

# the word

The Magazine of The Maynard School Alumnae  
Spring 2018



MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18



# WELCOME

A very warm welcome to the 2018 edition of The Word which I do hope you will enjoy flicking through! As the years pass by, I seem to be increasingly in touch with so many more Old Maynardians which has meant for a bumper issue with lots of wonderful updates to include!

The theme of this issue is careers with a particular focus on women who have successfully started up their own businesses (page 31) – the range is diverse and it makes for an inspiring read. With wellbeing very much a topical theme in the press (and quite rightly), this seemed like the perfect opportunity to bring you up to speed with all that we are doing here at School to ensure the health and happiness of our lovely students. Mrs Wilks and Mr Loosemore deliver an enormous programme with great passion and you can read all about this on page 18. Warmth and vitality very much remains at the heart of The Maynard!

There is always so much to report on and seemingly never enough space but, suffice to say, we have enjoyed another incredibly busy and successful year. I can only hint at a fraction of the highlights within the pages here but do always check up on all the latest news via our website ([www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk)) where you can also download the Weekly Newsletter for a more in depth look at what is going on! Or you can find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter – links to these are at the bottom of the web homepage.

In the meantime, may I wish you all a fabulous summer ahead and do please keep in touch with all your news!

Rachael Board

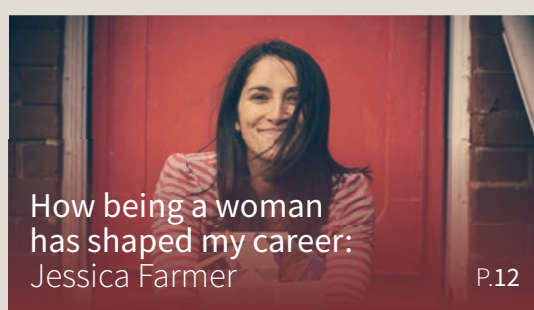
**Front Cover:** Jess Farmer (nee Madge)



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# News

## New Performing Arts Theatre opened



This academic year started with a bang when, much to the excitement of staff and students, we unveiled the brand new, stackable tiered seating system in the gym. Since its inaugural use for the ‘Welcome Back’ Assembly following the summer holidays, we have used this new Performing Arts Theatre for countless occasions and we are now wondering how we ever managed without it! The professional lighting and audio systems, the enormous projector and screen as well as the glamorous, gliding curtains have truly created an impressive theatre or music hall – all of which can be brought out and put back at the click of a button.

We are so very grateful to all of our many generous donors who helped to transform the iconic gym space into such a multi-purpose facility!

## Another year of outstanding A-level results

We celebrated another fine set of A-levels results in the summer with a remarkable 65% of students attaining A\*-A grades and a 100% pass rate across the board. This led us to be ranked the Top Independent School in the South West (The Telegraph A-level league tables) and 13th best girls school in the country according to The Times A-level league tables.

Subsequently, when the Department for Education published their Schools’ Performance Tables earlier this year, we were delighted to have been listed as Devon’s top school and 45th in the country!

## Excellence under the new GCSE grading system



We awaited the 2017 GCSE results with some trepidation as this was the first year in which the new format 9-1 grading came into play for Maths, English Literature and English Language. This is an incredibly tough new scheme, which will be

rolled out to cover all subjects this summer, and which replaces the traditional A\*- U grades of old. Designed to really showcase elite students, Grade 9 is the top grade and is ranked higher than an A\* whilst 5 is a strong pass (in old money a B/C).

Needless to say, an incredible 18% of Maynard girls achieved a Grade 9 in these core subjects, significantly outperforming the predicted national average of between 3% and 5%. Equally, an impressive 65% of our students gained Grades 7, 8 and 9 which is the equivalent to A\* and A grades.

## A “heartstealer” according to the Good Schools Guide

Our review by the Good Schools Guide was published in February and we are delighted with the report that perfectly captures the essence of all that is The Maynard. To be described in the closing sentence as “a heartstealer” says it all and we are thrilled to be held in such high esteem by professionals in assessing the country’s educational establishments. The whole report is featured on our website ([www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk)) – just click on the link at the top right of the homepage!

## From guide dog to school dog ... Meet Nula!

We welcomed Nula, a retired guide dog, into the Junior School in May and what an asset she has become! “The girls absolutely adore her and she has settled in just brilliantly,” said Keagh Fry, Year 4 teacher and official guardian for Nula. “Being an ex-guide dog means she is impeccably well behaved and she is just lapping up all the fuss and attention from everyone. It couldn’t have worked out better!”



“Each class takes it in turn to walk her during break and lunch times and it’s just such a sweet sight watching them all totter off happily with their dog! Equally, if someone is feeling a little sad, a cuddle with Nula soon cheers them up. She has certainly added a completely new dimension and all the girls have renewed purpose in sharing the responsibility of looking after her during the day. I have to say, though, that she wouldn’t make a very good pupil as she sleeps through every lesson!”

## Biz Whizz – the all-new careers club is launched

We launched the weekly lunchtime careers club in September and our thanks to all those alumnae who have so kindly volunteered their expertise. Held on a Friday lunchtime, this is an entirely optional session open to all girls in the Senior School and we have welcomed in a huge array of professionals in the past few months. So far we have covered the psychology behind choosing the right career, law in its various spheres, journalism, civil engineering, private wealth management, architecture, interior design and so much more. The girls are loving this opportunity to

find out more about various professions and the club has certainly proved a popular addition to the school calendar.

We have a break now for next term’s examination period but will be restarting Biz Whizz from September. If you would like to be added to the list of professional volunteers, we would love to hear from you! Please contact [rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk) – and our thanks in advance!

## Incredible ‘Sister Act’ production



Sister Act, the three night, sell out production featuring over 100 students at the Barnfield Theatre, has been an absolute highlight of the school year so far! Rave reviews from audience members continue to flow in and the schools corridors are still buzzing from the hype and sheer excitement.

“I feel compelled to write a short note of thanks for another incredibly impressive school musical production,” said one mother. “It once again went above and beyond expectations and into angelic, celestial realms! I cannot fathom how you manage to choreograph such a large number of girls, how they all have a chance to shine from the very youngest to the Sixth Form principal performers, how you imbue them all with such stage presence, awareness, confidence and dynamism.”

## Busy calendar of Open Events accounts for high numbers

The school roll now exceeds 400 for the first time in several years and, once again, we have already surpassed our targets for September! It’s a very healthy picture indeed and this unprecedented interest can, of course, be put down to our brilliant academic results and happy environment but also to the incredible array of Open Events running throughout the year.



Our biannual Discovery Mornings for girls aged 3-11 continue to attract up to 70 external families each time to enjoy a plethora of activities from Forest School to making lip gloss in Science, a STEM session designing incredible infrastructures using spaghetti and marshmallows, right through to ballet, yoga and some wonderful art projects!

Likewise, our 6-week Forest School programme in the Spring term has attracted a bumper audience of toddlers (for 3 and 4 year olds) around the camp fire and is immensely popular. Not to mention, the Gifted

and Talented outreach programme to external schools, the STEM events, the keynote lectures, invitations to 'Sister Act' and various concerts ... the list goes on but, suffice to say, we are more community orientated in all that we do than we have ever been! And with numbers up, it certainly seems to be helping to spread the incredible Maynard vibe!

## Improving the House System

The House System has recently received a bit of an overhaul and we are now holding many more inter-house events to increase a sense of belonging within the four houses – Haberdashers, Merchants,



Goldsmiths and Armourers. The inaugural House Song Contest in October was a tremendous success with some wonderful choral performances and a vast array of colourful props. The Sixth Formers were brilliant in choreographing and organising the rehearsals for their individual houses which also made this an excellent exercise in leadership.

The icing on the cake had to be the surprise performance of the staff choir singing (not the best) rendition of 'You've got a friend in me' from Toy Story – much to the girls' complete amusement. Just for the record, 'though, Goldsmiths were judged the overall winners.

## 'Walk in her shoes' for International Day of the Girl



We continue to raise thousands of pounds for various charities each year through our various multi days, cake sales, tea parties and concert appeals but a highlight this year must have been the entire Junior School and Pre-Prep fundraiser in October entitled 'Walk in her Shoes'. This was an initiative that we organised to raise awareness of all those girls around the globe who forfeit school to trek for miles to collect their families' daily water supply. As such, over 100 of our youngest students circled the Maynard grounds several times, covering one mile each whilst carrying an empty water bottle that we filled up at the halfway point as a symbolic measure.

As Steve Smerdon, the Head of the Junior School and the brains behind the fundraiser said at the time: "We wanted to do something meaningful on International Day of the Girl and motivate the girls to think of more global issues in a way that we could illustrate. It was just brilliant to raise well over £150 for Care International."

## Adventure and sport at its best

With Ten Tors, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, a new Adventure Society (to include high roping, surfing, kayaking, mountain biking and much more), the ever-popular Sixth Form activities afternoon and a whole host of sporting successes again this year, it is fair to say that our girls continue to lead happy, healthy and very active lives.



Our Under 16 Netball and Hockey teams were crowned Devon Champions, our Under 19 Netball team finished in the top 16 in the country in the Independent Schools Netball Cup and from top to bottom we have enjoyed very successful results across the board. Most excitingly, and with an eye on the future, our Under 8 (Year 3) netball team is unbeaten this season!

Celebrations were also order of the day when we sent our Under 11 gymnastics team to the ISGA National Challenge Cup in Cambridge back in January. Having worked closely under our new collaboration with the Exeter Gymnastic Club, they put in some superb performances to take the overall team bronze and an individual silver medal.

## Bridging the generation gap



We are so excited to be joining Bluebird Care in a brand new initiative inspired by the Channel 4 programme, 'Old People's Homes for 4-Year Olds'. Aimed at Years 1 and 2 in the Pre-Prep, the idea is to share some fun activities with those from a much older generation whilst cultivating new relationships and new conversations.

We enjoyed the first of these sessions in early March and both young and old had a wonderful afternoon colouring, solving jigsaw puzzles, reading books and playing board games. Mixing the generations is known to have its shared benefits and we look forward to hosting many more afternoons together with Bluebird Care regularly throughout the rest of the year.

## The Rathbones Exeter Art Show



It's full steam ahead for the Rathbones Exeter Art Show being held here at The Maynard from 20-22 April 2018. Well over 100 locally and nationally recognised artists are already signed up and plenty more continue to pile in.

We also have a raft of sponsors – Rathbones, Knight Frank, Darts Farm, Foot Anstey, The Exeter and the Murphy Group – and, for the first time ever, we will be donating all of the commission from any sales of the artworks to our charity partner, YoungMinds. In previous years, this commission has exceeded £12,000 so this should make a huge difference to a very worthy cause!

Keep up-to-date with all the latest news on [www.exeterartshow.co.uk](http://www.exeterartshow.co.uk) or on the Exeter Art Show Facebook page. We would love to see you there!



## Three reunions to look forward to in the summer



We are so excited to be welcoming back the classes of 1968, 1978 and 1971 for their respective reunions in June! We look forward to seeing you all! If other leavers' years would like to organise a reunion, then please do contact [rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk](mailto:rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk).

# When 'Pre-Prep' was 'Kindergarten'

By Mary Ellis

Those of us who joined Maynard aged 5 would have started in 'Kindergarten' and progressed to 'Transition' before reaching 'Lower One' – which is now called Year 3. The building now housing the Junior School was known by its original name of Traceyville, but looked rather different until a fire in the 1970's necessitated the re-building of the front rooms. All the years up to Form Two were in Traceyville, with Lower Three having form rooms in Main School or (later) in Tregar.

Miss Sauvery taught in Kindergarten until 1960, when Miss Sparks arrived who was a rather gentler soul. She had a little bell to ring when she wanted us to be quiet, stop what we were doing and listen to her next instruction; it was a very calm classroom and she was very softly spoken. Miss Mondy was in charge of Transition until 1964: she seemed so old, with her hair in a bun. Mrs Cox took her place, followed by Mrs Jenner. When Miss Sparks retired in 1982, the school decided to cease taking pupils that young, so Lower One became the first year of entry – until now!

