



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fr MICHAEL RENEWS ACQUAINTANCES

On Thursday 23rd June a small, but perfectly formed, group of Old Boys gathered to continue the 32-year unbroken tradition of celebrating a Mass on (or near) St Thomas More Day in memory of those past pupils, staff and governors who have died.



This year's Mass was presided over by the Chairman of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission and Parish Priest of Old Harlow, Father Michael Butler.

Although it was his first time at such an occasion Fr Michael's connections with the school go back all the way to 1963. In the summer of that year David Finnigan took a party of boys to Italy and while there they visited the English College seminary in Rome where Fr Michael was a student. He and another student showed the boys around and then took the group up to Pope Paul VI's summer residence, Castel Gandolfo,

where they witnessed the pontiff giving a blessing from the balcony.

48 YEARS LATER

Now, 48 years later Fr Michael was called upon during the Mass to inaugurate Paul Driscoll (who wasn't in that party of 1963 because he was busy being born at the time) as our fifth President.

Immediately after his inauguration Paul performed his first official duty as President by reading the Prayers of the Faithful during which he read the list of known deceased Old Boys which had, once again, grown since the previous year with the addition of Gareth Lewis and Anthony MacDermott.

SUMPTUOUS BUFFET

Outgoing President Kevin Thomas read the Execution Account of St Thomas More and everyone present enjoyed the traditional sumptuous buffet after the Mass with



plenty of drinks to wash it all down.

As is usually the case, those present consisted of a small nucleus of regulars together with an assortment of other occasional and first-time attenders.

DIGNIFIED



This dignified and relaxed occasion continues to be the favourite event of the year for some and is a small heartfelt tribute to those no longer amongst us as well as an opportunity to recognize and pay our respects to our patron himself.

It is to be hoped that with the efforts being made to increase membership the numbers attending in future years will continue to grow.

TIES OF ASSOCIATION

Long-standing members of this esteemed Association will be aware of the Association tie, which was certainly in evidence at the Memorial Mass and is enthusiastically worn at the annual dinner.

However, many newer members may not have yet had the opportunity to purchase this piece of sartorial elegance.



Designed and produced exclusively for us by no-less a manufacturer of neckware than *Tie Rack* itself, the 100% polyester tie features various elements of the school crest highlighted at random angles and positions on silhouettes of the entire crest repeated across a blue background.

So to proudly display your membership simply send a cheque for £7.50 payable to *St Thomas More Old Boys Association* to the address below.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well it doesn't seem like ten years since I last wrote one of these but, believe it or not, it is.

Having spent three years from 1998 to 2001 as President of this Association I was somewhat surprised (and not a little amazed) when it was suggested that I might like to stand again.

Much has happened in those intervening ten years, both in my own life and the life of the Association. As long-time members will recall shortly after leaving office in 2001 my wife gave birth to our third and last child. The two little boys that we already had are now very big teenagers just about to move up into Years 11 and 10 at STM itself!

The Association has also grown up considerably since those early tentative years, with the Old Boys' Dinner now a firmly established tradition and the 32-year old Memorial Mass continuing to be well-supported each year. Membership numbers have gone up and down over the years, peaking at 152, and we've seen three other Presidents add their own style and priorities to the Association and the way it has been run.

But now to the future.....

Personally I see the long-term security of this Association in its membership numbers and most of the initiatives that you will see me embrace will be designed for the main purpose of driving them up!

FRUITFUL MEETING

In late May, after my election, I had a very fruitful meeting with Headmaster Peter Travis at which he reiterated his enthusiasm for the Association and we discussed a number of potential initiatives to increase its profile amongst the current pupils and their parents.

These include:-

- Meeting with the 6th Form and discussing ways of working on some projects together
- Ensuring that editions of *Moreana* are made available to the 6th Form and displayed within the school itself
- Investigating the possibility of the Association entering a football and cricket team to play the 6th form (and maybe the staff) each year
- Re-establishing the tradition of providing the mulled wine at the Christmas Concert and leading the singing of a suitable Carol
- Investing in some roll-up banners to be displayed at school events where we aren't present
- Providing a pool of Old Boys willing to visit the school and discuss such things as career options (members will have

to be CRB-checked to qualify—the school will sort out the necessary bureaucracy)

This list is, by no means exhaustive or final. Indeed I very much hope that it will continue to evolve as time goes by. But if anything on it already interests you please just send me an e-mail at the address on the front page.

PAST PUPILS

But it's not only about the current pupils and staff. There are more than 5,000 past pupils out there and it is they to whom we must spread the word that this Association exists.

Allowing for those who hated school and will never have any interest in returning, and for those for whom it is too soon to be nostalgic for those simpler, innocent times that they enjoyed at school, we should still consider membership numbers of 150-200 (less than 5% of those eligible) to be more than achievable if they simply get to find out about our existence.



Membership Secretary
Liam Rand

WEBSITE

For this reason we are re-developing aspects of the Association website—www.stmoldboys.co.uk—(which already includes the addition of a "Contact Us" feature) and our new Membership Secretary Liam Rand is busy beaver away developing a Facebook site for us.

So now if you find yourself discussing the Association with a non-member simply direct them to the website and let them make the next move.

Remember that there's no such thing as a monopoly on good ideas and if you come up with a cunning plan don't keep it to yourself, e-mail us so that we can add it to the mix.



The Executive

I certainly don't take lightly the trust that has been placed in me by those members foolish and misguided enough to have recommended or voted for me as President and I shall ensure that you are kept fully-informed of the progress of our initiatives in future editions of *Moreana*.

