



# MOREANA

NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS MORE ALUMNI

## GET US AT THE GUILDHALL!

On **TUESDAY 21st APRIL** this esteemed association will be holding a special reception evening at the City of London's prestigious **Guildhall Club, West Wing, Guildhall, Gresham Street**, hosted by our very own Paul Wenham (1966).

The evening will consist of a brief presentation about the City of London Livery movement by a Past Master Liveryman, and an opportunity to see some of the treasures from the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers Livery.

This will be followed by a finger buffet with wines, beers and drinks.

The full menu will be:-

### White Wine

The Club Chardonnay

### Red Wine

The Club Merlot

### Other

Bottled Lager

Bottled Beer

Sparkling & Still Mineral Water

Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice

### Menu

- Miniature Cod & Chips



- Miniature 100% Scottish Beef Burgers
- Grilled Lamb Sausages with Minted Greek Yoghurt
- Tartlet of Caramelised Onion & Cashel Blue Irish Cheese (v)
- Chinese Vegetable Spring Roll (v)

Paul is the Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London and, as such, knows the caterers at The Guildhall very well so promises us an evening of the highest standard!

**The event will commence at 6.30pm** and end sometime between 8.30pm and 9pm. This will be a superb

opportunity for members who live and/or work in London to get together under the aegis of the Alumni for a good old catch-up (with some great food and drink thrown in) in a somewhat exclusive setting!

## ANNUAL DINNER FALLS IN AUTUMN

The long-established Alumni Annual Dinner will, this year, return to its original date slot of **October** after having been held over the past few years in February.

This change is primarily due to the responses received to the recent members' survey when the

Open to all former pupils/staff regardless of whether they are registered as members of the Alumni (so feel-free to invite old school friends) tickets cost **£35.00** and can be obtained from the email address below.

(slim) majority of replies indicated a preference for a mid-autumn date.

Consequently the date to reserve in your diaries (or electronic calendars for the more tech-savvy amongst us) is **SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER** with the venue remaining at the school.

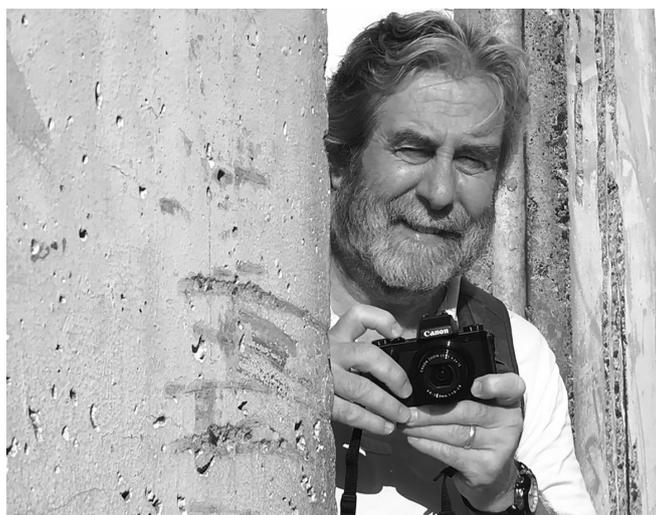
Full details of the event will be announced later.

## A TESTAMENT TO PERSISTENCE

*Long-serving members will recall our very first Social Secretary, Glen Sweeney, who left the school in 1967. A recent discussion with Glen, who now lives in Austria, produced the following extremely interesting potted biography...*

Glen Sweeney attended STM from 1964 to 1967 he left school at 15 years old with no qualifications at all. He was never academic and possessed little self confidence or self-esteem. Following school he spent two years at a local college pretending to study his O Levels but that two years did nothing for him academically. It did, however, allow him to begin to blossom as a human being, developing social skills and a little self confidence.

