

The Old Michaelian Association

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Dear Member

This is a new service of communication we are using for the very first time. But do not misunderstand the purpose of this Newsletter because it will **not** be replacing 'The Mitre' in any shape or form.

Let's start at the very beginning.....

2006 is going to be a very important year for your Association and you will of course notice from the enclosure that we are using every tool at our disposal to persuade as many of you as possible to attend the next Old Michaelian Association Reunion Weekend in Hunstanton. More of that subject a bit later.

For a while, let us turn the clock back to October 2005 and to last years Reunion Weekend. As usual it was well attended and we were delighted to see some new faces at the Reunion who had not previously attended.

At the Reunion Dinner we were all ably entertained again by a magnificent after Dinner speech given by Simon Pott.

Simon's renditions and stories have become synonymous with our Reunion Dinner for many years, and last year Simon did not let us down by recalling the time last year when he was invited to fly with 48th Fighter Wing RAF Lakenheath. "England's largest US Air Force operated fighter base located in the heart of the East Anglian community".

After several months much of the detail of this story is a bit of a blur, a bit like the countryside that Simon was flown over at tremendous speed scattering flocks of sheep, maybe, in every county east of the Irish Sea and west of the North Sea. I only wish we had been spared the details of the brown stain that appeared on his flying tunic because I was enjoying my pudding at the time!! However, these after Dinner speeches have become just one of the highlights of our weekend and long may they continue.

There is always plenty of time during the weekend to meet up and chat with other 'cell mates' and this is exactly what we did in the Mariners Bar at lunch-time on the Saturday afternoon.

The AGM is the only formal part of the whole weekend when we try to encourage as many Members as possible to, not only participate, but to become as involved as possible in the mechanism and workings of the Association.

The OMA Reunion Weekend



And so to 2006.....It cannot have escaped your notice that this year we will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the founding of St. Michael's School, Ingodisthorpe by Roger P Pott and we plan to put on a bit of a party for you and your partners and I hope you will all find the time to help us celebrate what can be described as a 'Moment in History' when the first pupils arrived on the steps of Heacham to hear that booming voice bellow out:

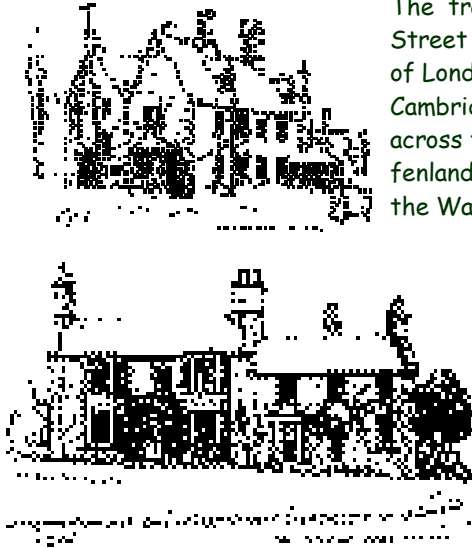
"Where Is Your Cap BOY"

such memories!!!

To make the whole weekend as inexpensive as possible, the Chairman and Committee have approved that the total cost of the Reunion Dinner will be offered at: **£20 per person**. We sincerely hope that many of you will take advantage of this very attractive offer. It is true to say that Hotels throughout the United Kingdom have become very competitive and the Le Strange Arms Hotel is no exception. Of course, it does depend where you stay in the UK and of course the type of Hotel you choose, and the Le

Strange Arms has certainly raised prices over recent years. The OMA Committee have negotiated the best possible price on your behalf and you will have to decide whether it is better to stay on site at the Le Strange Arms or seek alternative accommodation in the town. When 'The Mitre' is published in a few months time we will provide some additional information for you to consider. Just briefly, we are going to take you back to that time long, long ago when steam trains ruled the tracks and dropping litter on the ground was seen to be a hanging offence. The article is quite long, so just to wet your appetite I propose to give you