At break time every day we all had a 1/3 pint of milk in a glass bottle which we drank with a straw. This could be refreshing, but on hot days it was lukewarm, so was less palatable – and on a cold day it might be frozen hard! Each silver foil milk bottle top would be washed and saved to raise money for Guide Dogs

for the Blind, but some were not very thoroughly washed, so the hessian sacks of foil did tend to smell rather bad. We had a 'Jungle Gym' to climb on in the playground, a see-saw and a bar to swing over – all would now probably be considered quite unsafe, as there was nothing but tarmac to fall onto. There was a little 'hideaway' behind a bush near the gate to Spicer Road which was a good place to play. After break, Miss Sauvery used to use a fold out screen shop with all sorts of things to buy, with little brown paper bags to put them in and have fun with; then it had to be all tidied away before lunch.

Sports Day took place on Leeborne, in the usual 'games kit' of Aertex shirt and knickers. Great efforts were made to ensure that every girl had a race to enter – which might be egg-and-spoon or the sack race if they were really not very good at running. Nature lessons were always enjoyed; we were expected to bring in interesting items we'd found in the countryside, including picking bunches of wild flowers - illegal now of course, but vases of primroses and sticky buds are a big memory. In the summer we would sit at tables in the playground colouring and writing stories in the afternoon with those big Black Beauty pencils. End-of-term reports were divided into four sections: 'Social Development and General Interest', 'Music and Physical Activities', 'Art and Handwork' and 'Tool Subjects'.

Reading, writing and number work were covered under 'Tool Subjects', while Social Development would include a comment on the part of the day called 'Own Jobs', when a choice of activities would show up a shy girl who chose 'solitary occupations'. Comments such as 'she has seemed to be a little lighter on her feet' indicate that 'Music' was largely about moving to music, either in free expression or in formal dances, rather than singing. The reports were hand-written by the class teacher and individually signed by the Head Mistress (Miss Ryan until 1963).



All the girls in Traceyville had Wednesday afternoon off, but on other days their school day was the same length as those in the Main School. However, for Kindergarten and Transition this was considered to be rather long, so we had a rest after lunch: each pupil provided their own rug to lie on (they were kept rolled up in a set of pigeonholes in the hall), and we lay down on the floor of the junior hall for a quiet time. If we weren't good we had to stay there for longer, but it was rare actually to fall asleep.

Once a week, all the Traceyville pupils would go to the Main School Hall for Prayers (on other days, we had Prayers in Traceyville hall): it seemed so big, with the marble entrance pillars. No one apart from teachers, head girls and prefects was allowed on the stage, unless you were being presented with a prize.

We also used the big hall for Christmas concerts, and for a Christmas party at which there would be a big tree with real candles (can that be a true memory?),



and we would dance some country dances that we had practised in the preceding weeks. At the end of term, we would join the Main School for final Prayers, and when we all sang 'There's something about the Maynard,' the littlest ones would lead out first. One of us must have been 'the youngest Junior in the line, line, line!'

*Thanks to Joy Ash, Andrea Higgins, Linda McMahon, Felicity Nye, Ruth Somerville and Lucy Swithinbank for contributing their memories.*

# Spotlight on . . .

We weren't aware of Somayyeh Mossadegh's incredible career since leaving The Maynard in 1999 and so we were only too grateful to her mother for her impromptu visit last summer to share in these many successes. We have since had the opportunity to catch up with Somayyeh and, despite her hectic schedule, she spared the time to fill us in on what has been quite an incredible career so far!

## What are you doing now and what does this entail?

Currently I'm a full time Trauma Research Fellow coming to the end of my full time PhD in Trauma Sciences. I work at the Royal London Hospital, which is one of four Major Trauma Centres in London. The day to day job entails recruiting severely injured trauma patients (cyclists run over by an HGV, or stab/gun shot victims) into multiple international collaborative research studies, specifically looking at why some trauma patients have problems with their blood clotting (coagulopathy) and the complications that arise from this condition leading to multi organ failure.

The most seriously injured patients requiring immediate blood products for resuscitation are announced as a "Code Red Trauma Call". This call activates the whole hospital, including the operating theatres, laboratories and the blood transfusion department. Everyone must work together to save some of the sickest patients. Sometimes, if the patient is not eligible for recruitment into any of the trials, and it's busy in the middle of the night, I step in to assist the consultant operating as I am also training to be a



surgeon.

I'm also a full time PhD student; luckily passion for my research enables me to work the way that I do, otherwise I think I would have given up a long time ago. (Working two full time jobs and sometimes even working more clinical shifts on top of that is only sustainable for a short period of time).

My PhD is a collaboration between clinical (I'm a doctor) and computer science, where I am using a form of statistics called 'Bayesian Networks' to develop prediction models to be used in Trauma, where time critical decision-making is vital to saving lives. There are two strands - one civilian, looking at coagulopathy in trauma and the other is Military, looking at developing a mortality governance model to help with death prediction in military trauma patients. If you can predict which patient may develop a coagulopathy or is likely to die, then we could potentially ensure that we get the correct resources early to help save lives.

## How have you worked your way up the ranks and why did you choose to pursue this route?

I studied medicine at the University of Southampton and joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) as a medical cadet as I had an interest in trauma surgery. Work placements in America at the Washington Hospital Centre with the MedSTAR trauma team (2007) and Trauma Services at The Royal London Hospital (2009) reinforced my interests in this area of medicine. After completing Officer training (RAF College Cranwell, Lincolnshire) I joined the Academic Department of Military Surgery and Trauma (ADMST, Birmingham) to investigate a new signature injury affecting the military population

from the devastating damage caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the war in Afghanistan.

This extensive work, completed alongside core surgical training, contributed to evidence based clinical guidelines and created the pelvic and perineal trauma didactic module used on the Military Operational Surgical Training (MOST) course at the Royal College of Surgeons of England (1st Prize - Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow).

I felt that current assessment and categorisation of military trauma patients, by way of the various injury severity scores, could be greatly improved and therefore I continued to research this topic. The culmination of which led to prestigious awards of Silver in the Young Investigator Plenary Prize Presentation session at the Military Health Systems Research Symposium (MHSRS, Florida 2014) and 1st Prize at the Emergency Medicine section of the Royal Society of Medicine for continued work in developing a novel scoring system using Bayesian methodology.

My current PhD supervisor, a military surgeon, was aware of my research and invited me to London to meet with his collaborative team and this is how I came to be in my current post. I was awarded full PhD funding by the Defence Medical Services to carry out my research and intend to pursue a surgical career with a vested interest in Trauma surgery.

## How do you look back on your Maynard days?

I joined the Maynard School in Lower 4 and made some really good friends, with whom I'm still in contact. I really enjoyed my time there

and felt the support really helped me to follow my dreams. I didn't get the grades that I needed for medical school and as my bursary was ending, I thought my only option was to go the Exeter College to re-do my A-Levels. However, the school kindly allowed me to stay on for an extra year to obtain the grades that I wanted. There were a few of us that re-took our A-Levels and everyone was really supportive.

## How do you relax?

For many years Volleyball was my passion. I started aged 12 and through university became highly competitive and was selected to play for England Universities. I was president of the Volleyball club for two years and in that time created a new National League team. I went on to play in different leagues including a stint on the Beach Volleyball Grand Slam circuit (it was short lived as I enjoyed indoor volleyball so much more). Needless to say after 25 years of the sport, culminating in the highest league in the country and representing the RAF, my knees got the better of me. This didn't stop me from being involved with the sport as I combined it with my career in medicine becoming a doctor for England Volleyball and was the team leader for indoor and beach volleyball at the 2012 Olympics. These days I prefer low impact sports and love swimming and yoga.

I'd just like to add that if you really want something in life, then you should go for it. A lot of people tried to suggest other careers because of the hurdles that I faced along the way. However, my drive, determination and passion for what I do makes me believe that I'm on the right path and following my dreams.

# How being a woman has shaped my career

I sit next to her watching the screen but deeply aware of the shy lady sat next to me. I sense it coming and she gingerly raises her hand and dabs away the big round tears that are rolling down her cheek. In that moment I know have fulfilled my brief.



I know what you're thinking. What sort of job requires you to make people cry? Well, I'll come back to that in just a moment. I should probably introduce myself. I am Jessica Farmer (nee Madge) and I run my own photography business, Perspectives Photography. I have built my business around my experience as a woman, as a mother and as a business owner. I am, like many women, camera shy but feel passionately that women should record their own journey in life. I have a very personal desire to help women record a bit of their own story regardless of how shy they are.

It's funny that I should end up here as I was never really that arty when I was younger. Photography was something I picked up later in life when I decided a career change was in order. I am a firm believer that past work and life experience give you the transferable skills (you often don't even realise you have) to set up and run a business. Today I am a photographer but I am also an accountant, marketer, PR rep, administrator, co-ordinator, location spotter, IT expert (well actually it is outsourced to my lovely husband) and business planner. Phew! I love the challenge of learning new things so whilst it has been time consuming, I have loved this element of working for myself.

## Becoming 'mum'

As a mum I am, like millions of other mums, keen to record the story of my children's childhood for them. The problem is, in doing so I am often behind the camera. Somehow it felt vain to ask someone to take a picture of me with the children. Which is ridiculous. As I started to put together the children's photo albums it became apparent to me that it looked like my husband had single-handedly brought up the children. I was hardly ever in the photographs! It was like I wasn't even there. The more I spoke to women the more I realised that this was a very common problem. So this became my mission... to record these relationships for people,

in particular women, through my children and families lifestyle sessions.

So going back to the client I spoke of in the opening paragraph, she was seeing herself in her photographs as a mummy. Seeing the emotional connection that she has with her children for the first time from the outside. This was not a triple chin, grinning selfie but rather a beautifully lit portrait observing a connection between mother and child. I can see for myself the value of this photograph to my client today. But I know that this value will increase over time when future generations will have them as a lasting memory. Call me soft but this is why I love my job... that warm feeling I get when I show people their imagery, when you can see how much your work means to someone.

## Being a woman



Aside from being mum, I am also a woman in my own right (despite what the children might think!). As I mentioned, I am camera shy but wanted to have some images of me that I loved. I knew I didn't want anything that looked too staged. I didn't want a garage glamour style boudoir shoot. I just wanted something that was just me. Something simple, fine art and candid. Something I would be proud to show others. I wanted to get a sense of who I was. I wanted it to be personal and I wanted to offer this to other women, too.

Over the last few years I have been growing the women's side of the business through bespoke sessions. They have taken many different forms from bridal portraits, fine art boudoir to casual, informal to glamour and reflecting personal interests from yoga and boxing to ballet. These sessions highlighted to me how everyone wants something different and personal to them. So now I build bespoke sessions for women creating really unique artwork by simply asking people 'how would you like to be photographed?'

So, how I feel as a woman has really shaped my business over the years. I am able to understand many of the issues facing women and cherish the opportunity to help people to create some beautiful memories. I feel I have found my niche and realise the importance of doing a job where you can make a difference to people today and for future generations. Call me sappy but I love the thought of people rummaging around in the attic and stumbling across the photographs that I have taken.

The one thing that you can't learn as a photographer but need in abundance is a real passion for your craft. You have to have that drive, that fire in your belly which keeps you striving to be better, to give better service to your clients, to put in the hours.

Being self-employed has given me the challenges that I realise I need for job satisfaction whilst enabling me to be flexible around the family. Don't get me wrong... It has been a steep and never ending learning curve. But this is the challenge that I love!

You can find out more about my work on my website: [www.perspectivesphotography.co.uk](http://www.perspectivesphotography.co.uk).

