



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OLYMPIC-THEMED DINNER HAS FALSE START

As members will recall from the last edition of this illustrious publication, this year's Old Boys' Dinner was, due to demand, returned to its more traditional time of year and was scheduled to be held at the school on Saturday 13th October.

Sadly a number of other factors (such as illness, other engagements and holidays) then managed to conspire against us resulting in a very low take-up for tickets.

Consequently, with only one week to go before the big event the Executive took the unprecedented, and painful, decision to postpone it!

The good news, however, is that the school and the Catering staff were quick to offer some new dates early in the New Year.

So, before you get booked-up for something else please make a note in your diary that the new date is now **SATURDAY 9th FEBRUARY** at 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

If you had already paid for the October date then your



place is secure for February. If you hadn't booked then now is the time to do so to avoid any last-minute panics and the risk of unwittingly double-booking yourself.

The Dinner really is a fun event with everyone who attends always enjoying themselves. So do consider attending and, perhaps, even put a party together of other past pupils who may, or may not, be members to help swell the attendance to record-breaking levels.

For the first time in a number of years the menu has also been re-vamped and will consist of:-

Melon, Parma Ham and Basil

French Onion Soup with

Cheese Croutons, warm roll and butter

Steak, Red Wine and Mushroom pie
OR
Chicken and Asparagus pie

with
Roast Potatoes
Buttered New Potatoes
Cauliflower Cheese
Peas
Carrots Baton
Roasted Butternut
Squash

Eton Mess

Cheese Board with Grapes

Coffee and After Dinner chocolates

The after-dinner speech will still be the intended double-act from John Bowman (1963) and Kevin Thomas (1978) who were both volunteer Olympic Games Makers at this year's festival of sport in London. They will both, no doubt, have many interesting and varied tales to tell us of what went on to make the games such a tremendous success.

The cost of a ticket is **£20.00** for members and **£25.00** for non-members.

As usual there will a selection of wine and beer [*a larger stock than last year—Ed*] and our traditional Intercourse Bingo will, once again, feature prominently.

Gemma Ackred, Interim Headteacher, is hoping to attend and is trying to encourage a party of current members of staff to support her.

So don't wait a moment longer. Grab your cheque books and send the payment (payable to *St Thomas More Old Boys' Association*) to the address below before it's too late.

WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN UP TO?

Interim Head Teacher Gemma Ackred has kindly provided the following highlights of the last school year and, to those more veteran members amongst us, it provides an interesting insight into the opportunities and activities of modern day education...

Academy Status - The school received confirmation from the Rt Hon Michael Gove, MP, Secretary of State, that the school was converted into an Academy on 17th August 2011.

October 2011
Year 10 Enterprise Pupils Represent School in Regional Final



The pupils behind the soft drink, 'SPRITZO' made it through to this year's East Anglia Real Business Challenge Final,

November 2011
Diocesan Justice and Peace Day 3rd November - We were joined by representatives from seven diocesan secondary schools and members of CAFOD, London Citizens, and Marriage and Family Life.

Remembrance Day Service at the Cliffs Cenotaph On Sunday 13th November we attended a Remembrance Day Service at the Cliffs Cenotaph to lay a wreath on behalf of our school com-

munity.

Year 10s win the Regional Final of the 'Real Business Challenge' - 23rd November 2011

December 2011
Charity Week - events in aid of 'Scotty's Little Soldiers'

Kingsdown Christmas Party - 12th December. Children from the local Kingsdown special school visit STM who host a Christmas party for them every year.

February 2012
Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge - Thirty Year 10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge training day.

March 2012
Swimming Gala - Result: 2nd Overall - STM finished an overall 2nd, the school's joint-best finish for the past three decades.

New Mission Statement - 5th March
To inspire,
To learn,
To achieve,
To keep our Catholic ethos at the centre of our lives,
To fulfil our educational potential, welcoming all and reaching out to the wider world,
To truly be God's servant first.

Ofsted - Letter 15th March 2012 informing us that they have conducted an interim assessment. They informed us that their interim assessment

shows that the school's performance has been sustained and that they can therefore defer their next full inspection.

