

THE 2020 MITRE



www.oma.org.uk

EDITORIAL

Dear Old Michaelians,

Welcome to this edition of the **2020 'MITRE'**.

It is Bank Holiday Easter Monday as I begin to knit together this annual publication for all ex-pupils, ex-staff and everyone who was involved in the running of St. Michael's School between 1946 – 1969. I hope that all of you will understand the difficulty I find myself as Editor of '**The Mitre**' in choosing my words very carefully as we all come to terms with the fact that our lives have been turned upside-down, no matter where in the world you happen to be digesting these words, as we all battle with the effects of Covid-19 and its consequences. On behalf of the **Old Michaelian Association** may I offer to all of you who have suffered sad losses within your own families and circle of friends our sincere sympathy and condolences. And to those of you who are currently living with family and friends who are suffering as a direct cause of this awful virus, please accept that you are all very much in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Chairman **Ian Dupont**, wrote to you all earlier this month and rightly expressed that the Association will continue to support all OM's no matter where in the World you may reside by offering moral support and prayers and practical support by attempting to put Old Michaelians in contact with other Old Michaelians. We know that this message has already been taken up by **Les Roberts** and all of the Members of the **OMAA**.

Within '**The Mitre**' my quest will be to generate as much positivity as possible and you will all read about the preparations being finalised in readiness for the **2020 OMA Reunion Weekend at the Heacham Manor Hotel** over the weekend **24/25 October** and later within this publication you will be provided with everything you need to know about the weekend. So, I very much look forward to seeing you there.

Best Wishes to you all

John Wallington
OMA

*During April this year our Chairman, **Ian Dupont**, wrote to all Old Michaelians, who are able to receive emails, expressing total support from the Old Michaelian Association to all of its Members during this unprecedented time and we think it is important that all Old Michaelians should be given the opportunity to read Ian's letter. **Ed.***



April 2020

Dear Old Michaelian,

The world, as we know it, is an ever changing world and the arrival of **Covid-19** has required every nation to carefully consider every resource available in order to maintain this fight against a virus we cannot see that continues to take precious lives and has generated so much disruption to our daily lives. Our President, **Simon Pott** and I are very keen to make contact with you all at this time and offer our full support to you and your families and assure you that you will all remain in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. If anyone is experiencing any difficulties and would like to hear from a fellow Old Michaelian local to your own home, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do everything possible to help.

Arrangements and all required plans are still going ahead to guarantee another very successful OMA Reunion weekend at the **Heacham Manor Hotel** over the weekend of **24/25 October 2020** and all the necessary detail for the weekend will be fully published in the forthcoming '**Mitre**' that will be distributed during the month of August.

Best wishes to you all. Keep well and keep safe.

Ian Dupont
Chairman
OMA

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It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Andrew Pott**. Andrew died mercifully peacefully in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital on Wednesday 29 April 2020 after a short illness. Andrew was 71 years old.

The following Obituary has been written by Andrew's twin brother Simon.

Andrew Jonathan Pott was born on 17 November 1948, the elder twin son of Roger and Isabel Pott, at Heacham Vicarage in Norfolk where his Father had been Vicar for about three years. His Mother, Isabel, had been a Norland Nanny in London, they met and married during the war years. After a series of church appointments his Father, Roger, moved towards teaching of which his principle experience had been as Head of School in Yokohama, Japan where he had lived when he was Chaplain to the Bishop. He returned back to Britain in 1938 as the world headed towards the second World War. After marrying in 1942 Roger and Isabel Pott looked for a suitable parish to live and were fortunate to be offered Heacham where the 'gift of a living' was held by a relative. Not for the first or last time in his life did Roger understand the maxim that *'it was not what you know but who you know that counts'*. One bit of exceptional good fortune was the help that Roger and Isabel Pott gave to an elderly American lady who lived at the Vicarage for a short time before she died and left her house, **The Shooting Lodge**, to the Vicar and his wife for their kindness.