# Where are they now?



**Mary Tait**  
(née Ambler) – Leaver in 1991

My major news...I got married and had a baby boy all in 2017! I married Roderick Tait on 19 February on the Isle of Wight and little did we know I was already pregnant! So baby Theodore Joshua Nevill Tait was born on 9/8/17...and had a decent amount of champagne coursing through him during the early months of his gestation!! I even took a school trip to Pompeii and climbed Vesuvius when I was five month's pregnant.

The inevitable sleep deprivation that comes with being a first time mum reminds me of being back at university when I could do 'all-nighters' staying up to write last minute essays or go clubbing, but I'm definitely not coping with it in my forties and want my eight hours of kip a night back!

Professionally, I was appointed Housemistress of a boys' Day House at Ardingly College from September 2016 and I'm still Head of Classics as well. I've been on maternity leave but returned to work in February. Marrying a Physics teacher is also funny as it was my worst subject at The Maynard and I only got a D for it at GCSE!

**Anne Edwards**  
(née Sargent) – Leaver in 1956

I moved last January, from a small Victorian cottage where the staircase was fine unless I needed to carry anything up or down, to a new-build two bedroom ground floor flat just around the corner from the cottage. Its lay-out is good, giving me space over Christmas to have immediate family members (seven, including me) to sit around the table having lunch together – something I hadn't been able to do for over 10 years, the cottage was so small. That was the icing on the Christmas cake for me – though I was knackered by the time everything was put away!

My son moved to the Essex/Suffolk borders three years ago, and since then when house/cat-sitting for them I've been able to visit Helen Barker (née King). She and her husband, Alan, knew my late sister, Elizabeth (Libba), and her husband, Martin – Alan and Martin were both solicitors, as was Elizabeth – and last summer Martin, Helen and Alan joined me at my son's on a glorious summer's day for lunch. We did a lot of reminiscing and went down some happy memory lanes.



**Heather Godwin**  
(née Blackmore)

CLASS OF '68 - FIFTIETH YEAR - and POSITIVELY FINAL (unless you know different!) REUNION

We have held a Reunion every 10 years and then five years ago we thought we should have another - just in case - but here we are another five years on: The Class of '68 Reunion will take place on Friday 29 June 2018, at The Maynard School, starting with coffee, a tour of the school while it is occupied on a week-day, followed by lunch at the school, and an evening meal on Friday evening in the city, when partners would be welcomed, too.

This gives an ideal opportunity for us to see the school at work, and allow time for people to either visit friends or family or nostalgic places over the weekend.

Please contact Heather Godwin for more information - [heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk)

**Emma Laws**  
Leaver in 1992



Emma co-curated the Victoria and Albert Museum's recent exhibition, Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic, which ran until 8 April 2018. This was the V&A's first immersive and multisensory exhibition designed especially for young families but was also a chance for all generations to discover and rediscover the magic of childhood and friendship through the adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends in the 100 Aker Wood.

Highlights included over 90 exquisite original drawings by illustrator, E.H. Shepard, and A.A. Milne's manuscripts of Winnie-the-Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner, borrowed from the Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge.

It was a wonderful exhibition and a very popular addition to the V&A's calendar. Emma's accompanying book, Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic (V&A Publishing, 2017), is also available to purchase online at: [www.vam.ac.uk/shop/winnie-the-pooh-exploring-a-classic.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/shop/winnie-the-pooh-exploring-a-classic.html)

After 20 years as a curator at the V&A, Emma has now returned to Devon and is living in Topsham with her husband and three small children. While looking for her next challenge she is volunteering at Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives.

**Marian Barnes**  
Leaver in 1953



The Revd Mark Lowther, Priest in Charge Aldeburgh Parish, and Dr Marian Barnes

I was at the Maynard from 1947 – 53. I went up Girton College Cambridge in 1953, having been strongly encouraged by Miss Ryan. I read Natural Sciences and changed to Medicine part way through the course. My clinical training was at the London Hospital (now the Royal London Hospital) and I qualified in 1961. I started my training as a Reader in the Chelmsford Diocese and completed it after retiring to Devon in

1997 and was licensed in the Exeter Diocese where I still serve.

It is strange where the practice of Medicine and Reader Ministry (Anglican Lay Minister) can lead you. Last year I was asked to take the Thanksgiving Service for an old friend and medical colleague in Aldeburgh in Suffolk. While I was there I was told that a celebration of the centenary of the death of a famous local resident, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, was to be held in October. The Priest in Charge started to tell me about her when I remarked that I also knew a bit about her because I had worked at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in London. Imagine my surprise when later I received an invitation to preach at a commemorative service in Aldeburgh church during which a plaque in her memory was to be unveiled.

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson - EGA - was the first woman to qualify to practice medicine in the United Kingdom. She qualified as LSA – a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries - in 1865. It was still possible to qualify this way when I qualified in medicine in 1961 and remained so until the 1970s. EGA subsequently gained an MD in Paris in 1870. At that time it was very uncommon for women to get much education of any kind. Her father, Newson Garrett, was a local businessman in Snape only a few miles from Aldeburgh. He used to supply many London breweries as well as more local ones. It has since become famous as the site of Benjamin Britten's musical venue. Newson was unusual in that he supported his daughters in their aim to seek an education.

EGA's work was mainly focused on women's and children's health. She must have had good contacts among people with money who enabled her to set up several premises in which to practice, culminating in founding the New Hospital for Women in Euston Road in London. This hospital was re-named the Elizabeth

Garrett Anderson Hospital after she died in 1917. She also set up a medical school for women. She, like her sister Millicent Garrett Fawcett were suffragists – a less militant group than the suffragettes who also campaigned for women's suffrage. She married James Anderson and had three children.

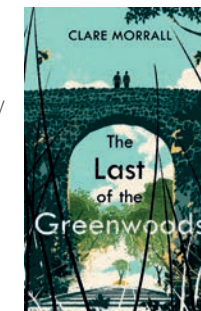
After she retired from medical practice she returned to Aldeburgh where she became the first woman Mayor of the town and in the UK.

Recently an active group in Aldeburgh felt that other famous residents besides Benjamin Britten and Peter Piers should be celebrated. I was told that I had been asked because I am a Reader in the Diocese of Exeter and, therefore, have permission to preach, and was a doctor engaged in mainly women's health and had worked at the EGA hospital. The town of Aldeburgh did things in style during the weekend. There were lectures, a play about EGA's life and two exhibitions in local museums. The service in the Parish Church of SS Peter & Paul was attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Sherriff and the Mayor of Aldeburgh, many descendants of the Garrett family and local parishioners. I was also surprised and honoured to be asked to unveil the commemorative plaque during the service. It was followed by a Civic Reception.

**Clare Morrall**  
Leaver in 1970

Clare, a much acclaimed author, has just had another novel published entitled 'The Last of the Greenwoods' and it is already receiving rave reviews!

At the bottom of a field, two elderly brothers live in adjoining railway carriages, yet never speak to each other. Until one





day Zohra Dasgupta, a young postwoman, delivers a shocking letter – from a woman claiming to be their sister, who was murdered in 1969.

Is this an impostor, or have Nick and Johnny Greenwood been misled for decades? Now they are forced to revisit old, long suppressed traumas. Zohra also has also experienced difficulties in her life. Once an outgoing teenager headed for university, she will see only one friend from her schooldays: laidback Crispin, who has roped her in to restoring an old railway line on his father's land. For which, as it happens, they need some carriages . . .

The book explores the uncertainty of memory and identity, even with people who would have once been very familiar.

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### Romilly Moran Leaver in 2008



Romilly (aged 18) has recently started a degree in Classics at Birmingham University and is considering a career in law. She undertook work experience in Whitehall last year; the photo is of her outside No 10 Downing Street where she was fortunate to spend some time.

Romilly absolutely loved her time at The Maynard and still speaks very fondly of it – particularly the legendary Mr Smerdon - and remains in touch with a number of girls who were at school there with her (she only left from the Junior School because we are a HM Forces family that moves frequently).

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### Sue Roberts Leaver in 1979

I left Upper Sixth in July 1979 and am currently the Team Rector of the Honiton Team Ministry, a group of five parishes in East Devon. I was ordained deacon in Portsmouth Cathedral in June 1996 and priest - in the same Cathedral - the following June. I served as a curate in Petersfield for four years, and then moved back to Devon to become priest in charge of the parishes of Ashprington, Cornworthy and Dittisham in the South Hams. In September 2006 I moved to my current post, and at that point was invited to become a Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral.

The things that I have loved most in twenty years of ministry include training curates, acting as tutor to ordinands, and having people with me on placement, and also working with children and young people in various settings - and, perhaps strangely it may seem - funerals!

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### Anna Bruce-Jones (née Skinner) – Leaver in 1977

Sorry! I have never taken the time to write for The Word, so I should, perhaps, start this entry at the point from which I left The Maynard School, but not without firstly saying how much I adored the school and to apologise to all the teachers for never putting enough effort in to lessons and for rarely handing homework in on time. Frequently not at all.

Oh, how I loved my university days! Nominally I read



Law and Latin (because I loved Crown Court\*), but spent most of my time drinking and socialising – bliss! I loved it so much that I stayed for an extra year to be Social Secretary, arranging all the balls, concerts and other events, and in doing so met the likes of Boy George, Annie Lennox, Bob Geldof and Noddy Holder\*\*. Oh, and spent an evening drinking gin with Princess Margaret.

I then started working for the Northcliffe Newspaper Group, starting at the Express and Echo, firstly in the advertising department, then progressing to management and eventually setting up my own business training consultancy. When my daughter Anastasia\*\*\* started at The Maria Montessori School in Exeter, I transferred my skills to teaching at that school, and did a Masters in Education at Exeter University. I am now at St Peter's Prep School in Lymington, where I have taught a number of different year groups, but I am now back to my first love: Reception (ages 4-5), and have written a reading scheme (My Reading Journey)

and a step-by-step maths programme (My Maths Journey) to ensure those two key areas are taught comprehensively.

I live in darkest mid-Devon with my long-suffering husband (Nick: 30 years a Royal Marines Officer, now working at the Met Office) and spend any rare free time slumped in front of the TV with a glass in my hand, or sometimes pottering in the garden in a rather Margot Leadbetter\*\*\*\*-type way, or, most enjoyably, going to see Anastasia's plays at Cambridge University and other locations.

I started with an apology and I shall end with one: to my many school friends with whom I have failed dismally to keep in contact. Let's Facebook! LOL.

\* Cultural Reference Note to Millennials: this was a lunchtime tv series in the days when the screen then went blank for the afternoon.

\*\* Cultural Reference Note to Millennials: he's the one who sang 'It's CHRRRIIIIIIIIIIIISTMAS!'

\*\*\* See later (she, too, is an Old Maynardian)

\*\*\*\* Cultural Reference Note to Millennials: a character in The Good Life. (A 1970s sitcom.)( A "sitcom" was... Oh, just Google it.)

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### Anastasia Bruce-Jones Leaver in 2014

(. . .who is a tad busy, so asked her mother to write this entry!)

Anastasia is now in her final year reading English at Gonville and Caius, Cambridge . . .where she occasionally saw alumnus Professor Stephen Hawking around the college or in the refectory at special dinners. Last July she was made a Scholar of the



college, following the high marks she gained for her dissertation and second year exams.

When she leaves Cambridge, Anastasia aims to pursue a career in writing and directing in theatre and film, so the vast majority of her time is spent honing the skills needed to achieve her ambition. Among the many productions and projects which she has led or been involved in, she has twice won the honour of directing for the famous Marlowe Society (The Duchess of Malfi and Birdsong), whose alumni include Rupert Brooke, Sam Mendes, Sir Peter Hall and Trevor Nunn.