For no apparent reason, he suddenly decided he wanted to be a photographer and found a job with a local photographer, named John Hawkins, as an assistant. John being an uncompromising eccentric took this unassuming young man and threw him to the wolves. Within two weeks Glen was sent out to do a wedding, a nerve-wracking experience to say the least, and, following that, he found himself taking on local press work. Needless to say he grew out of his shyness and the real Glen, an outgoing and enigmatic character, rose to the surface.



He spent the next 30 years working for two other studios - one owned by Mike Hughes, the first Head Boy of STM - as well as developing his own client list and consequently a successful stream of business. During this time he also taught at Southend College of Art as a part-time lecturer in photography. At the beginning of the 90s with the dawn of digital photography (and everybody becoming a photographer), and yet another financial crisis his professional interests drifted away from photography and moved to producing marketing material. In turn this evolved into marketing through corporate events and he began an event management company called *Eventful*. This company failed, for reasons we won't go into, but this directed Glen into employment with American Express as an Account Executive, planning and managing major corporate events on an international scale.

During this later period Glen lost almost all interest in photography but always had a hidden desire to take photographs for himself. In 2006 he left Amex to marry and moved to Vienna to be with his now wife. Unable to find employment he eventually began teaching English as a Native English Speaker and he spent eight and a half years teaching English to fourth grade kids in what would be the equivalent of an English primary school.

During this period, following his arrival in Vienna, his passion for photography resurfaced and he began taking pictures for his own pleasure. Subsequently following his retirement in 2016 it became almost (*never* a hobby). This has now culminated in an exhibition of work in a prestigious gallery in the heart of Vienna, a major international city. He has also self-published photography books with [blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com) and even written a cookery book, also to be found on Blurb.

You may have noticed that he has spent a lot of years teaching in higher education and schools, in addition to becoming an instructor in martial arts, having begun studying kick boxing at the age of 42 and achieving his black belt at the ripe old age of 49. In that respect he has learnt a lot about teaching and education in general and has one message: *"All kids have something to offer. Discover what that might be and give them the self belief to achieve in life. Academia is not the only measuring stick - I was hopeless at school but I have gone on to become an accomplished photographer, teacher, martial artist, cook, writer and producer of books, in addition to being a rounded human being. Education should not be about success and failure but the opportunity to rise above yourself and achieve. Give that to a child and they will shine. Give them a sense of belonging and value and they will do great things."*

*"To all you kids I say, life has many twists and turns and you never know where it will take you but be honest and kind, stay honourable and always follow your heart, it knows who you really are. And remember, life doesn't owe you anything at all."*

Website and on-line gallery: [www.glensweeneyimages.com](http://www.glensweeneyimages.com)

His books can be found on: [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com) (search Glen Sweeney)

Email: [glensweeney@icloud.com](mailto:glensweeney@icloud.com)

## OLD BOY HONoured AT THE PALACE

We're delighted to report that former pupil Frank Norris (c.1971) was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours last June for services to education and received the medal from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on 5 December.

After leaving STM Frank trained as a teacher and even spent a short while teaching at the old place in the mid-1970s. His career went somewhat stratospheric and he ended up as the CEO of the Coop Acad-

emies Trust, from which he stepped down in late August. He is now the Co-op education adviser and a member of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership Education Committee.

This news was submitted by stalwart member David Milne. Presumably the fact that Frank had told him the following had nothing to do with him sending it in "...*On many occasions I am asked following a keynote what made me become a teacher and I often reply with the influence of a brilliant young unqualified teacher who taught me history.*"



## 60th ANNIVERSARY BALL CANCELLED



We're sorry to have to report that, unfortunately, the organisers of the planned 60th Anniversary Ball to be held at Stock Brook Manor on 9th May have had to CANCEL the event due to lack of numbers.

## A DOUBLE REUNION AFTER 40 YEARS

It seems that class or year-group reunions are something like buses...you wait ages for one and then two come along together!

Last year saw an interest in renewing friendships amongst those who left STM both in 1979, who were experiencing their "40 years on" moment, and those from 1980 who were fast approaching the same milestone.



