



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FOOD & DRINK

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER is the date to enshrine within your diaries, personal planners, filofax's, electronic organizers, calendars, or wives' heads (the latter is probably the best and most secure) for this years OLD BOYS' DINNER.

This is, of course, the social highlight of the Association's year and is open to members and staff only.

Each year the meal itself gets better and better and this year's event



features a FIVE COURSE dinner for only £16.50. Drinks are also available at extremely reasonable (for reasonable read cheap - Ed) prices.

Held, as tradition dictates, in the school dining hall the evening will also feature the ever-popular

Intercourse Bingo (Note to wives - just don't ask! - Ed) where diners can win as much as £30 in one round!

Once again Bev and her team of school caterers will be providing the meal and those who've yet to attend one of our dinners can forget any lasting nightmares of school dinner fodder since they produce catering to be proud of. Old memories of the Dining Hall itself can also be dispelled since it has been enlarged at least 3 times in as many decades and has certainly had more than a lick of paint in that time.

reading of the list of known deceased Old Boys and staff. Once again this list has increased in size with the addition of three new deceased Old Boys since last year - a somewhat sobering thought when you consider that the oldest past pupils cannot yet even be 60!

However, the evening was certainly a far from depressing one and, immediately after the Mass, everyone present tucked into a superb buffet and plenty of drink.

There was the usual mixture of regular attenders and new faces and it was encouraging to witness first-timers joining the Association then and there and some lapsed members renewing their subscriptions.

The menu this year will consist of:-

Exotic Melon Cocktail

French Onion Soup with
Croutons

Roast Beef, Yorkshire
Pudding with Horseradish
Sauce

Roast Potatoes
Roast Parsnips
Fresh Brussel Sprouts
Fresh Carrots

Apple Pie with Ice Cream

Cheese Board & Biscuits

Coffee & After Dinner
Mints

The evening starts at 7.30pm for 8.00pm and the dress code will be jacket and tie (trousers are, of course, implicit). A wonderful opportunity to wear those Old Boys' ties (anyone in need of one can purchase them from the address at the bottom of this page or on the night!).

So indelibly mark the date somewhere and send a cheque for £16.50 (payable to St. Thomas More Old Boys' Association) to the address at the bottom of this page.

MASS REMEMBRANCE

Friday 27th June saw an almost full house in the Concourse Area as the Association celebrated St. Thomas More Day with the traditional Memorial Mass and Social.

The Association Chaplain (Rev. Andrew Headon) presided at the Mass and, for the third year running, "swore-in" Gareth Lewis as President of the Association. Gareth went on then to lead the Bidding Prayers which, as always, culminated in the

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Continuing our series of excerpts taken from the original school log books we enter the second decade of the school's existence...

The decade began with a meeting between Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools and the Headmaster to discuss the school's proposed extension plans [such meetings must now be an almost termly event!]

March 1970 saw the departure of Mr Bunce and in May the Headmaster had cause to address the whole school on skinhead attire. Anyone caught wearing bovver boots would have to spend the day shoeless and skinhead haircuts would result in the culprit having to wear a cap in school. Wrestling at lunchtimes was now also forbidden.

With all of this in mind there is a somewhat sketchy, but incongruous, entry about the introduction of Liberal Studies at this time!

1970 was also the first year that St. Thomas More Day was celebrated on 22nd June and the Bishop actually presided.

In July letters of congratulation to J. Friday and P. Lewis from the Royal Life Saving Society were read in assembly. Apparently these two worthy pupils went to the assistance of a young lady in difficulties

on Leigh mud flats.

The summer term ended with the departure of Mr Thomas and Mr Syed.

A whole bunch of new staff started in September - Mr Benke (Maths & Physics), Mr Hogg (Geography), Mr Abbott (PE, Games, Biology), Mrs Woods (History) and Mrs Kemp (English).

The school year passed fairly uneventfully. In October interviews by NCO's were held all day for those contemplating a career in the army, and on 5th March the school closed all day to permit staff discussions on the syllabus for the impending raising of the school leaving age. The year finished in July with *A Man For All Seasons* being the school play.

The next year began on 7th September 1971 with the addition of yet more staff - Mr Jarman (Head of History), Mr Pittard (Metalwork & TD), Mr Barker (Geography), Mrs Donaldson (History, R.E, English) and Mrs Moss (Music).

December saw the boys trounce the staff 9-0 at football and the Christmas term ended with the departure of Mr Hall.

The new term began with the arrival of Mr Boncher on a temporary basis.

A glimpse of the forthcoming industrial strife occurred in February when a power

strike resulted in the cancellation of all after-school activities and a Governors' meeting.

