

Old Michaelian Association

The Mitre



Autumn
2005
Edition

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The Mitre is the newsletter of the
Old Michaelian Association

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Chairman's Letter

A warm welcome to the Autumn 2005 edition of The Mitre. The committee met at Simon's in Bury St. Edmunds on April 17th and again on 24th July on their behalf I send you their best wishes for health and happiness as we all get a bit longer in the tooth! If any of you have ever thought of joining the committee, let me assure you that lunch and relaxing conversation in Ounce House are certainly part of the perks of the job.

If there are any of you who have considered coming to a reunion but are unsure of whether your contemporaries will be present, there are details elsewhere in this edition of how you can log onto the OMA website and leave your name saying you are CONSIDERING coming and is there anyone out there who knows you who might join you. If you do this early enough who knows what reply might be forthcoming and with what success.

It would also be enjoyable if some of you could give us an anecdote about the school at the end of the Reunion dinner in October. Although it's nerve-racking to stand up and say a few words, I can assure you any contribution will be very well received by a receptive audience.

There's always a need for copy for The Mitre, so as this production is being put to bed, the plaintive eerie cry of a Martin can be heard - " more, more, more", for the Autumn edition. Any snippets will be extraordinarily welcome. This is a real case of you get out of this publication what you put in! Just e-mail it and someone will sort it out. Which brings me to Martin's cry for assistance with the editing of The Mitre which has to date fallen on deaf ears; there must be someone out there who could lend a hand now that everything can be passed so quickly and easily by means of e-mail?

Next year will be the 60th anniversary of the founding of the school. If anyone has any ideas that could be seriously considered to add to the usual mix of good company that I think we have at the moment, then by all means let us know before the next AGM, which incidentally will be held at 3.30pm on Saturday 29th October at the Le Strange Arms. For those of you who are coming for the weekend it would be great to see more of you adding to the debate on where and what we do from here on in!

Whenever I have been up to the Le Strange recently it is busy irrespective of the time of year so I do suggest that those who wish to stay there over the weekend, book your rooms as early as you can - just a thought.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in October.

Kind regards

Ian Dupont.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 30 October 2004 at Le Strange Arms Hotel, Old Hunstanton

Present: President (Simon Pott)

Michael Catterick (Chairman) Ruth Chilvers, Bill Cullin, Pat Frost, Martin Graville, Robert Hill, Geoff Kimberley, John King, Louise Taylor and Mike Chilvers (co-opted), 20 attended.

1. Apologies:

Roy Brown, Tony George, Tom Healey, Bill Kelly, Chris Mayes, Cliff Wallington, Peter Yarker, All OMAA's.

2. Minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting:

The Chairman presented the minutes of the 2003 AGM and asked the membership to accept the contents as a true record of proceedings.
This was accepted.

3. Matters arising.

None.

4. President's welcome:

Simon welcomed all those who had made the effort to attend the AGM and particularly two members who had not attended for many years. David Durham from Malvern, and Soussan Barkhordari (Susan Froozan) and her husband from Michigan. Susie made an entry in the 'guestbook' on 24 April which was repeated in the Spring 2004 Mitre. Sadly her brother Homayoun (Homi) who also attended the school from 1950-55 and was a member of the film team, died 5 years ago.

5. Chairman's report and welcome to OMAA.

The Chairman thanked all those who were present for attending the AGM as he always felt that attending them was a way that members could show their appreciation of all the work that the committee does over the year. He continued by particularly thanking the President, Simon Pott, the Secretary, John King, the two treasurers over the period of Chairmanship, Ian Dupont and Geoff Kimberley. The Chairman also thanked Martin Graville for all he does on the Mitre and Bill Cullin for all he does on the web site. He then read out a letter from the OMAA regarding their recent first re-union and t h e i r thanks for the round of drinks donated by the OMA. Finally he wished to thank the OMA for giving him the privilege of being their Chairman over the last three years and wished his successors all good wishes for their time in office.

6. Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts.

Geoff said that the figures were similar to last year's except that the costs of donations and flowers were down. The amount raised from the raffle at £365 was considerably higher.

7. Secretary's report.

John wished to thank Martin for publishing news of the new vicar of Ingoldisthorpe. Also that Roger Wikeley would be blessing the memorial seat to Peg Hayes Williams at the church service on Sunday 31st October at the request of the Parochial Church Council. This information had come from Eric Bocking, the organist who always kept him informed of items of relevance to the OMA. The Association was most grateful for all the help and information which Eric gave each year.

John also read out a short article taken from the Parish magazine written by the headteacher of the school which was relevant as the meeting was about to discuss the prize to the school.

8 & 9 Membership, Mitre & Website Reports for the year ended 30th September 2004

I beg to report the membership of the Old Michaelian Association at the above date is as follows

2003 figures in brackets

Full Members	170	(160)		
Honorary Members	9	(8)		
Life Members	7	(6)	Total Members	186 (174)
			Lapsed	34 (40)
			Non Members	110 (111)
			Total of known OM's	330 (325)

After a very successful 2003 reunion recruiting campaign we have increased our membership to 186. This is the net figure after deducting the three unpaid subscriptions from 2003. There are still 17 unpaid subscriptions for 2004.