Andrew and his twin Simon were held to be contented because they always had someone with whom to play and photographs show them in a large double pram or held in their parents arms at their Christening. Early memories were of the Day Nursery and the Night Nursery but all of that changed twenty months later when Caroline was born. In the meantime **Andrew** and Simon's Father had been busy exploring the opportunities to teach. Such was the demand for the type of coaching offered that a number of local priests were drafted in to help. The Old Rectory at Ingoldisthorpe was requisitioned and St. Michaels School was created. This is a separate story to be told elsewhere, but **Andrew** and Simon

went to the school shortly followed by sister Caroline and stayed at the school until the age of ten. Being the children of the Headmaster was an interesting experience and eventually **Andrew** and Simon were offered 'presentations' to Christ's Hospital in Sussex through the Grocers' Company, a City of London Livery Company who the Pott family had been involved with since 1658.

Andrew and Simon, as twins, developed different interests, hobbies and friends. **Andrew** was more academic and Simon was involved with sport. **Andrew** did very well at 'O' level exams and even better with excellent 'A' level exam results and this allowed **Andrew** to choose Bristol University where he read Geography. He became involved with The Students Union and he was elected Treasurer for a year that was a full time post. With that experience gained, on leaving University he joined Price Waterhouse and was destined for a career in Accountancy where he seemed to have a bright future but his political tendencies found attraction in joining the Solon Housing Association and becoming involved with politics in the region moving swiftly through the ranks and, in due course, becoming the leader of Avon County Council. A very prestigious position.

Andy, as he became known, married Helen in 1978 with his twin brother Simon as his Best Man. The couple left Bristol in 1986 and moved to Stockport where Andy worked first at the Manchester Metropolitan University before moving on to Salford University. Their children Alexandra and Jonathan were both born in Stockport and have both become successful. Alex as an outstanding young business woman and Jon as a highly talented Chef achieving Michelin level.

More than twenty years ago the family moved to live in Norwich where Andy was in charge of many aspects of student life at The University of East Anglia.

Andrew retired at the age of sixty but it was, perhaps, a crowning achievement at the end of his career with Universities that he threw himself wholeheartedly into his voluntary work at Norwich Rugby Football Club and you can read a full account of this exceptional period of his life here in '**The Mitre**'

I know that all of our Readers will want to express an enormous word of 'Thanks' to Simon for taking the time to write this Obituary to his twin brother Andrew and, furthermore, I know that you will all wish to join with me in offering to Helen, Alexandra, Jonathan, Simon and Jenny and the whole of the Pott Family our deepest sympathy and condolences at this time. Ed.

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The news of Andrew's passing was, I know a huge shock for many OM's and this was soon followed by a wonderful article written by Thomas Chapman at the Eastern Daily Press and published on Saturday 9 May 2020 and we are extremely grateful to Thomas and the Eastern Daily Press for providing permission to the Old Michaelian Association to copy and publish this article in full. Ed.

RUGBY CLUB STALWART WAS A 'GREAT FRIEND' AND 'EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEER'



Tributes have been paid to an “exceptional volunteer” who dedicated two decades of service to the rugby club he loved.

Andy Pott, secretary and former president of Norwich Rugby Club (NRFC) died at the age of 71 on Wednesday 29 April 2020 following a short illness. He lived in Norfolk's county town and leaves behind his wife Helen and two children. Mr Pott's contribution to NRFC, spreading back over 21 years, has been described by the Club as “immense” acknowledged last year when he was made an honorary member. In recent times he was most widely known for his administrative roles but they were only the tip of the iceberg after a career helping talented young players through the ranks. With the current season having ended due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Mr Pott lived to see the senior first team promoted from the London 2 North East Division after going unbeaten in their first 18 games.

Andy Micklethwaite, Communications Officer at NRFC said, ***“We owe Andy a huge debt and are grateful, after all his years of service, that he was able to see the 1st XV promoted into London 1 North prior to becoming unwell. He will be sadly missed by us all at NRFC as a very efficient and meticulous administrator, an exceptional volunteer and a great friend”.***

The list of tasks undertaken by Mr Pott during his time at the club was extensive and his devotion to NRFC and the game of Rugby dominated his social life. Recognising the importance for a club to develop its own players through a strong youth and mini system his heart was in coaching and seeing those young players progress through to the senior sides. Then, eight years ago in 2012, long after hanging up his coaching boots, Mr Pott found a junior team – now the under 16's, dusted off his kit and started all over again.

