

THE MITRE

THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION FOR
THE OLD MICHAELIAN
ASSOCIATION

1953-2013.....



EDITORIAL



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to 'THE MITRE' 2013.

It is at times as these that the responsibilities as Editor of the Association take on even more meaning as we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the Old Michaelian Association this year.

Within 'THE MITRE' you will find all kinds of information, most of which is very relevant to St. Michael's School and I sincerely hope that you will enjoy every part of the content and if you have made a contribution within the following pages, please accept my personal 'Thanks'. It is very much appreciated.

Chairmen/Chairpersons, both past and present, have responded to an invitation to acknowledge this Anniversary and we should offer a big 'Thank you' to all of them.

The role of Chairman of any organisation, both big and small, carries a heavy responsibility and all of our Chairmen/Chairpersons, starting with Michael Fleming in 1953 and including our present Chairman, Bob Hill, have exercised those responsibilities with diligence and leadership.

My hope is that the following pages will provide a spring board together with a load of enthusiasm to encourage as many of you to make the decision to join us all in Hunstanton towards the end of October. I would also wish to extend that invitation out to the many OM's who live within striking distance of Hunstanton. Our Reunion weekend always attracts a number of local OM's to some or all of the activities throughout the weekend. Some decide to join in the fun after the Reunion Dinner and in time for the after dinner speeches and the chance to engage with some 'old' friends over a pint or three. Whatever your choice, you will all be made very welcome.

Editorial.....cont.

As we prepare to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the Old Michaelian Association, many of us will find time to remember and reflect on the life of our late Headmaster and his family. Roger Pott was an inspiration to many of us and I suspect that, without his influence, our career paths are likely to have taken a slightly different route. Who knows?

As in previous years, the Reunion weekend this coming October will be very well planned by the OMA Committee and throughout the year, under the leadership of Bob Hill, there will be much discussion and debate as to how the Association can possibly improve the Reunion weekend for all of our expected guests. Remember, the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton can only cater for a maximum of 150 Dinner Guests due to Health & Safety regulations, so please do not wait 'til the last moment. Commit yourself and your partner and join in the fun.

**Confirm your Reunion Dinner reservation now by making contact with Ruth Chilvers (Tel: 01354 652997) or m.chilvers@virgin.net
We all look forward to welcoming you all.**

Best Wishes

John Wallington

Editor

Old Michaelian Association (60 years old this year)

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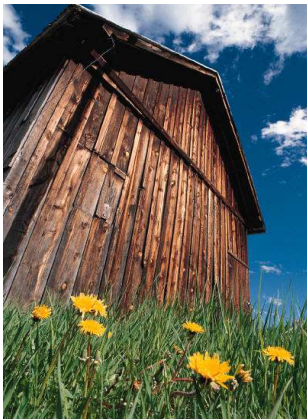
Okay, let's get this latest publication of 'The Mitre' up and running and try and put a smile on your face.

In 2012 the United Kingdom registered the second most wettest year on record and arranging a holiday in Australia was becoming a very attractive proposal. 'Til we read, with horror, the extent of the out of control bush fires that caused so much damage and distress across great swaths of land in North South Wales and Victoria.

As I write this article we are fast approaching Easter 2013 and the UK is once again smothered with the 'white stuff'.

So, we all need a bit of cheering up and what better way to put a smile on all your faces but to invite you to engross yourselves in the following: (Ed)

Fifty Sheds of Grey!



The novel "Fifty Shades of Grey" has allegedly seduced women and baffled us blokes. Well, maybe that is what we want our lovely ladies to think! Now, Author Colin Grey (is that a coincidence?) offers a treat for the men recalling his 'love' for time spent wisely at the bottom of the garden.

***"She stood trembling before me.....in my shed.
'I'm yours for the night' she gasped. 'You can do whatever you want with me'
So I took her to Asda.***

She knelt before me on the shed floor and tugged gently at first, then harder until it finally came. I moaned with pleasure before we concentrated on the other boot.

Ever since she read THAT book, I've had to buy all kinds of ropes, chains and shackles. She still manages to get into the shed though.

'Put on this rubber suit and mask' I instructed calmly.

"Mmmm, kinky!" she purred

'Yes, you cannot be too careful with all that asbestos in the shed roof'.

"Harder!" she cried, gripping the workbench tightly. "Harder!"

'Okay, what's the gross national product of Nicaragua?'

4.



The Old Michaelian Association reaches yet another milestone and it is 'Congratulations' all round to every Member, every Non-Member, every lapsed Member, to past Members of Staff – in fact, to everyone who has been associated with the OMA since 1953. Earlier this year I invited each and every past Chairman/Chairperson to make a contribution to 'The Mitre' this year and I am delighted with the responses that have arrived. Appropriately, we start this contribution from Michael Fleming who became the very first Chairman of the Association in 1953. (Ed)



A Cigarette may have instigated the Foundation of St. Michael's

Do you remember the “parable” about our Headmaster relayed by Simon (our President) at the 2003 Reunion? It went something like this:

Our Headmaster was serving as chaplain to the British Mediterranean Fleet towards the end of the war. He made the mistake of giving an Italian POW a cigarette. He was promptly disciplined for ‘fraternizing with the enemy’. Not to be outdone, his theme for the following Sunday sermon was “*Love Thine Enemy*”. This infuriated the powers in command and he was punished again. It may have been a Court Martial! Shortly afterwards the Headmaster left the Navy and founded St. Michael's.

We should all be grateful, therefore, that a cigarette indirectly resulted in the foundation of our school – or something like that!

So, why dig up this old tale? Because it reminded me that I was the most beaten (caned) boy at the school for being caught smoking. Ouch!! And yet our Headmaster had given cigarettes away!

Being caught smoking on top of all the bags in the store room, carelessly leaving my pipe poking out of the top pocket of my blazer and even daring to use the toilet at the top of the stairs above the staff room as a smoke room, were just some of the incriminating mistakes. But I was a lone smoker. There were not groups of sneaky smokers as far as I know. Unfortunately, all the canings fell on ‘stony ground!’ I am sure the idea was to make me think twice before lighting up. Smoking was ‘cool! I used to work during school holiday's to earn money to keep me in tobacco in term time.

