



**S. MICHAEL'S  
COLLEGE SOCIETY  
MAGAZINE**

SEPTEMBER 2010

# Annual Reunion and Dinner Booking Form

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Tel No ..... E-mail .....

Years at SMC .....

*Please indicate numbers:*

Numbers

- ..... I will play cricket
  - ..... I wish to join the Tour of the St Michael's College buildings
  - ..... I wish to play croquet
  - ..... I wish to join in with the choir at Evensong – bass, tenor or alto?
  - ..... I will attend the Dinner - **£22.00** per head  
(partners welcome)
- Please indicate choice of meal (see menu):
- Starter:
- Main Course:
- Sweet:
- ..... I would like a SMCS CD sent to me - **£12.50 donation enclosed**
  - ..... I enclose a donation to the Founder's Grave restoration appeal

Please could I have all booking forms/cheques for the Reunion etc. returned to me by September 20<sup>th</sup> at the latest so I can inform Cadmore Lodge of numbers attending the Annual Dinner.

Also, can I remind members of the St Michael's Patronal Festival Services (The Elysian Singers) on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September the day after the Reunion – Sung Eucharist at 10am and Choral Evensong at 3pm.

Apologies to those members who submitted articles or photos for the Magazine but which have not made it into print. We will try to use some of these in next year's publication or put them on the website.

Many thanks

Tim Coles  
Secretary

Please return this page along with your cheque for the Dinner etc to:  
(All cheques made payable to - "St Michael's College Society")

Tim Coles  
The Moor Hall  
Cleedownton  
Ludlow  
Shropshire  
SY8 3EG

# BANK STANDING ORDER



To.....BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY

Address.....

.....

Post Code .....

Please pay annually on January 1st to Lloyds TSB, Tenbury Wells, Sort Code 30-98-52 for the credit of St Michael's College Society, Account No 00114729, the sum of £..... until you receive further notice from me in writing.

My Name .....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

Name of Account to be Debited .....

Account Number .....

Sort code: .....

Signed ..... Date .....

Years at SMC: 19\_\_ to 19\_\_  
or Year elected Friend of the Society: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES  
Minimum Subscription £10 (more if you would like)  
Subscriptions are only payable by Members and elected Friends

Please **photocopy** and return this form to:  
Dr John Pepper  
SMCS Treasurer  
Gelda Lodge  
Sandford Avenue  
Church Stretton, Shropshire  
SY6 7AE

## President's Message

St Michael's College Society Newsletter: The party starts here.

Welcome to the SMCS newsletter for 2010. As I write this opening article each year, the first thing that comes to mind is: Wow, another year has passed so quickly. Another chance to arrange a gathering at SMC. Who will be there this year? Will we see some old boys/girls/staff/friends that we haven't seen before?

Maybe someone who hasn't actually been back since they drove with their parents (and trunk) out of the College gates at the age of 13. I was going to make a joke about making sure that you don't "FAGO" the opportunity to be there, but decided not to. Very wise as it turns out.

It's always exciting to plan a reunion, and this year's we hope will be even more special. We have some new things planned as well as the regular fixtures, so why not make this year the one to renew your acquaintance with the College and members of the Society?

Our Guest speaker this year is Colonel Christopher Coles, who was out in Iraq last year. He was at St Michael's up to 1979 and I haven't seen him since we were classmates at St Michael's, so I'm looking forward to seeing him, as I hope you are. It will be certainly be a very interesting evening.

This year we are planning to increase the range of sports on offer on the Saturday of the reunion weekend (25th/26th Sept). We considered Horse Racing on the Common, or a 50 yard relay swim in the Quarry Pool, but decided that this year, as well as the Cricket match against the Village, we will hold a Croquet Tournament on the Cloister Lawn. This highly competitive sport was played by pupils at various times up to 1985, and so we aim to reinstate this tradition.

We also are planning another tour of the College for this who would like to see how well the modern-day incarnation of SMC is progressing.

Details on how to sign up for any of these activities are on the booking form later in the newsletter or on the website.

Also in the Newsletter:  
Sadly we have lost several members/associates in the past 12 months; their obituaries follow. Later on there is news of the Organ Appeal. Michael Hart has written to all members about this, and we have news of how you can help with this important work.

There are more interesting pictures of SMC's activities that have come to light (are YOU in the photos?) and there is a final chance to get your hands on the limited edition exclusive CDs that we launched last year. Plus, St Michael's on film. You may have never seen this footage, but we look back at some of the coverage courtesy of Pathé News.

We hope that you enjoy this year's Newsletter. I look forward to seeing you on 25th September.

William Jenkyns, President SMCS

## Mary Coles: 1916-2010

As some of you may have already heard Mary Coles passed away on August 6th. She was 94 and had been in a nursing home for the past seven years. While news that she had gone to a better place was not surprising, when it came it was still particularly heart-wrenching for all her family and friends, as I am sure it will be for many of you now.

As well as being a truly wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she was a stalwart of St Michael's College and Church, just as her late-husband George had been. Indeed, never has the (para)phrase 'behind every good man you will find a good woman' been more true.



The family has now been able to set a date for the funeral – it will be at St Michael's Church on Monday, September 6th at 11am followed by refreshments at Cadmore Lodge and then cremation at Hereford at 3pm (for family and close friends). Her ashes will later be interred in St Michael's churchyard alongside those of George and John Coles.