The website www.oma.org.uk has found another 5 'missing' Michaelian's and its value as a resource for the gathering of news, for the quick dissemination of information, as a repository of pictures, Mitres (both pdf and web style) and other items of general interest to Members and, of course, its ability to enable Michaelian's of all periods of the School's history to contact and join the Association cannot be emphasised enough.

157 hard-copies of the Autumn Mitre were distributed and 36 electronic (pdf) versions, some to non-members in the hope that they will join the OMA. It is still difficult to persuade Members to provide copy, those that will however, do so on a regular basis, and my grateful thanks to them. I should however very much like to hear from a wider range of Michaelian's with their tidings and occurrences

We are still seeking an assistant editor of the Mitre with the view to my relinquishing the post next year, 7 years will have been long enough for anybody to have to put up with my trials and tribulations!! If anyone is of a mind to don the mantle, now is the time to say so, the only proviso being that you should have a computer with "MS Publisher" installed and with internet access, there is a technical reason for this because of the way the Mitre is printed and published.

With all due consideration another successful year for the Old Michaelian Association, I look forward to the next one and I commend these reports to the meeting.

Martin.

10. Website Editor's report

Bill apologised for blank pages in some of the Autumn copies of the Mitre which should have shown the previous set of accounts. This was due to a technical error in the printing process.

11. OMA Prize (Committee recommendation for approval)

The notes agreed at the last Committee meeting were read out by the Chairman, and this meeting was generally in agreement with what had been proposed. The only change being that the *prize* should be changed to 'award', following Peter Yarker's suggested change. It was felt that it should be an annual award and, as Bob Hill had already said, it must be seen to be a 'special achievement'.

Pat Frost suggested that a plate should be devised to denote that the award had been given by the OMA, (in recognition of a pupil who had shown exceptional effort perhaps following a setback in life, and not for academic achievement), and that this plate would

be suitable for a book or whatever gift was decided as most appropriate. Martin agreed to ask Barbara Graville if she would produce a suitable plate.

Bill Kelly had written to say that he thought it an imaginative idea to fund an annual award and as a result had forwarded a donation ‘‘ to get the show on the road’’ for which the Association was most grateful.

12. **Chairman’s recommendation for consideration.** That a memorandum be attached to our constitution that the Chairman or the elected representative of a national branch of our Association is automatically an honorary member of the OMA committee and that this be presented at the next AGM for inclusion in our Constitution.

OMAA Direct contact with honorary member.

The corresponding member for Australia was Chris Winter, with Clifford Wallington representing the USA. Motion agreed.

13. **President will declare result of election followed by his report.**
Simon thanked Michael for all that he had achieved during his three years as Chairman. It was now time to find a successor in order that Michael can spend more time on his other commitments in York.

14 **Election of Chairman.**

Michael Chilvers nominated Ian Dupont who agreed to stand. As his undoubted qualities had in the past been invaluable whilst serving as a committee member. His nomination was agreed unanimously.

15. **Election of Secretary.**

John was proposed by Michael Catterick and he agreed to stand for another year.

16. **Election of Treasurer.**

Geoff having completed an invaluable job had resigned due to considerable domestic commitments and running a business. As a result Ruth Chilvers was proposed by Bill Cullin and seconded by Mukhlis Oweis.

Other committee members.

The other Committee members were re-elected including Michael Catterick who wished to stay on the Committee. The one addition was Rachel Golby who was proposed by Louise Taylor.

17. **Suggestions for the 2005 reunion weekend.**

No substantial changes proposed.

18. **Any other relevant business.**

As 2006 would be the 60th anniversary of the start of the school and therefore would attract greater numbers to the reunion, it was time to consider ideas to improve the weekend for spouses and partners who were non OM’s. Any ideas from OM’s and particularly spouses would be welcomed.

With the proposed sale of part of the old rectory at Ingoldisthorpe it was suggested that some record of its previous existence as a school should be recorded along the lines of ‘a blue plaque’. This would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Pat Frost suggested that greater use of local newspapers for the Anglian region should be used for advertising the reunions. For example the Eastern Daily Press has a column like ‘What’s on this weekend’.

Valerie Fendick(Jermyn) asked about absentee members and how to recruit more of them. Committee members were continually networking to encourage the return of ex- pupils, and the web has proved successful in finding 12 more this year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.50 pm.

The Committee for 2004/5 is as follows:-

President - Simon Pott

Treasurer - Ruth Chilvers

Member Secretary & Mitre editor - Martin Graville

Chairman - Ian Dupont

Secretary - John King

Website Editor - Bill Cullin

Michael Catterick , Pat Frost , Rachel Golby, Robert Hill, Louise Taylor , Mike Chilvers (Co-opted.)

