

OLD MICHAELIAN ASSOC.

THE MITRE 2012



Welcome to the 2012 Edition of 'The Mitre'

The theme of 'The Mitre' this year will be concentrating on comradeship, friendships, lifelong relationships and 'ships' that pass in the night.

As you all know by now, the purpose of publishing and distributing all OMA publications each year is to keep the communication channels open to all former pupils and members of staff who spent time at St. Michael's School in NW Norfolk, to provide personal accounts and memories of times spent at the school and to provide important information relating to future events involving the Old Michaelian Association and its Members.

The following pages will entertain, they will inform and they will confirm the purpose behind our Association and why the Association is so successful after so many years.

EDITORIAL

My name is **John Wallington** and it is my pleasure and privilege to, not only welcome you all to the latest edition of 'The Mitre', but to oversee the publication and distribution of our annual OMA blockbuster that, once again, will be designed to provide as much relevant information as possible to all our members who continue to support the Association with such enthusiasm.

You may remember that I suggested within the context of our 2012 Newsletter earlier this year, that mention would be made of a number of key articles involving existing OMA Members and starting with a starring role undertaken by our own President, Simon Pott, last year during the broadcast of the popular BBC programme '**Country Tracks**' providing us all with some detailed facts and figures relating to the historic town of Bury St. Edmunds.

The Association has a newly elected Chairman. Someone who is very well known to you all and who has been a constant supporter of the Association for more years than I would want to remember. Bob Hill will be presenting his own article here in 'The Mitre' and it would be wrong for me to attempt to pinch even a crumb of his pitch.

There will be much publicity this year about a very important Association Anniversary rapidly approaching in **2013** and our President, Chairman and all Committee Members will be doing everything possible to encourage as many Members, past Members and lapsed Members from all quarters of the World to join in the celebrations towards the end of October 2013 in Hunstanton when the Association will be celebrating the **DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE OLD MICHAELIAN ASSOCIATION**. Believe me, you will not want to miss out on this occasion.

I made a point of mentioning within the 2011 'Mitre' a few changes that have been made within the structure of the OMA Committee and we have all taken the opportunity to acknowledge the wealth of work and dedication given to the Association by **John King, Rachel Golby and Louise Taylor**.

As a direct result of these changes, new names now appear as part of our existing Committee and we should all take time to welcome the following Members who have been elected onto the OMA Committee:

- **Elaine Humby nee Clarke**
- **Elizabeth McLeod nee Shearman**
- **Heather Kelly nee Gadsden**

Please join with me in welcoming all of the above onto the OMA Committee.

3.

Editorial cont.

The Association is in very buoyant mood and we have always been very fortunate to elect a Chairman who demonstrates determination, hard work and a real belief in how the Association should be managed.

This is an opportunity to say a very loud 'Thank you' to all past Chairman who have safely guided us through almost sixty years.

'The Mitre' is a well tried and tested means of communication to all of our colleagues all over the World. My job, as Editor, has been made so much easier by the regular contributions made to the Association in the form of articles and inclusions and 2012 will be no exception. I would also like to express my 'Thanks' to everyone who has contributed to 'The Mitre'. It is very much appreciated.

Okay! Enough of the waffle! Let's get the show on the road.

I hope you all will get as much pleasure from reading through this publication as I have had organising it. Whether you are located in the Southern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere, North America, South America, Europe or Deep South in South Africa, I sincerely hope that you will all find something within the next few pages that will create interest and provide information that is new information for you.....and, put a smile on your face!!

I send to you all my very best wishes and I, and my fellow Committee Members, would be interested to receive any comments about all the annual publications released by the Association.

John Wallington

Editor

Old Michaelian Association

hinckleytowers@btinternet.com

PS

Normally, at this time of year, I am discussing with my daughter Vicky, the theme of 'The Mitre' and the general lay-out. Unfortunately, Vicky is a little unwell at the moment and this means that I will need to cope on my own without the assistance of someone who understands *page lay-out, inserts, style, font size etc etc*.

