



# MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## TIME TO REMEMBER & SAY GOODBYE...

The chance to remember deceased pupils and staff at the annual Old Boys' Memorial Mass will, this year, fall on St. Thomas More Day itself -

**WEDNESDAY 22nd  
JUNE at 8.00pm** in the school.

Our President is hoping that we shall be able, this year, to use the new school chapel for the actual Mass and, as usual, enjoy our buffet and drinks in the Concourse Area.

Every year writing this advance notice piece gets harder and harder, since

there are only so many ways one can try and encourage Members to attend, but every year there is a very respectable turn-out for this combined solemn and happy occasion.

Solemn - as we very soberly read out the list of deceased Old Boys and former members of staff. Once again the list has new additions to it this year, and the exercise serves not only to allow us to pray for them and their families but also to remind us of our own mortality.

Happy - as we renew acquaintances after the Mass and enjoy a sumptu-



ous buffet with plenty to drink all provided free of charge by this esteemed Association.

This year, of course, has an added dimension of poignancy as it will be Frank Keenan's last Old Boys' Mass as a member

of staff!  
We do urge all Members and non-members to make the effort to turn-up this year to give him a rousing send-off after so many years of dedicated service, as well as to pay their respects to the deceased.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date for this year's Annual General Meeting is **WEDNESDAY 18TH  
MAY at 8.00pm** in the School.

Please do try and attend this (normally) brief meeting in order to show support for the hard work of our Executive both throughout the previous year and for the forthcoming one.

This is also an opportunity

to discuss and suggest things for the future development of the Association.

Of course it is also the occasion when we elect our next President although (as Paul Hutchinson is only too aware) this year-long position normally lasts for about three!

Once again do please make every effort to attend and have some say in the future of your Old Boys' Association.

## ALL CHANGE AT THE VERY TOP!

I'm sure all members were saddened with the news on 2nd April that the Pope had died.

Members may be interested to learn that the school commemorated his life and death with a special Mass on 7th April.

Frank Keenan commented that for all pupils and many staff John Paul II was the only Pope that they had known.

This struck a chord with this particular editor since the last time the school had a Memorial Mass for a recently deceased Pope it was way back in Autumn 1978 and it was the first Mass that I served as the new School MC.

Of course we join with people around the world to send our good wishes for a wise and fruitful Pontificate to Benedict XVI as he begins his ministry.

## FRANK GOES DOWN UNDER

*Members may recall that last Spring Frank Keenan visited Southern Australia for a few weeks ostensibly for "work" reasons! Here he kindly gives us an insight to what went on...*



For ten years Kevin Nunan was the Head of English at STM and three years ago he returned to his native Australia. He applied for a teaching job at St. Bernard's College (SBC) in Melbourne and the Head of the School, Frank Fitzgerald, rang me for a reference. Frank and I got talking about a possible exchange arrangement between our two schools and eventually agreed to swap jobs in Spring 2004. Frank came to the U.K. in Autumn 2003 and spent some time here at St. Thomas More. Just as we were about to begin our job swap in April of last year, Frank rang me to say that, due to family problems, he would be unable to come to England but insisted that my arrangements should go ahead as planned. Accordingly, at 5.30am one Saturday morning at the end of March 2004, Christine and I landed at Melbourne Airport and were met by Frank Fitzgerald. He immediately whisked us off for a four-hour tour of his school, which he clearly loves even more, if that were

possible, than we love ours. The following morning, Frank and his wife and four children set off on a two-month trailer tent tour of Northern Australia, a trip which we were able to follow on his computer screen in his house (we were due to exchange houses and cars anyway) as he sent photos and stories back on a daily basis. We felt that we had travelled round Australia with him.

We spent the Easter holidays in Melbourne and the surrounding countryside. We learned quickly that the huge rift in the Catholic Church in Australia between Conservatives and Liberals would be a theme of our stay. Australia has a huge Catholic population (about one third), large concentrations of which are in Melbourne and Sydney. We were surprised by the cosmopolitan mix of nationalities in the big cities. I then began my term in St. Bernard's College, as a sort of Associate Headteacher. The school is the same as ours but also different. They have 1200 boys aged 11-18. I found it a very friendly and Catholic school. It is considerably older than St. Thomas More, which means that their old boys are even older than ours!