Over the summer, she wrote and directed a critically acclaimed play (Loud in Babel) for the Edinburgh Fringe, then travelled down to The Minack Theatre in Cornwall, where she directed her own adaptation of Patience; following that she returned to Cambridge to direct a short film and to act in Romeo and Juliet (as Romeo!). She beat off stiff competition to be appointed

Assistant Director for the year's most prestigious Arts Show event, which is an opportunity to work with a professional director (Tom Littler) and other crew members, such as Fight Choreographers, in a professional theatre. Anastasia learnt a lot from this experience and was delighted that Tom enlisted the vocal talents of Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Derek Jacobi, Tom Hollander, Miriam Morgolyes and other old Marlovians to speak the prologue in Romeo and Juliet.

Anastasia was excited to learn recently that she had won the position of Director for this summer's Cambridge University American Stage Tour, so she is now in the throes of auditioning and interviewing for the cast and crew for her adaptation of The Tempest to tour the east coast of the USA. In her rare moments of spare time, she enjoys coaching Cambridge actors, and has recently helped three hopefuls to get a second audition at RADA and LAMDA.

Beyond her theatre work, she has twice sung with the Robinson College Choir on their Paris tours, and, for a while, she sang with the acapella group Gonville Girls. The photo shows Anastasia on New Year's Eve, laughing, hand-in-hand, with her beloved grandmother "Num", whom many old girls (and staff!) might remember from being a frequent Maynard concert-goer. Anastasia is also featured (quaffing Champagne) in the photo of Anna Bruce-Jones.

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### Kate Hurley Leaver in 1992

I have just moved back to Exeter after 17 years of being away! Which is very surreal! I am still working for the Royal British Legion (three and a half years now) as the Membership Support Officer for Somerset. I had previously taught Maths and English for 10 years before that, so felt like a change! That's about it I think!

# MAGICAL MAYNARD

**The Word speaks to Deputy Headmistress Tricia Wilks and Matthew Loosemore (newly appointed to the Senior Leadership Team) to see what led the Good School's Guide to calling the school such a 'magical' place.**

## The importance of wellbeing at The Maynard

Supporting wellbeing – caring for the physical, mental and emotional health and happiness of our students is central to everything we do. This was recognised by our last Independent Schools Inspectorate report which clearly recognised our excellent success in this area. Student wellbeing underpins our whole ideology and identity as a school; we care about each individual. The research, of course, shows that parents want a school where their daughter will reach their full potential academically, but what is always even more important to them is that they find a school where their daughters will flourish – that they will be confident, happy and ready to face the world and all that it brings in the second decade of the 21st century and beyond. We are a student-centric school and believe that happy students are successful students.

Everything is about creating positive relationships. Staff really care about the students and we pride ourselves on knowing them well. The students form close bonds with both staff and each other; they encourage and support one another in success and in more difficult times and this is really important.

When visitors first come into the school they notice the atmosphere immediately – there is a real sense of community, camaraderie and family. As our recent Good Schools Guide report suggested, 'it's the warmth of the relationship that makes the difference' at The Maynard, the same guide also suggested that there was something 'magic' about the atmosphere here; that may be true, but it also takes a lot of hard-work from very caring staff to create that kind of family feel.

## Creating a community that has wellbeing at its heart

At the core is our pastoral system- students meet with their form tutors twice a day so that they can quickly raise any issues that are concerning them and tutors know their students very well. We have a system in place where students receive regular one-to-one reviews with their tutors and have interviews with their tutor or Head of Year. We consider it of key importance that every girl should be able to find a listening, sympathetic ear whenever she needs it.

The 'Personal, Social, Health and Emotion' programme that runs through our tutorials is also carefully structured. We are a school for girls and so we know



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Rest assured though that what will always be true is that The Maynard School is the place where young girls can be themselves, can flourish and can be looked after.

that we can cater our programme specifically so that it supports issues that the research suggests young girls can be prone to in a society that heaps huge pressure on them. We don't shy away from difficult topics such as relationships, alcohol, drugs, self-harm, body image, self-esteem and on line safety – but we do this in a way that supports and doesn't glamorise the issue or frighten girls from talking about it. Our message is clear – it is good to talk and the support is here for them. That's why we also have a school counsellor and a school nurse readily available and our brilliant sixth formers often act as peer mentors to younger students. The Children's Society have recently published research that shows 70% of adolescents who experience mental health issues hadn't had appropriate support from a young age and as such we do all we can to ensure our girls have the best support. To this end we also host specific wellbeing sessions with expert speakers on topics as diverse as 'the importance of sleep', 'resilience', 'bereavement' and for our older students even 'sexual ethics' – we respond to issues as they emerge.

Communication with parents is also crucial to how we support students. We hope that they know they can always come to us for support and we always get back to parents who contact us with any issues or concerns within the same day whenever possible. Equally, we have good communication with outside agencies such

as CAMHS workers and Young Carer professionals who we often speak with to discuss individual girls.

We offer a huge amount of extra-curricular clubs which also helps us to support wellbeing – each student can find an interest and enjoy new things, but moreover, we accept the link between the mental and the physical and, with so many clubs on offer and such diverse sports clubs and Physical Education, we believe every girl can enjoy the benefit. Whether they have a go at dance, core conditioning club, are a part of the sports teams (including hockey, netball, basketball, rounders etc.) or just have a go at a bit of football or a bit of yoga we want all girls to be active, healthy and confident. It's also why we take pride in our excellent catering team and the wonderful healthy choices girls can enjoy at lunchtimes. That's not to say we don't enjoy the cookies and treats Chef Andrew and the team make for us from time to time, too! It's all about balance and that's what works here, the balance in everything – school might be hard work at times, but it should also be fun!

That's also why we offer so much for the students in terms of trips and extra-enrichment opportunities. Every year students are offered such a wide range of experiences, take this year for example: students could have gone skiing in the Alps, or could be going on a sports trip to South Africa, they could be going to London to see the museums and shows, or getting to know Shakespeare's world in Stratford, they could be signing up to go off to India and support local charities, they could be taking on daring challenges and camping on the moors...The list goes on and on.

What's for certain is that each girl will have a chance to have new experiences, to build friendships, to work as a team and to make memories. Students can also test themselves and build their own skills of resilience and confidence; many students complete the various 'Ten Tors' challenge each year and many work their

way through the 'Duke of Edinburgh' awards. Equally, the supportive atmosphere mean that the musical and drama productions are huge events and we are always so proud of the girls that take part in them and give us amazing shows to remember. I'd never have been brave enough to do that at their age!

We also value the student voice – it's crucial that the girls feel they get an opinion and that it matters, and it really does. We have a Student Council through which all girls have a say on the school's code of conduct, extra-curricular activities, school meals and other issues. Furthermore, the Head Girl Team are elected by their peers to discuss school issues and help shape policy. We always give a student panel a chance for discussion in appointment processes and ask for feedback regularly from school surveys to ensure that we are fully aware of what the student voice has to say. One of my favourite aspects of the student voice are the brilliant assemblies they give weekly, which gives them a chance to explore the issues and events that are important to them.

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A recent Good Schools Guide report suggested there was something 'magic' about the atmosphere here; that may be true, but it also takes a lot of hard-work from very caring staff to create that kind of family feel.

We also go far beyond the self – we know that helping others is vital to our wellbeing and as such students are at the centre of a large number of charitable initiatives. Again there is such a staggering range of projects the



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We certainly won't stand still, we want to be progressive and proactive in how we create that sense of wellbeing for all.



girls can get involved with from the 'Kissing it Better' scheme in which Sixth Formers can visit care homes for those with dementia, to the eco-warriors group, to the annual entertainment our Upper 3 girls put on for local care homes; there is just so much to feel good about at The Maynard.

Often it's the small things that count and make a big difference. For example, we know that the girls often feel huge anxiety and pressure before an exam – therefore we provide mindfulness sessions the day before and at the beginning of each exam morning. Little things like this are happening around the school all the time and that's where the 'Magic' noticed by the Good Schools Guide comes from.

#### Future Challenges

The care here has always been central to the school's success and in my mind I've just come to the team to support with the excellent work that Mrs Wilks and the pastoral leaders have already put into place. We can't shy away from the fact that teenage mental health is going through something of a national crisis. The latest research suggests that three students in every classroom are likely to be suffering from a mental health issue, that one in twelve self-harm, that there has been a 75% increase in reported mental health issues for young people in the last 25 years and that only one quarter of all cases are passed to an overstretched CAMHS. This is why The Maynard continues to take steps to put pastoral care and wellbeing at the core of what we do. We must keep innovating and reflecting on what we can do to support our students.

With that in mind, we're currently building a partnership with children's psychiatrists and support groups from the University of Exeter and this will give students, parents and staff more expert advice on how to deal with mental health issues in a 21st society

that is bombarding teenagers with huge pressure and unreasonable demands. We are also looking into how we can use 21st century technology to deal with 21st century problems and are exploring new applications and programmes that can help measure and support our wellbeing programme. These range from applications that allow students to report bullying and concerns in new ways and which aim to eliminate the fear of sharing / talking about a problem, new applications that can support students in resisting urges to self-harm and applications that allow students to be rewarded for all their work and behaviours in school and that allow us to recognise the positive things that they do every day.

What we are also exploring are new frameworks from teams of psychiatrists that allow us to identify our strengths and weaknesses in response to student wellbeing and track interventions we put in place to ensure that the measures of student wellbeing are continuing to be positive and to improve. Science and technology are making it easier to identify issues and reflect on how successful our steps to put them right have been and this is something we must embrace. We certainly won't stand still, we want to be progressive and proactive in how we create that sense of wellbeing for all and we will be excited to keep everyone up to date with everything we do over the next twelve months.

Rest assured, though, that what will always be true is that The Maynard School is the place where young girls can be themselves, can flourish and can be looked after. When Nick Bayliss (happiness doctor) came to visit the school he told us that **“at the heart of well-being is the individual's ability (the will and the skill) to create something beautiful of whatever life throw your way, whether setbacks or successes, tragedies or triumphs”** That is what we try to ensure we do for our students and what makes this such a special place.

# 50 Years of Head Girls!

**What have some of The Maynard's most revered students been doing since they ventured off into the big, wide world? And what beckons for our current Head Girl, a shining light in the Sixth Form and currently juggling the most enormous workload as we head towards the exam season?**

**LIZ MURPHY**  
(née Hales) – 1967 - 1968

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

I was surprised and flattered to be elected Head Girl as I was by no means an academic high flier. I had been Form Captain more than once on my journey through school and I think I had gained a reputation for being sensible. The duties in those days were not that onerous. I remember accompanying the Headmistress, Miss Bradley, from her office down to the main hall and up onto the stage each day for morning prayers. The Prefects' Room was at the foot of the main staircase and it was our responsibility to ring the bell promptly for each lesson and to ensure appropriate behaviour from pupils using the busy staircase.



Still painting in my Maynard smock!

**What were the best and worst bits of being a Head Girl?**

Sometimes I gave notices out to the assembled school at morning prayers and can remember talking to the whole school on occasion, for example, when there were decisions to be made about choosing a gift for a departing member of staff. That was rather nerve wracking but it was good practice in making oneself heard in

a large gathering. I think it fell to me to co-ordinate suggestions from all the School Council meetings and convey them to the Head Mistress. I enjoyed this process which encouraged an element of involvement and debate on everyday issues throughout the school.

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

My A-level grades were not good enough to secure my place at university but I decided that I wanted to have the experience of academic study at a higher level. I enrolled for A-level Economics and Modern History at Exeter Technical College and was accepted to read History and Social Science at Birmingham University in September 1969. I subsequently married, moved to Leeds and did a post graduate qualification in Librarianship.

**Fifty years on, what have you been doing professionally?**

My first job was at Huddersfield Public Library but I was more interested in academic librarianship and was gratified to get a post as Assistant Librarian at Trinity and All Saints College in 1976. Then a diversified college of higher education affiliated to Leeds University, it has since been accredited with degree awarding powers and is designated Trinity University Leeds. I worked in that organisation for the remainder of my career, becoming the Librarian in 1995 and retiring in 2010.