I am sure you will all join with me in wishing Vicky a very speedy recovery.

Ed.

4.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church Ingoldisthorpe



Those of us who attended St. Michael's school before 1961, will readily recall the exact rules that applied to how we should dress, how we should behave, to always observe and apply politeness to all members of staff and fellow pupils, never to be late for class and **to always make**

yourself available to attend the School Assembly each and every school day at St. Michael and All Angels Parish Church located opposite the Rectory that was St. Michael's School.

If my memory serves me correctly, School Assembly was prompt at 08:45 and always led by the Headmaster. The church was packed to the rafters and it was in these familiar surroundings that the important decisions of the day were announced.

But.....how many of you ever took the opportunity to take in some of the finer aspects of the internal furniture, windows, architecture etc. of a building many of us spent a huge amount of time visiting?

The church has an inner beauty of its own and is steeped in history and interest. It has been suggested many times that the church is redundant but there is ample proof that this important Norfolk landmark is well supported especially now that it has become part of the now infamous 'Three-in-One' sharing resources with St. Mary's Church, Snettisham together with All Saints Church at Fring all presided over by the Rev. Geoff Suart.

St. Michael's contains, what is probably, the best collection of late 19th and early 20th century glass of any small church in East Anglia. It is like stepping inside a jewel and a living jewel at that.

I am advised that, as you enter the church, the font is a curiosity. It was once a square Norman font but somebody decided, probably in the 13th century, that the font would look better octagonal. Many observers disagree with this.

5.

St. Michael's Church cont:

Under the tower is a set of three brasses of Agnes Bigge, and her parents, in all their puritan glory in the early years of the 17th century.

St. Michael's Church was almost certainly rebuilt in the late 14th century and in 1855 George Pritchett came along. He was commissioned by the then Rector, William Beckett, to refurbish the church and it is considered that this work was highly accepted. It provided the setting for the jewel. The screen is considered to be one of the finest of its type. It is of enormous interest that George Pritchard was also commissioned to rebuild the neighbouring Rectory for the incredible cost of just £2,000. In the 1850's, many churches were built for less! The bulk of the glass is considered to be of the highest quality. The chancel north window depicts scenes from the life of Thomas Becket, son of the Rector. He emigrated to New Brunswick and died there in 1863. In the north aisle is a superb composition of 1934 by Christopher Webb. It depicts Faith and Hope in one window and to the left is Charity. Charity forms the largest of the three figures.

That St. Michael's Church Ingoldisthorpe was fully the Anglo-catholic tradition can be deduced from the altar and the reredos (the ornamental screen at the back of the altar). St. Michael's is a perfect example of the Church of England at the height of its powers and at the summit of its artistic integrity.

If you ever get an opportunity to visit this beautiful church that became such an integral part of the daily school life for many of us, I do suggest that you find that time. Believe me, you will not be disappointed.

THANK YOU

A huge 'Thank you' to our dear friend and fellow Member, **Robin Adams**, who made contact with me last year and sent a newspaper cutting from the Lynn News and Advertiser published in 1959. 'Ah! *This is my era*' Ed. Many of the faces appearing on the four main photographs are well known to all of us and the photographs in question feature within the general photographic display that has been managed by **John King** over a number of years. This archive copy from the Lynn News will be offered to John King for future display.

Reporting on the 2011 OMA Reunion



Those OMA Members and their partners who were fortunate to attend the 2011 OMA Reunion last year will all recall a very memorable weekend attended by regular members together with a few new faces as well. It never ceases to amaze us that, although we only meet up in NW Norfolk once a year, the

camaraderie and sense of humour returns as soon as we set foot inside the Le Strange Arms Hotel.

We have already mentioned that, as a direct result of the AGM that took place on the Saturday afternoon, a unanimous decision was made by those members present to elect **Bob Hill** as Association Chairman and I am sure you will want to join with me in wishing Bob every success in this role. Bob has offered his total support to the Association over many years and this will be Bob's second term in office as Association Chairman.