The OMA Prize is to be awarded following the criteria as laid out below

AN AWARD TO A PUPIL OF INGOLDISTHORPE V.A. C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

1. The award will be known as the Old Michaelian Award.
2. The suggestion of the Old Michaelian Association is that the award might be given to a pupil who has shown exceptional effort perhaps following a setback in life.
3. The award will be a gift to the value of £25. The Old Michaelian Association Committee will renew the value of the award every five years starting in 2009. Any change will be effective from the following year. The Committee will notify the Head of the school of any change.
4. The school will notify the Old Michaelian Association of their choice of winner and the reason for it. The Association will then send a cheque on a standing order at the beginning of May and leave it to the discretion of the school what should be purchased for the child, by whom and what for.
5. The Old Michaelian Association reserves the right to withhold the award.
6. In the event that Ingoldisthorpe School should close, the Association will cease to offer the award.
7. The Association will produce a certificate to be given to the pupil.

Donald Rumsfeld is giving the president his daily briefing. He concludes by saying: "Yesterday, 3 Brazilian soldiers were killed."

"OH NO!" the President exclaims. "That's terrible!"

His staff sits stunned at this display of emotion, nervously watching as the President sits, head in hands.

Finally, the President looks up and asks, "How many is a brazillion?"

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the supermarket but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked an assistant,

"Do These turkeys get any bigger?"

The assistant replied,

"No ma'am, they're dead."



Eric Bocking R.I.P.

Sadly we heard in December that Eric Bocking had died.

Eric was a Churchwarden at Ingoldisthorpe for many years. He and his wife Margaret were always on hand to help out with the OMA. Any information we needed about St Michael's Church and with all local news. Including any old boys and old girls who turned up wanting news of what was going on, and he was always ready to put up posters to advertise the reunion.

David and I used to stay at the Le Strange several times a year and we would call on Margaret and Eric just to have a natter and talk about past times and the fun we all had. We would be greeted with a cup of tea and biscuits, it was a nice port of call and will always be remembered.

Our very best wishes and thoughts go out to Margaret and we trust and hope that we shall still see her on the Sunday morning at St Michael's Church each OMA weekend.

Eric will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Rachel Golby

a word from our President

I very much look forward to seeing a good number of Old Michaelian's at Old Hunstanton for our traditional weekend on the 29th and 30th October.

The Committee have organised something which is perhaps traditional and innovative and it is always the greatest joy to see who has returned after many years in the Absent Book! Any former pupil whom we have not seen for some time is especially welcomed and for the more senior members I hardly need tell you that the School having been founded in 1946 next year will be the Diamond Jubilee!

Please send any news through the OMA website, and let us know where you are, what you are doing and how life is treating you. The old faithful will be back at the Le Strange Hotel at the end of the month and we all look forward to seeing you there.

Simon



Thoughts & Observations from Hinckley Towers

It is a little while since I made a contribution to The Mitre and, I must say, I thought I must have upset Martin and the whole of the OMA Committee when the Spring edition of the Newsletter failed to dump itself on my doormat this year.

What have I been up to during 2005?

Well, no exotic holiday's for us this year. We decided to stay in the UK and in April made our way north back to Dumfries and Galloway and to a beautiful Hotel we found two years previously at Balcary Bay. I suppose we did take a tiny bit of a chance with the weather and it did not disappoint us one bit. One minute we enjoyed brilliant sunshine and the next we were shrouded in thick mist and driving rain. At least when the weather allowed us to see further than our noses we delighted in the stunning countryside and views.

In June we decided to go back to the Isle of Wight. Well, when I say go back I mean go back, since I had not stepped foot on the Island since boyhood and I have the photographs to prove it.

We stayed in Bembridge and I have to say what a simply delightful place the IOW proved to be. We tried to visit as many places as possible around the island during our week long stay and one of the highlights of our visit was a drive across the island to The Needles.

The other big highlight of our visit to the IOW was that, after some 40 years, I managed to play around with Felicity. No, you misunderstand me.....I mean I managed to play A ROUND OF GOLF with Felicity.

Felicity and I have kept in touch with each other for many years and when Angela and I decided to holiday on the IOW this year I made sure that the golf clubs went into the car before the luggage! We had a great day on the golf course at Ryde and, although I am sure that Flip will recall a different story, we actually tied the game. Well, a man has to do what a man has to do!!

We are just about to depart for a few days at Rye and Hastings, neither of which I have ever visited before, so maybe the Editor will allow me to tell you all about that part of holiday in the next Newsletter.

My commitment to golf remains absolute and I try to master the game whenever time allows. Although I still remain a member at a local Golf Club here in Leicestershire, I do also play a lot of golf with a very dear friend of mine in Bakewell, Derbyshire. Not only is it necessary for a fair degree of fitness, but Bakewell demands that you resemble the agility of a mountain goat. It is therefore surprising to me that since I do not qualify on either of these terms, why I keep on playing the course!!

Due to other commitments here at home, it was impossible for me to attend the OMA Reunion weekend last year, but I am hoping to try and keep the said weekend free this year and join you all again.

Sorry this is so short this time around. I will try and do better next time.