The Founding of St. Michael's School

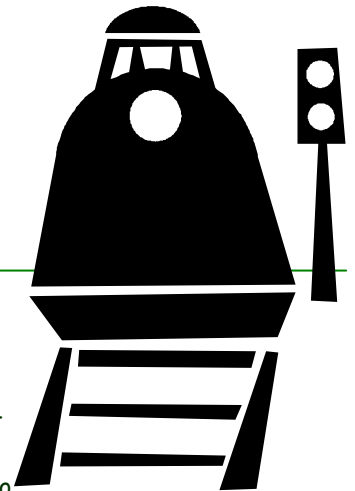


The train from Liverpool Street ploughs slowly out of London towards Cambridge and beyond, across the flat expanse of fenland to Kings Lynn and the Wash, on past the royal waiting rooms of Wolferton, up the Norfolk coast to Heacham, a few miles from

Hunstanton. Other passenger trains arrive at Kings Lynn station from other parts of the UK. The small town or large village - Heacham stands on the edge of some of the best agricultural land in the country, its rural life subsidised by a flourishing summer holiday trade and the proximity of the Sandringham estate. It has

a fine old church which, over the centuries, was enriched by the Neville-Rolfe family who used to occupy Heacham Hall.

It is with the enterprise of its vicar that this article



“Communicating with Old Michaelian’s all over the world”



has mainly to do. The Reverend Roger Pott is a man of many parts - Vicar of Heacham, Rector of Ingoldsthorpe, 4 miles away, and Headmaster of a school of 150 pupils. The school is at Ingoldsthorpe in a vast old Rectory which no incumbent of today could ever hope to maintain as a private house. The

main body of the school pupils are boarders residing at the Shooting Lodge in Heacham, but the school also accepts a small number of Day Pupils who travel independently from Kings Lynn and Hunstanton areas. The nucleus of the staff, since the venture started, has been Mr Pott, his curate and such other members of

the local clergy as have had the qualifications and inclination to supplement their stipends with this work. To these have been added a couple of graduate schoolmasters and four women teachers, PNEU trained at



Ambleside. The school has grown to its present size with classes varying from about 15 pupils for the under 11's, to about 22/23 for the senior pupils.

To start a new school these days is a formidable business. Before the doors were opened in 1946 several 'battles' had to be fought with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Works. Private enterprise in education is always suspect—sometimes for good reason—but few would—be Headmasters can have had the favourable background experience which Mr Pott took with him to Heacham.



To be continued.....

The Mitre

We have a new Editor of 'The Mitre'

Welcome back

John Wallington.

This is the third time that John has taken up the reigns of responsibility for editing 'The Mitre' and I know that everyone will give him continued support and loads of material to include into our Magazine. The Association encountered some technical prob-

lems last year and we were unable to publish the two publications as usual, and for that we offer our apologies.

At the last AGM some new proposals were submitted to the meeting by John Wallington including the idea that, for the time being, the Association should publish only one 'Mitre' per year. We are going to comply with this suggestion certainly for

2006 and then review the situation again and discuss the point again at the next AGM in October.

John's other proposals were to re-format 'The Mitre' with a new design and we would certainly look forward to your comments after 'The Mitre' drops through your letterbox mid-summer. Good or bad, we are all old enough and ugly enough to accept anything you throw at us!

We are already looking forward to a 2006 Bumper Issue of 'The Mitre' and we can reveal already that, besides the highly acclaimed articles by our President, Simon Pott and our Chairman, Ian Dupont, you can also look forward to the following:-

- *A gem of an article written by Chris Gibbs and very relevant geographically*
- *News from David Jakobsson about his life since leaving St. Michael's School and his life living in Germany.*
- *Some more gems of 'Life with RPP' thanks to David Jakobsson.*
- *A very moving and emotional article about the late Patrick Sleight by his sister Mary.*
- *A wonderful article by Mike Smith (welcome back Mike). This is a real rags to riches story that you will all enjoy. Well, really it is about Kettering to Florida. Well, maybe I was right in the first place!!*
- *An interview with a past OMA Chairman.*
- *An article linking old Hunstanton Hall with Virginia USA. This is fascinating reading and developing further all of the time.*
- *Contributions from our colleagues in Australia.*