The annual OMA Dinner on Saturday evening was equally well attended and many times during the evening members commented that this was one of the best Reunion Dinners for many years.

Simon Pott performed at his best by not only delivering yet another very amusing and entertaining after dinner speech but also robustly conducting a very entertaining auction.

We also heard from **Peter Yarker** who provided vivid details of his year in office as Prime Warden of The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers and the many splendid events he attended during his office.

Many of our members and their partners made the short trip across to Ingoldsthorpe on the Sunday morning to attend the Old Michaelian Association annual Eucharist at St. Michael's Church. This is always a fitting and wonderful final event to yet another very successful Old Michaelian Association Reunion weekend.

Our sincere 'Thanks' go out to everyone who made the trip across to Old Hunstanton last October to join in the fun of yet another very successful OMA Reunion weekend. Your continuing support of the Association is much appreciated.

In Memory of Martin Graville



Martin Graville

Martin Graville: 9 April 1942 – 20 May 2012

It is with enormous regret that we announce the passing of our dear friend, and fellow Old Michaelian, Martin Graville. The Association offers to Martin's wife Barbara, their two sons John and Paul, family and all friends, our deepest sympathy and condolences at this time.

With the kind permission of Barbara, it is only right that the Association should devote time within this publication to the life of Martin and especially the time and devotion he gave to the Old Michaelian Association.

Martin was born in April 1942 and he joined St. Michael's School as a boarder in 1953. He completed his schooling at Ingoldisthorpe in 1959. Martin and Barbara met at a local drama group when they were still in their teens and they were married in 1970. They were blessed with two sons, John and Paul and moved to Lea near Gainsborough in 1979.

Members of the Old Michaelian Association will best remember Martin for his long term involvement within the Association and especially the role he was best remembered as Editor of 'The Mitre' for a period of seven years. Martin was devoted to the Association and, working closely with Bill Cullin, became instrumental in insuring a future for the Association. His enthusiasm and attention to detail will be very much missed.

Throughout more recent years, Martin experienced progressive poor health but he and Barbara never once let the Association down especially when the Reunion weekends came around. We all benefitted from the professionally produced name plates, the specially printed menus and the printed church service hand-out's for our annual Association Eucharist.

The Association has much to 'Thank' Martin and Barbara over recent years and Martin will never be forgotten by the Association.

Martin's funeral took place on 14 June 2012 and we are delighted to report that many Old Michaelian's found the time to travel to Lincolnshire to attend.

8.

Simon Pott – President

2012! What an extraordinary year. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The London Olympic Games and **the Old Michaelian Association Reunion weekend over the weekend of 27/28 October**. What will you choose to celebrate? I hope the answer is all of them. As far as the Old Michaelian Association weekend is concerned, no doubt someone will emerge for the first time and find a right royal welcome at the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton. All are welcome for either part of the weekend or for the full duration and your Committee, under the Chairmanship of Bob Hill, will be meeting during the spring months to fine tune the details and these details will be fully provided later in this publication.

We are all a year older so there will be more stories to tell, the jokes will get longer (when we can remember them), the tales will get taller and a real sense of wellbeing will pervade during the whole weekend. I very much look forward to meeting the hardcore, who attend each and every year but especially those who are making it back to NW Norfolk for the first time. We guarantee you a very good time.

Best Wishes

Simon Pott



Simon Pott

Tell Me this wont Happen to ME!!!

An elderly Lady called 999 to report that her car had been broken into.

“They’ve stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator” she cried. An Police Officer was promptly despatched to the scene. A few minutes later the Police Office reported back to his HQ.

“Disregard, disregard. The lady got into the back seat by mistake”.

