

The Mitre 2009

Roger Percival Pott

Born 23rd June 1909



Roger Percival Pott - Born 23 June 1909

Had he survived that long, the Headmaster would now have been lined up to receive his Telegram from the Queen on Tuesday 23 June 2009. Born in a house in St. Georges Square, London, the third son and seventh out of the eight children to Henry Percival Pott and his wife, the former Magdalen Ord. Home was principally Kensington where he attended his first school and at a later stage he went to Oundle where his father was Governor and where the Headmaster joined his older brothers Anthony and Henry. He is not believed to have been considered an academic at school and his time there was extended because of a bout of Polio which put him one year behind with his studies.

He was sent off to Australia where he became a jackaroo, an experience that seemed to give him a desire to become involved with very large vehicles!

It is something of a cliché to suggest that the third son goes into the Church but that is where he headed after school with the support of the Bishop of London who had been a former Master at Oundle and who sent the aspiring Cleric into the East End which, no doubt, toughened him up.

Then he was ordained and had a spell as Chaplain to the Bishop of Japan and was involved in a school in Yokohama. He told us he spoke Japanese.....but how would we know?

Returning to Britain he moved through a series of curacies in the rather fashionable parts of London where he met and married Isabel Inglis in 1942.

During the war, he had joined up and served on the Battleships as a Naval Padre and there are a number of stories about him which demonstrate a great respect he had for people and rather less for authority. He retired from the Navy and was given the living at Heacham in Norfolk which was in the gift of one of his Uncles.

Then he did something quite extraordinary. He became Rector of Ingoldisthorpe and founded St. Michael's School Ingoldisthorpe.

The rest of his life was shaped around the School and for the next and final instalment we look forward to seeing you at the Centenary celebrations to be held over the final weekend of British Summertime being 24 - 25 October 2009 in Hunstanton.

I look forward to continuing the story.....

With Very Best Wishes

Simon Pott
President
Old Michaelian Association



We are exactly three days away from the merry month of May as I put pen to paper and begin the annual event of knitting together another 'Mitre' for distribution to our growing Membership all over the World. Yes, surprisingly, our Membership is growing and, as I reported in the OMA Newsletter earlier this year, we have successfully 'caught' a number of new Old Michaelian's in our Web and some of them will be making their own contributions to 'The Mitre' this year for the first time. To all Old Michaelian's, a very warm welcome to the 2009 edition of 'The Mitre'. Once again, we have managed to persuade a host of existing Members (and new Members) to contribute to our Magazine and I would wish to take this opportunity to express on behalf of our President, Chairman and all Committee Members our sincere Thanks to everyone who has demonstrated total support for the Association and made the contributions you are about to enjoy through the following pages.

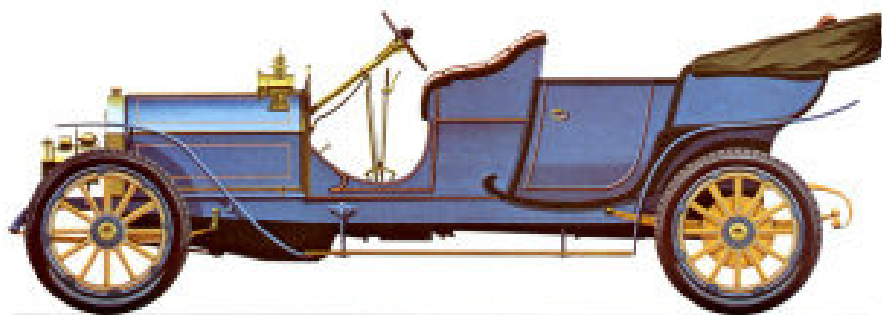


On the opening page of 'The Mitre' you will all have absorbed the enormous amount of enthusiasm for the Association by our President, Simon Pott. As President, Simon continues to create enthusiasm through our Committee Members who each and every year work extremely hard to ensure that, not only does the Association continue to flourish, but that all of that hard work and determination is fed into the necessary planning and organisation so that each and every year we are all able to meet in NW Norfolk at the end of October to take part in our annual Reunion Weekend. As you all already know, 2009 will be very special and, with the kind permission of the Pott family, the Association is planning to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of **Roger Percival Pott**.

There is so much to look forward to within this publication of 'The Mitre' and I sincerely trust that you all enjoy every word, every comment and every humorous interlude. Maybe, from everything you read, this may encourage more of you to want to make your own contributions. All will be made very welcome.

Best Wishes to you all

John Wallington
Editor



In the 2009 OMA Newsletter, I made mention how successful the Association had been in finding Old Michaelian's via our Web Site. The following are a few brief comments made by some of our colleagues for your interest:

GLENN GODDEN (1957 - 1961)

".....last week, whilst surfing the Net, I was staggered to find 'The Mitre'. I spent days nostalgically viewing ALL the photographs and communications and re-lived the whole experience".

DOMINIQUE ENGEL (1960 - 1961)

"My name is Dominique Engel and I am French".

STUART MARSH (1965 - 1966)

"Is there a Web Site? Wow!! All those people I knew and some I had forgotten. What a brilliant Web Site. Well Done".

ELAINE MUDGETT - nee CLARKE (1961 - 1965)

"I am excited about finding the Web Site. And I am thrilled that the Association is still active.....".

IAN HAMMOND (1959 - 1965)

"What a surprise to find the Web Site dedicated to St. Michael's School. I thought no one was interested. It is superb".

STEPHANIE GARCIA - nee CULLIN (1959 - 1965)

We have heard that Stephanie has become a Grandmother for the first time.

"Many congratulations to you and your family, Steph".

HILARY RUSSELL (1946 - 1955)

Our two intrepid investigators, **Pat Frost and Frank Dixon** spent time tracking down yet another Old Michaelian. **Hilary Russell** was found in the depths of New Zealand and I believe that telephone contact has been established and the Christmas card listing updated. Hilary was originally a Day Pupil while her Father was Vicar at Thornham, but when he was transferred to Newmarket Hilary became a Boarder. I am told that Hilary was one of the founder members of the OMA and I am reliably informed that she has some rare photographs of one of the first Reunions taken just before Hilary moved to live in New Zealand.



