

The Mitre 2011

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It is with great pleasure that I again 'Welcome' you all to another publication of 'The Mitre'. As in previous years, the objective is to inform, update, amuse and to become a general tool of communication for all Old Michaelian's across the World.

D

To those of you who have contributed to 'The Mitre' this year and, on behalf of our President Simon Pott, Chairman Geraldine Ellison and all OMA Committee Members.....a huge 'THANK YOU'.

T

Within 'The Mitre' this year you will find articles and information relating to many Old Michaelian's and for two former Members we offer our respect, recording and remembering their recent deaths and recalling the contributions they have made to our Association over the years.

T

There is also a full report on yet another very successful OMA Reunion in Hunstanton last October. And, you will not be surprised to read, many words of encouragement to you all to meet in Hunstanton again this coming October to celebrate the 2011 OMA Reunion Weekend.

O

As I said in my Editorial, published in the 2011 OMA Newsletter, many personnel changes have taken place and continue to take place within the management of our Association and within 'The Mitre' this year you will, I am sure, join with me in paying tribute to **John King** who stepped down as Association Secretary after what seems like a life time of devotion and damn hard work on behalf of the Old Michaelian Association. We will also be paying tribute to **Rachel Golby and Louise Taylor** who have worked tirelessly for the Association over many years.

R

There is also plenty to smile about.....yes, even through these difficult times of austerity and by now you will have appreciated some extremely amusing tales that have been submitted by OM's for inclusion into 'The Mitre' each and every year. So, once again there is something for you all to titter about and quite right, I say. "*You titter away to your heart's content!!*"

T

It is with enormous pleasure that we are able to report to you all that **Mike Smith** is once again back in the UK with his lovely wife Shirley and Mike has agreed to support us again as a prominent OMA Committee Member.

A

"Welcome back Mike"

Best wishes to you all for 2011 and I hope to see as many of you as possible in Hunstanton over the weekend of **29/30 October 2011**.

L

Best Wishes to you all

*John Wallington
OMA Editor
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LE10 2SY*

DON'T MESS WITH SENIOR CITIZENS!

An elderly lady decided to give herself a bit of a treat for her significant birthday by staying overnight in one of London's most expensive Hotels.

When she checked out the following morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for £250.

She exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high. ***"It's a nice Hotel but the rooms certainly aren't worth £250 for just an overnight stop without breakfast"***.

The clerk explained that £250 is the 'standard rate' so the elderly lady demanded on speaking with the Manager.

The Manager appeared and, forewarned by the desk clerk, announced ***"the Hotel has an Olympic size pool and a huge Conference Centre which are all available for use by our guests"***.

"But I didn't use them" the elderly lady insisted.

"Well, they are here, and you could have used them" explained the Manager.

The manager went on to explain to the elderly lady that she could have seen one of the in-Hotel shows for which the Hotel is famous. ***"We have the best entertainers from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen performing here"*** said the Manager.

"But I didn't go to any of these shows" the elderly lady again insisted.

"Well, we have them and you could have" replied the Manager.

No matter what amenity the Manager mentioned, the elderly lady replied,

"But I didn't use it!"

The Manager was unmoved so eventually the elderly lady decided to pay, wrote out her cheque and handed it to the Manager.

The Manager was surprised when he looked at the cheque, ***"But madam, this cheque is only made out for £50"***

"That is right", replied the elderly lady. ***"I have charged you £200 for sleeping with me"***.

"But I didn't!" exclaimed the very surprised Manager.

"Well, too bad. I was here and you could have".

DON'T MESS WITH SENIOR CITIZENS!

GREETINGS FROM THE REV. WILLIAM E KELLY

Ed. Many times I have been asked by Old Michaelian's whether we are able to make contact with **Bill Kelly**. Although I did not know Bill personally, the impression I have always been given is that Bill made an impact on many of you during his time teaching at St. Michael's School. So, it was with enormous joy that we received a communication from Bill in July last year but after the 2010 'Mitre' had been published.

