



# MOREANA

NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS MORE ALUMNI

## TIME FOR A MAJOR CHANGE???

The Executive have been putting some thought to the ever-present issue of increasing membership numbers of this esteemed association and have the following observations for your consideration.

As many of you will be very aware the current membership is made-up predominantly of those who were at the school in the 1960s and 1970s.

There are undoubtedly a number of reasons for this, but among the front runners is the fact that the school was a lot smaller in those days which, perhaps, fostered more of a family-type atmosphere that engenders a greater sense of nostalgia amongst those from that era. It's also worth noting that the leavers from that era were the ones at the optimum age for reminiscing about their school days when the Alumni was created in 1998. They would have been in their 30s, 40s and 50s and had been left the school for long enough to want to return and catch-up with old friends and teachers.

However, 21 years later where are the "new" 30 and 40-somethings?

One of the most obvious answers to that question is that they are much more used to communicating and socialising in the digital age when keeping in touch or renewing acquaintances can be done electronically at the touch of a few but-



tons. Fill in a few details and, hey presto, you're instantly connected to Facebook or LinkedIn and the like.

Yet we still operate a more traditional annual subscription system that, to many of the more recent leavers, would perhaps seem, at best, archaic and, at worst, unnecessarily constrictive (and expensive when compared to the free social media models).

If this organisation is to be truly reflective of all former pupils and members of staff then we must, of course, ensure that it evolves and moves with the times. It would be a great shame if, in ten years or so, the Alumni had become totally irrelevant and it seems incumbent upon the current Executive and President to ensure that

measures are put in place to avoid this happening.

So, with this in mind, and after much soul-searching and debate, the President will be tabling a motion at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting (taking place on 21st May—see article on page 2) to REMOVE the annual membership fee!

The association is certainly financially stable at this time (and has been for a number of years) and, under the current system usually returns either a small surplus or breaks-even each year.

However, the removal of all those £10 subscriptions coming in once a year will mean that events such as the Annual Dinner will need to be priced a little higher to ensure that we don't eat

[no pun intended] into our reserves too much, too quickly.

It is not envisaged that any increase will be particularly massive and it would certainly not be the intention to simply re-locate the £10 onto the dinner price!

Since this is such a fundamental change in the operation of the Alumni it is essential that all views are considered and the Executive are actively encouraging all members to impart their thoughts on the matter.

Please do look out for the proposal which is being sent with the AGM notification and, if you are not intending to be at the AGM, but have a point that you would like considered please email it before Monday 20th May to the email address at the bottom of this page.

## TOM MAYHEW RIP 1928-2019

It is with great sadness that we report the death of the last known original teacher from the school's opening in 1960.

Tom Mayhew (affectionately known by boys at the school, apparently because of his moustache, as *Tiddles*) was Head of Art from the day St Thomas More High School opened until he retired in 1986 and, in addition to being a superb artist, was also a colourful character who endeared himself to many of the pupils who passed through the place in those 26 years.

Born in Chadwell Heath on 11th January 1928 Tom moved to Southend with his family, which included his twin brother Doug, while still very young. He attended St Mary's Primary School and then went on to Southend High School for Boys with whom he was evacuated to Mansfield during World War II. After leaving school he

completed his National service in the army being posted to Mombasa before attending Teacher Training College.

Although gifted with artistic talent he didn't actually set-out to become an Art teacher but found that his many doodlings during teacher training eventually led to a change of academic discipline.

He always possessed a keen eye for detail, light and shade and could enthuse his students in the infectious way that he demonstrated how shadow was changing the appearance of an object.

In addition to actually teaching art at the school Tom was often the painter of scenery for the annual school plays that took place over many years throughout the 1970s and 1980s, happily giving-up his free time to produce backcloths that wouldn't have looked out of place in a professional theatre.



Tom loved music and outside of art and school he was heavily involved in the Folk Music scene, being an enthusiastic Morris Dancer and sought-after Melodion player for many years.

He leaves behind his wife Wendy and five children. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and him at this sad time.

May he Rest In Peace.

## BROKERING AN OFF-SITE AGM

After many years of holding our Annual General Meeting in the school it has become necessary this year to move off-site for the first time.

Consequently this year's Annual General Meeting will take place in **The Broker pub in Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, at 8pm on TUESDAY 21st MAY.**

This is your chance to have your input to the future of the

Alumni and to stand for either the roles of President, or Social Secretary; or at least to vote for them.

This year, probably more than any other since the inaugural AGM way back in 1998, there is a seriously important item to discuss—namely a proposal to remove the annual fee (see article on front page) so do please make the effort to attend if at all possible. The Executive would love to have your contribution to the discussion.

## MEMORIAL MASS 21ST JUNE

The annual Alumni Memorial Mass, which has been held at the school every year since 1980, will take place this year at 8pm on **FRIDAY 21st JUNE.**

This very special occasion, at which we take the time to pay our respects and remember those former pupils who died too young, is always a sublimely enjoyable one. Attenders over the years have been moved to hear the ever-growing roll-call of deceased read out by the incumbent President during the Mass and have often commented afterwards about the surprise upon discovering that a



Can we fill this space in June??

particular classmate or pupil that they remember has died.

Such discussions usually take place over a beer or glass of wine while tucking into the traditionally lavish buffet laid-on by this association once the Mass has finished.

So make a note of the date and spread the word.







## RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH THE ELITE

We recently came into possession of this faded and aged image of a once youthful and optimistic football team that includes not only two members of England's only World Cup winning team, but also a member of our very own Alumni!