Andrew Walters has agreed to officiate at the service (with the Tenbury Team assistant minister Sue Foster) and Roger Judd will be playing the Father Willis organ that Mary so loved – massive thanks from all the family to both Andrew and Roger. Members and Friends of SMCS are more than welcome to attend the funeral service. If you can, please phone Tim Coles or email t.coles@genetics.uk.com if you intend to come so we get an idea of numbers.

The family is asking for donations in lieu of flowers – for St Michael's PCC (specifically the Organ Fund) and Tenbury Community Hospital League of Friends, of which Mary was a founding member.

Pictured are Mary, as we all remember her, her grandson Chris Coles and daughter-in-law Penny Coles Scott, at her great-granddaughter Isabella's christening in 1994.

## Reunion 2009

### Members and Friends Present

Jenson Jones  
Jenny Paxman  
Tory Paxman  
Julian Wiltshire  
John Austin  
Mr & Mrs Tony Hampton  
Mr & Mrs Brian Demaus  
Michael Hart  
Mr & Mrs Peter Kugelman  
Edward Watson-Williams  
Derrik Jenkyns  
Charles Beresford

Tim Coles  
Simon & Michelle Banfield  
John Pepper  
Mr & Mrs John Brown  
Mr & Mrs Roger Judd  
Helen Roach (nee Field)  
Alan Meikle  
Mike Benson  
Mr & Mrs Christopher Irby  
Mr & Mrs David Pepper  
Richard Pepper  
Mike Wilson

Peter Haslam  
Alice Asquith  
Guy Holland  
James Mealings  
Stewart Meikle  
William Jenkyns  
David Wells-Cole  
Dan Burlingham  
Robin & Karen Bayley  
Nick & Claire Weston

### ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

2008		2008		£	
1151	Subs	1146.00	Brought Forward	203.39	
32	Donations	17.75	693 Postages, Mail Shot, Newsletter	657.13	
65	Interest		Donations	350.00	
	Nat Sav Inv	58.97	300 PCC of St. Michael's	150.00	
96	Tie Sales	42.00	150 St. Michael's College	70.50	
100	Mug Sales	85.00	71 Website	10.00	
23	Elgar Books	10.00	10 Wreath for Founder's Grave	17.50	
	Memories of St. Michael's	73.50	33 Reunion	560.00	
			Centenary Shields	73.20	
			D. Symonds Plaque	188.00	
			Memories of St. Michael's (44)		
	Carried Forward	846.50			
		<u>2279.72</u>			

### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2009

Accumulated Fund		Society Assets	
Balance Brought Forward	4416.55	Headquarters	17.50
Deficit	(551.11)	Ties	(25@12.00)
	<u>3865.44</u>	Mugs	(100@5.00)
		Elgar, Ouseley books	(48@2.50)
		Memories of SMC	(32@8.75)
			280.00
		Bank A/C- Lloyds Bank	650.74
		Nat Sav Inv	1997.20
			<u>2647.94</u>
			<u>3865.44</u>

I confirm that the above summarised accounts give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at March 2009

..... (J.M. Pepper) HON. TREASURER

# 2010 Annual Reunion Dinner Menu

Cream of Leek and Potato Soup  
Chicken liver and Pork Terrine with onion marmalade  
Garlic Mushrooms a la crème served on a toasted croute

-----

Roast Topside of Beef served with Yorkshire pudding and pan gravy  
Apricot and Basil Stuffed Supreme of Chicken served with a caramelized shallot sauce  
Vegetable Wellington

-----

Spotted Dick with custard  
Double Chocolate and Orange Cup scented with Grand Marnier  
Pannacotta served with red fruit compote  
Fresh Fruit Salad

-----

Coffee & Mints

*(Please indicate your choices on Booking Form at the end of this Newsletter)*

## Any Questions:

Should you have any questions about any of the arrangements please get in touch.

For information, the number of the Tenbury Wells Tourist Information Centre is 01584 810136 and the Ludlow TIC is 01584 875053, and they can provide details on accommodation in the area.

PLEASE **COMPLETE AND RETURN** YOUR RESERVATION SLIP **BY SEPTEMBER 20th** AND SEND IT TO ME ALONG WITH A CHEQUE.

**Tim Coles**  
**The Moor Hall**  
**Cleedownton**  
**Ludlow**  
**Shropshire**  
**SY8 3EG**  
**Tel. 01584 823209**

## Cricket 2009 – Holland run out by a can of beer!

By Guy Holland

Over the last few years the SMC Old Boy's success in this annual fixture has been based on batting first, setting a daunting target and ensuring that it remained out of reach of St Michael's Village. However it was not quite so straightforward last year thanks to a tight bowling and fielding performance from the village as well as a moment of freakish bad luck worthy of Question of Sport's 'What Happened Next' round.

Tim Coles, so often a steady hand at the top of the SMCS innings succumbed in the first over for a duck. Guy Holland, who has not been dismissed in this fixture for several years and has been consistent in posting a score before retiring, was run-out for only 11. Nothing unduly strange in that perhaps - except for the fact that, as he scrambled to make his ground, the fielder's throw ricochet off the umpires 'medicinal' can of bitter (that had been positioned safely behind the stumps) onto the wickets with just enough remaining momentum to remove the bails... Holland run out Whitbread!



