

The Mitre 2010

Welcome to another blockbuster edition of 'The Mitre'.

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In the 2010 Newsletter, published last March, I promised yet another mammoth, alive and kicking 'Mitre' this year and, 'Yes', once more the Association has delivered.

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As I begin to write this Editorial for 'The Mitre' the subject of *time* springs to mind since by the time you all get to read the contents of the 2010 'Mitre' many important events will have already taken place. The Government have announced the date of the General Election and as soon as the Election campaign started, a massive volcano erupted in Iceland causing chaos to everyone who intended to fly anywhere all over Europe. (and elsewhere). On a lighter note, Cambridge won the University Boat Race this year ('*nice one Cambridge*') and the United Kingdom is limping slowly but surely from the coldest winter months for 31 years and into some warmer spring weather.

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But, a touch of positivity is needed at this stage. Whatever the outcome of the General Election, no matter how long the skies above our heads remain free from flying aircraft, you all know you can rely on 'The Mitre' to put a smile on your face and this year we are delighted to include some stunning articles from members from all over the World. And that is exactly what 'The Mitre' is all about. A communication tool to connect all our members from all quarters of the Globe.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member who has contributed to 'The Mitre' this year to help make this annual publication a success each and every year.

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I hope you enjoy every page, every article and every amusing tale. There is an empty page just waiting to be filled by your own article so why not put pen to paper and start writing in readiness for the 2011 issue.

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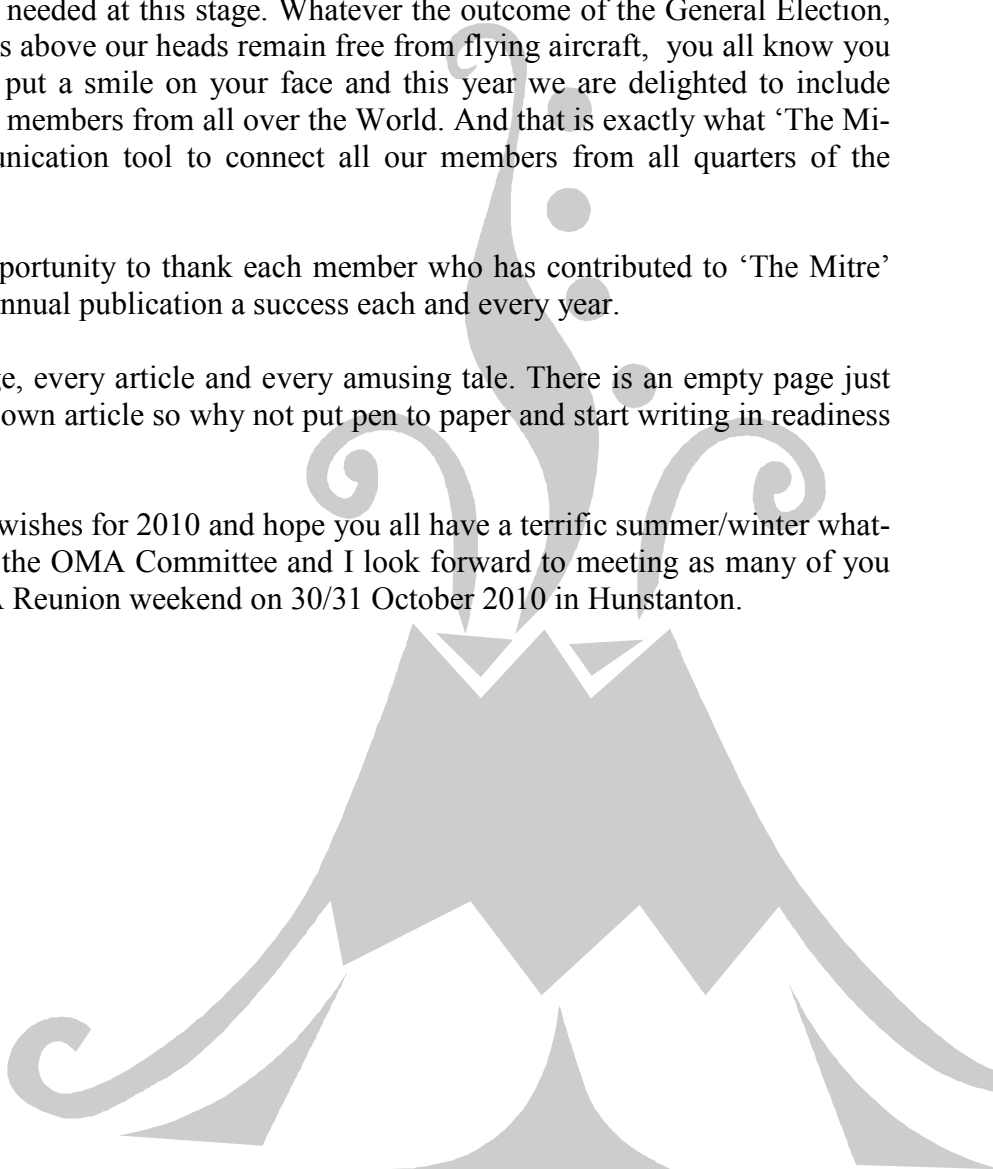
I send you all my very best wishes for 2010 and hope you all have a terrific summer/winter whatever you will be doing and the OMA Committee and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the next OMA Reunion weekend on 30/31 October 2010 in Hunstanton.