London 1909

The Association is also back in contact with **JENS ANDERSEN** (1964 - 1968), **ANTHONY TOLLER** (1954 - 1956) and **MICHAEL BARNES** (1957 - 1959).

We welcome you all back to the Old Michaelian Association.

Another dear friend of the Association, and ex- Association Secretary who played such an important role in the running of the Association is **ANNE GUNNER - nee CULLIN** (1959 - 1961). In the New Year I received a lovely letter from Anne who was very excited about the fact that we had finally caught up with her at her new address in Southern Ireland. Anne told me that she was exceedingly happy since moving house in 2004 and is close by to where some of her family reside.

DAVID MCMAHON-WINTER

We were all very concerned to hear that David's wife Vera had been very ill recently this year and had spent a little time in Hospital. In April I received an email from David explaining that the whole Hospital procedure had been a complete success and that Vera was now back home and taking life very easy. I am sure that everyone will join with me in wishing both David and Vera our very best wishes for the future.

GABBY VIZCARRA (1959 - 1962)

We understand that Gabby is living in LA and fully involved in the running of Residents Associations. *"Get in contact with us, Gabby, and let us know how you are getting along".*

MARGARET FOREMAN

"I have just found the Web Site. I attended the School as a Boarder in the late 60's. I was also there with my brothers Ian and Andrew.

www.oma.org.uk



London 1909

The Old Michaelian Association Reunion Weekends still attracts a staggering number of Old Michaelian back to NW Norfolk each year.

2008 was no exception and, as I reported in our most recent OMA Newsletter, all of the necessary hard work and dedication provided by all Committee Members was rewarded with one of the most enjoyable weekends I can remember that started on the Friday evening and extended right through the weekend 'til after Sunday lunchtime.

We were all delighted to welcome new faces to Hunstanton. Old Michaelian's who had not attended an OMA Reunion ever before and some who were even venturing onto NW Norfolk soil for the first time in over fifty years.

There are those Old Michaelian's who travel huge distances across the World to visit friends and family and still find the time to keep that very special weekend at the end of October free of all commitments so that they can travel to Hunstanton and join in the fun.

Throughout 2008 much research and work was completed by **Pat Frost** and **Geraldine Ellison** to confirm a chance meeting that took place on board a cruise ship. No, not between an OM and another but between Pat's boss and a lady by the name of **Judy Cornwell**.

From that chance meeting, and a casual remark about a school in NW Norfolk, every possible effort was made to confirm whether or not **Judy Cornwell**, star of stage, screen and TV, did actually attend St. Michael's School. Very soon the fact was confirmed and we received a communication from **Judy Cornwell** during 2008 and I am pleased to report that both Judy and her husband John attended their very first OMA Reunion Weekend last October.

We all welcomed **John Brogden** back to Hunstanton in 2008.....all the way from Australia and I know that John thoroughly enjoyed his time spent in the UK and especially at the Reunion.

It is always a pleasure to greet and welcome **Martin Coats** all the way from Canada and Martin tries very hard to attend our Reunion Weekends on an annual basis.

And if that was not enough, who should slide effortlessly through the entrance of the Le Strange Arms Hotel but **Michael Barnes** who now lives with his family in California. Whilst we welcomed Michael back to Hunstanton, we were able to calculate that some fifty years plus had elapsed since Michael visited NW Norfolk and we look forward to welcoming Michael back to our Reunion Weekends for many years to come.

In addition to those Old Michaelian's mentioned above, I know that the President, Chairman and all Committee Members will wish to join with me to thank every Old Michaelian and their partners for finding the time to join us again in Hunstanton last October. It was a really remarkable weekend.

The format of our Reunion Weekend is a tried and tested format and we were delighted to welcome so many OM's to our Annual General Meeting on the Saturday afternoon.

It was with some reluctance that our President, **Simon Pott**, accepted the resignation of our current Chairman, **Ian Dupont**. Ian has been instrumental in maintaining the traditions of our Association over the last three years and I am sure you will all wish to join with me in expressing a huge 'THANKYOU' to Ian for his commitment, dedication and leadership over recent years. In addition, we must never forget the important role played by our partners and in this case the Association offers as huge a 'THANKYOU' to Ian's lovely wife, **Vanessa**, for her continuing support of the OMA.

Our 'Ship', however, is not rudderless and we were all delighted to endorse the appointment of **Geraldine Moorhouse** as our Chairman. Like all previous Association Chairmen, we are very confident that Geraldine will find the energy and dedication to lead our Association forward over the next few years and we all wish Geraldine every success and support in her new role as Chairman of the OMA.

Our annual OMA Reunion Dinner was, once again, a huge success and we thank everyone who donated prizes for our ever growing Dinner Raffle. A special vote of Thanks must be attributed to **Simon Pott** for his entertainment, after dinner speech and inspiration. Also, to **Judy Cornwell** for her after dinner speech, for her generous contribution to the Raffle and for making us laugh and smile throughout.

Last, but not least, we would wish to thank all Management and Staff representing the Le Strange Arms Hotel for their service and support throughout the whole of the weekend. Our Reunion Weekend would not be as successful without them.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Reunion Weekend. Your continuing support of your Association is extremely important and so long as you, the Members, want us to organise the OMA Reunion, we will continue to do so with the same dedication and energy.

Those of you who were unable to join us all in Hunstanton last October may view the many photographs of the occasion by visiting our Web Site as follows:
www.oma.org.uk

Across Canada by Train

'It is always a great pleasure to include articles written by Robin Adams into 'The Mitre'. Robin is one of our regular contributors and I do offer a special word of thanks to Robin for this effort. This time Robin gives us all the opportunity to share some of the experiences he had while travelling across Canada by train.'

I remember viewing a TV travel programme sometime in the 80's describing the opportunity to travel across Canada by train. Never did I actually think I would make such a dream come true because I always thought it would be far too expensive for me.

But fortunately for me that dream did come true and I became part of a group of travellers who flew from the UK directly to Vancouver and the start of an adventure across Canada by train.

