



# MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## NEW ENTRANCE

For all those of you having sleepless nights and worrying ceaselessly about the building work being carried out at the old place, as reported in a recent edition of *Moreana*, we are happy to report that you can stop fretting!

The work has been completed and we include here a picture of the new main entrance. Two storeys high with an illuminated crest and very business-like entrance foyer with reception area it is pretty impressive! (Whether it will increase the number of students gaining grade C or above is, of course, an unknown factor).

Frank Keenan is understandably delighted and even more delighted that the education



authorities have now agreed to grant the funding necessary to undertake Stage 2!

This entails constructing a completely new building in the playground near the

entrance to the changing rooms, and a second floor link corridor from the language rooms to the 1960's block.

Further details as and when they are known.

## CHRISTMAS FARE(D) WELL

Saturday 1st December saw about 30 members and their partners attend last year's Christmas Dinner in Southend's Zanzibar restaurant.

The venue was certainly a lively change to the previous two years and an unfortunate mix-up with their Christmas menu strangely not being available in December meant that those present were spared having to eat yet another portion of Turkey during the pre-Christmas build-up.

Instead this blessing-in-

disguise meant that the food more regularly associated with this trendy venue was suddenly available



to us and everyone seemed to tuck-in with gusto. A resident DJ ensured that there were none of those awkward silent moments, whilst the popularity of the place also spared the men the embarrassment of having to dance with their partners just to keep them happy.

Instead, an evening of jocular conversation, renewing old acquaintances, eating well and drinking merrily ensued.

Our thanks to the Executive for arranging the occasion - this editor certainly enjoyed it.

With an eye to the future the Executive had barely taken the mistletoe down when they booked this year's Christmas Dinner at the Roslin Hotel in Thorpe Bay.

Full details will, of course, appear in the relevant issue of this esteemed publication.

## IT'S ALIVE !!

That human dynamo of a Membership Secretary of ours has finished burning the midnight oil and is proud to announce that the Association website is now LIVE!!

The address (cunningly) is [www.stmoldboys.co.uk](http://www.stmoldboys.co.uk)

The site contains a detailed yearly history of our Association with pictures (taken from past editions of *Moreana*), current events news, members list, deceased old boys list, correspondence page, and links to Catholic Utd and Friends Reunited.

We should also record our thanks here to Old Boys Mark Walmsley and Ray Allum for their help it getting it all up and running.

Well done Damian! Someone just needs to explain now to our President what a website is!

## AGM DATE

The date for this year's AGM will be **Wednesday 15th May** at 8.00pm in the Dining Hall.

This is your chance to have a say in how the Association is run and, as always, stand for President if you wish.

Agenda's, reports, etc will be in the post.

Please also note the date of this year's Memorial Mass and Social - Thursday 20th June.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*Two members have kindly submitted their fond memories of schools trips of the past. Obviously the kids of today are much better behaved ...*

### FRENCH DAYTRIPS - OOH LA LA!



by Damian Dillon

#### Euro Arson Disgrace Schoolboys tells Story!

I can't vouch for other trips to France in other years but does anyone recall that they weren't just day trips but more like parties than anything else. I mean some of the stuff that used to go on wouldn't have been out of place on *Grange Hill* but we never got paid for the parts we played. In writing this article, I conspired with another veteran of 1989 - Gregory Connor - to confirm the events that took place.

Armed with a few useful phrases like how to order a room with a shower, we used to wander the streets in search of four things:

1. Booze
2. Bangers - the bigger the better
3. Dirty pictures (especially postcards!)
4. Cigarettes

The day trip would always involve confrontations with any other coach of school kids on the ferry, and throwing bangers into the kiosks along the waters edge in Boulogne thus prompting the French police to round us up and leaving Mrs Duvall to clear matters up.

On one occasion Mrs Duvall had the coach drive out into

the countryside to dispose of the bangers. But this back fired as we ran off into the fields lobbing them in any direction we could. We found an old concrete building much like the old war defence blocks in farmer's fields here, and this we used as a target. I remember one of my classmates finding a bottle (he knows who he is but will remain nameless) and placing a banger in it before lobbing it causing a fire to break out in the grass. Needless to say we drove away from there rather hastily.