Even as his health deteriorated there was no sign of Mr Pott slowing down as he became a key figure in the Development Group and the club's drawn out attempts to relocate to the University of East Anglia Colney Lane playing fields.

THE OLD MICHAELIAN ASSOCIATION WEB SITE



William Cullin

*On the 15 April 2000 our own **Bill Cullin** wrote the very first entry onto the STOP PRESS page of the OMA Web Site announcing the following:*

“We got our own Domain”

The availability of our very own Web Site has been so important and beneficial to the Old Michaelian Association and it is extraordinary that, after 20 years, we are still offering new material to Bill Cullin to include onto our own Web Site. Bill has been the architect and the brains behind our Web Site and manages this so important element of the running of the Association that it would be appropriate to take this opportunity for us all to say to Bill:

THANK YOU

Bill continues to support the OMA in a very modest and professional manner and, if you have not ventured for a peep at the Web Site for a while, and you have a PC capable of doing so.....go on.....have a peep!

www.oma.org.uk

A few years ago I mistakenly advertised the Web Site address without including the ‘uk’ at the end and we all were educated in full about the Ontario Medical Association!! So please make sure you get the address right!

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

Our Web Site has been responsible for vital information to all of our Members about Members who reside all over the World and has linked the Association with many former OMs who have simply engaged with the web site by mistake and fallen into our ‘Net’ and discovered an enormous amount of material and people relevant to St. Michael’s School. The web site has always attempted to keep everyone as informed as possible again, relevant to the school, and announced notices about births, deaths and even marriages. Past copies of the OMA Newsletters and ‘The Mitre’ are for everyone to enjoy via the web site and an interesting old article entitled “The Founding of St. Michael’s School is published in the Library section of the web site.

*As is a full listing of the Pupil Register together with the Staff Register and, as you can imagine, the task of keeping all of this data up to date is a daunting task and Bill would really appreciate help with maintaining this important work. So, if you do recognise information within the web site that is not true and/or some of the information is to be queried, please let us know. After the official launch of the OMA web site in 2000, a 'branch' office was established officially named 'Old Michaelian Association Australia' (OMAA) and under the very competent wing of **Les Roberts** we started to receive all kinds of relevant facts, figures and stories from 'Down Under'. All of which was formerly recognised by **Bill Cullin** and added into the OMA web site when appropriate.*

*Wrapping up this most deserved recognition of **Bill Cullin** and the outstanding contribution he has made to all of the magnificent work he has performed for the Association and for all of us over the last twenty years, we do owe Bill an enormous 'pat on the back' and probably something a little stronger in a large glass at some point.*



SUSANNA GUNNER APPOINTED QUEEN'S CHAPLAIN

Buckingham Palace released the following announcement in February 2020 as follows:

'The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Reverend Canon Susanna Gunner to be a Chaplain to Her Majesty'

On behalf of everyone at the Old Michaelian Association we offer to Susanna our sincere Congratulations. Susanna's reaction to this appointment is as follows:

"You can imagine how completely bowled over I was when I received the initial telephone call and, to be honest, I still feel rather overwhelmed to have been honoured in this way. But I am also excited at the opportunities the appointment will offer. It will, for instance, be very stimulating to meet with the other 30+ Chaplains to the Queen from time to time and a wonderful privilege to be invited to preach at the Chapel Royal on an annual basis. I am very grateful and can hardly believe that my ministry will connect in these small ways with our much loved Monarch whose own ministry I respect so deeply."

EXTRACTS FROM THE 2019 OMA AGM

It has been a tradition, for as many years as I care to remember, for the Old Michaelian Association to invite all Members to attend the Annual General Meeting during the afternoon of the Saturday of the Reunion weekend and last year we recorded a fantastic attendance of Members and we are pleased to publish a few of the extracts of presentations from the AGM last year Ed.



