

2008

OMA Newsletter Editorial

Dear Member.....

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of the Old Michaelian Association Newsletter.

It is the second week of January as I begin to piece together yet another OMA Newsletter. So this would be an appropriate moment to wish all Old Michaelian's, all over the World, a belated but sincere Happy New Year.

Once again, I am pleased to report that your Association is in good shape and we have a dedicated and very enthusiastic team of Old Michaelian's administering the smooth running of the Association.

At the top of the tree is our President **Simon Pott** ably supported by his lovely wife **Jenny**. The post of Chairman has been retained by **Ian Dupont**. Ian has made such a good job of chairing our Association that at the AGM last October it was the unanimous vote by all Members present that Ian should retain the post of Chairman for a further twelve months.

All other committee places are also retained for a further twelve months. Except for one. It was with much regret that the AGM accepted the resignation of **Martin Graville**, our Membership Secretary. As you all know, Martin has been responsible for keeping our Membership in shape for the last few years and before that he mastered the publication of '**The Mitre**' for seven years. We all owe an enormous amount of gratitude to **Martin Graville** and his wife **Barbara** for dedicating so much of their time and energy to the Association. Martin has asked to be retained as a Committee Member and this was fully approved at the AGM last October.



Our existing Treasurer, **Ruth Chilvers**, has agreed to combine her existing duties as Treasurer with the responsibility of Membership Secretary and this was also fully approved by the AGM last October in Hunstanton. I am sure that all of you will wish to join with me in wishing Ruth 'Good Luck' with her new responsibilities and we can all contribute to this cause by making sure that we keep our Membership fee's up to date.

That's my preamble done and dusted for now until I have another attempt later in the year writing the Editorial for '**The Mitre**'. I really hope you enjoy the contents of the OMA Newsletter again this year. From the feedback it would appear that you are enjoying this extra means of communication early each year. There is much information to absorb so may I suggest you sit back with a small glass of something and read away.....

Best Wishes to you all

John Wallington

Editor

Old Michaelian Association

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2007 OMA REUNION WEEKEND

Hot on the heels of the momentous OMA Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Reunion weekend, Old Michaelian's met once more in Hunstanton for our 2007 Reunion weekend over the weekend of 27/28 October.

It would have been foolish for any of us to have expected similar numbers to attend in 2007 as they did for our Diamond Jubilee Anniversary but having said all of that, we were surprisingly delighted with the numbers of Old Michaelian's and partners who did join us last October in Hunstanton and on behalf of our President, Chairman and all Committee Members please accept a big '**THANKYOU**' to everyone who was able to attend.

I will make sure that a full report on the 2007 OMA Reunion weekend is published in '**The Mitre**' this year but I am sure that our Readers will be interested to know that we were able to welcome back two former Head Boy's who, during their respective times in this much sought after post, made an enormous impact on school life in differing ways. So, it was with pleasure that we welcomed back **Jonathan Russell** and **Ben Gunner**. When the 2008 '**Mitre**' is published in June you will all be able to read how Jonathan and Ben contributed to our Reunion weekend last year.

It is not going to come as any surprise to our regular readers when I begin the long, lingering NAG!!

The Old Michaelian Association 2008 Reunion Weekend will be on:

25/26 OCTOBER 2008

Pop these dates into your diary now, please and try and join us all for what is promised to be a wonderful weekend for all.

WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK!

My wife and I were sitting at a dining table at my annual High School Reunion and I noticed a lady sitting at an adjacent table who was obviously worse for drink.



So you see, there really are two ways to look at everything.

The OMA Web Site

It is time to pay homage once more to our OMA Web Site Editor **Bill Cullin**.

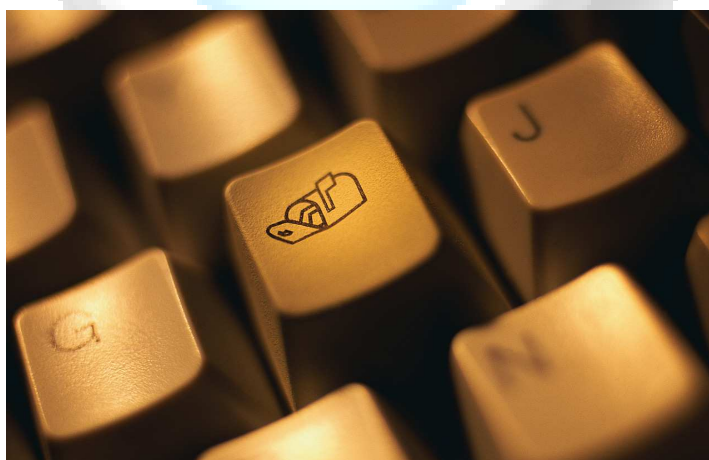
How many of you have noticed the subtle changes that appear on the Front Page of our Web Site to comply with the season of the year? Nice touch Bill.

Without a doubt, our Web Site continues to go from strength to strength with an ever increasing amount of detail constantly being added. This was emphasised during the year by Bill's sister **Stephanie** who decided to 'thumb' through the Web pages one dreary Sunday afternoon and came across a host of new photographs depicting 'Old Heacham' as submitted by **John Barrett**. Since Stephanie posted her thoughts in the Guestbook section, I guess a number of us followed her trail and took a peep ourselves.

The OMA Web Site still comes up trumps by linking Old Michaelian's with the Association and each and every year we hear from a host of people who happened to trip into our 'Web' and have immediately been caught up in the work of the Association.