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Best Wishes to you all

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The 2009 OMA Reunion weekend took place last October over the weekend of 24/25 October 2009 at the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton.



I wrote at length about our annual event in the OMA Newsletter this year but there is still some detail that some of our members may not be aware.

Your Association devoted the whole of the 2009 Reunion celebrating the centenary of the birth of Roger Pott. With the full approval of the Pott family, we celebrated in style as our late Headmaster would have expected and we were delighted to welcome back to Old Hunstanton Old Michaelian's from throughout the UK and from all over the World.

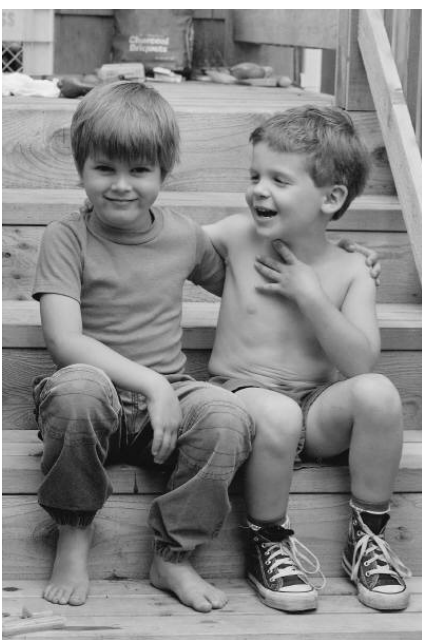
On behalf of our President Simon Pott, our Chairman Geraldine Ellison and all OMA Committee Members, please accept our sincere thanks for your contribution to what we have all decided was one of our most successful Reunions.

The OMA Annual General Meeting took place during the Saturday afternoon and was very well attended. Officially the Association reluctantly accepted the resignation of John King as Association Secretary and later within this publication the Association will be offering our sincere '**Thanks**' to John for his enthusiasm and professionalism working on behalf of the Association for many years.

The good news is that members voted unanimously in favour of John Worboys who was nominated as the new Association Secretary and we all wish John a huge "Good Luck" in this demanding role.

I have personally known John for well over 50 years and, well before we both set foot onto St Michaels School turf, and I am extremely confident that John will work tirelessly on behalf of the Association.

Our Reunion Dinner on the Saturday evening was a great success and, as I mentioned in the Newsletter, we were joined by both new and old faces from near and far.



It is relevant and proper at this point to offer a sincere apology to our colleagues 'down under' representing the OMAA. It was a tremendous gesture on their part to arrange for two bottles of Australian wine, to be made available by the Hotel Management, as their contribution to the annual OMA raffle. Now, mysteriously, neither bottle of wine made it to the OMA Reunion Dinner and this investigation is still on-going by our Chairman and the Hotel Management to establish exactly what did happen to the two bottles of wine. This is, however, an appropriate time to send our very best wishes to the OMAA members and thank them sincerely for their generosity and kind gesture.

Jenny Pott baked, decorated and presented the most pleasing Birthday Cake and it is possible to view photographs of the cake along with many other photographs taken by a representative from the Lynn News and Advertiser and those of you with access to a PC may be able to access the Lynn News Web Site and search under '**Your Big Event**'. Failing that, have a look at the many photographs submitted to our Web Site Editor **Bill Cullin** and published in the OMA Web Site at www.oma.org.uk

The annual OMA Reunion Eucharist took place at Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church on the Sunday morning and we were once again delighted to welcome so many Old Michaelians and local parishioners to our very special service. Roger Wikeley agreed to be our Celebrant ably assisted by Jonathan Russell. And to add even more class to our Eucharist we persuaded Ben Gunner to tickle the ivories on the organ.

