

MALTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1937 - 1951

THOMAS ARTHUR WILLIAMS

Thomas Arthur Williams, fondly known as TAW, became acting head of MGS at the end of 1936, when Mr Watt's health forced him to apply for leave of absence. In the following March, following Mr Watt's death, the position became permanent.

Born 6 July 1888 in Newton, near Chester, Mr Williams had joined the school in 1913, becoming senior master in 1919. He was to serve as head until retirement in 1951, and then as a governor until ill health forced his resignation. He died in 1964.

In his first letter to parents he talks of 'the unusual degree of affection that the school has inspired in the heads of nearly all of those who have become associated with it in any way.' His desire to make the school an essential part of the community it served was immediately apparent: he asked for annual gatherings for people to meet with present pupils and said that the opening of the extension would provide an excellent first opportunity. He wrote that he wanted parents and the school to work in harmony and that he wanted to welcome Old Maltonians as visitors as much as possible. He founded the Parents' Guild. So, the 'family ethos' of MGS was to continue and develop for the next fourteen years.

External events, both international and in the area of educational reform were to have a great influence on the lives of pupils, staff and ex-pupils in the ensuing period and many of Mr Williams' aims could not be realised as he would have wished.

Having joined the Royal Navy in 1914 and fought at Gallipoli, he returned to England wounded in 1917, only to leave again and join the Green Howards, fighting in France.

THOMAS ARTHUR WILLIAMS
Headmaster 1937-51, through the difficult times of World War II and the subsequent period of hardship. He is pictured here in 1938.





Above:

TA WILLIAMS

A selection of photos from the Williams family album showing Thomas Williams in a number of different roles. The photos were sent by his granddaughter and her husband, Penny and Mike Bassey, in 2007.

Mr Williams returned to Malton Grammar School as senior master in 1919, and married his first wife, Isabella Mackie in 1920. Their daughter Eleanor (Peggy) was born the following year, but sadly Isabella died in 1935 at the age of 37.

In 1940 he married Eleanor Nancy Hyde Orr (Nell). They had two children: John and Angela. He retired in 1951 and died in 1964 after a severe stroke that left him more or less speechless and

in a wheelchair. According to the obituary notice in the local newspaper, as well as being headteacher, he was ‘an officer of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons; county secretary of the North Riding Boy Scouts’ Association for more than 20 years; vicar’s warden at St Leonard’s Church, Malton; and for many years a member of the Urban Council’.

Mr and Mrs Williams' long and deep connection with Malton School was commemorated in November 2007, when his daughter Angela, and grandchildren Penny, David and Phil, attended the school's annual celebration evening. They presented a plaque, carved in oak by local craftsmen at Robert Thompsons of Kilburn (the 'Mouseman.'). The family have also arranged funding for an annual science prize in memory of their parents –their father was a scientist, and would no doubt be delighted with the specialist science status that the school now holds.

Bottom:

CELEBRATION EVENING 2007

At the School's Celebration Evening in November 2007, when the Williams family presented a carved oak plaque in memory of Mr Williams.

*Michael and Penny Bassey
(grandaughter), David Williams
(grandson), Angela Williams
(daughter), Phil and Kathy Simnett,
and Debbie Williams*

The inscription on the plaque reads:

THOMAS ARTHUR WILLIAMS MSc
TAW
MASTER FROM 1913
HEADMASTER FROM 1937 – 1951

MALTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ADMIRER BY ALL FOR HIS
FIRMNESS AND BENEVOLENCE



MRS ELEANOR WILLIAMS (MISS ORR)

On a Monday evening in February 1999 I was invited to tea with two former pupils and a former member of staff. The pupils were Ann Bell (née Sails), at the time a secretary at the school, and Margaret Davison (née Metcalfe), a school governor. The member of staff was Mrs Eleanor Williams, French teacher over many years and wife of headmaster T A Williams. Mrs Williams brought along a collection of photos and memorabilia, which she was later to donate to the school archive. I feel honoured to have met this lady, permitting me a link back to the history of the school from the mid-1930s. Generations of MGS students knew her, probably as 'Ma Bill' or 'Ma TAW' ('but *never* in her hearing, of course,' as a former pupil of hers, Michael Hickes, warned me!)

I was to meet Mrs Williams many times subsequently, as she continued to show interest in the school until her death in 2004. Her eyesight began to fade, and I often saw her in her motorised wheelchair on Middlecave Road as walking became difficult, but her memory remained crystal clear. I even witnessed some of the legendary stern discipline first hand when in 2002 I put a recording of an interview she had given (a ten minute non-stop chronological history of the school from 1935 to 1972!) on the Maltonians website without asking her permission. I received a good telling off at a school event, in front of a gathering of former pupils!