Greg recalls being rounded up by the teachers and escaping before the fire brigade arrived. He said "I can't remember much of the actual day itself, except that the weather was very hot and someone put a banger in someone else's pocket (possibly John Rubbert's pocket). All the way home, and for several weeks afterward I lived in fear of being punished. I only told my parents of this episode after I had turned 18. I figured that by that time it was probably too late for punishment."

Several pupils got drunk, most reeked of cigarette smoke - the good old days. It couldn't happen now.

Not long after Mrs Duvall left the school.

Two years later it was the Dijon trip. We were older, there were girls at St. Josephs in Dijon, but that's another story!

#### FRANK DALEY WRITES:

As a new member to the Old Boys' Association and seeing a mention of a school trip to France I wonder, do any of the other Old Boys, and I mean old, remember the school trip to Italy in 1963? If my memory serves me well we travelled there and back



by train. Visited Rome, Florence, and one other stop, which for the life of me I can't remember. I do remember that in Florence some of us got rather drunk on cheap vino and were sick all over the place. The staff on the trip were going to send us home but had second thoughts when they realised that we would be on our own and more trouble than remaining with them!

Whilst in Rome we stayed in a convent - not too bad, but no drinking!

*On second thoughts, maybe the kids of today are just as bad!*

## MARATHON MAN NURSES A CHARITY

Iain Keenan (1989), who works as the charge nurse on Southend Hospital's Stambridge Ward, is busy training to get himself ready for the London marathon, held in the capital in April.

He will be raising money towards a day centre for people suffering from dementia.

Iain said:

"As a ward, we are very good at fundraising.

We have just bought a television and stereo for our patients.

I decided I should put my fundraising skills towards helping a local community-based group and so the money I receive will go to the Peaceful Place.

## A MOVING PLEA!

**Christopher Fairchild (1975) writes:**

At the moment my employer is about to move offices from Luton to Stansted. I'm pretty peeved-off with this decision having moved from Westcliff to Luton four years ago.

Consequently, we are looking to move back to the Southend area. This won't happen until probably June/July this year as my eldest son is just about to start his final year at primary school.

So, from January 2002 I will be looking for a 4 bed house with garage and garden at least 60-80ft long in the region of £180,000.

The Association's help would be much appreciated as when I moved up to Luton I got ripped-off somewhat rotten by a vendor who at the last moment appeared to have such delight in GUSUMPING me.

*Anyone who may be able to help Chris can contact him via the addresses on the front page.*

This a daycare centre for people who suffer from the early onset of dementia. It operates from Shoebury, Prittlewell and Hadleigh."

If anyone would like to sponsor Iain simply contact the Executive at the address on the front page or the website and they will forward your intention on to Iain.



## MEMORY LANE

Whilst in contact with members and former pupils alike, the Association has been asked various questions concerning the school and former members. Here are the questions being asked, so if anyone can help please let us know and then we can pass on the answers!

**Rob Hall in Australia asked:**

Tell me - do they still have a kid read from the lectern at



assembly every morning? I am interested as my main claim to fame is that I was the very first boy to do this, on the first day the school was opened.

**Frank Daley** who recently joined the Association was a pupil at the school from the beginning, remembers Wilson Curry the first Head, and remembers the school being built! He lives in the Midlands but would welcome contact from members that know him.

Frank writes: "Do any of the other Old Boys remember the small copse of trees at the bottom of the playing fields where we used to go for a smoke during lunch and gaze at the girls from St. Bernards? Is the chip shop at the top of the hill still there? I can remember spending my dinner money there on many a day.

"I can also remember the day I was caned for failing to raise my cap when the Deputy Head rode past the bus stop on his bike. Ahh

happy days! Life was so much easier then."

**Tony Howlett** (same year as Frank) said "I moved away from the area in 1986 and had no contact with any of the guys before I left. Having said that, my wife did send cards to Kev Barret and his wife for some years. The last I heard, they lived in Beckton.

Does anyone know of Kev Barrett's whereabouts?

**Mark Deacon (1967)** - who kindly supplied the picture above - remembers Jonathan Tickner well as they both lived in Hockley. His brother Robin was in Marks' year. Mark would like to contact him if he could find him, as they used to travel into school on the same bus. Does anyone know of Jonathan and Robin Tickners' whereabouts?