Here is the content of his letter:

“Greetings from the not so sunny south!! Thanks for the latest ‘Mitre’ that was read within ten minutes of it coming through the letterbox. Congratulations upon such a well produced bulletin which keeps alive the spirit of RPP. Each of us in his day and in his way passed through the inevitable and essential ‘Giving to and Receiving from’ our contemporaries and doesn't it show when late October comes around?”

I should like to pass on, for future publications, the sad news of the death at the end of May (2010) of Margaret Craig, widow of the Rev. James Craig who was at St Michael's School for several years from 1964. From my first encounter I knew I had made wonderful friends with whom I shared numerous meals and the conversations these generated. In her later years she was nursed by her daughter Kathleen.

To the very end Margaret was chirpy and alert and, almost inevitably, the school and happenings therein crept into our conversations, laughter and reminiscences never far away! On countless occasions over the years I have recounted to various Groups the implausible happenings at the “Potteries”.....and Shakespeare's words echo in my mind.....

The friends thou hast and their adoption tried

Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel.

Thankfully I enjoy excellent health. I send to one time pupils of mine and to the Association Members my best wishes. God Bless.

Bill K.

DID YOU KNOW.....

This year we will experience **four** unusual dates.....

1/1/11
1/11/11
11/1/11
11/11/11

Now, go figure this out.....

Take the last **two** digits of the year you were born plus the age you will be this year and it **WILL EQUAL.....111!**

If your total does not equal 111, please don't blame me!

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT SIMON POTT (OR IS IT!!!!)

‘Those of you who attended the OMA Reunion Weekend in 2010 will know that numbers were slightly reduces but that the Reunion was a rip-roaring success, rich in quality, anecdote and celebration.

‘More of the same for 2011’ was what was wanted for those who attended and I hope that we might see you on the **29/30 October 2011 in Old Hunstanton.**

Each year we have one or two OM's who attend having not returned to NW Norfolk since they left school and if you decide to make this year your first time to a OMA Reunion weekend, I feel sure you will not be disappointed and that you will find somebody there from your era looking remarkably unchanged after 30, 40 or 50 years!!

‘Thank you’ to the Old Michaelian who telephoned one of the Committee recently to say how excited she was to see the Headmaster speaking on BBC Television.

‘No, that was me!’ But, if you come for the weekend you might be forgiven for wondering if the ‘Old Man’ had returned. I suppose I could always put on a dog collar!!

Simon

THE 2010 OMA REUNION REPORT

I have lost count of the number of OMA Reunion Weekends I have attended over the years and I must begin this Report by explaining to you all that on Sunday 31 October 2010 I drove away from St Michael's Parish Church Ingoldisthorpe having experienced a really stunning weekend with many dear friends. For some unknown reason, even though our numbers for our Reunion Dinner on the Saturday were slightly down, the atmosphere and comradeship in The Palace Suite of the Le Strange Arms Hotel was quite special.

The Old Michaelian Association Annual General Meeting on the Saturday afternoon was very well attended and it was with much regret that we were asked to accept the resignation from the OMA Committee of both **Rachel Golby** and **Louise Taylor**. Time and space will be found within this publication to express the 'Thanks' from all OMA Members to Rachel and Louise for their devotion and time freely given to the Association over recent years.

We were all delighted to welcome back **Mike Smith** to our Reunion Weekend with his lovely wife Shirley and Mike joined us at the AGM and, before he was able to say '**Grumps**' Mike was officially accepted back onto the OMA Committee.

Our Treasurer/Membership Secretary **Ruth Chilvers** presented a very optimistic report on the Association finances and although it was further reported that Membership was in slow decline, the Association is in very good order, it continues to be very well Managed under the direction of our President **Simon Pott**, our Chairman **Geraldine Ellison** and all of the Association Committee Members and we still have a very buoyant future.

