



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

We are delighted to be able to confirm the dates of our two main annual events as follows:-



Old Boys' Dinner—
SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY
in the school



The Old Boys' Dinner is open to members only and has a cost attached, whilst the Memorial Mass is a free event open to all past pupils and members of staff.



Old Boys' Memorial Mass—
THURSDAY 21st JUNE
in the school.

These are, of course, the most important dates in the Association's calendar and we hope, in 2012 to be able to break all records for attendance.

Please make a note in your diaries now and look out for further information in the future.



OLD BOY ORDAINED

On Saturday 17th September Old Boy Daniel Kelly (2000) was ordained as a priest by the Bishop at St Helen's Church, Westcliff.

The church was so full that an overflow facility with a video link had to be set-up in the Baptist church across the road to ensure that everyone who wished to be there could be accommodated.

Approximately 50 priests concelebrated and both Frank Keenan and Peter Travis were in the congregation to represent the school as past and present headmasters.

Daniel, who also attended Sacred Heart Primary School, had been a parishioner at St Helen's for

many years having been an altar server there whilst at senior school.

After leaving St Thomas More he spent a year working at the Royal Bank of Scotland before attending Heythrop College, University of London where he gained a degree in Theology for Ministry. He then spent a further year working for various companies in the City to gain further experience in the secular world before joining St John's seminary at Womersley to train for the Priesthood, where he also gained an MA in Bioethics.

We wish Daniel every success and enjoyment in his vocation and are delighted to report that he has accepted the President's invitation to become the Association Chaplain.

Ad multos annos!

CELEBRATING A HALF-CENTURY

As many members will be aware, the school celebrated its 50th anniversary throughout the school year 2010-2011.

These celebrations reached their climax on 14th July when the Bishop visited to preside at the annual St Thomas More Day Mass (moved from the actual feast day of 22nd June).

Nine priests from the deanery (and one visiting from Africa) concelebrated with the Bishop and Old Boy Daniel Kelly performed the duties of Deacon at the Mass which was celebrated with the entire school in the Sports Hall.



John Askew and David Milne.



A special attraction was the presence of a hat actually worn by our patron, which had been kindly loaned by an historical society.

After the Mass the guests all retired to the

school hall for a lavish buffet lunch at which the Bishop, who had been a curate in Westcliff in the early 1960s, praised the school for its many achievements and traditions.



Whilst the great and the good were tucking in with gusto, the pupils themselves were enjoying burgers and hot dogs on the school field and participating in various activities including rock climbing,

bouncy castles and inflatable combat games all accompanied by a steel band.



The cost of this lavish, once every half-century, entertainment opportunity was met largely by a donation from the Parents' Association, but we are delighted to report that this Association also donated £500 to help meet the very considerable costs incurred.



This esteemed Association was further represented by past Head of R.E. and Deputy Headmaster David Finigan who was Master of Ceremonies, as well as our President Paul Driscoll, Membership Secretary Liam Rand and past teacher members Tom Mayhew,



YOU JUST NEVER KNOW!



You might meet the odd person now and again who is really good at something and often you will justifiably envy their natural ability. Then along comes somebody who is multi-talented. Now these individuals can be downright annoying.

And so, I must tell you about a certain Old Boy who, despite leaving school at the age of 15 without a qualification to his name, has gone on to achieve and achieve. I knew about his talent for organising major international events, and I knew that he is a highly talented photographer. I knew about his ability to write as he has submitted a number of articles to a variety of publications. I knew about the black belt in martial arts. I knew about his accomplishments in teaching, cooking, sailing, etc., etc. But now I find out that he has just published a book of poetry and will shortly be publishing two further books both containing collections of his photography. How annoying is that? And what makes it doubly annoying is that he is the most unassuming person you could ever meet.

Glen Sweeney, originally from good old Sarfend and now residing in Vienna, has re-published a book that

was originally produced in 1985. Because of the book's original success and the new and current facility to construct and publish books on-line with Blurb.com

(www.blurb.com), he and co-author, Michael Brech, have re-designed the contents and have now released the second edition, which can be viewed and purchased on: <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/656218>.

The book contains 98 pages of illustrated verse and lyrics written by the duo in the 1980s. Glen describes it as 'a worthwhile book that contains something for everyone. To inspire and motivate in this troubled world'. It is available with a hard or soft cover and not only do the words make good reading but the illustrations created by artists Gwen Simpson and Martin Taylor are something to behold in their own right.

Glen left STM in 1967 with absolutely no idea of what he wanted to do but since then he has gone on to travel a good proportion of our planet. He has successfully been a photographer, a teacher, a martial arts instructor, a driver, a writer, a cook, a business manager, a marketing consultant, an event manager and lots of other little tasks along the way just to fill in the gaps.

And the moral of this story - *'Never judge a book by its cover!'*

2010/11 SCHOOL REPORT

So, how is the old place doing now that we've left? A frequently asked/ thought question amongst members. Well, dear reader, this intrepid publication has obtained a report from the school on the examination and sporting successes of the past academic year. Read on....