Paul Marsh, pictured only two years after leaving the school, can be seen in the second row (third from the left) in this 1971/72 picture of the West Ham United squad that includes none other than Bobby Moore and Sir Geoff Hurst (third row)!

Paul was one of three goalkeepers in a team that included a number of other football luminaries including the likes of Sir Trevor Brooking, Harry Redknapp, Billy Bonds, and Frank Lampard senior.

Never one to seek the lime-light Paul was somewhat laid-back when this roving reporter caught-up with him, playing the whole thing down in a kind of *"we'll doesn't everyone work with very famous people?"* kind of way.

Next time you see him it might be worth buying him a pint and asking him for a few interesting stories...

includes the bureaucracy of arranging all of the many permits required as well as the technical expertise and know-how to ensure that not only will a plane be able to lift the weight of the cargo and that the cargo will physically fit into the plane, but also that the plane will fit into the airports at either end of the journey!

Antonov Airlines is part of Ukrainian company Antonov Design Bureau which designs all of its own planes and has built over 22,000 aircraft. These include such specialist heavy-lift models as the record-breaking AN-225 which can carry a staggering 250-tonne payload. When fully loaded the weight of the cargo and the airplane itself tops the scales at a massive 540 tonnes!

Chris has worked has been the transportation of 6 x 140 ton generators from Chile to Bolivia (which involved six months of planning); flying a train to Zurich; and moving 599 pigs from Stansted to New York. Even aircraft need to be transported inside his planes and he has arranged the transportation of helicopters from France to Hong Kong, Rolls Royce engines to Airbus in Toulouse and even the movement of entire aircraft fuselages and wings around the globe.

These huge leviathans of the air have been used for the serious business of supporting the US government in Afghanistan; the exciting business of transporting Taylor Swift's international tour from Brisbane to Auckland to the USA; and the fun (and, no-doubt, games) of shipping live giraffes and dolphins around the world.

## CHRIS' WEIGHTY EXPERIENCES

Saturday 16th February saw a slightly smaller number than usual attend this year's Annual Dinner as just under thirty members enjoyed a five-course meal, three rounds of the traditional intercourse bingo and a most informative speech by member Chris Fairchild.

Chris left the school in 1975 and after a spell working in Foyle's bookshop he joined the Civil Service from where, after a year at the MoD, he got a job at Southend Airport. After ten years he moved on to British Aerospace and then, in December 1990,



became a Flight Manager for heavy lift specialists Antonov Airlines.

Based at Stansted, Chris has the complex task of planning many of the specialist transportation contracts in which his company specialise. This

Somewhat that all has to get off the ground and fly, burning fuel at something like 6,000 gallons per hour. No wonder that the engines only last for between 20 to 30 hours!

Some of the many specialist contracts on which

Chris clearly enjoys his job as was evidenced by the enthusiasm with which he spoke about his subject and the regard in which he holds the company for which he works. Hardly surprising if the \$200,000 that he was given to take on his first trip just to pay for meals for the 18-strong crew is anything to go by!



## MEMBERSHIP AS AT APRIL 2019

1961	Graham Lewis	1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn	1978	Kevin Thomas	1990	Christopher Hull
1962	Kevin Butt Michael Hughes John Lewis	1972	Paul Culleton David Thompson	1979	Michael Ashkuri Pete Chambers Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll John Lawrie David O'Ryan Sean Tyrie	1995	Paul Bending
1963	John Bowman John Sheehy	1973	Martin Carroll Phil Mahoney			1998	Ben Gibson
1964	John Griffiths Ronald Patchett	1974	Kevin Bonham Paul McArdle Simon Millyard	1980	Sean Leggett Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	2000	David Cook Martyn Rickard
1965	Brian Dalton Alan Dobby Terry Knights	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley Chris Fairchild John McDermott Andrew McGregor Gerry Thomas	1981	Sean Conlon Malcolm Patterson	2001	Chris Thompson
1966	Stephen Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Paul Wenham	1976	Christopher Barber Laurence Blainey John Chambers Guy Francke Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk James Tyrie	1982	Sean Corr Mark Harvey	2005	Jack Brudenell Jonathan Fenn
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson			1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley Keith Traynor	2011	Dale Claridge
1968	Martin Duggan Geoffrey Lewis Peter Mahoney	1977	Phil Coath John Cobbold Mark Hidveghy Martin Hodson John Judge Liam Rand	1984	Michael Barry Mark Denton Stuart Humfrey	2014	James Driscoll
1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale			1985	Tim Allard	Chpln	Rev Daniel Kelly
1970	Michael Davis			1986	Iain O'Connell	Assoc	Matthew Hardiman Jed Marshall Ben Micklewright Chloe Spillett Nick Spillett Tom Wiltshire
				1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines	DateTBC	Peter O'Callaghan
				1989	Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch	H/T	Gemma Ackred
						F/T	John Askew Ian Britt James Devor Mary Donaldson Tom Kennedy David Milne John O'Connell* David Sims
						Hon	Frank Keenan Jan Lewis Helen Wigmore
						In Mem	Richard Copley

## A SPRINKLING OF MEMORIES

Do any members recall this particular occasion in 1973 when the then Bishop of Brentwood, the Right Reverend Patrick Casey, visited the school to bless the newly opened Concourse Area?

Those who attended the school after this event may recall seeing these pictures prominently displayed just inside the entrance to what was then proudly referred to as "the new block" and



this editor knows for a fact that one of the pupils in the picture on the right is now a member of

this esteemed association, but is sworn to secrecy...

Hon Frank Keenan  
Jan Lewis  
Helen Wigmore

In Mem Richard Copley

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



Suggestions on a postcard!