The following are the names of Old Michaelian's who have entered comments in our Guestbook section as a direct result of finding our Web Site:

Name	School Years
John Curtis	1946-1953
Ben (Reynolds) Frost	1963-1967
Charlie Bishop	1961-1966
Graham French Paris	1958-1959
Paul Hodge	1960-1964
Ren & Enos Albert	1967-1969
Richard Powley	1961-1966
Michael Barnes	1957-1959



Thank you to you all for making contact via the Web Site and a special '**Thankyou**' to you Bill for your time and energy on behalf of the OMA.

We look forward to hearing from you.

www.oma.org.uk

Membership Secretary Report. Jan'08.

As many of you may know after many years Martin has retired from the position of Membership Secretary where he did an excellent job and I have taken over, adding the role to that of Treasurer. I would like to thank Martin on behalf of the entire O.M.A. for all his efforts and ensure him that he will not be forgotten, as I will still need to seek his help and advice from time to time, as I have done already. Thanks Martin.

Combining the jobs seems a sensible way for the Association to proceed. It now means I have the delight in welcoming new members as well as taking the money off them and keeping in contact with the old! Each year we seem to find new O.M.A.s in various parts of the world; one of the problems has been collecting the subscriptions from our overseas members. This has been improved by the recent introduction of "Life" Membership at £20, as it means the money only has to be paid once, rather than £5 every three years. The ability to pay directly into our account from abroad has also helped. Any members wishing to do so may request the banking codes required and I will email them to them. We now have a healthy Membership of O.M.A.s from both at home and abroad.

I would like to thank those who have replied promptly to your subscription renewal letters. It would be appreciated if those who have not done so would do so as soon as possible, as this saves sending out further reminders.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next Reunion at the Le Strange Arms over the weekend of October 25/26th 2008.

Regards.

Ruth Chilvers. (Email m.chilvers@virgin.net)



Newsletter (The Mitre)

The Old Michaelian Association attracts such a diverse group of people from all walks of life and from the four corners of the World. The one single fact we all have in common is our attendance as pupils and staff at St. Michael's School in Norfolk. Some OM's make a point of attending each and every Reunion Weekend while others are comfortable to attend as and when it is convenient. Since I took over the responsibility of Editor for the OMA I introduced the production of this annual OMA Newsletter. Its purpose is to maintain a regular communication with Old Michaelians running in parallel with the more established '**Mitre**'.



'**The Mitre**' is considered by some as the communication link of our Association and as such I am constantly nagging OM's to contribute articles and other relevant material for inclusion into this annual publication.

There is always room for more material and even though as I write this piece I have been sent some stunning articles from OM's here in the UK and from other points around the World, as I said earlier, there is still room for more.

Let me take this opportunity to give you a taste of what you will be reading this coming summer in '**The Mitre**'.

I am currently knitting together information regarding **Wagg the Baker**. This enterprising business was very dear to our hearts back in the 50's and 60's and **Wagg's** supplied all of the bread products for The Shooting Lodge as well as maintaining a well run business in Heacham itself. If you recall the winter of 57/58 when, due to heavy snow, we were confined to The Shooting Lodge and if you can remember **Wagg's** hauling huge amounts of freshly baked bread to us at The Shooting Lodge, you may have something to contribute.

Without a doubt, some of the visiting sports teams that travelled to Ingoldisthorpe to play St. Michael's School at football and hockey, did so in the knowledge that there would be a feast of **Wagg's** cakes to consume at some stage of the proceedings. The same could be said of the cricket matches played at Heacham.

So, if this triggers off a number of memories, jot them down and send them to me and I will make sure they are included with the article for '**The Mitre**'

Also.....

I am attempting to piece together an article all about **The Canterbury Boys**. I have already managed to persuade **Harold East** to commit to paper many of his memories depicting his life as a Choirboy at Canterbury but more importantly, his transfer from Canterbury to Norfolk. Within the next few weeks I am hoping to visit Elham in Kent to meet with **Jonathan Russell** and **David Ratcliff**, both Canterbury Boys and what will be even more revealing is to report on the fact that **David Ratcliff** was the first Canterbury Boy to move to St. Michael's School and the fascinating story behind that move. All will be revealed.

Mike Smith will once again be contributing to '**The Mitre**' this year with a very interesting article about an exciting trip Mike and Shirley took last year within the United States of America and you will not be surprised to read that Fish and Chips do play an important part in this story.

This year I will be introducing a new section into '**The Mitre**' entitled "**In the Spotlight**". Each year I am hoping to interview a prominent Old Michaelian who has made a real difference in the running and management of our Association. There are many candidates and I expect this project will probably take me well into old age and beyond. The interview for "**In the Spotlight**" is already in the can and I know that every Reader will find this insight into this persons life a joy to appreciate.

Lastly, within the last couple of months we have managed to communicate with an Old Michaelian who has been lurking in the shadows of our Association but who has, over the years, become a star of both small and large screen. This lady is a real STAR in more ways than you could ever imagine. She attended St. Michael's School we think for approximately one year before emigrating from the UK with her family. She has already told me how fond she became of St. Michael's School, of the Headmaster and of Northwest Norfolk. We are hoping to persuade this ex-pupil of St. Michael's School to join us in Hunstanton next October for our Reunion Weekend. What a wonderful occasion that would be for all of us. More information is coming in '**The Mitre**'

Best Wishes
John Wallington
Editor
'The Mitre'