5.

Stainsby's bus driver moonlighted as a taxi driver for US Airmen who paid him in Lucky Strike cigarettes, then sold them to us on the bus the following day for £1 per carton. I was hooked! I became an addict and only quit when I retired from my day job about 18 years ago. The very thought of tobacco today makes me feel nauseous. In round numbers, I estimate the cost of my dirty habit was at least £12,000 in today's values - probably more. There must be a moral in this story somewhere. I leave it to the amateur psychologists out there to work that one out!

Anonymous (although the Statute of Limitations surely applies)

What a great story from Mike Fleming (whoops.....how on earth did I manage to let that slip? Ed.

Martin Coats: Chairman 1968/69

Martin has always involved himself in the workings of the Association and, whenever possible, supported the OMA Reunion weekends by travelling to Hunstanton from his home base in Toronto, Canada. (Ed)

'Nearly 50 years has passed since I left St Michael's. Oh, how time flies!! It seems only yesterday I was running around the track at Ingoldisthorpe on my last day at school (1964) to join the rest of the World to try to earn a living. My memories of St Michael's seem to be very vivid as I have found long term memory gets a little 'tired' after retirement and there is time to remember my achievements during the last 50 odd years!

For me, it is wonderful to remember the lasting friendships and memories I made during my time at the school, eclipsed of course, by the Headmaster. The double-decker bus attempting to climb Ingoldisthorpe Hill on a snowy morning and not being able to make it to the top. The Headmaster would slide the bus back into the side of the road and bang on the glass partition (if it were still in place) indicating the mass evacuation of the bus and the immediate availability of many small pairs of hands to push the bus to the top of the hill!!! I remember the mandatory long walks imposed on everyone due to local weather conditions making it impossible to take to the sports field. The 'L' driving at the weekends and seeing how far we could travel.....and being back in time for tea. The various trips to London driven by the Headmaster in one of the double-decker buses and the looks of astonishment from passers-by as we headed through the London streets. The memories just come flooding back as well as some of the more painful memories. Strict rules were to be obeyed and punishment at the hands of the Headmaster, whether you were a boy or a girl, were immediate, painful and hopefully met the crime!

6.

**The school gave me strengths in academics (not so strong), sports, leadership and trust. All the necessary attributes that could be called upon to handle every day life. The school, in my opinion, was very advanced in so many ways. Discipline was strict, but we were also introduced to our peers representing many different countries, boarders and day pupils and a mixture of both boys and girls that contributed to the balance of school life. Even today it is difficult for people to understand that the philosophy administered by the Headmaster really did work. I joined the motor industry working for BMW in London. I was married in London, immigrated to Toronto, Canada where I continued to work for BMW 'til my retirement in 2012. I have two wonderful sons. One lives in Toronto working in the motor industry and he has two sons. My other son lives in Florida working in construction and he has a daughter. My three grandchildren provide me with a ton of fun and pleasure. I live with a wonderful lady in the north of Toronto where we spend time with the Grand-kids and, when the weather permits, keeping the garden up to scratch. Life has been truly wonderful, (with the usual up's and down's) and I am convinced that we were all armed with a sense of direction and leadership together with a belief that everything is possible by St Michael's School, the staff but especially by Roger Pott himself. To all my friends, 'Thanks for the memories'.
Martin Coats (1960 – 1964)**



Michael Catterick & Martin Graville

Michael Catterick, Chairman 2002 – 2004

The photograph to the left shows a very young Michael Catterick alongside an even younger Martin Graville Ed. 'As I was, together with Steven Barker, the original Editor of the first edition of 'The Mitre' in 1961, it is a pleasure for me to contribute to this present edition.

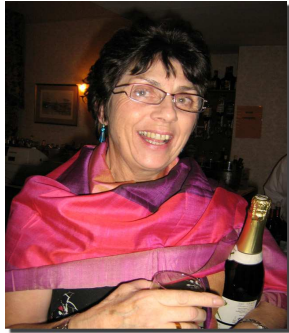
My three years in office as Chairman of the OMA coincided with some notable events. The Association's Constitution was updated and the office of President reintroduced. I was pleased to ask Simon to take on this responsible role. Typically of Simon, he very graciously and modestly accepted. I was also in office as Association Chairman in 2003 when, with huge help from all Committee Members, we organised a special OMA Annual Dinner to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Association. In October 2004 it was with enormous pleasure, on behalf of the OMA, that I was able to announce the formation of our first and only overseas branch of the Association in Australia suitably entitled the OMAA. Having bought

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them one or two rounds of drinks in recognition of this event, I still await a return drink of Australian wine!!

It was a very great honour to be Chairman of the OMA and hope for its continuance for many years to come.

Michael Catterick



Geraldine Ellison Chairman 2008 – 2011

‘In October 2008 it was an immense honour for me to be elected as Chairman of the OMA. An unexpected challenge that I thoroughly enjoyed for three years, supported by a super-charged Committee, we worked well together (well that is my version of events!!) OM’s make good Committee Members with plenty of original ideas, versatility and application for hard work. Quite wonderful and awesome to be Chairman of such an

important Association. We are also blessed to have the charismatic and totally supportive Simon Pott as our Association President.

During my term of Office I tried to motivate ‘Old Girls’ to attend the annual Reunion weekends. My one regret, I have not had the pleasure of meeting many more OM’s who have not (yet) discovered the OMA. After 60 years we are about to celebrate the foundation of our Association so it is still a hope of mine that more OM girls will attend in October.

As an unsophisticated new girl at St. Michael’s School, Ingoldisthorpe in 1952, I could not have envisaged that 61 years later I would be writing words of appreciation for a life which has been greatly influenced by those exceptionally happy days that I recall with so much pleasure. Many of my friends today are OM’s and are much loved and greatly valued.

