



TO



1953 - 2018

THE MITRE

2018

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2.

EDITORIAL



John Wallington

Welcome to this special publication of the OMA Anniversary Edition of 'The Mitre'. My name is John Wallington and it will be my pleasure to guide you through our annual publication and present another jam packed publication for your interest and enjoyment. In the **OMA 2018 Newsletter**, published in February, we congratulated the Old Michaelian Association for achieving a magnificent **65 years** keeping in contact with all Old Michaelians all over the world. There will be room within this publication to ensure that you all are kept totally informed about the forthcoming Anniversary OMA Reunion weekend that will be taking place at the **Heacham Manor Hotel during the weekend of 27/28 October 2018.**

Huge congratulations must be given to our Headmaster for the encouragement and support he gave to the idea of establishing the **Old Michaelian Association** in 1953 and we salute and say:.....

THANK YOU

.....to all ex-Chairman, ex-OMA Committee Members, OMA Partners but most of all to our President **Simon Pott and his wife Jenny and all existing OMA Committee Members** who have been, and continue to be, such an influence and supporters of our Association.

However, all of the fabulous work that past Chairmen, past Committee Members and OMA Partners have contributed towards the success of the Old Michaelian Association over 65 years compares not a jot to the continuing support that you, **THE OMA MEMBERS**, provide for the Association.

THANK YOU

Earlier this year we asked all Members to contribute to the **2018 Mitre** and I am delighted that so many of you have done so and this will enable us to present what I have described as, a Special Edition of **The Mitre** and I really do hope you gain great pleasure and interest in this publication and show your continuing support in everything that your Association has achieved over these past 65 years and intends to do so over many more years to come.

Best Wishes

John Wallington

Editor

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MEET THE OMA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

To my knowledge, we have not spent enough time in recent 'Mitre' publications recognising the time and effort given by the OMA Committee Members each and every year supporting your Association. The following is a full list of the existing OMA Committee: Ed



Our President, Simon Pott



Our Chairman, Ian Dupont



Ruth and Mike Chilvers.



Bill Cullin.



Bob Hill.

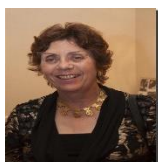


John Wallington

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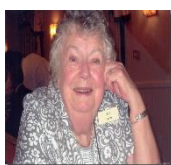
John King.



Geraldine Ellison.



Michael Shellock.



Pat Dove.



Mike Smith.



Elaine Humby.



Marilyn Leeson.

I am sure you will want to join with me to thank our President, our Chairman and all Committee Members for all of the hard work they undertake for the OMA.

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St Michael and All Angels Parish Church Ingoldisthorpe

Dear Old Michaelians,

The good news is that the East Window is now fully restored and back in place. Please do pass on my own and the PCC's gratitude to the Old Michaelian Association for their generosity last year. Please also find attached a photograph of the restored window.

Kind Regards

Rev. Mark Capron, Rector of the Dersingham Benefice

I clearly remember placing an article in 'The Mitre' a few years ago providing detail and memories of Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church and how important it was to St Michaels School each and every day.

*In 2016 we received information from the **Rev. Mark Capron, Rector of the Dersingham Benefice that includes Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church**, that urgent restoration work was needed to repair, restore and replace the East Window of the church and we recognised an opportunity for the **Old Michaelian Association** to become totally involved in this project and you did not disappoint.*

*The message from **Mark Capron** speaks volumes of how Mark and the PCC fully appreciate the contribution the OMA made to this project. Ed*



2017 OMA REUNION WEEKEND

The annual OMA Reunion weekend is always a highly anticipated and exciting time for the Association and we always make a point of thanking all OM's and their partners for helping to make the whole weekend important, relevant and outstandingly enjoyable.

The 2017 OMA Reunion weekend was no exception and we were, once again, blessed with a high number of Old Michaelians and their partners at the Le Strange Arms Hotel Old Hunstanton.

Perhaps there was a tinge of disappointment during the weekend that this would be the last time the Association would meet at the Le Strange Arms Hotel because, due to reasons outside of the control of the OMA, the Hotel Management had decided to carry out a full refurbishment of the Hotel throughout 2018 meaning that the fabulous facilities used by the OMA for many years would no longer be available to us. This feeling of disappointment, however, did not spoil the sense of enjoyment by all who attended and I am delighted to report that 2017 was probably one of the most successful OMA Reunion weekends by a long chalk.