The Association Reunion Dinner on the Saturday evening was a real fun event and we were delighted that so many Old Michaelian's and their partners were able to join us. We all completely understand the difficult times we all live in and the economic restraints we are all under and that just endorses how much the Association recognises the time, expense and effort so many people made to join us for the whole of the OMA Reunion last year.

'Thank you'

Greetings from the Old Lennensians Association

Ed. During 2010 I was contacted by a gentleman by the name of **Tim Valentine** representing the Old Lennensians Association. *“Who the dickens is the Old Lennensians Association?”* I hear you all cry. Well, read on and you will find out.

The Old Lennensians Association represents pupils who were once students at King Edward VII Grammar School in Kings Lynn.

Tim Valentine found the OMA via our Web Site and promptly wrote to me directly to make an initial contact. Since then the Old Michaelian Association has been asked to make a contribution to the Old Lennensians Association Newsletter and, as is customary, the OMA has asked for a similar contribution for our own ‘Mitre’ as follows:

Dear Old Michaelian’s,

*John Wallington, at my request, wrote about the Old Michaelian Association for us in the October issue of our Newsletter “**The Lennensians**”. I am very pleased, as Editor of the Newsletter, to return the favour and to write for ‘The Mitre’. I understand that your Magazine and Newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format from your Web Site, however the Old Lennensians, the Association of Alumni and Staff of King Edward VII School in Kings Lynn, publishes two Newsletters each year which are, as yet, only available as hard copy mailed to approximately 240 OL’s in this country and abroad. We understand that our Members value a printed edition but we are very much aware that a Web Site with a downloading facility is essential if we expect to keep the membership engaged and in touch and also to recruit new members. We expect to have a fully functional Web Site up and running this year at www.oldlennensians.org.uk*

My first contact with the Old Michaelian’s was via your Web Site which prompted memories of the 50’s and 60’s when I was a pupil at King Edward VII Grammar School and contacts, sporting and otherwise with St Michael’s School were part of our year. Like you, we wore caps, we wore blazers and we bungled ourselves into tightly belted raincoats. I was impressed by the fact that, despite the closure of your school in 1969, there exists an extensive network of past pupils who are sufficiently proud of their schooldays to wish to keep in touch and to meet annually.

We ourselves organise a London lunch, lunches in Kings Lynn and events throughout the year in the area and have recently celebrated the Quincentennial of the School in the Assembly Hall where we all began our school careers.

The Old Lennensians Association was re-formed in 2006 at the centenary of the move to the new buildings opened by HRH King Edward VII in 1906. Although the school has changed radically over the past years we are keen to foster links with the present administration and to use the school buildings for our Reunions despite the fact that OL’s enthusiastically explore old haunts and could become irretrievably lost in the new campus.

We are passionate, as you are, about our friendships and our schooldays and we refuse to allow time to obliterate the memories that we hold in common. Old Lennensians of the 1940's, 50's and 60's form the bulk of our membership and, coincidentally, are the most sociable. We remember you, do you remember us? If you have recollections to share, I would be delighted to hear from you at tim.valentine@ymail.com

I am sure that your Editor, John Wallington, will echo my enthusiasm that both Old Michaelians and Old Lennensians have much to celebrate. Long may it remain so.

Tim Valentine (1954 – 1962)

Newsletter Editor

The Old Lennensians Association

Ed. “A million ‘Thanks’ Tim”

●.....●

‘The Mitre’ is always available to help.....

I knew that water is important, but I never knew about the special times to drink water.....Did you?

Drinking water at the correct time of day maximises its effectiveness on the Human body.

1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal.....helps digestion

1 glass of water before taking a bath.....helps lower blood pressure

1 glass of water before going to bed.....avoids stroke and heart attacks

THE 2011 OMA REUNION WEEKEND

Before we go any further into this article, let us all scratch around for that 2011 diary and pen in the following important dates:

29/30 October 2011

I know we say this every year within 'The Mitre' but each and every OMA Reunion Weekend would not be the same without you.