I liked Vancouver very much. It had a homely charm that I found quite endearing. Vancouver is a coastal city and major seaport located in the lower mainland of SW British Columbia.

The city is named after the British explorer, Captain George Vancouver, who originated from Kings Lynn. I took the opportunity to visit the Lions Gate Bridge together with the Capilano Suspension Bridges. I also took a trip on the Skytrain that gives the visitor a wonderful view of the whole city.

On the Fraser River there was some very busy traffic including Log Rafts floating timber down to the Pulp Mills.

The way that the whole holiday was organised meant that it was necessary for us to change trains. This gave us all the opportunity to witness the stunning colours of early autumn and the vast areas of lakes, forests and rocks along the way. This was certainly the case in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

We boarded the 'Canadian' on our way to Jasper, Alberta. Jasper is within the Jasper National Park and, as such, provides some stunning scenery and plenty of wild life to view if you are lucky. Mountain sheep, bears, wolves, elk, and mountain goats all have a secure home in the National Park. We did not go looking for a Grizzly but I was pleased to see that parts of the mountain areas were already covered by early winter falls of snow even though it was still September. We took the opportunity to take a tour to view the Maligne Lake and the Glacier. A trip up one of these mountains by cable car is a must so that visitors can absorb the sheer beauty of the surrounding landscape. We did see a Moose and a herd of Buffalo along the way.

Our next stop was Winnipeg. Capital of Manitoba at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Winnipeg is a focus for Trans-Canadian and US traffic shipping mainly wheat but also foods, textiles and farming machinery. Established as Winnipeg in 1870 the city expanded with the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1881. We did see our first Canadian Mountie in Winnipeg.

Next stop on our adventure was Toronto where we took the opportunity to sail on the famous Lake Ontario. It may be the smallest of the Great Lakes, but we were reliably informed that it is the deepest.

On to Niagara Falls. One of the famous sights on the whole World. A visit to these impressive falls would not be complete without a trip on the Maid of the Mist that ventures as close as possible to the tons of cascading water that create the Niagara Falls.

Next stop on our itinerary was Montreal. This is where the 1976 Summer Olympics took place and was officially known as 'the Games of the XXI Olympiad'. Allegedly, the Games bankrupted the City.

While I was in Quebec I took the opportunity to sail on the Great St. Lawrence Seaway. There I saw my first sighting of a Laker. Lake Freighters or Lakers are cargo ships that ply the Great Lakes. In the mid-20th century 300 Lakers worked the Lakes, but today this has been reduced to just 140 active Lakers.

We then boarded the 'Ocean' train that took us all to Halifax. During this journey we were once again treated to some stunning scenery of early autumn colours.

During our stay in Halifax we were treated to a city guided tour including some public gardens where there is a model of 'Titanic'. We were also privileged to view the very moving Titanic Cemetery in Halifax. There was so much to see in Halifax and during my short stay I also visited HMCS Sackville, a World War II anti-submarine vessel currently maintained by the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust who has the responsibility to look after the 'Last Corvette' in her 1944 configuration. A visit to the Natural History Museum in Halifax was a must and one that I did achieve.

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This brief description of my experiences travelling across Canada by train does not really do the trip justice and it is difficult to place in writing how thoroughly I enjoyed the whole trip.

In conclusion, let me tell you a little about the actual railways used. In the main we were travelling along single track routes. We were told that Freight Trains are too long to fit into existing sidings so they are given priority above all other moving traffic. Our train was Double-headed while we negotiated the Rockies but when we were travelling along flatter country in the east, only a single locomotive was necessary. We did have the use of the Dome Observation Coach where there were plenty of opportunities to take in the stunning views and take some memorable photographs.

The service throughout our whole trip contributed to the fact that this, for me, was the trip of a lifetime and one that I will never forget. I hope that you have benefitted from this brief description. Thank you.

Robin Adams

Computer Problems

'Don't you just love these little stories!'

I was having a few problems with my computer, so I called Richard, the 11 year old from next door whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and asked him to come over.

Richard very cleverly and annoyingly clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he went to walk out of the room I called after him. *"So, what was wrong?"*

He replied, *"It was an ID ten T error".*

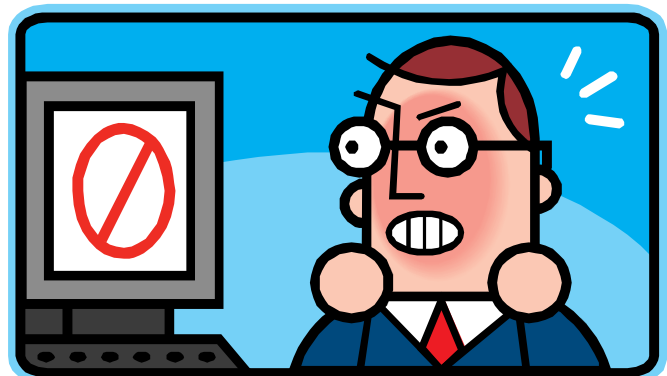
I didn't want to appear stupid in front of an 11 year old but, nonetheless, I found enough courage to enquire, *"An ID ten T error? What exactly does that mean, just in case I need to fix the problem again?"*

Richard looked at me with, what can only be described as an 11 year old whose knows it all look, and replied, *"Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"*

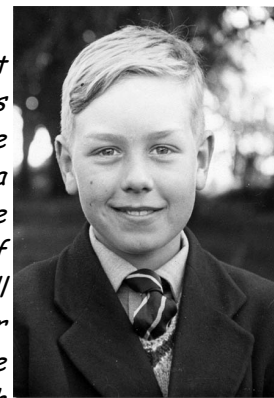
"Well" I stuttered, "I remember something about it but I seem to have forgotten".

"Write it down" suggested Richard as he exited the room with that silly grin displayed across his face.