This chapter will review the period under Mrs Williams' husband, using photos donated and loaned by former pupils, plus their memories, editions of *The Maltonian*, David Lloyd's book and Howard Fox's research all providing facts and detail.



Above:
DOLLY THACKRAY AND MRS WILLIAMS 1999

Mrs Williams enjoying a glass of wine at our Art Exhibition, age 91.

Below:
FORM I 1955

Surprisingly one of the earliest photos of Mrs Williams I can find. Eric Charters, Colin Burnett, Peter Draycon, Alan Duffield, Eric Hargreaves, Tony Gerard, David Sturdy, David Ward, John Hudson, Tony Thorpe, Paul Rynhart, Elizabeth Magson, Alan Rank, John Kirkham, Freddy Hodgson. Joan Sanderson, Kathleen Myers, Susan Davis, Doreen Horsley, Mrs Williams, Elizabeth Barker, Diana Schofield, Shirley Cartwright, Pat Pudsey





Above and below:

PT DISPLAYS 1937

PT displays to mark the opening of the extensions.

The top photo has the school hall at the rear, the bottom photo shows what was then the domestic science room.

BUILDINGS EXPANSION

The building programme which Mr Watt had promoted came to fruition when, in September 1937, Sir William Worsley opened the extensions, which consisted of new cloakrooms and changing rooms and a specialist science laboratory, which formed the north side of the quad. - the site of the hut, which was moved to become a combined gym and dining room.

Below left:

**T A WILLIAMS and
FRANK BARRACLOUGH**

Frank Barraclough was chief education officer for the North Riding.





Top:

AERIAL VIEW 1940s

This view shows the new science extension (on the left of the quad) and the collection of wooden huts at the rear.

Below:

SPORTS DAY 1947

The girls are clearly enjoying the race. Behind the scenes is another view of the wooden buildings at the rear of the school. Note the high windows of the science laboratory behind the crowd.

Below:

THE LIBRARY 1938

With the new extensions, changes were also made within the buildings. New library shelving was installed, with a proper card catalogue coming into operation the following year, when books were borrowed from the county library.



Bottom:

THE SCIENCE LABORATORY

Three views of what in grammar school days was 'the' science lab. Nowadays it is one of seven.

The first picture shows the newly built room in 1938: note the high windows on the playing field side of the room.

The middle picture shows it in 1995 as room 38, little changed, just prior to refurbishment. This picture is from the reverse direction to the other two.

The third picture shows room 38 as it is today - with modern fittings, whiteboard instead of blackboard, and full length windows.



THE STAFF

The war was to have a marked effect on staffing: some staff were called up; there were staff shortages, and consequently many temporary and part time appointments were made. MGS fared better than some schools and some form of continuity was provided by Mr Barty, Mr Rolls and Mr Williams, who all served throughout the period.

In 1938 Miss Lucy Taylor came to teach Latin and English and was later appointed senior mistress. Mr Beverley joined the staff in 1937 to teach science and thus had the responsibility for organising the new laboratory. He joined the Forces in 1940, returning to Malton in 1946. Miss Orr, who was senior mistress, left in 1940, following her marriage to Mr Williams. She returned, on a temporary basis, almost immediately, and in 1947, following the birth of her two children she returned on a full time basis. At the same time, Gordon Bratt returned to teach at the school where he had been a pupil for a short time. Miss Monica Fraser taught art throughout the period and was also responsible for girls' PE and games until 1942. In 1947, Miss H Platt joined the staff as senior mistress, a position she held until 1952.

Below:

MGS STAFF 1951

Surprisingly the earliest photo I can find of the staff.

Front Row: Mr Bratt, Mrs Williams, Mr Barty, Mr Williams, Miss Platt, Mr Rolls, Miss Howarth
Back Row: Mr Mudge is on the right. Of the others I am unsure. Miss Monica Fraser and Miss Booth should be the ladies, the gents - possibly Bill Richardson?

1939 brought the retirement of Walter Metcalfe, who had joined MGS in 1911 to teach woodwork. 'Mecca' will always be remembered as one of the characters of the school. He was a fine craftsman, carving by hand a lectern, which was used for over thirty years. He built a pavilion and changing rooms. He was replaced by Mr Mudge, who was to serve until 1953. He made a valuable contribution to the musical life of the school and many will remember him travelling to work with the double bass showing through the sliding roof of his Austin Seven.





