



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

IN MEMORIAM: GARETH LEWIS



For those of you who do not already know, it is with great sadness that we announce the death of Past President Gareth Lewis who died on 29th June from cancer.

Gareth was a pupil at STM from 1961 until 1966 and was Head Boy in his final year.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Jan (daughter

of one of our founding Governors, Frank Clancy), in 1968, having met her at Our Lady of Lourdes Youth Club. Together they have a daughter Sarah, who is married to another Old Boy, Martin Diggines.

Gareth had been active on the Old Boy scene way before this Association was formed and, together with Jan, was a regular supporter of the school over many years.

In 2001 he was elected President of our Association and served it in this role for 3 years. On completion of his third term he again answered the call and remained a member of his successor's Executive as Treasurer — a position he held until his death.

Anyone who knew Gareth will know that he was generous in spirit; he was always there for others, and he never took or wanted centre stage for himself.

Gareth was, above all, someone who enjoyed life to the full and possessed a calm and philosophical personality. He was an optimist, was always smiling and unfailingly cheerful which made him a joy to be with. His brother, Geoff, recalls how friends would marvel at Gareth's communication skills when holidaying in Italy — a mixture of mime and speaking very slowly in English — but it usually worked!

One of his joys in later life were his two grandchildren Shannon and Henry, who brought enor-

mous happiness and pride to him in such a short space of time.

Gareth's funeral took place in a packed Our Lady of Lourdes church on Friday 9th July. The school did him proud being represented by the Headmaster, the Head Boy and a small group of prefects. Past and current members of staff were also present as, indeed were a large number of Old Boys (many of whom were wearing the Association tie as a mark of respect).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan, Sarah and Martin, his grandchildren, his mother, his brothers Graham and Geoff, and all other members of his family.

+May he Rest in Peace.

COME DINE WITH US ... IN FEBRUARY

Due to clashes of dates with various events at the school and amongst other clubs & societies the Executive took the bold step of moving the Old Boys' dinner from the traditional Autumn date to Spring. So if you're wondering...you haven't missed the 2010 dinner because it is happening in 2011!!

SATURDAY 5th FEBRUARY is the date to put in your diary.

However the traditional venue of the school dining hall remains unchanged.

The Dinner commences with pre-dinner drinks at 7:00pm and dinner itself will be served at 7:30pm. Despite ever-increasing catering costs the Execu-

tive have managed to be able to offer what promises to be a splendid evening for just £22.50

A bar will also be available to purchase wines and beers but if you want anything more exotic please bring it with you.

The dress code will, as usual, be smart-casual with the Old Boys' Associ-

ation tie being worn.

Members are welcome to bring guests but they must have been a pupil or teacher at the school.

To book a place for you and your guests simply send a cheque payable to **St Thomas More Old Boys Association** no later than Saturday 29 January 2011.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED—50 GOLDEN YEARS

This academic year sees our old school reach the grand old age of 50.

There are many members, I'm sure, who are amazed that it managed to remain standing for that long given the punishment that was often meted out to the very fabric of the building.

And yet it has gone from strength to strength with each new decade seeing more and more additions and enlargements to the original edifice.

In 1973 the first of the extensions was added when the Concourse Area and its associated classrooms was opened. 1996 saw the addition of the Sixth form block to the rear of the Concourse Area. This was further enlarged in 2000 and the new Music Block with the first floor link corridor was added in 2004.

Indeed only this September saw the opening of the new Food Technology block!

However it's not only the buildings that have changed beyond all recognition over the 50 years since the first pupils were welcomed in.



Staff in 1964

The very subjects on offer would baffle and astound many of those in the 1960 intake. ICT and Media Studies would have sounded



Aerial view from the mid-1970s to late 1980s

like something from a Science Fiction film, whilst Business Studies and Law would have been thought of as something read at university! The complete list of subjects now on offer reads as follows:-

- English
- Maths
- Science
- RE
- ICT
- History
- Geography
- Geology
- French/German/Spanish
- Design & Technology
- Media Studies
- Business Studies
- Law
- Psychology
- PE
- Food Technology (Year 7)
- Music
- Drama
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Asdan
- Economics

But it's not only the subjects and their terminology that have changed—for Design & Technology read

