

# The Old Michaelian

## Association

Dear Member

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### Welcome to the 2nd Edition of The Old Michaelian Association Newsletter.

Since we distributed our last Edition and the publication of 'The Mitre' in 2006 much has happened with our Association, the highlight being our magnificent **Diamond Jubilee Reunion Weekend** at the end of October when we celebrated in style the Anniversary of the founding of **St. Michael's School Ingoldisthorpe**. "What do you mean, you could not make it?" ..... But more of that later.

I am pleased to report to our Members that your Association is in good safe hands. We have a vibrant and energetic Committee ably lead by our Chairman **Ian Dupont**. Our Association is extremely privileged to have **Simon Pott** as our President. Simon generates the enthusiasm and belief within our Association and together with his lovely wife **Jenny** they provide a solid foundation for our Association. Our finances are also in good hands under the directorship of our Association Treasurer **Ruth Chilvers**. And it is with pride that we can announce that our Membership numbers are increasing under the watchful eye of our Membership Secretary **Martin Graville**. A tremendous amount of work is carried out in the background by our Association Secretary **John King** and not only have we sent him to Pitman's to sharpen up his shorthand but his dress sense in matching skirts and blouses is much improved!! We all applauded very loudly when **Geraldine Ellison** was proposed as Vice-Chairperson of your Association and this appointment was confirmed at the AGM last October. It is my belief, and this belief is shared by many other Members, that the continuing success of our Association is partly due to the professionalism and dedication of our OMA Web Site Editor **Bill Cullin**. Bill works tirelessly to ensure that the Web Site is kept up to date, attractive and relevant to our Association. Already within the last couple of months our Web Site has been 'found' by Old Michaelian's from all over the World and we welcome with open arms new Members into our Association. It was with enormous regret that the Association accepted the resignation of **Michael Catterick** from our ranks of Committee Members. **Michael** and his wife **Evelyn** have been long term supporters of our Association for probably more years than they would like to remember. And we must never forget that **Michael** held the office of OMA Chairman quite recently. More on this remarkable dedication and support will be covered within 'The Mitre' later this year.



So, Welcome again to our Newsletter for 2007. We look forward to hearing from many of you over the remainder of this year via our Web Site, or e-mail or by whichever means you find convenient. It is always good to hear from Old Michaelian's wherever you may be.

I know that every member of our Committee, together with our Chairman and President, will wish to join with me in wishing you health wealth and happiness throughout 2007.

Best Wishes to you all

John Wallington

Editor

Old Michaelian Association  
e-mail: hinckleytowers@aol.com

## OMA Diamond Jubilee Anniversary

Throughout 2006 an enormous amount of hard work was carried out by all OMA Committee Members to ensure that we attracted as many Old Michaelian's, together with their respective partners, to our very special event in Hunstanton at the end of October 2006. None of us could ever have envisaged how much success all of this hard work would create during the year and how much stress the real possibility became that we just may have to find another venue to celebrate our Reunion weekend! Thankfully the latter issue was avoided and as I write this to you all in January 2007 I know that all Committee Members together with a huge number of Old Michaelian's can think back just a few months and recall, what I consider, was probably one of the most successful OMA Reunion weekends for many years.

If you were unable to join us all in Hunstanton last October and you are willing to pay us a huge wad of money, we will consider repeating the whole event again this year!!

There will be a fuller report on the weekend within 'The Mitre' this year but, just to wet your appetite, I can tell you that, not only did we fill The Palace Suite at the Hotel for our annual Reunion Dinner, but we attracted and welcomed Old Michaelian's from all over the World. Add to that the first appearance at an OMA Reunion of a really 'old boy' who holds the status of being number two on the official school register, and we also managed to persuade many UK based OM's to join us, for some it was the first time back to a OMA Reunion, and I hope you will begin to understand the importance of the 2006 Reunion.

Let me, on behalf of our President, Chairman and the whole of the OMA Committee, express our sincere thanks to all OMA Members and their partners for their total support and effort last October. It is very much appreciated.