Undoubtedly the ethos of the school, ebullience and enthusiasm of the Headmaster, who was a real tour de force, did inspire, encourage and galvanise me and many other OM’s to achieve fully our potential. He was inimitable.

‘Geraldine’ was not the brightest pupil in the class. The broad based education offered by St. Michael’s School was unique and provided a ton of opportunities for pupils to use their initiative and common sense and discover themselves that all things were achievable. Our School was a school the like of which we will never see again.

Consider yourselves special and those who DON’T, have a good long look at yourselves and ask: ‘WHY NOT?’

Give a silent prayer for Roger Pott, for his gifts, his eloquence and even for his punishments!!

8.

I have much to be grateful and I am blessed with a host of memories involving many lifelong friends all as a direct result of my parents choosing St. Michael's School, Ingoldisthorpe for my education. Finally, as I said right at the top, it has been my honour and privilege to be included in a long line of notable OMA Chairmen.
Geraldine Ellison

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This photograph was taken last year during one of our regular visits to Virginia showing 'Bruv' together with his lovely wife Janet. Ed.

'Greetings to you, one and all, on the occasion of the Diamond Anniversary of the Old Michaelian Association and as you celebrate 60 years I send my very best wishes to you all for now and in the future.

Cliff Wallington Chairman 1990 – 1995



Peter and Rosemary Yarker

Peter Yarker, Chairman 1995 – 1998

"Fifty seven years ago I first became aware of the OMA, just three years after the Association was founded. I recall that it was with rising excitement that we looked forward to the 'Old Boys' weekend (Sorry Girls, that's how it was in those days). We were never disappointed; in they rode on hot motor bikes or arrived in what seemed to us as very smart

motors, all our heroes of yesteryear. As years went by and we became more senior we were allowed to attend the annual Reunion Dance at The Manor, the Dukes Head or the Kit Kat Ballroom. I suppose that I expected to join the Association but not once did it occur to me that one day I would be invited to be its Chairman.

St. Michael's, referred to as the 'Ingoldisthorpe Experiment' was and is the reason for the existence of the OMA and, of course, behind that looms the great presence of Roger Pott. It was his school, his experience. Each one of us will have memories of our time at the school, each one of us will have different things to be thankful. Although we were all treated the same, (nearly) we were all recognised as being individuals; each one was able to benefit from different aspects of the experience (I almost said experiment!).

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Confidence, thoughtfulness, sense of responsibility, initiative, discipline, obedience, the list is endless and I am sure you can add some more. There is another treasure that was given to us at that time. A treasure that is like wine, it is always good but improves with age as it matures as the years pass. It is on this that the Reunions are focused, on Fellowship. Fellowship that is now a 60 year old vintage. We serve the Association and our fellow Members. We come together for Reunions because we have a common bond. We experience the same things, we were given the same foundations and we were instilled with a respect for others and it is by coming together that we can share that Fellowship.

On the night before he died, Our Lord gave us a new commandment, *'Love one another'*. Surely that is at the heart of the Association. Perhaps it should be our motto.

Since leaving St. Michael's (five 'O' levels and two failed 'A' levels) I have had so many unimaginable experiences. I have done things, been to places and met people of which I could not have dreamed. How? I believe it was because of St. Michael's. I learned to accept responsibility, to use my initiative, to do my very best always and to respect and serve others. Being an opportunist helped.

I am proud and humbled to have served as Chairman and to have helped guide the Association from time to time. In doing so, I have tried to make a very small repayment of the huge debt I owe to Roger Pott and St. Michael's School, Ingoldisthorpe.



Vivien & Ian Dupont

Ian Dupont, Chairman 2005 – 2008

Regrets? Yes! That I left the school a term too early!

Although the youngest of our set at school, I left just before my 17th birthday in the summer. During the summer holiday's I took my driving test and PASSED!!!! So, if I had returned to the school in the Michaelmas Term, I would

have been one of the very few qualified drivers because all the other 17 year old's had to take their tests during that term in the Mini. Think of the joy that would have brought me. All that driving and very little school work!

Oh Ian, Oh Ian. You would have surely been found out. I promise you! Ed

10.



William Cullin

www.oma.org.uk

The above Web Site address should trip off the tongue.

If ever there was an element that emphasised the success of the Old Michaelian Association over the last 60 years, the OMA Web Site would, in my opinion, be a contender.

Under the direction of Bill Cullin, the Association Web Site continues to capture the hearts and minds of those who, sometimes accidentally, fall under its spell. Every year we are able to report back to you successes as a direct result of the magnificent work achieved by Bill as the Web Site is kept 'alive' and updated. Bill Cullin manages to give us all the impression that this work is easy but you should be assured that Bill undertakes the management of our Web Site with calm professionalism and dedication.

The Web Site is available to all and contains a vast amount of data all relating to detail and information on St. Michael's School.

So, we invite you all to access the Web Site as and when you are able and scrutinise the data that is presented. If you do come across any inaccuracies, please report them back to any Committee Members and we will ensure that any inaccurate data is amended accordingly. Thanks.

Lastly, I am sure that everyone would wish to join in by offering a huge word of 'Thanks' to Bill Cullin for his continuing support in managing and supporting the Association Web Site.



Ruth & Michael Chilvers

To: All Old Michaelian Girls (Ladies)

Last time the Old Michaelian Association organised a special Reunion weekend in 2009 many OM Girls attended. It would be great if this could happen again this year.

If you know of any OM Girls who maybe live close by and/or who may be on your Christmas Card list, please make an

extra special effort to persuade them to join in the fun this coming October as we celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the Old Michaelian Association.

I trust all 'local girls' will make a really special effort this year.

Please help to make this a Special Reunion weekend.

Looking forward to seeing you all

Ruth Chilvers (nee Peckover)



Robert Thomas (1960 – 1962)

I am very certain that Bill Cullin enjoys these moments just as much as me when the Association manages to capture the interest of an OM through the existence of our Web Site. I hope that all of you will welcome Robert

Thomas to the Association and we have managed to ‘blackmail’ Robert in writing an article for our Mag. before we offer up any further revealing photographs! Ed.