Since 1912 Mr and Mrs Barker - George and Gertrude - had served MGS as caretaker/gardener and as cook. *The Maltonian* makes constant reference to the labours of George on the playing fields and in the gardens, and to the excellence of Mrs Barker's catering for parties and for Old Maltonian reunions. It describes them as 'real friends of the school'. Gertrude retired in March 1945, George two years later.

George and Gertrude were replaced as caretakers by Mr and Mrs A Dowding, who were to serve MGS for many years; Arthur always helping with backstage work at dramatic productions, constructing a cricket pavilion and often holding forth on his wartime experiences. In 1948, a new cook, Mrs Boyes, was appointed, as was a new gardener, known to all simply as Raymond.

Above:

WOODWORK 1951

Herbert Mudge supervising a class. He took over from Walter Metcalfe as woodwork teacher in 1939, retiring in 1953.

Below:

THE ORCHESTRA 1948

Ken Beverley with the school orchestra in the late 1940s. Mr Mudge is at the rear with his double bass, and Mr Barty is seated just to the left of centre with his 'cello. The conductor on the right is Mr Hudson - not a member of the teaching staff. A photo sent in by Janet Robson.



SCHOOL SPORT

School sport was also affected by the war, not least because of the cost of transport for 'unnecessary activity', though some inter-school matches continued for much of the time.

MGS continued to produce fine individual athletes. *The Maltonian* of 1937 expressed the hope that Vic Wilson, who had just left school and was playing cricket in the Yorkshire League, would become 'our first County and England Cricketer'; a hope to be realised in the future, as Vic went on to score 20539 runs for Yorkshire between 1948 and 1962, and become the first professional captain of Yorkshire in 1960. Fred Trueman says in his autobiography, *As It Was* (2004):

Vic was a very tall, physically strong guy. He was a very good, sometimes spectacular, left-handed batsman, especially when the ball didn't turn. His bravery and his huge hands - they were like shovels - made him a wonderful short-leg fieldsman. When the team heard of Vic's appointment as captain we were unanimous in our approval.

The annual sports day continued to be an athletic and social occasion. Some excellent photographs remain, taken by Mr Masser, who had a photographic studio in the town. In 1942 cricket matches were played against the RAF and local village teams. By 1943, the quad. was used for netball and in 1944 an advanced gymnastics class was founded. Rounders became popular, and inter-school matches were introduced. Inter-house basketball was introduced in 1947 and after a call for matches against other schools, they were introduced in 1951. FA football coaching began again in 1947 and within two years the school had one of its strongest football teams; comparisons were made with those of the 1920s, when Bruce Rolls, the sports master, had played regularly. One special member of the 1949 team was Terry Dyson, later to play for Tottenham Hotspur in their league and cup double winning side of 1961, and European cup winners 1963. Dyson's skills were not confined to the football field: in 1947 he took six wickets for thirteen runs in one cricket fixture, whilst in another he scored seventy-five not out and took five for eleven.

Bottom right:

YORKSHIRE C.C. C. 1960

C Turner, P J Sharpe, J B Bolus, M Ryan, D Wilson, R K Platt, D E V Padgett, J Birkenshaw, G L Alcock, W B Stott, R Illingworth, D B Close, J V Wilson (Capt.) F S Trueman, J G Binks

Bottom left:

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1963 EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

Back Row: *Jimmy Greaves, Maurice Norman, Bill Brown, John White, Bobby Smith, Tony Marchi.*
Front Row: **Terry Dyson**, Ron Henry, Danny Blanchflower, Peter Baker, Cliff Jones.



It is of credit to the enthusiasm of the pupils and to the efforts of the staff that a school, usually with less than two hundred pupils, could field so many teams and play with such success.



Top:

FOOTBALL TEAM 1943-4

A photo sent to me by Ray Metcalfe from Scarborough in May 2002.

When so many old photos are difficult to date, it is good to see the use made of the football in such group photos.

Middle:

CRICKET TEAM 1945

This is a picture donated by Brian Thompson on a surprise 70th birthday visit to school in March 2001, organised by his family. Brian is 2nd from right at the back. Rowsby, Coverdale, Melvyn Crawshaw and Ken Patterson are probably in the picture as well. Bruce Rolls is in the centre.

Bottom:

FOOTBALL TEAM 1948-9

A photo from Mrs Williams' album.

Sadly no names provided.