To those OMA Members who were unable to join us in Hunstanton last October, you did really miss a very enjoyable, emotional, tear-jerking, joyous, memorable and remarkable weekend.

Yes, we will be doing it all again this coming October and already we have commitments from a huge number of OM's who wish to attend.

So, please make a note of the dates for our next **Old Michaelian Association Reunion** which will take place, as usual, at **The Le Strange Arms Hotel, Old Hunstanton on:**

# 27 | 28 OCTOBER 2007

# The OMA Web Site

It never ceases to amaze me how much success our Association has achieved with our own Web Site.

Every year we read about Old Michaelian's all over the World who have 'accidentally' fallen into our web and found that our Association is alive and kicking.

Last year we welcomed **Michael Littler** back into our fold. Michael admits that he 'found' the OMA Web Site by chance and as a direct result of this he is now a paid up Member of our Association and, together with his wife Lynn, he took time out to travel from his home on the Wirral to join us all at the Reunion weekend in Hunstanton last October. **Michael Littler** holds the distinction of being No. 2 pupil on the School Register and I know that both Michael and Lynn thoroughly enjoyed their return to Hunstanton and attending the Reunion. I could not possibly let an opportunity like this go, so I persuaded Michael to write an article for '**The Mitre**' this year and I think all Members will enjoy everything that Michael has to say.

Right at the end of 2006 we heard from **John Curtis** from sunny Australia. John is another ex-pupil of St. Michael's who accidentally 'found' the OMA Web Site. John attended the school between 1946 - 1953 as a Day Pupil and he is keen to re-establish contact with as many OM's as possible who may remember him being at the school. Some gentle persuasion was called upon here to help John to agree writing a very personal account of his days at St. Michael's School and this will be published in '**The Mitre**' later this year.

In January 2006 we heard from **David Jakobsson** (1961 - 1965) who 'fell' into our Web by chance and not only were we able to absorb his account of life in Germany in '**The Mitre**' last year but David and his wife Ingeborg were able to travel from Germany and join us all at the OMA Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Reunion last October.

The OMA Web Site was also responsible for **Alan Digby** (1961 - 1967) making contact. I know that Alan has not experienced the best of health over recent years and this prevented him from joining us in Hunstanton last October. I am sure that all Members will wish to send all best wishes to Alan and hope that 2007 proves to be a better year for him in his pursuit for better health.

It doesn't end there. In December 2006 we received contact from **Gordon Littlewood** (1955 - 1958). Gordon recalls many memories of his time at St. Michael's and writes some interesting facts in his Web Site entry.

These are just some examples of how important the OMA Web Site is to our Association.

*However, there is more.....*

Those of you who read the Web Site contents on a regular basis may have noticed that in January this year a additional entry was added within our Guestbook section from **Peter & Barbara Hayes-Williams** who live in Sydney Australia. Peter is the nephew of our very own, and much missed, **Peg Hayes-Williams**. Peter & Barbara were seeking help in re-establishing contact with a dear friend in Norfolk who was also a close life-long friend of Peg's but unfortunately contact had been lost. Peter & Barbara used the OMA Web Site to ask for our help and with the co-operation of **Peter Yarker**, **Tom Healey** and our very own and Vice-Chairperson **Geraldine Moorehouse**, we all pulled together and successfully provided all of the necessary information which was sent back across to the other side of the World to **Peter & Barbara Hayes-Williams** and no doubt by now they have been able to successfully establish contact again with their friend in Norfolk.

So, I make no apologies for saying once again a **Very Big THANKYOU** to **Bill Cullin**, our Web Site Editor, for all of his hard work in keeping the OMA Web Site professionally managed and ticking along each and every year.

Many OM's use the Web Site for all kind of purposes and if you have any comments you wish to make about the running of the Association, compliments of all kinds are greatly appreciated by all members of the Committee, or maybe you wish to submit copies of old photographs relevant to your time spent at St. Michael's School, I know that **Bill Cullin** will be delighted to publish all of this in the Web Site for all Members to appreciate.

Why not check it out now, you never know you may just get hooked!