SBC has a huge sporting reputation, they are one of the top schools at AFL (Aussie Rules Football). This is a mad and violent cross between rugby and soccer, played on a vast oval pitch between two teams of eighteen players. It is a very exciting



game and I was lucky enough to be taken to one of the top professional games in Melbourne while I was there. SBC has gone through a phase of rapid expansion and an even bigger building programme than we have had at St. Thomas More. They also cater for a larger mix of nationalities than we do and I was delighted to find a large Italian contingent with Italian being a popular subject on the timetable.

I fully enjoyed my time in the school and visited several other schools in



the Melbourne area, as well as some Catholic Secondary Schools in Sydney where we spent a week as guests of the Catholic Education Office of the Sydney Archdiocese. Comparisons between the different kinds of schools within Australia, and then with our schools back in the U.K., were endlessly fascinating.

We did also manage to see a little bit of Melbourne and Sydney and the State of Victoria. As mentioned above, we were very struck by the cosmopolitan feel of Melbourne in particular, and I was delighted to see that the European influence was very strong in their wine

industry which I managed to visit on a couple of occasions. We were also very struck by the strong sense of history in the cities of Melbourne and Sydney. It took us a while to realise that the Australians are actually very keen to talk about their origins and we had many interesting conversations with people whose ancestors had committed crimes, often of a ridiculously petty nature, in England and Ireland. One of the proudest boasts of modern Australians is to be able to say that they are descended from a "first fleeter" (i.e. someone who arrived on one of the first boats).

For me, it was a great trip and I am delighted that the exchange we have set up is flourishing. We have had one of SBC's teachers working at our school this year, and we are sending two of our teachers out there next year. We have a second Australian teacher arriving here in September. We are planning a pupil exchange trip in August of 2006. As many of you will know, I set up the Dijon Exchange in 1973 and I am pleased that it is still going strong. I hope very much that this initiative with Melbourne will follow the same pattern.

*Interest is bound to be high amongst pupils, but won't the coach journey be a bit long? - Ed.*

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT...



....it's almost one year since I took over from Gareth Lewis and for the life of me have no idea where the last twelve months have gone.

The Association has held its usual events during the year and I am personally indebted to both Gareth and Gerry Thomas for their help and support - living in Chelms-

ford I have relied on them being the *Southend* arm of this year's Executive.

I will report fully on our year's activities at our annual general meeting on 18th May (an excellent reason for a record-breaking attendance).

When I was installed as President last June I hoped that the Association would be able to identify one particular project with the school to which we could turn our endeavours over a two or three year period. The headmaster and I discussed this at some length and one project did start making an impression in our minds. However, in the event the school decided not to

pursue this particular idea. Nevertheless, I hope that this is a possibility the Association may be able to develop with the new headmaster when he is appointed.

During the past year, I have been privileged to attend the school on our Patronal Feast Day, the Christmas Carol Service, the Passion Service and one or two other occasions. I do not recall my generation of schoolboys being as well behaved and well mannered as the present. They are a tremendous credit to the school and to themselves; I hope that does not sound too patronising, it's not meant to be that but rather an honest reflection on our school in 2005, of which we can all feel proud.

We are all aware that the headmaster retires at the end of this term. He has been an enormous influence in the Old Boys' Association and without his support and encouragement it is debatable whether our Association would have got off the ground. We look forward to working with the new headmaster, but are ever mindful of the enormous debt we owe Frank Keenan.

I write this piece as the announcement is made of our new Holy Father. I am sure we all offer him our prayers and thoughts as he embarks on the most demanding role in Christendom.

## HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED ...

It was with a sense of keen interest and curiosity, coupled with a slight sense of foreboding that a number of Old Boys at last year's Memorial Mass were shown around the (then) recently completed new Arts & Technology Centre building at the school.

Situated at the back of the school next to the Sports Hall and behind the kitchens this latest extension had been opened by Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, that morning and blessed by RT. Rev David Manson, Vicar General, as part of the St. Thomas More Day festivities. As reported in a previous



edition of this esteemed publication, this new block houses the music rooms, technology (that's wood and metal work to most of us), additional changing rooms and sports facilities.

