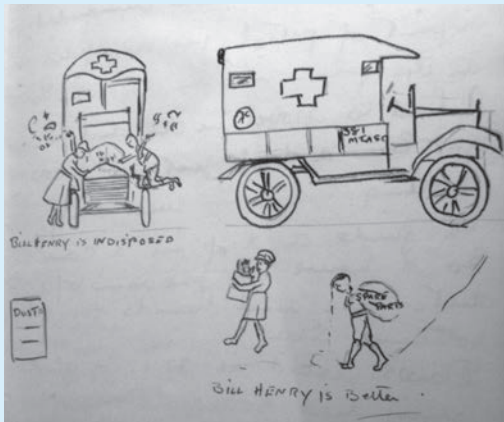
by Botany, Chemistry and Physics, so would have excluded anything as unpleasant as the workings of the human body!

An archivist receives email enquiries as well as artefacts, and these can lead to interesting lines of investigation. A researcher for the Devon History Society asked for information on alumna Hester Frood, who was a well-known artist from Topsham and one of a family involved in the suffrage movement. I was also contacted about Clara Andrew, who was a leading light in the organisation which brought Belgian refugees to Devon from 1914 onwards. She lived in Southernhay West, where her brother established a legal practice. She was featured in the ‘Devon Voices’ exhibition in the RAMM at the end of 2018, as was Phyllis Dearman, Exeter’s first female ambulance driver.

I also investigated the Veitch family who ran horticultural nurseries in Exeter for several generations. There are a number of commemorative information boards around the city concerning them, and gardens in Southernhay planted with examples of their discoveries. The final member of the family to be involved was Mildred Veitch, whose name is on the oldest honours board in the school hall. She had spent a few years as a History teacher after gaining her degree at St Hilda’s Oxford, but came back to Exeter to take charge of the company. She eventually sold it to St Bridget’s, where it is a happy coincidence to find that more Maynard alumnae run the company. (I wonder if any reader lives in Veitch Close or Veitch Gardens?)

## Gracious Living in Spicer Road

At the same time as the Main School building was being erected, three large houses were built on ‘our’ side of Spicer Road. Leebourne, the nearest



Phyllis Dearmans’ sketch of her ambulance known as ‘Bill Henry’

to Barnfield Hill, was the home of Rev Edmund Foweraker when he retired from his post as Headmaster of Exeter Cathedral School. It also housed his wife Emma and son Albert, and a cook. Albert married Annie and continued to live in the family home (1901 census) while working as an artist, though they had set up their own home by 1911. After the First World War, Colonel Hibberd bought the house. He had been in the Devonshire Regiment Cyclist Battalion (no, I didn’t know there were cyclist battalions, either!) and his daughter Mary was a pupil at Maynard until about 1932. By 1939, the house had changed hands again, and was the home of Colonel A E Morrall, whose First World War service had been with the South Wales Borderers. That makes it seem likely that he was part of the Morrall family which owned a company making needles in Redditch. As an aside, they advertised using a crest entitled the “needle makers’ arms” which showed Adam and Eve with the needles they used to sew their fig leaves together!

The story of the house called Leebourne comes to an abrupt end on 4 May 1942. The German bombing of Exeter destroyed the house. On that

night, 6 people in the house were killed, including Fay Beauchamp who was in Upper One at the time. She had been at school in Jersey until 1940: would that have been safer? Another Maynardian was involved too. Ann Sant aged 9 is recorded as moving away after the blitz, and it is also recorded that Kathleen Sant aged 42 was killed in Leebourne. It seems likely that this was Ann’s mother, and that she then moved to live with relatives elsewhere. A postscript to this story is that when excavations were made to build Bradley Hall, the contractors found a ‘hole in the ground’, which was the bomb crater, about 12m diameter by 4.5m deep.

Next door (but with a considerable area of garden between) was Traceyville. This was built for Walter Hamlin, a corn dealer, who lived there with his wife Sarah and one servant.



‘Our’ blue plaque, unveiled on March 7 outside Tregear

They sold the house to The Maynard in 1926, and it became the Junior Department. Previous to that, the younger pupils had been in the Main School building, with the Kindergarten (Year 1) in what is now the Headmistress’s office. An extension was built at the back of the house, alongside the Tregear tennis courts, which had two large classrooms on the first floor and an assembly hall below. That is familiar to many generations of Junior pupils; Lower One (Y3) had one of the classrooms and Form Two (Y5) the other. Upper One (Y4) were in the older part of the building on the first floor overlooking Spicer Road, with Kindergarten beneath them, in rooms of slightly unusual shape with three windows which



Traceyville in 1972

projected, as in the original house. Transition (Y2) were also on the ground floor.

Little of the old house now remains, though there is evidence of the original doorway on the side facing Bradley Hall. The rest had to be re-built after an arson attack caused a major fire in 1972. Fortunately this was at night, so no-one was hurt, and the more modern extension was saved. The Headmistress at the time, Miss Bradley, later wrote about that night in the school magazine: ‘The young policeman appeared at the top of the fire escape and beckoned me up to have a look. I joined him and we made our way along the smoke-filled, blackened top corridor from which the flames had been beaten back in the nick of time. Upper One’s door had been burnt away, and

by the light of the fire I could see their paintings stirring on the further wall. I was glad to get outside again. Almost immediately we were allowed to go into the cloak-room to salvage shoe-bags.’ After a major exercise in re-organisation, they managed to have the Junior School in operation again within a week using rooms in other buildings, though the rebuilding of Traceyville took a year.

The third house to be built on Spicer Road at that time was Tregear. I wrote about Stephen Simpson in last year’s magazine, so I will not repeat that here. However, the latest news is that we are very grateful to the Simpson family who have made it possible for a blue plaque to be erected outside Tregear to commemorate his time there before it was sold to the school in 1912.



# 40

## Years of Head Girls

### Head Girl 1978-1979

#### ALISON WAYLAND (NOW PEPPER)

##### Were you surprised to be elected and what are your memories of being the Head Girl?

I was very surprised but felt extremely honoured to be asked. I remember going back to the Sixth Form common room after Miss Bradley asked me, and avoiding everyone until it was time to go home, as it had to be kept confidential until it was announced to the school. During the year, I remember many little things such as walking Miss Bradley into assembly, organising all the prefect rotas but also bigger responsibilities like running the 'self-governance day' which was held in the summer term after A-levels were over.

##### What were the best and worst bits?

The best and worst bit was probably giving the vote of thanks at prizegiving – very nerve racking but also hugely exciting. Fortunately, it went well!



##### What did you do after leaving The Maynard?

I went to Loughborough University and studied Sports Science before staying on to complete my PGCE. I then went into teaching and taught in both secondary and primary schools. I eventually became a Headteacher and held two headships before moving into educational advisory work. As a family, we also spent four years working for a charity in the Seychelles where my husband was the director of a short-wave radio station, which was a great experience and adventure.

##### Forty years on, what are you doing professionally?

I now work as a consultant to school leadership teams and I also inspect schools for Ofsted.

##### Was this something that you always wanted to do or did your career evolve with time and experiences picked up along the way?

It definitely evolved with time. Moving into school leadership was a natural step for me as I enjoy working strategically and also enabling others to develop in their careers. Now I enjoy using my experience to help other school leaders be successful.