Year 8 Football STM v Southend High (SOS Cup Final) WON 3-1 - The Year 8 football team win the Southend Schools Cup for the second year running.

April 2012
Schola Cantorum



On 22nd April, the school's *Schola Cantorum* sang beautifully at the Solemn Mass at Brentwood Cathedral.

May 2012
Good Citizenship Award - 18th May Brentwood Cathedral celebrating The Good Citizenship Award. Luka Worricker and Kieran Hayden were awarded certificates.

June 2012
Paralympian Guest Speaker



Emily Scrivener, a GB Wheelchair Basketball player, visited the school. Emily spoke at a special assembly and later coached 20 lucky pupils on how to play basketball from a wheelchair.

St Thomas More Day -



28th June (staff won everything!)

July 2012
School Play - 3rd July - Midsummer Night That's REEM

UKMT Maths Challenge - 17 of our Year 8s and 7 of our Year 7s did well enough to gain certificates.

September 2012
Best Ever Exam Results

GCSE RESULTS

87% of students obtained five or more A* - C grades while 64.4% of students obtained five or more A* - C inc. Eng & Maths

A2 RESULTS

34.69% of students obtained grades A*—B, 63.75% obtained grades A* - C and a staggering 98.13% obtained grades A* - E

Student Success - Luke McGeoch and George Gillett gained places to study medicine at Cambridge and Oxford.

Elliott Philips our retired Head Of Prefects managed to successfully balance a fantastic year of duty and service to the school with his studies and achieve a phenomenal **ELEVEN A*** GCSE grades!

100 Days of Peace Paralympic Celebration Day - STM welcomed 56 pupils from seven of the Deanery Primary Schools to celebrate the values of the 100 Days of Peace Legacy.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Occasionally over the years there have been mooted suggestions made that this esteemed Association might do well to consider changing it's name to address the twin problems of attracting new, younger members and encouraging past female students from the 6th Form to join.

Initially such suggestions were dismissed years ago with a shrug and an attitude of "so what?"

But as time passes and associations such as ours find less and less younger blood coming in to rejuvenate things, the Executive has decided that perhaps now is the time to give this suggestion some very real consideration.

Consequently, over the next 6 months we shall be seeking input from members whenever possible to this "Great Matter" [*students of history take note—Ed*].

Alternative names so far suggested have included *Alumni, Past Pupils Association* and *Former Pupils Association*. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the school's initials begin S T M which don't tend to lend themselves to a catchy acronym as a punchy alternative. Someone has even suggested *Old Morons!* [*Many a true word spoken in jest—Ed*]

This is a very important matter in the development of the Association and deserves careful thought and input from all members. So

please don't keep your thoughts to yourself. Wade in to the debate and let us know your suggestions as well as whether you'd actually support a name change.

Something as important as this cannot constitutionally be actioned until an AGM so we've got until May 2013 to mull it over and discuss suggestions.

So please give it some serious thought amongst yourselves and let us know via the usual channels.

OOPS—ALMOST FORGOT TO TELL YOU!

The report of May's AGM was omitted from the July edition of *Moreana* due to constraints of time and space but, as many members will have guessed, nothing much changed as far as membership of the Executive is concerned.

Paul Driscoll was re-elected as President for the 5th (non-consecutive) year and Liam Rand continued into his second-of-three year stint as Membership Secretary having reported an increase in membership numbers over the previous 12 months.

After eight consecutive years of service to the Association Paul Hutchinson resigned as Treasurer because of personal commitments and the role currently remains vacant being filled by the President on a temporary basis. The President thanks Paul for his dedication.

PAYBACK TIME!

Our Membership Secretary Liam Rand had a very fruitful meeting recently with Head of Sixth Form Else Genovese when a number of initiatives were discussed that may both benefit the school and help raise the profile of this esteemed Association.

Amongst the topics discussed was a suggestion that Old Boys give a sort of guest lecture in their area of expertise in order to add a sense of "real-life experience" to the subjects being studied by current 6th Form pupils.

This initiative will be an opportunity for the Association to do something useful for the school and, at the same time, provide a chance for many of us to give something back to the place that gave us our start in life.