Old Lennensians Association

*This time last year, the OMA was contacted by a representative of the Old Lennensians Association. As we very quickly learned, this Association represents former pupils and staff who attended King Edward VII school in Kings Lynn and, you will recall, in the 2011 'Mitre' we remembered the close relationship that existed between our two schools. Contact has been maintained throughout this past year and I invited **Tim Valentine** to make a contribution to this edition of the 2012 'Mitre'. Ed.*

Dear Old Michaelians,

Greetings from the Old Lennensians Association and congratulations, in advance, on your coming Diamond Jubilee in 2013!

The Old Lennensians Association has been in existence, on and off, since 1909 so identifying a Jubilee date is next to impossible as there are great gaps in the continuity of membership. The latest re-incarnation was in 2006 and we are still going strong at around 250 members with, in the past year, our first joining member from Hong Kong. Gone are the days when the Treasurer had to chase up subscriptions in the Pub; a devastating verdict on his popularity from his point of view since the bar clientele had a habit of shifting, en masse, from the Saloon to the Public Bar whenever he entered. I don't think he ever finished his drink!

Our situation is analogous to your in many ways since our members include, almost exclusively, those who attended the Grammar School before it went comprehensive in 1979. So, to all extents and purpose in their eyes, King Edward VII School ceased to exist in 1979. We have several members' post 1979 but have really to identify a way in which we can attract and keep Old Boys (and Girls) from the younger generation. The Web Site has worked very well in this respect but we need to keep plugging away and we are currently engaged in an appeal for funds to refurbish the Memorial Board to pupils who gave their lives in two World Wars and also in service of their country during more recent conflicts.

If any of your members are interested in the history of schools in Kings Lynn, you may wish to note two books written by our members and recently published: '**Lynn Schools**' by **Bob Booth** and '**West Norfolk and Kings Lynn High School for Girls 1886 – 1979**' by **Michael Walker**. All proceeds from the sale of these books go to charity and they can be obtained via Waterstones or directly from the Old Lennensians Association. I am sure that your Editor, John Wallington, will be happy to pass on any enquiries.

10.

Old Lennensians Association cont.

Last July, our Association enjoyed a Day Trip, including a conducted tour and afternoon tea, at the Old Royal Naval College, the Painted Hall and the Chapel in Greenwich. Go there, it is highly recommended. We were also shown Henry VIII's Old Palace cellars that were converted, at a later date and with his tacit approval (we were led to believe), to a Discotheque run by junior officers for the benefit of the nurses from a neighbouring establishment.

Beginning in 2010, we have organised a very popular Annual Lunch at the School after our formal AGM that takes place at the beginning of October each year. After that is done and dusted, we curl up under the leaves 'til the New Year.

Our very best wishes to you all. Keep the memory green!

Tim Valentine

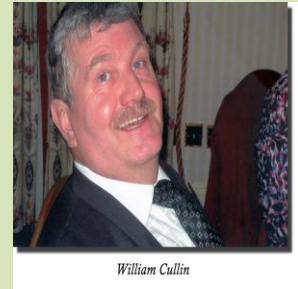
For your Information

The Old Michaelian Association Committee have been discussing over time with the Rev. Geoff Suart, Rector of St. Michael's church, Ingoldisthorpe, together with the Parish Council, the possibility of placing a wall plaque inside the church recognising the work and involvement provided by Roger Pott during his time as Rector and the connections between the church and St. Michael's school. In principle, the proposals have been agreed between all parties and the Association is now 'fine tuning' the words presented on the plaque. More information will be provided for all Members in the future.

During her time as Chairman of the OMA, **Geraldine Ellison** has worked tirelessly with the Headmaster of Ingoldisthorpe School to ensure that the annual presentation of an award made by the Association, to a selected child who attends the school, will be continued. We are sure that all members will acknowledge the importance of maintaining strong ties with the Ingoldisthorpe community and, during the most recent OMA Committee Meeting, Geraldine was asked to continue this very important work on behalf of the Association.