Best Regards

John Wallington

Notes from the Guest Book

messages placed on the OMA Website
www.oma.org.uk

ari_spares@yahoo.co.uk

I have just found this site with the help of Steven Baxter. I was at St Michael's 1965-1969. I recognise many names on the email list, and I hope you remember mine.

Michael G. Jennings BSc (Hons), DipRS, OPL

dene.allerton@lineone.net

Hi,

Just found the site while browsing. I attended St. Michaels from 1968 to 1969 aged 10, with my Brother Steven aged 13. Don't know if anyone will remember me or my brother. I am now living in Kings Lynn and Steve is somewhere in Yorkshire. It was nice to see all those old names again.

Dene Allerton

julie.churchill@flying-club-conington.co.uk

Hello all,

I am Julie Churchill (Taylor) & I was at St. Michaels until 1969 with my brother Clive I Found the website when looking for something else - A very pleasant surprise.

Last saw any of you at the memorial service for Mr Pott but recognised so few & had little time spare!

I have recognised quite a few names & have revisited lots of memories.

I would especially like to say to Chris Gibbs how sorry I am to hear about Helen. I remember travelling to Canterbury on the train with Helen (& Chris as minder!) to spend time with their family who were very kind.

Does anybody remember David & Wendy King or Zana & Mark Juppenlatz?

Best Wishes

Julie Churchill (Taylor)

soussan7@aol.com

Hello, O.M.A.,

Just a short note to thank you all for a most enjoyable week end at Le Strange Arms, and the many, many kindnesses extended to Nasser and I while we were there. I truly felt like a long lost sister coming back to the fold, and even though it has been almost 50 years since we'd last met, I felt very comfortable and at ease with everyone.... the common denominator being the wonderful years we all spent together at St. Michael's. I got very nostalgic seeing all the old places that we frequented, and it was great. Even the weather was on our side. Thank you all again, for a very memorable few days.

We are now back in Michigan and I have been busy campaigning for "A Fresh Start", Kerry and Edwards. I'm off again and I hope by the end of the day, there will be a new president in the White House.

Sincerely, Susie Froozan (Barkhordari).

gibbs@elmstone50.fsnet.co.uk

Hi everyone, Thanks to the Committee and to those that came to the 2004 Reunion for making it another enjoyable weekend. Two nice additions to Sunday were the dedication of the memorial seat for Miss Hayes-Williams. I will always remember her geography lessons and in my last year the trip to the west country as part of the A level course which with her encouragement I passed. The other was a look around the outside of Ingoldisthorpe Rectory.

Whilst I am here, hello to Caroline Sutton. Yes, I remember you and Nick, although you were a class or two below me. I remember the plays, your picture appears in one of the programmes. How ironic that you posted a message here almost as we were meeting in Hunstanton! Please try to contact others that you know in the area and come along next year.

Best wishes,

Chris Gibbs. 64-69.

carolinejcrisp@hotmail.com

I have just spent the WHOLE morning looking through this website and so many memories are with me now. My name is Caroline Crisp (nee Sutton) and I attended the school, with my brother Nick (Nicholas Sutton) for 5 years between 1964 and 1969. I still live in Norfolk and my parents are still living in Heacham (no longer in Orange House). Nick lives with his family in Portsmouth. My fondest memories are of the plays we used to put on with Mr. White. I was in The Prince and the Pauper playing a peasant I think. I then took the role of Wendy in Peter Pan and finally a main role in Somewhere Over the Rainbow. My brother and I were day pupils but I remember spending so many evenings at Fridham and desperately wishing I could live there like everyone else!

Caroline Crisp



This is a photograph sent to me by John Wallington who says.....

Please find attached a little picture which you might consider including in the forthcoming Newsletter. For no other reason but to prove that I am still in the land of the living. And before anyone asks, the two young ladies are NOT holding me up!!

This is a magazine likely to read by children and ladies of a certain age who may be susceptible to fits of swooning so I was very dubious about including this but knowing John's clean, honest, sober and monk-like life I felt reassured (Editor:)



Clockwise from left: Chris Gibbs - Margaret Lee - Simon Pott - Lorraine Scoot
Steve Baxter - Joan Scoot - Edward Lee - Richard George



Sorry David, just couldn't resist!!!



Dedication of the seat in Ingoldisthorpe Churchyard
In memory of Margaret Hayes-Williams



From the left
Penny Vawser - Simon Pott - Mukhlis Oweis - Soussan Froozan - Frank Dixon
Nasser Barkhordari - Pat Dove - Ruth Peckover - Geraldine Moorhouse
Richard George - Reg Wood - Martin Graville



Top Row: Lorraine Scoot - Michael Chilvers - Michael Clark
 Middle Row: Charles Batchelor - Chris Gibbs - John Worboys
 Bottom Row: (back) Penny Vawser - Soussan Froozan (front) Geraldine Moorhouse - Valerie Jermyn - Pat Dove