##### What would you consider your greatest achievement since leaving?

Probably as a working mum, it would be successfully navigating the responsibilities of family and work and coming out the other end unscathed with two wonderful children, now themselves grown-ups, of whom I'm extremely proud. I also set



myself challenges in the sporting realm and have completed marathons, triathlons, long distance bike rides and swims and finishing these gives me a real sense of achievement. My next challenge is a swim between all the islands in the Scillies - hoping for calm seas and sun!

##### Who do you stay in touch with from you Maynard days?

I'm not really in touch with many people as I haven't lived in the West Country since going to university. However, it was great to meet up with everyone at the 350th celebrations and hopefully, there will be another chance to catch up at a reunion later this year.

##### What are your happiest memories of School?

I absolutely loved my time at The Maynard - every minute of it – and know how fortunate I was to benefit from being educated at such a great school. I really enjoyed singing in the choir, playing in the orchestra and taking part in productions – the performance of Iolanthe with Blundells was brilliant fun and a real highlight. Probably for me though, my happiest memories came on the hockey pitch!

### Head Girl 1988-1989

#### REBECCA HOOKWAY (NOW GARCIA)



##### Were you surprised to be appointed Head Girl?

Becoming Head Girl was the icing on the cake of what already felt like a liberation for all Sixth Formers: we could now wear what we liked (or nearly... see below!), and had exclusive rights to (1) cross the Rose Garden, (2) sit on stage during assembly, (3) leave the premises during free periods, with only 13 hours of lessons per week,

and (4) (major plus) use common room kitchen facilities with coffee and biscuits on tap. My daily caffeine started here, and I've never looked back.

If truth be told, being invited to become Head Girl came as a complete surprise to me. Not just because I hadn't dared presume I might be asked, but also because I hadn't realised the appointments were made so far in advance. So when, during the Spring term of Lower 6, I was asked to pay a visit to Miss Murdin's office, I assumed it must be in connection with a recent breach of dress code in which my bare knees (and probably far too much of my legs) were exposed during morning assembly as I sat crossed-legged at the back of Main Hall, having arrived late, in a pair of fashionably ripped jeans. Mrs Davies' legendary reprimands, in dour Scottish brogue, were collectors' items.

##### What were the best and worst bits?

A best memory would be the last school assembly where, every year, pupils staged a special goodbye for the teachers who were leaving. All staff left the main hall at this point, and it fell to the Head Girl to lead the send-off to each departing teacher individually, inviting them to enter from the back, walking through the middle of a Red Sea of whooping and cheering girls. The atmosphere was heightened and pupil-empowered, and my task was to pay brief tribute to each - longest serving and newest vintage alike. No doubt, I was lightweight and frivolous at the time and could have done this better, but still to have done it at



all was the first step in an important life lesson: the indispensability of taking time and trouble to acknowledge openly and exclusively other people's worth.

Worst (= 'deeply uncomfortable') was probably being called on, after two terms of Russian (rather remarkably we started A-level Russian from scratch in Lower 6 back then) to interpret between Miss Murdin and the shall we say inexpressive, fur-coated headmistress of school number 31 in Moscow, on a historic visit to The Maynard as



part of an exchange programme. It was the first encounter between the two headmistresses, early Monday morning in Miss Murdin’s office, with me between them tasked with lubricating communication. I’m not sure the cause of east-west rapprochement was much served that morning even if the Berlin Wall was destined to fall barely twelve months later. It was about as much as I could manage, in a series of distinctly un-Slavic grunts and monkey gestures, to persuade our guest to shed her fur coat before proceeding into the hall. Any encounters with interpreting ever since remind me of that first excruciating experience.

**What did you do after leaving The Maynard?**

After a summer at Lloyd Maunder’s abattoir, I was able to fund a gap year in Moscow (at quite a juncture in Russian history: 1989-90), and then went on to Oxford to read French and Russian (not to mention Glagolitic!). Next, after a few months working on the shop floor in Dillons bookstore in Exeter (before the whole thing fell into receivership - I think unrelated to my presence there), I trained as a languages teacher in Cambridge and have enjoyed teaching ever since. Not quite true in fact - I had four years out in which both languages served me well in a position as international secretary for an NGO.

Based in Athens and coordinating charitable activities and exchanges between young Orthodox Christians on almost every continent, we brought Koreans to Europe, Arabs to America and Russians to Cameroon, and finished by publishing a book

to mark the 50th anniversary of the organisation. A great experience - and certainly The Maynard had done much to foster enthusiasms and interests of this sort. Just imagine, a pioneering exchange in 1988 with a school in Moscow, launching us Lower 6 students onto the front pages of the TES! I have long since left Devon and now live in Essex.

**Thirty years on, what are you doing professionally now?**

Right now I’m teaching French and Spanish (my Galician husband has been a stimulus on this front) in an independent school. My work has also required me to qualify as a TEFL teacher, and for the enjoyment of it in my spare time I’m translating the memoirs of an interesting Swiss-French religious thinker.

**What are your happiest memories of School?**

The bus back home to Tiverton! No, seriously: happy memories of the friendships we shared, of the strong feeling of belonging, of the immense leisure we had during those years (interminable lunch-hours on Leebourne), of all the sports we enjoyed, including hockey at Exeter School (but certainly not swimming in their outdoor pool, which was icy and joyless).

After my eight years there, I’m in no doubt that the words of the unofficial school song, bellowed out shamelessly at the end of each summer term, still ring true 30 years on: ‘There’s something about the Maynard that is fine, fine, fine!’

**Head Girl 1998 -1999**

**ADELE WOLUJEWICZ**



**Why do you think you were picked to be Head Girl?**

No idea! I followed the rules and very much loved the school.

**What were the best and the worst bits of the role?**

I particularly enjoyed my weekly catch-ups with Miss Murdin. Worst bit definitely fishing cooked pasta out of the plughole in the Ryan House kitchen!

**Do you feel that being Head Girl gave you an advantage after your school years and, if so, why?**

Yes I'm sure it did. The duties included representing views of my peers, public-speaking and networking with other Head Girls which was all a new experience for me then.

**What did you do after leaving The Maynard?**

I took a year out before university when I taught sciences in Kenya, worked in a café and backpacked round South-East Asia. I then went to King's College London to study Medicine and enjoy the big smoke for 10 years.

**Twenty years on, what are you doing professionally now?**

I'm a sexual health and HIV physician, proudly working for the NHS.

**What would you consider your greatest achievement since leaving?**

I was particularly challenged by working in a rural hospital in Madwaleni, South Africa where HIV and tuberculosis have devastated the community. A golden moment for me there was seeing a group of young men with AIDS rising from their beds to sit out in the sunshine one morning. And I'll always remember a midnight sprint to the delivery suite to resuscitate a newborn. More recently, I have talked about relationships and consent at the Women of the World Festival at London's Southbank Centre. This is a fantastic event and every Maynard girl should go!

**Looking to the future, what excites you most?**

Friends, family, trail-running, hill-walking and doing up our bungalow on the side of a hill.

**Who do you stay in touch with from your Maynard days?**

So many fun and beautiful girls to name them all! We were at once labelled as a 'challenging' class but I think that's mostly because we got on so well. I consider my school friends to be the most treasured gift from my time at Maynard.

**What are your happiest memories of School?**

So many! I was in Traceyville from age 7 so there were plenty of happy times. From playing on the monkey bars under the watch of Mrs Farrell to making dragons with Mrs Dickens. The 1960s fashion show was a huge hit as were impersonations of our favourite pop acts (Take That, Lulu and Five...). And of course some incredibly inspiring and caring teachers who made a lasting impression.