**Was this something you always wanted to do and worked towards during your Maynard days?**

I had a career in librarianship at the back of my mind. It had been suggested to me by Mrs Bennett, then the member of staff in charge of the Sixth Form. On leaving school, however, I felt that I wanted to keep my options open and that I definitely was not ready to commit to a career in teaching, the "second string to your bow" that teacher training college presented back then as an acceptable alternative to university. In Leeds, in 1972-73, I learned shorthand and typing and worked as a temp for the Gas Board and the Department of Health and Social Security. The prospect of working in libraries became increasingly attractive to me. Leeds Polytechnic offered a post graduate certificate as a pathway into the profession and I was lucky to secure a place on the course and a bursary to help pay for this further year of study.

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

In the early 1980's I had a young baby, a full time post and I had embarked upon a part time MA in Librarianship and Information Studies, a post experience qualification that was increasingly demanded for progression within academic libraries. Working close to home allowed me to juggle a career with family life and I have felt most fortunate to have

enjoyed a very interesting job and the rich experience of raising a family. For this I am grateful to my tolerant husband, our two accommodating children and a sympathetic employer. In many ways this has been my greatest achievement, looking back.

Within librarianship the span of my working life included the introduction of increasingly sophisticated automated systems of library management and eventually the progression to online information delivery. One summer early in the millennium we moved the Library and all its resources to a new building, with all the challenge and logistical complication involved in keeping services and support available to students and staff. I would not claim sole credit for these successes; in every case they were achieved together with a team of dedicated colleagues.

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

I still have some contact with many school friends because of the tremendous efforts made by Heather Godwin (née Blackmore) to organise regular class reunions in conjunction with The Maynard. Our fourth meeting is planned for June 2018. Every past reunion has been well attended and has proved a heart-warming and fascinating day.

Facebook now brings snippets of news from several classmates although I am hopeless at contributing anything myself. As well as Heather I am in contact from time to time with Daphne Roberts (née Val Davies), Angi Malderez (née Bevan), Liz Guppy (née Thackray), Jenny Taylor (née Mayhead), Jackie Pooley (née Davey). Imagine my delight when Corinne Jefferies recognised me as, by chance, we both happened to visit the same National Trust property in the Cotswolds one day last spring!

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

Perhaps of all my subject choices I most enjoyed

time spent in the Art Room. As a younger pupil, I loved running races on the playing field and playing netball, although hockey afternoons were always an ordeal to be endured. In the Fifth Form I remember sitting at the top of the fire escape outside the then library with my chums and giggling over the racy bits in Lady Chatterley's Lover, the highly risky reading innocuously disguised in a brown paper cover.

After examinations in the Upper Fifth and Sixth forms, the girls traditionally produced a play of their choosing which was performed to the School at the end of term. Maria Martin and the Red Barn was the melodrama that we selected after A-Levels. It was a liberating experience to be organising ourselves, free from revision and timetables; we had great fun rehearsing and creating costumes, props and scenery.

The other very happy memory for me was the jollity of the Prefects' Room in the Upper Sixth, where every incident provoked humour and hilarity. I can't think that we got much work done out of lessons but it gave light relief from periods of intense study. The camaraderie of my good friends then is something I shall always remember.



Half time staff vs Sixth Form netball

**JANE CARO**  
(née Hewertson) - 1977 - 1978



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

Yes, it did come as a surprise. I knew that I was in the running, but I didn't think it would actually happen. I certainly wasn't picked for my academic prowess, that's for sure, and I didn't have much talent for organisation either.... It's still a bit of a mystery actually. My father had been Head Boy at his school and I remember the moment when I told him my news. He was insanely proud.

Being Head Girl meant your friends regularly resented you for turfing the boys out from the Common Room at the end of lunch break. But I loved the gratification of exerting power over the Upper Thirds, and that bit of extra interaction with the staff, many of whom I was fond of. It meant a lot. And I think it gave me more confidence.

**What were the best and worst bits of being a Head Girl?**

Best: giving a speech on Speech Day. I loved it. I can't deny I was a bit of a show off. As for the worst, as I said, my organisational skills left something to be desired and at the start of the first term I forgot all about the form captain elections until the last minute and had to race around the classrooms just before Assembly to get the results, in time for The Announcement. I remember handing a scrappy piece of paper to Miss Bradley with

seconds to go, and her thunderous stare. O God. The Stare. It remains with me to this day. I learnt a lot that first term.

#### **What did you do after you left The Maynard?**

I started out at Birmingham University, but it really didn't suit me, and switched to Bristol, where I studied French and Drama. I was very happy at Bristol, but actually the most useful thing I did was learn to type. I resented the course at the time, but it enabled me to do a lot of agency work which got me into places. And it was a rather useful way of testing out different work environments.

#### **Forty years on, what have you been doing professionally?**

I've worked for most of my career in TV - and for the last 25 years at the BBC. I started on a temporary contract vowing I wouldn't stay a day longer than six months, but, due to a grotesque administrative oversight, I am still there. Just hoping they won't notice.

#### **Was this something you always wanted to do and worked towards during your Maynard days?**

Not in the least. If someone had told me I'd be working with spreadsheets all day, I'd have had to lie down in a darkened room. I disliked Maths intensely. Now, I feel Excel and I are joined at the hip.

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

My son.

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

Angela (Hook, nee Higgins) is really the only person I see on a regular basis - she and I knew each other at Primary School. She is very much my oldest friend and has evidently forgiven me for my numerous transgressions.

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

This is the hardest question to answer. I have many great memories; I loved singing and was involved in the choir and the madrigal group. I loved the performances. But it's the comedy moments I really remember. And there were many of those, often at my expense, like the time when my heroic failure at pastry making in Domestic Science was singled out by the teacher for general ridicule. THIS IS HOW NOT TO MAKE PASTRY. She held up my unspeakable, moth eaten effort which looked like it had been dredged up from the bottom of the cleaners' cupboard. Sensing the pastry theme, no doubt, the class wag came up with the genius idea of making pastry parrots, which were hurled surreptitiously out of the window on doomed test flights. The innocent silliness of it all.

#### **LIZ TOY 1987 - 1988**



#### **What are your memories of being a Head Girl?**

Firstly the surprise of being awarded the honour. Until our year it usually was given to an Oxbridge candidate which was certainly not the case with myself and Sarah

Ward, the deputy. That year we had changed from a prefect system to a Sixth Form committee elected by our peers. Miss Murdin and the other staff then selected from this group. It was really a pleasure to serve in the role as we had such a great committee to work with. The most bizarre thing I did was play the role of the Milk Tray man in the Sixth Form entertainment held in the gym, swinging in by rope from one of the high windowsills on skis to deliver them to Miss Murdin.

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

I was very grateful for the opportunity to serve as Head Girl, however was desperately disappointed when Prize

Giving, at which the Head Girl offered a vote of thanks to the Guest Speaker, clashed with the Devon Indoor Hockey trials. Duty definitely had to come before indulgence!

#### **What did you do after you left The Maynard?**

I went straight to Medical School in London where I got thoroughly involved in Student Life serving at various times as a year rep, Sports Officer and Secretary of the Student Union. The latter brought with it the dubious honour of being the licensee of the longest bar in London! I still find it easier to organise a formal dinner for 300 people than a dinner party for six.

I also continued playing lots of sport and, at the time, held the record for the number of St George's sports teams represented as I played for the Men's Hockey team in a Hospital Cup match as well as every single female or mixed team sport running at the time.

After qualifying I held junior medical jobs in London and Devon before moving to Wales to train as an oncologist. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to do a Radiation Oncology Research Fellowship at the British Columbia Cancer Agency in Vancouver. You can imagine how hard it was having to ski at Whistler every weekend!

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

I've really come full circle. I came back to Exeter in 2001 and now work at the RD&E as a Clinical Oncologist. I'm currently the Clinical Director for Cancer Services and also the Medical Lead for End of Life Care in the Trust. In conjunction with two colleagues, I have just written a book on approaching terminal illness which is due to be published later in the year.

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

Medicine has given me so many different opportunities; as a junior doctor I enjoyed most specialties and have been really fortunate to combine acute and chronic care as an oncologist who treats thoracic cancers. As many of my patients will sadly not be cured, it has enabled me to develop a particular interest in palliative treatments and improve education regarding the end of life. I've been fortunate to have some fantastic role models such as Dr Sheila Cassidy and Professor Baroness Ilora Findlay who have taught me so much about care in this area. Oncology has given me some great research opportunities and I've been a principle investigator in numerous trials - the treatments we offer today are very different to those we used when I was training. At different times I've had the opportunity to be a Training Programme Director and examiner for junior doctors in training. In the last five years I've moved into more leadership roles alongside my clinical duties. There is so much change in the National Health Service; this brings many challenges but the vocational commitment of staff consistently shines through the difficulties.

#### **How do you relax?**

I enjoy walking and often go camping with friends. I am active in my Parish and enjoy working with young people on different programmes. In the last few years I have also discovered the benefits of going on a silent retreat for a week. To leave my mobile phone, computer and other distractions behind and spend time walking, reading, praying and reflecting is a wonderful way to recharge the batteries and plan for the year to come.

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

I'm really very poor at keeping in close contact with friends although as I still live in Exeter, I bump into lots of their parents who update me on friends' news. I do, however, see Claire Weeden quite frequently. For some years a number of us met at the White Heart

over Christmas but that also has stopped over the last few years. Facebook, however, still brings many of us together; Catherine Davies, Ali Copley, Heather Gupta, Lizzie Chandra, Annelise Parr, Jacqueline Miller, Claire Vigouroux, Kate Dendle, Jenny Franks, Gina Thomas to name but a few - it is great to see the children of my peers growing up. We are spread all over the world so a reunion would be quite tricky. I'm particularly sad to have lost contact with Kirsten Donald and Penny Campbell who I haven't seen for over 25 years but with whom I shared many scrapes during our Maynard days.

#### **What are your happiest memories of The Maynard?**

There were so many! Whilst I'm sure the correct answer would be receiving the grades I needed for Medical School, my particular highlights would be rather more frivolous! They include the Youth Hostelling around the South Devon Coast in Lower 4 organised by Sue Norman and Gilly Waldren, the Sixth Form French A-level Paris trip in conjunction with the Art College organised by Mrs Cameron, reaching the National Indoor and Outdoor Hockey finals thanks to Corinne Gimber and Sue Norman's coaching and their patience with our incessant singing in the minibus.

Ten Tors has to top everything 'though. The training alongside Exeter School was fun, many great evenings camped behind the Plume of Feathers and the event itself brilliant. Waking up to the music from Chariots of Fire at Okehampton base camp before a full English breakfast (thanks Pat Reid!) and then setting off. We reached our ninth tor on the Saturday evening (you weren't allowed to go beyond this), we then woke up to thick fog, so the mast at Kitty Tor was obscure. When found and checked in we then ran the rest of the way back to camp in the new Hockey shirts so we were visible from some way off. We were the 2nd team in, having been pipped to the post by our Exeter School friends - not that it is a race as we were consistently told!!

#### **ANNA SEALE 1997 - 1998**



When I left The Maynard, I travelled to Uganda for a year to work as a volunteer teacher with Project Trust. This experience brought a new level of appreciation of the opportunities I had had at The Maynard and, in retrospect, set the course for a career focused on addressing the challenges of infectious diseases in children.

In the twenty years which have followed I have studied medicine, paediatrics and public health, and trained academically in epidemiology. As well as clinical and academic work in the UK, I have spent several years in Kenya. Last year, I was appointed as an Associate Professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and over the last twelve months have been based in Eastern Ethiopia, setting up a research programme to investigate the causes of stillbirth and child death in a high burden setting - one in ten children die before their fifth birthday.

Some of my work now involves supervising, teaching and supporting others. An aspect of the work that I enjoy, and which reminds me of the best bits of Maynard - the support for, and between, pupils and staff alike.

