



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MASS UNVEILING OF PORTRAITS

On **Friday 22nd June** we shall again be holding our annual Old Boys' Memorial Mass and Social at **8.00pm** in the school. Once again we shall



Paul reading the list of deceased Old Boys last year.

gather for a tradition that stretches back almost 30 years to remember the deceased past pupils, staff and governors of the school, and once again the list has grown since last year!

However, there will be a fairly major departure from the usual traditions this year once the Mass has finished.

Continuing the theme of remembrance, we shall be unveiling portraits of all 5 past headmasters of the school!

These were commissioned by this esteemed

Association and are being donated to the school as a mark of respect and appreciation.

The idea for this "Hall of Fame" came from discussions amongst members after the death last year of Don McGregor. We are delighted to announce that both his former companion and one of his sons are planning to attend the evening when they will also be presenting a bench for the Headmaster's Garden in his memory.



David Finnigan explains about his little known career as a *coarse* fisherman!

We are also making efforts to entice back two former incumbents of this high office, so there will be plenty of opportunity to recall with fondness your time under their tutelage and the thrashings that they gave you!



Frank Keenan & David Milne square up over who gets the last remaining case of beer

The portraits, which have all been done by a local Leigh artist, will be displayed in a prominent place within the school

After the unveiling we shall all return once again to the Concourse Area for wine, beer and the traditional buffet - the lavishness of which is well-known - providing the perfect opportunity to catch-up with old friends and remember the care-free days of yore.

This year we are delighted that our Chaplain, Father Kevin Hale from Leigh, will be presiding and will install Paul Hutchinson for his fourth term as President during the Mass.

for posterity so that future pupils and their parents may experience not only an increased sense of history and tradition within the school, but also the fear and trepidation that we all felt under their gaze!

The evening is open to ALL Old Boys, whether members of the Association or not, and their partners, so please do spread the word and be sure to attend yourself!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Concluding our series of extracts taken from the original school logbooks, we return to find the school wandering in the wilderness of Southchurch...

Only a year after he had taken up the post of Headmaster, Tony McDonald, found himself in September 1982 moving the entire school to the former Southchurch Hall School building in Ambleside Drive while the Urea Formaldehyde cavity wall insulation was stripped from our own premises.



A temporary home - now the adult education college

Fortunately for the school the former inmates of Southchurch Hall had just merged with the young ladies of Dowsett to form the new Thorpe Bay High and had all vacated to their Southchurch Boulevard site, thereby providing our boys with a temporary home for a year.

The staff returned on 1st September for a week to get the building ready for use and amongst them were 5 newcomers: Mrs Webster (Maths), Mr Lapwood, (Design), Mr

Clark - an *Old Boy* - (Drama), Mrs Hendry (Social Studies) and Mrs Thompson (Maths/ General Subjects).

On 7th September the 1st and 5th Years (years 7 & 11 in new money) arrived and the following day the entire school was operational, but the log book does note that there were many jobs still to be done, particularly in the craft and science subjects.

On 21st September an inaugural Mass was celebrated at the nearby Sacred Heart church with the Bishop presiding. However, the wrangling

with the Council, Education Authorities and everyone else involved seems to have dragged on throughout the first half of the exile since an entry on 11th February 1983 refers to agreement being reached on a statement about removal of the foam and it wasn't until 18th April that work finally commenced!

Between 1st and 8th July packing took place of non-essential equipment [Maths books I presume - Ed] ready for the return home and the following

week was spent packing up the remaining items.

Prize Giving was held on 15th July with prizes being presented by former Head Boy Michael Small and the school closed one week early for the summer holidays to allow staff time for the removal back to Westcliff.

On 1st September 1983 the school re-opened at its rightful home in Kenilworth Gardens and the simple entry "on time" in the log book gives some indication of the sense of relief that must have been felt.

Whether, like King David entering Jerusalem, Tony McDonald danced naked across the car park and up the path is not recorded, but a solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving was held on 13th September bringing the whole sorry episode to a close.

Three new members of staff joined at this time - Mr Basquill (Science), Miss Heath (Special Teaching Unit) and Mr Michael (Science).

The wind of change in education was beginning to blow and in December the Headmaster attended a meeting to discuss the re-organisation of secondary education in Southend.

Another major change occurred on 9th January 1984 with the introduction of certain contract bus services.

A disco was organised by the Parents Association on 19th January that year for the junior department with the senior department having theirs the following day.

As the year progressed into summer things were certainly looking up as the school won the Southend Schools Swimming Gala for the second consecutive year in May.

The year ended on 20th July with Frank Keenan departing as Head of Languages to go into a personal exile as Deputy Head of a school in Ipswich. As we know he would, like a certain well-know cyborg who is also bilingual, be back!!

The final entries in these original log books record that the next school year commenced on 4th September 1984 with the arrival of two more new teachers - Mrs Linssen (Head of Languages) and Mrs Berwick (History).

It is, I suppose, rather fitting to leave these delvings into history with the appointment of a history teacher and, who knows, this collection of articles might, itself, one day be of use to anyone researching the first two decades of the school's existence.