Top Row: Michael Catterick - Martin Graville - Rachel Gunter - David Golby - Louise Thickett
 Second Row: David Durham - Bob Balshaw - Ronan Leslie - Simon Pott
 Third Row: Jeremy Le Poer Power - Margaret Lee - Jeremy Spalding
 Bottom Row: Geraldine Moorhouse - Pat Dove - Lorraine Scoot - Steven Gray



Clockwise from bottom left: Barbara Graville - Roger Wikeley - John Worboys - Rachel Gunter - David Golby - Louise Thickett - Ian Dupont - Bob Hill - Jeremy Le Poer Power - David Durham - Bob Balshaw - Martin Graville



Clockwise from bottom left: Ronan Leslie - Joan Ratcliff - Colin Ratcliff - Penny Vawser - Geraldine Moorhouse - Val Jermyn - Pat Dove - Soussan Froozan

Your Committee (and spouses) hard at work at the first 2004 meeting in
Bury St Edmunds



From left

David Golby - Mike Chilvers - Michael Catterick - Evelyn Catterick - John King - Barbara Graville
Bob Hill - Simon Pott - Louise Thickett - Rachel Gunter - Ian Dupont - Ruth Peckover - Bill Cullin - Pat Dove



Clockwise from bottom left

Michael Catterick - John King - Martin Graville - Simon Pott (part hidden)
Rachel Gunter - Bob Hill - Louise Thickett - Bill Cullin - Ian Dupont

Highlights of the OMA Spring committee meeting.

(with thanks to John King)

The Spring committee meeting took place on Sunday 17 April 2005 at Simon Pott's home in Bury St Edmunds. There was a full turn out of committee members. A résumé of the subjects that were discussed are as follows.

- Eric Bocking the Ingoldisthorpe organist died on 19 December 2004, aged 80, and 3 committee members attended the funeral in Ingoldisthorpe church. Eric had asked for donations to be made to the church and £30 was donated on behalf of the OMA.
- Simon proposed that the refreshments offered following the Sunday church service should be served in the church instead of going to the village hall as it might encourage more people to take part before leaving the church. Permission and feasibility is being undertaken.
- There is a new Head teacher at Ingoldisthorpe V.A. primary school. He is Mr Keith Thwaites. The Association is sponsoring an annual award to the school which is payable in May of each year. The award is given to a pupil who has shown exceptional effort following a setback in life. The Chairman received a letter from the school with a nomination and the background for the nomination. It is hoped that OMA members may wish to donate to this worthy cause so that it is not financed from Association funds.
- Martin as Mitre Editor and Membership Secretary has said that he wishes to hand over as Mitre Editor next year. He has very ably undertaken this job for 7 years and feels that the time has come for a younger person to take on the job. Various soundings have been made without a volunteer coming forward. It is a real possibility that without a replacement for Martin the Mitre will cease to be produced as from next year. This would be a tragedy as it is an exceptionally useful communication tool particularly for those not on the web and for some overseas members. There must be some UK member or partner who is sufficiently interested to continue this work.
- The committee also considered that, in the weeks prior to the dinner, the names of those attending should be notified on the web in order to encourage other members to join those already attending. It might also lead to members doubling up on transport to save costs, or to transport those who are unable to drive themselves to the reunion.

At the AGM a suggestion was made that a notice on the lines of a "blue plaque" should be attached to the old rectory at Ingoldisthorpe to show that the building had previously been St Michael's school. The present owner of the ground floor flat has been approached and was clearly not enthusiastic. The Association has therefore abandoned the idea.

The committee meeting held on 24th July at Bob Hill's home was poorly attended as most members had prior engagements or were ill.

Those **attending** were Ruth and Michael Chilvers, Pat Frost, Rachel Golby, Bob Hill. Simon Pott attended for pre-meeting discussions.

Apologies were received from Michael Catterick, Bill Cullin, Ian Dupont, Martin Graville, John King, Louise Taylor.

In the absence of the Secretary David Golby took the minutes, the salient points being as follows...

- School Award. The cheque which should have been sent to the school in May had now been forwarded.
- Sunday service refreshments. The church was considered a good venue but a big problem was the lack of toilet facilities, particularly for the ladies. Ian & Bob to seek the vicar's permission to use the church for the supply of refreshments
- Menu: As these were not available for discussion at this meeting Rachel was asked to procure a set and a decision on which one to use to be decided by Ian, Bob and John.

- No obvious replacement to replace Martin as Mitre editor. Further discussion at the AGM and in the meantime a plea would be in the next Mitre. It was suggested that Martin was finding that the amount of content to fill two Mitres a year difficult and Ruth and Rachel suggested that one Mitre and one newsletter might be a more viable solution.
- Bob suggested that Ian write to David Ratcliff to pencil in date of service for 2006.
- Bob suggested that music for dancing should be provided after the dinner, if Le Strange management agreed.
- The meeting started at 3.25 and ended at 4.55. Thanks were given to Bob and Christine for their hospitality.

Secretary's note: I am indebted to David Golby for making notes in order for me to complete these minutes. Also to Ruth for forwarding them to me.