The Annual General Meeting took place during the Saturday afternoon and was well attended. Copies of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM are available to all OMA Members upon request. Our AGM is always conducted according to the OMA Constitution and our President, Simon Pott, helps in many ways to steer the AGM Agenda accordingly. As part of the OMA Constitution it was necessary to appoint a new OMA Chairman and I am delighted to confirm that, after formal procedures were finalised, Ian Dupont was elected OMA Chairman for the following 3 years and we wish Ian all of our support and luck.

The OMA Reunion Dinner on the Saturday evening was equally well attended and the Le Strange Arms Hotel Management and staff provided us all with exceptional service and a cracking, scrummy Dinner as well. In his last responsibility as the out-going Chairman of the Association, John Wallington paid a tribute to all Management and staff of the Le Strange Arms Hotel for their attention, service, help and advice over a considerable number of years.

The 2017 OMA Reunion weekend came to a close, as we do every year, at St. Michaels Parish Church Ingoldisthorpe for our OMA Reunion Eucharist and, once again, the attendance of OM's did us proud. This time we invited The Rev. Susanna Gunner to conduct our Eucharist as Celebrant and Susanna was ably assisted by Jeff Lake. We were also delighted that Benedict Gunner was, again, our organist providing some impressive musical professionalism and a massive influence for our Eucharist.

Lots of photographs were taken during the weekend and if you would like to view the selection of photos please visit our Web Site at the following address:

WWW.OMA.ORG.UK

7.



The OMA has always kept in close contact with our Members down under who reside in Australia and New Zealand and it is always appreciated to hear back from them after the publication of 'The Mitre' and being able to publish articles presented by individual Members. The OMAA was established a few years ago, (I cannot remember exactly what year) and this has certainly created a bond between the OMA and the OMAA. So, it was only right that, as the OMA celebrate our 65th Anniversary, that we should invite an entry into 'The Mitre'

from Les Roberts. Ed.

I was a Prefect.....it says so on my leaving certificate signed by the Headmaster. I was put in charge of **School Heating!** Yes Sir! It was my job to ensure that all of those smelly old paraffin heaters were full every morning. Light them, trim the wick and make sure they functioned as well as possible. Regular maintenance of these appliances was a full time job so I was provided with a workshop at Ingoldisthorpe at the back of the courtyard where I would spend many happy hours doing what a 'Prefect in charge of Heating' would have to do in preference to spending hours in the classroom. If a 'rogue' Heater became dodgy pouring out thick black smoke, the Headmaster would shout at his loudest **"Roberts.....fix that Heater!"**

Why was I so happy doing this work? It got me off school work. I did everything possible to avoid school work and this was the best ever job. Very often I would spin the well-used excuse to school staff, **"Sorry Henry, I could not do the work as the Headmaster had me fixing Heaters"**. Perfect! Summer was a bit tough but I still managed to do maintenance work in my little workshop until the Headmaster found out and I was told in no uncertain terms, **"This can be done during your out of school hours Boy!"**

If I smell paraffin today, my mind immediately goes back to those halcyon days in my workshop.

Les Roberts 1955 – 1958

OoooooooooO

Thoughts to ponder upon!

My Mother taught me to APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.....

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I've just finished cleaning"

My Mother taught me RELIGION.

"You had better pray that stain comes out of the carpet"

My Father taught me about TIME TRAVEL.

"If you do not straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week".

My Father taught me LOGIC.

"Because I said so, that's why"

TALKING TO JUDY CORNWELL



*In 2008 the OMA was delighted to welcome **Judy Cornwell and her husband John** to the Le Strange Arms Hotel Old Hunstanton to help us celebrate our annual OMA Reunion weekend. After some exhaustive detective work, our own **Pat Frost** had established that Judy truly was an Old Michaelian and every effort was made to persuade Judy and John to join us all in Old Hunstanton for our Reunion. Ten years has passed by since then and my wife Angela and I found out that Judy was appearing on stage at our local Yvonne Arnaud Theatre here in Guildford in the annual*

*Pantomime production of Dick Whittington as 'Fairy Bowbells'. The following interview was given by **Alex D'Arcy** from "The Guide 2 Surrey" who has kindly given his permission for us to publish this interview. Ed.*

You came to Yvonne Arnaud in Guildford this December to play Fairy Bowbells in the classic fairy tale Dick Whittington.