**Current Head Girl**

**DAISY BIRKIN**

**Were you surprised to be elected and what do you think you will remember most about being a Head Girl?**

I was so surprised! In our year there were so many girls who were all in the running for Head Girl and would have done such a brilliant job – I never thought it would be me! I expect my most prominent memories will be the scary things – the dreaded walk down the aisle in Monday morning assembly and big speeches, but most importantly, who can forget seeing their name on the same wall as Petronella Snowball!

**What are the best and worst bits?**

It’s so hard to choose the best bits, to be honest I’ve really enjoyed most aspects of the role. At the top of the list has to be working with six of my best friends on a daily basis, with all of us working on things that will hopefully improve school life for either our year group or the school as a whole. Hearing the other six girls’ speeches at Prize Giving was quite a moment, trying not to cry with laughter is much harder standing on a stage with hundreds of people laughing along too!

I’ve also loved chairing Student Council, listening to the ideas of younger girls, some bizarre but most really quite insightful, and being able to turn them into actions has been so rewarding. As for the worst bit, I suppose it’s been a bit of a struggle to juggle





four A-levels, music, clubs, university applications and Head Girl duties – but it's never once felt like a chore.

**Where are you heading after you have left?**

After I say a fond farewell to Maynard I'll hopefully be off to university to study Economics, exactly where is still to be confirmed!

**What are you hoping to become?**

In all honesty I have no idea what I want to "do" with my life, I know that I'm fairly people-orientated, so I can't really see myself sitting in front of a computer crunching numbers all day – but most likely something down the economics or business route. Who knows!

**What would you consider your greatest achievement at school?**

Most recently, taking our bows after the annual Sixth Form Entertainment felt like a huge achievement – it has become such an integral part of the school calendar and something everyone (except maybe some of the teachers) looks forward to, so it felt amazing to have ticked off such a mammoth task on the Maynard bucket list, which required so many hours of work behind the scenes. Completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors also feel like great achievements, both physically and mentally.

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

In 25 years I hope to be... happy, fulfilled and hopefully with a family of some kind. I suppose we'll find out if this feature runs for another 30 years!

**What are your happiest memories of School?**

I have so many happy memories of my time here, I'm certain I haven't had a day at school where I haven't laughed! Of course big trips like the Ski Trip or our fabulous time in Tanzania stand out, but I think my fondest memories will be from day to day school life - our whole year migrating out to the Rose Garden in the summer to laze on beanbags and listen to music, or belting out the school song at the end of every term...

I've truly loved every minute and will be so sad to leave!

# ARCHITECT IN THE MAKING?

#madeforgirls

OPEN EVENING  
TUESDAY 18 JUNE



THE  
MAYNARD  
SCHOOL  
EXETER

MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18



# Happiness following adversity...



Alicia Thew (leaver in 2009) is living proof that a little bit of true Maynardian grit and resilience can go a long way to changing life's fortunes.

Whilst at school my number one goal was to be a doctor, so I chose all the right subjects at GCSE and A-level, did tons of work experience and volunteering. I got an interview at Cardiff University, prepared with practice interviews etc., but I didn't get in. I loved science and Biology was my favourite subject, but I knew very little about science careers other than academia and what I saw on TV. I remember sitting in the bath feeling the most disappointment I had ever felt and my Mum (the most positive person in the world), was trying to help me come up with ideas, because I didn't have a university place and didn't want to take a gap year. At the time we had been watching Spring Watch and she saw my admiration for Kate Humble and suggested I do a degree in Biology. So we trawled through the listings of available university



places online and I found a place to study Biology, funnily enough at Cardiff.

Just before I left for university my grandma passed away; Mum and I were super close to my grandma and so it was a big blow. I didn't deal with it well and saw university as a chance to escape. I came out of that first year with my first true romance and a life-long disease, Ulcerative Colitis. UC is a form of inflammatory bowel disease ([www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk](http://www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)), similar to Crohn's. You go through periods of flare-ups and remission, there is no cure and no specially developed therapies. For the next three years of university my UC flared and I battled with cocktails of various drugs, colonoscopies and weekly-monthly blood tests once I found a medicine that worked. During that time I was forced to abandon a placement year at the National Botanical Garden of Wales and was emergency evacuated from the rainforest on a field trip to Borneo. My social life collapsed, I left university with no close friends, and my grades suffered, diminishing the dream of doing a PhD and continuing into academia.



I went home knowing that I needed to work out what to do next and to find a job. I didn't give up the dream of a PhD (I've applied every year including last year!), but I knew my chances were slim without a masters or published papers. I started working for the Environment Agency as an assistant scientist in Starcross, gaining good experience but knowing I was only biding my time. In the meantime I kept applying to conservation jobs, but the reality is that conservation is heinously underfunded and the vast majority of positions are voluntary which isn't economically viable for most people. Eventually, I came across the masters course I completed last year at UCL. I had no idea how I was going to make the move to London on my own, but I spent all my savings, found

a flatmate online and finally a place to live. My degree is a masters by research in biodiversity, evolution and conservation, with opportunities to study at the Natural History Museum and the Zoological Society of London. Having failed for the fourth year running to gain a PhD position (I did at least get an interview last year!), I realised that maybe academia wasn't the path for me. My love of London drove me to find a way to stay here and achieve the life I want. So, in February 2018, I began to apply to graduate schemes in data analysis. What most people don't realise is that a huge proportion of biological and ecological research is done in front of a computer with statistical software. My education has given me all the skills I need for a career in most industries. So whilst juggling an independent research project, I spent the first few months of last year squeezing in aptitude tests, video interviews, making short videos and finally actual interviews, in the hope that I'd earn a place on one of these coveted schemes. The one I wanted the most was at a high-tech digital marketing agency called Brain Labs, where there are around 250 applicants for each position. The company is only seven years old and was set up by a bunch of Oxford Uni grads who disliked the pushy, target-based culture of working at places like Google. I knew this was the place for me, and one nail-biting week after my final interview I was offered a place to start in September!

I am really enjoying the new job and have learnt a lot already. It's a great environment to work in with strong emphasis given to team work and collaboration, as well as innovation. I'm currently working for two clients: the Royal Academy of Arts and Sky. It can be stressful when it gets particularly busy, but I work with a great team.

My health is, of course, still an issue but it's something I've learned to live with. In fact, I had entered the ballot for the London Marathon 2019, to raise money for Crohn's and Colitis UK, but was unfortunately unsuccessful so I am helping Izzy Hayes, who was also in my year at the Maynard, train for it instead.



# Living Abroad

## AUSTRALIA

### Vicky Hughes

(née Williams)  
Leaver in 1999

After completing an MSc in International Management with French from Bath University, I spent a year working for Reuters as an analyst covering the French stock exchange. My now husband and I decided that we wanted to try working for a year or two in Australia so headed out to Perth in 2005. Within a couple of months, I landed myself a job as a business analyst for an international market research company, who sponsored my husband and I to stay and work for up to four years. Four years then led to permanent residency and citizenship. It was then time to decide what we wanted to do, as we never anticipated being in Perth or Australia long term. So we took a year off, surfing and campervanning around the country, with some surfing and skiing in Europe.

