



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DAMIAN'S RETURN

Members will recall Damian Dillon's marvellous first-hand account of the Boscastle floods with which he regaled diners at the 2004 Old Boys' Dinner (and which was then printed in the January 2005 edition of this esteemed publication).

Well, our intrepid explorer, not to be put-off by a little rain, returned to Boscastle 53 weeks after the floods for a holiday and hardly noticed any differences.

He reports: *"We enjoyed nice weather, most of the*



water came in bottles, and we knew we were onto a good thing when we saw this omen sitting in Padstow harbour - a boat named 'Moreana'!"

This eventuality is even more spooky when you

consider that we had already been asked to consider an article for this edition explaining the name *Moreana*.

Apparently confusion is reigning supreme in some quarters over the origins of the name for this esteemed publication.

MOREANA was the name of the original school magazine which older Members will, no doubt, recall.

It was an A5 black & white publication consisting of a goodly number of pages each

edition and was produced fairly regularly for at least three years. Contents included various submissions from boys and staff together with sports results, etc.

The name, so we are reliably informed, has Latin influences but is not exactly grammatically correct. It was (and is) intended to loosely mean "things pertaining to More (as in St. Thomas)".

In an effort to link the past with the present it was chosen as the title for our Association's newsletter when the Association was formed.

A WARM WELCOME!

Whilst visiting the school recently to undertake some research for this esteemed publication it struck this editor that many Members would be amazed if they saw the modern entrance lobby of the old place.

Gone is the serving hatch that graced the narrow, dimly-lit entrance corridor in the 70's, which may or may not be opened by the secretary (depending on her mood) when sharply rapped upon by an erstwhile visitor.

Gone also is the larger serving hatch that replaced it further down the even-darker corridor in the 80's and 90's.



In fact they seem to have ditched the municipal dining room look altogether in favour of lavish marble flooring and open plan reception desks.

The effect is so dramatic that you find yourself

almost asking for a room on the top floor with ocean views and an early morning wake-up call!

The whole thing is staffed by a dedicated team of Receptionists (the secretaries having been ensconced in, no-doubt, lavish executive offices behind the scenes complete with pot plants and water-coolers).

Opposite the "check-in" is displayed the Dan Shanahan library containing numerous books on St. Thomas More.

Quite why someone should name their boat *Moreana* is beyond us, but perhaps the owner is an Old Boy!



Belinda and Theresa were game enough to pose for the camera on the occasion of my visit. Their calm and relaxed appearance belying the problem with the celebrity guest staying in the penthouse!

PAUL GRACES GRACELAND

Concluding the account submitted by Paul Lynch (1989) of his visit to the home of Elvis....

The TV room is a basement lounge containing 3 television sets. Elvis enjoyed checking what was on the other channel without having to actually change channel and miss what he was watching. This is also a good way of keeping check of what lies the media are making up about you, and is a practice used by the US Presidents and other celebrities and political figures throughout the world, so remember that one when you're rich and famous.

The Jungle room, commonly known as The Den, is another lounge which Elvis had done out to resemble the great outdoors. It contains: an artificial working waterfall, plenty of large leafy plants, furniture and ornaments resembling trees and vegetation, and green Shag carpets on the floor, walls and ceiling. Elvis would go to the Den to chill out when it was raining or windy, Lisa Marie would also play there as a child.

Elvis had two planes, the smaller was a private jet called "The Hound Dog II". This is equipped with a bar, kitchen and wardrobe and is stereotypical of most private jets. The real show stopper though is the larger plane called "The Lisa Marie". This is

around the size of a domestic passenger airbus and is quite amazing. The plane is equipped with: lounge, dining room, entertainment facilities, Elvis's posh bedroom and private bathroom, and guest bathroom and beds.

The Racquetball Building is a separate two-storey building containing, apart from the racquetball court, a gym and a lounge. The court is now used to exhibit his awards and stage costumes. Elvis spent his last early morning in this building with his final partner Ginger Alden and a few other friends relaxing in the lounge, and playing piano and racquetball. In the early hours of the morning of August 16th 1977, he returned to the house to go to bed. At mid-morning Ginger woke to find him lying on the bathroom floor, he was gone. Elvis had died from heart failure, and by mid-afternoon the press would break the news to the rest of the World. I vaguely recall this happening and remember my older brother Mark, who accompanied me on this trip, and my dad being very depressed that morning as I sat eating my frosties.