THE OMA WEB SITE

It gives us enormous pleasure to, once again, say a huge **'THANK YOU'** to our colleague and Web Site Editor **Bill Cullin** for continuing to oversee and manage the OMA Web Site on behalf of the Association.



William Cullin

Bill is a very modest man who would probably find it difficult to put into words how amazingly successful the Web Site has been for the Association over recent years. Continually, the Web Site is searched for, found and investigated by many ex-pupils and staff associated with St. Michael's school and has played such a pivotal role in keeping the communication channels open to everyone all over the World. As soon as this publication of 'The Mitre' is finalised, we will be asking Bill to place a copy onto the Web Site.

Over recent years, many ex-pupils and members of staff have made contact with the Association via the Web Site and have since attended Reunion weekends and have become part of the structure of the Association.

We thought you may care to hear at first hand a comment registered on the Web Site last year by an ex-pupil that, we believe, sums up why it is so important that the OMA Web Site is strongly supported:

'I will start by introducing myself. I am Richard Phillips. I attended St. Michael's school with my brothers, John and Robin, from 1955 – 1958. I was reminiscing with a friend on our respective childhoods and I got to thinking about my time at St. Michael's. The upshot of it was that I did a search for the school on the Web and.....Lo & Behold.....I found the OMA Web Site. I was delighted!! To think that you all have such an active Association! But, then I thought, it was unlikely that anyone would remember me (but that is me being negative). If you would be kind enough to drag out the 1958 panoramic photo of the school, you will find me standing at your right shoulder! As I thumbed through the pages of past 'Mitre' publications, a host of names came flooding back to me. Peterjohn Best was an immediate recollection and I was sad to read of his death.

What of me? I spent my career teaching. I enjoyed it for many years but I admit that the last few years have been an uphill struggle. I was pleased to retire! I married a lovely Irish girl, Mary, and we have three children but no Grandchildren yet.

12.

OMA Web Site cont.

I am enjoying my retirement and spending loads of time in our little cottage in France although our main home is in Maidstone. Please feel free to forward this to anyone who may remember me and my brothers.

I hope to meet up with you, perhaps at the next OMA Reunion weekend. I have already booked the date.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Richard Phillips

There are many other examples of how the OMA Web Site works and if you have any doubts about the construction of the Site and why it attracts so much readership, tap into the Web Site now and have a good look around.

Thanks again Bill.

www.oma.org.uk

Tell me this wont happen to me!

An elderly couple were lying in bed one night. The husband was falling asleep but the wife was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk. She said, *"You used to hold my hand when we were courting"*. Warily the husband reached across, held her hand for a few seconds and then tried to get back to sleep. A few moments later she said, *"Then you used to kiss me"*. Mildly irritated, he reached across again and gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down once again to sleep.

A few moments later she said, *"Then you used to bite my neck...."*. Angrily, he threw back the bedclothes and got out of bed. *"Where are you going?"* she asked.

"To get my bloody teeth!"

As a senior citizen was driving down the Motorway, his car phone rang. Answering the phone he heard his wife in a distressed state and saying, *"Vernon, take care, I have just heard on the News that there is a car going the wrong way on the M25. Please be careful"*. *"Tell me about it, Vera, it's not just one car, its hundreds of them!"*

THE 2012 OMA REUNION WEEKEND

Simon has already mentioned the fact that 2012 will be written in the history books as such an important year for the United Kingdom. And to add to all of the celebrations throughout the country we must not forget the fact that the **2012 OMA Reunion** weekend is fast approaching. Before we confirm all of the detail for you, let's confirm the date for your diaries:

27/28 OCTOBER 2012

The Detail:

Saturday 27 October 2012



All OMA Members plus partners and guests are invited to meet at lunchtime at **The Ancient Mariners Bar** attached to the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton. All Committee Members will be present and will be happy to welcome all Old Michaelian's especially those who are attending the Reunion for the first time. This is a relaxing time to

reminisce, forge new friendships, listen (or even participate) in friendly banter over a local pint of ale and a freshly made sandwich.

