

# THE MITRE 2014

The Annual Publication for  
The Old Michaelian Association  
1953 - 2014



Published with the kind permission of David Fleming.

## EDITORIAL

# WELCOME.....



.....to the 2014 publication of 'The Mitre'. Once again, it is my pleasure to lead you all through the pages of mutual interest reflecting the times we all spent at St. Michael's School either as pupils or as a member of staff.

The objective of 'The Mitre' never changes since our President, Simon Pott together with our Chairman Bob Hill and all OMA Committee Members are totally committed to retaining the same objectives since the Association was first conceived. We continue to represent Old Michaelian's throughout the World in a positive and professional manner attempting to keep everyone united and informed.

The theme for our 2014 'Mitre' is:

**'FIND A FRIEND'**

This theme will be carried through the whole of this publication in our attempt to locate Old Michaelian's who, for one reason or another, have not kept in contact with fellow OM's, and who we have never been able to make contact. Your help in achieving success with this project would be greatly appreciated.

As Editor of the Old Michaelian Association I sincerely hope you enjoy the content again this year and any comment will always be welcomed.

Happy Reading

John Wallington

Email: [hinckleytowers@btinternet.com](mailto:hinckleytowers@btinternet.com)

## FIND A FRIEND



The Theme for the 2014 'Mitre' is 'Find A Friend'. Let me explain.....

The Old Michaelian Association has miraculously survived ever since its conception in 1953. We are reminded of these facts by our President Simon Pott when he is invited to address the AGM each year and his thoughts, naturally, always make the point that his father, Roger Pott, would find this almost impossible to believe that our Association should remain so buoyant and popular so many years after the closure of St. Michael's School.

Our Membership remains healthy and the Association is still attracting the attention of Old Michaelian's to the work of the Association. None of this work would be possible without the professionalism and hard work administered by our Web Site Editor Bill Cullin and it is due, in the main, to the OMA Web Site that we have been able to 'find'/make contact with many OM's who we may not have heard from for many years. This fact will be brought further to your attention later within this publication.

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

The Theme for the 2014 'Mitre' is 'Find a Friend' because we all know that there are many Old Michaelian's around the World who have access to the World Wide Web and who are oblivious to our existence. This is where you can make a real difference by encouraging those OM's, who for a number of reasons, choose not to make contact and renew those many friendships of yesteryear.

Who was your best friend at School? Have you kept in contact over the years? And/or, do you know of the whereabouts of an Old Michaelian who may wish to know about the work of the Old Michaelian Association?

There are so many methods available to us all these days that enable us to examine Family Trees and the locations of family/friends who we have lost contact. You may remember the article submitted by **Robert Thomas** for the 2013 'Mitre' when he began his article in this way, and I quote: *"It was a 'moment of truth' for me to suddenly discover the Old Michaelian Association Web Site...."* unquote. Bill Cullin will recall and confirm that this emotion has been echoed many times by Old Michaelian's over previous years.

Within the pages of the official Web Site, there is ample opportunity to scan through the Contacts Page. We are unable to guarantee the accuracy of the email addresses published but, as Bill Cullin has suggested many times, here is a very adequate tool for OM's to scan through the various names and locate an 'old' friend and re-acquaint an old friendship. Go on.....give it a try.

<http://www.oma.org.uk/pages/offcontacts.htm>

So, please help the Association to become more aware of as many OM's as possible and, if you have the time and the means, we would encourage everyone to carry out as much research as possible to enable us to keep in contact with as many OM's as possible.

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

THANK YOU.

OooooooooO

## ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



With enormous appreciation to those OM's who so kindly brought my failings to my notice after publication of the 2014 OMA Newsletter.

I am now better educated to the fact that if a Web Site is published, please make sure you publish the correct Web Site address!!

Those of our Members who followed the simple instructions, as published within the Newsletter, were promptly directed in the direction of the Ontario Medical Association instead of the Old Michaelian Association simply because I forgot to include the letters 'uk'. Oh Dear!!

I have written out the proper Web Site address 1000 times in a real effort to put all of this behind me but, due to my age, I cannot promise that similar errors will not happen again!

John Wallington

Editor



***A newly married man asked his wife:***

***"Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?"***

***His wife replied:***

***"Honey, I would have married you regardless of who left you a fortune!"***

OooooooooO

***A wife asked her husband:***

***"What do you like most of me, my pretty face or my sexy body?"***

***The husband carefully considered the question and then said:***

***"I like your sense of humour!"***

## THE 2013 OMA DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY REUNION

The Annual OMA Reunion weekend in Hunstanton is always an event high on the agenda of the OMA Committee each year. 2013 proved to be that little bit special due to the fact that the Association, amazingly, was celebrating its Diamond Anniversary.

The planning and hard work carried out to organise such an event should never be underestimated and everyone associated with the OMA Committee should be congratulated for ensuring that the whole weekend last October was a huge success for our wonderful Members.



*The Committee*

The venue was the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Hunstanton.

The date was 26/27 October 2013.