Elvis's death came as quite a shock to everyone, but it had been rumoured for the previous year however that the King of



Rock and Roll was very ill. He had fought personal problems with prescribed medication and would binge eat. That along with his hectic working and social life had finally caught up with him. The Funeral took place at Graceland in the music room adjacent to the front lounge pictured above. Only a few family members and friends attended it. His grave along with that of his parents and Grandmother (all of whom lived with him at Graceland) are situated in the Garden of Meditation, a peaceful dwelling that Elvis had built for private rest and relaxation in the 1960s. His father Vernon Elvis Presley had all relevant graves exhumed and resituated there before his own death in 1979. This was with the exception of Elvis's twin brother Jessie Garon who, sadly, was still born, and it was not practical to have his grave exhumed, so instead there lays a memorial plaque to him.

Vernon stayed with Elvis his whole life, after his

wife Gladys Love Smith died suddenly in 1958; he kept living at Graceland with his only son and took the job of managing his personal affairs. Just as Colonel Parker managed Elvis's career, Vernon managed his private life. His office where he worked reading fan mail and paying the bills amongst other duties is also part of the tour.

If ever you're in Memphis, whether you're an Elvis fan or not, a visit to Graceland is a must. It's a fascinating and unusual place, a palace fit for a king.

We are grateful to Paul not only for an interesting article, but also for bothering to submit it!

There must be more Members of this esteemed Association whose school days included some instruction in English Language and who have an interesting tale or two to tell. Don't be shy, we know you're out there!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

After a gap of some 2½ years we return to our occasional series of excerpts taken from the original school log books and re-commence in September 1973...

The school year began with the arrival of not only two new teachers (Mr Braithwaite - Maths & Physical Sciences - and Miss Greene - Modern Languages) but also a huge new extension that effectively doubled the size of the premises. The Concourse Area and all of the classrooms leading immediately from it were formally opened on 23rd November when the then Bishop of Brentwood (Patrick Casey) presided at a Mass of Dedication. The temporary mobile classrooms, which were now surplus to requirements, were removed on 28th November to Our Lady of Lourdes primary school to provide them with extra accommodation [*does anyone know if they're still there?* - Ed].

Having just finished a lengthy building project and finally opened an extensive new block, the school closed at 9.30am on 3rd December due to heating failure! However it must have been just a temporary hiccup since the logbook records that the annual treat of a film show (chosen by the school council) took place on 18th December. The end of the Christmas term saw the departure of Mr Jarman. The Spring term com-

menced with 3 student teachers arriving for 5 weeks. They included a Mr O'Brien (who was a former Head Boy) and Mr Tooley.

Ever at the forefront of innovation the school experimented in February with timed interviews at the 2nd Year parents' evening which, by all accounts, proved to be successful.

6th March 1974 saw the first visit by pupils from Dijon! Things were clearly in a pioneering stage since the entry records that the French students stayed with hosts and hostesses chosen from local schools, but several were hosted by pupils from STM.

The school year ended in July with the departure of Mrs Green, Miss Greene and Mrs Gracie, whilst Mrs Donaldson left for a year's course.

September saw the arrival of a now-qualified Mr Tooley to teach Social Studies, PE & Games, together with Mr Thompson (Maths & Science), Mr Charles (Maths & Physical Sciences), Madame Duval (Modern Languages) and Mrs Parkinson (English, Remedial & R.E.).

However, it didn't take long for building problems to return. In fact, it took about 7 hours, since at 3.40pm after an inspection by architects, the school was closed because of structural defects in the old 3-storey block. Happily (or not, depending on your point of view and

age) the 4th and 5th Years (Years 10 & 11 in new money) were able to continue for the time being!

Three days later a letter was sent home to all pupils concerning the closure. It revealed that structural defects had been found in the flooring and roofing of each storey, resulting in the temporary loss of 10 classrooms (Remedial & Maths mainly) together with the library, 6th Form Common Room, storage rooms and the cloakrooms and toilets.