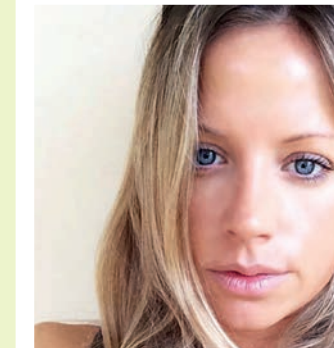
We realised during this trip that Perth is a pretty great place to live, with beautiful beaches on our doorstep, good working opportunities and some great friends. So we headed back and I set myself up as an independent business consultant, contracting to a few different consultancies in Perth. In December 2012, my husband and I got married in Margaret River in WA, with some fellow Maynardians making the trek over for the wedding. When I'm not working or looking after our two girls, Holly (4) and Jessica (2), I like to make contemporary jewellery ([facebook.com/RockhopperJewellery](https://www.facebook.com/RockhopperJewellery)).



**I now live on the east coast of Australia in a place called Currumbin, in south east Queensland, just north of the New South Wales border. I'm fortunate enough to live a few streets back from the ocean, with the rain forest 10 minutes away.**

### Suzie Clyne

Leaver in 1997



I continue to ride a lot, taking 2017 off from work to train professionally full-time with the former Australian champion in Eventing. Thirteen hour days, six days a week for eight months. It was such hard work but absolutely fantastic. It is my hope that I will make it to the top of the sport and that is what I have my eye on over the next few years. When I was still based in the UK, I previously rode with a couple of Olympians who represented Australia at both London and Rio, chaperoning one of them and Sir Mark Todd

(the Kiwi rider) on a recent visit to Western Australia whilst they were competing here which was absolutely fabulous.

I am not married and I don't have children but I take great pleasure in seeing the next generation of bright little things being brought up by our wonderful friends and am in awe of the effort, guidance and love with which they are raising them. Whilst it would, of course, be great to meet someone to share this interesting and wonderful life with, I try to view it from the perspective that I am offered a certain type of the freedom that being in my position gives me whilst this is the case. I travel often with many impromptu trips all over the world and return to the UK every year (sometimes up to four times a year depending on how many weddings and birthdays there are!).

Work wise I am an interior architect and designer. I have development projects in the UK and Australia, and would love to build in Bali too at some point. I work for myself and recently acquired a Master Builder



as a business partner. This year is looking incredibly busy for design, renovation and development projects which is great. At the end of last year I set up an e-commerce venture in the homewares space after a few years of extensive research and I am looking forward to seeing how that grows over 2019. I still draw, paint and do my art, and somehow arrived at doing oversized animal portraits for people of their pets which is quite entertaining. People seem to love them and I was recently approached by Davina



McCall to do a couple of her dogs which I should be finishing off shortly.

England, and particularly Devon, will always have a special place in my heart. My family remain there and many lovely friends. Regardless of where I have travelled in the world, the countryside and seasons back home will always be incredibly special. My plan is to return there in the next three to five years to compete from April - October, of course depending on a few factors and how the riding goes in the meantime (I have just rehabilitated my horse back from a fractured pelvis so you never know what's round the corner!).

Since leaving The Maynard it certainly hasn't been all plain sailing as reports such as these would suggest. It's very easy to focus on highlights and skim over the realities. There have been many ups and downs (!!), coupled with many wrong decisions along the way but that's life. I endeavour to grow from the failures and the lessons learned in getting it wrong. Through both situations, it's the love and support of my family and close friends that I turn to. My inspirational Maynard girls still feature as some of my closest and for these friendships I am truly grateful.

Much love to all who are reading this. I would love to hear from anyone who I have lost touch with and hear your news.

## Nicola White

Leaver in 1999

I was one of the many brilliant ladies in the "class of 1999" - where girls do indeed come first. Excellent motto!

I consider myself lucky to be filled with fond memories of my years at The Maynard and all the fabulous people I met there, some of whom remain my best friends, still to this date. After graduating with a Sport & Exercise Science Degree at The University of Birmingham, I did a decent stint in London working in Media. As much as I enjoyed my time in London and the experience it gave me, I was keen to get out of the so-called "rat face" after six years but not quite ready to return to Devon, so I took a leap and booked a flight to Sydney with a working holiday visa at the age of 29.

Now, just over seven years on, I'm married to an Aussie and we have a very cheeky three year old



girl and another on the way. Over my time here I've had the pleasure of working as an Event Producer for various agencies in Sydney and have found the best of both worlds – city life but with a whole lot of ocean and blue skies. I can honestly say that I feel like I am living my life on holiday.

Not the only Maynardian to set sail for warmer climates, I'm in regular contact with Karlie Neale, Lucy Ramon, Suzie Clyne and Vicky Williams who are all down under and we catch up when we can. I love visiting my family and friends in Devon, ideally once a year and always catch up with my "school pals".

In the words of Baz Luhrman from the ladies and gentlemen of the class of '99, if I could offer any advice, it would be to: "Understand that friends come and go, but for the precious

few you should hold onto. Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle because the older you get, the more you need the people you knew when you were young". Oh, and wear sunscreen, of course.

# USA

## Anna Jones

(née Gardner)

Leaver in 1999

Los Angeles! That's where I am now. I've lived here for ten years, on the Westside of the city near Venice Beach. I made the move over here to be with my now husband, who was working in the film industry. Prior to this move I spent nine years in London working in the film and television industry, and also got a degree in Archaeology from UCL.

Anyone who remembers me from school days might remember my love of playing sport, all sports, and my subsequent commitment to wearing my P.E. kit more than my school uniform. Ha. Well that love never died and in my latter years in London I had my dream job producing sports documentaries for ESPN, specializing in the man's world of rugby. Love had to rule though so I moved on and moved over the Pond and started a new and very different life!

Having had nearly ten years of film and television work under my belt I thought my career would continue in that direction but the entertainment industry here is a different

beast and I rapidly fell out of love with it. Instead, I went back to my retail roots and began managing an outdoor gear store which was fantastic because it led to a few years exploring the best that California has to offer; mountain climbing, backcountry camping, endurance canyon hiking to name a few. In that time I also got married and we took the world's least romantic honeymoon, three weeks high altitude trekking in Nepal, under canvas, with no showers. It was awesome!

Currently, I'm taking the time to be a full time Mum to my 4.5yr old boy and 8 month old daughter. It's by far the hardest job I've ever done but I am grateful to be able to do it! I'm not sure what the future holds in terms of paid work but it might well need to involve sports, once more.

To this day I know more about rugby than most and tune in to watch the Exeter Chiefs each weekend. It's one way to feel closer to home, which is nice since I, of course, miss Devon and my family and friends but my school friends are abundant and life-long and even though we don't meet or speak too often, we have always been able to pick up where we left off. A special bunch.



Travel restrictions might mean I can't make our 20 year reunion this summer, which I am sad about. Not only would I love to re-meet my peers and teachers but I would love the chance to walk the halls and down a few memory lanes. So many happy memories. Most of which were in my P.E kit...



# KENYA

## Morag Gramamaticas

(née Ferguson)



It's probably not a surprise to many that remember me from The Maynard that I have ended up back in Africa – Kenya! I arrived at Maynard in the Upper Fourth with a very strong South African accent and I guess Africa never really left my system!



I always had a bit of a wander lust and took a bit of a round-about route to getting here. After leaving school and spending a year at Art College in Exeter, I realized that I would never really make the grade in that area, so switched to Agricultural Sciences (BSc Hons from Edinburgh University). While there I met up with some like-minded people and went on an ecological monitoring expedition to the Okovango Swamps in Botswana – and stayed for a while, working with a non-government organisation on some indigenous food plants of Botswana.