Well, I was there playing Miss Marple in 2015 and that's when I met Jamie Barber (Director) who's just lovely. He said to me, 'do you want to be a fairy?' I said, 'Oh. That would be lovely. I really fancy being a fairy. So I talked with the producer and after making a few useful suggestions about the draft script, everything was agreed. It is a lovely cast and we all met for the first time for a photo opportunity. I played Miss Marple during 2015/16 all over the country but the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre is really lovely with comfortable dressing rooms and lovely people and I am really looking forward to it. And I'm switching on the Christmas lights for Guildford High Street and that will be a 1st for me!!

Pantomimes are notoriously labour intensive with some days seeing no less than three performances – how do you cope?

They are hard going! The rest of the cast are much younger than me, I'll be 78 in February, so I will sleep between shows as I have a little bed in my dressing room which is what I usually do anyway. But I live on sausage rolls and they are a wonderful pick me up. On a matinee day I have a good breakfast and then a sausage roll between shows. If it's just one show a day then I can have a proper lunch but I have to watch my diet when I am working.

You are of course no stranger to Pantomime and indeed started your career amongst the festive furore as a dancer and singer in Pantomime. Has much changed in the Pantomime game since you first entered the fray?

Oh! I started in Pantomime 63 years ago. I was a dancer and I watched the Cinderella part from the wings. She became ill and I took over at the age of 15. Pantomime hasn't changed at all. You still have your dancers, singers and comics and really it is for the children and their parents. For the parents bringing their children, the script and the plot has to be simple and great fun to watch and understand. Although there are a number of different types of Pantomime available these days I think that people search for the traditional type of family Pantomimes. All the children love to join in. What is really special at the Guildford Yvonne Arnaud Theatre is that they insist on performing one show during the run for children who have learning difficulties and that I think is truly wonderful not only for the children but also for the parents.

9.

You played Mrs Claus in the hit Santa Claus The Movie, a film that has created much joy for many viewers. What are your memories of making that movie?

Well. It's a proper Christmas story. We had such fun making the film. Roger Moore was filming his 007 Bond film on an adjacent stage and we were close enough to hear the gossip that was being aired. I can tell you that we heard that there was much criticism voiced about the "poor reindeer in that snow storm". Utter rubbish. Those animals were totally looked after – 100%. I felt sorry for the poor puppeteers who were inside the reindeer costumes and the poor actors! David Huddleston and I were blasted by these huge fans generating a snow storm producing fake snow. It is terrifying and we were made to carry out take after take for two whole days. It was difficult to speak without swallowing plastic snow but I believe we all made a huge success of our joint attempt to produce a highly acceptable movie that the Producers gave us hampers from Fortnum & Mason.

It was a lovely movie to make and a real pleasure to work with David Huddleston and Dudley Moore. Dudley was such a naughty boy and constantly played tricks on David Huddleston.

Good luck Judy. We hope to welcome you and John back to NW Norfolk again very soon.

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More thoughts to ponder upon!!

My Mother taught me FORESIGHT.

"Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you are in an accident".

My Father taught me IRONY.

"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about.

My Mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper".

My Mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM

"Just look at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

My Mother taught me about STAMINA.

"You will sit there until that spinach is gone"

**THE 2018 65TH ANNIVERSARY OMA REUNION
WEEKEND**

27TH AND 28TH OCTOBER

HEACHAM MANOR HOTEL

HERE IS YOUR OWN PERSONAL INVITATION.....



Please accept this invitation to attend the 65th Anniversary OMA Reunion weekend at the Heacham Manor Hotel over the weekend of 27th and 28th October 2018. Full details of the weekend programme are contained within this publication of 'The Mitre'. We hope that as many Old Michaelians will find the time to help us celebrate this milestone in the history of the OMA. We look forward to welcoming you all.

www.oma.org.uk

THE DETAILS AND PROGRAMME FOR THIS EXCEPTIONAL OMA ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND.

*The location for our annual OMA Reunion weekend may have changed but.....Boy! Have we found an exceptional alternative. An enormous amount of time and effort has been exerted by the OMA Committee Members in searching for the perfect alternative venue for all Old Michaelians and we are sure you will not be disappointed in **HEACHAM MANOR HOTEL**.*

The Hotel Management and staff are prepared to show off their Hotel to the OMA to ensure that the Association make this venue the preferred location for future years.