SPORTS DAY 1938

Six photos showing the range of "sporting" activities in the 1930s. Others noted in *The Maltonian* are the stick and bottle race, potato race, girls' treacle tin race, girls' crawling egg and spoon race and boys' boat race

The slow bike race required participants to take as long as possible to complete the race, without placing feet on the ground or falling off. The obstacle race and tug of war look challenging, whilst the hurdles appears to involve full size farmyard gates!

In the picture of Mr Williams with visiting dignitaries, note the 'hut' in the background - the dining hall and gymnasium

I met Brian Goforth in 2002, who pointed out that he won the race in the picture, with 'Anderson' coming second. The picture is misleading - Brian is the second from left in the picture.





GIRLS' SPORTS

Pictures from Mrs Williams' album - probably 1944.

Once again the sports are not Olympic disciplines. The skipping race seems clear enough, throwing and catching the netball presumably was some kind of team relay, as was no doubt the bucket race - fetch something and place in the bucket.

Probable rules for the suitcase race I believe were that girls started with a suitcase full of clothes for an outing, and finished the race wearing the contents.



BOYS SPORTS 1941

Top left:

HIGH JUMP

A superb photo of Dave Thackray demonstrating how to do the high jump in straddle fashion, long before Dick Fosbury invented his 'flop.' The landing mat in those days was two inches thick, made of coconut fibre. Fosbury landed on a more comfortable bed of foam.

Top right:

DAVE THACKRAY

Dave in 2003 when he visited the school and brought in some photos.

Middle:

CHARIOT RACE

A team of five boys form the chariot, then a rider is added on top. Two photos sent in by Janet Robson and Norman Race, of the 1947 and 1948 sports days.

Bottom:

LOG RACE? BOAT RACE?

This is one of the more bizarre races that the school dreamt up - a log race. I can only guess what the rules are - do the boys hand the log down, or keep it in position with the team for the length of the track? Possibly it is the 'Boat Race' mentioned in 'The Maltonian' - the picture does mirror a crew of eight oarsmen and a cox.





FORM V 1945

*A photo submitted by Diana Kirkwood
Jeff Sagar, Eric Coverdale, Norman
(Baggy) Wright, Andrew Barton
A Barty, David Long, Ken Paterson,
Richard Sawdon, Eric Cocking, Derek
Horsley, Gus Hickling, Doris
Proudfoot, ..., Sheila Coates, Barbara
Spencer, Elizabeth Richardson, Joan
Sturdy, Doreen Eagle, Dorothy Blake,
Nancy Driver, Diana Kirkwood, Elsie
Grice, ...*

THE PUPILS

During the headship of Mr Williams, changes were made to the procedures for joining and leaving the school. In 1937 he said that entry should be standardised for children aged ten to eleven, and that all pupils should stay until they reached the age of sixteen. There was an improvement in academic standards: the average number of School Certificate passes in the 1940s was 22.4, compared with 12.8 in the 1930s. 1944 saw the best record in Higher Certificate, with six successful candidates.

In 1942 Iain Mackinnon became the first pupil to win a county major scholarship, but whilst at the prize-giving of 1944 record examination results of twenty-seven School Certificates were awarded, the following years saw only six boys in form V and four in form VI. Progress was thus uneven, but given the problems brought by the war, there was cause for satisfaction. School numbers varied, reaching a pre-war record of one hundred and seventy-two.



SPORTS GROUP 1941

*A photo taken at the 1941 sports day
W G Kirkwood, W Chanby,
E Farnell, K Smith, A Clark, K Fish,
J D Thackray, P Denison,
R Thackray, W Tweddle
Names and photo provided by Dave
Thackray in 2003*

Top right:

FORM V 1944

*A photo sent in by Ray Metcalfe.
Sadly no names provided.*

Middle right:

MISS TAYLOR's FORM 1944

*When they were in the sixth form.
Photo from Norman Race, also sent by
Barbara Johnson, who is in the picture
as head girl, Barbara Nicholls.*

Bottom right:

FORM VI 1946

*Michael Vasey, Andrew Barton, Diana
Kirkwood, Elsie Taylor, Jean Moon,
Sheila Coates, Eric Coverdale, Alfred
Barty, Richard Sawdon, Barbara
Spencer, Joan Sturdy, Lucy Taylor,
Joan Atkinson, Pat Boyle, David Long
Sent by Diana Kirkwood.*





Top left:

JOYCE MARY WILSON

Demonstrating her school uniform. A photo brought in by her grandson, Adam Wright, when he started Malton School in 2001



Top right:

OUTSIDE FORM V'S WINDOW, 1947

Sent in by Kitty Thackray.