If Members do not wish to attend the Pub, you may be interested to view the OMA Photographic exhibits managed again this year by John King. Everything can be viewed in the Palace Suite and viewing may take place at any time after 12 noon.

At 3:30pm we invite all OMA Members to attend the Old Michaelian Association AGM. This is a formal event presided over by our President Simon Pott and our Chairman Bob Hill. Formal procedures are common place at all AGM's and our own is no exception. The Association officers need to be elected, as does the entire Committee. You will receive a full Report from our Treasurer, Ruth Chilvers but in addition to all of this, all Members attending

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The 2012 OMA Reunion weekend cont.

the AGM will be given the opportunity to have their say relating to anything that is relevant to the management of the Association.



Our Annual Association Reunion Dinner will, once again, take place within the splendid surroundings of the Palace Suite at the Le Strange Arms Hotel and everyone can look forward to the prospect of wonderful food, good company, great entertainment and an

evening never to be forgotten.

The Association has again negotiated some very agreeable terms with the Hotel Management who have agreed to freeze the cost of our Annual

Reunion Dinner and charge a very modest **£24 per person.**

We are delighted with this arrangement and, if the quality of food, together with the high standard of service and presentation that we enjoyed last year is repeated again this year, as expected, we can look forward to a wonderful event in the Palace Suite.

During the Reunion Dinner everyone will be badgered, bribed, body searched and generally interfered with by certain lady members of the Committee to persuade you all to part with all of that hard earned cash and buy bucket loads of raffle tickets. The raffle is only one of the highlights of the Dinner because we will again be richly entertained by our President, Simon Pott, and his after Dinner speech. If you have never been present during one of Simon's after Dinner speeches, believe me, you have something to look forward to.

Sunday 28 October 2012

After a lazy breakfast and a scan across the Sunday Newspapers, all Members and their partners and guests are invited to attend the annual OMA Eucharist at St. Michael's Church Ingoldisthorpe.

We are finding an ever increasing number of Members wishing to attend the Eucharist and every effort is made each and every year to acquire the services of an Old Michaelian to play the organ and act as our Celebrant on the day.



15.

2012 OMA Reunion weekend cont.

The service will start promptly at 11:00 and is a fitting way to end yet another annual OMA Reunion weekend.

After the service the Association will be offering to all members of the congregation the opportunity to partake in hot/cold refreshments and light snacks at the rear of the church.

So, if you are a former pupil or member of staff who attended St. Michael's school, please give some thought about joining us all towards the end of October in Old Hunstanton this year. You will be made very welcome and you can look forward to yet another big event for 2012.

27/28 OCTOBER

MEMBERSHIP

The continuing support and dedication that is recognised by everyone associated with the Old Michaelian Association is terrific and we always go out of our way to 'Thank' everyone who, not only attends our annual Reunion weekends, but continually supports the Association from all over the World.

This support is fuel for the future management of the Association and, a little further on in this 'Mitre', you will read some exciting news relating to events taking place in 2013.

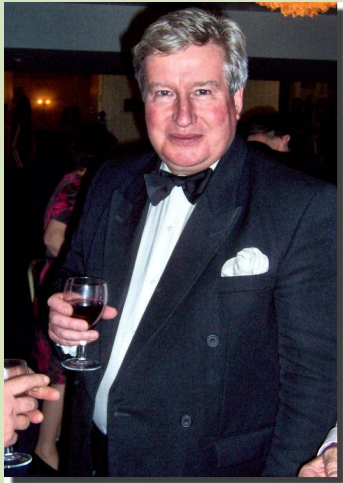
However, there is another important fuel that enables the Association to offer Members that essential ingredient that helps and that is the upkeep of collecting subscriptions from our Members and those who have allowed their membership to lapse.