The following is a letter I had from Les Roberts at the beginning of the year. Because there was no Spring Mitre I reproduce it here, complete, unabridged and in a style inimitably Les's own. It was really written for the Oz OM's only but with Les's permission I think it deserves a wider audience

Gooday Australians

We are the people of a free nation of blokes, sheilas and the occasional wanker. We come from many lands (although a few too many of us come from New Zealand), and although we live in the best country in the world, we reserve the right to bitch and moan about it whenever we bloody like. We are One Nation but divided into many States.

First, there's Victoria, named after a queen who didn't believe in lesbians. Victoria is the realm of Mossimo turtlenecks, cafe latte, grand final day, and big horse races. Its capital is Melbourne, whose chief marketing pitch is that "it's liveable". At least that's what they think. The rest of us think it is too bloody cold and wet.

Next, there's NSW, the realm of pastel shorts, macchiato with sugar, thin books read quickly and millions of dancing queens. Its capital Sydney has more queens than any other city in the world and is proud of it. Its mascots are Bondi lifesavers that pull their Speedos up their cracks to keep the left and right sides of their brains separate.

Down south we have Tasmania, a State based on the notion that the family that bonks together stays together. In Tassie, everyone gets an extra chromosome at conception. Maps of the State bring smiles to the sternest faces. It holds the world record for a single mass shooting, which the Yanks can't seem to beat no matter how often they try.

South Australia is the province of half-decent reds, a festival of foreigners and bizarre axe murders. SA is the state of innovation. Where else can you so effectively reuse country bank vaults and barrels as in Snowtown, just out of Adelaide (also named after a queen). They had the Grand Prix, but lost it when the views of Adelaide sent the Formula One drivers to sleep at the wheel.

Western Australia is too far from anywhere to be relevant. It's main claim to fame is that it doesn't have daylight saving because if it did, all the men would get erections on the bus on the way to work. WA was the last state to stop importing convicts and many of them still work there in the government and business.

The Northern Territory is the red heart of our land. Outback plains, and dusty kids with big smiles. It also has the highest beer consumption of anywhere on the planet and its creek beds have the highest aluminium content of anywhere too. Although the Territory is the centrepiece of our national culture, few of us live there and the rest prefer to flyover it on our way to Bali.

And there's Queensland. While any mention of God seems silly in a document defining a nation of half arsed sceptics, it is worth noting that God probably made Queensland, as its beautiful one day and perfect the next. Why he filled it with dickheads remains a mystery.

Oh yes and there's Canberra. The less said the better.

We, the citizens of Oz, are united by Highways, whose treacherous twists and turns kill more of us each year than murderers. We are united in our lust for international recognition, so desperate for praise we leap in joy when a rag tag gaggle of corrupt IOC officials tells us Sydney is better than Beijing. We are united by a democracy so flawed that a political party albeit a redneck gun toting one, can get a million votes and still not win one seat in Federal Parliament.

Not that we're whingeing, we leave that to our Pommy immigrants. We want to make "no worries mate" our national phrase, "she'll be right mate" our national attitude and "Waltzing Matilda" our national anthem (so what if it's about a sheep-stealing crim who commits suicide). We love sport so much our newsreaders can read the death toll from a sailing race and still tell us who's winning.

And we're the best in the world at all the sports that count, like cricket (*O yeah and just WHO won the Ashes Ed:*), swimming, netball, rugby league and union, AFL, roo shooting, two up and horse racing. We also have the biggest rock, the tastiest pies, and the worst dressed Olympians in the known universe. Only in Australia can a pizza delivery get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in Australia do we have bank doors wide open, no security guards, or cameras but chain the pens to the desk.

Stand proud Aussies - we shoot, we root, we vote. We are girt by sea and pissed by lunchtime. Even though we might seem a racist, closed minded, sports obsessed little people, at least we feel better for it.

I am, you are, we are Australian!

P.S We also shoot and eat the two animals that are on our National Crest!!!!

No other country has this distinction!

HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY - January 26, 2005.

Ges Roberts

A man and his wife are awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

"Not a chance," says the husband, "it is three o'clock in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife.

Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers.

"Did you help him?" she asks.

"No, I did not, it is three in the morning and it is pouring with rain out there!"

"Well, you have a short memory," says his

wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!"

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain.

He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?"

"Yes," comes back the answer.

"Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband.

"Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark.

"Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing!" replies the drunk.

MINING - UGH!!!!!!

At the 50th Reunion someone asked why I took up Mining as a career. I'm sure I gave a somewhat flippant answer. I suppose I am the only known OM to enter the field so perhaps some sort of explanation is called for.

At the outset let me stress that the type of schooling we received would have prepared most of us for a career in mining. I really believe you have to be a "Jack of all trades" to be successful in the business and I think Saint Michael's produced lots of Jacks!

In my last term we had a convincing guy talk to us about the Fleet Air Arm. Short service commissions (5 years) paid out a gratuity of £5 000 – a lot of money, and landing planes on Ark Royal sounded romantic. He didn't mention life expectancy! On the other hand I came from a mining area and my father's Churchwarden was the local Mine Manager and he convinced me to try mining first. I could always revert to the Fleet Air Arm later.