This led me to be taken on by the now UK Department for International Development (DfID), that sponsored me through an MSc in Plant Genetic Resources at Birmingham University with a year of practical experience in a genebank in Aleppo, Syria, working on wild lentils! This led to a PhD in the same subject and four fantastic years in the beautiful city and its surroundings.

After a stint in the United Arab Emirates working on indigenous forage grasses, I accepted a post-doctorate in Hyderabad, India working on (for) peanuts! During this time I had the opportunity to work for several months in a high-powered

molecular lab at the University of Georgia, USA. Africa was calling so I relocated to Nairobi, Kenya where I started working on the root crop cassava (tapioca) with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. This is a staple crop in many parts of Africa, providing a vital source of carbohydrate, but unfortunately suffers badly from disease.

Sixteen years later I am still working on cassava, having trained many MSc and PhD students from the National Agriculture Research Services in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. With colleagues, we have developed super new virus-resistant cassava varieties which we are now working to distribute to farmers through sustainable seed systems. My work has been fascinating and challenging and taken me to many parts of the world, and hopefully, ultimately, I'll have an impact on the lives of many people less fortunate than ourselves.

On a slightly lighter note, in the meantime, in all my spare time I met and married my husband who works in the safari industry in Kenya, providing much needed RnR. We have three beautiful daughters aged 14, 12 and 11, nine horses, two dogs, chickens and a cat! We live in a beautiful house overlooking the Ngong Hills with a host of ever jovial support staff. I count myself very lucky to have a rewarding career, a great family, to be able to follow my passion for riding and live in a stunningly beautiful country which is both exhilarating and challenging.

# GERMANY

## Juliana Hodkinson

I've been living abroad most of my adult life: 15 years in Denmark, one year in Japan, and 10 years in Berlin. In February I received my German citizenship, ending the feeling of being a foreigner



(or, worse, ex-pat), and giving me the right to vote again. It might well be the fault of the Maynard's Mrs Jones that I've settled in Germany, as her German lessons opened so many horizons for me - literature, world history and politics. Russian lessons with Mrs Cockrell were similarly a ticket to new vistas, and also a school trip to Moscow back in the days of glasnost and perestroika.

Alongside bouts of academic work and teaching, I've been working since the 1990s as a composer, mainly within experimental music, so Berlin is a

good and vibrant place for me to live and work, and I identify very strongly with the role of the arts in the public cultural sphere in Germany. I also appreciate that my children can grow up as trans-national multilingual Europeans, in a city that never forgets the past. They learn about the Holocaust right from first grade, build walls between different points of view and knock them down, and even in my son's nerdy science-focused secondary school there's intense political debate through all the grades.

During all these years abroad, I've however utterly neglected my networks in the UK, so it was a great surprise and delight recently to receive my first ever UK commission - from the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, who will



perform my new piece, 'All Around', this May at their Tectonics festival in Glasgow.

When I was at school, the music teacher nearly fell off his piano stool laughing when I said I wanted to be a composer but the headmistress, Miss Murdin, gave me all the wise words I needed to fuel my dreams. I must say it's been a surprise to me that gender issues (i.e. being a composer and a woman) have not alleviated much through all these years of working, and I am increasingly involved in drawing awareness to the need for more diversity in the arts (also social diversity and disability rights, etc.).



Even the Scandinavian countries have a long way to go. But in the long run, female networks have often brought me opportunities and perspectives that have been seminal in pushing me in new directions and boosting my confidence - that was surely something I learnt at Maynard.

# SPAIN

## Amanda Orr

(née Wride)

Leaver in 1979

After nearly 40 years, The Maynard seems a long time away. My parents moved to Cornwall after I went to University so I seem to go around Exeter in the car, through it on the train or over it on a plane but still have fond memories although I am sure I would find the city greatly changed. I still keep in contact with a couple of people and through them hear about others.

After finishing my degree I moved to London permanently, (I did my work placement for my degree there) and worked in the restaurant trade for a while before moving into an office environment culminating in a thirteen year stint in a high pressured job in the City, mainly involved in HR.

Sadly, in 2005, my husband died suddenly so I made the decision to move to Mallorca with my two young boys at the time as, due to the nature of my work, I seemed to be a weekend parent. So they were immersed into the local school and have grown up trilingual as Catalan is the first spoken and written language after Spanish. I bought some land and built a house, (well not physically!!) which we moved into at the beginning of 2008. I started a business doing team building on boats but, with the financial recession in 2008, that didn't take off so completed an English Language Teaching course



and worked as a freelance teacher to all ages until last year when I joined the staff at the American International School at the Rafa Nadal Academy. Alongside this I have also done Bed and Breakfast and freelance catering for private villas.

Although I did French and German at The Maynard, Spanish wasn't an option so I have had to learn the language. I enjoy the lifestyle over here, (although I can assure you it is not just sipping Magaritas by the pool there is a lot of bureaucracy over here and rules seem to change every year), not to mention the climate but now with the boys at University, one here and one in Scotland we shall see what the future holds without mentioning the "B" word. I am trying to sell the house now as it has become oversized and the large garden takes up a lot of my time but whether I shall move back to the UK remains to be seen.

I will be sorry to miss the reunion this year but hope it goes well.

# NEW ZEALAND

## Mary Smyth

Leaver in 1977

I would have left The Maynard School in the year of 1979 but my parents' travel plans to Australia put paid to that! Having arrived in Australia in February, with their final school year finishing in December, I realised that I would have to fast forward my Leaving School plans.



After commencing a Bachelor of Science Degree, I then converted to Nursing Studies and enjoyed my travels around Australia and Asia. During this time I kept in touch with several Maynardians, sending parcels of weird and wonderful (flavoured and looking!) edible treats from Down Under and comparing the different approach to the teaching of some subjects.

Fifteen years later, having met my New Zealand partner (a Goldsmith) in Australia, we moved to Auckland, New Zealand. We arrived at the time of the Americas' Cup Yacht racing. This made for an exciting and welcoming beginning to our New Zealand adventure. I was an ICU nurse and worked in Auckland and Wellington.

Four years later, looking to set up a gallery of his own, my partner and I looked further afield, ending up in the beautiful region of Hawkes' Bay. Renowned for its climate, particularly for growing

grapes and wine-making, I enjoyed several vintages as a grape picker learning about the wine making process and the region. Having initially undertaken some wine studies, I then commenced a nursing job in PACU/DSU but still managed to fit some grape picking around my shifts. Also, a bit of tasting! Just about all the wine styles from Hawkes' Bay are excellent.

Napier, a town in Hawkes' Bay celebrates in a unique way the revival and rebuilding of its town centre following a catastrophic earthquake (Richter 7.8) in 1931. The buildings reflected the style of that era being Art Deco. Every year around the anniversary date of the earthquake, they hold a four-day event celebrating all things Deco! This includes vintage cars, aeroplanes, plays, films, picnics, dance classes as well as services to all those who helped with the rebuilding and recovery following the disaster. Dressing up is almost compulsory for all ages. I have drawn on my Maynard involvement in the many plays and musicals that I was involved in! (Thank you, Mrs Barton.)

Sadly, I will not be able to come to this years' reunion but would love a tour around my old school when I next visit the UK in September. Warm wishes to all!