Woodwork and Metalwork (and Plastics plus, no doubt, an assortment of other materials) — the very titles of the year groups have all "gone decimal". Where us dinosaurs used to refer sneeringly to "First Years" today's old-hands laugh at Year 7s. Prefects are now Year 11s and those staying on for the maximum "sentence" are no longer in the Upper 6th, but are, instead, in Year 13. Of course esteemed



St George's - 1960

members from the very origins of the school will find such rarified talk of Sixth formers (and even 5th years) somewhat alien since until 1996 the school only catered for 11-16 year olds (11-15 for the first few years). Indeed in 1960 there were a total of 205 boys on the role and 9 members of staff, whilst today there are 1002 pupils (72 of whom are girls in the Sixth form) and a whopping 121 members of staff (of whom only 52 are actually teachers)!

Of course, long-gone are

the days of CSEs and O-Levels. Today's pupils have to grapple with the complexities (or otherwise) of coursework-based GCSEs with records tumbling nationally like leaves in autumn every exam season.

The latest batch saw the school itself achieve another record-breaking year with boys achieving five or more A* to C at GCSE rising to over 83% of candidates (*the highest score in the school's history*), whilst those achieving five or more A* to C including English and Maths rose to over 64% (*The highest score since publication of this statistic.*)

Whilst some of this might seem as familiar to some of us as Ancient Greek I'm reliably informed by those in Education circles that it's *pretty darn good!*

Those new-fangled Year 13 students also managed to keep their end up with A-Level results as follows:- A* to C - over 71% A* to E - over 97%

with students sitting the following examination subjects all gaining a pass:- Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing, Geology, English Language and Literature, History, Geography, R.E., Media Studies, Psychology, Economics, P.E. Studies and Design & Technology—Phew!

Now for sport....STM has always had a tradition of being fairly strong in sport, but whereas in 1960 this consisted primarily of football and cricket (indeed, the boys were banned by the first Headmaster from watching the Westcliff



The new Art & Music block added in 2003

High boys playing rugby on their fields), the opportunities to excel nowadays are fairly exhaustive. And excel they do!

The achievements of the school (or, more correctly, the pupils of the school) in the last academic year include:-

Football

Years 8 and 9 won both their leagues and SoS cups.

Basketball

Year 11 won their league

Cricket

Years 8 and 9 both won their league cups. (The boys beat the staff in the annual summer conflict!)

In addition to these top slots various other teams across a number of sports were runners-up or highly placed in a variety of competitions.

As far as competition within the school itself is concerned, St Andrews were the winners of last year's Silver Jubilee House Trophy with a whopping 34.5 points compared to their nearest rivals who scored 23 accumulated across a range of six sports.

Other achievements of which the school was justifiably proud last year include five pupils having

their art displayed at the Mall Galleries in London, and being chosen as a school to be one of the hub schools of the Royal Shakespeare Society's Learning and Performance Network.

So things have certainly changed a great deal in 50 years as far as what is on offer to pupils both academically and sportingly. But what doesn't appear to have changed is the thirst of the students and teachers for success.

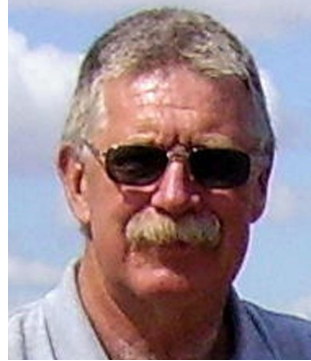
Exam results continue to improve, the school now regularly sends ex-sixth formers to university, victories are still achieved on the sports field and pupils continue to be rewarded in a variety of national and regional competitions across many disciplines.

So, in the final examination, perhaps nothing really changes apart from the numbers and titles involved. The school has always embraced and encouraged success—long may it continue!



Reception Area c. 2002

BUSINESS FORUM TO HELP MEMBERS



Renowned Association stalwart John Bowman (1963) has contacted this hard-pressed editor (which in itself was a surprise since I had long been suspicious that life outside the *Moreana* bubble had become extinct) with the suggestion that we form a Business Forum.

John recently found himself in the position of setting up a small [he's far too modest—Ed] Road Safety consultancy. It got him thinking and he's come up with the idea for an exchange facility of trades and businesses that members could call upon.

In his own words, "I'm really a very, very new boy at this business game and I'm sure that there might well be others in the same position who could learn from our peers."