So this very raw recruit, with a bit of a plummy accent, started "down't pit" just after my 18th birthday. My Gran was outraged. "Surely I could get a job in the time office?"

I should mention that I wasn't the school's best student and 2 A levels in English were hardly encouraging for an engineering career so I enrolled at the Tech. and very quickly started to make amends for the fun time I'd had at school.

The first two years underground were a little traumatic. A week after starting I lost a finger and within a couple of weeks of return to work I broke two back vertebrae, narrowly missing damage to the spinal cord (costing 4 months of rehab.) and a whole lot of minor injuries. I thought the Good Lord was warning me off the "pit"!

A part of essential training for a Mine Manager was 2 years work on the coal face. This I really enjoyed and it paid very well. Most of the time was in the "Three-quarter Seam", $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard thick. Cramped at first but you soon got used to it. I vividly remember an old miner telling me this story that I think sums up the standing of miners in the community. The traditional "bait" or mid shift snack was a bacon sandwich. The local Co-op had this sign painted on the shop window, "Miner's bacon, 1/9d a pound, so good we could *almost* eat it ourselves". This Co-op was boycotted for weeks! I'm afraid we miners brought some of the derision on ourselves. After the lockouts of the thirties miners tended to work the days they wanted to and absenteeism ran as high as 40%. I remember one miner being asked why he only worked 3 days a week; his reply "cos I can't manage on 2"!

After 6 fairly hard years I had "made it". I had a Manager's ticket and Chartered Engineer status and underwent 2 years of so-called Management Training. But the "slump" had already hit the industry. Uneconomic mines, particularly in the north, were closing down on a large scale and it was a fairly easy decision to move offshore – the only employer of mining engineers in the UK was the National Coal Board. So in 1964 we moved to Africa, to Northern Rhodesia first and then to South Africa in 1975. I was lucky to be chosen to attend a short course at Harvard in 1980 which turned me in to a dangerous individual – a Mining Engineer who understood a balance sheet! Since 1982 I've been 100% involved in the financial side of mining. I'm currently a (non-executive) director of South Africa's largest gold producer, its second largest platinum producer and the largest Russian gold producer listed on the LSE. By the end of 2004, in my 70th year, I plan to resign my directorships but maintain informal links with the sector.

I have been very fortunate in my chosen career. I've met some really good people in the mining world and developed lifelong friendships.

Thank you Saint Michael's, you put me on the right road. I owe you.

Michael Penning

three pearls from the many that Pat Dove has sent



An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend highly. The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?" The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns." "Do you mean a rose?" "Yes, that 's the one," replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

A BLONDE, wanting to earn some money, decided to canvass a wealthy neighbourhood. She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any jobs for her to do. "Well, you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?" The blonde said: "How about 50 pounds?" The man agreed and told her that the paint and other materials that she might need were in the garage. The man's wife, inside the house, heard the conversation and asked her husband, "does she realise that the porch goes all the way around the house?" The man replied: "She should, she was standing on it." A short time later, the blonde came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already?" he asked. "Yes," the blonde answered, "And I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats." Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the £50. "And by the way," the blonde added, "It's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari."

2005 Reunion Booking Form

Please reserve for me
Reunion _____ tickets

Name _____

Partner's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ e-mail _____

I should like to sit with (if possible) _____

I enclose my cheque for £ _____

Being _____ tickets at £22.00 each

Please send completed forms to

Ruth Chilvers

85 Elliot Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8BP

Please make cheques payable to Old Michaelian Association



booking form
on the
other side

reunion arrangements

As usual, for anyone arriving on Friday night, there will be a gathering of OM's at the Le Strange during the evening, just hunt around till you find someone!!

The Reunion proper starts at around mid-day on Saturday when a downstairs section of the bar in the Mariner's has been reserved for our use, look out for the OMA signs. Bar-meals and snacks are available and whether or not you intend to come to the AGM or Evening Function you are welcome to join us at this lunchtime gathering.

The AGM will be held in the Palace Suite and it is there that John King our Secretary and Archivist will have set up his vast array of Old Michaelian photographs and memorabilia. The start time is 3.30 and tea will be provided.

If you wish to stand for election to the committee (or know somebody who would) do speak up, we do need some new 'younger' blood on the committee so if you can spare two Sunday's a year please consider it. We meet, usually, at a committee member's house and wives/husbands are very welcome to come along.

We start to assemble for the evening festivities at 7.00 p.m. with pre-dinner drinks in the Palace Suite. Dinner is at 7.45 p.m. and the menu is as follows-

Starter	Melon Kiwi & Orange Platter
Main course	Roast Leg of Lamb with rosemary port wine & redcurrant sauce Selection of Vegetables & Potato
Dessert Course	Poached Oranges in Grand Marnier & Cream Coffee & Mints

there will, of course, be a vegetarian option and any special needs can be catered for by the Le Strange staff if you arrange it with them.