Some of our existing Members still find it a difficult decision to decide whether or not to make a visit to Hunstanton at the end of October and become involved in the OMA Reunion weekend. Without a doubt, nearly all of us have at some stage of our adult lives thought carefully about this decision before dipping our toes into the water. But I do want to assure you that, if you do decide to join us all in October, you will have the time of your lives and your partners will not be forgotten but will become drawn into the whole wonderful 'Web' that encompasses the long running **Old Michaelian Association**.

I know that I speak for our President, Simon Pott, our Chairman, Geraldine Ellison and for all Association Committee Members when I say that, whether or not you are a regular attendee to our annual Reunion weekend, when you join us in Hunstanton this coming October, you will be made very welcome by everyone.

The Detail.....

Saturday 29 October 2011

We will be all meeting up in the Mariners Bar of the Le Strange Arms Hotel and, if this is your first time to Hunstanton as a former pupil of St Michael's School, you will find many Committee members, usually propping up the Bar, but wearing distinctive name badges. These badges are worn for recognition purposes but also so that each member of the Committee has a means of relying on a badge to remind them of their own name!! If you are a regular attendee to our Reunion weekend and you do happen to notice a new face within the crowd, please point him/her out to a Committee member and the whole process of welcome and introductions can begin. *Simples!!*

The time spent at the Mariners Bar is a very relaxed and enjoyable part of the weekend. For many of us this is the first time we have met up with 'old' friends for almost a year so there is usually plenty of banter and conversation going on.

At 3:30pm all OMA Members will be asked to assemble in the Palace Suite of the Le Strange Arms Hotel for our Annual General Meeting. Although this is a necessary formal part of our weekend, it is also a time to mix, engage in conversation and also become part of the whole process of decision making that drives the Association on from year to year.

This year we will be paying our respects to our current Chairman, **Geraldine Ellison** and thanking her for the very professional and hard working term Geraldine has presided over as Chairman of our Association over the past three years. The sheer amount of time and effort that Geraldine has offered to the Association in this time has been simply phenomenal and we all owe Geraldine an enormous vote of '**THANKS**'.

So, the Association will need to select and vote for a new Chairman and if any of our current members feel that this is an opportunity they would like to be considered, please make your intentions known directly to our President, Simon Pott as soon as possible.

After the very sad, sudden and totally unexpected death of our Association Secretary, **John Worboys** at the end of February this year, we will also need to find a suitable candidate to take on this very important and vital role on behalf of the Association. Again, if any of our current members are interested in fulfilling this role and joining the existing OMA Committee, please make your intentions known to our President, Simon Pott.

The whole business mechanism of our Association is presided over by the AGM each year and it is extremely important that as many OM's attend on the Saturday afternoon please.

Immediately after the AGM we will invite all partners/family of all OM's to join us in the Palace Suite for afternoon tea.

Our Annual Association Dinner takes place in **The Palace Suite** of the **Le Strange Arms Hotel** and Dinner will commence at **7:45pm** and all OM's, partners and guests can once again look forward to a very scrummy dinner, lots and lots of good conversation with some very 'old' friends and the opportunity to reacquaint with colleagues who we have not met for a considerable time. Our President, **Simon Pott**, will lead us through a wonderful evening of entertainment and reminiscing after dinner and will conduct (or attempt to) a terrific auction and raffle *extravaganza!*

So....."*How much is this wonderful evening going to cost me?*" I hear you all cry.

Be not so afraid my friends.

For the extraordinarily negotiated sum of **£24 per person**, you can look forward to the most entertaining and enjoyable evening in the company of fellow comrades, together with their wonderful partners, and.....be served with a mouth watering three course meal.