The whole of the OMA Committee under the leadership of our President, Simon Pott and Chairman Bob Hill, worked tirelessly to ensure that we attracted as many OM's and their partners to help us celebrate and we were not

disappointed.

Considering the theme to the 2014 'Mitre', the Committee thought that our Members may be interested to know who attended the Anniversary Reunion Dinner last year so that you can associate with actual names. Our hope is that this may provide incentive for even greater numbers to attend OMA Reunion weekends in the future.

We reported in the 2014 OMA Newsletter in February the extraordinary efforts that some of our Members achieved to attend the Reunion weekend in Hunstanton. We were joined by Members from America, Canada, Australia and Europe. Everyone was made very welcome and, considering the comments received since, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the whole of the weekend programme. We would like to take this opportunity to say to everyone who attended: **THANK YOU**

## **Attendee's**

**Simon Pott and Jenny, Caroline (nee Pott) Stockhill, Bob Hill, Ian Dupont and Vanessa, Barbara Graville, Bill Cullin, Michael and Ruth (nee Peckover) Chilvers, Gordon Littlewood and Jenny, Pat (nee Dove) Frost, Geraldine (nee Moorhouse) Ellison, Val (nee Jermyn) Fendick, Ernestine (nee Gill) Sizeland and Roy, Michael Catterick and Evelyn, Jeremy Spalding and Sheena, Martin Coats, Tom Healey, Elaine (nee Clarke) Humby, David Winter, Louise (nee Thickett) Taylor, John Wallington and Angela, Colin Ratcliff and Joan, Mukhlis Oweis, Judith (nee Boggis) Polson, John King and Sandie, Felicity (nee Sutton) and John, Paul Norris, Peter Momber, James Sinclair, Jack Owens, Debbie Owens, John Gunn, Jonathan Russell and Monica, David Ratcliff and Gillian, Peter Yarker and Rosemary, Philip Reay Atkinson and Jennifer Merritt, Rachel Golby (nee Gunter) and David, David Durham, Elizabeth Mcleod (nee Shearman) and Roderick, John Laycock and Jane,**

**Ronan Leslie, Reggie Wood and Pidge, Robin James and Jenny, Peter Hartley, Michael Barnes and Rebecca, Heather Kelly (nee Gadsden), Christine Gore (nee Bathgate), Marilyn Leeson (nee Reynolds) and William, Bob Balshaw, Jeremy Le Poer Power, Geoff Lake, Frank Dixon and Jane, Christopher Mayes and Una, David Pleming, Robin Adams, Penny Chamberlain (nee Vawser), Josephine Cavill (nee Smith) and Chris, Nick Smith and Monique, Joanne Downey (nee Bull), Dawn Baker (nee Gadsden), Benedict Gunner and Susanna, Philip Atkinson and Jane,**

**Mike Smith and Shirley, Ian Pennington and Jenny.**

So, I hope you will agree, we were supported by a huge number of OM's Members together with their partners.

**“A friend is one of the NICEST things you can have  
And one of the LOVELIEST things you can be”**

The annual OMA Reunion Dinner is always a very special event and, last October, we were joined by a huge gathering who were very obviously intent in enjoying every moment. Editors are always reminded that it is not good practise to pick out individual people but I trust that you will forgive me on this occasion for very good reason.

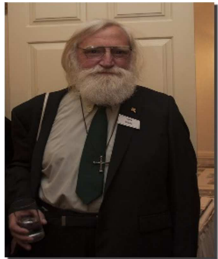


*Ernestine (Gill) Sizeland*

The Association welcomed with open arms Ernestine Sizeland (nee Gill) to the Association Reunion weekend. Ernestine is yet another OM who has only recently 'found' the Association and we offer a huge **WELCOME.**

Ernestine is listed as Pupil No. 33 in the school register and she joined St. Michael's School back in 1946. **Wow!**

Our Chairman, Bob Hill, invited Ernestine to participate at the Reunion Dinner by providing one of the after dinner speeches and we were all delighted and entertained by her wonderful speech.



*David Winter*

The other OM who I believe should be recognised is David Winter. Everyone was, not only delighted to welcome David back to Hunstanton, but a little surprised since throughout 2013 David has been very unwell and undertaken many Hospital visits. However, against the advice and expectation of his medical advisors and planting his own personal

determination on the situation, David made the long journey from Sydney Australia to join us all in Hunstanton for the Reunion weekend. **Wow!**

The generosity of the Members of the Association never ceases to amaze us all and, throughout the evening, the Committee Members encouraged and probably bribed almost £400 from the assembled guests covering the raffle event. It was agreed during the evening that £100 from the raffle takings would be donated to Ingoldisthorpe Church for their continuing Restoration Fund.

Please find time to take a peep at the OMA Web Site where you will find a host of photographs taken on the night. You will not be disappointed.