Finally, **Bobby Priest** wrote: I would like to know of other mates in our/my year at St Thomas More's, the only setback is that nobody remembers me! Or do they, (come on boys own up) Bobby Priest-there might be a few! But then there might not be. Come on - Jim Shovelin (sister Mary at St Bernards) Pete Hall, Rodney Hall, Arthur Riley, John Withington, my brother Tony Priest and Gareth ? Come on boys jog our memories, and what about the girls from Westcliff High. Who married who?

Well there's certainly food

for thought in that little lot. Anyone who can help any of the above please send a response via the Executive at either the postal or website address on the front page.

## THAMES CRUISES TO THE GENTRY

Intrepid travel entrepreneur David Milne is, due to popular demand, organising yet another of his fine luxury cruises up the Thames to that fine centre of nautical history and avant-garde boutiques - Greenwich.

This time the trip will be held on Saturday 25th May and the superbly appointed vessel (it has two saloons and a BAR) *MV Pocahontas* - as seen on the recent television advert featuring Messrs Hale & Pace - will depart from the seaward end of Southend Pier at 9.00am.

Passengers and holiday makers will be treated to approximately 3 hours ashore (they need that amount of time to recover from all the rowing up river!) and can expect to arrive back at Southend at 6.00pm.

All of this for the sensational price of just £10.00 (of course it is cheaper to wait around for the press gang!).

Anyone interested (the trip is open to singles, couples and families) should contact David without delay at the school (telephone 01702 344933) and send a cheque payable to *St. Thomas More High School*.

David tells us that "booking is essential". Whether that's essential to secure a berth, or essential to save him from debtors prison we're not quite sure!



## SAVE TIME & MONEY

The Executive have come up with the answer to the problem of form filling and yearly renewals.

In the past the standing order was introduced with great success with almost all of the membership now using this facility. This tackled the yearly hassle of having to complete the renewal forms and a cheque, find an envelope and a stamp and physically post it all off. This was the main reason why members didn't renew!

Well now the Association has gone one better. By parting company with **£100**, you will be made a **LIFETIME MEMBER**. No forms. Instant. Sorted!

We would encourage all members to consider this option, especially the wealthy ones. You could celebrate your lifetime membership by sponsoring an issue of *Moreana* with website coverage all for the tidy sum of £250!

## HATCHES, MATCHES & DESPATCHES

Since stepping down as President of the Old Boys' Association Paul Driscoll has obviously found other ways of keeping busy as his wife Anne-Marie gave birth to a healthy baby girl on 15th November. Megan Rose weighed in at 7lbs 11oz. Our congratulations to the proud parents.

On a much sadder note, we are sorry to report the deaths of three former pupils.

Peter Spencer (1986) died suddenly on an aeroplane while returning from a holiday in Las Vegas. Stephen Udoh (1984) died unexpectedly before Christmas and Michael Kelly (1976) died suddenly in January at his home in Belfast.

May they all Rest in Peace.



## MEMBERS AS AT 19th FEBRUARY 2002

This issue we are delighted to report that membership is at its highest for 3 years!

Damian Dillon has been beavering away in the background persuading, cajoling and forcing past pupils to become members.

Good on you Damian!

1961	Graham Lewis
1962	Michael Hughes
	John Lewis
1963	John Bowman
	Frank Daley
	Tony Howlett
	John Sheehy
	Barry Wood
1964	John Griffiths
	Ronald Patchett
1965	Terry Knights
	Brian Dalton
1966	Martyn Barker
	Patrick Clancy
	Bill Clegg
	Paul Hutchinson
	Gareth Lewis
1967	Tony Cane
	Glen Sweeney