The Hotel boasts a full range of fabulous facilities including a Spa Centre, an impressive selection of different styles of accommodation, an 18 hole Golf Course, an endorsement from 'THE TIMES' who voted Hunstanton Beach and the Heacham Manor Hotel as TOP NOTCH.

We are 100% confident you will not be disappointed with our selection. Ed.

Preparation



- Accommodation
All the relevant details of accommodation at the Heacham Manor Hotel are provided below:
- Room rates: **Standard Double.....£125.00**
Cottage Suite.....£143.00
Classic Room.....£134.00
De Luxe Room..... £143.00
Four Poster Room.....152.00

It is extremely important that, if you wish to book accommodation at the Heacham Manor Hotel that you use the following direct telephone number: **01485 536002**.

Please ask to speak with either Rachel or Emma and also mention that you require accommodation for the Old Michaelian Association function for the weekend of 27/28 October.



Alternatively, you may wish to book your accommodation at the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton. Please be aware that the Old Michaelian Association does not have any negotiated room rates with the Le Strange as previously.

Guest Houses in Heacham are plentiful and we would suggest you take a peep at the choices by searching for *Guest Houses in Heacham and via Bookings.com*

12.

Our invitation is extended to wives, husbands, partners, girl-friends, boy-friends, friends.....in fact anyone who Old Michaelians wish to bring along for the weekend. The more the merrier!!

Our infamous photographic display, managed by our own John King, will take pride of place at the Heacham Manor Hotel to enable all our Members and guests to view. This collection of memorabilia and photographs has been built up by John King over a considerable number of years and those of you who have viewed the collection before will testify to its own significance to the Old Michaelian Association.



The Annual General Meeting will begin promptly at **3.30pm** on Saturday 27 October and we hope that as many Old Michaelians as possible will join us at the Heacham Manor Hotel and contribute to this event helping the existing OMA Committee to shape the future affairs of the OMA for the next twelve months.

Those Old Michaelians who wish to make a firm booking for our OMA Anniversary Reunion Dinner on Saturday 27 October 2018 must make note of the following changes in procedure.

We ask you to note that, if it is your intention to join us all at the Heacham Manor Hotel for our OMA Anniversary Reunion Dinner on 27 October 2018, that you complete the enclosed Booking Form and send this, together with your remittance, to Ruth Chilvers no later than Friday 12 October 2018 please. This is so that we may ensure that all necessary administrative details are fully confirmed with the Hotel in readiness for our Reunion weekend.

The cost for our amazing OMA Anniversary Dinner is only **£26 per person** and for that price you will be asked to select from the choices listed below that will provide you and your guests with a wonderful accompaniment to this OMA Anniversary weekend. The location is perfect and we are expecting heavy bookings, so don't delay, make your choices and book your place(s) now.

1. Locate the Booking Form supplied within 'The Mitre'
2. Please fill out all required sections.
3. Make your choices of each serving (ie. Starter, Mains, Dessert) from the Menu below.
4. Make out your cheque (made payable to the Old Michaelian Association) and mail this all to our Ruth Chilvers.

The choices are:

Starters

- 1. Soup of the Day
- 2. Goat's Cheese and Beetroot Salad
- 3. Prawn and Crayfish Cocktail

Mains

- 1. Pan Roast Rack of Lamb
- 2. Pork Belly
- 3. Baked Fillet of Cod

Desserts

- 1. Sticky Toffee Pudding
- 2. Vanilla Panacotta
- 3. Red Wine Poached Pear

Quick update for you all.....

- If you require accommodation over the Reunion weekend, please remember to book and confirm your requirements.
- Fill out the enclosed OMA Booking Form to confirm your requirements for the OMA Anniversary Reunion Dinner. This is also required for all guests.
- Mail the completed OMA Booking Form, including your cheque made payable to the Old Michaelian Association, to Ruth Chilvers, 85 Elliott Road, March, Cambs PE15 8BP to arrive with Ruth no later than 12 October 2018
- Sit back and relax and look forward to an exceptional OMA Reunion weekend.