The Old Boys team was now in a position it was not used to, and with Lawrence Bayley absent, runs were necessary from perhaps a new source. As predicted by many within his own ranks James Mealings didn't help. A short ball saw him react like a man who'd stepped on a mine and he gloved one behind to continue Egg's extraordinary run of ducks. Banfield's bat can be relied on at some point once a decade and he duly pitched in with a very handy 29 including a flashing square drive that would have earned the admiration of Compton, Graveney, Gower, Botham and Vaughan (or was it a thick outside edge passed Cover Point when he was aiming at Mid Off?!)

The Old Boys looked to Robin Bayley to further bolster the scoreboard but his 7 soon had the team looking away again. It was great to see John Pepper stride onto the 1<sup>st</sup> XI field for the first time in many years - a pitch he graced with wonderful skill and aplomb as a 13-year-old. And although the intervening years had done few favours to his previously elegant batting technique his 9 not out held things together at the end.

But it was Nick Weston's cut and thrust 37 that formed the backbone of the Old Boys total of 112 - their lowest for a number of years. It was now going to be all about the bowling. Shorter run ups, increased waistlines and a little less zip and tweak might have taken the potency out of some of the attack, but the ability to find a line a length had not been lost by the key members of the attack.

Mealings and Banfield opened the attack as they have done for longer than Voce and Larwood, Snow and Willis, Ambrose and Walsh. Sharing a wicket a piece there combined figures of 8 overs, two wickets for 11 runs might not have decimated the Village side but it did not allow them to get a start. Holland's off spin garnered two wickets and, although a little expensive Matthew Banfield's medium pace asked a few questions of the batters and brought him two wickets. Robin Bayley's quicker deliveries picked up a wicket and Nick Weston's all round game was enhanced by a wicket of his own.

But perhaps the most celebrated of all was Simon Higginson's wicket. The sighting of which is of such rarity that those of us who were privileged to witness it will be talking about it for years to come. And it *almost* made up for his beer can run out of the skipper!

The Village were eventually dismissed for 67 and SMC managed to retain the trophy for another year.

Thank you to everyone who took part. With only a relatively small pool from which to draw we continue to field 11 willing folks each year. However we are always keen to welcome new faces or recall old faces for that matter! As ever we would like to thank the Village for putting up a side, playing in such good spirit and helping with this such a fun and integral part of our annual reunion. And of course we cannot forget the ladies who kindly provide such a magnificent tea at the end of the match. Even the famous WCCC New Road teas would struggle to live with the spread they put on!

Those of us who were at the College during Dick Stride's time as Warden became accustomed to surprises from the media. Often unannounced to the boys until the very last minute, visits from broadcasters, camera crews and VIPs became a familiar facet of life at St Michael's in the early 1960s.

As I recall, much of this stemmed from the fact that Mrs Stride had a brother who worked for the BBC and this led to a number of broadcasts from the College. The BBC producer - a rather large lady called Peggy Bacon, I think - became quite a regular diner at high table in the College Dining Room.

Having been a commoner, I certainly remember being herded down to the spinney south of the College grounds between 4 and 5pm one Wednesday afternoon when Choral Evensong was broadcast 'live' from St Michael's. This was a way of distancing us from the vicinity of the chapel so our usual playground shrieks wouldn't mar the broadcast!

I also remember the considerable disruption to the daily routines when a camera crew descended on the College to make a television feature programme about the choir. On one day, this involved lessons being suspended so we could all change quickly into games outfit and assemble on the sports field to form a landing ring for an incoming helicopter with Sir John Betjeman on board.



Whether or not these recordings are still available from the BBC archives, I do not know. But clips from another filming session that took place at St Michael's in 1963 area now available on the Pathé News website online (<http://www.britishpathe.com/>). Search under "Tenbury" and you'll find "Carol Singers" and "Xmas is for all" which are takes from the filming at the College, more clips in "Xmas is for all 1963" and the main newsreel.

Pathé films were mostly shown in cinemas before the start of the main film. Although called Pathé News, they were prepared some time in advance but based on seasonal or topical themes. They were information films rather than newsreels really. St Michael's featured in a film prepared for the Christmas period in 1963, with filming taking place at the College in about November. The main newsreel "Xmas is for all" was released to cinemas on 19 December 1963 and included a miscellany of Christmas items including episodes with celebrities from the "Carry on" series.



I might be able to dig up some contemporary impressions about it from the letters I sent home to my parents at the time - all of which they kept! - but there are two small difficulties. First, my letters home were seldom dated. I still think it rather strange that we weren't made to date them - our letters were, after all, routinely vetted! Second, a practical difficulty since I have quite recently donated all my papers about St Michael's to Hereford Cathedral Library where, of course, the main College archives are kept.

But to some extent the films speak for themselves. There are four clips in all, but only the version released to cinemas - featuring the choir singing carols in the chapel - has a soundtrack. But together they feature most of us who were at the College at the time, with good shots of everyone filing through the cloisters towards the chapel, the choir in the chapel (viewed from on high with everyone in the stalls on the organ side) and a dozen or so boys carol-singing outside a house (or was it the pub?) down the road to Berrington.