## EMILY HIGNELL

2007 - 2008



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

It had never really occurred to me that I might be considered for Head Girl, as I felt I would have verged a little too far on the mischievous side of life, and it actually came as a bit of a shock. There were a lot of strong contenders in my year (which meant we ended up with a fantastic Head Girl Team!) and I was truly honoured to be elected. Looking back now I think, for me, it was monumental in that it gave me confidence to go for opportunities, which I may perceive unattainable and have the belief that I am good enough. I think for all Maynardians this notion should stand true for the lot of us!

**What were the best and worst bits of being a Head Girl?**

As it was the 350th Anniversary of the School, my year as Head Girl passed as a whirlwind! It was so busy! I learnt various life skills; people management, effective communication, leadership... and delegation! The best bits were the opportunity to be involved with all year groups and helping to organise the anniversary

celebrations. The worst bit for me was probably having to conform to the (in retrospect very reasonable) uniform regulations!!!

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

After I left The Maynard, I was fortunate to have secured a deferred place at Bristol Medical School and therefore had a year to play with! I worked for six months in a variety of jobs, which included being a post-lady and a survey typist. None of these were very exciting but the final aim was: I set off on a trip of discovery, exploration and growing-up, travelling around nine countries in six months with two fellow Maynardians. What an adventure!

Back down to reality I spent five years at medical school, with perks including my elective in Whistler, Canada with the ski patrol. Newly qualified I entered my first years as a junior doctor to witness the alarming, incredible and sometimes frankly quite grotesque ways of our world... I am not sure I even know now quite what could prepare one for this, but I was thankful I had the Maynard roots I do!

**Ten years on, what are you doing professionally now? And was this something you always wanted to do?**

Currently I am carrying out my anaesthetic specialty training in the Severn Deanery and must say I love it. I have wanted to study medicine for almost as long as I can remember, and chose my GCSEs and A-Levels with this in mind. On reflection, I am fortunate in that I do love my job and these choices we have to make so early, for me, seem to be good ones.

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

My greatest achievement career-wise would be successfully obtaining my current anaesthetic training job in Severn. In terms of life-achievements, I try to spend as much of my free time in the great outdoors as possible. I spent last summer learning to kite-surf, and

started ski-touring in the winter. For me it provides the opportunity to appreciate the beauty, immensity and power of the world around us.

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

I am excited by the potential trajectories of my anaesthetic career. I am currently trying to organise to work in the mountains in Canada next year and experience living abroad. We will see! Corny as it sounds, one thing I have learnt from life so far is that the future is, by definition, uncertain. That is what makes life so special, and the best bits infinitely better. My career so frequently humbles me and for this I am very grateful.

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

I am proud to say my closest friends today are Maynard girls. The falling apples and all that! However despite some living in Australia, some in Canada and the rest all over the UK I consider it very special that it is 'as if it was only yesterday we last saw each other' when we are back together. Social media allows the sharing of stories for those who you cannot keep in such frequent contact with, and it is wonderful to see the marriages and births announced from those in my year group! I have recently moved to a new hospital and one of my senior registrars is an old Maynardian - "there is something about the way" these shared upbringings can form almost instant bonds.

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

My happiest memories of school are plentiful and there are far too many to list. Stand-outs include my 35-mile Ten Tors, finishing against all the odds (sorry we did not follow your advice, Mr Saunders!), singing the roof off the minibus coming back from hockey matches, making grated cheddar cheese go with EVERYTHING on the canteen dinner menu, cleaning the electric handheld whisk by turning it on in the washing up bowl (the most dangerous thing Mrs Fanous had

ever seen in Food Tech) and rolling up my kilt to an acceptable length.

I feel I cannot give such a reflection of my time at Maynard, and life after, without reference to our most missed classmate Emily Webster. I am sure that those privileged enough to know her have moments in everyday life, certain songs and precious memories, which maintain her presence in our lives. For me, one is observing beams of sunlight reaching through down from above the clouds. I am reminded of the fortune in my life, can re-evaluate my "stresses" and feel blessed for all the special times I have shared. Thank you to The Maynard, for everything we hold dear.

## LUCY HARRIS-DEANS

Currently in office

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

I was very surprised to be elected as Head Girl, particularly since I was in Cardiff at the time, and the last thing I expected was a phone call asking me to take on the role! Although, I have to admit, the initial shock was soon replaced with pride, as I was touched that my peers thought I was capable of standing up and representing them throughout this year.

I think I will remember the stranger and more unexpected experiences I have had being Head Girl. Being on an Interviewing panel, going food shopping on behalf of (Head Girl team organised) school events, and trying to make owls out of play dough at Discovery Mornings all have to be up there as the funniest and most memorable moments I have had.

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

My favourite part of being Head Girl is being able to learn and develop new skills in the role, such as speech making and taking on leadership roles. I have been



very lucky to have such opportunities. However, having cookies in Miss Dunn's office and gossiping about life has to be a great part of being in the team, too!

I don't exactly have a 'worst bit', but certainly the most challenging aspect of being Head Girl has to be trying to juggle my studies, and the extra-curricular music groups I participate in, along with the additional tasks the role entails.

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

I am looking to study History at university this September (fingers crossed!). However, after Uni I am also looking to take a delayed gap year to experience more of the world before settling down to work.

**What are you hoping to become?**

I have to admit that I don't exactly have a clear aim or even dream job that I intend to apply for in the future, but I hope that I am enjoying what I do and am passionate and enthusiastic about my work, as that's all you can ask for.

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

I think my greatest achievement would have to be completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition last summer. After a gruelling four days of walking (and sleeping in a soggy tent) walking across the finish line was an incredible feeling and one I won't forget!

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

I have no idea! However, I would hope that I am happy and fulfilled with the choices that I have made.

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

I have had many amazing moments at school: performing to the Australian Rugby Team, singing in Venice, playing for the school musicals and even whizzing through the snow on the Maynard ski trip. Although, the most incredible memory for me was summiting Mount Meru in Tanzania in July 2017. After a physically and mentally challenging three day climb, the feeling of elation as the whole student team reached the top together was indescribable.

## Public Examination Results

### Upper Sixth GCE Advanced Level Results - June 2017

With a 100% pass rate, a remarkable 65% of students gained A\* and A grades, with 83% achieving A\*, A and B grades.

| Subject            | A*        | A         | B         | C         | D        | E        | Entries   |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Art                | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Biology            | 1         | 3         | 2         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 7         |
| Chemistry          | 0         | 2         | 1         | 0         | 1        | 0        | 4         |
| Class Civ          | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| Economics          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 4         |
| English Literature | 1         | 2         | 0         | 3         | 0        | 0        | 6         |
| Food & Nutrition   | 0         | 2         | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Fmaths             | 1         | 4         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 6         |
| French             | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| Geography          | 1         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 1        | 0        | 9         |
| Gov. & Politics    | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| History            | 1         | 3         | 4         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 9         |
| Latin              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| Mathematics        | 5         | 4         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 9         |
| Music              | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| Physical Education | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| Physics            | 1         | 5         | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 7         |
| Psychology         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 4         |
| Religious Studies  | 0         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 4         |
| Spanish            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>16</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>80</b> |

## Public Examination Results

### Upper Fifth GCSE Results - June 2017

The Maynard School is thrilled to have posted another outstanding set of results at GCSE level for 2017.

41% of students attained A\* Grades, and 69% gained A\* and A grades across a broad spectrum of subjects.

| Subject           | A*        | A         | B         | C           | D        | E        | Entries      |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Art               | 4         | 7         | 2         | 6           | 0        | 0        | 19           |
| Biology           | 14        | 4         | 6         | 1           | 0        | 0        | 25           |
| Chemistry         | 13        | 4         | 7         | 1           | 0        | 0        | 25           |
| Drama             | 2         | 3         | 2         | 0           | 0        | 0        | 7            |
| Food & Nut        | 6         | 6         | 2         | 0           | 0        | 0        | 14           |
| French            | 10        | 1         | 4         | 0.5         | 1        | 0        | 16.5         |
| Geography         | 5         | 0         | 2         | 0           | 0        | 0        | 7            |
| German            | 1         | 3         | 2         | 1           | 1        | 0        | 8            |
| History           | 9         | 9         | 5         | 1           | 0        | 0        | 24           |
| Latin             | 7         | 2         | 0         | 0           | 0        | 0        | 9            |
| Music             | 1         | 6         | 1         | 0           | 0        | 0        | 8            |
| Physics           | 15        | 7         | 3         | 0           | 0        | 0        | 25           |
| Religious Studies | 2         | 5         | 2         | 0           | 0        | 0        | 9            |
| Science           | 0         | 3         | 4         | 2           | 1        | 0        | 10           |
| Additional Sci    | 0         | 3         | 6         | 0           | 1        | 0        | 10           |
| Spanish           | 4         | 0         | 3         | 2           | 0        | 0        | 9            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>92</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>14.5</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>225.5</b> |

## News from **the Archivist**



Did you know that room 27, which is now the Headmistress' office, was once the Kindergarten room? That was identified from a set of photos used to advertise the school in the 1920's.

They formed the substance of one of the displays in school and an assembly presentation; at the latter I also told the story of Rosie Michelmore, the little girl whose statue has been moved from the terrace to the Garden of Reflection. She was a young member of the school when she died; a friend arranged for a statue of her to be given to her parents but her mother did not want it, so donated it to the school.

The research that led me to investigate the old photographs had started with a request for information about the 7 Dearman sisters who attended the school in the early part of the 20th century. Some of them led quite daring lives – one married a Ceylon tea planter, and another followed her husband to India with the Royal Army Medical Corps. They all grew up in a house at the end of Spicer Road, adjoining Heavitree Rd, so that led me on to find out more about other houses in Spicer Rd. Tregear was built for Henry Mountrich James, a solicitor, in about 1885; Stephen Simpson bought it from him in 1894 and lived there until the school purchased the house in 1912 to provide



boarding accommodation. That continued until the 1960's, when the expense of updating it was not judged to be worthwhile. The building was converted to accommodate Music, Art (moving from the first floor of the main school building), Needlework and Cookery (moving from the front of the main school, where there is now a cloakroom). Stephen Simpson turned out to be an interesting and worthy character – he took over Willey's, a foundry across the river in Exeter, which was a major employer and made all sorts of items from gas meters (to his patented design) to armaments. Some of his relatives are currently involved with Maynard!

Last year, the 75th anniversary of the Exeter blitz was the obvious starting point for letting current pupils know what happened on that night in May. The amusement at the thought of walking up to Exeter School in night clothes for a late breakfast was somewhat tempered by thinking about how narrowly all our boarders escaped when the other boarding house, in Higher Summerlands (Heavitree Rd), was



burnt out. Their endlessly-repeated bomb drills really paid off.

As ever, one thing leads to another in the archiving world – and the anniversary of the ending of the First World War may be a catalyst for some more work on how Maynardians were involved in that.

I am always pleased to answer questions, receive items or learn more about our past, whether distant or recent news.

# Startups Old Maynardians with their own businesses

MUTLI-AWARD WINNING PODCASTER  
**Emma Gannon – 2000-2007**

Emma Gannon is an author and broadcaster based in London. The former social media editor of British Glamour, she has an award-winning blog and has been published everywhere from the Telegraph to Teen Vogue. She enjoys writing on how we can adapt ourselves to survive and thrive in the new world of work and has written pieces about changes in the workplace for Glamour and the Guardian, and featured in a video on millennials at work for The Pool. She is also currently starring in a national advertising campaign for Microsoft which showcases and celebrates her multi-hyphenate career. This is being screened across mainstream TV, cinema, social, YouTube and out-of-home billboards.