So, I wrote it
down.....ID10T



"I know that all of my fellow Committee Members will agree with me when I say that we all get a real 'buzz' when we successfully find a long lost OM or an OM makes contact with us as a direct result in finding our Web Site. The latter was the case with **Glenn Godden** and on the 16 March 2009 Glenn contacted our Association via the Web Site and spent days (his words not mine) "nostalgically viewing all the photographs and communications" published by the Association in previous copies of 'The Mitre'. Welcome to the Old Michaelian Association, Glenn, and I hope you will obtain much pleasure from our Mag. And find the time to attend one of our Reunions. Glenn has rummaged into the depths of his memory bank and made the following contribution to 'The Mitre'. Many thanks, Glenn. This is very much appreciated".



Glenn Anthony Godden

- ♣ My birthplace.....The Isle of Man
- ♣ Blue and Red medallion holder choir, sang at St. Paul's on one of the many London trips.
- ♣ Also, the Halleluiah Chorus with orchestra
- ♣ Army Cadet.....Sharpshooter badge. (Damn itchy shirt fabric!)
- ♣ Riding bikes down wooded trail below The Shooting Lodge. (No tyres, no brakes, no seat, no sense)
- ♣ Melting lead and cutting copper from old searchlight cable at Lodge
- ♣ New Building at rear of Lodge.....Wellygogs and Mackintosh
- ♣ All night Monopoly games
- ♣ Stairway at Lodge building and peeking through the keyhole to watch Matron taking a bath
- ♣ The coke/7up ice cream floats from the Tuck Shop (*Called 'Specials' at 6p each*)
- ♣ Seconds and thirds of Shepherd's Pie, Treacle Pudding, Toad in the Hole, Rice Pudding
- ♣ Unlimited tea pot and buttered bread slices at the Lodge



NOT SO FOND MEMORIES

- ♣ Fielding in the outfield during cricket practice (would it ever end?)
- ♣ Freezing my ass off in goal on frozen soccer fields
- ♣ Winning third place in High Jump and breaking my arm in the process
- ♣ Unrequited love for Felicity Sutton (She only hung around with the older crowd)
- ♣ Fish Pie
- ♣ The mandatory half bottle of warm milk at morning break
- ♣ Regularly standing in the upstairs hallway waiting for punishment from RPP



NOTORIETY

- ♣ Whilst spooning lumpy porridge into my bowl at the Lodge, RPP caught me with a picture book of nudes. When we arrived at Ingoldisthorpe that morning, the Headmaster assembled the whole school on the driveway and managed to get a number of Prefects to admit to having read the book as well. I was almost thrown out of school but made do with twelve of the best.
- ♣ Who remembers holding the bottom rung of the chair with the black Mackintosh slung over the head?
- ♣ I was responsible for the Tuck Shop to be made 'off limits' for a whole month because **Martin Clare** had dared me a whole pound to purchase a copy of the Naturist Mag.
- ♣ Always able to impress people in later life with my ability to recite the Greek alphabet. (Probably the only thing that I took away from the whole five years experience).

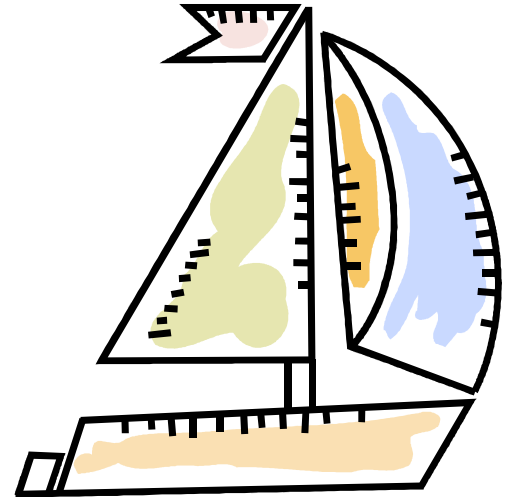


50 YEARS LATER

- ♣ Still incapable of communicating in full sentences (Thank God for spell check, form letters and a Secretary).
- ♣ London and Zurich, 20 years Executive Chef (Started my Hospitality Career with two years at the Golden Lion Hotel, Hunstanton)
- ♣ Washington DC, 30 years with the Sheraton Hotels Corporation
- ♣ Director of Catering. Director of Food and Beverage. Hotel Manager
- ♣ Six grown-up healthy children
- ♣ Wife of 30 years
- ♣ Summers on my 37ft Sailboat on the Chesapeake Bay. And winters in Bahamas
- ♣ Non smoker. Non drinker. In the best of Health. Still a good head of hair (grey)

I OWE ALL MY LATER SUCCESSES TO RPP. HE SCARED THE C--- OUT OF ME BUT INSTILLED IN ME THE DISIPLINE I LACKED. HE WAS ONE OF THE KINDEST PEOPLE I EVER MET.

GLENN GODDEN



Life's Journey

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, Chardonnay in one hand, chocolate bar in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming.....

‘WOO HOO! WHAT A RIDE!!’



At our most recent OMA Committee Meeting in May, our Membership Secretary, **Ruth Chilvers**, explained that the Association was beginning to assemble a growing number of names of lapsed OMA Members who we have not been able to keep in contact with and/or who we have lost contact completely. Can you help please?

Listed below are the names of former OMA Members and, if they, or any other Members, does know the whereabouts of these colleagues, please find the time to pass on any relevant details directly to **Ruth Chilvers** and you will find the address of Ruth published on the Booking Form at the back of 'The Mitre'. Thank you.

Allison Boston

Alvin Hopper

John Tanner

Peter Shepherd

Elizabeth DeShazer

Zarzar Ashrafzadeh

Peter Turner

Jeremy Poole

Michael Donnelly

Kia Ashrafzadeh

John Bull

Roy Brown

Peter Feben-Smith

Timothy Jackson

Roy Nairn

Peter Momber

Richard Bowett

Nigel Cornthwaite

Jonathan Parsons

Rodney Crowfoot

Michael Kemsley

Frank Lever

Paul Fewtrell

David Barry

Iain Barr

Nigel Quinsee

Calum Kirk

Peter Thaxter

Bryan Lemmon

Bruce De Wert

Henry Marriott

John Tweedy Smith

Ian Calder

Plum Bovan

Stephen Gray

John Hardy



Chairman's Letter

Dear Old Michaelian's,

While mulling over what to write in this letter, I expected a telephone call from our Editor reprimanding me for being dilatory. It's long past copy deadline!!