In an effort to get things going John has volunteered to prepare a type of register. Just send your name, contact details, business name and address (if different) and the general nature of the business to: javboman@btinternet.com

NEW HOUSE CREATED

As the school celebrates its 50th year it has taken the opportunity to create a new school house.

Many would suggest that this is not before time!

In the old days the four houses of St Andrew, St David, St George and St Patrick were shared amongst the original two forms per year. In 1973 with the advent of four-form entry they were assigned to one form each.

However for some time now the school has actually admitted five forms for each year, which led to the pupils in the fifth class being divided amongst the four houses.

This anomaly has now been rectified by the addition of a fifth house!

The boys themselves were invited to vote for their choice from a number of "candidate" saints.

The runaway victor was **Saint Sebastian** who apparently is the patron saint of, amongst other things, athletes because of his physical endurance and his energetic way of spreading and defending the faith.

AGM — MAKE A DATE

Our Association's AGM will, be held on **TUESDAY 10th MAY** in the school.

Please do all that you can to attend and help determine the future directions we will take.

MEMBERSHIP AS AT OCTOBER 2010

1961	Graham Lewis	1972	Paul Culleton David Thompson	1981	Sean Conlon
1962	John Lewis	1973	Phil Mahoney	1982	Mark Harvey
1963	John Bowman John Sheehy	1974	Ray Allum Paul McArdle	1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley
1964	John Griffiths Ronald Patchett	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley John MacDermott Andrew McGregor Gerry Thomas	1984	Michael Barry Stuart Humfrey
1965	Brian Dalton Terry Knights	1976	Trevor Barr Laurence Blainey John Chambers Guy Francke Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk James Tyrie	1985	Tim Allard
1966	Stephen Barker Paul Clancy Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Geoffrey Lewis Richard Rogowski Paul Wenham	1977	John Cobbold Richard Copley Martin Hodson John Judge Kevin Thomas	1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines Steven Hurren
1967	Tony Cane Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson	1978	Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll David O'Ryan	1989	Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch
1968	Martin Duggan	1979	Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	1990	Christopher Hull
1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale	1980		1995	Paul Bending
971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn			2000	Daniel Kelly
				2001	Chris Thompson
				FT	Ian Britt Dominick Fanning Tom Kennedy John O'Connell Rev. David Peck John Askew
				H/M	Peter Travis
				Chpln	Re. Kevin Hale
				Hon.	Helen Wigmore

PRAY FOR THE SICK

It was with sadness that we learnt recently of former teacher David Peck's serious illness.

David, who is now a priest in the Southwark diocese, is apparently suffering from Motor Neurone Disease.

The former R.E. teacher is still living in the parish of Wimbledon where he has been Parish Priest for some time, but is clearly in need of our prayers.

NEIL BRETT ORDAINED

Former Deputy Headteacher Neil Brett was ordained a priest for this diocese at Forest Gate on 11th September.

Since leaving the school Neil has been studying at the English College, Rome and was joined at his ordination by a number of fellow students as well as quite a few priests from this diocese.

He is now a curate at St James the Less church in Colchester.

event is event is **Thursday 23rd June at 8.00pm** in the school.

Come and join us for a chance to remember, reflect and give thanks before enjoying the traditional buffet provided by the Association.

It's the only Association event that is free of charge and is also open to non-members, so encourage other Old Boys to attend!

A PERFECTLY GOOD WALK SPOILT ??

The Old Boys' Association Annual Golf Day will be held on **Friday 1 April 2011** at the Garon Park Golf Complex, Southend.

The day will start at 8:30am with Coffee/Tea and Bacon Rolls, followed by 18 holes and then lunch—all for just £30 per person.

The golf match will be an Individual Stapleford competition featuring prizes with the winner retaining

the Old Boys Golf Trophy until the next golf event. The Executive are keen to encourage members to bring a guest or two. The only proviso is that the guest must have been a pupil or teacher at the school.

To book places simply send a cheque payable to *St Thomas More Old Boys Association* to the address on the front page to reach there by no later than Friday 25 March 2011. Be sure to indicate

your handicap and any special dietary requirements.

MEMORIAL MASS DATE

Many of our members comment that their favourite event of the year is our annual Memorial Mass when we take a moment to remember those past pupils and members of staff who are no longer with us.

The date for this year's