During the Eucharist we were all treated to a performance by Genevieve and Olivia Pott who sang '*Panis Angelicus*'. The composure, professionalism and quality of singing by Genevieve and Olivia was a real pleasure to witness and, on behalf of the Association, we send our best wishes and grateful 'Thanks' to them both and we look forward to welcoming them back again in the very near future.

Old Michaelians are some of the most generous people I have had the pleasure in meeting and when it was announced at the Eucharist that the Parish Church of Ingoldisthorpe was in dire need of funds to repair/replace the existing hot water boiler, hands were thrust a little deeper into the pockets and I am delighted to report that £300 was raised during the collection on the day. If I may, I would like to share the following article that appeared in The Three Parishes Magazine (Three-In-One) in December 2009:

'On Sunday 25 October the Old Michaelians held their Annual Reunion Service at St Michael's Ingoldisthorpe in the Centenary year of the birth of the Revd. Canon Roger Pott who was the Founder and Head Teacher for many years. Aware of the prospect that the Church Heating Boiler will soon need replacing they gave their generous Gift-Aided Collection amounting to some £300 to the fund. The PCC at St Micheal's are very grateful for this donation'

So, once again, another OMA Reunion came to an end. Angela and I ferried Michael Barnes back to Kings Lynn Station where, undoubtedly, he was able to engage again with a bacon butty from the Buffet before returning back to London, and everyone else went their separate ways with happy memories until we do the same thing again on the 30/31 October 2010.



A Perfect Setting

Interesting Facts!!!

The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% of the World's oxygen supply

Brazil was named after the nut, not the other way around

Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country

As you all now know, our dear colleague John King has decided to ease down a tad or two and is no longer our Association Secretary. Over the years, John has also been responsible for the ever growing collection of school photographs and memorabilia that ex-pupils have donated to this cause over the years and this is displayed each year at the OMA Reunion weekend and we know how much pleasure this gives to our Members.

In addition to this collection, our Web Site Editor, Bill Cullin, has also collated an enormous number of photographs for the pleasure of our Members on-line. www.oma.org.uk

The Association is still in need of any relevant photographs that serve to keep reminding us of days long gone and time 'served' at St Michael's School and if you are having a delve in the attic or happen to come across a collection, or the odd photograph hidden away in a drawer somewhere, we would be delighted to display it/them along with all of the others.



Some of the most iconic photographs that were ever produced by the school were the long sweeping photographs of the whole school assembly and, although it is true that the Association has managed to find copies of most year photographs, there is still one year that we are without. It is 1964. If any of our Members do have a copy of the 1964 school photograph, would you please make yourself known to us and we will arrange to have the photograph copied. Thank you.

Food for Thought

The next time you hear a Politician use the word 'Billion' in a casual manner, think about the following facts and figures.....



- ♣ A Billion seconds ago it was 1959
- ♣ A Billion minutes ago Jesus Christ was alive
- ♣ A Billion hours ago our Ancestors were living in the Stone Age
- ♣ A Billion days ago no one walked on the earth on two feet





'It was with enormous pleasure that, back in April, I opened my email file and found an article sent by our very dear friend and Old Michaelian David McMahon-Winter all the way from Australia. I can share with all of you the fact that David's wife Vera has been a little poorly recently and David himself has not enjoyed the best of health. And that makes the effort that David has provided, in full support of the OMA, so much appreciated. Thank you David'. Ed.

Cast your mind back to cold mornings when getting out of bed was a chore, when even the rickety old bunk beds at Gresham House were bliss and going out into the frosty air to board the Chieftain, a Herculean achievement. The heady smell of the ether spray and, with a cough and a huge cloud of acrid diesel smoke, you were on your way to breakfast at Ingoldisthorpe. Perhaps you had a transistor radio with its earplugs stuck in your ears under a scarf as you tried to ward off the effects of Hyperthermia and across the wavelengths came the words, *"Hope I die before I get old!"*.

Fast forward to the present. You are old! But nothing has changed, for me at least.