**[www.oma.org.uk](http://www.oma.org.uk)**

**We look forward to hearing from you all.**



# Breaking News from the BBC

A public school teacher was arrested today at Gatwick Airport (otherwise known as Gatport Airwick) as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a slide rule and a calculator.

At a morning press conference, Home Secretary Dr. John Reid said he believed the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement.

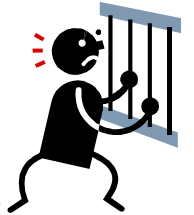
He did not identify the man, but confirmed that the Metropolitan Police had charged the man with carrying weapons of maths instruction.

"Al-gebra is a problem for us" Reid said. "They desire solutions by means and extremes and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values. They use code names like 'x' and 'y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns' but we have determined they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with co-ordinates in every country.

As the Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, 'There are three sides to every triangle'

When asked to comment on the arrest Prime Minister Tony Blair, speaking from his holiday resort, said "If God had wanted us to have Weapons of Maths Instruction he would have given us more fingers and toes."

*More exciting and topical reports from our intrepid reporter in the next edition of the OMA Newsletter. I bet you cannot wait!*



## A BIG BIG Thankyou to Peter Yarker

I know that all of our Members appreciate the publication of the **Newsletter** and '**The Mitre**' each year as much as your Committee enjoy writing the two publications.

Over recent years we have appreciated the fact that all of the printing has been organised by our own **Bill Cullin**, but at the beginning of 2006 this facility no longer became available to us and it became necessary for us to seek other ways of getting our publications printed.



It goes without saying that **Old Michaelian's** represent some of the most generous people ever and it was with some relief that the printing costs of the 2006 '**Mitre**' were underwritten by one of our own. Because of this gesture by an OM we were able to introduce a splash of colour into '**The Mitre**' without the costs impacting on our finances.

During the last quarter of 2006 we were made an offer we just could not refuse from **Peter Yarker** who very generously has offered the **Old Michaelian Association** the full use of the printing facilities located within the Benefice that includes the Parish of Norton St Philip where **Peter & Rosemary Yarker** live.

On behalf of all Members of the **Old Michaelian Association** I would wish to offer our sincere thanks to **Peter Yarker** and the Norton St Philip PCC for their generosity. It is very much appreciated.

## Membership Article

Your Editor, the revered John Wally, asked if I would like to write a few words on membership for this newsletter and, as I am still suffering from EWS (editorial withdrawal symptoms), I am happy to oblige.

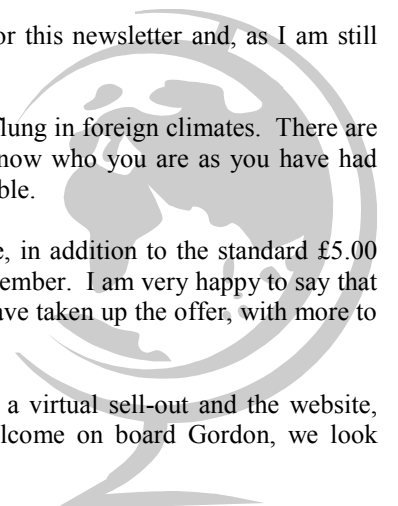
Membership stays buoyant and we have 194 members of which 155 are UK resident and the rest far flung in foreign climates. There are though still 16 of you whose subscriptions became due last September and remain unpaid. You know who you are as you have had reminders and, in the interest of economy I would urge you to send me your payment as soon as possible.

At the 2006 AGM it was unanimously agreed that a new band of membership be offered, therefore, in addition to the standard £5.00 which covered you for three years, we can now invite you to become, for the sum of £20.00, a Life Member. I am very happy to say that this has proved very popular with those OM's who have paid their subs at or since the Reunion, 34 have taken up the offer, with more to come.

The Old Michaelian Association is alive and well as proved by the 2006 Reunion which was a virtual sell-out and the website, [www.oma.org.uk](http://www.oma.org.uk) is still finding "lost" Old Michaelian's, the latest being Gordon Littlewood, welcome on board Gordon, we look forward to seeing you in October at the Le Strange.