	Mike Thompson
1968	Geoffrey Lewis
1969	Paul Marsh
1970	Ian Clifford
1971	Bernie Brooker
	Mike Donovan
	Kevin Flynn
	Brendan J Foy
	Robert Murphy
1972	Paul Culleton
	Toni Imossi
	David Thomspson
1973	Phil Mahoney
	Simon Millyard
1974	Ray Allum
	Paul McArdle
	Victor Peretti
	Mike Sessions
1975	Eamon Day
	David Ekers
	Keith Exley
	Christopher Fairchild
	John MacDermott
	Andrew McGregor
	Kevin O'Hanlon
	Gerry Thomas
1976	Trevor Barr
	Laurence Blainey
	John Chambers
	Andy (Guy) Thomas
	Clive Knight
	Andrew McWilliam
	Simon Ravinet
	Martin Sullivan

	John Todryk
	Jim Tyrie
1977	John Cobbold
	Richard Copley
	Martin Hodson
	John Judge
1978	Richard Clegg
	Kevin Thomas
1979	Paul Clarke
	Paul Driscoll
	W Flaherty
	David Kitchens
	David O'Ryan
	John Suff
	Sean Tyrie
	Mark Walmsley
1980	Paul Glynn
	Sean Leggett
	Nial O'Callaghan
1981	Richard Baker
	Sean Conlon
1982	Sean Corr
	Mark Harvey
	Michael Mullally
1983	Richard Allard
	Anthony Crowley
	Mark Stevens
1984	Michael Barry
	Paul Deakin
	Stuart Humfrey
1986	Paul Cotgrove
	Alan Martin
1987	Mark Dobson
1988	Martin Diggines

	Martin Corr
	Christopher Hall
	Steven Hurren
1989	Paul Baynes
	Damian Dillon
	Paul Fisher
	Justin Hennessey
	Paul Lynch
	Brian Martin
	Thomas Wilbraham
1990	Christopher Hull
	Stuart Saggars
1995	Paul Bending
	Douglas Walter
1997	Elliot Clark
2000	Daniel Kelly
2001	Justin Dijkstra
	David Lucas
	Robert Polkinghorn

	Headmaster	Frank Keenan
	Chaplain	Rev Andrew Headon
FT		John Askew
FT		Ian Britt
FT		Pamela Deakin
FT		D Fanning
FT		David Finnigan
FT		Richard Jarman
FT		Elsie Kemp
FT		Tom Kennedy
FT		Rev David Peck
FT		D.P McGregor
FT		Tom Mayhew

## SING-A-LONG-A- OLD BOY

This year's Advent Carol Service gave those Old Boys who were present the chance to see the new extension and entrance to the School, which everyone agreed was impressive. Gareth Lewis, Gerry Thomas, Damian Dillon, Ron Patchett (with a sore throat!), Daniel Kelly and Paul Driscoll all sang the first verse of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen accompanied by Mr Segrave and the Carol was finished by the rest of the audience including several other Old Boys who were there to watch their own children sing!

Those without bottle beat a hasty retreat to the kitchen after the Carol was finished

where the traditinal Mulled wine was being prepared for after the service.

Mr John Askew was also present on Trombone as part of the Orchestra as was Mr Malcolm Philips with his clarinet.

The mulled wine soon disappeared quicker than snow in the Sahara despite more being produced this year - (it seems the parents and teachers are drinking more these days!) and a good time was had by all.

## THANK YOU

For the first time in it's history, this edition of Moreana was mainly composed by members sending their own articles.

Thank you - please keep it up!

## BREWED NICELY

A party of old boys departed for the Suffolk brewery on Friday 23rd November with plenty of hope and anticipation, and we weren't disappointed.

We arrived at the brewery at 6.30pm and were meet by member Simon Millyard who is one of the managers there. Michael Hughes arrived independently (there's always one!) and we set off on a detailed tour of the brewery, which was not only fascinating but very educational.

Every aspect of production from the grist to the packaging was covered, and boy were we in need of a beer at the end of all the temptation.

We were then ushered to the brewery bar, which was the best kept bar in Britain. It's open to staff, and is free!

Simon, still working, jumped behind the pumps and immediately started serving everyone. What would you like to try? was the hardest question with several beers on pump and a range of bottled produce to back this up. We tried most beers - where do you stop?

Simon suggested that the Association come back next year with a coach load. Well, we bit his hand off.

Members present in order of alcoholic consumption: Gareth Lewis, Gerry Thomas, Tony Cane, Michael Hughes, Martin Sullivan, Damian Dillon, and Simon Millyard