In April interviews were held for candidates seeking admission in September! This was the first time that such a process had taken place and was, apparently, in accordance with the Bishop's request.

Later that month an Old Boys' meeting was held in the hall. Sadly there is no follow-up entry as to how successful this had been.

Despite the beginnings of what might be termed a "recognisably modern" education regime beginning to emerge at the school at this time, it is still comforting to read that the whole school was able to close for the afternoon in May to enable the boys to attend a concert of *Carmina Burana* at the Royal Albert Hall because 13 boys and 2 staff were performing in it!

The slow march of modernisation continued a few days later when ALL staff were interviewed for their posts in the school re-organisation planned for September 1973.

However traditional gentility returned in June when the Governors took tea with the newly-elected members of the school council.

Sadly on 4th July 1972 the entry records the death of Mollie Hillier, the first school secretary, who

died after a long illness. The term ended on 20th July and marked the last time that boys would be able to leave at the end of the Fourth year due to the raising of the school leaving age.

The new school year saw the arrival of Mr Seagrave (Music) and Mr Kennedy (English, Social Studies, Careers).

Patriotism meant that the school closed for the day in November to mark the Queen's Silver Wedding.

February 1973 saw the inaugural meeting of the Parent's Association and another first was being planned that March when Frank Keenan was absent from school completing arrangements for the Dijon exchange!

The end of the Easter term saw the departure of Mr Abbott and Mr Sharpe.

The school closed for 2 days (was there no end to these "occasional days"? - Ed) in May to allow for the transfer of equipment to, what was then, the recently completed new block!

June and July, being the end of term, seem a strange time for new staff to start, but that's precisely when Mr Bond (P.E & Games) and Mr Michael (Woodwork) began their careers at the school.

The next year would see the first expansion of the school...

WE GREENE KINGS!



It took a little bit longer this time round, but we eventually returned to the Greene King brewery courtesy of Simon Millyard for our second and final brewery trip for the Association.

The trip did not warrant a minibus as hoped so our Social Secretary became a Southend cabbie for the day and luckily forgot to turn on the meter. If only our treasurer knew!

We arrived at the brewery at 5pm with our ex-membership secretary Paul McArdle, and our current membership secretary avidly checking Gerry's membership with the precision of a taxman. We then had a relaxing wait in the sprightly reception that contained magazines including an article on a front cover featuring Rochford's Anne Boleyn pub!

We were soon joined by Paul Bending and Doug Walters; two members of the same year (1995) who travelled from opposite ends of the country. Paul left from Dartford (snuck out of work) and Doug

travelling down from Coventry. There was a suspicion as to just how fast Paul had been travelling since he had been caught in a traffic jam not long before he arrived.

Whilst Simon treated us all to a mug of coffee, Martyn Barker (1966), Phil Mahoney (1973) and Simon's Dad arrived on the scene, and just as we were about to start, we were joined by Mick Hawkins (1983), his brother Peter (1985) and Theo Kalogerides (1983) who had all travelled down from Southend too and this made the magnificent 11 and from there the tour began.

We went to the top of the building where the water tanks holding the liquor could be seen (term for water and not the pie/mash equivalent) and enjoyed views of the whole town. We were also guided right through the whole process of the beer production and not one member attempted to dive into the vast liquid surrounds, which is a very good sign of self-control.

We also did our bit for school and country when we were forced with one arm tied behind our back to enter the sampling room where we stayed for a gruesome tasting session. We drank IPA, Ruddles Best, IPA, Ruddles County, IPA, and the rest is purely brain cells.

As true alcoholics, we didn't drink to excess,

merely to capacity, and on leaving the brewery (where the toilets were being mended) we made a bulk dash to the nearest pub for a loo break.

We then made our way to Pizza Express and were told we had to wait 30 minutes for a table. So we briefly took in the Bury air as we made our way to the nearest bar for more drink (including a shot on the house), and ended up in the world's smallest pub.

With extra time on the board, we made our way back for the meal and a great time was had by all.

Here is an official Old Boys note to satisfy the wives/girlfriends for those that went, and if so required, it is advised that this note be signed by a teacher (fees may vary depending on how well you got on with that teacher whilst at the school).

"I officially declare, that whilst on this purely educational exercise, I did not partake in alcoholic beverages, I had a really lousy time and I was glad to get back home".

This was the last time that Simon would be providing us with this opportunity as he left Greene King in March to join the RNLI inspecting their boats. Our gratitude goes to him for organising this wonderful opportunity and we wish him all the best in his next adventure.

CHRISTMAS POSTPONED!