Although not visible in the clips, I was in the carol-singing party and I remember it quite clearly. It was a cold night, and we were paraded down to the pub where we sang carols as we approached the front door. It required several takes and took rather longer than we might have liked given the temperature and the suitability of our clothing - those short trousers and long socks with garters we all wore daily! But there were compensations - the excitement of being filmed, staying up beyond the usual bedtime and the glass of lemonade when we finally finished.

The clips are there for all to see - worth a look whether you were there yourself or purely for general interest. Media coverage of various sorts is commonplace today, but this was almost fifty years ago - when it all seemed wonderfully exciting and new.

## St Michael's College Society 2010 Reunion – 25<sup>th</sup> September

The programme: Families and guests are most welcome to attend during the day.

### Saturday

10.30am	Cricket Old Boys XI v St Michael's Village XI – morning play
11am	Croquet on the Cloister Lawn
12.30pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Cricket resumes - afternoon play
1.00pm	Croquet on the Cloister Lawn
2.00pm	Tour of St Michael's College starts
2.30 - 3pm	Cricket - close of play, tea and presentation of trophy
3.00pm	Choir practice
4.15pm	SMCS AGM – College Library
6.00pm	Evensong – St Michael's Church Followed by SMCS group photo circa 6.45pm, West Door
7.30/7.45pm	SMCS Annual Reunion Dinner at Cadmore Lodge Speaker – Colonel Christopher Coles, QRH, Assistant Director Adjutant General Executive, Headquarters Land Forces.

### Reunion Music Programme – Evensong 6pm

The Holgate Consort will once again be singing Evensong for us under David Barclay. Old Boy singers are very welcome to join the choir. The music we will be singing is: -

Introit	Jerusalem on high - Ouseley
Canticles	Stanford in A
Anthem	Sing ye to the Lord - Bairstow

**NB Choir practice will start at 3pm – Old Boys join in as soon as you are able.**

**Julia Lawrence** died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on January 6th, 2010, aged 70 years. Julia was the mother of SMCS members Charlotte and Alice Asquith. A Memorial Service was held at St. Mary's Parish Church, Tenbury Wells, at which the Society was represented. Julia had been busy 'networking', being her usual friendly and well-informed Tenbury person, and was very hopeful of encouraging more 'Old Boys and Girls' to come to SMC reunions. Julia will be greatly missed by all who remember her so fondly.

**Michael Oldroyd** - A contact reports that Michael Oldroyd has died. Mr Oldroyd was on the staff at SMC, and sang in the choir, and we wondered what he did after he left SMC, and indeed when that was. Does anyone know anything about him, or has any info you can lay your hands on?

## NIBS – News in Brief

The St Michael's PCC is very grateful for the generous response of the Old Boys to the **Organ Appeal**. Michael Hart sent out nearly 300 letters and has received just over £2500. With the Gift Aid tax returned, the total is around £3100. Michael is continuing to apply to various trusts and the lottery. My thanks to all those who kindly donated.

Have you seen the 'new' Saint Michael's College **promotional film**?  
<http://www.st-michaels-thefilm.com/>

**Col. John Blashford-Snell** sends his apologies for not being able to make this year's reunion: 'Alas, that day I shall be about to step onto a plane for the Amazon jungle where we are aiding the remote Wai Wai tribe. We took them a grand piano a few years ago and it needs new strings and tuning! It has been a very busy year with expeditions in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Nepal but hopefully 2011 may be less hectic. Best wishes for the reunion and the cricket match.'

**Col. Chris Coles**, Queen's Royal Hussars, has been appointed to be Assistant Director Adjutant General Executive, Headquarters Land Forces, with effect from January 2010.

## The SMCS Shop

**SMCS ties (£10)** – a batch of new Society ties was produced for the Centenary Reunion. If anyone's old tie is the worse for wear or you have lost it (!), let a committee member know.

**SMCS Centenary mugs (£3.50)** – again, as a memento of the 2006 reunion, centenary mugs were produced. They look really good and there are quite a few left so if anyone is interested let us know.

## Books

**Memories of St Michael's College, Tenbury** edited by C.R.Beresford (2006) Paperback (£7)  
Flashbacks by thirty people who were pupils between the 1920s and 1980s, together with articles and appendices with names of staff and pupils. The editor was a pupil from 1952 to 1957.

**Elgar, Ouseley and St Michael's – A personal account** by John Austin (2006) (£2.50)  
Old Boy and former Society President John Austin has put together a 20 page booklet.

**Special Offer – Memories of St Michael's College PLUS centenary mug - £10**

## Saint Michael's College Prize Giving 2010 and other news

Saint Michael's College annual graduation ceremony took place recently at Cadmore Lodge. The picture perfect location played host to around 150 visitors including students, teachers, parents and guests. The evening is an opportunity for students and staff to celebrate the end of the school year as well recognise certain students' achievements.

SMCS donates three awards for the ceremony, Best Academic Achievement, Best Achievement in Music and Drama and Service to the Community. Each prize winner is awarded a shield and a cash reward.

Best Academic Achievement was awarded to Yasmine Van-Dunem. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Yasmine has been a student at Saint Michaels for 3 years. When Yasmine first arrived to study her GCSE here her English was very limited. As she moved towards A levels her use of the English language increased. In previous years Yasmine was easily distracted from her studies but this academic year while studying a University Foundation course she has applied herself and worked extremely hard. Yasmine vast improvement in her behaviour, attitude and academic ability has led to her gaining this award.