Although the numbers of Old Michaelian's who attended the 2008 Reunion were less than in some years, we agreed it was an extremely successful and happy weekend. With fewer attending we had plenty of opportunity to socialise, catching up with news and OM 'gossip'!! So, why don't you make a date to join us this year and enjoy that very special "something" which makes these occasions unique? If you have not managed to attend for a while due to family, work or other commitments, it does not detract from the pleasure and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

People frequently ask me, *'What is the Michaelian ethos that brings us back to NW Norfolk year after year?'*

We have our own families, friends, complex interests, and yet, from all corners of the World OM's travel back to Norfolk to recharge their batteries. Few schools have 'old' pupils who share this empathy, impossible for me to qualify!

This year is the Centenary of the birth of our late Headmaster, **Roger Percival Pott**. We may often have felt very hard done by especially after a trip to the Uniform Room for a close encounter with the cane, or in the case of the girls, the strap! Ouch, I can still feel the pain!

However, whether we like admitting it or not, many of us have a great deal for which we should thank this far sighted remarkable man. A broad based education offering innovative opportunities (some of which are not available today in some of our finest Public Schools) that provided the kick-start many of us needed to face the World and tackle with due confidence further education, career and travel.

I am extremely blessed having wonderful family and friends. Many are Old Michaelian's whose friendship I greatly value. They must be a very long suffering bunch! An amazing 52 years after leaving St. Michael's, I count many OM's amongst my dearest friends.

At last we have a weather forecast reminiscent of summer. I hope you will have the chance to enjoy.

Looking forward to meeting you in October. The very best way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of our late Headmaster is to come to NW Norfolk and be counted.

My Very Best Wishes

Geraldine Ellison
Chairman



The 2009 OMA Reunion Weekend

24 & 25 OCTOBER 2009

The Details

As most of you will know by now, 2009 is an extremely important year of celebration and memories for the whole of the Pott family because on the 23 June 1909 Roger Percival Pott

was born.

With the full support and blessing of the Pott family, the Old Michaelian Association wishes to recognise the centenary birthday celebrations of the man we knew as Headmaster of St. Michael's School.

We all know in our hearts that each and every October in Hunstanton there is always one extra invited guest to our Reunion Weekend and even though that invited guest prefers to remain in the background and simply observe, we all know that our late Headmaster is present, tickled pink and amazed that his idea, his belief, his commitment and dedication to the education of the young is continually remembered by so many ex-pupils and partners for so long.

We also know that many of you this year will wish to join us in Hunstanton and help the Pott Family and Association Members celebrate this very important occasion. Believe me, it will be quite a Party.

We will confirm the details of the whole of the Reunion Weekend in a moment, but before we do, we would like the opportunity to emphasise to you all how important it is that you commit yourselves to attending the Reunion this year and ensuring that you register your commitment directly with **Ruth Chilvers** as soon as possible. Because there is high expectation for the demand for seats at the Reunion Dinner on Saturday 24 October 2009, together with the official restrictions imposed on us by the La Strange Arms Hotel due to Health and Safety Regulations, it is essential that you contact **Ruth** immediately so that you are not disappointed. The allocation of places will be strictly on a first come bases.

Lastly, may we emphasise that, this year, it will not be sufficient to simply apply names to the OMA Web Site via **Bill Cullin**. As soon as **Ruth Chilvers** receives your application to attend, using the OMA Booking Form located at the back of 'The Mitre', names will then be entered onto the Web Site. Thank you all for your co-operation.

Friday 23rd Oct 09

Most of the OMA Committee Members will be available to greet and welcome those Association Members who have chosen to spend a long weekend in Hunstanton. All

Committee Members will be wearing name badges and we will more than likely be found in the Bar. You will all be very welcome to join us all.

Saturday 24th Oct 09

This is the first official day of the 2009 OMA Reunion Weekend and a day when there is ample opportunity to refresh old friendships and simply absorb yourselves in the atmosphere of the

Reunion Weekend. During the morning, **John King** will be assembling the now famous photographic exhibition in the Palace Suite and the exhibition should be ready for viewing by 11:00. If any Old Michaelian's have additional photographs you would like to donate to the Association, I know that **John King** would be extremely grateful.

At lunchtime the OMA Committee Members can be located in the Mariners Bar (where else) where there is a very relaxed atmosphere and time to sip a few ales and natter about memories and events many years ago. Again, all Committee members will be wearing name badges so if this is the first visit back to Hunstanton for some of you, you can be assured that you will be made very welcome by everyone.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at 15:30 in the Palace Suite and we would appreciate the attendance of as many Old Michaelian's as possible. There is always a 'heavy' Agenda of topics to discuss and this will enable you, the Members, to voice your opinions about the management of your Association and, if you are a Member, the opportunity to vote on vital decisions such as the election of all Committee Members.

Refreshments will be provided after the AGM has concluded and we invite all Members partners to join us at this time if they require.

Our 2009 OMA Reunion Dinner will be at 7:45pm, however, we invite all Members, Non-Members, Guests and all Partners, who have booked places at the Reunion Dinner, to assemble in the Palace Suite at 7:00pm for pre-dinner drinks with the compliments of the Association. This time will also give everyone the opportunity to pre-order wine for their respective table. All Committee Members will be available to assist and escort everyone on arrival at the Palace Suite.

We can be assured of a very professional service from all staff and Management of the La Strange Arms Hotel and this high standard of service will ensure that you thoroughly enjoy every moment of the evening.

This year your Association has once again decided to subsidise the cost of the Reunion Dinner as much as possible. The cost of the Reunion Dinner will be.....**£23 per person**.

As the evening progresses, not only will you be fed with some amazing food and some stunning conversation, but you will be nagged silly by the ladies of the Committee who will do anything and promise the earth to persuade you to part with huge wads of notes from your purses and wallets and buy loads of raffle tickets. The raffle is always one of the highlights of the evening and ably managed by our President Simon Pott.