I still wake up with the feeling that it's too damn cold to get out of bed. Once awake, up out of bed and attempting to start my old car, I have the cold, fog and driving along dark country roads, up steep hills 'til I



arrive at my destination for breakfast. And, Yes, even some mornings with a smell of ether from the can of *"Start Ya Bastard"* (a well known brand of easy start here in Oz) that helps a reluctant engine to fire into life on a few more cylinders than its owner. And the breakfast? Not lumpy porridge but Radio as I take the weekend breakfast show on Community Radio 2MCE in Bathurst, New South Wales. I get to select the music and play..... *"People try to put us down"*..... *"Hope I die before I get old"*. The brain sparks back into life and I smile. I am sure I am similar to many other Old Michaelian's who find themselves with a busier life now whilst in retirement than they did when in full time paid employment.

My typical week includes marking theological student's assignments, Community Radio, Local theatre group involvement, Church services, Medical appointments and being a Carer for my beloved wife Vera, Carer advocacy and support and helping my daughter cope with her three young children. I can then add the usual chore such as chopping fire wood, looking after Red Marauder, a retired racehorse and walks in the bush among the Wallabies, Kangaroos and lots of snakes and other charming Australian livestock! *"Hope I die before I get old?"*..... *"I haven't got the time Sport"*.

David McMahon-Winter (Chris Winter) 1963/66



PS

2MCE can be heard on the World Wide Web on www.2mce.org and you are able to live stream. My shows are broadcast Saturday & Sundays between 07:00 – 09:00 Australian Eastern standard time. And also on the second Saturday night of each month for Saturday Night Jukebox between 18:00 – 22:00 AEST.

The OMA Reunion weekend this year will take place over the **30/31 October 2010** and the venue will be, as usual, the Le Strange Arms Hotel, Old Hunstanton.

What can I inform you about the weekend arrangements that you do not already know?

Not a lot.....but for the benefit of those Old Michaelian's who will be joining us for the first time, let us go over some of the detail so there is no misunderstandings.

The Detail

Some, if not all of the OMA Committee Members attempt to meet in the Hotel Bar at some stage during the Friday evening before selecting a suitable venue for Dinner. If any Old Michaelian's, together with your partners, would like to join us, you will be made most welcome. The Committee will be wearing name badges so we will be able to be recognised very easily.

Saturday 30th October 2010

The whole OMA Reunion weekend kicks off in regular fashion when we all meet for a lunchtime drink in the Mariners Bar attached to the main Hotel. We usually muster in the downstairs Bar and the Committee will be organising OMA notices onto some of the tables. If you are a 'new comer' to an OMA Reunion weekend, you will be spotted by one of the Committee and made to feel very welcome alongside some of the 'Old Timers'.

At 15:30 the whole of the Reunion assembly moves from the Mariners Bar to the Palace Suite in time for the Annual General Meeting. We hope that as many of you as possible will find the time to attend the AGM because it is here that the future of your Association is discussed and shaped.

Complimentary afternoon tea will be served afterwards and it is at this stage that we invite all partners of Old Michaelian's to join us.

Reunion Dinner

It is worth mentioning at this stage that the full photographic exhibition, as mentioned previously, will be on display in the Palace Suite throughout the day for everyone to enjoy.

This is always one of the highlights of the whole weekend and we all hope that as many Old Michaelian's and partners will be able to join us during the evening.

The whole event commences with Pre-Dinner drinks in the Palace Suite at **19:00**. Everyone will be welcomed by the '**Welcoming Committee**' and wine and soft drinks will be made available to all Members and partners and, similar to previous years, the Committee will be offering a free drink to everyone attending the OMA Reunion Dinner.

The OMA Reunion Dinner will commence at **19:45**.

Your Association Committee have, once again, negotiated the very best price covering the individual cost of securing a place at the Reunion Dinner and we know that you will be delighted to note that we will be charging a very reasonable **£24.00 per person**.

"What other delights may I expect to enjoy throughout the evening?" I hear you ask.....

Well, not only will you all be fed extremely well, and pampered by the professionalism and service offered by the Hotel staff, but you will also be well entertained throughout the evening especially by our President, Simon Pott, who always presents a highly entertaining after-dinner speech for us all to enjoy. Then there is the heavily advertised raffle providing everyone the opportunity to win some staggeringly high quality prizes. Yes, once more the Committee Ladies will be visiting each and every table and offering all kinds of incentives for you to dig deep into pockets and purses to relieve you of your hard earned cash!!