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



On the Sunday morning many OM's, together with their partners, assembled at Ingoldisthorpe Church for the annual Reunion Eucharist. Permission for the Association to use the church again was given by Rev. Geoff Suart, Rector of Ingoldisthorpe together with the local parishioners and we were delighted that Ingoldisthorpe was almost filled to capacity. We invited David Ratcliff to be our Celebrant on this important occasion. Jonathan Russell provided a very relevant, amusing and entertaining sermon and David Ratcliff was assisted with the distribution of communion by Geoff Lake. With Benedict Gunner playing the organ, the Association was very well represented on, and I quote from Bob Hill,

***".....such a fitting end to a very successful OMA Anniversary Reunion weekend"***.

Well done to everyone who organised, participated, encouraged and attended.

OoooooooooO

Aahh! Makes your heart sing!

A thoughtful Scottish husband was putting on his hat and coat preparing to take a walk down to his local Pub.

He turned to his wee wife before leaving the house and said:

*"Maggie, put your hat and coat on, lassie".*

She replied: *"Awe Jock, that's nice. Are you taking me tae the Pub with you?"*

*"Nay", Jock replied, "I'm turning off the heating while I'm out!"*

OooooooO

**Signs of Ageing!**



*Going to bed early is NOT regarded as a punishment  
But a blessed relief!*

OooooooooooooO

## The Reunion



Felicity (Sutton) and John Cole

*Felicity Cole (nee Sutton) is a regular contributor to 'The Mitre' and it was not a surprise that, soon after the 2013 Anniversary Reunion weekend, I received the following article from Flip. Thanks Flip.*

Congratulations St. Michael's. We did it again!

Well, not me personally. I just turned up and walked through the doors of that beautiful Hotel and began my nostalgic weekend. Like me, and like many of you I suspect, I never gave a second thought to how it all worked and ran so smoothly. Many of us crowded into the upper function room to attend the OMA AGM and, there, already available to everyone was a copy of the AGM Agenda on each chair. Brilliant. Then came the Anniversary Reunion Dinner in the evening. The tables all decorated with balloons depicting the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OMA, the excellent dinner, plus the highly entertaining speeches, made the whole evening so special. That is how a great organisation works and that set me thinking.

How did he do it? How did Mr Pott get us all from 'A' to 'B' with such controlled ease. How did he get the whole school firstly from Heacham church in the morning to Hunstanton, then back to Ingoldisthorpe for lunch. We were never late.....were we?

We all crowded onto the buses and sometimes the Comer bus where we sat uncomfortably astride the bench down the middle knee to knee with those sitting on the sides listening to the roar from some senior prefect: **"Move up, move up, there is room for at least five more!"**

We would drive, somewhat erratically, due to the inexperience of the driver at the wheel, who was required to wear regular school uniform including school cap. The gears would be crunched, the braking was sometimes excessive and the cornering indescribable requiring effort from everyone sitting on the sides of the Comer to support everyone sitting on the bench! Others travelled on the buses and, like the 'Whacky Races', people who witnessed the event would watch in horror at the cavalcade of vehicles 'ploughing' through the narrow streets of NW Norfolk villages. I swear the top deck of the double decker bus turned each corner ten seconds after the bottom deck! Where were the Police, Health & Safety officers, Child Protection I ask? Probably hiding behind drawn curtains!

Yet, lunch was always served on time (rather ladled on time). We all crowded into the dining room faced with, again, wooden benches and an unhealthy

closeness to fellow students that required the eating process to be orchestrated in unison. I was usually the last to finish my lunch and tended to be dumped unceremoniously on the floor as everyone stood up, having finished their meal, and left! I swear they did it on purpose.

Back on the St. Michael's School transport and back to Hunstanton on time for the resumption of our afternoon education. There was Mr Adams looking as if he had ridden back on the top deck of the double decker with the windows open and a slightly terrified looking Mr Taylor with the inevitable school tie supporting his trousers. They were all treasures with such unique personalities.

Our late Headmaster was a genius, his timing and organisation skills second to none and a complete revelation. So.....it came as no surprise to me to recognise those same skills being used by the OMA Committee.

Thanks you all Committee Members, you are wonderful. The whole weekend was just perfect.

Lots of Love

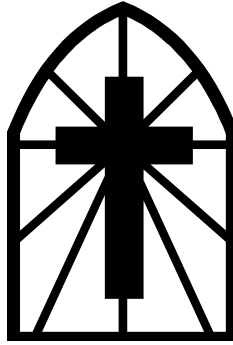
Felicity Cole (nee Sutton)

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## GOLF!!

- **Golf balls are like eggs. They are white, they are sold by the dozen and a week later you have to buy some more!**
- **It is amazing how a golfer who never helps out around the house will replace his divots, repair his ball marks and rake his bunkers.**
- **A good drive on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole has stopped many a golfer from giving up the game!**



### **In Memory**

*As Editor of 'The Mitre' for the Association, I would ask you all to remember pupils of St. Michael's School and those associated with the School and who have recently passed away.*

### **KEITH WILLIAM LARRINGTON**

Keith passed away on 17 January 2014 peacefully in Hospital aged 75 years. Dearly loved husband of Jane and loving Dad of Guy and Sian and loved by the whole family.

Keith attended St. Michael's School from 1946 onwards although the school register does not record his leaving date.