It was a ‘moment of truth’ for me to suddenly discover the Old Michaelian Association Web Site a few weeks ago. The rich information at my fingertips has led me to reflect at length on my days at the school. It has reinforced how much I value my days at St. Michael’s which launched me down a road that culminated in my sense of fulfilment today and the reasonable level of comfort I now enjoy.

I came to St. Michael’s a rebellious adolescent, with an unshakable aversion to school. My future was not viewed with optimism.

I left our school two years later in 1962 with a handy six ‘O’ levels, a grade five in music, a drivers licence, a sense of direction and the love of learning which is a part of me to this day.

I took pride in editing ‘The Mitre’, taking the challenging lead role in ‘Everyman’, a medieval morality play and participating in a panel on youth with other sixth formers at a women’s church gathering. I played the piano solo and then progressed to playing duets with Miss Bone and at school music recital. I revelled in the school choir, and the summer retreat to Engelberg, Switzerland was my first adventure outside of Britain.

A mere four years after leaving St. Michael’s, married just a few weeks, I was on my way to Canada having passed ‘A’ levels and Banking exams, worked for a London Bank and been selected for transfer to the New World by a Canadian Bank.

Whatever happened to me in those two years at St. Michael’s that transformed me in a whirlwind of change that set me up for decades? As I think about this question, two words come to mind that I never heard mentioned at the school but which must have been fundamental to the values of St. Michael’s. *“ENCOURAGEMENT AND EXAMPLE”*.

I remember to this day a pivotal event: the words of encouragement from Mr Adams inspecting over my shoulder the mathematics proof to which I had just added *“QED”*. He said, ‘you really laid that out well’.

What a contrast to the Maths Master at my previous school who swept into the classroom, adorned with his academic gown, bushy eyebrows and a sneer.

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I know this is a juvenile perception of, and disservice to, my previous teacher who I am sure was a dedicated and successful educator. In my case though, it needed the gentle Mr Adams at St. Michael's to awaken in me a fascination for Maths. Because of him I passed additional Maths as well as the regular Maths at 'O' level.

My memories are of escalating enjoyment and growing satisfaction in the English, History, Geography and Music classes and a desire to respond to their commitment and caring personal attention.

Many of us have brought up children of our own and, looking back, I can now truly value the efforts and sacrifices made by our own parents.

School can have huge influences on our lives. Here are some examples:

Foremost is the Headmaster himself. The force of character, energy, determination, conviction, intelligence and purpose he exuded did not mask for us who saw him daily, that extraordinary kindness, understanding and desire for us to grow in the different school environment he created. To say that he was 'larger than life' may be a true description but this, I believe, misses the point. It suggests his qualities were somehow unattainable. In fact, he was a powerful example for us, embodying so many qualities that we admired and sought to emulate. At the driver's wheel we waited for him to stride up to the car, gesturing for the car to be started ready for 'take-off'. He talked incisively and intensely as we chauffeured him between church, vicarage and school buildings and insisted we stop the engine the very second of arrival to save petrol.

He made sure we gained knowledge of current affairs standing in the dining room while we listened to the news at breakfast and then questioning us on the content before releasing us to class for the day. Apart from the demanding task of founding and running a school as well as two churches, he was our school choirmaster, leading our practices in Heacham Church. He drove us in a double-decker bus to Kings Lynn to sing before the Queen Mother, to sing in Norwich Cathedral and all the way to London for the wedding of Princess Margaret and Tony Armstrong Jones.

Each of us have our own memories of this extraordinary man. The Rector of Heacham and Ingoldisthorpe who found the time to build and lead a remarkable school that was pivotal in the lives of so many.

There were other examples for me at the school, less impactful but important nonetheless. Apart from teachers such as Mr Adams and Mr White, there were friends I still see in my 'mind's eye' sitting with me in the classroom and whom I admired. Their laughter, skills at the organ and on the piano, sports aptitude, confidence, desire to succeed and optimism.

As I write this, the tension comes back to me of approaching at speed the steep Ingoldisthorpe Hill. I am at the wheel of a rattling green 'van' laden with pupils. "Would it make it to the top of the Hill?". Double declutching into a lower gear at the bottom of the rise and then joining in the collective cheers as the 'van' finally pulled itself over the crest of the Hill! Phew!

I was sad to leave St. Michael's for my final year of 6th Form. Worried that I was involved in too many 'things' other than study, I decided I would need to 'hibernate' for a year if I were to pass 'A' levels. My parents moved temporarily to the States and this upheaval became the opportunity for me to move to a municipal college and concentrate exclusively on academics for a whole winter.

I still treasure the school tie Mr Pott gave me on one of my two visits back to the school so that I could visit him before leaving for Canada.

In later years I worked with Banks in the Caribbean, Toronto and Montreal. I acquired designations in banking, accounting and investments. Earned an undergraduate and masters degree and retired in 2005 as an Executive of the largest Canadian Bank.

Suzanne and I married soon after my departure from St. Michael's and we spend wonderful times together in Florida and Toronto. We have been blessed with two children who are a joy to us both.

This past week I have had wonderful telephone conversations with Ben Gunner and Martin Coats. My plans are to meet with Martin in Toronto this summer, Ben in 2014 and Bob Balfour and others who represent the OMAA in 2015.

Robert Thomas

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No Comment Needed.....!!



Some guy bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of the old fridge (still working), he placed it in his front garden and hung a sign on it saying: "YOU WANT IT, YOU TAKE IT".

For three days the fridge sat there on the front lawn without any evidence of interest.

He decided that people were too mistrustful of his generosity.

So he changed the sign to read: "FRIDGE FOR SALE.....£10.

The next day someone stole it!!

In Memory of Mary Hartley



Peter and Mary Hartley

It has often been said over the years that our Association has not paid enough notice to the many partners of Old Michaelian's who regularly support the annual Reunion weekend in Hunstanton.