At the back of 'The Mitre' you will find a Reunion Dinner Booking Form. Please use this form to book your place at the Dinner as soon as possible because this will enable us to plan the evening well in advance with the Hotel Management.

Sunday 31st October 2010 The clocks go back and British Summer Time will come to an end but this will enable everyone to enjoy an extra hour in bed before breakfast.

Our Reunion Eucharist at Ingoldisthorpe Parish Church will commence at **11:00** and we hope that as many of you as possible will find the time to attend. At the time of writing, it is not yet known who will be the Celebrant but it is hoped that this will be an Old Michaelian once again. This is always a very special and traditional part of our weekend and, as one of our contributors has already mentioned, the opportunity to study a little more carefully the structure and furniture that makes St. Michael's Parish Church Ingoldisthorpe such a special place for all Old Michaelian's

The Committee Ladies will be preparing and serving tea, coffee, soft drinks and light refreshments at the back of the church after the Eucharist and this also provides an additional opportunity to chat with 'old' friends before the journey back home.

Those Old Michaelian's who are in no rush to leave Norfolk may care to return back to Heacham and join a few hardy souls for lunch at the Lavender Farm.

On behalf of the President, Chairman and all Committee Members, we all hope that as many of you as possible will be able to find the time to attend the OMA Reunion Weekend on:

30/31 OCTOBER 2010



A young Aussie lad moved to London and went to Harrods looking for a job. The Manager asked, “Do you have any Sales experience?”.

The lad replied, *Yeah, I was a Salesman back home in Dubbo*”.

The Manager liked the Aussie so he gave him the job.

After Harrods closed at the end of the day, the Manager came down from his office and asked the Aussie lad, “Okay, so how many sales did you make today?”.

The Aussie replied, “One”.

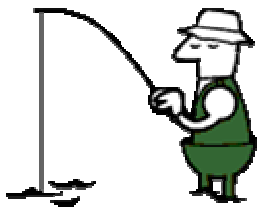
The Manager groaned and told the lad, “Just one! Our Sales people average 20 – 30 sales a day. What was the total value of your single sale today?”.

“£124,237.64” replied the lad.

The Manager choked and exclaimed, “£124,237.64. What the Hell did you sell him?”.

“Well, first I sold him a small fish hook, then a medium fish hook and after that I sold him a fishing rod. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he told me down the coast so I told him he would need a boat, so we went down to the Boat Department and I sold him a twin-engine Power Cat. Then the man asked me if his Honda Civic would tow the Power Cat and in the Car Sales Department I sold him a 4X4”.

The Manager said, “You mean to tell me, a guy walked into our store to buy a fish hook and you sold him a Power Cat and a 4X4?”



“No, no, no.....he came into Harrods to buy a box of Tampons for his wife and I said, well, since your weekend is completely screwed up, you may as well go fishing!”



I am sure that all of our Members will appreciate that I find this part of 'The Mitre' the most difficult to write and this year is no exception. Please remember the following Old Michaelian's in your prayers who are no longer able to join us but remain in our thoughts for ever.

John Tweedy Smith

Died on 7 April 2010 aged 71

Attended St. Michael's School between 1946 – 1951

Tony George

Died November 2009

Attended St. Michael's School between 1952 – 1955

Peter John Best

Died 4 September 2009 aged 64

Attended St. Michael's School between 1954 – 1963

Page Clowser

Died June 2010 aged 72

Attended St. Michael's School between 1947—1956

We offer our sincere condolences to all family and friends of the above named. They will never be forgotten.

***In Memory of Clare Adams, a lifelong friend
of the Old Michaelian Association.***

Died 25 April 2010

***Clare was Banqueting Manager of the Le
Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton for
many years and her continuing support and
help of the OMA enabled us to run a trouble
free and professionally Managed
Reunion at the Le Strange Arms
Hotel for many years.***

***We offer our sincere
condolences and sympathy
to her partner John
and daughter
Jane.***





*I sense there is a tiny Australian theme going through this edition of 'The Mitre' because, in April, I received this super contribution from our dear friend and Old Michaelian **Richard Munge**. Many thanks, Richard, and we all look forward to welcoming you and Angela back to Hunstanton in the very near future. Ed.*

On reaching retirement, there is one single question to ask – “*What are you going to do with all the spare time?*”

After a short time, it was very obvious that retirement is not full of spare time. It is one of doing the things that you have wanted to do for many years but never really had the time. And so it was for me. Yes, we would go on trips to lands near and far, tend the garden, carry out house repairs as needed rather than putting them off until you had a spare moment/hour/day or calling in a tradesperson, play some golf, help the family as and when needed, listen to music/go to ‘live’ performances and get involved in various volunteer and church activities.