The Association offer our sincere sympathy to all family members and friends.

Representatives from the OMA attended the funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Wolverton on 3 February 2014

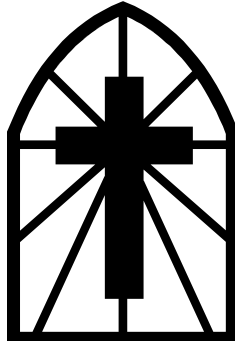
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### **DAVID JACK LEE**

David passed away on 23 October 2013 aged 68 years.

The family Funeral Service took place at Mintlyn Crematorium, Kings Lynn on 8 November 2013 and the OMA was represented.

The Association offer our sincere sympathy to all family members and friends.



**In Memory**

**Margaret Bocking**

It is with regret that the Association announces the passing of Margaret Bocking at a Norwich Nursing Home. Margaret died in November 2013. Although Margaret was not a pupil at St. Michael's School, those of us who were actively involved in events at Ingoldisthorpe would have been aware of 'Team Bocking' made up of Margaret Bocking and her long term husband Eric. The village of Ingoldisthorpe is now less rich without 'Team Bocking' to rely on.

On Sunday 2 March 2014 representatives from the OMA were invited to participate in a Eucharist and Memorial Service remembering the fine work undertaken by Margaret and Eric during their many years living at Ingoldisthorpe and I am pleased to report that the Association was extremely well represented.

Our Chairman, Bob Hill, was invited to deliver a Eulogy and, in doing so, Bob reminded the congregation of the long term relationship that existed between Margaret and Eric and the School.

This relationship started back in 1952 when Margaret and Eric were married in St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Ingoldisthorpe by Roger Pott and the wedding service was supported by a choir from the school. The expression 'Team Bocking' came about some years later but sums up the level of confidence that the village of Ingoldisthorpe had in both Margaret and Eric who could always be relied upon to deliver when it was necessary. Eric (apparently) played the organ very aptly when required and Margaret could always be relied upon in keeping the church in a welcoming and proper fashion.

*Receiving a contribution from a new contributor to 'The Mitre' is always welcome and the following article, written and submitted by one of our newest OMA Committee Members, Elizabeth MacLeod, is no exception. Ed.*

### My Island Parish



My husband and I spend quite a lot of time in the Outer Hebrides Islands off the west coast of Scotland. We have a holiday home on the Isle of Lewis in the village of Shawbost, next to Carlaway where Roddie's father was born. Roddie still has a number of cousins living in the area and he loves to go back and visit.

It came to my notice, in the summer of 2012, that a Church of Scotland church on the island of Uist, welcomed any Preacher who would go and stay in the manse for a month or so preaching at two services on a Sunday and carrying out pastoral visiting. Since I am accredited as a Preacher in both the Methodist and Presbyterian church, I felt that I might be useful and made the offer to the interim Moderator of our intention to visit and stay and perform the required duties.

So, that is how we found ourselves, in the middle of February, leaving our cosy village house in Norfolk, travelling to the Outer Hebrides and moving into a manse attached to the Church of Scotland in the village of Daliburgh on the Island of South Uist.

On our very first Saturday the Church Officer arrived with coal and peat for our fire and on that very first day we were greeted by a kindly lady from the congregation who handed over the manse keys and showed us around and made us feel so welcome by presenting a batch of Scotch pancakes for our tea.

The manse was huge and chilly! There was central heating but due to the height of the ceilings and draughts caused by ill fitting doors, it was never expected to become warm and cosy except, that is, for our little sitting room where a fire was lit each and every evening. There was a very adequate kitchen with table and chairs and a very large reception room. With four bedrooms upstairs, a bathroom and even servants quarters. To say that the manse was sparse in its appearance would be an accurate description since whatever household appliances and furniture had all been donated by members of the congregation.

But, it was all clean, comfortable and useable and this remained our home for the following five weeks providing us both with a good roof over our heads and the manse felt welcoming with a good atmosphere. Outside was an unfenced garden that made life a little tricky with two energetic dogs but since the rough pasture land adjacent to the manse was not used for sheep grazing, we were able to exercise the dogs off the lead across the pasture land and/or along the beautiful sandy shore.

The views from the manse was of moor, occupied by wild ponies, and mountain. Snow capped the highest of the mountains throughout the year although we had very little snow down at shore level.

So, what were our duties?

We were responsible for two churches that were ten miles apart. One at Daliburgh and the other at Howmore. We quickly learned that the two congregations hardly ever worshipped at the same time at the same venue except for one service each month. The logistics of personal organisation to accommodate each church was required precision timing. The congregations at each church were never huge and probably averaged to 12 - 18 people for each church. At one church the organ was 'played' by an 80 year old and very badly but since the singing qualities of the congregation were less than perfect, I was required to supplement the volume with the help of a microphone!

My other responsibilities were to organise personal visits to the homes of my congregation. Most of them were very elderly and some had terrible sad tales to share with me over numerous cups of tea and wonderful homemade cake. On many occasion's I would take my toy poodle along and this appeared to help 'break the ice' and provide a common theme of conversation.