I look forward tremendously to seeing as many members as possible over the next year and I know that I and the Executive can count on your support.

PAUL DRISCOLL

OLD BOYS HELP WITH TRANSLATION

As many members will be aware, the church will be introducing a new English translation of the Mass at the beginning of Advent this year.



Consequently all of the Altar Missals [*the big red book used on the Altar by the priest—Ed*] will need replacing throughout the entire country.

Most parishes are already in the process of ordering their replacements and, since this esteemed Association make use of the school's Missal every year during our Memorial Mass

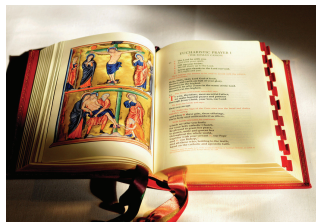
SOME PEOPLE JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY

It is becoming clear that there are a number of members of staff currently at the school who are ex-pupils.

What is it about their Alma Mater that draws them back? Is it a wish to pass on some profound truths learnt in the same portals of education, or a desire to mete out to a new generation the same treatment they received?

We shall be investigating.....

our new President, Paul Driscoll, felt it would be a fitting gesture for the Association to purchase their new one for them. The Executive agreed with this suggestion and consequently £230 of Association funds have been used to this end.



When the Missal arrives (which is not expected to be until the Autumn) it will be inscribed to record the Association as its donor and then presented to the school for its use in school Masses.

THE WAY WE WERE

Now how about this for a bit of fun....

Many of those in this esteemed Association know each other fairly well, a few have been very good friends since school, and some vaguely remember others from their school-days.

But what if we were to send in pics of what we actually looked like back then?

Just e-mail your pic of how you looked when you were at STM together with a pic taken recently and we'll see if anyone recognises you.

Just remember we have some archive pics, so if you don't do this voluntarily.....

DON'T BE SHY ... TELL US WHAT YOU'D LIKE

As members are aware, this esteemed Association has two annual fixtures that have now been run successfully for 13 years (32 in the case of the Memorial Mass).

But there is more to life than dinner and Mass [*just checking that with the Catholic hierarchy—Ed*] and we would like to know what would float your boat.

Would you like to see more things involving partners? Would you like an informal evening event in London for those many members who work in "the smoke"?

How about perks that we might be able to obtain for members through Association leverage?

Trips to the theatre, garden parties, quiz nights, sports outings.....?

Do any members have access to corporate hospitality that they might want to share?

The list of possibilities is limited only by our imaginations and interests.

So don't be shy....send your thoughts and suggestions to the e-mail (or postal) address on the front page and, who knows, if there's enough interest it could become a reality and, perhaps, another means of broadening the appeal of the Association to new members.

ESSEX MAN IN EXOTIC LOCATIONS

This humble editor recently exchanged e-mails with member John Griffiths (1964) and was astounded to learn that he lives in a place called Negros Occidental in the South Pacific!

Further investigation on *Google* revealed his domicile to be the sugar capital of the Philippines!

Hopefully John will find the time in the future to send us an article about this apparently idyllic island and exactly how he managed to end-up there.



Of course this got me thinking about other members and their post-STM addresses. Certainly over the years we've had members living in USA, Australia, Austria and Italy to name but four countries and I'd almost lay money on them being more picturesque and interesting than Canvey Island!

So if you are one of our expat members perhaps you, too, would consider sending an article about your new homeland and why and how you came to be living there.

Pictures are always good as well (even if just to use up space and reduce the number of words you have to write)—just e-mail everything to the address on the front page.

MEMBERSHIP AS AT MAY 2011

Once upon a time this esteemed Association reached the heady membership numbers of 152. Sadly those days have (temporarily) passed, but there do seem to be some "members" who have managed to slip off the list over time *[probably due to "forgetting" to send their cheque each June or perhaps an Interpol investigation necessitating a low profile—Ed]*.

Below is the membership list at the very end of the last membership year. The £10.00 was, of course, due on 1st June and many members now pay by Direct Debit to avoid the need to remember to send a cheque—their renewal is automatic.

If your £10.00 is still eagerly awaited by our Membership Secretary Liam Rand you will probably have received a reminder with this esteemed publication. But if you didn't and feel the need to part with it anyway please send the cheque to the address on the front page asap.

More importantly there are names that have fallen off the list and whose owners haven't realised it. If you know of any such person please do give them a gentle nudge *[or a brutal shove—Ed]* and encourage them to re-join with all possible haste.

We are delighted this issue to add Jan Lewis, wife of our late-President Gareth, to the Honorary Members.

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

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

It is with great sadness that we report here the recent deaths of two Old Boys.

Anthony MacDermott left in the late 1960s and Martin O'Brien (nephew of ex-English and Maths teacher Sybil) who had become a regular at our annual dinner and left in 1968.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

May they both Rest in Peace.

KNOWN DECEASED LIST

Those members who have ever attended an Old Boys' Memorial Mass will recall that during the Prayers of the Faithful we read the list of all known deceased Old Boys.

This list currently numbers 72 past pupils plus a number of former staff and governors. As is often remarked upon, the school is not yet old enough to have any past pupils aged 70 or above. Consequently none of those mentioned have died of old age—a very sobering thought.

Yet it is more than feasible that there are names missing and, if this is the case, we'd like to add them to the list in order that they may be remembered and prayed for every year.

So if you know of any Old Boys who have died please be sure to send their name to the address on the front page.