We all know that learning in a classroom environment can, even with the best teachers, sometimes feel a little detached from how a subject is actually used in real life, and the school are hoping that talks by those who actually work in the relevant areas will help encourage and invigorate the students.

So if you have any experience in any of the following subjects the school would welcome your assistance.

Please don't be shy about volunteering and be bold enough to pick as many

areas that apply.

Simply e-mail your willingness to help to pdstmold-boys@blueyonder.co.uk.

History / Law
Chemical Engineering
Law
TV film production
History / English Language
Psychology
History & Politics
English Language / Art
Event Management
Business Management
Sports Journalism
Broadcast Journalism
Sports Psychology
Music / Media
Accounting
Chemical Engineering
Philosophy
Music
Economics
Maths with Finance
Maths
Bio Medicine / Gap Year
English Literature
Criminology & Social
Business Marketing
Computer Science
Architecture
Physiotherapy
Forensic Science
Midwifery
Consumer Behaviour
Geology
Dance Movement Therapy
Geography
Mechanical Engineering
Business Psychology
Chemistry
Motor Sport Engineering
Politics
Marketing
International Relations and Democracy

MEMBERSHIP AS AT OCTOBER 2012

1961	Graham Lewis	1972	Paul Culleton David Thompson	1978	Kevin Thomas	1990	Christopher Hull
1962	Kevin Butt Michael Hughes John Lewis	1973	Phil Mahoney	1979	Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll David O'Ryan Sean Tyrie	1995	Paul Bending
1963	John Bowman John Sheehy	1974	Paul McArdle Simon Millyard	1980	Sean Leggett Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	2000	Daniel Kelly (Chpln)
1964	John Griffiths Ronald Patchett	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley Chris Fairchild John McDermot Andrew McGregor Gerry Thomas	1981	Sean Conlon	2001	Chris Thompson
1965	Brian Dalton Terry Knights	1976	Chris Barber Laurence Blainey John Chambers Guy Francke Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk James Tyrie	1982	Mark Harvey	2004	Chloe Driscoll
1966	Martyn Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Paul Wenham	1977	Graham Axe Phil Coath John Cobbold Richard Copley Martin Hodson John Judge Liam Rand	1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley	2005	Nick Spillett
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson			1984	Michael Barry Mark Denton Stuart Humfrey	2011	Dale Claridge
1968	Martin Duggan Geoffrey Lewis			1985	Tim Allard Karl Streamer	FT	John Askew
1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale			1986	Ian O'Connell	FT	Ian Britt
1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn			1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines Steven Hurren	FT	James Devor
				1989	Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch	FT	David Finnigan
						FT	Frank Keenan
						FT	Tom Kennedy
						FT	David Milne
						FT	John O'Connell*
						I.H/T	Gemma Ackred
						Hon	Jan Lewis Helen Wigmore

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

WE'RE ALL INVITED TO CHRISTMAS...

Interim Head Teacher Gemma Ackred has issued an invitation to all Old Boys & their partners to attend the school Carol Service in the main hall on **Thursday 20th December at 7pm.**

Refreshments will be available in the Concourse Area afterwards and this esteemed Association will be continuing the long-established tradition of serving mulled wine to the assembled masses.

It would be helpful if you could let the school know in advance of your intention to attend by e-mailing secretary@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

GOLF DAY SUCCESS FOR STMOBA ??

The recent Sacred Heart Golf Day at Garon's Park at which this esteemed Association had a few participants was, in fact, won by an Old Boy—David Kitchens, who left the school in 1979.

However, David is also a past pupil of Sacred Heart primary school and one-time parishioner of that church.

Since he is not currently a member of this Association it might be fair to say that the honours were even!

ROLL-UP... ROLL-UP ...

In an effort to help promote the Association within the school to pupils, parents, staff and prospective parents, the Executive recently had produced a rather fetching roll-up banner to be used at relevant events within the school.

They say *a picture paints a thousand words ...*



HATCHES, MATCHES & DESPATCHES

Sadly we have to report, yet again, another death amongst past pupils.

Old Boy Peter Henaghan, who left the school in 1986, tragically drowned at Southend seafront in the summer.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this difficult time.

May he Rest In Peace.