The timetable for our Reunion weekend will be as follows:

- Saturday 27 October 2018 arrive and settle at the Heacham Manor Hotel or alternative accommodation.
- For those OM's who have elected to compete for the OMA Golf Trophy, please contact Mike Smith for a tee-off time.
- Please find the time to attend the Old Michaelian Association **AGM** at the Heacham Manor Hotel commencing at 3:30pm
- Our OMA Anniversary Reunion Dinner will begin promptly at **7:45pm** at the Heacham Manor Hotel. Please ensure you and your guests arrive soon after **7pm**.
- During the evening the OMA Committee Ladies will be organising and leading the most amazing OMA Raffle so please ensure you have plenty of spare cash to spend!!
- The 'After Dinner Speeches' are always a highlight of our Annual OMA Reunion Dinner led by our President, **Simon Pott** and our Chairman **Ian Dupont**. We always make a point of inviting Old Michaelians to participate at this stage of the evening and if you do wish to make a comment or three, please let Simon or Ian know as soon as possible.
- On Sunday 28 October 2018 we invite all Old Michaelians and their guests to meet at Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church for our annual OMA Eucharist. Our service this year will be led by our very own Roger Wikeley who will be ably supported by Geoff Lake and we are delighted to welcome Geraldine Wikeley who will be playing the organ. The OMA Eucharist will begin promptly at **11am**. The Old Michaelian Association offers to the Rev. Mark Capron, Rector of Dersingham Benefice and the PCC, our enormous 'Thanks' for allowing the OMA to use Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church for our annual Eucharist again this year.

And so our OMA Anniversary Reunion weekend draws to an end for another year and we are free to travel back to our home with amazing memories.

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Memories play tricks and sometimes can exaggerate the real truth. But when a document becomes available outlining the 'players' who were responsible for the management of the OMA back in 1961, everyone should be given the opportunity to read these historic words. Our Thanks to John King for giving us all the chance to re-live life back in the early 60's. Ed.

“At last year’s meeting it was generally accepted that the 1960 AGM Minutes were as read (Minutes not available).

At the Annual General Meeting of the Old Michaelian Association in December 1961, when 35 people were present, the Officers and Committee for 1962 were elected as follows:

President: The Rev. R P Pott

Chairman: Mr John Stainsby

Secretary: Miss Geraldine Moorhouse

Treasurer: Mr Peter Noakes

Committee Members: Clifford Wallington, Geoffrey Lake, Michael Lambert, Gordon Wood & Miss Patricia Dove.

Mr Peter Noakes (Treasurer for 1961) presented the Financial Statement.

In 1960 the Association had £10.14s 2d in hand. In December 1961 the Balance had risen to £21.17s 4d. £19 had been invested in the TSB. In the year 1960 the Association recorded 20 full members.

At the 1960 Christmas Reunion Dance a profit of £15 was recorded.

The President of the Association, the Rev. R P Pott and Headmaster of St. Michaels School addressed the meeting. He told us that the first edition of 'The Mitre' had been printed. During the past year a considerable re-organisation and improvement work had taken place in the school. The Children’s Convalescent Home at Hunstanton had been acquired for classrooms and the original school at Ingoldisthorpe was to be used as a boys boarding house and provide dining facilities for all pupils.

At Heacham a new girl’s boarding house has been purchased to accommodate 20 more girls. An extension of the school bus service was made to Kings Lynn. The school still continues to attract 10% of its pupils from abroad and although changes have taken place, staff numbers have increased. The Headmaster suggested that the old students should contribute to the school magazine.

In conclusion the Headmaster informed the Committee Members that the school had become registered by the Ministry of Education in 1960.

It was decided that there would be no Summer Reunion in 1962 but it was suggested that there should be a cricket match and tennis tournament between Old Michaelians and the school.

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HEACHAM MANOR HOTEL

A PROFILE.....

For a considerable number of years the Old Michaelian Association has relied on the professionalism, the help and the reliability of the Le Strange Arms Hotel at Old Hunstanton to host the annual OMA Reunion weekend each and every October. The Management and staff at the Le Strange have always accommodated our demands and wishes and, it is true to say that, when we were approached and told that the Le Strange Arms Hotel could no longer accommodate our annual Reunion weekend we very quickly engaged a fast forward gear in the search for a suitable alternative site.



We believe we have found the perfect alternative in the **Heacham Manor Hotel** and this is where our 2018 Anniversary Reunion weekend will take place over the weekend of **27 and 28 October**.