The GCSE results overall were above the national average, with many impressive individual results:-

Five or more A*-C = **73%**
Five or more A*-C including English and Maths = **61%**

Five or more A*-G including English and Maths = **99%**

The 6th Form students also achieved a record high A*-E Pass Rate last year of **99.7%**, with similarly impressive results of A*-C, **69%** and A*-B, **33.6%**.

As a result of these examination successes, the vast majority of STM students who applied for places at university were successful, which is pretty impressive given the increasingly competitive nature of university entrance.

SPORTS

Once again, the school has enjoyed great success on the sporting field which does so much to promote its good name in the Community. Steve Harrison

continues to defy the effects of aging in leading a dedicated team of teachers who, between them, coached, cajoled and managed the pupils to the following successes in 2010/11:-

In **football**, Years 7, 9 and 10 all won both their leagues and Southend Cups, with Year 10 also winning the South East Essex Cup. Year 8 finished as runners-up in their league and Year 9 did the same in the South East Essex Cup. Both Years 8 and 11 managed to reach the semi-finals of both cup competitions, with Year 7 doing the same in the South East Essex Cup. Clearly the old place is to be feared on the football pitch!

The senior years in the school also continued to shine in **basketball** with Years 9, 10 and 11 all finishing in second place in their leagues. Year 9 also finished as runners-up in their cup final, whilst Year 11 reached the semi-finals.

The **hockey** players in Years 10/11 won the Essex Cup Plate, whilst the senior **badminton** players finished as Borough champions, with the juniors being runners-up in their league.

Finally, the school year ended well with the Years 9 and 10 **cricket** teams both finishing as runners-up in both the Borough League and the South East Essex Cups.

So, all-in-all a year full of accomplishments both academic and sporting! Long may it continue.

MEMBERSHIP AS AT OCT 2011

1961	Graham Lewis	1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale	1977	John Cobbold Richard Copley Martin Hodson John Judge Liam Rand	1989	Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch
1962	Michael Hughes John Lewis	1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan	1978	Kevin Thomas	1990	Adam Carstairs Christopher Hull
1963	John Bowman John Sheehy	1972	Paul Culleton David Thompson	1979	Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll David Kitchens David O'Ryan Sean Tyrie	1995	Paul Bending
1964	John Griffiths Ronald Patchett	1973	Phil Mahoney	1980	Martin McKeown Niall O'Callaghan	2000	Daniel Kelly
1965	Brian Dalton Terry Knights	1974	Ray Allum Paul McArdle	1981	Sean Conlon	2001	Chris Thompson
1966	Stephen Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Paul Wenham	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley John MacDermott Andrew McGregor Gerry Thomas	1982	Mark Harvey	2011	Dale Claridge
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson	1976	Trevor Barr Laurence Blainey John Chambers Guy Francke Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk James Tyrie	1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley	FT	John Askew Ian Britt
1968	Martin Duggan Geoffrey Lewis			1984	Michael Barry Mark Denton Stuart Humfrey	FT	Dominick Fanning David Finnigan Tom Kennedy David Milne John O'Connell*
				1985	Tim Allard	FT	Peter Travis
				1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines Steven Hurren	H/M	Chpln Rev. Daniel Kelly
						Hon.	Jan Lewis Helen Wigmore

*John O'Connell is currently a member of staff having previously left.

1977 VINTAGE CHALKS-UP 50

The Old Boys who left STM in 1977 are fast turning 50 and Martin Hodson John Judge, John Cobbold, Mark Hidveghy, Richard Copley, Paul Cowdrey, Phil Coath, Graham Axe and Kev Fernandes all got together for a curry to celebrate their joint milestones.

Martin kindly sent in this pic as proof that, for at least a few minutes during

the evening, they all managed to stay reasonably sober.

Which makes this hard-pressed editor think...how about a regular feature showing pics illustrating how Old Boys have remained friends long after their five or seven years at STM have passed??

E-mail any pics to the address on the front page.

OUR THANKS TO FR KEVIN

After ten years as the Association's Chaplain Fr Kevin Hale, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes in Leigh, finally gets to take a well-earned rest, with the appointment of recently-ordained Old Boy Fr Daniel Kelly to the post.

We are deeply indebted to Fr Kevin for a decade of prayers and ministry to this Association. Appointed by Gareth Lewis in 2001, re-appointed by Paul Hutchinson in 2004 and then by Kevin Thomas in 2008, Fr Kevin must have wondered if he was ever going to break free from our clutches!



But with the ordination of one of our own members it seems the perfect time for Fr Kevin, who is also the Dean of Southend, to be freed to turn his attentions to more pressing matters.

In recognition of his length of service we have written a new bidding prayer for the intentions of all past Chaplains to be included at our annual Memorial Mass.