In many schools talented musicians are often overlooked as academic matters poses as the main focus. However for the past two years Saint Michael's College has been blessed with a very talented young musician. Landon Meng joined the college in 2008 to study his A levels and although he played piano from the young age of 4, he was not able to read music very well. During his two years he spent many hours practicing as well as receiving professional teaching from Mrs Irene Homer and Mrs Luzili King. Both teachers helped Landon reach a grade 8 with distinction in his first ever piano exam. In recognition of his achievements with his piano and singing Landon was awarded Best Achievement in Music and Drama.

This year Andrei Stanescu from Romania was awarded the Service to the community shield. Andrei has also been a student at Saint Michael's College for three years. This year he is sitting his A levels with the view of passing these and going on to study medicine at Birmingham University. Throughout his 3 years here Andrei has shown dedication and outstanding commitment to his studies and the college on many occasions. Saint Michael's College sponsor a child through Angel Hearts, which Andrei helped raise money for. As the charity prefect he also helped organised other events to raise funds for sports relief and comic relief.

All three students were elated with the prizes received from SMCS. Yasmine, Landon and Andrei have all now left Saint Michaels to peruse University degrees in their chosen fields.

**Residential block** - As the school is once again full we have decided to build a fourth new residential block. This block will contain 30 single study bedrooms. We hope to start building work in August this year and for the block to be completed by May 2011.

**Music room** - We are currently in the process of converting an old classroom into a new music room. This will give the students another activity in which to become involved.

**Communal kitchen** - We have just taken the decision to convert a common room into a communal kitchen for the students to use. When it is finished we will also start to run some cooking classes (particularly useful for students going to university where they usually have to cook for themselves).

**Website** - Our website has recently been redesigned, so if you haven't seen it for a while please have a look. You can also view our new school video via the website.

## Mr and Mrs Friend – the best of friends

By Jenny Paxman

Mr and Mrs Friend joined the domestic staff at St Michael's when Dick Stride and his wife, Mick, came when he became Warden in 1957. Dick had been chaplain of Dover College, and the Friends came from their staff there with them, and lived thereafter at No. 2, College Lane, the second of the pair of houses which backed on to the playing fields.

When my husband, Denis, became the eighth Warden in 1965, we immediately realised how completely Bill and Cissie Friend lived up to their name. Throughout our twelve years at the College, they were completely loyal to us and to the whole place.

Mrs Friend was the cook, reigning over the kitchen regions throughout those years. She regarded the feeding of the boys and the staff as a vocation, which is not too strong a word. She always produced meals at all times with real skill. She kept the kitchen staff in good spirits and order, produced menus and meals with unending skill and dedication to the problems, often severe in those post-war years.

She was, to me - and I was a real novice in the difficult position of the head-master's wife - unendingly patient and helpful through all those twelve years. The domestic staff at the College varied from the experienced and dedicated people to the very inexperienced and difficult young ones who caused endless trouble to Mrs Friend and to me.

I have said ever since that the words 'Can I have a word with you, Madam?' will be found at my death graven on my heart, like 'Calais' on the heart of Mary Tudor! I simply cannot think how I could have managed without her.

Where Cissie was more of an unseen presence to the boys, Bill was a familiar sight to all of us. If asked what his job was, he would reply with the unvarying word 'maintnance!' (Try saying that as spelt and you get it right.) He did everything that nobody else did. He was not one of the official cleaners, but he looked after the boys' lavatories on the south terrace. He looked after the boiler that provided the heating in the old buildings.

Every Sunday he went up the Raddle Bank to check the working and condition of the College's water supply (I doubt if many people knew about our water supply being from that place). He put the daily supplies of potatoes through the peeler which, when we arrived, was the only piece of electric, kitchen equipment in the place. When we first came all the dishwashing was done by hand in a scullery. Denis looked into the costing of having a proper electric dishwasher and having found it could be paid for (a whole £400) within one term by saving the cost of employing extra kitchen staff, he had that installed, and often it was Bill who put the dishes through it. (Occasionally, it was I)

He drove people from Tenbury when necessary for them to work, and returned them after that. He marked cricket and football pitches with the white-lining machine. At times he put on a white jacket and acted as head (or only) waiter in the dining-hall, which he enjoyed. He knew all the boys and all the staff. He knew what was going on everywhere.

Denis used to say that Bill was his eyes and ears, because he could so often tell him what was going wrong, or likely to do so, in time for avoiding action to be taken. He was a shrewd and also kindly observer of the boys and I think they liked him as much as the adults did. I know that our much-loved Bursar, in those early days George Coles, valued Bill as much as Denis and I did, and I am sure that George's successor, Harry Downes, felt the same.

After we left in 1977, Bill and Cissie remained until they both retired. They moved down to a flat in the Bromyard Road and lived there for a few years. Denis and I visited them there on the occasions when we were able to get down to Tenbury from the various places where we lived after '77. We always had a warm welcome, but the time came when I could see that all was not well with Bill and we knew he would not be there when we next came to visit them. He died in August 1992.

half term, I remember going with him into the vestry in the chapel where all the choir music was stored. We removed one copy from every box and filled 2 small suitcases. Learning the choir repertoire was going to be his holiday task. The bursar also gave him a cheque for £50 and told him it would have to last until the next half term - he was on £300 year!