Ruth Chilvers....Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Ruth was able to report to the AGM that the OMA Finances were in good order and considered the audited OMA Accounts to be 'stable'. The AGM was told that even after the expenses of the 2019 OMA Reunion weekend, the Accounts would show that the OMA Accounts to be over £1000.

Ruth continued to address the AGM wearing her Membership Secretary hat firmly on and told the Members that the OMA currently recognises 148 Members. It is unfortunate that a minority of these Members have allowed their membership to lapse and after exhaustive efforts on the part of our Membership Secretary Ruth has been unable to either locate these past Members due to change of address or to persuade them to reinstate their Membership. A decision by the OMA Committee will decide what needs to be done to these details relating to lapsed Members.

Ruth was able to respond to a question from the Members attending the AGM that, to date, 100 OMA Members were receiving OMA publications electronically (email) and that less than 40 OMA Members received those same publications by mail.

Our Chairman, Ian Dupont, thanked Ruth for all of her hard work throughout this past year.

Not wishing to even attempt to expand further to Ian's public 'Thanks' to Ruth, I am sure that all of our Readers and many more besides would wish to be associated with this overwhelming vote of 'Thanks' to Ruth for her continuing devotion and time spent in favour of the Old Michaelian Association. Ed.



Report from Geraldine Ellison on the OMA Ingoldisthorpe School Award.

Geraldine apologised to the AGM that she was unable to attend the annual Ingoldisthorpe School Award Day. However, the OMA Award was made to a worthy recipient named Matilda and Geraldine explained to the AGM that Matilda had spent her award money on books and this fact alone was warmly applauded by the Members at the AGM. Matilda has now left Ingoldisthorpe School and now attends a school in Lynn.

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JONATHAN AND MONICA RUSSELL

TRINITY SUNDAY – 7 JUNE 2020

Today is full of mixed emotions. I am remembering a magnificent Ordination Service 50 years ago in Canterbury Cathedral with Archbishop Michael Ramsey (of blessed memory), my training Vicar Alan Norton, many family and friends with parishioners from the church to which I was sent, St Mary the Virgin, Addington, Croydon.

Sadly today's celebrations are on hold, not just because of the Coronavirus restrictions but because Monica is 75 miles away at Addington caring for her 97 year old Father following the death of her 96 year old Mother on Wednesday last week. In their younger days Margaret and Clifford Hobbs were prominent members of St Mary's – she as Enrolling Member of the Mothers Union and he was the Churchwarden.

They both welcomed, encouraged and regularly fed and watered (wined) this young bachelor Curate and, oh yes, they also provided me with the most loving, hard-working and supportive WIFE these past 49 years. Being married to a Priest is no picnic! It requires a very special person of faith with the patience of a saint. Many Priests admit that very often their priorities are: God first, parish and parishioners second and family third.

Monica and I very much hope that 17 July 2021 will be an opportunity to mark our marriage and the enduring RUSSELL-HOBBS partnership.

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VACANCY
CHAIRMAN

THE ABOVE VACANCY WILL SOON BECOME AVAILABLE AND WE INVITE INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUBMIT THEIR NAMES DIRECTLY TO OUR PRESIDENT SIMON POTT. ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD ARRIVE BEFORE:

31 AUGUST 2020

The Term for this appointment will commence on 1 January 2021 for a period of three years.

Please submit your written application to:

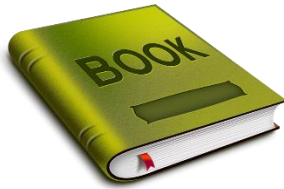
Simon Pott

President – Old Michaelian Association

‘The Birches’

Thurston

IP31 3RS



“THE BOOK” All of you, I am sure, will be

aware that an enormous amount of time has been devoted to a subject very dear to many of us, namely the production and publication of

“The Book”. We thought it would be appropriate to add a few words of assurance to you all that this subject is still on-going and very current.

Let me remind you all of how we introduced the subject to you last year.