"I said, Contributions from our colleagues in Australia"

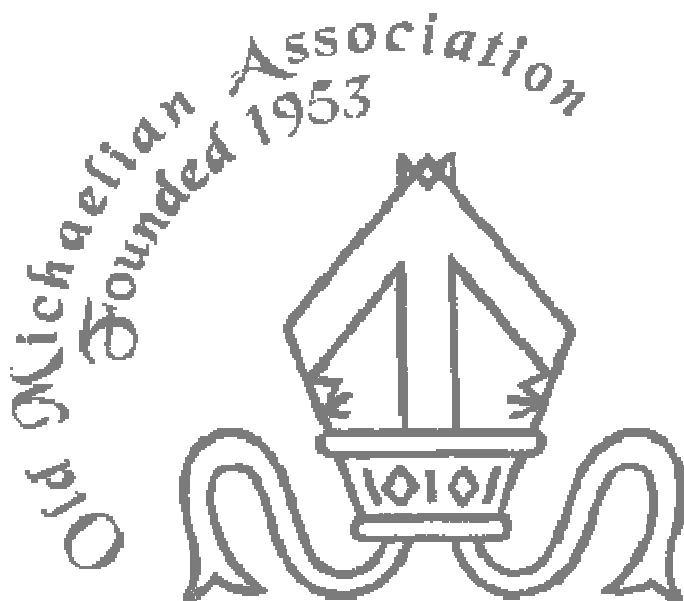
- *The founding of St. Michael's School Ingoldisthorpe*

So, as you will see, in the summer there will be plenty of reading material for you to take away with you on your summer holiday's. Or if your live in the antipodes,

Happy Winter's Reading.

However, if you think that is enough.....it is not.

The Association needs a load more personal profiles if we are to maintain the high standard of publication that has appeared for you, the Members, on a regular basis. We would be very happy to revert back to two publications per year and we believe there is every possibility this may happen but only if we can maintain standards.



www.oma.org.uk

I know it has been said many times before but, nevertheless, on behalf of our President, our Chairman, the OMA Committee and all Members let me hear you cheer from the rafters for our Web Site Editor **Bill Cullin**.

The OMA Web Site continues to go from strength to strength and if, for some reason, you have not yet fallen under the spell of Bill's professionalism I really do urge you to do so. There are pages and pages of interesting articles and an avalanche of old photographs in the Gallery to view. As one Old Michaelian said to me last year, "Once I found the Web Site I was hooked and it became a welcome addiction."

Bill will always welcome new information for the Web Site and you have only to study the **Guestbook** to realise that many Old Michaelian's, worldwide, gain an enormous amount of pleasure from this Web Site. "Well done, **Bill**"

Lastly.....

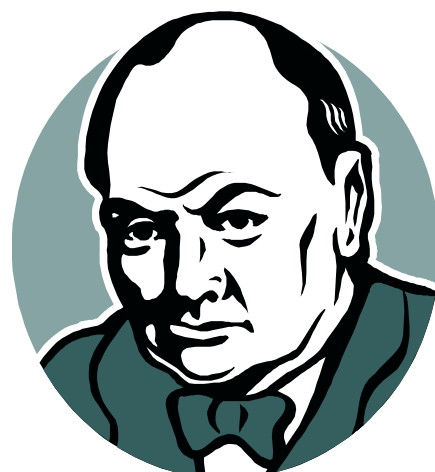
What Does it Mean to be British?

One of the British National Daily Newspapers asked the question of its readers "*What does it mean to be British?*". This clever answer came back from a chap in Switzerland, and I quote:-

"Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV, and the most British thing of all? Suspicion of anything foreign!"



Elizabeth



Churchill