# The Unsung Hero

• • •

## Toria Turner

**Tor (or ‘Only Tor’ as she is fondly known - a nickname derived from what she calls herself when speaking to colleagues on the telephone) joined the ever-growing Maynard staff family as our Receptionist in the summer of 2018 and soon became an established part of the furniture! As the ‘first face of The Maynard’ she’s nothing other than a fun and a firm favourite with all those that encounter her.**

### What job did you do before joining The Maynard?

I have had many jobs before arriving at The Maynard including spending a summer catching chickens, working in a theatre and flipping burgers. Proper jobs include working at Lloyd’s of London Insurance Market in the international department. From here, I was asked to join a City law firm as a litigation assistant to

help with the Lloyd’s Names Action which was a huge case at the time. My main job, however, was raising my four children who all appeared within four years of each other.

### What appealed to you with this job?

I have worked in a large college in Taunton before coming here and there is nothing like being in a work environment with children. Their optimism and enthusiasm is infectious and I could not imagine working in an office again with only adults, after enjoying the energy that the pupils inevitably bring to the table.

### What are your everyday challenges in the role?

Juggling! There are moments when the phone rings, the email pings and the doorbell dings. Everyone wants an immediate response these days and sometimes it is hard to give them all the time they deserve. There are the two registers that need sorting, tickets for plays and concerts to print and sell, phone calls and visitors to respond to and, of course, students to assist with whatever their questions may be. This is the busiest role I have ever had and I wouldn’t have it any other way. Boredom is the worst part of any job, and I have never had that here.

### What do you love best about the job?

This is perhaps the easiest question I have ever had to answer. The children. They are funny, curious and above all charming. They melt my heart every day and make this job a real privilege.

“

**THERE ARE MOMENTS  
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AND THE DOORBELL DINGS.  
THIS IS THE BUSIEST ROLE  
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WOULDN’T HAVE IT ANY  
OTHER WAY.**



### What is the most frustrating thing about the job?

Probably lost property! Every day I am brought a host of things that have been left somewhere in school.

### What essential qualities does the role require?

My role here, and in my home life, is one of facilitator. If I can make people’s day a little easier by solving a problem or reducing their stress in any way I can, I will always say yes to that. Everyone is dealing with something in their life, so it is always nice when you come across someone who says, “Let me help you with that.” I try to be that person. It sounds terribly corny, but that doesn’t make it any less true.

### What is the funniest/most embarrassing thing that has happened to you at The Maynard?

Oh dear, this one is easy too. A family from another school arrived at my desk to watch their daughter in a match she was playing in at The Maynard. I checked the list and noticed that this match was, in fact, being played at the Lymestone Commando. The family were on foot and, after persuading them that they really couldn’t walk there, I booked them a taxi and merrily waved them off. Of course, I had read the wrong list and their daughter was in a match right here all along. My heart sank and all I could think was that they would be dropped off at Lymestone with no means to get back again. Not a good day!

### What is the strangest request you have had?

Over the summer last year, a lady called from Essex saying that she was thinking of relocating to Devon and could she just ask some questions about what life here is like. So we chatted for some considerable time. She explained that her husband was a police officer in London and she was hoping he could commute on a weekly basis. She then asked if I thought this was a good plan and how much it would cost for him to stay in London if she was here. I steered the conversation back to her children and our school whereupon she told me she had two boys! We were the first school she had rung in Devon that were happy to have a chat and she was just so delighted to have someone to talk to about life. I hope I helped in some way!

### How do you relax out of school?

Talking with my husband, preferably on a long walk. We have been married forever and have not run out of things to talk about yet. I also like making jam and marmalade and creating mosaic table tops.

### How would you describe The Maynard to an outsider?

The Maynard is full of the most dedicated, warm and caring staff I have ever come across. The care and attention for each student is astonishing for academic issues and pastoral concerns. I wish the parents could see how much is done behind the scenes for each child.

It is a very happy place to be indeed and I am very lucky.



# Reunions

## Class of '68 Reunion

On a very hot Friday at the end of June last year, 21 alumnae from the Year of '68 made their way to Denmark Road to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of A-levels and, for most of us, the end of our school days at the Maynard.



One had travelled from Australia, another from Canada and a third from Turkey for the occasion. We were warmly welcomed by Rachael Board for coffee in the main hall and felt immediately at home. That part of the school has changed very little in character since the day we left. Many of the '68 gals have met from time to time at previous reunions – this was our fifth - and once again we shared in the excitement and delight of seeing old friends.

On this occasion, we were invited to visit the school on a weekday toward the end of the summer term and enjoyed the privilege of seeing some of the class groups still at work or play. Tours of the

campus were arranged for 12pm and 2pm and we were ably shown around by pupil volunteers who miraculously avoided losing any of us and tactfully fielded all manner of question and comment. For them, I suspect it felt like good practice in herding chickens! Whilst the main building remains very familiar to our experience of the 1960's, many other areas are substantially changed: the new Sports Hall and well equipped music rooms particularly impressed me. I was personally struck by the huge range of resources available to today's students and the evident enthusiasm and encouragement across so many subjects and interests. If only similarly rich opportunities were the experience for all school children.

The chattering and laughter that marked our gathering was briefly punctuated when we sat down to a delicious buffet lunch served in the Main Hall and, at end the afternoon, there was tea and scones awaiting us in a marquee on the grass of Leebourne. Here, sitting in the welcome shade, we were joined by Miss Wilson, who had the pleasure of teaching some of us Latin all those years ago, and has attended every one of our reunions, and also Miss Westall who inspired many of us in our A-level English classes.

At four o'clock we drifted away from School to recollect and recover as best we could in the persisting heat. However, the day was not over and as the evening cooled a little many of us, plus partners and friends, joined the Friday night in-



crowd down at Exeter Quay. Fuelled and lubricated once again our conversations continued unabated as we watched the sun sink over the waters there. And still I came away feeling that there was never enough time to talk properly with everyone.

As I recall, those attending were (and forgive me for using the names that I remember you by): Heather Blackmore and Kate Hill, both of whom are due our thanks for organising the day and the evening, Anne Baker, Daphne Val Davies, Corinne Jeffrey, Liz Walters, Stephanie Lytton, Jackie Wilmington, Jackie Davey and Jackie Walker, Celia West, Claire Scofield, Clare Greenaway, Jenny Gibbon, Jenny Mayhead, Rosemary Brown, Julia Sygfrig, Janet Twose, Anne Francis, Juliet Wigmore and, myself, Liz Hales. Messages with news were received and shared from Hester Grew, Jenny Vine and Liz Thackray who could not be with us on the day.

Our thanks again to the Maynard School for giving us such a warm welcome and a wonderful day and, of course, a big thank you to Rachael Board and her assistants for all their work in bringing this happy day to fruition. Here's to the next one!

Liz Murphy (née Hales)



## Class of '71 Reunion

“ When met again in after years,  
we'll set the hall a-ringing  
With laughter bred of memories...”

How true those words from the Maynard School song have become (apologies if I have not remembered them perfectly!) and how little attention we paid to their meaning as we sang them at the end of every term each year! It is always a joy to meet up with everyone again. The first occasion was 21 years after leaving school, the second 42 years after ('Now we are 60!'), since then about 20 of us... mainly those living in the South- West... have met on three more occasions for lunch at various locations. Last year, on Wednesday 20th June 2018, about 25 of us spent a wonderful day. We gathered over coffee in the School Hall, before being taken on tours of the school, walking along the corridors, peering into classrooms, reminiscing and chattering and laughing... not too loudly we hope... you see, what

made this occasion different from the previous two was that it was a 'working' day! So, as well as trying to remember which subjects we learnt in which rooms and with which teachers, we were able to see lessons in progress either from outside or, occasionally, inside! A mention here for our 'guides', all Sixth Formers, who were informative, friendly and a credit to the school.

