



2010

Editorial

Over this past year so much has happened to our Association and much of this is good news, although it is, with regret, that I will be reporting some sad news about OMA Members during 2009.

The OMA Newsletter, as I have said before, is a vehicle of communication for our Members in preparation for the publication of our annual 'biggy', The Mitre, that will be landing on your doormats or appearing in your in-box sometime towards the end of June. It is a taster that, hopefully, will encourage further communication from Old Michaelians who are already Members and even greater encouragement to those Old Michaelians who we have lost touch with and who wish to be reunited with 'old' friends.

2009 was the year when the Association recognised and celebrated the centenary of the birth of **Roger Percival Pott**, our Headmaster and founder of St. Michael's School.

With the full approval of the Pott family, the Association decided to dedicate the 2009 OMA Reunion weekend to celebrating the centenary of the birth of Roger Pott last October and this is a perfect opportunity for the President, Chairman and all OMA Committee Members to express a huge vote of 'Thanks' to everyone who travelled to Hunstanton and helped us celebrate. It was a great weekend and I will be reporting on some events of the weekend in this Newsletter and expanding further on the Reunion weekend in 'The Mitre' later this year.

The 2009 Reunion weekend was presided over by our Chairman, **Geraldine Ellison**, (nee Moorhouse) and this is an opportunity to express, on behalf of all Members, our appreciation to Geraldine and recognise the enormous amount of energy and enthusiasm Geraldine devotes to the Association.

The Association has a new Secretary. **John Worboys** was formally elected as Secretary at the 2009 AGM and I am sure you will want to join with me in wishing John every success in his new role. John takes up the reigns of responsibility as Secretary from **John King** who, over a number of years, has steadfastly devoted huge chunks of his life to the Association and now richly deserves a rest and a lay down in a darkened room. There will be a formal piece written about John King in the forthcoming 'Mitre'.

I hope you all thoroughly enjoy the contents of this, the 2010 OMA Newsletter, and that it gives you all a little piece of information you were unaware of and put a smile on your face where appropriate.

As I said to you earlier, 'The Mitre' will be published towards the end of June and we already have some splendid articles to include from existing Members and I am expecting to receive further articles from other Members who have made that commitment.

If you have any comments about the management of the Association, both good and bad, and/or you have an announcement to make relevant to the Association, and/or you wish to provide an article for inclusion into 'The Mitre', please do not hesitate in communicating with me, or any OMA Committee Member, and I will do the rest.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from many of you during 2010.

Best Wishes
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2010 Year of the TIGER



Dear Old Michaelian's

It was marvellous to welcome so many OM's to the Reunion last October.

I can't believe almost 18 months has passed since I was elected Chairman of the OMA. Thank you for re-electing me for a second year at the AGM last October.

The Committee worked very hard with preparations to make the Reunion memorable and, it is my opinion that it was one of the best Reunion's we have had. It was amazingly successful and a very enjoyable occasion. It was, as usual, a weekend of happy meetings with old friends and recalling happy (and not so happy) schooldays long since past.

About 80 Members and their families/friends sat down to a fine Reunion Dinner on the Saturday evening during which time we celebrated the centenary of the birth of Roger Pott. Jenny Pott made a scrumptious celebration cake that was as delicious as it looked and Simon cut the cake with great aplomb and we all respectfully drank a toast to the memory of our late Head Master.

On Sunday we held our Reunion Eucharist at Ingoldisthorpe which proved to be a very moving occasion. The collection was given over completely to the Restoration Fund for the Church Heating System and I am delighted to tell you all that we managed to raise **£350**.

If you have not managed to join us at one of the OMA Reunion weekends, please do come along because it is great fun, everyone is very friendly and you never know who you may bump in to!

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the 2010 Reunion Weekend on **30/31 October**.

More information will be published in **'The Mitre'**

Geraldine Ellison



Bob and the Blonde

Bob, a handsome young man, walked into a Sports Bar just before 10pm on his way home, after a challenging day in the Dealing Room, and sat next to a blonde at the Bar and stared up at the TV.