Emma's incredibly successful podcast 'CTRL, ALT, DELETE' discussing work, social media and careers has thrust her into the limelight with celebrity guests and top brand sponsors of numerous episodes. It has now reached over 1 million downloads and was picked as





'Editor's Choice' on iTunes multiple times. It was also listed in the Times' 'top 20 podcasts to download'; ELLE UK's 'podcasts that will boost your career'; Marie Claire's 'career-changing podcasts' and Esquire's 'top podcasts of 2017'. Earlier this year, Emma was delighted to be included in the Forbes '30 Under 30' Media & Marketing category – praise indeed!

Her successes in an increasingly digital world are almost too numerous to mention but, since 2012, she has been a multiple-published author in huge international titles; she has been a guest on BBC Woman's Hour, BBC Radio 4's Word of Mouth, BBC Radio London, has spoken on Sky News, at Social Media Week London and Facebook's Marketing Conference. She recently spoke at the Oxford Union about the future of social media, The London School of Economics about social media addiction and has delivered a TEDx talk about online identity and virtual worlds.

She is also a twice-published author and her new book, 'The Multi-Hyphen Method: Work less, create more, and design a career that works for you' comes out with Hodder in May this year. Based on the statistic that approximately 65% of future jobs haven't been invented yet, it is all about equipping people to future-proof themselves and the longevity of their career no matter the circumstances they find themselves in.

"I always knew I wanted to work for myself, and be self-employed in some way, but I wanted to get as much experience in big companies first. I see my time spent in large agencies and working in-house for brands as my "boot camp" to be constantly challenged and learn the ropes, which I can now apply to my own solo work. I love the freedom of being my own boss, but it is definitely intense and all-encompassing! It's not a lifestyle to suit everybody, but I couldn't be more excited about what I am building. I've learned so much by jumping in the deep end."



**TEXTILE DESIGN**  
**Victoria Richards (née Preston)**  
**1969-1981**

I was at The Maynard all the way through from kindergarten to Upper Six. Since leaving I went to art school, studied textiles and have run my own textile design business since 1986. I have collaborated several times with Sarah Treble, not only on her wedding dresses, but also when she was working in Italy with Valentino. I must say, I have to thank the wonderful Art Department at school, in particular Hilary Balogh and Cheryl Wren, for encouraging and inspiring me to pursue my career in art.

Last year I was invited by Sir Terence Conran to have an exhibition of my silk ties at the prestigious Design Museum in London, which has recently relocated to the old Commonwealth Institute in Kensington following a major revamp of the building by John Pawson architects. I am very proud to have had a selection of my work on display in the main foyer since early November 2017 and it will remain there until the end of February. I have a long association with the journalist and Channel 4 news presenter, Jon Snow - I design nearly all his ties and socks which have apparently become iconic items - hence the display! I would love to hear anything from other 'creative' Maynardians!

**BOUTIQUE OWNER**  
**Caroline Hemmings (née Macey)**  
**1982-1992**



I left The Maynard in 1992 and took a place at Homerton College, Cambridge to study a B.Ed. with English Literature. I graduated in 1997 and started work as a primary school teacher in Warwick. I married in 1998 (an Old Exonian!). We returned to Devon in 2001 and soon two became five as we now have three sons Sebastian, Dominic and Christopher, who are aged 9, 12 and 14.

If you had asked me at any point during this time up to about a year ago, I would have been certain that I would remain within the teaching profession until retirement. But as the boys have become more independent, I had more time to consider what I wanted to achieve and I found myself looking for a change of direction. Having taught for the best part of twenty years I realised that I did not want to do the same for the next twenty.

The idea of owning and running my own business had appeared for some time. I wanted a new

challenge where I had the freedom to make the decisions and be responsible for my own results. I also knew that it needed to involve helping others in some way, as this was a strong motive behind becoming a teacher and remains important to me. I started to look for a business to buy and, after a few false starts, I found the opportunity that I knew could be my project for the next twenty years. I began retraining and put in an offer for De Bora's of Exeter, the fine lingerie and swimwear shop in South Street. I had been a customer of the shop for many years, I knew the owner and understood what made the business a success as it had kept me returning year after year. I also love the product and firmly believe that attractive, comfortable underwear can really affect your self-confidence as well as your look and posture.

The last six months have been a blur. My offer was accepted in August but then all the legal details had to be sorted. For the next few months I worked both to finish my training and my notice to finish teaching at October half term. I completed the purchase the following week, on 1st November, and have not looked back since. The last three months have been a steep learning curve but the support I have had from friends, family and customers has been fantastic. It is daunting at times but being my own boss, in a business I believe in, is very rewarding and a total contrast from my male dominated household!

My life looks very different from a year ago. Making such a change is a huge decision but sometimes you just have to take a chance. Running your own business is always going to be a challenge but it was one that I felt ready for and is something that I really enjoy. It is also very exciting when choosing which beautiful lingerie to stock and should definitely keep me busy for many years to come.

**A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE FAMILY FARM!**  
**Deborah Ayre (née Gibb) 1971-1978**



When I left Maynard in 1978 I was somewhat 'rudderless'. I had chosen not to pursue the career in hotel management originally planned, and hastily took an executive secretarial course not at all sure where that would lead. A succession of dead-end temping jobs made me question that decision, but my first permanent role working for a local firm of architects was hugely enjoyable, giving me a great administrative grounding and eye for detail. Marriage and roles in schools followed, both classroom and office based, whilst our own children were young; then five years ago, I became a Registration Officer. This involves registering births and deaths, taking marriage notices and officiating at weddings at some of the lovely venues Devon has to offer. It is a fantastic job, allowing me to be part of some of the key moments in a person's life; something I consider to be a great privilege.

All the while we were happily settled on the family farm in a beautiful countryside location, just ten minutes outside Exeter. Before we knew it, our three

children were all grown up, and in May 2013 we had the pleasure of hosting our own daughter's wedding on the farm. Rather than having a marquee, she and her partner used an existing barn, so we set about transforming a modern steel-framed barn for the purpose. The week before the wedding we were basking in hot spring sunshine in our shorts and t-shirts, but on the day itself, the temperature plummeted, and by gum it was chilly! This proved to be the inspiration for our new business. A multi-purpose venue with stunning views where you can make the most of the outdoors when the weather is fine, yet be cosy and warm inside when the weather is not so great.

Recent changes in the family farm structure and in agriculture in general meant we needed to look for an alternative form of income. By now, the idea to build our very own bespoke venue had been backed up by market research, and following a favourable planning decision, we took the plunge and Harefield Barn was born.

The build is now well underway, and our second daughter and her fiancé are planning to be the very first couple to exchange their vows at Harefield Barn.

It's an exciting and challenging time for us all, and we can't wait to show off our wonderful location at an open weekend in December. I suppose I'm living proof that it's never too late for a new start or dramatic change of direction; running a new business and providing a very special service where all those years of life experience are the perfect training!

If you would like to find out more about Harefield Barn, our website address is [www.harefieldbarn.co.uk](http://www.harefieldbarn.co.uk) where, along with Facebook and Instagram, you can also follow the progress of the build.

### ARTIST **Francesca Ross (née Susan Ross)** 1965-1977

For A-levels, I took English, Art and Pure Mathematics, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. Then our Maths teacher, Miss Underwood, arranged for us to visit Exeter University's Computing department, and I was hooked. I decided to go to Portsmouth Polytechnic, as its Computer Science degree included an industrial training year. I think I was the first girl from The Maynard to read Computer Science, but I hope there have been many more since.

At Portsmouth, I met my future husband, Vernon, and at the end of my degree I got a job as a Software Engineer working for Marconi, until we had our two boys. I returned to work part-time for Marconi, in the Speech and Information Systems sub-company. We built the first telephone banking systems (the forerunner of internet banking) for NatWest Access and the Halifax. Meanwhile Vernon had retrained as a nurse, and worked in the local hospital and hospice, but had been called to train as a vicar, so we all moved Bristol, and then to Fareham for his curacy. While broadband was some way off being invented, we had modems, so during this time I worked from home.

However, when our youngest was due to start school, I was faced with working for Marconi full-time, or going for a career change. I chose the latter, and took up a continuing interest – artwork – as an occupation. I built up work providing clip-art for local businesses and events, but then Vernon's next job took us to north Devon. In a deeply rural, poor area, there was no market for artwork, so once our boys started at secondary school, I trained as a primary school teacher. I worked until after our next move, to Barnstaple, but then I contracted M.E.

Life went pretty much on hold, until we moved to Essex. I joined a couple of local art groups, and sold some paintings. Encouraged, I asked a friend who runs a web company that provides parish magazine editors with articles and graphics if she needed any more illustrators, and started with designing a front cover a month. I got an order from the Northumbria Community to provide greetings cards for their shop, and when they republished their book 'Celtic Daily Prayer', sold by HarperCollins worldwide, I was asked to draw the knotwork section dividers and book covers. We visited the Royal Horticultural Society Botanical Artwork exhibition in London, and Vernon asked the organiser how I could have paintings included in future exhibitions. I had artwork shown in 2015, gaining a Silver medal.

We moved again, this time to the Lake District. I have joined a local art group, and am working on my next set of botanical paintings. And computers? While I still use pens, ink and paint to create my artwork, I then scan them, use Photoshop to tidy them up, and then use the internet to send them to my customers, who could be anywhere in the world!



### THE ROAD TO OSTEOPATHY! **Jamie Rose (née Hathaway) 1983-1988**



I am an ex-Maynardian who now owns and runs a local business, The Exmouth Osteopathy and Massage Centre, but I had no idea what I wanted to do when I left school and very much took the scenic route to get here!

I originally read BSc (Hons) Biology with Environmental Science in York but, on graduation in 1994, I returned to the South West to live and work in the recession and couldn't find work. I subsequently took voluntary work with Oxfam which led to my first 'real' job in their Campaigns department. This led to 10 years working in the charitable housing sector but it was my progression into senior management, however,

that prompted me to return to my interests in the human body and health and I totally changed path to study Osteopathy full time, at the European School of Osteopathy in my early 30s.

Osteopathy is a way of working with people that is enormously rewarding. It is a fully regulated profession as we are primary health care professionals. One of the things I liked about Osteopathy as opposed to Chiropractic or physiotherapy is it has a philosophy that underpins our approach to treatment:

The osteopathic philosophy embraces the idea of the unity of structure and function through four main principles. The body is a unit, and the person represents a combination of body, mind and spirit. The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing and health maintenance.

Osteopaths are trained in many techniques such as Cranial Osteopathy, through to the very structural techniques such as joint manipulation so they can choose the most appropriate techniques to encourage their patients towards a better balance of health. This means we have the freedom to develop our own style and are less prescriptive with our treatment approaches than most physiotherapists. It is a truly holistic profession taking all aspects into consideration when making an assessment and diagnosis. We can treat all ages in the most effective and appropriate way, from babies and children to the elderly, where of course the most common presentation is osteoarthritis.

At the Exmouth Osteopathy and Massage Centre I work in a team with two other Osteopaths, massage and Bowen therapists. I very much enjoy being my own boss, although as anyone who is self-employed knows, this can entail long hours, but the benefits far outweigh the cons. It's been a long road to get here but I can honestly say I now love my work.

### FARMING **Jen Marsh (née Hall) – 1998-2003**



When our family moved to Shutelake Farm, I was 13 and not particularly interested in animals, or the outdoors! However, an encounter with a goat named Jane and the surprise birth of her two kids had me hooked on farming. I pursued a career in veterinary medicine and whilst I thoroughly enjoyed working as a farm vet in Devon, there was something else calling me; the land at Shutelake – perhaps I could farm it?

In 2016, the first Shutelake Lambs were born. At this stage the company was a part-time venture, however redundancy from my role as a veterinary nutritionist in July 2017 gave me the push I needed to be full time on the farm. We now farm 55 ewes on our beautiful rolling hills in mid-Devon and I balance farming with being a full time mum.

At Shutelake Lamb we believe that meat reared slowly on pasture benefits from a superior taste to lamb reared on concentrate feed. We pride ourselves on our preventative approach to animal health and with my farm veterinary and nutritional expertise, our lambs are reared to very high welfare standards.