Lunch (with a glass of fizz!) followed in the Hall... cue more reminiscing and chatter over delicious food... many thanks to Andrew, the chef. One moment of hilarity came when one of our group spotted a face at the table unfamiliar to both herself and those of us nearby. This 'stranger' then proceeded to walk along, stopping occasionally to speak, and was eventually asked by someone "Excuse me, but who are you?" only to be told "Well, I'm Sarah Dunn, the Head." There was a potentially embarrassing moment when it was explained to her that some of us had thought she was 'one of us'! Of course, being the Class of '71, we are somewhat older than Miss Dunn but being back at The Maynard for a day made us feel less like 65

and more like 15-year olds!

After lunch, there were more tours of the school or the possibility of a preview of the School Art Exhibition. We then made our way to a lovely marquee on the grass of 'Leebourne' for afternoon tea and cake, where we were joined by a few of the teachers from our time at the school... Mrs Clarke (Miss Westall as we knew her), Miss Hall, Miss Wilson and Mrs Usher.

Having spent over six hours together, people then began to drift away, all of us feeling so blessed to have been part of such a great year group and looking forward already to our next 'big' reunion... in 2023!

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Sarah Dunn for welcoming us at the School and also to Rachael Board for all her help in planning and organising the event, and for hosting us so efficiently on the day.

Sue Jones Marilyn Steel Hilary Wigmore





### Class of '78 Reunion

After a successful 20 year reunion in 1998 with Miss Bradley in attendance, we planned to meet up again in 2018.

With the sterling help and initiative of Rosey Davies and Rachael Board we contacted nearly all of our year group. As a result, about 40 of us gathered in the hall on a very warm day in June 2018. There was much excited conversation and laughter as we recognised each other and the chat continued as we split into groups for tours of the school, led by friendly Sixth Formers. We passed familiar classrooms and looked into new science labs before crossing over to Tregear and touring the

art rooms with colourful displays and the former home economics rooms where we recalled various culinary disasters. We finished off at the sixth form block, still much the same but when we asked whether Exeter School boys still hung around at lunch breaks the current Sixth Formers found this very amusing, 'of course not', they chorused.

We inspected the gardening plot at the back of the gym with memories of Tom the gardener digging the ground and then all gathered in the rose garden (which used to be overlooked by Miss Bradley's office so best behaviour) where we had a glass of bubbly. We returned to the hall for a rousing rendition of the school song and 'There's something about the Maynard', accompanied by Helen (Martin)

on the school piano.

After a delicious lunch in the hall, we welcomed former members of staff for a cup of tea and more chat and a chance to reminisce. A wonderful day was followed by an evening of wine and pizza at Emma Parkin's Boatyard Bakery on the quay where more old girls joined us, including our former Head Girl, Jane Hewertson.

Emails were swapped and promises made to keep in touch. Thank you Rosey and Rachael for making it all possible. Here's to meeting up again, if able and willing for a 60 year reunion in 2038!

Jane (Phillips)

### Meet the graduates...



...

... because talent is spread evenly throughout society but opportunity is not.

We meet some of the very first graduates from a new scheme that was introduced by Headmistress, Sarah Dunn, as a top priority when she first arrived at the school in 2016. The Maynard Award mirrors the strong ethos of our school – that an excellent education should be accessible to the most talented and gifted girls, regardless of household income.

Incorporating both a scholarship element (for academic, sporting and/or creative excellence) together with a means-tested bursary, the scheme can account for up to a 45% reduction in fees. Equally, we are extremely proud to offer three full 100% awards to exceptional students joining the Sixth Form from the state sector.



Charlie Jackson

***I'm a vet student at the University of Edinburgh and I was fortunate enough to be a recipient of the Maynard Award from 2016-2018.***

My ultimate goal has always been to improve welfare for domestic and farm animals, and from a young age I did absolutely everything I could to become a vet - I was giving up my holidays to work on farms and at stables, reading outdated veterinary textbooks (that I had no hope of understanding anyway) and working harder than I probably should have to get good GCSEs.

Luckily it all paid off, and I got the grades. I loved my old school but, unfortunately, the support and expertise Maynard can offer is pretty unique - despite the huge efforts of many fantastic teachers in the state sector.

At The Maynard the teachers simply have more time to dedicate to their students, something which was

invaluable for me (Mrs Horton, my A-level Maths teacher can confirm).

The opportunity to study at Maynard would have been unthinkable if it wasn't for the student award. The fact the award is so much higher than any other local schools' equivalent means that students from any walk of life can accomplish anything they set their mind to - rather than having their ambitions restricted by financial difficulties.

How many innovative drugs and treatments could have been discovered, how many diseases cured or lives extended if every bright child had a chance to receive the support they needed? How many hardworking students miss out on grades because they didn't have the same kind of access to their teachers after lessons, or because their school couldn't offer the support they needed for applying to university?

So many students have an amazing work ethic and achieve incredible grades only to miss out simply because of their income. In 2017, just 11% of Oxford students came from disadvantaged backgrounds. This social apartheid means we are missing out on some of the most creative minds and strongest work ethics that are so desperately needed to face the challenges of today's society.

I used my education at Maynard to get into vet school so that I can research, apply and improve animal welfare. Short term, I hope to work in countries where animal welfare is virtually non-existent, and where animals are depended on to the extent their welfare is intrinsically linked to survival of humans. Long term, I aim to work in government as an advisor on policy regarding production animals. None of this would be possible if I hadn't got into veterinary medicine, thanks to my time at The Maynard.





Caitlin Davies

***I had never heard of The Maynard prior to Mr Hibberd's speech at my secondary school. At the time, I thought I had my future planned out with a place at a local college but as soon as Mr Hibberd gave his speech, I was set on becoming a Maynard student.***

Understandably, when I presented all of the brochures that I had taken away to my parents, they were concerned about the fees. It was clear that it would be a financial strain for me to attend a fee paying school. Nevertheless, I persevered with my persuasion and I was rather fortunate to be given a Maynard Award.

During my time at school, I had my ups and downs but the support I received from staff and students was overwhelming and it emphasises how much community spirit The Maynard has. A few of the many extra opportunities I had include setting up a Rotary Interact club, successfully completing my DofE gold award (despite being airlifted during the practice walk) and singing with the Upper Sixth choir. I strongly doubt that I would have been involved in so many extra-curricular activities if I went to alternative further education providers.

As a result, Maynard paved the way for my future from turning a shy, self-conscious girl into a confident young lady. This highly benefited my career prospects and I am now on the Digital and Technology Solutions BSC degree apprenticeship course with the University of Exeter whilst working for WPA Health Insurance.

Three years ago, my CV would have been the standard compilation of qualifications but I can only thank the Maynard for providing me with an education that now makes it stand out from the crowd.

If you are a student considering the Maynard for the future but you have concerns about your parents financing your education, I would highly recommended getting in touch as you never know how lucky you could be. Likewise, if you are a reader of this article and you would like to support the Maynard Award, I cannot emphasise how much of a difference you will make to a prospective student's education and their future.