“Many of you will remember that the idea of producing a printed record of ‘Life at St. Michael’s School’ has been discussed over many years and it is only during these past twelve months that the Association Membership has been asked to contribute to the possible production of such a publication. The reaction from the Members has been quite staggering and we now have sufficient material to make a meaningful start. John King plays such an important part in this whole production since it was the sheer hard work by John in collecting so many significant photographs of ‘Life at St. Michael’s School’ that has prompted us to make strides together with some enormous effort to encourage this Project to get airborne”.....

It is true to say that we do have an enormous amount of material to make a great start but, just when we were ready to sit down and debate the style, format and design of “The Book” at our Spring OMA Committee Meeting in April, we were stopped in our tracks by Covid-19. The Committee Meeting never did take place and, as a consequence, the debate and making headway with the Project was brought sadly to its knees.

Due to the fabulous generosity of one of our Members, we are content with the fact that funding this Project is not an issue. But we do need someone who is prepared to manage the Project effectively and with speed. If you think you are able to help us, please get in contact with us and we will be happy to engage in conversation and ideas.

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JOB VACANCY

'THE MITRE' – EDITOR

OLD MICHAELIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ABOVE JOB VACANCY HAS BECOME AVAILABLE AND WE INVITE APPLICANTS TO SUBMIT THEIR NAMES DIRECTLY TO OUR CHAIRMAN – IAN DUPONT. ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD ARRIVE WITH IAN BEFORE:

31 AUGUST 2020

The term for this appointment will be 3 years from 1 January 2021

Please submit your written application to:

IAN DUPONT

CHAIRMAN – OMA

PEAR TREE COTTAGE

1 SCHOOL ROAD

GREAT MASSINGHAM

PE32 2JA



We Will Remember Them

Remembering the following Old Michaelians who have sadly passed away since our last publication. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends and we offer our deepest sympathy and condolences.

Dorienne Rundall (nee Perry)

Beloved mother of Jennifer and Catherine, sister of Beveley and David, loving Granny to Minnie, Tai, Finlay and Skye. Died peacefully on 10 March 2020 aged 73. School dates 1961 – 1964

Martin Clare

Died peacefully on 6 April 2020 at his home in Terrington St Clement aged 74. Dearly loved husband of Lyn, loving Dad to Pam and Richard, a dear father-in-law to Michele and John and a much loved granddad to his five grandchildren.

Rosina Linn (nee Oughton)

Died peacefully on 2 September 2019. School dates: 1961 - 1963

Rest in Peace.

THE 2020 OMA REUNION WEEKEND

24TH AND 25TH OCTOBER 2020

HEACHAM MANOR HOTEL

HERE IS YOUR OWN PERSONAL INVITATION:



YOU ARE ALL DULY INVITED TO ATTEND THE 67TH OMA REUNION WEEKEND TO BE HELD AT THE HEACHAM MANOR HOTEL OVER THE WEEKEND OF 24TH AND 25TH OCTOBER 2020. FULL DETAILS OF THE WEEKEND PROGRAMME ARE CONTAINED WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION OF 'THE MITRE.

WE HOPE THAT AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE WILL FIND THE TIME TO JOIN IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OMA REUNION WEEKEND.

WWW.OMA.ORG.UK

THE DETAILS AND PROGRAMME FOR THE 2020 OMA REUNION WEEKEND



WHERE? HEACHAM MANOR HOTEL

WHEN? 24th & 25th OCTOBER 2020

FULL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2020

Let's all agree to meet at the Heacham Manor Hotel before Lunch.

Enjoy a leisurely coffee or something a little stronger and meet and chat with 'old' friends.

Lunch is very much an individual matter and the Hotel catering/Bar staff will be happy to take your orders. From past experience you will be able to choose from a wide range of choices from the Lunch Menu.

**3:30pm All OMA Members are invited to attend the OMA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the Heacham Manor
Hotel.**

We hope as many of you as possible will attend and contribute to a full agenda of subjects for debate. The AGM is the only opportunity that we have each year to discuss and decide how the Association is managed and who should be elected onto the OMA Committee. So please find the time to attend the OMA AGM if at all possible. Afternoon tea will be served at the conclusion of the AGM to all Members and also to all partners and friends of all OMA Members attending the Reunion weekend.