On behalf of our Treasurer and Membership Secretary Ruth Chilvers, could we please take this opportunity to respectfully request everyone who received 'The Mitre' and/or who has access to 'The Mitre' to keep their own subscriptions right up to date please. The cost is still very small at just £5 for three years, or you may be persuaded to pay a sum of £20 for a Life Membership. Either way, we are sure you will appreciate how important these subscriptions are to the future of your Association. **'THANK YOU'**

DID YOU SEE THIS?

*My own television viewing is becoming less and less these days, preferring to pick and choose my programmes and trying to ensure that I am not being hoodwinked into watching a programme that I have already seen. So, towards the end of 2011 my wife and I were watching one of our favourite programmes namely **BBC Country Tracks** when, who should pop onto our screen, but our President **Simon Pott**.*

*Interviewed by the delightful and very pretty **Helen Skelton**, this all took place within the grounds of the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds. I asked Simon about this event and how it came about:.....Ed.*



Simon Pott

'The BBC Country Tracks team were meandering across Suffolk and came upon Bury St Edmunds. Word had been received by the BBC that something was going on at the Abbey involving the Magna Carta and they immediately sort an interview with someone. I am involved with the Bury St Edmunds Magna Carta celebrations due to take place in 2014 and the fact that much of the preparation necessary for such an important document was completed at Bury St Edmunds. Many Old Michaelian's who

studied History may start scratching their heads at this piece of information since it is widely known that Maga Carta was signed and sealed in 1215. However, the fact is that the Barons met at the High Altar of Bury St Edmunds in 1214 in order to swear allegiance to the King and also to prepare the wording of, what became, Magna Carta'

I gather that Simon was somewhat impressed with Helen Skelton. Either way, it proved to be excellent viewing and I hope many of you were able to watch.

Helen Skelton.....famous for raising enormous sums of money for Sports Relief and Comic Relief by kayaking the length of the Amazon; taking part in the South Pole Challenge and Tightrope walking between the two chimneys at Battersea Power Station.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

BOB HILL



Dear Old Michaelian's,

It is ten years since I last had the pleasure of writing to you as Chairman of our Association and I feel privileged to have been asked to be your Chairman for another three years.

However, the start to this tenure has been saddened by the news of the passing of one of our longest serving committee members, Martin Graville. Martin had been an OM since leaving St. Michael's School in 1959. Our deepest sympathy goes to Martin's widow Barbara and their two sons John and Paul.

As you are aware, the Association remains ever active. This alone is an almost unbelievable stat. since the school has now been closed for forty years and next year the Association will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the Old Michaelian Association.

Personally, I find it very gratifying when we hear from OM's who have not been in contact for a long time and especially those who were my contemporaries. I recall that one of the highlights of my previous period as Chairperson was a Reunion attended by a 'table' full of OM's and their partners who had not attended for many years.

It never ceases to amaze how instrumental the OMA Website has become in 'finding' new Members. This past year has been no exception and, with a little additional detective work, we were able to make contact with a former pupil, who has never been a fully paid up Member, living in Australia. Also, as previously published within this publication, a regular series of events that resulted in three brothers, all of whom attend the school, who we are now in contact with again.

Finally, since I last wrote to you all, I have not only remained on the OMA Committee but I have upgraded my membership of the DWP to OAP status and become a Grandfather.....twice!

Really looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to Hunstanton in October. Best Wishes to you all.

Bob Hil

18.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMA



Old Michaelian Association
Founded
1953

The Association is proud to
announce the forthcoming
celebrations of the:

DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMA IN 2013

Sixty years is a very long time and, everyone who was associated with St. Michael's school throughout its lifetime, should feel extremely proud that the Old Michaelian Association, that was conceived in 1953, has survived and still remains an active Association that strives to keep as many ex-pupils and ex-members of staff, all over the World, connected and informed.

As Simon Pott has reminded us all on numerous occasions, the Headmaster would be 'amazed and astonished' that the Association will very soon reach that milestone of 60 years and that Members still find the need, the energy and the passion to meet each and every October in Old Hunstanton for our annual OMA Reunion weekend.