Ever since my very young years I have enjoyed and had an interest in music, but more particularly church/choral/organ music and jazz. A local radio station in Sydney, **2MBS FM (“Station”)** run by volunteers, devotes most of its broadcasting time to classical music and jazz and I listen to this Station frequently. The radio station has been operating for 35 years and, with a wide range of enthusiastic volunteers from different backgrounds and great knowledge on various aspects of music, has given enjoyment to Sydney and regional listeners. Now, with the recently extended internet service, the Station broadcasts worldwide. The Station is also a valuable participant in Sydney’s fine music scene encouraging Australian compositions and performers.

After I retired I was listening one Sunday to their weekly program ‘Evensong’ and realised that the lady presenter seemed a little hesitant in her introductions. This was most unusual. Coincidentally, I subsequently met a former work colleague who was telling me about a radio station who involved themselves in volunteer programming work and ‘Yes’, it was 2MBS FM. I mentioned to my colleague about the lady presenter and he explained to me that she is nearly blind, in her late 80’s, did most of the presentation from memory of the music and knowledge of choirs and was prompted by another person who operated the studio.

“Is there anything that I can do to assist her?” I asked.

After a short while I was invited to attend an interview by the Station and to meet this very English lady presenter who was the voice of Evensong every Sunday and known to a wide audience and during these discussions I was asked if I could help by preparing the programme scripts but so long as it was prepared in **BOLD PRINT 24/26 FONT SIZE**.

I was told that I would be advised of CD tracks selected, timing allowed for introductions, back announcements and words from the sponsors, all to be squeezed into a one hour time slot.

The deed was done. I started work at the Station immediately. Writing about music I had sung at Canterbury, St. Michael’s and other choirs was a whole new world to me and I continued in this supporting role until, unfortunately, the health of the lady presenter began to deteriorate and, with much sadness, she passed away quite suddenly two years later. The Station management decided to continue a similar style of programming under a new title “Hosanna”. The music form would still be sacred and a small team of programmers/presenters would be led by the former head of the Royal School of Church Music in Australia. Three other people would make up the team of four to present this weekly program. Another lady who has a great interest in church music, a guy from the North of England, who I had already worked with and I was also invited to join this select group of people. So, back to 2MBS FM I went but this time it would be different – a programmer and presenter in my own right.

After various voice trials, studio training, given a list of “do’s” and “do not’s” together with a general understanding of the vast array of equipment, I submitted a 30 minute recording for review by the Programming Committee. I was then invited to complete an application to become a programmer/presenter for the Station and, in particularly, for the programme ‘Hosanna’.

This was a new world for me and a steep learning curve. Sitting alone in a studio with lights, speakers, head phones, a mass of switches, a stack of recording machines, meters indicating the loudness of the broadcast voice and the variable volume of the music was, to say the least, a little concerning. And if that was not enough to worry about, I had an audience I could not see!! This was a far cry from singing in a choir where one had an immediate feedback from the choir master and could see the reactions of the congregation or your fellow choristers.

At least three months before each scheduled programme, I get to select the music, trying to remember each and every religious festival/national event, prepare a programme schedule and submit it for approval. Only after all of these procedures have been completed am I allowed to present the programme. I have now been with the Station as a presenter for three years and the enjoyment is growing.

I now have a regular spot on the fifth Sunday in the month (when that occurs) and, with filling in for other presenters, means that I get to air about 8 – 10 times each year. My next confirmed scheduled 'Hosanna' programmes are on 30 May and 29 August and include music by composers Stanford, Bairstow, Wood, Vaughan Williams and others. This programme goes to air on Sundays at 17:00 (local time) and can be heard on www.2mbs.com.au

Retirement, therefore, is the time in life to enjoy yourself. Like many others, I sometimes wonder how I ever had the time to go to proper work!!! My best wishes to you all and please let me know if you do listen to our programmes.

Richard Munge





In the Spotlight this year for 'The Mitre' is our very dear friend of the Association, Michael Fleming. For some unknown reason the Committee refused to finance my travel expenses down to South Africa so I could carry out the interview with Michael, so I had to resort to managing the interview with Michael 'live' via Skype! I hope you thoroughly enjoy the following article. Ed.