You will be badgered, bribed, body searched and generally interfered with by certain lady members of the OMA Committee (and if you are really lucky.....Bob Hill as well) to dip deeply into your pockets and purses to find that elusive change lurking in the depths of despair just waiting to be spent on the annual OMA Raffle. Believe me, you will not be able to resist!!

Sunday 30 October 2011

Similar to previous years, the Association Committee have successfully negotiated with Government personnel and arranged for the Nations clocks and watches to be adjusted backwards by one hour just so that all Old Michaelian's attending the annual Reunion weekend have a little extra time on Sunday morning to prepare for yet another fun filled day.

After breakfast, a growing number of OM's, with their respective partners, make their way across to the Parish Church of St. Michael's, Ingoldisthorpe in time for the annual OMA Eucharist. This is becoming an ever increasing popular part of our Reunion weekend and it is sincerely hoped that as many of you as possible will be able to find the time to join the congregation in Ingoldisthorpe in readiness for a prompt start at **11:00**.

This year, we are delighted to confirm that our Celebrant will be our very own **Roger Wikeley** who continues to support the Association and offer his services whenever it is possible in Roger's very busy diary. ("*I thought you had retired, Roger?*")

Popular and 'roof rising' hymns will be chosen for our Eucharist again this year and it is very much hoped that as many OM's as possible will be able to join us again.

After the Eucharist, the Committee Members will be offering light refreshments at the rear of the church to everyone.

Here ends, what I hope you will agree, will be yet another very successful OMA Reunion weekend and all you have to do now is turn to the very last page of this 'Mitre', find the Dinner Booking form, fill out the form, write your cheque and mail the whole form and cheque off to our Treasurer **Ruth Chilvers**. Job Done!

I know that I speak for everyone involved with the Old Michaelian Association when I say that we do hope that as many of you receiving a copy of '**The Mitre**' will be able to respond and commit yourselves to being in Hunstanton during the last weekend of October and to help us celebrate yet another OMA Reunion weekend.

NEWS OF OM'S

Peter Yarker

Our sincere congratulations are sent to **Peter Yarker** who, this year, was elected as Prime Warden and Chief Officer of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers. At the 442nd Annual Banquet, due to take place at Mansion House on the 21 September 2011, our own President **Simon Pott** has been asked to speak providing an insight into the many achievements within Peter's life to date. No doubt Simon will not be able to resist the temptation of bringing St. Michael's School into his speech.

David & Vera McMahon-Winter

Just before Christmas 2010 I received an email from 'down under' from David Winter as follows:

".....You would not believe the rain we have had. Years of very little rain, then, all the missing water of years of drought fall in weeks. In our village we only had minor flooding although my paddocks looked like the Florida swamps but some other towns like Dubbo were flooded and some areas are still under water. My best wishes to all Old Michaelians and, God willing, I hope that 2011 will see my health improve and I am able to come home for a visit in October and a visit to Old Hunstanton".

Alan Digby (1963 – 1967)

*".....I will never forget the '63 Sports Day when '**Gunner**' had his suit chucked out of the top floor Dorm window by the old man. Such memories of a wonderful time at school. None better than my first year when I thought that all the senior prefects were G-d's. What I do know for sure is that St. Michael's was the best thing that could have happened for and to me at a time when circumstances appertaining to my life may have led me up an entirely different path. For that school and, especially '**That Man**', I shall always be eternally grateful".*

IN MEMORY OF.....

PAGE CLOWSER

Page passed away in June 2010 and even though we did manage to include a short mention within the 'Mitre' last year, it is not too late to offer our sympathy and condolences to family and friends of Page.

Page passed away last June aged 71 and he attended St. Michael's School between the years 1947 – 1956. He was instrumental in the formation and success of the Old Michaelian Association and played a prominent role.

Although Page had already left St. Michael's by the time I arrived in Heacham in 1957, I was aware of his presence at the school through my brother Cliff. But what I remember more vividly was that **Martin Coats** and I called to visit Page when he lived in Dersingham because Martin and I took over the role of Treasurer/Secretary of the OMA in the mid-60's.