It was the people who made our stay in South Uist so special. Walking into the houses of strangers is never easy - and on the Island you are expected to 'walk in' - since the doors are never locked and you are expected to knock, walk in and shout "Hello". Immediately a welcoming gesture is forthcoming and a chair is offered together with freshly brewed tea and the inevitable home made scones. This makes conversation and friendship so easy.

My responsibilities as Minister were very varied including the organisation of funerals. Like most funerals throughout the United Kingdom, they are dominated by family and friends and this was recognised on South Uist as well. The only difference was my first introduction to an official Island Wake. Families are large on South Uist and usually generated a huge representation from adjacent islands requiring a Ferry crossing.

The coffin was always laid out by the Undertakers at the home of the deceased and, I was somewhat taken aback, when the coffin lid was removed so that all family members could pay their own personal respect to the deceased.

After this formality, mountains of food appeared and the inevitable bottle of whisky and everyone was invited to take a dram. It was, as I explained, a proper Island Wake.

Would I go back to South Uist again? A very good question.....

Our time spent on the Island was very challenging and often exhausting. But it was probably one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I could not have done any of this without the unwavering support from my husband, Roddie, who loved every moment of our time spent in the Hebrides besides turning his hand to fixing up the manse as best as he could.

Hopefully, the church will eventually find a more permanent Minister.

We are making a short trip back for a weekend in May and I am really looking forward to that visit because this will enable us to renew many friendships established last year.

I do not suppose that this account has much relevance to my time as a pupil at St. Michael's School - or has it?

We were certainly all taught to step outside our comfort zone. I certainly learned about self-confidence and self-belief to say nothing of a good grounding in the Christian faith. I learned that even when you are scared and apprehensive, it is worth taking a chance and making an effort to do something different and new. I have learned not to make excuses and also that being in my mid-70's is no excuse for not attempting anything!!!

Elizabeth MacLeod (nee Shearman)  
St. Michael's School 1947 - 1950

OooooooooO



More Golf.....!

- The greatest sound in golf is the 'Whoosh, Whoosh, Whoosh' of your opponent's club as it is hurled across the fairway.
- It is a simple matter to keep the ball on the fairway if you are not fussed about which fairway!



## The Revd. Geoff Suart

The Old Michaelian Association continues to work closely with people who become associated with the OMA and this trend has continued for many years. It could be suggested that the long term success of the OMA is due in many respects to the continuing support and friendship offered by people who, are not former pupils or members of staff of St. Michael's School, but who have been associated with the OMA through other means.

The Revd. Geoff Suart is one such person who has become a firm friend of the OMA and who has continually supported us all over many years and it is appropriate to recognise this friendship at this time.

Geoff Suart is currently Rector of Snettisham, Fring and Ingoldisthorpe and is soon to retire from his post in NW Norfolk.

At the 2013 AGM a proposal was presented to Members that our Association should recognise the friendship and support provided by Geoff by presenting a small gift from the Association on the occasion of the retirement of the Revd. Geoff Suart and this motion was carried and agreed.

We have now been informed that Geoff Suart will be officiating as Rector of Ingoldisthorpe at St. Michael and All Angels, Ingoldisthorpe at the Eucharist on Sunday 21 September 2014 commencing at 09:30.

Representatives from the OMA Committee will be attending and this notice is by means of extending a general invitation to all OMA Members to show total support to Geoff Suart on this occasion and attend this important service. Our Chairman, Bob Hill, will be making a formal presentation to Geoff Suart during the service.

Thank you.

Ooooooooo

## St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church....Heacham



Heacham Parish Church became an iconic image and important part of the success of St. Michael's School and, therefore, qualifies a similar mention to Ingoldisthorpe Church outlined in the 2012 'Mitre'. That article prompted Jeremy Spalding to write a very informative article for 'The Mitre' and it is hoped that this article will encourage the brain cells to recall

personal memories from our readership.

The much loved Church of St. Mary the Virgin was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and stands proudly at the head of the village of Heacham. Local legend has it that the Indian Princess, Pocahontas, worshipped at the church when John Rolfe returned with his wife and young son, Thomas, from Virginia, USA. Coats of arms of prominent members of the Rolfe family are located inside the church.

Because our late Headmaster, Roger Pott, became Rector of both Heacham and Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church and their communities, the Parish Church at Heacham naturally became an important part of school life and when I enquired about individual memories from a small number of fellow OM's, I was staggered at the stories that resulted.

This all came about due to an email I received during January 2014 from Paul Hodge informing me that the current organ sited at Heacham Church reaches the dizzy heights of 100 years old this year and the Parish have planned a number of celebrations to recognise the event. Now, before I am criticized for submitting false information, I must explain that the 100 year old organ has not been sited at Heacham Church for 100 years! Life started at East Finchley, London, before it was moved to Heacham in 1970. According to current organist, Adrian Flower, it is the largest organ of its type in the region after Kings Lynn Minster.