JW. My sincere thanks, Michael, to your agreement to contribute to 'The Mitre' this year and agreeing to take part in this interview. Could I begin by asking you where you were born?

MP. Derby. My Grandfather had a Pork Butchers shop on Derby market. He used to sit me in the shop window eating a pork pie to advertise the high quality products!

JW. We all know your brother David but do you have any other brothers or sisters?

MP. I am the eldest child followed by my brother David. David and I have a younger sister born in 1942 who currently lives in West Virginia and a younger brother who is a qualified QC practising in London.

JW. What circumstances led your parents to choose St. Michael's School?

MP. All of this is a little foggy to say the least since, in those days, it was a case of doing as you were told and not to question the decision. All I can remember is that, my father being a curate at Ashover, Derbyshire was aware that my Prep School education was not going quite to plan and I suspect that St. Michael's School was recommended from 'word of mouth'.

JW. What year did you start at St. Michael's and what were your first impressions?

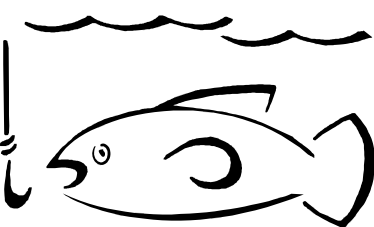
MP. I think it was 1948 and I believe that David started a term later.

JW. What did you like best about your new school?

MP. Freedom! Compared to my previous school, everything was so different. I suppose in a word I found happiness.

JW. Okay. Well, what did you dislike about the school?

MP. I have thought about this question and the only sensible answer I can give you is the fact that Rugby was not played at the school. Having said that, I really had no idea I would become such a fanatic of Rugby in later life. Oh yes! Fish on Friday was not something I easily accepted.



JW. Did you have a favourite teacher?

MP. Without a doubt I did.....Henry Taylor. He was such a softy. My favourite subject was English. I think I was the perfect candidate to advance into an Engineering career because I was so interested in English Language, English Literature, History and Maths. But my favourite subject was English. I remember how I

used to love to hear Henry Taylor read plays out loud to the class.

JW. What year did you leave St. Michael's?

MP. 1953. Soon after my departure from St. Michael's the Old Michaelian Association was born and I am proud of the fact that I was elected the first Chairman of the Association along with Pat Frost (nee Dove) who was the Association Secretary.

JW. How would you describe your career since leaving St. Michael's?

MP. Very satisfying and very enjoyable. Your predecessor, Martin Graville, kindly published an article I wrote for 'The Mitre' in 2005 describing my career in detail. I know this is still available for retrieval if anyone is interested in the content. www.oma.org.uk

JW. Where did you meet your wife Doreen?

MP. We met at Butlins Holiday Camp and we have been married 52 years.

JW. What makes you laugh?

MP. John Cleese

JW. Who is/are your favourite Actor/actress?

MP. Judy Dench & John Mills

JW. What is the best thing about living in South Africa?

MP. The weather and the wine! It is our home and somewhere where both Doreen and I are extremely happy. Our son and his family live nearby but our daughter and her family live in Washington DC.

JW. How important is the Old Michaelian Association to you?

MP. Very important. Especially the annual publication of 'The Mitre'. It is almost unbelievable that the Association has survived for so long and, when I and other Old Michaelian's managed the birth of the OMA in 1953, we had no idea that in 2010 we would still be so involved. The Association allows the innocence of reminiscence and the memory of youth. I think it is wonderful that so many people give up so much of their time to ensure that the Association ticks over year on year. Now is the time to say 'Thank you' to everyone who is so actively involved.



Thank you Michael for your continuing contributions to the Association. Thank you for agreeing to this interview for 'The Mitre' and we look forward to welcoming you and Doreen back to Hunstanton in the very near future. Ed.



Pat Dove

Mike Fleming

Roger Pott

I mentioned a little earlier the fact that, regrettably, the Association has accepted the resignation as Association Secretary of our very dear colleague and friend John King.

It would be remiss of me if I were not to find time and space within this publication to say to John King, on behalf of the whole Association, a huge **‘THANK YOU’** for his dedication, professionalism and time spent over some considerable years as Association Secretary.

Without a doubt, John has fulfilled all expectations in his role as Secretary, and more besides, and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

John will continue to contribute his vast experience from the ‘back benches’ and will remain a prominent member of the OMA Committee.