Saturday 24th Oct 09 Continued.....

of the Committee who will do anything and promise the earth to persuade you to part with huge wads of notes from your purses and wallets.....and buy loads of raffle tickets. The raffle is always one of the highlights of the evening and ably managed by our President Simon Pott.

From beginning to end of the Reunion Dinner there will be a rolling photographic display of photographs taken by numerous numbers of people over the years and professionally compiled by our very own **Bill Cullin**. Will you be shown in all your glory on the silvery screen? You had better get booked up soon and find out!

Our Reunion Dinner each and every year would not be complete without an After Dinner Speech by our Chairman and our President. As in previous years, there is always the opportunity for Members to take to the floor and offer up a memory and more of days many years previous. If you would like to speak on this occasion, please make this known to a Committee Member before the Reunion Dinner commences. Thank you.

Sunday 25th Oct 09

this event with the end of British Summer Time. Yes folks, you get an extra hour in bed on the Sunday morning!

Our annual OMA Reunion Eucharist will be held once again at Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church starting at 11am. This year we are delighted to announce that **Roger Wikeley** will be our Celebrant and we will all welcome Roger and his lovely wife *Geraldine* back to Hunstanton to join us at yet another Reunion Weekend. Not only that, but we have secured the commitment and services of **Ben Gunner** to tickle the ivories and I know that everyone will be delighted to hear that both Roger and Ben will be leading our Service this year.

And if that was not enough, we will be welcoming back to NW Norfolk **Genevieve Pott** who will be providing yet another stunning performance for us all at the Eucharist.

Genevieve enchanted us all during our last visit to Ingoldisthorpe a few years ago and since then she has moved her singing career on and upwards and is now part of the very famous Swingle Singers.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to find the time to attend our Eucharist again this year.

After the Eucharist has finished, we will be offering refreshments at the rear of the church. The collection taken at the Eucharist will be offered to the Parish of Ingoldisthorpe Church.

That will just about conclude yet another OMA Reunion Weekend, except to say that, on previous years, some Old Michaelians have ventured back to the Lavender Farm at Heacham for a light lunch and I am sure that a similar number of hardy souls will do the same.

Remember; please do not hesitate in making your booking NOW so that you are not disappointed. You will find the official Booking Form attached to the rear of 'The Mitre' and all cheques should be made payable to the Old Michaelian Association.

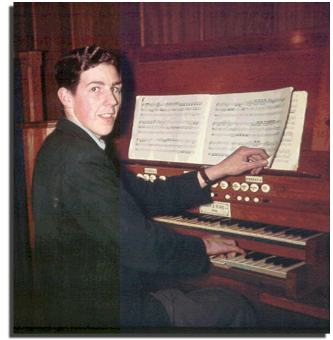
We hope that you all have a very enjoyable summer and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the 2009 OMA Reunion Weekend.

24 & 25 OCTOBER 2009

Booking form on page 21



"It is early June 2009 and this year, for 'In the Spotlight', I am in St. Margaret's Bay, just outside of Dover, sitting in the beautiful and stunning home of Jonathan & Monica Russell. If I were to turn my head slightly to the right I could look across the English Channel to Calais".



Jonathan Russell

JW: Welcome to 'In the Spotlight' and thank you for agreeing to this interview. My first question to you Jonathan is where were you born?

JR: In Canterbury during an Air Raid in 1943

JW: Where did your parents come from?

JR: From this area, near to where we live now, at a place called Whitfield

JW: Where did the music interest come from?

JR: My Mother played the piano and I remember great musical evenings at home during my Childhood. It is pleasing to both Monica and me that our eldest son is an accomplished Guitarist and our youngest son is currently studying for his Music Masters Degree.

JW: What are your first recollections of attending Church?

JR: I was first taken to our local Parish Church by my parents and Grandparents. My Grandfather was Church Warden. While I was still quite young the family moved home to another part of Canterbury and, as a family, we began to use Canterbury Cathedral on a regular basis.

JW: When were you first considered as a potential chorister at the Cathedral?

JR: At around the age of 10. I must have shown some ability in singing and music in general and so my parents placed my name forward for consideration by the Choir School and eventually I was asked to sit a simple entrance exam, together with a voice trial, and soon afterwards I was offered a place at the Choir School as a day pupil.

JW: What were your first impressions of joining such a well known Choir School?

JR: I took it all in my stride and really did not think that moving to the Cathedral Choir School was any big deal. I never regarded my voice to be anything special and, at the tender age of 10 years, I was a little late in joining the Choir School. From the very first moment I walked through the gates of my new school I thoroughly enjoyed every waking moment. It was such a thrilling experience for me. My main interest was singing and music and, during my five years spent at Canterbury, it is fair to say that I made no real progress in my academic studies. The thrill for me was the involvement and the taking part in some very important events involving the Cathedral. I clearly remember my first Easter Day and being asked to assist Geoffrey Fisher (Archbishop of Canterbury) by attending to his long train. The relevance of this is that Geoffrey Fisher was celebrant at the Coronation of our Queen and alongside him on the day of the Coronation was the then Archbishop of Durham, Michael Ramsey, who much later ordained me after he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

JW: How long were you a chorister at Canterbury?

JR: Well, I slightly out-stayed my welcome. I failed the 11+. My parents decided there was no point in my attempting the entrance exam to Kings School, Canterbury, so for this and other reasons I stayed on at the Choir School until I was nearly 15 years of age. By this time I had reached the dizzy heights of top four choristers and I still found the involvement both exciting and thrilling.

JW: What progress did you make at this time with your musical studies?

JR: I had made real progress with the piano but I had become a little bored and looked towards other challenges. Fortunately for me, the Choir School encouraged the playing of other instruments. I learned the Oboe and Bassoon with a very young Mark Elder (to drop a name - now Sir Mark Elder, distinguished Conductor of the Halle Orchestra).

JW: The \$64,000 question now must be how did you move from Canterbury to Norfolk?