The 1979 leavers looking a little more mature—Take 1...

The 1979 group had two informal "meet-ups" in Leigh on Sea as a result of Martyn Hutchings bumping into former Head Boy Pete Chambers on, of all things, an aeroplane! Simply through the use of Facebook and word-of-mouth Martyn managed to get 18 actual attendees across the two events, with some travelling the length of the country just for a few hours in a pub! It goes to show the pull that those old school days can still have.

Meanwhile Sinclair Walton and a bunch of his buddies including Chris Avis and Andy Cockerell from the 1980 vintage have arranged a number of similar events at various hostelrys around the town in a build-up to an event to mark their "two-score years" of freedom sometime this year. One unexpected but welcome

attendee on one of these occasions was former member of staff Dave Grearson!

## THE WAY THEY WERE...



The 1979 leavers as 1st Years in 1974 and their cricket team



Both groups have set-up Facebook sites and anyone interested in learning more can be put in touch with them by simply contacting the Alumni email address on the front page.



...and Take 2. But where's all the hair gone?

## MEMBERSHIP AS AT MARCH 2020

1961	Graham Lewis	1970	Michael Davis	1978	Richard Clegg Sean Cray Kevin Thomas	1990	Christopher Hull
1962	Kevin Butt Michael Hughes John Lewis	1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn	1979	Michael Ashkuri Pete Chambers Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll John Lawrie David O'Ryan Sean Tyrrie	1995	Paul Bending
1963	John Bowman John Sheehy	1972	Paul Culleton David Thompson	1980	Sean Leggett Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	1998	Ben Gibson
1964	John Griffiths Ronald Patchett	1973	Martin Carroll Phil Mahoney	1981	Sean Conlon Malcolm Patterson	2000	David Cook Martyn Rickard
1965	Brian Dalton Alan Dobby Terry Knights Frank McEvoy	1974	Kevin Bonham Paul McArdle Simon Millyard	1982	Richard Chadon Sean Corr Mark Harvey	2001	Chris Thompson
1966	Stephen Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Paul Wenham	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley Chris Fairchild John McDermott Andrew McGregor Gerry Thomas	1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley Keith Traynor	2005	Jack Brudenell Jonathan Fenn
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson	1976	Christopher Barber Laurence Blainey John Chambers Guy Francke Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk James Tyrrie	1984	Michael Barry Mark Denton Stuart Humfrey	2011	Dale Claridge
1968	Martin Duggan Geoffrey Lewis Peter Mahoney	1977	Phil Coath John Cobbold Mark Hidveghy Martin Hodson John Judge Liam Rand	1985	Tim Allard	2012	Iker Romero- Munoz
1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale			1986	Iain O'Connell	2014	James Driscoll
				1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines	2015	Ethan James
				1989	Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch	Chpln	Rev Daniel Kelly
						Assoc	Matthew Hardiman Jed Marshall Ben Micklewright Chloe Spillet Nick Spillet Tom Wiltshire
							DateTBC Peter O'Callaghan
						H/T	Gemma Ackred
						F/T	John Askew Ian Britt James Devor Mary Donaldson Tom Kennedy David Milne John O'Connell* Granville Powell David Sims
						Hon	Frank Keenan Jan Lewis Helen Wigmore

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report two deaths in this edition.

The first is former pupil ANDREW GLEN and the second is retired English teacher TERESA LAFFERTY who passed away on 17th February

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time. May they both REST IN PEACE

## KEPT & SAVED FOR POSTERITY

Someone raked-up this old pic of our very own Paul Marsh (1969) during



his time with West Ham.

He reckons it was probably taken around the same year at the training pitch in Chadwell Heath.

He comments: " *In medieval times notice: no gloves, orange ball...God I feel old*"

In Memoriam  
Michelle Copley for  
Richard Copley  
Wendy Mayhew for  
Tom Mayhew

\*John O'Connell is currently a member of staff having