Peter and Mary Hartley are two of our most regular attendee's each year and, with Robin and Jenny James and Reg and Pidge Wood, formed the 'Farmers

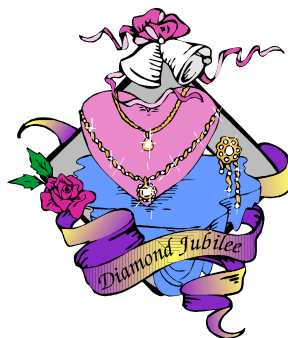
Table' at our Reunion Dinner for many years.

It was with enormous sadness that, in November 2012, we learned of the passing of Mary Hartley and, although some months have passed since, we think it is very appropriate to register our sincere sympathy to Peter and the whole family.

I spoke to Peter by telephone during early April and Peter was extremely enthusiastic that this tribute to Mary should be published in 'The Mitre' this year.

The funeral for Mary Hartley took place on 22 November 2012 and I am delighted to report that a large representation of OM's were able to attend and mingle with the approximate 450 mourners making this very sad occasion into a wonderful supportive day for Peter, the whole family but also, of course, for Mary herself.

The Association pays tribute to Mary Hartley for her constant support and attendance in support of the Old Michaelian Association and we 'Thank' Mary for helping the OMA achieve this Anniversary. Without a doubt, we know that Mary would have relished this forthcoming Reunion weekend with Peter this coming October.



THE MAIN EVENT

- **Title of Event:**
Old Michaelian Association Diamond Anniversary Reunion weekend.

- **Date of Event:**
26 & 27 October 2013

- **Venue of Event:**
Le Strange Arms Hotel, Hunstanton

The Detail



Saturday 26 October 2013

From 12 noon onwards: All Old Michaelian's, together with their partners, family and friends, are invited to assemble at the Ancient Mariner's Bar. All Old Michaelian Committee Members will be wearing names badges and have been asked to mingle with everyone especially those OM's who are attending a Reunion weekend for the first time. This is a special time for the Reunion weekend since it provides an opportunity to reacquaint yourselves with friends who you may not have met for many years. The Ancient Mariner's Bar is a perfect setting to 'break the ice' and begin to relax and soak up the atmosphere.

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From 12 noon onwards: It is worth pointing out that, situated in the Palace Suite of the Le Strange Arms Hotel will be a mouth watering display of photographs carefully prepared and exhibited under the management of John King depicting many aspects of life at St. Michael's School and there is every possibility you may recognise someone who you remember during your school days and, even better, maybe a photograph of yourself! The Photographic Exhibition will be available to be viewed throughout the whole afternoon.

3:30pm in The Palace Suite, the Old Michaelian Association AGM

This extremely important aspect to the official management of our Association is an essential element to the continuing success of the Association.

Our President and Chairman offer their invitation to all Old Michaelian Members to help this process take place and attend the AGM. The whole process does not take long but is a necessary requirement of the Constitution of the Association.

As soon as the AGM is concluded we invite all Members plus partners, family and friends to join us in the Palace Suite for afternoon tea.



7pm – 7:45pm Pre-Dinner Drinks

For many years it has always been the custom to invite all Members, Non-Members, partners, family and friends to assemble in the Bar of the Palace Suite for pre-dinner drinks. Name badges will be issued at this time and we encourage all guests to sign the Visitors Book on arrival.

Displayed within the Bar will be a seating plan and this will also provide the opportunity for

everyone to order wine and/or non-alcoholic beverages for consumption during dinner.

The Palace Suite will be very carefully prepared and adorned with suitable colour schemes complimentary to the school colours.

7:45pm The OMA Diamond Anniversary Reunion Dinner

Every effort will be made by the OMA Organising Committee to ensure that all guests feel totally comfortable and relaxed for the following couple of hours. The planning committee, under the direction of Ruth Chilvers, will ensure that table plans are to everyone's liking.

It has always been an objective of the OMA Committee to make the whole Reunion weekend as low cost as possible and so it was agreed earlier this year to ensure that dinner prices are kept to a minimum but that the quality of the menu offered would be very high. To this end, the Committee decided to award the choice of menu for this very special Diamond Anniversary Dinner to our President, Simon Pott. You will not be disappointed.

In addition, the Committee approved and accepted a price per head of just **£25.**

For just £25 you can look forward to a three course dinner. (Vegetarians will be catered for) together with a Loyal Toast offered by our President, after-Dinner Speeches that are almost as entertaining as a London Premier (I did say 'almost') a Raffle that will bring tears of joy to everyone who is fortunate to win, tea and coffee to conclude the dinner and tons and tons of wonderful conversation and banter.

Similar to previous years, our President, Simon Pott, will be presenting his memorable and very entertaining After Dinner Speech.

However, since 2013 is such an important year for the OMA, Simon invites as many Old Michaelian's as possible to join him and, add to the many stories and banter, by making their own contributions after Dinner. If you do wish to make a contribution, please make contact with Simon or any OMA Committee Member. Thanks.

If that was not enough for your £25 per head, the OMA Committee have once again successfully negotiated with Her Majesty's Government and arranged for British Summer Time to end over this weekend and you will all be able to enjoy an extra hour in bed on the Sunday morning.

Sunday 27 October 2013

After a hearty breakfast and maybe a stroll along Hunstanton beach, you are all invited to attend the OMA Diamond Anniversary Eucharist at Ingoldisthorpe Church commencing at 11:00

For our Golden Anniversary Eucharist we managed to fill every pew in the church and it is a real hope of the OMA Committee that as many OM's will be able to find the time to attend this extremely important service that will mark the end to a remarkable and successful weekend for everyone.

18.

As 'The Mitre' is being prepared for publication, we are delighted to confirm that our invitation to David Ratcliff to be our Celebrant at our Anniversary Eucharist has been accepted. And, if that was not enough, we are also able to confirm that Jonathan Russell will be playing the organ. The ladies of the Committee will be offering light refreshments at the rear of the church after the service.

Booking Form

At the back of 'The Mitre' you will find a Booking Form so that firm reservations may be made via Ruth Chilvers. Please do not hesitate but make your booking reservations for the Anniversary Reunion Dinner NOW! £25 per person is a remarkable offer for such an occasion and we would ask you all to make your cheques payable to the Old Michaelian Association and NOT to the OMA please. Thank you.