He made his teaching room into a sort of sitting room where we choristers could enjoy the home comforts of tea and cake: small boys are always hungry. A year later the assistant chaplain, who also ran the scout troop left and Kenneth took over as scoutmaster. We enjoyed a number of summer and weekend camps.

In the chapel there is an 1873 Father Willis 4 manual organ, and nothing had been done to it apart from tuning since 1916. Also it was a quarter tone sharp. During the summer of coronation year, Willis' dismantled the instrument, cleaned, lowered the pitch and refurbished it ready for the centenary. The job at Tenbury was a demanding one as we sang 13 choral services every week: Matins and Evensong daily apart from Saturday Evensong and the usual Sunday services - probably more than any cathedral in the country. The centenary was a wonderful celebration for which Benjamin Britten wrote the Antiphons. After it was all over, Kenneth was summoned to appear before the College Fellows and was both thanked and congratulated for the fantastic job he had done.

The post at Tenbury was always considered to be a stepping off point to a Cathedral. So after 7 years Kenneth was looking for a Cathedral appointment and Southwell wisely appointed him. For the first time he had his own home in Vicar's Court, having lived in primitive bachelor quarters at Tenbury. Apart from being Rector Chori he also became Director of Music at the Minster School. Easter is probably the busiest time in the church's year for both clergy and musicians. By the time the last service of Easter Day has finished, most cathedral musicians do not want to see the inside of the building for at least a week. What did Kenneth do? He would organize and run a 3 day RSCM course in the Minster for 150 youngsters from choirs throughout the diocese.

As a person, Kenneth was friendly, caring, modest and very generous. He never used the word friendship lightly - if you were a friend, you a friend for life. He was never a wealthy man, but whenever help was needed in any way, Kenneth was the first to offer it. I know there are people here today who have benefitted from that generosity.

In 1988, after 29 years he felt it was time to retire from the Minster. He happened to see advertised the organist's post at Mold Parish Church in North Wales. His sister Muriel, a retired doctor joined him and they moved into a house near Mold with lovely views of the Welsh mountains. After a little while I think he began to feel a little lonely as he missed his many friends in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. So after 6 years he moved to the village of Baslow next to the Chatsworth estate. His eyesight had never been good and he had to give up driving in 2000. Fortunately the village shops provided him with his daily needs. On one of my regular visits in 2005, I found him in a collapsed state, having just seen a doctor for the first time since 1955 while he was still at Tenbury. It was obvious he was no longer able to look after himself. All Kenneth's friends owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Valerie and John Casson who took him into their home and looked after him with tender, loving care, enabling him to live for nearly 5 more years.

A number of Kenneth's friends were disappointed that his 43 year's service to the church had never been recognized officially in some way. So a letter was put together and sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury. As a result he was awarded the Cross of St Augustine. So in October 2008 we took him to Lambeth Palace where during Evensong in the palace chapel, Kenneth was presented with the cross by the Archbishop which we all felt was richly deserved. He himself though could not understand what all the fuss was about.

### Kenneth Beard Memorial Concert

Kenneth Beard moved to Southwell Minster as Organist and Rector Chori in 1959 after a seven year reign at St Michael's. He remained there for 29 years. Southwell Minster holds an annual St Cecilia concert in November and this year it is on Friday 19th November. Paul Hale, Kenneth's successor has decided that it will be a memorial concert to Kenneth: he would like as many of Kenneth's former choristers as possible to be there and suitable music will be chosen so everybody can join forces. Paul has kindly extended that invitation to Kenneth's former St Michael's choristers. Would any of those choristers who would like to be involved please let me know so that nearer the time I can give you further details?

## Obituaries

### Michael Young 1918 - 2010

Michael's brother Roland recalls – Michael was at St Michael's College from the late 1920s to the mid-1930s. He was very fond of St Michael's with all of its activities, music especially but cricket and football as well.

He was a senior chorister in the college choir under the Rev. Swann and became an accomplished musician, playing the piano, flute and the Father Willis organ under Lawrence Crosthwaite. He loved the many half-term trips to Llandrindod Wells, Rhyader dams, Symonds Yat and so on.

Names from the 1930s he conjured up were Mr Widdicombe, Mr Joyce, GK Chesterton's fast bowling and the lay clerks in the choir – Mr Godber (alto), Mr Coles (bass) and Mr Alcock (tenor). He was always speaking of Miss Ashley (Kate) and her marvellous affect on the teaching and enthusiasm for the Cubs and Scouts (a real Akela).

He often told of an amusing episode in the dining room at SMC. Ernest, who waited on us at all meals, was heard to remark "Tain't what you want, it's what you 'av to 'av ' always said in a broad Herefordshire accent and a definite hint of beer on his breath. Quite a character, Ernest - we loved him.

Michael loved his football but he used to remark 'Oh! The cowpads'!

SMC old boy Stuart Meikle, a cousin of Michael, adds: Mike was born in 1918 and was 91 when he died. His funeral was at Brathy Church in the Lake District where he was baptized. During WWII he served in India and Burma with the East African Rifles, an assignment that amused him as he had never set foot in Africa. After the war he resumed his career as an electrical engineer. He retired to Condover in Shropshire but latterly moved to Lancaster to be closer to his family. He leaves a son and daughter. His wife, Muriel, died in 1997.