Our breed choice is specific and well thought out to ensure that not only do we produce a well marbled and tasty product, but that we use traditional British breeds. The Ryeland was originally bred both for meat and wool production and is well suited to grass rearing. We cross a Ryeland Ram with a Lleyne ewe, a breed known for its fantastic mothering skills. The ewes give birth in April to take advantage of better weather and so our lambs are true “spring” lambs. They are reared on their mother’s milk, rich from newly growing wild meadow grass, herbs and flowers. Lambs begin to take their first nibbles of grass at just a few days old and this increases as the summer progresses so that they gradually wean themselves on their natural food.

The result is a sweet, tender and juicy meat perfectly marbled, just as English lamb should be. In addition to creating superb taste and tenderness, the marbling found between the muscle fibres of the meat is made up of mono-saturated fats and these have health benefits for the consumer.

Currently we deliver our premium quality product to local customers in the form of half lamb or lamb boxes. We also supply a selection of “high end” restaurants in Devon. Feedback describing our lamb as “sweet,” “tender,” “juicy,” “out of this world” and “like no lamb I’ve ever tasted before,” has given us the confidence that the product is exceptional.

If you are interested in finding out more about Shutelake Lamb or trying our lamb then please visit our website [www.shutelakelamb.co.uk](http://www.shutelakelamb.co.uk) or find us on Facebook, twitter and Instagram.



#### **AUTHOR AND WRITING SERVICES Jenny Leggott (née Scott) - 1998-1996**

I set up my company Transcend Zero in August 2015 to sell writing services to individuals and businesses in the South West. Initially it was writing CVs and website content locally, however with a little social media, this led to providing audio transcription, confidential minute taking, writing newsletters, blogs and press releases for customers all over the world.

I chose my company name “Transcend Zero” which means “arise from nothing” as I started with nothing and have built a successful business which enables me to pursue my writing in different areas, including the writing and self-publishing of my Sammy Rambles books about a boy and his dragon.

Through creating Sammy Rambles and his adventures, I have been grateful to have the

opportunity to travel and give “Dragon Talks” to children and adults in schools, libraries and literary festivals. Affectionately known as the “Dragontourage”, I have taken my books and dragons on tour, making many friends throughout the world and inspiring other people in their writing. I have great memories of the English lessons at The Maynard where we created stories and it has been great fun to carry this on beyond schooldays into a career in writing.

Whilst setting up my company and writing about dragons I became engaged to Arron and we married at the Haldon Belvedere near Exeter in 2016. We are both sports fans and arranged our honeymoon to watch England play in the Ashes in Australia last year, which was amazing even though England didn’t win!

My websites are: [www.transcendzero.co.uk](http://www.transcendzero.co.uk) and [www.sammyrambles.com](http://www.sammyrambles.com)

#### **ACCOUNTANCY Stephanie Godwin (née Wardlaw)**



I was at the Maynard School in the Sixth form back in the early 70’s from September 1969 to December 1971 as I stayed on an extra term to do the Oxbridge entrance exams.

I did a BA Hons in English & French at UKC followed by a PGCE at Exeter and then spent several years teaching in Havant, Hampshire. However, after these four years teaching in the 6th form college, I decided you only live once, so I was going to spend my life doing something I really enjoyed which was working with horses. In 1980 I did a BHSAI course and then spent the next decade or so running racehorse studs as well as training youngsters and point to pointers, moving back down to the southwest to live near Yeovil.

I got married and had two kids (a boy & a girl) during the nineties but this did not end well for many reasons which I don’t intend to go into here. I had continued with my love of horses though and treated myself to a thoroughbred ex-racehorse for my 40th birthday. At the same time my daughter had inherited my love of horses and she started riding at the age of two when I borrowed a Shetland pony off the people I exercised livery horses for and then moved on to a New Forest cross pony! In 1996 I met the man I was eventually going to spend the rest of my life with and after a rather messy divorce we ended up living near Frome where he was working as an accountant and I enrolled at Bath University to do an MA ED so that I could (hopefully) get back into teaching.

But two big shocks spoilt that plan in that I found out, firstly, that having an MA ED made me unemployable

as I was too expensive and indeed often had more qualifications than the head teachers interviewing me! Secondly though, and more importantly, I found out I was pregnant at the grand old age of 44. So I gave up the idea of teaching and concentrated on raising the children and breeding dogs (hunt terriers and labradors) and the occasional horse. We moved back to Beaminster in Dorset on New Year’s Eve of 1998 as my second husband had a house there and knew someone we could rent stables and land off for the animals and for a while pushed on with building ourselves a life. But there were problems in that our daughter who was very bright and hard working was getting bullied at the comprehensive in Beaminster and the teachers were not helpful and sympathetic at all. Unfortunately there was not the money to send her to a decent private school either.

The eldest boy has a problem with short term memory and his primary teachers were threatening to put him in a special needs school. Meanwhile, the youngest had an operation at the age of two that nearly killed him and this had a bad effect on his confidence and overall outlook on life. So we decided to take the leap and move to France.

We bought a house that needed renovating in 2000 - it had not been lived in since before the war, had about a hectare of land with it and some outhouses and was in a very rural part of northern France. We thought it exciting and romantic but unfortunately we did not do enough research on the area, relying only on my experiences of France which were very different, as I had learnt French in Paris, Champagne and La Baule through staying with friends and working there. Cosmopolitan areas in France are very different to the old fashioned rural ones! We found out that there was no chance of getting anyone to renovate the place if we were not there so we moved permanently just a few days before 9/11. We have been in France ever since and have had a very different life to the one we would

have had if we had stayed in Dorset and Somerset. The kids have done really well with the French education system which offers a great many courses in all sorts of areas from academic to artisanal to try and give all youngsters a chance. Our daughter has become a lawyer and works in Paris and the eldest son is an artist who works for a logistics firm in Chartres to finance this gift. The youngest is now at university studying journalism in Bordeaux and we have just moved to the Médoc so we can be near him and at the same time enjoy a warmer climate and the wine! We found out when we came that British qualifications do not really count in France so although I tried teaching for a year, it was only under an unqualified status and so the pay was not nearly enough to make it worthwhile. Meanwhile my husband could not work as an accountant either for the same reasons but we could breed dogs because of my BHSAI diploma and all those years of working with animals, so this is what we did for several years. To sell the dogs (terriers, labradors and Cotons de Tuléar) we showed round most of western France picking up quite a few trophies over the years including several “best in breed” titles. Indeed one of our Parsons nearly became a French champion! We also delivered over the whole of France and to the UK and other countries - Egypt and Canada being two countries that spring to mind.

But we were getting older so when the EU said in 2009 that France had to recognise foreign qualifications if coming from an EU country, we decided to change track and go back to the accountancy side of things. I decided to register to help people with problems they were having with the French authorities as well as giving advice on relocation and doing translations for them. We have done well and in those eight years we have built up a steady client base centred round France though we do have clients from all round the world.

If you want to look at it, and our website is: <http://transmanche-accountancyservices.eu>

# Obituaries

## Pauline Cooper (13.09.1925 – 09.10.2017)



They say that your school days are the best days of your life, so true for my Godmother, Pauline Cooper. When I asked her, aged 84 years where she would like to spend a few days holiday, she replied, without hesitation, “Exeter”.

Pauline was a pupil at The Maynard School from 1939 – 1943, very impressionable years for a young teenager. She attended many reunions over the years and was devastated to have missed the 350th anniversary in 2008 because of a family bereavement. A year later, we came to Exeter and she was able to lunch with two of her class friends, Eunice Stacey and Joan Perratt (see picture). We found her childhood home in Hollow Lane where she told me how she had watched in horror as the wartime bombs destroyed the city centre. But despite the bomb craters, she never failed to get to school on her bicycle, a credit to her determination and tenacity which stayed with her throughout her life.

Her education at The Maynard paved the way for nursing training at The Royal Victoria Hospital,

Bournemouth, which she always blamed for her lifelong hatred of rice pudding which was served at every meal, including breakfast! But, when her father’s employment took him north to Lancashire, Pauline soon followed to be close to the family, taking up a job as a theatre nurse at Southport Infirmary. A consummate professional, she soon became a theatre sister, but her sense of schoolgirl fun never left her and she was the driving force behind the legendary annual staff Christmas Panto. A disciplinarian, she was also a generous and much respected mentor. “The Golden Oldies” a group of nurses Pauline had guided through their careers, included her in their monthly lunches as guest of honour, until just a month before she died, a testament to her commitment to others.

Pauline’s interests were eclectic and reflected the sport she so enjoyed at school. She swam most days until her mid 80’s, was an active member of the local Tennis Club and belonged to the Southport Dramatic Society. Anything musical in Southport and Pauline would be there, from Gilbert and Sullivan to Salvation Army carols!

Sadly in 2014, Pauline had a bad fall which brought on a form of dementia. In her confusion, she set off, alone, on a trip down memory lane and headed straight for Exeter on the train! She had the time of her life visiting old “haunts”, but shortly afterwards, for her own safety she needed full time care and three years later, she died peacefully in her sleep.

At her funeral, a Consultant, who had worked with Pauline in the 1950’s as a junior doctor, told me a story which encapsulated her character. Pauline had lodgings a few streets away from the Infirmary when

she moved to Southport. She would arrive at work on her bicycle, always close to time, knowing that the quickest route to the theatre was through a window into the surgeons changing rooms and this was her preferred route. One day, in her haste, she dropped through the window, only to be met by senior surgeon, Mr Burgess, in “his birthday suit”. Pauline blushed to the roots of her hair, but carried on regardless and nothing was said. Next morning, the newspaper headline, referring to the contemporaneous Russian espionage defection, reported, “The Naked Truth Revealed about Burgess!”

Pauline and her friend giggled about it for years.

By Jennifer Protheroe

## Professor Margaret Turner Warwick (1924-2017)

Margaret was the third daughter of William Harvey Moore and his wife Maud (nee Baden-Powell) and started her education at the City of London School and then Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks; she joined U111 in June 1936, with her sister Anne joining L1. They lived initially in Pennsylvania Park and later in Mont le Grand. When reminiscing about the Exeter Blitz, Margaret remembered going to the bombed Cathedral and being asked (with many others) by the Dean to go home and get a bucket to collect pieces of stained glass.

She also noted particularly the efficiency of the teaching staff of all the other schools who took in Maynard pupils so quickly when it meant extensive reorganisation of their school timetables. The Sixth

Form scientists were rapidly moved to Bishop Blackall School; ‘even our partly dissected dogfish had been retrieved from the damaged laboratories at the Maynard and we carried on with our dissection as if nothing had happened!’.

The sisters stayed at The Maynard until July 1947, when they moved to St Paul’s Girls’ School. Margaret studied medicine at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, though in her final year she spent months in a sanatorium suffering from tuberculosis. Working in various London hospitals, she developed a particular interest in treating the chest and lungs, with an emphasis on researching how healthy organs work. She was instrumental in advancing the treatment of TB and asthma and also of occupational lung diseases and the effects of cigarette smoking.

She married surgeon Richard Turner-Warwick in 1950, and rose to be a Professor of Medicine in the University of London by 1972. In 1989 she was elected as the first woman President of the Royal College of Physicians; three years later she was made the Chairman of the Royal Devon & Exeter Health Care NHS Trust. She worked hard to solve problems and update governance structures, and would cooperate with government while offering advice and warnings where necessary.

Her philosophy is summed up in a quote from her autobiography: ‘The future of medicine will depend on those who really care for patients.’ Lady Margaret Hall created her an Honorary Fellow, and in 1991 she was made Dame. Through a busy life she continued to play the violin and paint watercolours, and developed a lovely garden at her home in Thorverton, where she was always keen to get together with family members.



## ALUMNAE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE INFORMATION

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### 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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