You have no idea how delighted any Editor would be in the knowledge that there is someone out there actually reading and understanding the 'work' being published! Since providing some scant detail on some of the history attached to St. Michael's Church, Ingoldisthorpe within the 2012 'Mitre', our very own Jeremy Spalding (1948 – 1953) was in contact with me immediately and has kindly penned the following article Ed.



Jeremy Spalding

In 'The Mitre' 2012, our beloved Editor contributed a piece on St. Michael's Church, Ingoldisthorpe. A worthy effort but it behoves me to flesh out the bones.

As a snotty nosed pupil at St. Michael's School between 1948 – 1953, I was blissfully unaware of my family connection to this church. Only on joining the OMA in 2004, retiring from work and started to research my family history, did I discover the connection. On the female side, I am descended from Flemish immigrants whose surname was then Hoost. In the church, behind the font, roughly where the tea urn stands after the Reunion Eucharist, is an oval plaque to Theodorus Hoste. The spelling of the name gradually changed after 1569. A local historian, Michael Vawser, advised me to find a copy of "Sandringham, Past and Present" by Mrs Herbert Jones, published in 1883. Thanks to Michael and Google I soon had my own dusty tome. Chapter VIII is entitled: 'The Story of the Hostes'. Family folk law hinted at my Low Countries ancestry. Now the story can be told!

Hang on to your hats, my Hearty's! This is a History lesson like no other Ed.

Jacques Hoost, a civil dignitary of Middleburg, in Zealand, gathered his family together and fled to England in 1568/9 to escape the zealous Spanish Catholic Governor, the Duke of Alva. Alas, his younger sister stayed on to sort her affairs and was caught in the Duke's persecution of 'heretics'. She was burnt at the stake in Middleburg Main Square.

Her first name is unknown but her portrait hung for many years in Sandringham House although its present whereabouts is unknown. Happily, a print of the lady is published in "Sandringham, Past & Present". Jacques settled in London in 1569 and with his continental connections and fellow Dutch immigrants, he became a successful Merchant. A couple of generations and good marriages saw Theoderick and his son James buy themselves the obligatory country estate – Sandringham House in 1686. The House was a bit smaller than the present House, rebuilt by Queen Victoria some 200 years later, but Hey!, I'm not proud! The Sandringham Estate, at that time, surrounded Snettisham. It included a Tudor farmhouse, just down the road from Ingoldisthorpe towards the beach, now known as the Old Hall. James Hoste soon moved his family into the Old Hall and became the local Squire and Magistrate. So, Hoste's lived in Sandringham and Ingoldisthorpe 'til 1752 when the second James H died. His only child and heiress Susan married Mr Cornish Henley who owned several Estates in the Midlands and Ireland. Thus, he and Susan moved away leaving Sandringham to crumble 'til Queen Victoria rescued the House for a song. This brings us back, via a circular route, to the plaque above the "tea urn" in St. Michael's Church!

It commemorates Theodorus Hoste who inherited the Squire's mantle after a military career as Lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards. As you can read from the plaque (thanks to the teaching of Latin at St. Michael's), he died on 28 April 1778 aged 68.

Now we come to his notorious son and probably the second best known Hoste. Dixon Hoste was educated at Cambridge to become a gambler, a glutton, a lover of hunting, shooting and fishing, a borrower of money and a social climber! After his Father, he became a local Magistrate and was made famous by the "Old Hunstanton Murders" of 1784 when large numbers of smugglers and supporters, fuelled by illicit rum, fought running battles with rather fewer revenue men and dragoons. The local revenue Cutter seized a cargo of contraband and shipped it ashore. The smugglers tried to snatch back their booty and it was reported that, "the tracks and lanes ran red with good men's blood". Two of the slaughtered men were Dragoon William Webb and Customs Officer William Green, both of whom are buried in Old Hunstanton churchyard.

Any OM's who can tear themselves away from the Ancient Mariner may care to read the inscriptions.

Magistrate Dixon Hoste, who signed the warrants for the detention of many smugglers/rioters, eventually needed to sell the Old Hall to pay debts incurred in 'buying' parliamentary votes for Thomas Coke of Holkham Hall, the 'Top Wigg' in East Anglia.

Unfortunately, Coke was not re-elected in 1784 but my ancestor still had to pay his debts. He retreated to the Parish of Tittleshall and Godwick as Rector and appointed by Thomas Coke, with the Holkham Shooting Lodge as his Rectory where he could live the life of a sporting Squire similar to his life spent in Ingoldisthorpe. My family interest in the Old Hall would seem to have ended in 1784, however, on the 26 August 1780 the most famous of all the Hoste's was born at Ingoldisthorpe.

Assumption is made that this birth probably took place at the Old Hall. The future Capt. Sir William Hoste was the second son of Dixon Hoste and his wife Margaret Stanforth of Salthouse. Being only 4 years old, William left the Old Hall and was brought up at Tittleshall where Edmund Nelson was the Rector. (No prizes for guessing who was his famous son!). William was still only a lad while Horatio Nelson was making a name for himself in the early Napoleonic struggles. William was star-struck by his hero who was 12 years his senior. When hostilities between Napoleon, Britain and others flared up in 1792, semi-retired sailors were called up. Nelson was given command of the "Agamemnon" on 11 January and after pleas from Dixon Hoste, Nelson agreed to take his son William as a Captain's Servant. Dixon Hoste was well aware that, in time of war, good prize money could be made by successful ship's Captains. As William gained more booty and promotions, his father improved his lot. This is well recorded by wiser writers than I!! As biographers of both sailors have produced vast records of their naval conquests. Nelson's to Trafalger and Hoste's to the end of the Napoleonic wars. Hoste became known as "The Lord of the Adriatic" as it was here and in the south that his legacy still lives.