Under the direction of our Chairman Ian Dupont the whole of the OMA Committee have gone to great lengths to ensure that the Heacham Manor Hotel lives up to its reputation and provide all OMA guests the level of service the OMA has been promised. It is a fact that the Management and staff of the Hotel are very excited to become our Hosts for the duration of our OMA Anniversary Reunion weekend and they are determined to ensure that all of us, whether we are staying as their guests and/or attending our **65th OMA Anniversary Dinner**, will feel comfortable and pampered during our stay.

Most of us will know Heacham very well even though **Wadworths Tuck Shop** may be a distant memory including the magnificent "**Wadworths Specials**". In May, just before publication, Frank Dixon drew my attention to the Eastern Daily Press informing its Readers that Lidl were planning to invest £4.5m developing a new site for another store.....in HEACHAM! Mr Wadsworth must be turning in his grave! You may have totally forgotten the whereabouts of **Joplins Barbers**, but you will recall where Heacham Church is located just past the railway crossing and opposite the Green. Well, drive a little further and the Heacham Manor Hotel is on your left.

We have provided, we hope, sufficient detail with regard to accommodation at the Hotel and both Emma and Rachel look forward to hearing from you and organising your accommodation and your requirements for the Old Michaelian Association weekend in October.

In addition we have provided all the information you may require with regard to your choice of courses at the OMA Anniversary Reunion Dinner on Saturday 27 October and we have provided you with a copy of the OMA Booking Form that will need to be filled out and returned to Ruth Chilvers no later than 12 October 2018 please. If you are unable to meet the deadline of 12 October 2018 but you and your guests still require to join us all for the OMA Anniversary Reunion Dinner on Saturday 27 October 2018, you will still be served with a mouth watering Dinner but without the choices as follows for £26 per head:

- Soup of the Day
- Pork Belly
- Vanilla Panacotta

A fact that had disappeared into the depths of our memories over the past few years was the **OMA Golf Tournament Trophy**. *(It is with much regret that I do not possess a photograph! Ed.)* But I do know a man who has cherished and polished this rare piece of prized silverware for many years and that man is.....**MIKE SMITH**.

The Heacham Manor Hotel is very well known for the 18 Hole Golf Course attached to the Hotel complex and it would be right and proper to invite all Old Michaelians to contest for the OMA Golf Trophy.



Interested in giving the 'Bats' an airing and competing for the OMA Golf Trophy?

Mike Smith has managed to secure Tee-time from 10.00 onwards on Saturday 27 October and he is very keen to hear from any Old Michaelian and partners who may be interested in joining him on the 1st Tee on Saturday morning.

Contact Mike Smith directly to secure your place competing for this Trophy by registering your interest and confirming a Tee-off Time with Mike.



Mike can be contacted via his email address as follows:

grumpsusa@yahoo.co.uk

or..... directly on 01536 391953

I am reliably informed by Mike that Golf Buggies will be made available to players from the Golf Club if required.

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From the amount of interest already expressed by Old Michaelians to the whole programme of events planned by the OMA Committee for our OMA Anniversary Reunion weekend, we are becoming very excited about our first OMA Reunion weekend at the Heacham Manor Hotel. The Hotel Management and staff have made every effort to accommodate us all over the weekend of 27/28 October 2018 and we just hope that the prospect of such an enjoyable weekend in Heacham will appeal to you all and we can look forward to welcoming you all.

We do look forward to seeing you all. Ed.



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN....IAN DUPONT

7 May 2018

At last a decent Bank Holiday! Hardly believable after the weather we have had this year. I hope that the flooding we have experienced in East Anglia has not come too close to you.

This year the Association are having to change our meeting place for this Anniversary Reunion and, although sad in some respects, it does give us an opportunity for a new venue closer to our Heacham roots. (I started my school experience in the dormitory closest to the Heacham Manor in the new building opened by Queen Mary in the fifties.)

After several visits to the Hotel I am very happy to commend the Heacham Manor Hotel to you all and certainly the Management and staff are looking forward to welcoming us. (Even after the shock of being told of the connection with Heacham all those years ago). The OMA Committee have worked hard to ensure you and your guests are made very welcome and you can relax and soak up the OMA atmosphere.