Dick Thornton, Brian Dawson, Gwen Crowther, Evelyn Boyes, Renee Hesletine, Jean Weldon, Lily Jefferson and two French visitors (on exchange from Roubaix.)



Below right:

QUARTET

A small snapshot sent in by Margaret Paulin (née Clarkson). Madge Jenson, Enid Clarkson, Ivy Mitchell and one other.

Below:

FORM V 1946

Sent in by Sheila Lownsbrough (née Coverdale) in Feb 2006. She notes the following are included: Miss Taylor and Mr Barty; Margaret Clarkson, Dolly Hickes, Evelyn Danby, Kathleen Martin, Maureen Ash, Rowena Berry



Bottom:

FORM V 1947

A group photo sent in by Norman Race in 2002. It is also in Mrs Williams' album. Sadly no names.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE 1938

A school party outside Buckingham Palace, at the beginning of a ten day 'continental trip', Easter 1938. The school party enjoyed the sights of London before departing for Belgium and Holland.

From Mrs Williams' album.



SCHOOL TRIPS

Involvement outside the classroom can also be seen in the wide range of extra-curricular activities which flourished. School visits were features before and after the war: in 1938 an Easter tour, consisting of twenty-three pupils and two members of staff went to Bruges and Holland, with a visit later that year to the British Empire exhibition in Glasgow. Only twelve months after the war, a party went to Holland and visited the site of the Battle of Arnhem. Many of the visits, like those held during the headship of Mr Watts, were organised by Mr Barty.

In 1947 links were made with two schools in Roubaix, in northern France (Insitut Sévigné and Institut Turgot) and this marked the start of an exchange scheme which was to last for many years.

There were many visits closer to home, often with links to the curriculum: to the mines and glass works at Castleford; to Leeds and Scarborough to see French plays and to museums in Leeds. Public transport, rather than hired coaches, was used for many excursions, which must have made organisation much more difficult.



BELGIUM 1938

Waiting for a ferry from Breskens to Flushing (both in Holland). Easter 1938.



2ND MGS GUIDES 1943

A photo sent in via Howard Fox in November 2002. The guides are pictured with dolls made for the children of the "Free French" fighters 1943

*Back Row: Margaret Clarkson, Doreen Eagle (Newland High School Evacuee), "Olive", Elsie Grice, Kathleen Barr, Margaret Inman
Centre: Nancy Driver, Joan Sturdy, Beryl Wood, Mary Kirk, Grace Freer, Heather Thackray*

Front: Doreen Wilkinson, Aileen Sturdy, Dorothy Blake, Doreen Edwards, Alleyne (Betty) Atkinson, Jean Errington

SCOUTS AND GUIDES

Scouting and guiding were both popular, although activities were limited because of staff shortages and other economic problems during the war, though even in 1940 the guides held an August camp and in 1942, thirty eight girls were members of the troop.

The scouts were re-formed in 1943 and had twenty six members. In 1947, the scouts collected 7,000 jam jars, thus raising £29-11-0 for their funds. Supply problems remained and the following year an appeal was made for second-hand uniforms. At that time, Mr Williams was awarded the Silver Acorn for his services to scouting. In 1949, each scout raised 3/6 and as a result a ton of logs was bought and given to the old people of Malton. In 1951, the guides held a rally on the school field, which was attended by the wife of the chief scout, Lady Baden-Powell.



Bottom left:

MALTON GUIDES 1946/7

Includes: Ella Spencer, Janet Robson, Ishbel MacKinnon, Moreen Sagar, Diana Laverack, Kitty Thackray, Cathleen Crowther, Barbara Spencer, Miss Lumsden, Diana Kirkwood

A photo sent by Kitty Thackray, and by Janet Robson

Bottom right:

LADY BADEN POWELL

Chief guide Lady Baden Powell at Malton School in 1951



SCOUT CAMP 1949

Three pictures from Mrs Williams' album of a typical camp, probably at Carlton Bank





THE AIR TRAINING CORPS

Mr Williams initiated and commanded the ATC during the war, as well as organising the home guard. Having already served in the navy and the army, this gave him a connection with all three armed forces.

Above:

Cadet parade up Wheelgate, with Mr Williams and Mr Barty leading the ATC.. Suddabys Crown Hotel and F W Woolworths are in the background.

Below:

The ATC in 'skins' outside Malton School. Sometime in the 1940s.