That's it, my few words of penned and published and now I shall retreat into oblivion until the next time I am asked to contribute to this august journal or to its big sister The Mitre.

My address for those who wish to send their subs is: Martin Graville, 13 Willingham Road, Lea, Gainsborough DN21 5EN



# Letters to the Editor

It goes without saying that without the wonderful responses I receive from **Old Michaelian's** all over the World, we would struggle to generate any sort of publication for our Members.

So, I make no apologies for publishing just a handful of letters, e-mails and scraps of notes received from OM's over the last few months. Don't worry if your own letter has not been included this time because I will devote a similar section on **Letters to the Editor** within the next publication of '**The Mitre**'.

*Here we go then.....*

*Already a week has gone by since the **Old Michaelian** weekend. All seemed to go wonderfully well and your **Headmaster** would have been extraordinarily proud of you, although he would probably have shouted at you anyway and then given the boys the cane and the girls the strap!*

*Thank you all so much for the huge efforts that you put into the weekend. I can tell you that I and the family found it a deeply moving tribute to all that the school stood for and the part it played in the lives of us all.*

*Very Best Wishes  
Simon*

While going through some of our late Mother's items, my sister Debbie came across the attached educational feature which appeared in The Times in 1954. I wonder whether it might be of interest as an inclusion in '**The Mitre**'.

**(St, Michael's Prospectus)**

The original is a broadsheet page size which is too big to fit onto my scanner so the attached is a digital photo taken rather unsteadily.

It sets out the term fees for Day Pupils at **£28!**

Kind Regards  
Jack Owens

*I was delighted to receive your long and thoughtful letter on our return home on Thursday. I agree, it was a most remarkable weekend. Who would have believed that so many people from such diverse backgrounds and from all over the World could congregate to remember and treasure memories of schooldays which ended not less than 37 years ago? Most non-OM's would think us mad! One spouse I spoke to thought we were at a sort of concentration camp type of school and was surprised that it was no such thing and such 'nice' people had resulted. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the **OMA Committee** for their commitment and competence, not only for the festive weekend but for keeping the **OMA** so vibrant and alive.*

*We are all collectively paying tribute to the founder **Roger Pott** for his courage and foresight in developing the environment for so many future good citizens. We may not have thought so at the time!*

*Simon's comments of "...he's with us, you know" could be interpreted in many ways. Apart from the obvious, in the shape of **Simon** himself, I think in a way **Roger Pott** is in all of us. I certainly felt he was looking down on us all when his grand-daughter sang at St Michael's church for us all on the Sunday. We have a sense of pride in our upbringing which is in many ways totally unique.*

*Thank you and please keep up the good work.  
Doreen joins me in sending our good wishes to you and the **OMA** in the future.*

*Regards  
Michael Fleming*

*Many thanks for your letter concerning subscription renewal. Please find enclosed completed form and cheque covering Life Membership, an excellent idea.*

*I found the Spring/Summer issue of '**The Mitre**' very interesting. As I have said before, an address for the Editor in the magazine would be helpful.*

*Notwithstanding the contempt of **Mr Pott** for the 11+ he did arrange for **Peter Lascelles**, **Peter Lloyd** and myself to go to Snettisham School in the spring of 1948 to sit the written part of the exam.*

*We all passed and then went to the then King Edward VII Grammar school for interviews, which again we all passed.*

*The two '**Peter's**' left KES in 1953 after taking 'O' Levels. I stayed on into the sixth form just passing two out of three 'A' levels in 1955.*

*Kind Regards  
Ian Batchelor*

*I feel I should email you all to thank you for the great effort you made to make this year's Reunion so enjoyable.*

*It is remarkable that after so many years so many **OM's** still show appreciation of what **Mr Pott** achieved.*

*While I learned many things at **St. Michael's**, conventional and unconventional, I have always realised I learned to be a survivor and to be broadminded and this was a great asset when I left school and travelled the World, and this continues to be so today.*

*Thanks and regards  
Frank Dixon*