Harmony Bidder

***I came to Maynard from a large co-ed state school, and to say moving was a bit of a culture shock would be an understatement! I had expected it to be smaller, and for the all-girls factor to make a difference - but what I wasn't prepared for was the way the teachers genuinely care about every student and do their best not only to help them achieve the best possible result - but also to help them begin to love their subject.***

This was demonstrated to me within the first few weeks of me moving - when my Maths A-level teacher arranged for all of us to go to a talk by Marcus du Sautoy.

My last school simply did not have the resources to enrich our learning outside the boundaries of the curriculum, and so it was a pleasant surprise to be in an environment where I began to actually love the subjects I had chosen for A-level, rather than just seeing them as a stepping stone for university. It definitely helped me to achieve results far beyond what I initially thought I was capable of, and I can wholeheartedly say that without the teachers at The Maynard I most likely would not be studying at Bristol University right now. Bristol had been my dream university, but one I always thought was a little out of reach for me.

When I told my teachers at Maynard that I wanted to get into Bristol, I thought I was being stupid - but instead they simply said, "Okay, we can do that." The difference in attitude between Maynard and my last school is pretty astounding.

Maynard has given me multiple opportunities to excel, and to demonstrate and develop skills outside of exams. One such opportunity was the EPQ - an optional qualification where you undertake a research project in a topic of your choice.

I did an EPQ on the hydrodynamics of surfboard design, and I can honestly say I don't think anything boosted my application more. I've talked to PhD students at university offer holder days, and lecturers, and they have always been incredibly impressed when I discuss my EPQ.

It's an opportunity that I'm grateful for to this day, since I've now started studying fluid dynamics as part of my degree, so I've got a head start on everyone else! I don't think that at my last school I would have been given so much support with the EPQ, or such a chance to do well in it - nor would I have been given the chance to boost my application with other opportunities such as doing voluntary work on a Tuesday afternoon and at school open days, which always looks good!

Overall, I'm incredibly grateful to the Maynard scholarship I received. My parents would never have been able to send me to Maynard without it, and frankly I don't think without it I would have been able to study Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at Bristol!



# Obituary

## **Carole Hanniet (née Harding)**

**Carole was a Maynardian who started school life in Traceyville in 1947, moving through the school and leaving in 1958.**



Carole's wide interests and working career reflected her bubbling character and love of life. In 1966, she left her beloved Devon and moved to France where she lived the rest of her life. She was very proud of her 11 grandchildren and her large family.

Her early working life ranged from working with Seniors, hospital visiting and managing 11 tennis teams in a sports club. Latterly, with her second husband she worked with poets and artists

publishing poetry, organising art exhibitions and poetic activities.

In more recent years, she will be remembered by her year group for being a prime mover in organising the big reunion which took place at the school in 2009. The event had a long gestation process as the group of 60, most of whom were now nearly 70, took a lot of finding. Carole's excellent computer skills and contacts resulted in finding almost everyone. We had such a lot of fun in locating people, many of whom we had not seen for 50 plus years.

Carole also collated 'The Book' of Maynard leavers 1958/61. Everyone was asked if they would write a resume of their life and provide an up-to-date photo of themselves. Along with photos of our school days it makes for a fascinating read and record of our lives.

Thanks to Carole there have been follow up reunions and those of us who still live in the area meet several times a year. She was always keen to know the latest news of Old Maynardians. Friendships were renewed as a result of her inquisitive and lively mind. Carole was full of laughter and fun. She was much loved by us all and we greatly value the times that we spent together.

Carole died at the end of last year following a long battle with ill health. Her family brought her ashes home and they were scattered onto the English Channel from a Devonshire beach.

**By Caroline Lake (formerly Ebdon)**

Carole is to be seen in the very back row (as usual!) towards the right - in a black dress with white neckerchief.

## **Dr. JEAN SHIELDS (née Philip), BEM, MB, BS, DRCOG Head Girl, 1947/8**

**Okehampton GP and North Tawton historian**



Dr Jean Shields (Jean Philip) - one of The Maynard's oldest surviving Head Girls - died on Friday 4th May 2018 after a 24-hour illness. She was 88.

The only child of Enid and Colin Philip, Jean May Philip was born in 1930 in the house that her parents had built on the family farm (de Bathe) at North Tawton, a house she was to spend much of her life in.

She spent a happy childhood on the farm embracing country pursuits, particularly riding. After infant school in North Tawton she started as a weekly boarder at Maynard in January 1937, a few weeks before her 7th birthday, travelling by train from North Tawton on a Monday and back on a

Friday. Academically she was a year ahead for her age, and recalled being made a pet of, as the youngest girl in the school. She was happy at school, and was at Maynard right through the war years. Her boarding house in Heavitree Road was blitzed.

Jean knew by the age of 10 that she wanted to be a doctor. She took her Highers a year early at 17, but stayed on to take university entrance exams, becoming Head Girl in the Autumn of 1947 and moving on at Easter 1948 to get some work experience in the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital before starting at The Middlesex Hospital Medical School in October. It was there that she met and married a fellow medical student, David Shields. They qualified in 1953 and after a few years working in London and East Anglia they returned to Devon in 1958 with their infant sons Peter and John, when David joined the Okehampton GP practice.

While her sons were young, Jean worked part-time in Child Health as a schools doctor, and also ran Family Planning clinics in Devon and Cornwall. She was a leading figure in Family Planning in the South West in the 1960s and early 1970s at a time when this was not available on the NHS. In 1974, an opportunity came to join her husband in the Okehampton practice and she became a full-time GP. In those days the four GPs in the practice provided all the evening and weekend cover between them and did many home visits as fewer patients had their own transport, so it was a relentlessly busy life. That suited Jean who was always happiest when working, whatever the work was. She still found time for riding, and for raising her family.

In 1985 Jean followed David into retirement from full-time GP work, and they moved from Okehampton back to her childhood home in North Tawton where she was to remain for over 30 years. Both sons lived locally so they saw plenty of their children and grandchildren, and they both enjoyed Dartmoor walking and shared a keen interest in rugby and cricket.

Jean wasn't ready to give up medical work altogether and worked part-time until she was 70, initially as a locum GP and later as a disability benefits assessor. She also played an active role supporting St John Ambulance in Okehampton, rewarded in 1995 by being made a Serving Sister of the Order of St John.

After David's early death in 1991 she threw herself into local history research, joining local history societies in Okehampton, Bow and Crediton and also volunteering at Okehampton and Crediton museums. She was North Tawton Parish Archivist and an acknowledged expert on the history of North Tawton and its families, co-writing The Book of North Tawton (2002, reprinted 2011). These endeavours were recognised with a British Empire Medal in 2013.

As she moved into her eighties, and by now a great-grandmother, her involvement in these and other activities reduced, but she was still living independently until a month before her death. She is very much missed by her family and by all those whom she served or befriended over so many years.

Jean last attended a reunion at the school in 2005, and continued to meet up annually with several of her contemporaries until they became too few and too frail.

## ALUMNAE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE INFORMATION

All enquiries should be directed to:

Rachael Board,

Tel: + 44 (0)1392 273417 (ext. 181)  
Email: [rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk)  
Website: [www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk)

The Maynard School,  
Denmark Road,  
Exeter, Devon EX1 1SJ

### OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Office will be open between 8.30am – 5.00pm on Monday to Friday 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.



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