Page was a warm person, friendly and helpful and it did not surprise me when I heard that he had become Landlord of his very own Pub. He exercised a very interesting life. He was born in Oxfordshire before moving to Norfolk. He trained as a radio operator in the RAF and served in Malaya and for NATO in Norway. He took on the tenancy of The Crown Public House in Stanhoe in 1984 and he is best remembered for his time spent as an excellent Host and his character, charm and generosity earned him the lasting friendship of many people in the Stanhoe area. The Cremation took place in Kings Lynn on Friday 16 July 2010 and I am pleased to report that the OMA was very well represented to show respect to a very fine man and colleague and to offer respect and sympathy to the family and friends of Page.

IN MEMORY OF.....

JOHN WORBOYS

John passed away suddenly and very unexpectedly at his home at Stratford-upon-Avon on 25 February 2011 aged 66 years. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to all of John's family and friends. John's cremation took place privately at Leamington Spa on the 18 March 2011.

I had known John since we attended day school together in Uxbridge aged respectively 9 years and 10 years. We became friends from day one. When I was 13 years old, in 1957, I was 'shipped' off to NW Norfolk to join my brother Cliff at St. Michael's School and John and I lost contact for a while. How shocked I was to see John arrive at The Shooting Lodge Heacham in 1958!

John was a long term enthusiastic Member and supporter of the Association and attended many Reunion weekends over the years. John possessed a charisma and character that was impossible to ignore and he will be sadly missed. John had a varied life and soon after leaving school he started work for an Advertising Agency John Walter Thompson. Soon after the death of his Father, he took over a thriving Family Butchers business and made a great success of this venture. As John once said to me, *"The learning curve is very steep"*. During more recent years, and after moving to Stratford-upon-Avon, with his partner Phil, he managed a very successful B&B business and became very well known within the industry.

In 2010 John was elected Association Secretary of the Old Michaelian Association and he and I worked closely together in his attempt to make some subtle changes to tempt OM's back to full Membership. John's family were determined to arrange a Memorial and Thanksgiving Service to pay tribute to John's life and this has been arranged for 10 June 2011 and a full report on this Service will be reported to you all next year.

A TRIBUTE TO THREE OLD MICHAELIANS

John King

In the 2010 'Mitre' space was found to pay tribute to our very dear friend **John King**. Every word that was written was meant a million times because of the long term dedication and work that John has devoted to our Association.

When you attend the OMA Reunion this October, please take time to visit The Palace Suite at the Le Strange Arms Hotel and take time sifting through and viewing the ever increasing collection of school photographs and memorabilia on display. Over the years John has been responsible for knitting together this display and it becomes like a magnet to former pupils of St. Michael's and creates a fascinating glimpse into school life in NW Norfolk stretching over many years.

There is a more current reason for paying tribute to **John King** again this year.

In early March 2011 we were all shocked to hear about the premature death of our Association Secretary **John Worboys**. This obviously left our President, Chairman and Committee Members with a huge problem. It therefore goes without saying how delighted we all were that **John King** stepped up to the plate once more and took on the temporary role as Association Secretary. I am not at all confident that John's wife Sandie was as enthusiastic about this sudden reversal of responsibility in John's life but we all do owe **John King** a huge vote of '**Thanks**' for his dedication, time and effort and I can assure him that, come 29 October 2011 a suitable candidate will be elected to the role of Association Secretary.

Rachel Golby

It was with enormous regret that the Association accepted the resignation of **Rachel Golby** from the Association Committee. Only Rachel can tell us how many years she has devoted her time and energy to the OMA, since I have frankly lost count. Rachel has simply always been there for the Association through good times and through less good times. Rachel has not only been a prominent Committee Member but, at a weak moment, we even persuaded her to take on the role as Chairperson of our Association. Everything that Rachel has even done for the Association has been done with purpose and enormous enthusiasm and this is the right time for us all to say '**Thank you**' to a lovely person and a loyal supporter of the Old Michaelian Association.