THE ORCHESTRA 1949

*Mr Beverley leads the musicians as they play outside for the 1949 production of *As You Like It*. Mr Mudge, Mr Barty and Mr Bratt help out on bass, 'cello and recorder.*



MUSIC AND DRAMA

Music and drama continued to play an important part in the life of the grammar school. In 1937 violin classes were held and there was a thriving orchestra. In 1940, twenty pupils were learning the recorder - more than ten percent of the school population. Individual forms continued to give concerts, often to raise money during the war, and a school concert of music and dancing was held in 1945.

Dramatic productions began once again after the war. At first they were extracts from plays presented by a year group at a school 'concert' - a miscellany of music, song, dance, speech and drama. For example in April 1946 form II put on *The Sad Tale of Pyramus and Thisbe* (in Latin); form III put on *Pastorale* (in French), and form VI presented the *Comedy of Errors*, presumably in English. The following year the sixth form performed a French play *Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon*.

In 1948 a drama league (affiliated to The British Drama League, which loaned out copies of plays for a small fee) was started by Mr Rolls, and soon had thirty members, almost twenty percent of the school. Despite the availability of an indoor stage, plays continued to be produced on the outdoor stage - clearly popular and atmospheric, as fondly remembered

THE SIGMA RHYTHM HEPTET 1944

Vincent Cable, Peter Horsley, Ken Marwood, Derek Edwards and Bill Norton.

A photo donated by Janet Marwood, when she visited the school in September 2002 for her year's reunion. The band includes her father Ken, and was formed to play at the school concert in 1944, but also played other concerts in Malton.

The picture was taken in the Milton Rooms.



by many former pupils who look for it when they return to visit the school. A line of privet hedging is all that remains, the demands of car parking and the new (1958) extensions changing the ground plan. In 1951, Shaw's *Arms and the Man* was presented, the first full length play on the indoor stage.

In addition to music and drama, other extra-curricular activities were many and varied: French circles were organised; house parties were held; hobbies meetings were held; a group of the English Speakers' Union existed - just three examples from the pages of *The Maltonian*.



THREE PLAYS

From the school concert in 1946.

Form II performed Pyramus and Thisbe in Latin, Form III put on Pastorale in French, and form V and form VI, The Comedy of Errors. Sadly the names in the cast lists, taken from The Maltonian, are not aligned with the actors in the photos.

Top:

PYRAMUS AND THISBE

Cast: Ronald Hepton, Pat Lund, Ishbel Mackinnon, Pat O'Connor, John Pattison, Hedley Porter, Sheila Robinson, Janet Robson, Norman Turner, Alan Vasey (the Lion), Eric Wood

Middle:

PASTORALE

Names provided, in order, by Kitty Thackray in 2003:

Maureen Snowball, Kitty Thackray, Joan Heron, Peter Bewes, Tony Wood, Keith Cass, Peter Wells, Colin Bramley

Bottom:

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Joan Atkinson, A Barton, Sheila Coates, E Coverdale, Diana Kirkwood, Jean Moon, R Pattison, R Rowsby, Maureen and J Sagar, R Sawdon, T Tate-Smith, Elsie Taylor M Vasey, M Wrangham

**LE VOYAGE DE
MONSIEUR PERRICHON**
*Staged in French by Form VI,
April 1947.*

The cast:

*M Perrichon – Diana Kirkwood
Mme Perrichon – Barbara Spencer
Daniel Savary – Rowena Berry
Armand Desraches – Sheila Coates
Le Porteur – Kathleen Martin
Majorin – Grace Freer
Jean – Kathleen Martin
Commandant – Cathleen Crowther
La marchande – Jean Clarke
L'aubergiste – Greta Wardle*

In addition to in-school productions, a variety of school visits were organized from time to time, mostly locally to plays and concerts at Leeds, York and Scarborough.

Visitors to the school included dramatic groups, for example the Osiris Players who performed *Macbeth* in 1946, and guests spoke on diverse topics at speech days or at evening events, as for example when a Dr Ghose spoke on India in 1948.





AS YOU LIKE IT JULY 1949

A 'pastoral play' performed on the outside stage. Shirley Wheatley (née Hornsey) sent in the full cast photo at the bottom of the page, together with names of the cast (possibly in order, possibly not!).

Top:

Pat Lund as Phoebe, and possibly Ramsden as Corin the shepherd



Below:

Brenda Holmes, Chris Tyson, and Shirley Hornsey

Below:

Probably Margaret Holliday, Chris Tyson, and Margorie Thackray

Bottom:

Thackray, Lamb, Burley, Flynn, Slaughter, Irvine, Muir, Dyson, Cundell, Bower, Fletcher, Rolls, Rollinson, Ramsden, Tyson, M Holliday, M Thackray, D Taylor, P Lund, M Jarvis, Brenda Holmes, Shirley Hornsey



**MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM**

Cast: (as listed in the Maltonian - no first names!)