7.45pm THE ANNUAL OMA REUNION DINNER BEGINS.

The Main Event of the whole Reunion Weekend will start promptly at 7:45pm in the Heacham Manor Hotel Dining Room and we would be obliged if all of you wishing to attend the OMA Reunion Dinner, are made aware of the OMA Booking Form found at the back of 'The Mitre'. The selection method applied last year worked very well and so we would be obliged if you would select, from the Menu provided, your selection of Starter, Main and Dessert courses for both you and your partner/guest(s) and send the whole form directly to Ruth Chilvers enclosing your remittance please.

We are delighted to inform you all that the cost of the Annual OMA Reunion Dinner will be exactly the same as last year at **£26 per head.**

Please make your own individual selection(s) from the Menu as follows:

STARTERS

1. *Homemade Soup of the Day with Homemade Bread (V, GF)*
2. *Char Grilled Vegetable Tian with Toasted Goats Cheese, Roast Cashew Nuts and Black Olive Tapenade (V, N, GF)*
3. *Chicken Liver Pate, Red Onion Marmalade, Toasted Brioche & Pea Shoot Salad*
4. *Hot Smoked Salmon with Roast Beets, Rocket Leaf Salad & Pickled Quails Eggs (GF, V)*

MAINS

1. *Pan Roast Chicken Breast, Chive Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli & Mushroom Cream Sauce (C)*
2. *Roasted Mediterranean Vegetable Tagliatelle with Rocket Salad (V)*
3. *Crisp Confit of Gressingham Duck Leg with Braised Red Cabbage, Pomme Anna, Wilted Spinach, Red Wine Syrup (GF)*
4. *Pan Fried Fillet of Bream, Roasted New Potatoes, Tenderstem Broccoli & Brown Shrimp Butter Sauce (GF)*

DESSERT

1. *Lemmon Posset with Homemade Gingerbread Biscuit (V)*
2. *Baileys Crème Brulee with Vanilla Short Bread*
3. *Apple and Winterberry Crumble with Roasted Oat & Biscuit Crunch, Vanilla Ice Cream (V)*

A selection of Fine Cheeses with Biscuits, Homemade Chutney, Grapes, Celery & Apple

GF=Dishes suitable for a gluten free diet. V= Vegetarian Dishes.

N= Dishes contain Nuts



Yummy! Yummy and even more Yummy!!!!
Those of you who were fortunate to attend the 2019 OMA Reunion weekend will remember with delight the night of the Reunion Dinner and the mouth-watering menu that the Heacham Manor Hotel prepared for us and so I am sure that the advertised Menu will influence your decision to make this a memorable weekend for many reasons including the Dinner.

A Three Course Dinner served to you for just £26 per head

LOVELY.....JUBBLY!!

Please locate a copy of the OMA BOOKING FORM and ensure this is filled in for you and all guests who may be joining you, make out your cheque payable to "The Old Michaelian Association" covering the cost of your selected Dinner and send it all to:

**RUTH CHILVERS
85 ELLIOTT ROAD
MARCH
CAMBS.
PE15 8BP**

To arrive no later than the 1st October 2020 please.

Another Worthy Note of thanks

All of you will not have been aware that, putting together 'The Mitre' each year is only one part of the puzzle.

Some years ago **Anne Gunner** approached me at one of the OMA Reunion weekends and offered to support the Association by becoming our proof reader and every year I have pleasure in mailing a copy of 'The Mitre' to Anne and waiting for her edited version to be returned.

On behalf of everyone Anne..... **Thank you.Ed.**

The timetable for the whole of the OMA Reunion weekend is as follows:

- **Saturday 24 October – arrive at the Heacham Manor Hotel and enjoy time and leisure time with fellow Old Michaelians and their partners and friends.**
- **The OMA Annual General Meeting will begin promptly at 3:30pm**
- **We hope that all partners and friends of OM's attending the AGM will join us for afternoon tea at approximately 5pm.**
- **The OMA Reunion Dinner will begin promptly at 7:45pm.**
- **During the evening the Ladies of the OMA Committee will do everything legal to extract loads of cash from you and persuade you to buy loads of raffle tickets.**
- **Our Reunion Dinner will be closely followed by a highlight of the evening – the after Dinner Speeches. We hope that many of you will join in the fun and take to the floor with memories of school life.**
- **Sunday 25 October – you are all invited to attend the OMA Reunion Eucharist at St. Michael's Parish Church Ingoldisthorpe and this year we are delighted that our very own Roger Wikeley will be leading our prayers and will be our Celebrant and Preacher. Our service starts promptly at **11am** and after the service the ladies of the OMA Committee will serve hot drinks at the back of the church to all attendees.**
- **The OMA takes this opportunity to offer our sincere 'thanks' to the Rev. Mark Capron, Rector of Dersingham Benefice and to the PCC for agreeing to our use of Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church for our Reunion Eucharist again this year.**

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SIMON POTT

Now that we are passed fifty years since my Father took the decision to close St. Michaels School, it is perhaps correct to reflect on how we have spent the time since leaving school and also on what, we are constantly being told, is the unprecedented circumstances of the current year.

I imagine that, having the broad benefit of a Michaelian education, you have self-isolated as instructed and are now going through the process of re-establishing contact with family and friends after many weeks of lockdown. I have no knowledge how many of us caught the wretched virus or had anyone close to us who was affected; in my case it was eldest daughter Charlotte who was quite ill for many days and has taken some time to fully recover. Her husband and two sons, however, sailed through without any apparent ill effect. I give that example to illustrate the random nature of Covid-19. What we must all do now, in best Old Michaelian fashion, is to prepare for summer in the run-up to our annual OMA Reunion weekend gettogether in NW Norfolk to be held once again at the Heacham Manor Hotel over the weekend of 24th and 25th October 2020. Without a doubt, our weekend last year was a very enjoyable and joyful time exchanging reminiscence, catching up with 'old' friends as well as being surprised, as we are each year, by the attendance of an Old Michaelian we have not seen for decades.

Whoever you are and wherever you have been since leaving St. Michael's School you will receive a very warm welcome towards the end of October and you can regale us with your own stories of how you broke the rules and/or any aspect of your time spent at the school. We would be delighted to see you again.

Simon Pott



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN **IAN DUPONT**

So, how are we all doing in Lockdown? Apart from being careful to avoid people when out walking, it's been okay. And, of course, with the brilliant weather that has made it so much easier and pleasant for all of this extra exercise! Where I am, we have an old airfield to walk round and usually one very rarely sees anyone on my daily walk with the dog, but now there's someone walking there most days. Must be progress – we'll all be a lot fitter at the end of the Lockdown.

Whether we will have an Old Michaelian weekend at the end of October still remains to be seen and if we do not have a spike in deaths across the UK, I don't see why not. However, the question is: *"How many of you would be prepared to attend?"*. Personally, with so many weeks until the end of October I can't see why not and although we are of an age where it is worrying, by then we should be okay. With blood pressure, diabetes and asthma I am in peril at the moment and it would definitely kill me t present. Hopefully by the time we reach October it should be all right.

Please can you give us some idea of your feelings on the situation nearer the time, we would prefer not to have to go through all the detail of a Reunion weekend if you have serious concerns. Well, that's all for the moment and, as they say – *"To our next merry meeting, keep safe"*.

Best Wishes
Ian Dupont
Chairman
OMA

OLD MICHAELIAN ASSOCIATION
BOOKING FORM FOR 2020 OMA REUNION
DINNER

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2020
HEACHAM MANOR HOTEL

PLEASE RESERVE MEPLACES

NAME(S):.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....

POST CODE:.....

TEL. No:.....

EMAIL ADDRESS:.....

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR SELECTION OF COURSES

STARTER: (OM).....GUEST/PARTNER.....

MAIN COURSE: (OM).....GUEST/PARTNER.....

DESSERT: (OM).....GUEST/PARTNER.....

Cost for the 2020 OMA Reunion Dinner is £26 per head

Please send this form together with your

cheque made payable to the Old Michaelian

Association to Ruth Chilvers, 85 Elliott Road

March Cambs. PE15 8BP to arrive before

1st October 2020