Louise Taylor

In 2010 the Association Chairman was asked to accept the resignation of **Louise Taylor**. Louise has been a long term loyal supporter of our Association for many years and, until 2010, seemed to never miss attending an OMA Reunion weekend. She always wore a broad smile on her face and was always interested to know about what other people were doing in their lives but without being intrusive. We will all miss the contribution that Louise has made to the Association and it is sincerely hoped that we may be able to persuade Louise back attending the annual Reunion weekends again very soon. I am sure you will all join with me and saying a huge **'Thank you'** to Louise for her devotion and hard work on behalf of the Association.

OooooooooooooooooO

The publication and distribution of the Association Newsletter together with 'The Mitre' each year could never be achieved without the input and assistance of my daughter Vicky.

As Editor (and as Dad) I am so proud of the work that Vicky does each year for the Association that, somehow, she manages to squeeze in alongside all of the other responsibilities she handles in her extremely busy life schedule. At the most recent OMA Committee Meeting I asked the Committee to recognise this commitment and I am delighted to share with you that there was unanimous agreement to this proposal and arrangements were made to deliver a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Vicky.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

*Ed. Our Association has been blessed with very strong leadership over the years especially as far as our elected Chairmen are concerned and, without a doubt, Geraldine's term as Chairman of the Old Michaelian Association has been no exception. Geraldine has offered the Association enormous determination and drive and now is the time, as Geraldine's term of office comes to an end, that everyone involved with the Association should offer a huge OMA **'THANK YOU'** to Geraldine for all of her hard work, conscientiousness and leadership over the last three years.*

"Salutations Old Michaelian's!" (Ed. I take it all back!)

If you were fortunate to attend the 2010 OMA Reunion, you were a participant in a real treat. If unable to be with us, you missed a wonderful weekend that was considered by many as one of the finest OMA Reunions celebrated.

Why not join OM's this October 2011 and catch up with friends who you may not have seen for many years! I don't think I am out of order by saying that our Reunion weekends generate lots of laughter and fun and enjoyment is the order of the day. We also have our serious moments. We always remember with respect and sadness those OM's who have sadly passed away in recent months. As a Committee, we have achieved progress in a number of different ways that will either be announced via 'The Mitre' or will be decided at the AGM in October. **The 2011 Reunion will surpass Reunion 2010, so don't miss out!** In October 2011 my term of office as OMA Chairman ends having completed 3 years. It has been an honour and a great privilege to represent many of you who are unable to attend Reunions due to distance, illness or other commitments. One of my aims in 2008 was to strengthen and enlarge the membership of the OMA involving OM's who I knew from school days and who I am still in contact but who had disappeared off the OMA radar. I am extremely grateful to those OM's who responded so positively.

I was delighted with the remarkable response I received from many OM's who had found the time to attend a OMA Reunion for the first time and explained how much they had enjoyed the whole experience. I hasten to say that this involves both OLD GIRLS as well as OLD BOYS. Although the OLD GIRLS are less in numbers, and always have been, we are still a force to be reckoned with!

The Reunion Eucharist at Ingoldisthorpe on the Sunday morning is a particularly special time to remember and reflect. For the ever increasing numbers of OM's who attend the Eucharist, it is a moving, uplifting occasion closing yet another successful memorable weekend.

Hoping to see you all in October. **Book the date!.....Geraldine**

Ed. Just when I thought I was beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel and another 'Mitre' put to bed for another year, up pops **David Winter** all the way from deepest, darkest Australia with yet another insight into the life and times of the ventures of an Old Michaelian.....

“ The last thing that I thought that I'd be accused of being was a 'Playwright'.