Jonathan Russell recalls:

*"A short while ago the death was announced of Phil, one of the Everly Brothers. As I was booked to play the organ the following Sunday at a local Dover Parish Church, I dug out some old 60's music I had kept since school. During the introductory voluntaries I inserted a rendering of 'All I have to do is Dream' and 'Crying in the Rain' as my tribute to the Everly Brothers. The response after the service was amazing!*

*This reminded me of my days playing the organ at Heacham Church especially when I played at the morning assemblies and how I would occasionally insert a popular song from the current Hit Parade. You know the sort of thing - 'Stranger on the Shore' (Acker Bilk), 'Take good care of my Baby' (Bobby Vee), 'Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen' (Neil Sedaka) and 'Moon River'.*

*Of course, I would attempt to disguise it a little so that the Headmaster and Staff would not recognise it! But, judging from the smiles and humming from the 'congregation' there was no doubt that everyone knew what was going on! My hope is that this slightly risky business injected a bit of fun into those dreary morning assemblies".*

A couple of memories from Colin Ratcliff just serve to emphasis the fact that Heacham Church was managed in a very personal manner:

*"Playing a church organ is not unlike driving a car. While concentrating on the task in hand and with restricted vision, the organist or driver, learns to act intuitively using information from other senses to imagine and understand what is happening around them. This can lead to surprising misinterpretations as this little tale will illustrate: As I played before the start of a Sunday morning service at Heacham Church, I became aware of a commotion. Being preoccupied and unable to see what was happening, I sensed that the fuss had started at the main door of the church and progressed up the south aisle and into the clergy's vestry situated immediately behind the organ. I continued, aware of hushed murmurings among the congregation and unusual muffled noises in the vestry. After a delay, the procession of choir and clergy duly appeared.*

*I glanced quickly in the direction of Mr Pott as he announced the opening hymn. Although he presented his customary air of authority, he appeared to be perspiring and a little dishevelled as if he had been involved in a struggle. I became even more intrigued to know more, but it was time to play. As the service proceeded I put my thoughts to one side knowing that all would be revealed after the service.*

*It was time for the sermon. It was agreed that, as a relief from the hard wooden organ seat and restricted movement, the organist could slip quietly into the vestry. I eased along the bench, stood up, quietly opened the door and entered the shadowy side entrance. In the silence I sensed that something was different. A feeling that something or someone was already in the vestry. Was it linked to the 'going's-on' before the service? I tiptoed forward, curious to know the answer. Peering around the corner I pulled back in horror at a sight I had never seen before. On the floor lay a corpse of an old man clothed and neatly arranged with the jaw respectfully held close by a black tie. It made me think of one of Jacob Marley's Christmas ghosts! I was shocked and hastily retreated, preferring the discomfort of the organ wooden bench for the remainder of the sermon.*

*The service ended. The voluntary was brief and my coat was still in the vestry. I could hear the voice of Mr Pott as I tentatively opened the door. "Come in, come in" he commanded in a typical nonchalant everyday manner, "Don't be bothered, boy, it's only a body!". Clearly this was an everyday occurrence to someone who had served as Padre in the War and a good thing for his pupils to experience! It transpired that the gentleman, who was a member of the choir, had collapsed in the area of the main door and had been 'transported' to the clergy's vestry for treatment where he was judged to have died.*

### *Tale No.2*

*Mr Pott was indisposed recuperating from a heart attack earlier in the year. During one of his Hospital bedside administrative meetings he requested me to take charge of the music for the traditional candle-lit Christmas Carol Service at Heacham Church. To this day I do not know who selected the carols or who played the organ but I was to conduct and direct the choir.*

*Traditionally, the service starts with a solo verse from 'Once in Royal David's City' from the back of the church with the following verses sung in procession to the choir stalls. Now, I don't know whether it was another 'Heacham' tradition or not but it was decided to have another procession during the service. We were to set off down the north aisle at the end of the carol, go straight into 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' at the back and then sing another carol on the way back up the south aisle.*

*Rehearsals were held and all seemed well with the strategy.*

*What I had not taken into account was how different everything would be 'live' in a dimly lit church by candles and packed to the rafters with parishioners and pupils! On the night, although the candlelight was magical, it was not easy to see the choir immersed in the congregation as it made its way to the choir-stalls. After singing several carols from there, it was time for the planned procession around the church. The choir, headed by the basses, set off down the overcrowded side aisle while I hot footed up the central aisle ready to conduct as they arrived at the back of the church. I waited. Where were they? Struggling to get through the congregational throng, they were making slower progress than in rehearsal. The organist, following instructions and unaware of the evolving crisis, started the introduction to 'Ding Dong.....', still no choir! Two bars to go! The basses appeared. I swung my arm and they started; 'Ding Dong Merrily on High, in Heaven the Bells are Ringing' but to my astonishment, boldly singing the bass line on its own!*

*Desperately, I waved at the emerging choir. The tenors and the altos hesitated preferring to wait for the sopranos and the trebles to arrive and start the main tune.*