This year the Association will not be having a Christmas Dinner as such, with the official explanation given by the Executive being that *we* are all broke (should that be *broken* - Ed).

Instead they are proposing a Christmas Pub Visit on Friday 12th December. With all the numerous Christmas Dinners that we are all obliged to attend (or is that endure) throughout December this seems like a particularly inspired decision.



However, lovers of eating need not be disappointed since our ever-imaginative Executive are looking at a Post Xmas Dinner somewhere on Saturday 17th January 2004. That way we get two bites at the cherry (or should that be turkey?).

The exact venue and details of both events will be released nearer the time, but please make a note of the dates in your diaries before it is too late!

CAN YOU FILL THIS SPACE?

Simply send articles for future editions to the address on the front

MEMBERS AS AT 23rd September 2003

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
Paul Wenham
1967 Tony Cane
Paul Clancy
Glen Sweeney
Mike Thompson
1968 Geoffrey Lewis

CASING THE CASINO

Following its mention on a flyer last year and its continued promotion on the website, 6 members spent an evening in the Westcliff Casino in Southend in a rerun of this event from a couple of years ago. The old boys enjoyed a sumptuous (discounted) meal with plenty of wine and keen political debate, and when this ran out the roulette wheel became the focus of attention. Well, for the one member who was willing to splash the cash. The rest of the members watched! Thanks to Tony, Gerry and Gareth for organising the evening.

Those present: Gareth Lewis, Gerry Thomas, Tony Cane, Paul Hutchinson, John Todryk and Damian Dillon.

Martin Duggan
1969 Peter David
Paul Marsh
Chris McHale
1971 Bernie Brooker
Mike Donovan
Kevin Flynn
Brendan J Foy
Nigel Hurley
Robert Murphy
Charlie Sheppard
1972 Paul Culleton
Toni Imossi
David Thomsson
1973 Martin Carroll
Michael Glen
Phil Mahoney
Simon Millyard
1974 Ray Allum
Nick Cousins
Paul McArdle
Victor Peretti
1975 Eamon Day
David Ekers
Keith Exley
Christopher Fairchild
Guy Francké
John MacDermott
Andrew McGregor
Kevin O'Hanlon
Andy (Guy) Thomas
Gerry Thomas
1976 Trevor Barr

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

As veteran members will know, *Moreana* tends to mix articles about the future with pieces of history, all seasoned with a dash of present-time pieces.

However, we've never yet run an article of a past that wasn't (at least not in my sober moments - Ed).

Well all of that will soon be changing. Look out for a story that will be running in a future edition when we report on original plans for the school from the 40's & 50's.

Laurence Blainey
John Chambers
Tony Harmon
Clive Knight
Jim McCarthy
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
David Kitchens
David O'Ryan
Tony Parsad
Sean Tyrie
John Suff
1980 Paul Glynn
Sean Leggett
Martin McKeown
Nial O'Callaghan
1981 Richard Baker
Sean Conlon
John McBrearty
Peter Seeva
1982 Sean Corr

These have only recently come to light in the Brentwood Diocesan archives and make fascinating reading.

If all had gone according to plan we'd have even gone to school at a different address!

Watch this space....

FLYING VISIT

Robert Murphy (1971) who has lived in Australia since 1978 will, in his own words, finally be making a brief visit to Southend in October. He would love to catch up with anyone, staff or pupils, from his vintage still in the area.

Mark Harvey
Michael Mullally
1983 Richard Allard
Anthony Crowley
Mick Hawkins
1984 Michael Barry
Paul Deakin
Stuart Humfrey
Chris Slough
1985 Tim Allard
1986 Paul Cotgrove
Alan Martin
1987 Mark Dobson
1988 Martin Corr
Martin Diggines
Christopher Hall
Steven Hurren
1989 Paul Baynes
Damian Dillon
Justin Hennessey
Paul Lynch
Brian Martin
Thomas Wilbraham
1990 Christopher Hull
Stuart Saggars
1991 Graham Diggines
1995 Paul Bending
Douglas Walter
1997 Elliott Clark
2000 Daniel Kelly
2001 Chris Thompson
2002 Ihsan Azzu
Tom Mortlock
2003 Chris Barker
James Smith
Alison Walker
Headmaster Frank Keenan
Chpln Rev Andrew Headon
F T John Askew
Ian Britt
Pamela Deakin
D Fanning
David Finnigan
Richard Jarman
Elsie Kemp
Tom Kennedy
Rev David Peck
D.P McGregor
Tom Mayhew

He has been sent details of the Dinner, and if anyone would like to know further details of his visit simply contact the Executive.