The 10pm News bulletin was about to start and the News Crew were covering the story of a man on the ledge of a large building preparing to jump.

The blonde looked at Bob and said, *Do you think he will jump?*

Bob said, *You know, I bet he will jump*

The blonde replied, *Well, I bet he won't jump*

At which point Bob placed a £20 note on the Bar right in front of the blonde and said, *You're on!*

Just as the blonde placed her £20 note on top of Bob's note, the man on the ledge did a swan dive off the building, falling to his inevitable death below.

The blonde was very upset, but willingly handed the wager across to Bob saying, *Fair's fair. Here is your money*.

Bob replied, *I can't take your money. I saw this earlier on the 5pm News bulletin and so I knew the man would jump*.

The blonde replied, *I did too but I didn't think he would do it again*.

Bob took the money, finished his drink at the Bar and went home.



2009 OMA Reunion Weekend

The OMA Reunion weekend took place last October in Hunstanton over the weekend of 24 – 25 October 2009 at the Le Strange Arms Hotel.

As you all now know, with the full approval and blessing of the Pott family, the Association decided to devote this Reunion weekend in celebrating the centenary of the birth of **Roger Percival Pott** and we are proud to announce that Old Michaelian's from both home and abroad crowded into Old Hunstanton to help us celebrate.

Although the Committee could never have expected to attract a large representation from abroad to travel the vast distances, in some cases, to attend the Reunion weekend, nevertheless, we were all delighted to welcome back to NW Norfolk **John Wort** with his wife Conny and their family who drove all the way from their home in Germany to join us. And even that feat of enthusiasm was

surpassed when we welcomed back to our shores **Michael Barnes** all the way from sunny California. Michael made it as far as Kings Lynn Station before the pangs of sheer delight and pure greed caught up with him and he just had to sink his teeth into a UK bacon butty! Yes, that is where I found him, lurking in a corner of the Station Cafe with enough evidence in front of him to convict! And lastly, but certainly not least, **Judith Polson** (nee Boggis) also travelled from the States to join us all for the Reunion.

Enough said about foreign travellers.....

I know that our President, Chairman and all Committee Members will wish me to express a huge vote of 'Thanks' to all Members who found the time to make the trip back to join us all in Old Hunstanton last October.

Forgive me if I mention just a few.....

We were delighted to welcome back a former OMA Chairman, **Michael Catterick** and his lovely wife Evelyn. Also, a former OMA Editor, **Martin Graville** and his lovely wife Barbara who both make every effort to attend each and every Reunion but who require a mention because I know that Martin has not enjoyed the best of health during 2009.

We welcomed back **Roger Wikeley** and his lovely wife Geraldine, and Roger kindly agreed to act as our Celebrant at the OMA Reunion weekend Eucharist at Ingoldisthorpe on the Sunday morning. Thanks a million, Roger.

We were all so pleased to welcome **Robin James** and his lovely wife Jenny to the Reunion Dinner. Many of you will know that Robin suffered some health problems during 2009 and we did not expect that Robin would have been fit enough to attend this year. How pleased we were to be proved wrong. The OMA Reunion Dinner would not be complete without Robin and Jenny, **Reg Wood** and his lovely wife Pidge.

Loads of people I could have mentioned and probably should but I will attempt to expand this report a little further within 'The Mitre' a little later this year.

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2009 OMA Reunion weekend. Our 'Thanks' are also directed towards the Management and staff of the Le Strange Arms Hotel who, collectively, ensured that we were looked after extremely well throughout the whole weekend. And lastly but just as importantly, I am sure you, the Members, will wish me to extend an armful of 'Thanks' to our President, Chairman and all Committee Members for their hard work and dedication to ensure that the whole weekend was a huge success.



▶ 2010

Dates for your 2010 Diary

**The 2010 Old Michaelian
Association Reunion
Weekend will take place
over the weekend of:**



30/31 October 2010



**Come on, pop the date
into your diary NOW!**