*The basses continued; 'Ding Dong Verily the Sky is riven with Angels Singing' The rest of the choir shuffled into view and together we burst forth with the chorus; 'Glooor or or or or or ooor or or or or or ooor or or or or or ooor I a, In excelsis Deo'.....*

*We finished the carol and the rest of the service was completed without a hitch. Phew!*

*After the service had finished, a shadowy, but unmistakeable, figure emerged from the gloom of the chancel. Mr Pott had secretly ensconced himself there, unknown to anyone and probably against Doctors orders. He spoke to me. He was complimentary about what we had achieved in his absence but added this perceptive observation: "That was an interesting variation of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High" he said without a sign of humour or cynicism. To this day I still do not know whether he genuinely liked it or that he was letting me know that it had not gone by unnoticed!*

I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to this feature. It really has been impossible to include all facts and figures but if you have similar tales to tell, get them down on paper and let me have a copy please. Ed.

OooooooooO

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Ingoldisthorpe

Approval by the PCC has been confirmed that the following worded Plaque should be on display within the church recognising the close relationship between the church, Roger Pott and St. Michael's School 1946 - 1969

**St Michael's School, Ingoldisthorpe  
1946 - 1969**

**This church was used by St Michael's School as a chapel for morning assemblies, some Sunday services, and for the main festivals during the School's existence in Ingoldisthorpe, before the school moved to Hunstanton.**

**The Rectory building was used as the main building with boarding accommodation at Heacham which at that time was the twinned parish. When the school moved to Hunstanton the Rectory was used as the boarding house.**

**The school was the brainchild of the vicar of Heacham and Ingoldisthorpe, the Rev (later Canon) Roger Percival Pott (1909 - 1992)**

# 61<sup>st</sup> OMA REUNION WEEKEND

25 - 26 OCTOBER 2014

LE STRANGE ARMS HOTEL

OLD HUNSTANTON

The format for the 2014 OMA Reunion weekend will be very similar to previous years and it is very much hoped that, due to the successful Anniversary Reunion weekend enjoyed by so many Members and their partners last year, this may encourage even more OM's to commit to setting aside the above advertised dates and join us all for yet another memorable weekend in NW Norfolk.

Our annual gettogether usually starts in the Mariners Bar of the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton on Saturday 25 October where many members of the OMA Committee will be available to 'meet and greet'. It is a time to reacquaint with colleagues and friends over a pint or three and attempt to remember names and events from a long time ago.

The OMA Annual General Meeting takes place in the Hotel at 3:30pm on the Saturday afternoon and, like previous years, we will be taking residence in The Palace Suite for our AGM.

It has become a tradition, stretching back for many years, that the Committee arrange for a fabulous photographic exhibition to be available to view in The Palace Suite and that exhibition becomes a 'back drop' to the important issues of the day involving the AGM.

The OMA Reunion Dinner is organised and arranged, tables will be neatly laid, silver polished and furniture in place ready for pre-dinner drinks at 7pm.

Dinner will be served at 7:45pm

- **Homemade Soup with Fresh Crispy Bread & Rustique Croutons**
- **Chicken Breast with Mushrooms & Tarrogon Cream Sauce**
- **Vanilla Crème Brule with Berry Compote and Shortbread**
- **Coffee and Mints**

**Mmmmm!.....Scrummy!**

For those of our guests requiring to order a Vegetarian meal, the following will be offered:

- **Cherry Tomato, Roquefort Cheese and Aubergine Caviar Tartlet with Salad or Veg**

One of the highlights of the evening are the after-dinner speeches, especially the one presented from our President, so expect a very entertaining evening and one not to be missed.

As I have reported many times in the past, and not even mentioning the cost involved, your Association has even organised an extra hour in bed by persuading the powers to be to change the UK clocks back one hour on Saturday night!

No excuses, therefore, not to attend the Reunion Eucharist at Ingoldisthorpe Church on the Sunday morning.

The service starts at 11:00. At the time of preparing this 'Mitre' we are unable to confirm who our Celebrant will be but we are able to confirm that there will be plenty of involvement by OM's to help to complete another successful and eventful OMA Reunion weekend.

So, please, open up those diaries and place the following date:

**25 - 26 OCTOBER 2014**

The appropriate booking form can be found at the rear of 'The Mitre' to reserve a place for the Reunion Dinner on Saturday 25 October 2014.

Cost?

A very attractive and heavily subsidised £25 per head.

Please make sure that you make your reservation for Dinner early by filling in the Booking Form and submitting it with your cheque to Ruth Chilvers as soon as possible.

We all look forward to meeting with you again. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the UK summer.

OooooooooO

# SIMON POTT



Simon Pott

## President, Old Michaelian Association

The 2013 OMA Reunion weekend was a triumph with huge effort from a number of people who travelled extraordinary distances to be with us all in Hunstanton last October. Head and shoulders above the rest was David McMahon-Winter who travelled from Australia despite battling bush fires and a debilitating illness in what must have been a complete challenge to his Doctor's orders; this would have been most enthusiastically applauded by the Headmaster who was so well known for ignoring the medical profession.