JR: I was 15 years old and my voice still had not broken and my parents and the Choir School had no real idea what to do with me. Consideration was discussed about me attending the local Secondary Modern school to complete my school but that idea never really made the short list. My recollection is that my parents knew someone who knew someone else who was aware of a school in Norfolk. Maybe my parents knew the Ratcliff's because it is very well known that David Ratcliff was the first Canterbury chorister who made the move from Canterbury to Norfolk. All I do remember is that my Mother made a day trip from Canterbury to Heacham to meet the Headmaster and the rest is history.

JW: When did you make the transfer?

JR: In September 1958 I made the journey by train on my own from Canterbury to Heacham via Liverpool Street Station. I had no idea what to expect and I cannot really remember being that nervous. My mind at the time was preoccupied by the explosion of brand new steam trains to view during the journey. Shooting Lodge.

When we eventually arrived at Heacham Station I was stunned to see this ex-London Double-decker parked in the car park and this huge man wearing a dog collar waiting to greet us all off the train. This was exciting stuff! Then, to my horror, I and several dozen other souls watched as this huge man squeezed his frame into the driving cab and we were driven off in the direction of The

JW: What were your first impressions of your new school?

JR: Total disbelief! But at the same time total excitement. I was assigned to 12 Dorm under the watchful eye of Arthur Darby and I, and my fellow new comers, very quickly learned the required dress code when it was necessary to visit the Loo some three paces across a short path between the 12 Dorm and the Shooting Lodge.

JW: How soon after your arrival in Heacham did you become involved with the choir?

JR: Well, immediately. The Headmaster was extremely keen that ex-choristers from Canterbury should become part of the choir straightaway. There was no choice. I was in the choir from almost day one.

JW: Tell me about your time at St. Michael's School?

JR: Academically I still found the learning very hard to master and I knew I needed to play 'catch-up' with so many subjects. I was always hopeless at Maths but I maintained that I did have the ability to succeed if I put my mind to it. Music continued to be my main interest and, because of my ability to play some decent melodies on the piano, I could easily attract a small audience of fellow pupils. Instant fame and instant friends. I settled at St. Michael's very easily and, after my initial time spent through 12 Dorm, I was eventually transferred to Gresham House.

JW: Who was responsible for your music tuition?

My music training continued in earnest and I was placed under the wing of Michael Illman, who was organist at Sandringham and Wolverton and he was my main tutor and the reason why I made so much progress with my music appreciation and education. But besides Michael Illman, both Mrs Bone and Miss Bone played their own parts in encouraging and styling my musical education during my time spent at St. Michael's.

JW: Besides Music, what other subjects interested you?

JR: Geography. Peg made the whole subject come alive for us all. She made Geography a subject worthy to be learned.

JW: What were the main highlights of your time spent in Norfolk?

JR: Well, I could tell you about my first kiss.....but I will not! Without a doubt, I loved becoming involved in the whole school set-up. Everything was so different to anything I had experience before and everything was so unique. I loved Saturday's. I was not in the slightest bit interested in school sports and if there was any possibility of me being hauled kicking and screaming onto the football/hockey pitch, I would sneak away to Ingoldisthorpe Church and 'polish the ivories'. Being involved with the School Film Team was terrific under the supervision of Cliff Wallington. Because of this, I was selected to become Chief Public Announcer at all future Sports Day events. The prospect of being able to drive was another real highlight for me and as soon as the opportunity came around I grabbed it with both hands and promised myself that I would pass my driving test first time.....and I did. When the Headmaster promoted me to school organist, this was another huge highlight in my school life and I also found that joining the Cadet Force enabled me to skip huge chunks of evening school Prep. Ideal for me!

Being made Head Boy by the Headmaster was a huge highlight and huge responsibility but one that I accepted and relished. I had already reached 17 years and I was due to leave school but I decided to have a chat with the Headmaster about my future. I explained to him that it was a belief of mine that I should consider the call to the ordained Ministry. He was not surprised and was extremely supportive. However, he reminded me that if I were to gain acceptance to a Theological College I would need at least one 'A' level pass. He suggested I stay on at school for another year, study hard for 'A' level and, if I did agree, the Headmaster told me he would make me Head Boy for my final year.

I did work hard for my 'A' levels, thoroughly enjoyed every waking moment of my time as Head Boy and was very appreciative of the Headmaster that he should have so much trust and belief in me as a person.

I sat for my 'A' level during my final year at St. Michael's School in the summer of 1962 and..... FAILED!

I left school in July 1962 and never did get the opportunity to perform my skills with the microphone as Public Announcer at the School Sports Day. The whole event was cancelled due to heavy rain.

I did eventually pass my elusive 'A' level and this enabled me to make headway towards completing my ambition to become ordained.

Thank you, Jonathan



*"I will let you all into a State Secret. Our esteem and highly respected Association Secretary reached the staggering heights of **70 years old** this year. Well, as you will see from the above photograph, life has been very good to John even though he is never seen without a drink of something alcoholic in his hand and the name badge is simply to ensure that he arrives home safely each night! We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to John for his continuing support and hard work in aid of the Association over many years and besides his conscientiousness in his present role of Association Secretary, he has been totally responsible for maintaining and presenting the incredible and rich Photographic Display that we all enjoy every Reunion weekend. Thank you, John".*

I am not sure how my Father found out about the school but it may have been because both he and Roger Pott attended King's College London for their theological training. They also had connections with Brentwood School, Essex close to where my Father had a Parish.

So, in April 1951 I arrived in Heacham as boarder in the newly built 12 dorm. As an only child of 12 years of age I was pleased to be in an environment where there were plenty of others to play with and to learn about other pupils from other parts of the country, to say nothing of the various nationalities with their own customs and ideas.

As we all know, St. Michael's School was made up of various sites in Heacham and Ingoldisthorpe and this involved travel between the two locations on a daily basis often in the Stainsby's Bedford buses or the large Ford Shooting Break driven by Farouk from Beirut. The first main trip for me, in my first term, was to the Festival of Britain in London. There were various other trips to London to attend the SPG Conferences and one year we stayed in an underground air raid shelter. We invariably ate at a Lyons Corner House. There were also regular Choir trips to Norwich Cathedral. One year we were taken down to Upham in Hampshire where we camped. The real excitement about this trip was the visit to nearby Portsmouth and the opportunity to explore HMS Vanguard and visit a couple of Submarines. On a cold February morning in 1952 we all lined the road at Wolverton to witness the cortege of George VI as it ceremoniously moved from Sandringham to Wolverton Station for the journey down to London.