The Speaker will be Simon, plus anyone else who wishes to say a few words; the only proviso being that Simon knows, preferably before the meal, that you wish to speak and that you restrict yourself to 3 minutes. A raffle will be held during the evening.

When we (finally) get to bed remember that the clocks go back 1 hour!! If you remember to do this, not only will it give you an extra hour of sleep but it will also make sure that you arrive at Ingoldisthorpe at the proper time for the Reunion Eucharist which is at 11.00 a.m. The celebrant and preacher will be Roger Wikeley.

Refreshments this year will be served in Church and not at the village hall. For your relief, however, arrangements have been made for the village hall to be open.

Have a safe journey home and remember...

The next reunion is a big one

The Diamond Jubilee of the founding of St Michael's

28th & 29th October 2006

Accommodation in Hunstanton

Burleigh Hotel	7 Cliff Terrace Hunstanton PE36 6DY	01485 533080	single double	from £30 from £60
The Gables	28 Austin St Hunstanton PE36 6AW	01485 532514	single double	from £30 from £44
Greenshutters	44 Cliff Parade Hunstanton PE36 6EH	01485 534874	single double	from £40 from £50
Kiama Cottage	23 Austin Street Hunstanton PE36 6AN	01485 533615	double	from £40
Garganey House	46 Northgate Hunstanton PE36 6DR	01485 533269	single double	from £17 from £36
Claremont	35 Greevegate Hunstanton PE36 6AF	01485 533171	single double	from £24 from £48
Sunset View	3 Alexandra Rd Hunstanton PE36 5BT	01485 535246	double	from £45
Rosamaly	14 Glebe Avenue Hunstanton PE36 6BS	01485 534187	single double	from £25 from £46
Sutton House Hotel	24 Northgate Hunstanton PE36 6AP	01485 532552	single double	from £30 from £50
The Lodge Hotel	Old Hunstanton Rd Hunstanton PE36 6HX	01485 532896	single double	from £38 from £76

**all prices per room per night and are 2004 prices so ask when you book
more accommodation can be found at www.smoothound.co.uk**



The editor's end-word

So now is the time to grovel (don't grovel Graville) and say sorry for missing the Spring Mitre. I have no real excuse except a distinct lack of input from the majority of OM.s. There are very honourable exceptions and they know who they are.

All being well this is my last input as Editor of the Mitre. I have been doing the job for 7 years and that is enough to encourage a mutual parting of the ways. I hope to continue to have my say in the Magazine, trusting that the new incumbent wishes to hear from me and I shall be continuing, providing I am asked of course, in my role as Membership Secretary.

On the whole I have very much enjoyed my time with the Mitre, my only reservation being the poor response from you, the members, to appeals for copy.

There can be not one of you who hasn't something of interest to say whether it a far flung holiday (or even one in Cleethorpes), new job (or retirement from an old one!), chance meetings with OM's or the great and good (or are the two synonymous?), thoughts of school days, memories of friends made and not seen for years, a favourite joke or observation on life (it's life, Jim but not as we know it!)...the list could go on and on but it needs YOU to talk to me or at least to my successor, as editor.

It doesn't need me to tell you that there are no *new* Om's, the nearest we come is *rediscovered* ones, and the website (www.oma.org.uk) has found and is continuing to find Michaelian's who had lost touch with us and were not aware of the Association. It may even be true to say that the OMA would now be defunct without our presence on Mr Berners-Lee's world wide web. I can close my eyes and hear all you technophobes crying "what is he on? What a load of rubbish" but I am serious, it has never been easier to communicate, so if you have been lost for 40 years and are now found, what have you been doing for all that time? We want to know, we are anxious to know, we are desperate to know. Silence, in this case is, most certainly, NOT golden.

This brings me onto the subject of the committee. Last year Michael Catterick asked for nominations for the management committee. A form was placed in the Mitre and the end result was...a complete blank, zilch, nichts, nada, niente, rien, not one single volunteer. There are many who have served on the committee as man and boy, and will no doubt continue to do so until old age and senility bar them, but new blood is desperately required if the Old Michaelian Association is to flourish. Next year is the 60th anniversary of the founding of St Michael's and a knees-up of monumental proportions is proposed. Join the committee and help plan it. This appeal is particularly aimed at the pupils who attended St Michael's in the mid to late 60s. who are sadly under-represented.

Finally, I should like to thank those select few OM's who have supported me with articles and the like in the past 7 years. The job I originally took on, or so I thought, was as technical editor, to physically produce the Mitre and not be responsible for the editorial content. I was soon disabused of this fanciful thought and now you are shut of me blathering on. I shall miss it, I have no doubt whatsoever that, when the Mitre lands on our doorstep, I shall say to Barbara, "that's not the way to do this or that" and she will say to me "if you don't like the new way you shouldn't have stopped doing it the old way" and although she is undoubtedly right, now is the time to say au revoir and to extend my very best wishes to the new Editor when he/she is installed.

Martin.

PS...the errors and mistakes are all mine, the omissions mostly yours

2005 REUNION

**Le Strange Arms
Hotel
Old Hunstanton**

29th - 30th October