Flynn, Hodgson, Tyson, Bower, Kidd, Cook, Stubbings, Dyson, Hickes, Jackson, Robson, S Nendick, H Kitching, L. Spooner, Rolls, G Campbell, M Holliday, M Gray, Y Cook, J Armitage, B Jackson

Bottom right:

FAIRIES

A photo sent by Shirley Wheatley (née Hornsey) who lists the names of the girls as Jean, Beryl, Mary, Yvonne and Gillian. The fairies and queen are positively radiating a magical light in a magical photo.

The debt of gratitude to Mr Masser continues, for some excellent photos of the dramatic casts. The picture below, of 'Holly' (Margaret Holliday), as Puck is particularly fine. I was fortunate enough to meet Margaret and her husband, Jim Muir (also an Old Maltonian), when they visited the school on the 14th April 2000 - they had come up from Newport in Wales for a fiftieth anniversary reunion of Norton scouts the following day. John Lamb was with them on this visit. Sadly I did not have my camera to hand when they called.



Below:

MARGARET HOLLIDAY

Margaret Holliday as Puck.



THE 1944 EDUCATION ACT and GCE's

The 1944 Education Act was to have a profound effect on Malton Grammar School, when it took voluntary controlled status. Whilst it thus maintained some independence, many changes were made: the majority of governors were to be appointed from local secular bodies, as determined by the two local education authorities (East and North Ridings). The powers of appointment and dismissal of staff passed to the authorities, though the governors continued to have considerable influence.

Other changes affected the pupils even more as the 1944 act stated that secondary education was to be available for all children and grammar schools were to develop an education for pupils who had shown an academic aptitude in the 'eleven plus' examinations. So, for the first time, in 1945 all new entrants to Malton Grammar School had passed this examination. Until this time, only half of the pupils had obtained a scholarship, the rest paying fees, which, just before the act was passed, stood at twelve guineas a year, plus thirty shillings a year for textbooks. Standards had been maintained to some extent by the rule that all entrants had to pass an entrance examination, the North Riding minor scholarship examination, introduced in 1937, being used as a standard during the headship of Mr Williams. As a result of the act academic standards were set to rise.

Further change was to come at the end of Mr Williams' headship, as in 1951 a new system of examinations, the General Certificate of Education, replaced the old School Certificate. In the first year of its existence, thirty two pupils at Malton would obtain an 'O' Level certificate, with eight achieving passes at 'A' Level.



SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

*Joyce Wilson's certificate, c.1947.
Replaced by the new O level GCE in 1951*

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1947





Here: Flying officer Wilf Wise pictured in uniform during his wartime service.

WILF WISE

Old Maltonian Wilf Wise was captured and held prisoner in the infamous Stalag Luft 3, made famous in the film The Great Escape. He worked for MI6 while in captivity. He survived, returned to Malton, and lived his later years in Scarborough until his death in 2002, age 85. He was awarded the MBE for his good works in the community.

Photo from Yorkshire Post article in May 2002.

THE WAR, THE MALTONIAN AND THE OMA

The Maltonian continued to be published, usually twice a year. Old Maltonians clearly valued the magazine as a focal point for staying in touch, particularly as many travelled far and wide due to the war.

Science teacher Mr Beverley was appointed Malton's gas identification officer; pupils collected wool for knitting; a satirical 'Dispatch to Adolf Hitler' appeared, as did descriptions of the shooting down of a Heinkel bomber. Senior pupils worked on the land in the summer holidays; the guides made dolls for the children of the Free French fighters, and the school garden was used to grow vegetables - by 1942 most of the pupils had their own potato patches.

By the end of 1940 children from five other schools were using the buildings of MGS and more than half of form II were evacuees. The school welcomed Mother Monica and the staff and children of Newlands Convent School, Middlesbrough. Over two hundred pupils were expected from Hull, though in the end only twenty-nine arrived. The new arrivals put a great strain on accommodation, with Malton pupils using the classrooms in the mornings and the visitors in the afternoons.

One evacuee from Hull, Doreen Wilkinson, wrote to me in 2002. She remembers that when sweet coupons were exhausted, pupils bought carrots, which were on sale at school. Other memories include George Barker, the caretaker, giving away apples and allowing pupils to warm themselves in the boiler room. She also recollects how pupils crawled along the rafters from the domestic science room until they were above the staff room, and so could overhear conversations there; a foot through the ceiling brought an end to this activity!