Over the years, those of you who attend the annual OMA Reunion weekend will already know about the magnificent Photographic display that is available for viewing in the Palace Suite of the Le Strange Arms Hotel. This collection of photographs and memorabilia has been managed by John King over the years and still the collection increases in size.

I know that everyone associated with the OMA will want to join with me in thanking John for helping to make the Association into the strong and important link for all Old Michelian’s all over the World.



Baptism

A man is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a Preacher baptising people in the river. He walks towards the riverbank and into the water and bumps into the Preacher.

“Are you ready to find Jesus?” The Preacher asks, almost overcome by the smell of alcohol.

‘Yes, I am’ replies the drunk.

So the Preacher grabs hold of him and dunks him into the water. As he pulls him back up out of the water he asks the drunk, **“Brother, have you found Jesus?”**

The drunk replies, ‘No, I haven’t found Jesus’

The Preacher is a little shocked at the answer so he grabs the drunk for a second time and dunks him back into the water for a slightly longer time.

Again the Preacher pulls the drunk back out of the water and asks,

“Have you found Jesus my Brother?”

A breathless and confused drunk replies, ‘No, I haven’t found Jesus’.

By this time the Preacher is at his wits end, grabs hold of the drunk and dunks him back into the water holding him submerged until the drunk starts to kick out. As the Preacher pulls the drunk from the water he asks again,

“For the love of God, have you found Jesus?”

The drunk wipes his eyes, catches his breath, looks straight at the Preacher and says,

‘Are you sure this is where he fell in?’



*This next article contains an important message from our Association Secretary **John Worboys**. Please read carefully everything John has to say and, more importantly, please respond to John using the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope. Many Thanks, Ed*

As you probably know, I have taken over the helm as your new Association Secretary from John King as of the last Reunion AGM. I hope that I shall carry on the sterling work achieved by our retiring Secretary.

One of my first jobs is to attempt to streamline communications and cut costs. Your Association is preparing to publish all future issues of 'The Mitre' and Association Newsletter, along with important news reports, on-line within the OMA Website and, where possible, notification will be via email.

To facilitate this we will need to be kept informed of your up-to-date email addresses or, should you prefer to receive all publications in paper form and sent to you via 'snail mail, we will need to be kept informed of your current home address.

Enclosed with this publication is a Membership Survey Form which will enable you to complete and return, as soon as possible, and return to me using the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Let me emphasise and confirm that all information you supply will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be passed on to any third party outside of the Association.

Should you wish to contact me, for any reason, you can do so at 11 Saf-
fron Walk, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6GN Telephone
No. +44+(0)1789 414 656

I shall be pleased to talk with you.

Best Wishes

John Worboys
Association Secretary

I just don't believe it! Here we are preparing for another Mitre and the weekend at the end of October as we reach towards what we laughingly call Midsummers Day. Time seems to rush past so quickly but the OMA Committee works on and will produce yet another fun weekend on the 30th and 31st of October 2010.

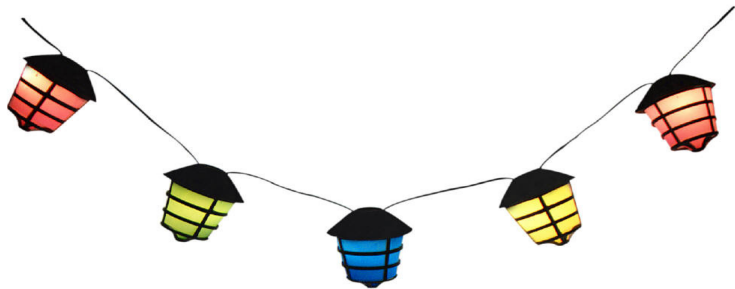


What always amazes me is the number of people who come together each year with those who have never been before. We are more or less assured of someone from each generation of the School and the remarkable collection of School photographs will be on display again with a few names added as the memory works out who these people were and what part they played at St Michael's School.

More stories will emerge as they do each year and I look forward to seeing many old Michaelians with any members of their family that they would like to bring. There will be opportunities to swop stories and particularly at the dinner to make any point about your time at the School or your life afterwards.

All are welcome but who will turn up this year for the very first time?

Simon Pott



OMA 2010 REUNION DINNER BOOKING FORM

Can you please reserve me..... number of tickets for
the 2010 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 (£24 per person) 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