Just before Trafalger, considering that Hoste was too young for battle, Nelson despatched Hoste on "Bullion Duty" to deliver enemy plunder to British allies. Had Hoste fallen at Trafalger the Adriatic ports of Corfu and the Dalmatian Islands would have never been introduced to the British sport of Cricket! My best sport at St. Michael's was cricket – it must be in the genes!

So, to sum up, just 6 years ago I discovered my family link with Ingoldsthorpe that extends back some 326 years and a little time before the founding of St. Michael's School. How about that then?

Thanks are due to our Editor for the trust placed on an eager 'young' journo. Also to our President who seems to know everyone. On sending a draft of this article to our Editor, I received an email from Simon telling me he knew the owners of the Old Hall and had visited them just two weeks previously. Due to this contact, I visited Tony and Carol Keene after the 2012 OMA Reunion and a whole new chapter of family research has been opened.

Tony and Carol made me very welcome as we all tossed around vital data applicable to research known and I think I found the actual room at the Old Hall where Dixon Hoste signed the arrest warrants in 1784.

Thank you for helping me share this family data with you all.

Jeremy Spalding

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Bob & Michael Calver

To All Old Michaelian's

Many thanks to all of you who replied so promptly to your OMA Membership renewal reminders. If you have not yet done so, a reply would be appreciated as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, we have some OM's who have made no contact whatsoever recently. There may be various reasons for this breakdown in communication such as moving house and keeping the Association up to date with any change in email address. Please could I remind you to forward any changes in your circumstances to the Membership Secretary so that the contact listing can be kept up to date and, thus, we can continue to keep in contact with you. Thank you. Our financial state is such that during the past few years we have been able to subsidise the Annual OMA Reunion Dinner in favour of our Members and their partners and we hope to be able to continue this practise in the future.

Now a plea from the Association Treasurer.

Please remember to make all cheques payable to the Old Michaelian Association and NOT to the OMA. Banks are very fussy these days!

Thanks.

For the last few years it has been my pleasure to receive bookings for the Association Reunion Dinner. This year, as you already are aware, is a very special year as we celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of our Association and the OMA Committee is expecting the Dinner to be well attended. For this function, the number of people who we are able to confirm a place for Dinner in the Palace Suite of the Le Strange Arms Hotel will be strictly controlled and, as a consequence, all bookings received by me will be numbered as they are received. It is therefore important that each booking is sent directly to me.

For those OM's who live abroad, an email will suffice with payment expected on arrival please.

I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion weekend.

Ruth Chilvers (nee Peckover) m.chilvers@virgin.net

In January 2013 David Winter sent a moving and heartfelt poem that he asked could be considered for publication in 'The Mitre' and, since that time, I have spoken with David again to ensure that this is still his request. So, it is with enormous pride, emotion and pleasure that, with the full permission of David Winter, we publish the following:



David Winter

I'm not Dying, I haven't the Time

By

David Winter

***Only twelve months, you have got to be joking. I haven't got time to die
I'm a Carer not a Caree and she must come first
And she has got longer to live
I can't go yet, I'm still fairly young
I have so much more I want to give
I've spent years stretching a day to twenty five hours
So, I can stretch a year by some too
I'll fight this cruel cancer right up to the end
I'll beat it! (or die in the fight)
I'll be fighting until they "box" me in***

23.

***And still I'll hammer to come out
Twelve months? If I'm lucky
Like Hell! You'll hear me shout
But in a quieter voice I will thank all those
Who are there to help me out
I can't fight alone this insidious beast
That wants to take me away
Be by my side, even when I hurt
And I will win this deadly fight
I will see a new dawn rise in my life
At the end of this darkest night
Twelve months to live? You're joking. I haven't the time to die
I've got things to do and places to see
So, you understand, I'll be busy. I must away
So, I leave with a farewell, yes, see you soon
But never will I say, 'Goodbye'***

David McMahon-Winter (January 2013)



The Old Michaelian Association has always, and I hope, will always look after colleagues and friends who we have all been associated with through the Association. It was with a little concern that there was an absent place setting at the 2012 Reunion Dinner that is usually occupied by Tom Healey.

I had the pleasure of chatting with Tom earlier this year on the telephone and I am delighted to report that Tom has now recovered from his health issues and is fighting his way back to full fitness again with the help of a new electric wheel chair! Ed

Why St. Michael's?

There must be several reasons for coming to St. Michael's School. In my case it was desperation.

I have been handicapped since birth and in the 1950's handicapped youngsters were sent to special schools where they learned simple tasks since it was considered they would not be able to join the ordinary workforce. My parents disagreed with this and sent me to normal schools. Unfortunately, being different meant that I did not fit in or, because I changed schools so often, I did not make too many friends. Most of my 'out of school' time was spent in the local Library.

The result of all of this was that I failed my 11+

My parents, having run out of options, turned to the LCC for advice. The first boarding school I attended was in Somerset. This did not work out due to endemic bullying. Due to this and other school changes my parents decided to find another school placement for me.

My next school was between Haslemere and Hindhead in Surrey and the school was owned by two elderly German Ladies. Who actually managed the school is debateable and the extent of bullying and lack of academic opportunity meant I was stuck in a class below the examination class. The school suddenly closed due to the retirement of the owners.

So, at 16 years I found myself once again without a school. The LCC found it difficult to find a suitable placement and suggested a school in a remote area as a temporary measure. The school in question was totally inappropriate and, although this was the only option at the time, this school turned out to be different to anything I had ever contemplated ever before.

That was how I came to St. Michael's School and, not only did I stay for two enjoyable years, but I proudly passed two 'O' level in subjects that were only introduced to me after I started at St. Michael's. I learned to drive and improved in many other ways.

Thanks Tom. We all look forward to welcoming you back to the 2013 OMA Reunion weekend in October. Ed.

