



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Friday 23rd June is the date for this year's Old Boys' Memorial Mass to be held, as usual, in the school at **8.00pm**.



No doubt this oldest of official Old Boys events (it has been held every year since 1980) will conflict with some life or death happening in the football extravaganza

taking place in Germany. But whilst that death may be metaphorical, the one we recall at the Mass is very real!

Every year we read out the names of all the known deceased Old Boys and the list is forever growing, yet it won't be for about another 10 years or so before any past pupil reaches three score years and ten!

So, if you can pry yourself away from the television coverage for just one evening please do so and remember those Old Boys who can't revel in the World Cup.



The evening is far from morose! Once the formal business of the Mass is over the traditional buffet and drinks will be served and, if it follows the pattern of the previous 26 occasions, the

mood will become extremely happy and light-hearted.

The occasion is open to all Old Boys and their partners and, of course, is **FREE!**

So spread the word and be there - *you know you want to!*

OUT TO LUNCH!

That stirring President of ours, Paul Hutchinson, has kindly opened the doors of his Chelmsford residence to host an Old Boys' Summer Lunch on **Sunday 13th August at 1.00pm**.



VINTAGE YEAR?

It occurred to me recently that it may make for an interesting section in *Moreana* were we able to publish the careers/industries that Old Boys' had entered into since leaving STM [*clearly you have too much time on your hands - Ed.*]

All sorts of interesting things might turn up and, who knows, we may even surprise ourselves!

Neither would it be of simple idle interest, but may actually illustrate

some kind of social shift as we go through the years (I doubt, for instance, if there are that many leavers from 1960 who ended up as website designers). It may also throw up one or two surprises - for instance, at least one Old Boy became a professional astronomer!

We're not looking for any kind of named list, more simply a list of known occupations that leavers from particular years entered into (even if they are somewhat dubious).

So, to get the ball rolling, here's an offering for 1979:-

Marketing
Sales
Food retail
Insurance
Electrician
Plumber
Banking
Supermarket management
RAF fighter pilot
Solicitor
Photographer
Broker

Just send your list to the address below and we'll publish it in future editions.

The cost is a mere £15.00 per head which is fully inclusive of food, wine, etc and there is no charge for children of primary school age and under!

Paul's address is 116 Beardsley Drive, Springfield, Chelmsford and he modestly says that space is limited. So book early by contacting Paul direct on either 01245 469028 or email: paulthehutch@hotmail.com

What a fantastic way to spend a summer Sunday afternoon!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Continuing our potted history of STM gleaned from the original log books, we re-join the saga in October 1974 when the whole school had been allowed back in to what was now a restricted site as work began on solving the high alumina cement problem affecting the whole of the original 1960's building...

On 17th January a meeting was held with the Local Education Authority and County architects to discuss a load-testing programme for the term as part of the repair works. This was not a quick-fix project since an entry almost three months later on 14th April reports that the testing had been satisfactorily completed ...on one half of the building!

At the beginning of that Spring term a Mrs Earle joined the Art department on a one-term contract and it was presumably her that was replaced at the beginning of the summer term when Mr Hill joined the Art staff.

On 21st June 1975 the first Parent v Staff cricket match was played which, apparently, the parents won by a narrow margin (the entry doesn't record the actual score). This was followed by a "grand social" held in the Concourse to which children accompanied by parents were invited *[they knew how to live in those days - Ed]*

St. Thomas More Day that year was celebrated on 23rd June and an Old Boy, Neil Tozer, was a deacon at the Mass and preached the homily.

As the year began to draw to a close the school was saddened by the death of one of the founding governors of the school (and Father-in-Law of our second President) Frank Clancy.

On 14th July the Mayor was the guest of honour at prize-giving and he made what the log records as "a suitable speech to a crowded packed main hall". *[As someone who was there I recall it being long, boring and overran - we were all late leaving school that day - Ed]*

The following two days saw the Lower and Upper schools each taking a day off while the 1960's block - now clear of high alumina cement problems - was restocked with furniture, etc.

The new school year commenced on 2nd September 1975 with, what was then, the staggering total of 500 boys on the role! To help deal with this increase in avid and eager learners, four new members of staff joined the school - Mrs O'Brien (Maths & Social Studies), Mr Phillips (Maths & Science), Mrs Palos (Remedial & English) and Mrs Barlow (RE - part-time). They were joined a few weeks later by Mr Grierson (Design & Technology).

Possible changes were soon on the horizon as the Senior Handicraft Inspector visited the school on 12th November to discuss accommodation problems with the Headmaster, and five days later a special governors' meeting was held to consider the future development of the school in light of plans for a re-organisation of comprehensive education in Southend.

At the end of the Christmas term Mr Foot left.

The only other entry of note for the entire school year is for prizegiving on 15th July when the portrait of Frank Clancy that has hung in the school ever since was unveiled by his widow.

The new school year began on 1st September with the arrival of a fistful of new staff - Mr Harrison (PE & Games), Mr Bertram (Maths & Science), Mrs Chinnery (Remedial & English), Mr Bonner (Remedial & Social Studies) and Mr Thompson (RE).

The main three entries for the whole of that school year seem to involve celebratory "social events" *[clearly the cosh of the National Curriculum had yet to arrive - Ed]* - on 21st October the first ever wholly public performance of the school choir and orchestra took place; on 21st January the Parents Association presented a pantomime in the evening; and on 3rd June the whole

school walked (or in some cases rode bicycles) to St John Fisher church for a Mass to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

The next school year began on 6th September 1977 with the absence of Mr Finnigan for the entire year while he studied for his Diploma in Sacred Liturgy in Ireland. Two other stalwarts were also missing due to long-term sickness - Mr Fanning and Mr Keenan *[for the benefit of younger members, this was in one of Frank's previous incarnations before he became HM - Ed]*.