[Donations at Michael's funeral were partly for the St Michael's Church Organ Fund]

### Kenneth Beard 1927 -2010



Kenneth Beard was Organist and Director of Music at St Michael's, 1952 - 1959 after which he moved to Southwell Minster where he remained for 29 years. His funeral was at Southwell on the 20th July and Michael Hart gave the address which is printed below:-

We are gathered here in this wonderful building to celebrate the life of Kenneth Beard. And what a life: one dedicated to the service of the church. He spent a total of 43 years as an Organist and Director of Music in the Church of England - including 6 in the Church of Wales.

A son of the manse, Kenneth was born in Lancashire in 1927. He was educated at the Methodist school, Kingswood in Bath, but spent most of his school years at Uppingham whence the school was evacuated during the war. He then studied at the University of Manchester and the Royal Manchester College of Music. I remember him telling me he took his ARCO exam in the cellars of the old RCO building in Kensington Gore due to the blitz going on above. 3 years later he was awarded an organ scholarship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

His first post was as Organist and Director of Music at St Michael's College, Tenbury, founded in the mid 19th Century by Sir Frederick Ouseley to improve the standard of music in the Church of England which was at that time at a low ebb. However he did not apply for the post but was head-hunted. The then Warden of St Michael's - that is the headmaster of the college and vicar of the parish - was himself a musician. He had been a chorister at St Michael's, a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge and after ordination, its chaplain. So when the vacancy occurred at St Michael's, the Warden naturally consulted the oracle at King's, Boris Ord. He was firmly told that Kenneth Beard is your man.

Kenneth arrived in June 1952 having just finished his final exams. His appointment was a particularly important one for St Michael's because the college was going to celebrate its centenary in 1956. At the end of his first

Cissie lived for almost ten years more, utterly unchanged from what she had always been, always interested in the College and all the memories we shared, and able to give us family news about their son David and Brenda their daughter. She also, was unmoved by the passing of the years, and we all knew, when Denis and I gave her affectionate hugs on saying goodbye, that we should not see her again. She died in August 2002.



Now, Denis has gone, too. Tory and I have been down twice to the Reunion Dinner at St Michael's. Last year, having some time to spare, we went to look at the parish church in Tenbury. I have to admit that in all the years we lived only two miles away I had never, I think, been there before. A very interesting church it is, too. Afterwards we walked round the very well-kept churchyard, looking at gravestones, and there not far from the east end of the church, we found a stone with two names we knew very well. Bill and his wife, Cissie. For us, they were the best of Friends.

### The Founder's grave restoration appeal



At the risk of giving you all 'appeal fatigue', I have to publicise this cause again this year as more funds are needed before we reach our target.

The Founder's grave at St Michael's is important not only because it is the Founder's grave but also because it was designed by the famous architect Sir Aston Webb.

It is covered with a large slab of polished red granite with the inscription in lead lettering around the edge. Both are in excellent condition, however, the granite slab is surmounted by a white marble cross which is in very poor condition and is now a dark grey colour.

We are trying to raise £750 to restore the cross – if anyone can make a donation please send a cheque made payable to St Michael's College Society (mark on the back of the cheque Founder's Grave Appeal) and send it to the treasurer John Pepper – his address can be found elsewhere in this Magazine. Many thanks.

### St Michael's College Society CD – Final call

Interest in the compilation CD of music and memories of St Michael's has been fantastic but after the forthcoming Reunion we intend, subject to AGM, to donate the remaining stock to the St Michael's PCC so that they can raise funds for the Organ Appeal.

As such, this is a final call to members who wish to guarantee obtaining a copy. The double CD set is a wonderful trip down memory lane and contains gems such as Broadcast Evensong from the Centenary celebrations, earliest recordings of the choir from 1957, John Craven's visit to the school for Radio 4 in 1974, excerpts from school plays, broadcast by John Betjeman, various broadcasts of Evensong from 1957 to 1983, with the Final service and last Evensong also being featured. The CD concludes with the Address given by Andrew Walters at Choral Evensong in 2006, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the College.

If you want one now, we ask that you make a donation to SMCS of £10, plus £2.50 p&p in return. We are hoping to have the CDs available at the reunion, so come armed with a cheque book! If you are not able to attend the reunion, please send a cheque for £12.50 now to your secretary Tim Coles.

## Caption Competition



Can you come up with a humorous caption for this photo?

There's always someone who can't obey the photographer's orders – 'Chins up, hand by your side and look natural'

Can you put names to the characters in this photograph? – one about to throttle his friend or so it would seem.

To give you a start, it's Commem 1952

## 'Ouseley, Woodyer and St Michael's College – A Story of the Catholic and Gothic Revival' by John Austin

This is just a short up-date to let you know that my book, which I talked about at last year's Reunion, is still very much in progress. I will be pleased when it is finished as there will be something to show for all the effort. On the other hand it will be sad because the research has been more fun and exciting than I could possibly have imagined.

For instance, I have in my hand a copy of 'A Treatise on the Elements of Algebra' by Rev. B. Bridge, printed in 1831. It has Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley's bookplate with the Ouseley crest, and it is inscribed 'Frederick A. G. Ouseley. From his old friend and Tutor, W. Watson, 1838'. It is the Founder's Algebra book which he had when he was 13. How exciting is that?