Frank impressed everyone



present with not only his knowledge of CAD programmes (that they exist), but also his orient-



earing skills when negotiating the rabbit warren of corridors that now connects the whole school at



both levels. He is justifiably proud of this new facility and today's pupils must benefit enormously from it.

State of the Art equipment now allows boys to design work on computers, download the design from home and turn up for school the next day to collect the finished product.

*Presumably they still have to attend personally for detentions - Ed.*

## MEMBERS AS AT 25th April 2005

1961	Graham Lewis	1972	Paul Culleton		Kevin Thomas		Brian Martin
1962	Michael Hughes		Toni Imossi	1979	Paul Clarke	1990	Christopher Hull
	John Lewis		David Thomspson		Paul Driscoll		Stuart Saggars
1963	John Bowman	1973	Martin Carroll		David Kitchens	1991	Graham Diggines
	Frank Daley		Michael Glen		David O'Ryan	1995	Paul Bending
	Tony Howlett		Phil Mahoney		Tony Parsad		Douglas Walter
	John Sheehy	1974	Simon Millyard		Sean Tyrie	1997	Elliott Clark
1964	John Griffiths		Ray Allum	1980	Paul Glynn	2000	Daniel Kelly
	Ronald Patchett		Nick Cousins		Sean Leggett	2001	Chris Thompson
1965	Terry Knights		Paul McArdle		Martin McKeown	2003	Chris Barker
	Brian Dalton		Victor Peretti		Nial O'Callaghan		Andrew Cooper
1966	Martyn Barker	1975	Eamon Day	1981	Richard Baker		Sean Perrotton
	Patrick Clancy		David Ekers		Sean Conlon		James Smith
	Bill Clegg		Keith Exley	1982	Sean Corr		Alison Walker
	Paul Hutchinson		Christopher Fairchild		Mark Harvey	2004	Michael Gillham
	Gareth Lewis		Guy Francké		Michael Mullally	H/M	Frank Keenan
	Paul Wenham		John MacDermott	1983	Richard Allard	Chaplain	Rev Kevin Hale
1967	Tony Cane		Andrew McGregor		Anthony Crowley	FT	John Askew
	Paul Clancy		Kevin O'Hanlon	1984	Michael Barry		Ian Britt
	Glen Sweeney		Andy (Guy) Thomas		Stuart Humfrey		D Fanning
	Mike Thompson		Gerry Thomas	1985	Tim Allard		David Finnigan
1968	Geoffrey Lewis	1976	Trevor Barr	1986	Paul Cotgrove		Richard Jarman
	Martin Duggan		Laurence Blainey		Alan Martin		Elsie Kemp
969	Peter David		John Chambers	1988	Martin Corr		Tom Kennedy
	Paul Marsh		Tony Harmon		Martin Diggines		John O'Connell
	Chris McHale		Clive Knight		Christopher Hall		Rev David Peck
1971	Bernie Brooker		Andrew McWilliam	1989	Steven Hurren		D. P McGregor
	Mike Donovan		Simon Ravinet		Paul Baynes		Tom Mayhew
	Kevin Flynn		Martin Sullivan		Damian Dillon		
	Brendan J Foy	1977	John Todryk		Justin Hennessey		
	Nigel Hurley		Jim Tyrie		Paul Lynch		
	Robert Murphy		John Cobbold				
	Charlie Sheppard		Richard Copley				
			Martin Hodson				
			John Judge				
		1978	Richard Clegg				

## MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER

Once again we are delighted to report that David Milne (*Cruises to the Gentry*) is operating one of his highly sought-after river cruises onboard the luxuriously appointed MV Pocahontas.

On Saturday 17th September this floating palace is booked for a days cruising to the fair city of Rochester in Kent via the Rivers Thames and Medway.

She casts off from Southend Pier Head at 9.00am sharp and returns early evening.

Tickets costing only £10.00 may be obtained direct from David Milne at the school on 01702 606763

## HATCHES, MATCHES & DESPATCHES

It is with sadness that we report the death of Michael Healy (1983) who died suddenly in March.

May he Rest in Peace.

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