PAT MITCHELL c1942

A picture of former pupil Pat Mitchell, whose name is on the In Memoriam list, killed in action in 1943. Pat is second from right in the picture, enjoying a laugh and a cup of tea, or possibly something stronger.

Photo from Mrs Williams' album.

Later, some of the evacuees were moved to the Pioneer Club in Spital Street, and the congestion was slightly relieved

Pupils had to carry gas masks and a practice in their use was held every Wednesday. First aid training was given and air raid practices were held. Mr Williams was in charge of the ATC. Petrol restrictions meant that the cricket pitch couldn't be cut with a motor mower, but scythes were used and matches continued to be held. Old Maltonians were asked to return any textbooks and hymnbooks which they may have at home in an attempt to solve the shortages which were being experienced.

One sad duty *The Maltonian* performed was to list those missing or killed during the war. The first was John Hollington, in the RAF, the last, John Holliday, was killed by American bombs shortly before the cease fire, whilst a prisoner.

In 1941 news was given of the death of Miss Marion Edwards, the school's first senior mistress, who was killed in an air raid taking refreshments to fire fighters. Old Maltonians were involved in many of the major actions of the war. Just three examples are Harold Barlow, who was killed in the attack on the battleship 'Bismarck'; Alec Dale, who fell at the defence of Tobruk and Ken Lunn, taken prisoner after the Battle of Arnhem.

Many Maltonians received honours for their gallantry: again three examples are an MBE awarded to Eric Wilson, who had commanded the hospital ship 'Newfoundland', sunk by an air attack at Salerno; Robert Cooper was awarded the DFC and John Frankish received the Military Medal in Java.

This memorial appeared in The Maltonian at the rear of every issue from Issue 93 (December 1947)

In Memoriam
ERNEST LORAIN WATT
Founder of the Old Maltonian Association

GEOFFREY ASH	JOHN HOLLIDAY
HAROLD BARLOW	JOHN HOLLINGTON
CECIL BARR	EDGAR HOPPERTON
JACK BINNIE	BILLY HUDSON
SIDNEY BOWES	OWEN LAVERACK
ARTHUR J CALVERT	JOHN LUPTON
DONALD CANHAM	MARK LUPTON
WALTER CATTLE	GODFREY MENNELL
ALEC DALE	PAT MITCHELL
MARION EDWARDS	G WALLACE PIERCY
REX FOWLES	WILFRED SOWERSBY
LOUIS GLYNN	EDMUND TAYLOR
WILLIAM GOODWILL	JACK THEASBY

Who gave their lives in the Great Wars.
1914/18 and 1939/45



Top:

NEWLANDS EVACUEES 1940

Girls from Newlands School, Middlesbrough, putting on a PT display at Malton Grammar School in 1940

Middle:

EVACUEES PARTY 1939

A party was held for boys and girls on Boxing Day 1939.

Bottom:

NETBALL PRACTICE

These three photos are stills from film taken by Mr Folliot Ward, a local solicitor and amateur photographer and film maker. This archive film of the evacuees is in the Yorkshire Film Archive at St John's College, York: yfa@yorks.ac.uk

There were happier tidings to report of Old Maltonians during the war: Eric Robson gained a first class honours degree in history at Manchester University, where he later lectured and wrote for the new edition of the *Cambridge Modern History*. A wedding gift was presented by the Old Maltonians Association to Mr and Mrs Williams. There are reports of sports matches played against the school and dances were held frequently. In 1945 Vic Wilson was selected by Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Two years later *The Maltonian* reports him gaining his County cap.

It was perhaps appropriate that it was in the one hundredth edition of *The Maltonian* that another milestone in the school's history was announced: the retirement of Mr Williams. Illness had already brought periods of absence. As chairman of governors, recently appointed Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding, Sir William Worsley, wrote:

Mr Williams had a profound influence over a whole generation of our boys and girls and their success in life and their love for him and the School will be his lasting reward. We shall miss him very much, but our uppermost feeling is one of gratitude for a task well done

And Mr Barty, long-time colleague of TAW, wrote of him:

It was through his wisdom and courage under difficulties that M.G.S. has come through the War and the post-war period.

And so the scene was set for a new chapter under a new headteacher: Mr Philip Taylor. In his first speech day he mentions Mr Williams' parting gift to the school, a bible, which bore the inscription 'To M.G.S. from T.A.W.' Mr Taylor comments:

The inscription shows the essential humility of the man,
the gift his Christianity.

MGS BADGES

Prefects' enamel pin badges and an embroidered cap badge from the period.