I left school in July 1958 and joined Ilford Limited and worked at their Head Office. I was then called up for National Service and trained for the RASC in Aldershot. In 1959 I was posted to Paderborn, Germany and then on to Detmold where I spent a very enjoyable 18 months as Clerk to the 20th Armoured Brigade HQ. I was able to visit Paris, Amsterdam and Berlin. Very soon afterwards I returned back to the UK and rejoined Ilford in London working as a Salesman in their West End Showrooms. I also took the opportunity to learn everything I could about Photography and attended training at the London School of Printing. I applied successfully for a position as Photographer with the MOD at Woolwich but I missed the 'buzz' of London and, by chance, I was encouraged to apply for a clerical position with the Foreign Office and, again, I was successful.

In 1969 the Foreign Office decided to reopen a mission in Aden and a group of mainly single clerical staff, including myself, were flown out to Aden. This followed the military withdrawal of UK forces from South Yeman. We were all very well treated by the local staff who had been well trained by the military. As time went by our life in Aden became much more bearable and some of the former military sailing and swimming clubs became available to us. Eventually, we found the courage to make regular trips up country. We had an Embassy Club where other mission staff and ex-pat staff could join us for parties and film shows. It was then that I was able to fall back on everything St. Michael's School had taught me and not only was I able to run the film shows but I was also able to handle an ex-military Landrover for trips up country.

My next assignment was a posting to Jordan where there were a few problems with the Syrians. Two tanks were parked outside the British Embassy and, although it took a few weeks for everything to settle down, after a while we were able to move about and explore this beautiful country. The conflict had caused an enormous amount of damage and, because the power had been off for weeks, all refrigerated food had to be destroyed and all the shops were closed. But Jordan is an interesting country with its Roman sites and, of course, Petra and the seaside resort of Aqaba.

After Jordan I was transferred to Egypt for two short postings. The highlight for me during one of these postings was the opportunity to sail up the Nile to Thebes, to view the Suez Canal, Alexandria and the El Alamein cemetery. The tourist sites around the Nile and Cairo are overwhelming but tourists have saved Cairo from becoming just an overpopulated dirty city. Sometimes we were able to escape the grip of city life and explore the Pyramids and desert on horseback.

Next came Georgetown, Guyana. More Caribbean than South American due to the slave trade. With East Indians to plant rice, Africans to tend the sugar plantations, Portugese to oversee the Estates, Dutch to build the drainage canals, Chinese to trade and up country the indigenous Amerindians, the country was truly multicultural. This posting enabled me to visit Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. I also took the opportunity to visit Canada on my way home and wonder at the beautiful city of Vancouver. A city really worth visiting. The seeds of this trip must have been sown largely due to the Geography lessons given by Henry Taylor some years before.

Last but not least, my final posting was to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia for two years. A very rich Muslim country with the religious sites at Medina and Mecca. There was very little to do in Jeddah and there were very few restaurants. So most entertaining was done at home. Since Saudi Arabia is a 'dry' country, there was technically no alcohol, although in practice it was obtained illegally. Travel throughout Saudi Arabia was a little difficult and Medina and Mecca were banned to all non-Muslims. However, we made the most of our time in Jeddah and visited as much of the country as possible, to understand the culture and the people.

On return from overseas I spent the remainder of my working life in London but I have always felt so lucky to have spent such a nomadic and varied life during my time working abroad. I will always be grateful to the Headmaster for instilling in us self confidence, the ability to cycle, drive, run a film team, choir involvement, travel and sport. Having no racial bias, thanks to our fellow pupils and religious upbringing. The strength of comradeship that set us all for a balanced, interesting and fulfilling life.

John King



It is 19 June 2009 and 'The Mitre' is very near to completion and due at the Printers within days.

But I could not ignore news that has just reached me concerning our very dear friend, and Old Michaelian, Robin James.

Reggie Wood has informed us that Robin has been very ill recently and spent a little time in Hospital where he underwent some Hospital procedures.

We have been told that Robin is now back home and being pampered and nursed back to 100% fitness and good health by his lovely wife Jenny.

I am sure that all Old Michaelian's will wish to join with me in expressing our very best wishes to both Robin and Jenny, together with their family, and we look forward to welcoming them back to Hunstanton again in 2010.



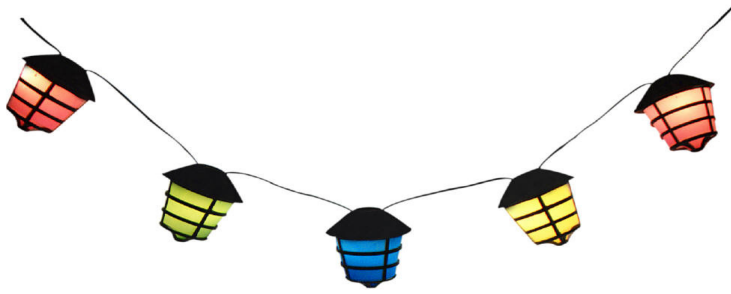
Remembering Michael Lambert

It is with much regret that we announce the death of an Old Michaelian.

Michael Lambert passed away recently at his home in Devon and I am sure all Old Michaelian's will wish to join with me in offering our deepest sympathy to all family and friends of Michael.

Michael attended St. Michael's School as a day pupil between 1947 - 1956 and I believe he and his family originated from Snettisham. A Thanks Giving Service was held at St. Mary's Parish Church in Snettisham on the 28 June 2009.





OMA 2009 REUNION DINNER BOOKING FORM

Can you please reserve me..... number of tickets for
the 2009 reunion weekend

Name:.....

Partners Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

POST CODE:.....

Telephone Number:.....

Email Address:.....

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

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



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