We are hoping to resurrect the OMA Challenge Golf Trophy that has been successfully 'dug-up', cleaned and polished by our own Mike Smith and made ready for the challenge ahead. Or you may wish to take part in the OMA Croquet Challenge on Saturday morning at the Hotel. It will be great to see many of you there to mount a challenge in either sport. If you do wish to take part, all the relevant details are available to you all within 'The Mitre'.

I do hope you will make every effort to join us all in Heacham this year so that the OMA Reunion weekend is a tremendous success and we all look forward to a long and successful association with the Heacham Manor Hotel each and every October.

With all good wishes for the future

**Ian Dupont
OMA Chairman**

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A FINAL WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SIMON POTT

And now for something a little different.

With much regret, it has been necessary for the OMA to sever its long established ties with the Le Strange Arms Hotel. I do know that our Chairman and his team have carried out extensive research examining a number of alternative locations and have chosen the Heacham Manor Hotel for all future OMA Reunion weekends. I have also been very impressed with the Hotel and, quite recently, I booked into the Hotel and was very impressed with the layout, the accommodation and the dining areas and my immediate impression is that I believe this **WILL SUIT US ALL VERY WELL.**

So it is very much down to you all and my hope is that you will all help us to make this Anniversary Reunion weekend one of the very best on record. We already know that the 'old faithfuls' will be joining us and we always look forward to welcoming some new surprises who join us all after an absence of several years and are astonished how little has actually changed! Whether you decide to join us all to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Old Michaelian Association or you simply wish to meet up with long lost friends from times gone by, no matter, you will all be made very welcome. It will be great to see you all, hear your memories, reminisce or simply absorb the atmosphere, meet old friends and be part of the remarkable continuing story of the OMA.

I look forward to meeting you again.

Best Wishes

Simon Pott
OMA President

*This Special edition of "The Mitre" would not be complete if we were not to hear from the first Chairman of the Old Michaelian Association, **Michael Fleming**. Michael has a long memory and especially for those events involving the school and Michael has kindly made the deadline and made the following contribution to this publication. Ed.*

CRICKET AT ST. MICHAELS



Back Row

Reggie Wood, Fred Dooman, John Curtis, Page Clowser, Unnamed.

Front Row

Gordon Wood, Michael Fleming (c) Peter Noakes, John Remington, John Mitchel, John Stainsby

Although we didn't produce any Don Bradman's or a Peter May, we did have some decent players in the early 50's. In particular, Freddie Dooman. Fred, a Persian, whose background was hardly cricket, had a wonderful eye for the ball. He was a natural! He often scored more than 50 runs.

The pitch was true if nothing else. A 22 yard strip of concrete with a length of coconut matting a third of the way down the pitch at either end. The run ups for the bowlers needed regular attention. Several windows of adjoining cottages were broken as a direct result of enthusiastic batting! We all had decent kit, although somewhat grass stained. All games were played in whites. Usually a 'practice' would be played on a Wednesday and a real match on a Saturday against other schools. Frequently matches were rained off. Home matches would start at 2pm and we were well looked after by the girls who expertly provided refreshments of jam sandwiches and lemonade. There was never any socialising allowed after the match and the visiting team would leave before 6pm.

Away games were similar except for the fact that the school team would cram into the School Brouche since it was the main school transport of the time, long before the Commer or Double Decker ex-London bus. Invariably the driver was one of our playing team wearing the customary school cap!! A new boy, newly arrived from Kenya, came to the batting crease with the "box" tied onto his head!!

One year the Headmaster invited a professional coach to the school. He was very old but he had kept wicket for Hampshire for several years.

We all had fun and developed a passion for the game for the rest of our lives.

Best Wishes

Michael Fleming

And.....finally!

Just in case any of you may have difficulty in finding the [Heacham Manor Hotel](#), here are some helpful hints in a poem by [PAM AYES](#).

**I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car
A Satnav is a drivers friend it tells you where you are**

**I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones.....my Satnav is my wife**

**It gives me full instructions especially how to drive
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty-five".**

**It tells me when to stop and start and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever safe to overtake.**

**It tells me when the light is red and when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively just when to intervene**

**It lists the vehicles just in front and those to the rear
And taking this into account it specifies my gear**

**I'm sure no other driver has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car it still gives its advice**

**It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it for a quieter sort?**

**Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things and keeps me warm in bed**

**Despite all these advantages and my tendency to scoff
I only wish that now and then I could turn the bugger off!**

Ooooooooooooo

THE END.