I had written a Nativity play for the church and a few comedy skits and I had also written some short stories for radio, a couple of which have been dramatised and broadcast by another writer, but me a Playwright?

Over the years I have become involved in amateur drama and musicals, everything from the *Pirates of Penzance* to an Ocker Fairy in a local production of *Robyn Hood and her Merry Maids* a role that will take many years to live down, especially in a small village! But it was fun and we raised a few thousand dollars for local services and schools. I guess it started with some productions we had at St. Michael's. Great dramatic productions like 'The Importance of Being Ernest' and 'Oliver'. I didn't act in 'Oliver' but I was engaged as a stagehand. And, who remembers the heavy fireplace.

I thought I would sing soprano for the rest of my life! I seem to remember that Miss Bone played Nancy and every time she broke into song, Julian Cole, who was part of the back-stage crew, would cover his ears and groan. But, all in all, it was good fun. Much of the credit would have to go to **Chris White** who I believe had a wonderful way of bringing drama and literature to life, as well a History. His teaching methods played a profound influence on my thinking. So I will take this opportunity to thank him and to blame him for my present predicament of being the local playwright. The local players 'The Goldfield Players' put on a production every other year being in the form of Theatre Restaurant with a three course meal interspaced between courses with an act of the play. This year the play is in honour of the 160th anniversary of the Gold Rush, a time when our little villages of Sofala and Wattle Flat had a population of over 40,000 people. I hit on an idea of a satire play looking at village life in 1851 and 2011, made a few notes and that matured into my first real play. We are currently in rehearsal and aiming to perform the play in September so I hope you will all understand how important it is for me to escape to the UK and the relative shelter of NW Norfolk towards the end of October while my fellow villagers cry out for my head or any other part of my being that they could grab hold!! Thus, as I dine in splendour on fine food and very agreeable company at the OMA Reunion Dinner in October, I will leave a written note on the notice board in Sofala that will read: ***“Don't blame me, blame St. Michael's School and Chris White!”***

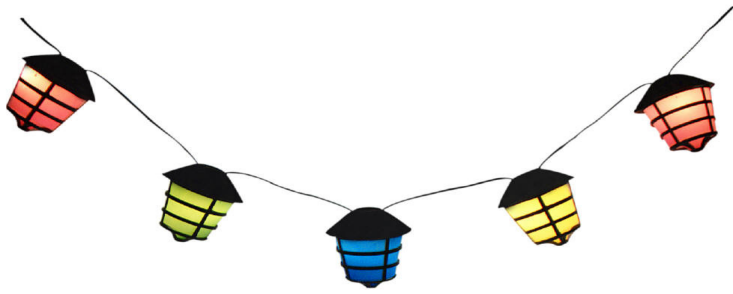
JOHN LESLIE WORBOYS

A Celebration and Thanksgiving Memorial Service:

On Friday 10 June 2011 the above mentioned Memorial Service took place at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon so that John's family, friends, ex-school mates and ex-work mates could gather to celebrate his life that was so cruelly ended on the 24 February 2011. I am very pleased and proud to report that the Old Michaelian Association was very well represented on the day together with approximately 180 people making up the congregation.

APOLOGIES FROM THE EDITOR

It is with deep regret that, due to circumstances beyond our control, I have not been able to include photographs and other inserts into the 2011 publication of 'The Mitre' and I really do hope that this will not spoil your pleasure in receiving and reading the content again this year. I can assure you that normal service will be resumed again in 2012.



OMA 2011 REUNION DINNER BOOKING FORM

Can you please reserve me..... number of tickets for
the 2011 reunion weekend

Name:.....

Partners Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

POST CODE:.....

Telephone Number:.....

Email Address:.....

I should like to sit with (if possible):.....

I enclose herewith a cheque (£24 per person) to the value of £.....please
Make cheques payable to "Old Michaelian Association" *Thank You.*



*Please detach this form and send to Ruth Chilvers 85 Elliott Road
March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8BP*