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United Kingdom Government Health Care Proposals

The British Medical Association has weighed in on Prime Minister David Cameron's proposals as follows:

- **The Allergists voted to scratch it**
- **The Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves**
- **The Gastroenterologists had a sort of gut feeling about it**
- **The Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve**
- **The Obstetricians felt they were all labouring under a misconception**
- **The Ophthalmologists considered the idea to be short-sighted**
- **Pathologists yelled: *"Over my dead body!"***
- **The Paediatricians said: *"Oh, Grow up!"***
- **The Psychiatrist thought the whole idea was madness**
- **The Radiologists could see right through it**
- **The ENT Specialists didn't swallow it**
- **The Pharmacologists thought it a bitter pill to swallow**
- **The Podiatrists thought it a step forward**
- **The Urologists were pissed off with the whole idea**

We are grinding our way slowly towards the end of yet another riveting 'Mitre' but this annual OMA publication would not be complete without a word of two from our President, Simon Pott.

Before I lay the way clear for Simon to include his article, on behalf of our Chairman, Association Officers and all of the Association Committee, I think it is appropriate and proper to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to Simon and his lovely wife Jenny, for being such super Hosts for our Spring Committee Meeting at their gorgeous home in Bury St. Edmunds. After a long and weary UK winter we very nearly had a 100% attendance this year and it is reported that one Committee Member even arrived in Bury St. Edmunds chauffeured in a 'Lincoln' Stretch Limo! Whatever next!!! Ed



Simon Pott

Dear Fellow Old Michaelian's,

The Diamond Jubilee of the Old Michaelian Association is upon us this year and coincides with 2/3rds of a Century since the School was opened in 1946.

Your inventive Association Committee are looking for future milestones but I anticipate that the Centenary will be beyond most of us and it is therefore important to celebrate the present and we are hoping for a super turnout at Old Hunstanton for the Diamond Anniversary Dinner on

Saturday 26 October 2013 together with the Jubilee Eucharist at Ingoldisthorpe Church on the following day.

The Association has received tremendous support from Old Michaelian's over the sixty years and Members have given great service in keeping alive the spirit created by the Headmaster and other members of the teaching and domestic staff.

The stories told over the years have been funny, sad and frequently outrageous but the humour and endeavour of former pupils continues.

Do have a look at the Web Site (www.oma.org.uk) for The Old Michaelian Association and see for yourselves the remarkable number of people who stay in touch and I hope you will make every effort to join us all at the end of October and I can even promise you an extra hour in bed the next morning!

**Yours
Simon**

Nearly there! However, a comment or three from our Association Chairman would, I believe, make this publication complete. It took a little encouragement but the prospect of a wad of money always seems to do the trick!! Ed



Fellow Old Michaelian's,

It is traditional for the Editor of 'The Mitre' to invite comment from the Association President and the Association Chairman for each edition and I must register my apologies to Wally for my very late contribution.

When I was invited to take another term of office as Chairman, after about a ten year break, not only was I thrilled to have the opportunity but I must also admit that it immediately crossed my mind that I would have the honour and pleasure of communicating with you all over this very special year in our Association's history.

Someone, who must remain nameless but someone who you all know very well, did offer me the following advice: *"If you are going to be involved in the Anniversary celebrations, ensure you are the Chairman or the President and gather around you a good Committee to do the work"*.

I can assure you that we have an excellent Committee who are making extreme efforts to guarantee that the Diamond Anniversary Reunion weekend over 26 & 27 October 2013 will be very special. Whether you attend all or part of the Reunion weekend, regularly or not, we are all working hard to ensure that no one will be disappointed.

This is going to be a 'biggy' and it is at times such as this that our thoughts and thanks should go out to those OM's who made all of this possible and who have worked so hard to ensure the smooth management of the Association over the past 60 years. We all owe them a huge 'THANK YOU'.

Additionally, the Committee continue to be focussed on more routine Association business to make certain that your Association is kept healthy, buoyant and managed in such a way that we can guarantee the survival of the Association for as long as possible.

Out of curiosity, I was interested to know how many OM's might attend the Anniversary Reunion weekend. I therefore embarked on a trawl of the Reunion Visitors Book, that the Association started in 1992, to establish how many faces we have seen over the past twenty years!

This exercise, that includes the Memorial Service for the Headmaster held in 1993, revealed we have welcomed nearly 200 people. Many have attended regularly, some less frequently and, sadly, some only attended the Memorial Service. I do not envisage seeing all these OM's at the Anniversary Reunion weekend this year but it would be great if we did. It also proves that we still maintain a solid Association for the years ahead. Amongst the names I came across were a few who, sadly, are no longer with us but who contributed to the Association through their own loyal membership.

On a personal note, there are some names missing from the list who I would very much like to meet again, even after 50 years!! I would ask all of you, who are attending this October, to try and locate another OM, who you may not have contacted for some time, and encourage him/her to come along and join in the fun during the Anniversary Reunion weekend.

Our Anniversary Reunion Eucharist on the Sunday morning at Ingoldisthorpe will be very special and I am delighted to confirm that David Ratcliff has accepted our invitation to be our Celebrant and, additionally, Jonathan Russell has agreed to play the organ.

This is an apt opportunity to offer 'Thanks' from the Old Michaelian Association to the Vicar and Parishioners of Ingoldisthorpe for continuing to allow our Association to use their church for prayer and thanksgiving. In closing, I hope to see many of you as individuals, or together with your partners, at some time over the last weekend in October in Old Hunstanton and I do highly recommend you complete the Booking Form as soon as possible to secure your place at the Anniversary Reunion Dinner.

**Very Best Wishes
Bob Hill**

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A Final few Words from the Editor

We do completely understand that, due to distance and personal circumstances, it may not be possible for individual OM's to make the journey to Old Hunstanton towards the end of October.

However, if you would wish to make a contribution to the festivities, fun and banter at the Anniversary Reunion Dinner, please do not hesitate to send in your contributions and we will make sure they are included during the evening.

All contributions may be made directly to me, John Wallington, via the following email address: hinckleytowers@btinternet.com Thank you.



OMA 2013

Diamond Anniversary

Dinner

Booking Form

**Would you please reserve me.....number of places for
the 2013 OMA Diamond Anniversary Reunion Dinner on
Saturday 26 October 2013**

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 cheques payable to “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**

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