We numbered just about 100 people and there were notable contributions from OM's who had left the school soon after I was born that is now 65 years ago!

Your Committee is working hard towards the next Reunion weekend to be held this year over the weekend of 25/26 October 2014 and, as in every year, we anticipate a good turnout by the regulars and there is bound to be some that we have not seen for a very long time joining us all. Everyone is welcomed most warmly and can look forward to meeting friends again from a very long time ago. How times have changed in those intervening years, yet we all return back to NW Norfolk for the annual Reunion weekend and spend enjoyable times recalling our personal memories of our time spent at St. Michael's School. Some of us are surprised to find that very little has changed, it is just that we all think we are a little wiser - or we think we are! We greatly look forward to seeing you in October.

Best Wishes

Simon Pott

Ooooooooo

### Observations:

*Since Simon became President of the OMA, the Chairman and Committee have been able to rely on his support totally and the Association does owe Simon a huge vote of 'Thanks'.*

*On the 27 April 2014 the OMA Committee Members assembled at the beautiful home of Simon and Jenny Pott in Bury St Edmunds for our Spring Committee Meeting and, as usual, we were all made to feel most welcome and suitably fed with a scrummy lunch prepared by Jenny.*

*A million 'Thanks' are offered to Simon and Jenny Pott.*



## BOB HILL

### Chairman, Old Michaelian Association



Bob Hill

Dear Friends,

It is a year since I last wrote to you all. Where does the time go? Over this past year several 'lost' OM's have contacted the Association and it is always a good day when this happens.

The OMA Committee have met twice this year and both occasions have been very enjoyable debating and deciding on such matters as Treasury, Membership Numbers, Web Site, The Mitre and, of course, the forthcoming OMA Reunion weekend.

I know that our Editor has already included a feature on the events enjoyed by so many of our friends last October when we all met in Old Hunstanton to celebrate the **OMA Diamond Anniversary Reunion weekend**. It was, in my opinion, one of the most successful Reunion weekend's I can ever remember. The OMA Committee went to exceptional lengths to ensure that everything was in place to guarantee all OM's and their partners enjoyed every moment.

The highlights were a plenty.....

- ✓ We welcomed nearly 10% of all pupils who ever attended the school
- ✓ We recorded the highest numbers of Lady Old Michaelian's
- ✓ OM's travelled from all over the UK, Europe, Canada, USA and Australia
- ✓ We welcomed one OM who attended the school from day one in 1946
- ✓ 98 joined us at the Le Strange Arms Hotel for the Reunion Dinner
- ✓ We were ably entertained by a multitude of after-dinner speeches
- ✓ Ingoldisthorpe Church welcomed the largest congregation ever for a Reunion Eucharist. The collection totalled an amazing **£400**.
- ✓ A significant number of OM's with their partners gathered at The Rose & Crown in Snettisham for Sunday lunch.
- ✓

The general opinion was that the whole weekend had a very special atmosphere throughout and we thank everyone who helped us make it so memorable.

We now look forward to the 61<sup>st</sup> Reunion weekend of **25/26 October 2014**. If, for some reason, you have not managed to make it to a Reunion weekend, do please try and join us all in October at the Le Strange Arms Hotel. You will be made very welcome.

Finally, I am sad to say that this is my third year as Chairman of our Association and, therefore, I must stand down after the AGM next October at the Reunion. I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' to every member of the OMA for continuing to support the Association. A very special 'Thank you' is directed to all members of the OMA Committee over the past three years who all tirelessly ensure the Association is so successful and who have made my tenure as Chairman so enjoyable.

Best Wishes

Bob Hill  
Chairman

OooooooooO

## Final comments from Ed.

"That's it! Another 'Mitre' successful completed for another year.

I really do hope you have thoroughly enjoyed the read.

A Huge 'THANK YOU' to everyone who has contributed. Without your input 'The Mitre' would not be possible.

Although the deadline for publication of the 2014 'Mitre' has now passed, I would be delighted to receive contributions from OM's for the 2015 copy. I look forward to hearing from you:

John Wallington

OMA Editor

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LE10 2SY

UK

Email: [hinckleytowers@btinternet.com](mailto:hinckleytowers@btinternet.com)

All that is left for you to do is turn the page and complete the Booking Form and reserve your place at the 2014 OMA Reunion Dinner.

We look forward to welcoming you to Hunstanton.

**25/26 OCTOBER 2014**



# **OMA 2014 REUNION BOOKING FORM**

**Would you please reserve me.....number of places  
for the 2014 OMA Reunion Dinner on Saturday  
25 October 2014.**

**Name:.....**

**Partners Name:.....**

**Address:.....**

.....

.....

**Post Code:.....**

**Telephone Number:.....**

**Email Address:.....**

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

**I enclose my cheque (£25 per person) to the value of  
£.....Please make all cheques payable to the Old  
Michaelian Association. Thank you.**

**Please detach this completed form and send it, with your  
cheque, to Ruth Chilvers, 85 Elliott Road, March, Cambs  
PE15 8BP**