However, as seemed to be the growing pattern, a number of new staff also began life at STM - Mr Cullinan (RE & Games), Mr Hedges (Maths & RE) and Mrs Shovelin (Art & Pottery). They were joined by two temporary staff to cover the sickness absences - Mr Thumpston & Mr Edwards.

Mr Thumpston's temporary placement seems to have been extremely temporary since he left on 3rd October and was replaced by Mrs Stuart (English).

On 12th December the school continued its annual Christmas treat of watching a film. This time it was the John Wayne western *The Comancheros* and it may well have been the first time that this event was held off-site at the old Odeon.

The school year ended on 21st July with the departure of Mr Sims.

A G M REPORT

Ten stalwart members attended this year's 9th AGM on 17th May and heard that this esteemed Association is in good health generally!

Our President's report paid tribute to the two members of his Executive, Gareth Lewis and Gerry Thomas, for shouldering most of the work necessary to bring our social events to fruition.

Paul reported that he had been pleased to represent the Association at the school's St. Thomas More Day Mass last year and that he and the Executive once again provided the mulled wine at the school Carol Service.



9 of the 10 attendees (the 10th is behind the camera!!)

He also paid tribute to Damian Dillon who has looked after the Association's website for a number of years and appealed for a successor as Damian's other commitments prevent him from continuing.

Sadly this appeal went unanswered as did the one for a Social Secretary on

the Executive - a position that has remained empty now for two years. It was suggested that more could be made of the Association's capacity for social occasions if the Executive was up to full strength.

The task involves attending Executive meetings, which in the words of our

President, "are not overly serious affairs [and] are enlivened with a bottle or two of red wine", and organising the two or three social occasions each year.

So if any member reading this article fancies taking on either of these positions please contact the Executive at the address on the front page.

We currently have 144 members with at least 3 of them being in Australia and 2 in the USA. Efforts continue to be made to attract new members and everyone is encouraged to spread the word!

Finally, the accounts show a healthy balance of £3,160.88.

HELP EDUCATE THE GIRLS...

Paul Wenham (1966), who is a great supporter of this esteemed Association, has been the speaker at one of our Old Boys' Dinners and has kindly entertained groups of members at the club in London where he runs the catering, writes with the following worthy message...

Last year I accepted the position as Chairman of the Commonwealth Countries League - the first male in its 80 years history.

The League's priority is to fight for gender equality across the Commonwealth - one way this is being achieved is being pursued through

the charitable arm of the League that of its Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund - Charity No.1048908. The fund provides sponsorship to bright and needy young girls across the Commonwealth through their secondary education in their own country.

Our fund raising this year launches the 2006 Challenge. The Chairwoman of fundraising has set a target of £75,000.00 and will be largely contributed to by the Foods and Crafts of the Commonwealth Event to be held at the Royal Horticultural Halls on Saturday 4th November 2006.

For those unable to attend or for those who

feel they can help make a difference a donation may be made on the site with the following link.

<http://www.justgiving.com/2006challenge>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having been elected for the second time, in the absence of any other volunteer or a press-ganged man, at last year's AGM I was again honoured with re-election for a third term at this year's meeting.

I look forward to serving the Association for a further year, but tradition suggests that I shall stand down next year.



I do, therefore, urge all of you to consider standing for the position of President next year.

I aim to continue the traditions of the Association throughout the year and, on behalf of all Old Boys, should like to pay tribute to the work of the Headmaster, teachers and staff at our school. St. Thomas More High School has a truly enviable reputation and it is one of which I am sure we are all proud.

**MEMBERSHIP as at
25th MAY 2006**

MEMBERSHIP as at 25th MAY 2006		Mike Thompson		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 Andrew McGregor Kevin O'Hanlon Andy (Guy) Thomas Gerry Thomas	1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggins Christopher Hall Steven Hurren
1962	Michael Hughes John Lewis	1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale			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			1990	Christopher Hull Stuart Saggars
1964	John Griffiths Ron Patchett		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		
1965	Terry Knights Brian Dalton	1972	Paul Culleton Tony Imossi David Thompson			1991	Graham Diggins
1966	Martyn Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Gareth Lewis Paul Wenham	1973	Martin Carroll Michael Glen Phil Mahoney Simon Millyard	1977	John Cobbold Richard Copley Martin Hodson John Judge	1995	Paul Bending Douglas Walter
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney	1974	Ray Allum Nick Cousins Paul McArdle			1997	Elliot Clark
				1978	Richard Clegg Kevin Thomas	2000	Daniel Kelly
						2001	Chris Thompson
				1979	Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll David Kitchens David O'Ryan Tony Parsad Sean Tyrie	2003	Chris Barker Andrew Cooper Sean Perrotton James Smith Alison Walker
						2004	Liam Dean Michael Gilham Thomas Grant James O'Sullivan Blane Perrotton
				1980	Paul Glynn Sean Leggett Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	H/M	Peter Travis Chaplain Rev. Kevin Hale
				1981	Richard Baker Sean Conlon	FT	John Askew Ian Britt D Fanning David Finnigan Richard Jarman Frank Keenan Elsie Kemp Tom Kennedy John O'Connell Rev. David Peck D P McGregor Tom Mayhew
				1982	Sean Corr Mark Harvey Michael Mullally		
				1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley		
				1984	Michael Barry Stuart Humphrey		
				1985	Tim Allard		



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 Astro turf Pitch
Everybody Welcome

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

We would also like to personally thank our sponsors

WILSON JAMES LTD (Security & Logistics)
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