As a result, as much equipment as possible was moved to the new block (the building of which must now have seemed doubly fortuitous) and 3rd - 6th Years recommenced full time education on 16th September. The 1st & 2nd Years had to alternate their attendance on a weekly basis for the rest of the month [*they must have been devastated* - Ed].

Work commenced during that weekend to prop-up the faulty ceilings and was completed by 27th September when letters were sent home informing parents that full-time schooling would recommence for all pupils on 3rd October.

Find out how the stoic efforts of staff and pupils coped with these bleak and dismal days in the next thrilling installment some time in the future...

E's OUT OF DATE!

That stalwart of the Executive, Gerry Thomas, has been having all sorts of problems trying to keep up!

Not, you understand, that this is a particularly new problem for our hard-working and under-appreciated Social Secretary.

It's just that the problem has been exasperated [*now there's a long word that I doubt he learnt at STM* - Ed] by the advent of modern technology. Many members prefer to be contacted by e-mail but then change their e-mail address and forget to tell poor old Gerry, who then spends countless hours trying to locate the erstwhile member.

So, if you do change your e-mail address be sure to e-mail the new address to Gerry.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held, as is tradition, in the school Dining Hall at **8.00pm** on **WEDNESDAY 17th MAY**.

It is important that as many members as possible take the opportunity to attend this annual event so as to have your say in the way the Association develops.

As usual the position of President will be up for election, so do consider standing and also make your vote count!

MEMBERSHIP as at 21st FEB 2006

1961	Graham Lewis	1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn Brendan J Foy Nigel Hurley Robert Murphy Charlie Sheppard	1977	John Cobbold Richard Copley Martin Hodson John Judge	1990	Christopher Hull Stuart Saggars
1962	Michael Hughes John Lewis			1978	Richard Clegg Kevin Thomas	1991	Graham Diggines
1963	John Bowman Frank Daley Tony Howlett John Sheehy	1972	Paul Culleton Tony Imossi David Thompson	1979	Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll David Kitchens David O'Ryan Tony Parsad Sean Tyrie	1995	Paul Bending Douglas Walter
1964	John Griffiths Ron Patchett	1973	Martin Carroll Michael Glen Phil Mahoney Simon Millyard	1980	Paul Glynn Sean Leggett Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	1997	Elliot Clark
1965	Terry Knights Brian Dalton	1974	Ray Allum Nick Cousins Paul McArdle Victor Peretti	1981	Richard Baker Sean Conlon	2000	Daniel Kelly
1966	Martyn Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Gareth Lewis Paul Wenham	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley Christopher Fairchild Guy Franke' John MacDermott Andrew McGregor Kevin O'Hanlon Andy (Guy) Thomas Gerry Thomas	1982	Sean Corr Mark Harvey Michael Mullally	2001	Chris Thompson
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson			1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley	2003	Chris Barker Andrew Cooper Sean Perrotton James Smith Alison Walker
1968	Geoffrey Lewis Martin Duggan	1976	Trevor Barr Laurence Blainey John Chambers Tony Harmon Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk Jim Tyrie	1984	Michael Barry Stuart Humphrey	2004	Liam Dean Michael Gilham Thomas Grant James O'Sullivan Blane Perrotton
1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale			1985	Tim Allard	H/M	Peter Travis Chaplain Rev. Kevin Hale
				1986	Paul Cotgrove Alan Martin	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
				1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines Christopher Hall Steven Hurren		
				1989	Paul Baynes Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch Brian Martin		

HONOURS ABOUND!



It was only a couple of issues ago that we were delighting Members

with news of David Finnigan's Papal Knighthood, yet here we are again spreading the good news of another honour bestowed upon an "Old Boy".

Recently departed (from

the school, that is) Headmaster Frank Keenan was awarded the OBE in the Queen's New Years Honours List for his services to teaching.

Upon hearing the news Frank immediately departed for a tour of the Antipodean Commonwealth where he is currently spreading the

good news and was, therefore, unavailable for comment.

We do, of course, on behalf of all Members pass on our hearty congratulations to Frank for an award well-deserved!

HATCHES, MATCHES & DESPATCHES

It is with sadness that we report the recent death of Mrs Maria Cane, who taught in the Special Needs Department for 11 years. Her sons also attended the school.

May she Rest in Peace.