The OMA Committee, under the direction of our Chairman, Bob Hill, is already beginning the task of discussing, planning and organising, what we all expect will be, an enormous event in Old Hunstanton towards the end of October 2013 and we would very much like to invite all of you to attend.

So, diaries at the ready.....

26/27 OCTOBER 2013

19.

Diamond Jubilee cont.

You will be hearing much more about our plans for next year as this progresses and as we reach into 2013.

But, the Association is asking you for some help please and, with well over a year to go, there is plenty of time for all of you to respond positively we hope.

Bearing in mind that the Association remains extremely high on nostalgia, the thoughts that are initially going through our minds are that it would wonderful if we could in some way remind everyone of the totally unique transport system that was such a pivotal part of the daily life of the school.



So, if any of our Members happens to have a double decker bus or a single decker bus lurking in their garden, we may be interested.

More realistically, we are also requesting that Members seek out any ancient memorabilia appertaining to 'life at St. Michel's school' including uniform, books, photographs etc. Over many years the OMA has been very fortunate to accept the incredible help and energy from our own John King who has successfully compiled a vast photographic display that becomes available for each and every Reunion weekend. The Association would dearly love to add to this collection for the pleasure of all Members, their partners and their guests.

As we said earlier, this is early days for the preparation for our Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2013 and if there are any Members who may be able to help in making this event even more successful, we would love to hear from you.

THANK YOU.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

'One of the important jobs that everyone has, whilst serving on the committee of the Old Michaelian Association, is to take some responsibility for searching and finding ex-pupils and ex-members of staff who we have lost contact with over several years. The reasons are normally quite simple and, as we heard from Richard Phillips earlier, sometimes contact is brought about by a normal conversation about childhood and schooling that triggers a search on the Web to satisfy a curiosity.

For many years, we have listened to colleagues over the years who have asked: "What ever happened to Michael White? Has anyone any idea where Peter Lawrence is these days? Wouldn't it be great to meet up with Bob Balfour again?"

Towards the end of 2011 Bob Hill started the search for Bob Balfour beginning his search in Scotland and very quickly was directed to the other side of the World, namely the State of Victoria in Australia. Bob Hill made the first telephone call to Bob Balfour and we employed the services of Richard Munge in Sydney to keep the contact going over the Christmas period.

In May 2012 we received an email from Bob Balfour and I am extremely pleased to confirm that we are firmly back in contact with yet another Old Michaelian. WELCOME ON BOARD, BOB' Ed.

"G'day Mate, greetings from the Land downunder!

I received a letter and card from Richard at Christmas, prompted by a telephone call from Bob Hill last October and no doubt a considerable bit of pushing from you! It gives me great joy to once again have contact with a part of my life that I held dear.

After leaving school, I did a Nat. Dip. in Agriculture in Aberdeen. I met my wife Lyn while there and we were married in August 1964 and we both came to Australia in the following November. We bought a Dairy Farm and farmed for about 15 years. I then worked for a Dairy Company for 23 years before retiring in 2001. Lyn and I have four children namely Michael, Melanie, Carolyn and Amanda. Sadly, we lost Amanda due to a motor accident in 1990. This knocked us about a bit as you can imagine. We moved to Cape Paterson in 1997. It is a small seaside village at the southernmost point of mainland Australia.

It would be great to hear from you again and get all of your news.

Very Best Regards Bob Balfour

21.

OMA 2012 REUNION DINNER BOOKING FORM



Would you please reserve
me.....number of tickets for the
2012 OMA Reunion Dinner on Saturday 27 October 2012

Name:.....

Partners Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Post Code:.....

Telephone Number:.....

Email Address:.....

'I would like to sit with..... (if possible)'

I enclose my cheque (£24 per person) to the value of £.....

Please make cheques payable to "Old Michaelian
Association". Thank you.

Please detach this form and send it completed with your
cheque to: Ruth Chilvers, 85 Elliott Road, March, Cambs.

PE15 8BP