We are, of course, hugely indebted to the person who allowed us access to this information and hope that you, Dear Members, have found the information as interesting as we did.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 17th May, a dedicated band of Members (small, but perfectly formed) attended the 10th Annual General Meeting of this esteemed Association.

Of course one of the highlights of this annual event has become our eloquent President's annual report, which this year lived up to it's usual standard of being informative and interesting.

Then came the bit everyone had been waiting for - the election of the President for the next year.

With no fresh candidates being nominated Paul manfully stepped into the breach and declared himself willing to do another year.

We are all, of course, delighted that Paul is able and willing to lead us for another year, but there was a small sense of frustration that no-one else out of the hundred or so members is willing to carry the baton.

However, Paul has done a sterling job over the last three years and we

look forward to more of the same for another year.

It was a similar story for the other positions on the Executive with Gareth Lewis agreeing to remain as Treasurer and Gerry Thomas staying on as Membership Secretary. We shall, once again be without a Social Secretary but, as has been remarked upon, the regular events that we hold each year tend to organise themselves nowadays.

With this in mind, if any member feels able to join the Executive as Social Secretary please contact the address on the front page and you will be warmly received!

We then moved on to a couple of interesting items that members should be aware of.

The first was a proposal to change our Constitution. It was agreed unanimously that the ban on members who are past teachers from holding office be removed. This then becomes our very own **first amendment!**

It is hoped that by removing this ban it may widen the pool of members willing to

stand for office [*only time will tell - Ed*]

The second topic was that of our website.

It was agreed that a major re-development was needed and Peter Travis very kindly suggested that the school's IT & Media students may be able to assist as part of their studies.

The intention is for the site to provide full information about the Association, its aims and its activities to entice new members. It is hoped that there will be a section where the names of members committed to attending an event will be displayed in order to encourage others to attend [*or, maybe discourage - Ed*].

In the never-ending quest for new members it is envisaged that existing members will be able to simply direct other old boys to the site to *check us out!*

So, whilst the attendance was small, the output of the meeting was large and very positive, having decided on a number of points to aid the long-term growth and survival of the Association for us all!

WE REACH DOUBLE FIGURES

Well, as anniversaries go, it may not be much compared to, say, the bi-centenary of the Declaration of Independence or the Battle of Trafalgar, or even the 50th anniversary of the founding of the EU [*although, come to think of it, perhaps it eclipses the latter - Ed*], but our esteemed Association is about to enter it's TENTH year of existence!

Ten years, 10 dinners, 10 Memorial Masses, 34 *Moreanas*, , 3 Presidents, a number of Christmas dinners and various small scale events. That's certainly worth celebrating!

We shall be actively seeking ways to mark this important milestone so if you've any ideas please send them to the address on the front page.

RICHARD COPLEY

Members will, we feel sure, be sorry to learn that Richard Copley (1977) has recently undergone a serious operation. However, he is recovering well.

The good wishes of the Association for a full and speedy recovery have been sent.

**MEMBERSHIP as at
8th JUNE 2007**

MEMBERSHIP as at 8th JUNE 2007			Mike Thompson		Paul McArdle Victor Peretti	1986	Paul Cotgrove Alan Martin
1961	Graham Lewis	1968	Geoffrey Lewis Martin Duggan	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley Christopher Fairchild Guy Franke' John MacDermott	1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines Christopher Hall Steven Hurren
1962	Michael Hughes John Lewis	1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale		Andrew McGregor Kevin O'Hanlon Andy (Guy) Thomas Gerry Thomas	1989	Paul Baynes Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch Brian Martin
1963	John Bowman Frank Daley Tony Howlett John Sheehy	1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn Brendan J Foy Nigel Hurley Robert Murphy Charlie Sheppard	1976	Trevor Barr Laurence Blainey John Chambers Tony Harmon Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk Jim Tyrie	1990	Christopher Hull Stuart Saggars
1964	John Griffiths Ron Patchett					1991	Graham Diggines
1965	Terry Knights Brian Dalton	1972	Paul Culleton Tony Imossi David Thompson			1995	Paul Bending Douglas Walter
1966	Martyn Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Gareth Lewis Paul Wenham	1973	Martin Carroll Michael Glen Phil Mahoney Simon Millyard			1997	Elliot Clark
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney	1974	Ray Allum Nick Cousins	1977	John Cobbold Richard Copley Martin Hodson	2000	Daniel Kelly
						2001	Chris Thompson



For up to date results and the latest league tables

Visit Our Website

www.catholicutd.co.uk

Catholic United F.C. would like to invite all Old Boys
and their families to our clubhouse at

WESTCLIFF CRICKET CLUB

CHALKWELL PARK

OPEN Throughout the football season

Saturday 4pm till 7pm
Sunday 12pm till 2pm
Tuesday 8pm till 11pm

Training Details:

St Thomas More School Sports Hall
Eastwood High School Astroturf Pitch
Everybody Welcome

Tuesdays 7pm till 8pm
Thursdays 9pm till 10pm

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