Altogether I have now managed to buy seven books that were in the Library, and nine previously unpublished letters of Sir Frederick's. These include one where he writes his signature in musical notation – the notes F. A. G. as minims surrounded by a large O. These all add a sort of richness and colour to the book.

The more time-consuming side of my research has been finding detailed information on various aspects of Frederick Ouseley's and Henry Woodyer's lives before St Michael's was built. With the help of the Grosvenor Estate and also a researcher at the B.M. Newspaper Library at Collingwood I have been able to piece together a great deal of information on Sir Gore's houses in Grosvenor Square and Upper Brook Street.

Every year in March Sir Gore would take his family from his country estate, Woolmers and later Hall Barn, to London for the Season, and then return to the country in July. Like the rest of the beau monde they arrived in time for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and left London for the country after Ascot. This is shown to be true by the archives of Broadwood Pianos. These show that Sir Gore paid for the moving of one grand and one upright piano from either Woolmers or Hall Barn to his London house in March and then back again in July, every year from 1827 to 1844. I have photo-copies of many of these invoices.

The Morning Post, the London daily newspaper, had numerous accounts of the social events, Soirees, Embassy Dinner Parties, Balls and Banquets, that Sir Gore and Lady Ouseley and very often his two daughters went to. Of course it was a 'marriage mart', and the irony was that Frederick's two sisters remained spinsters.

## Music at St. Michael's Church 2010 Season

Sat 25th Sept 6pm Choral Evensong, St Michael's College Society Reunion, The Holgate Consort, Director: David Barclay

Sun 26th Sept 10am & 3pm Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong, The Elysian Singers  
Patronal Festival Director: Paul Richards  
Organist: John Pryer

Sat 16th Oct 10am Diocese of Hereford Organists' Training Scheme  
Organists' workshop, Chairman: Peter Dyke, Director: Hilary Norris

Sun 17th Oct 10am & 3pm Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong Quindici, Director: Suzanne Edwards, Organist: Tim Mills

Sun 14th Nov 10am Remembrance Sunday Sung Eucharist, The Hereford Church Singers  
Director: John Eden

Sat 18th Dec 6.30pm Christmas Carol Service,  
The Birmingham University Singers Director: Dr John Whenham

Sun 19th Dec 10am & 3pm Sung Eucharist, The Birmingham University Singers, Director: Dr Paul Rodmell  
Choral Evensong The Birmingham University Singers, Director: Dr John Whenham

Proceeds of Concerts and Recitals in aid of St. Michaels Church Funds  
Programmes: All payable at the door

## The Boneshaker

You may be interested to know that there is an article by Brian Demaus with photographs in the winter 2009 edition of the Veteran-Cycle Club's magazine, "The Boneshaker", entitled Veteran Bicycles I have Owned. There are photographs of most of the bicycles that he owned, eighteen in all, with a lovely one of him standing with one of the bicycles in very characteristic fashion.

Perhaps with the permission of Brian or the editor of the Boneshaker we might reproduce the article in full in next year's Magazine.

## Swimming Sports Remembered



One for the collection – 1966? Kyrke-Smith iii and a Braithwaite on pole; Paxman iii on path in background!



Holland i and Bayley i  
Tub race championships



Of course Frederick was only a boy during these years but the Listz, Mendelssohn and Sterndale Bennett concerts were numerous and he probably went to some of these. One of the autograph letters I have refers to his 'good friend William Sterndale Bennett', and we all know that he played a piano duet 'extempore' with Mendelssohn.

1841 was an eventful year to say the least. On February 14th John Henry Newman published Tract XC. Its censure by the Oxford authorities on March 15 was a severe blow to the Oxford Movement and led to Newman's rapid withdrawal from Anglican life. Between July 1841 and September 1843 he moved from Oxford to a semi-monastic community at Littlemore, retracted the anti-Catholic statements he had published, and resigned his position at St. Mary's, Oxford.

Much of this was in The Morning Post and the contemporary comments on it are very interesting. For this to be happening when Frederick was 16, when he was being taught by the Rev. James Joyce at Dorking, and on the verge of going to Oxford to read mathematics (Algebra) or possibly theology is fascinating. He must have felt the tectonic plates under the Church of England were moving, which they were. One could say that it was on February 14th 1841 that Cardinal Newman's set out on his path which was to lead to sainthood.

I was hoping to have Woodyer's plans and building specifications of the Church and the College at the heart of my book. However, after nearly two years of fruitless searching I am beginning to give up. Thanks to the help of Helen Roach, Major Downes, who was the last Bursar of the College and is now 97, told me that when he became Bursar in 1966 the plans were missing and he drew some for his own use. He was told that a plumber from Tenbury who was doing some work at the College, took them home and never returned them. Anyone know of a long established firm of ironmongers in Tenbury with an attic of old papers?

Since writing the above I have managed to acquire two more volumes from the College library, making a total of nine. Both are folio editions of church music and were previously owned by John Bumpus, who was the Librarian before Dr Fellowes. One of them, edited by Ouseley, consists of various composers and Bumpus has added numerous mss. comments on the original source of the music.

The other one is even more interesting. It was printed in 1853 and consists entirely of Ouseley's compositions. Before Bumpus it was owned by Captain Edward Ottley who has also added numerous notes, including as to where and when the music that Ouseley dedicated to his friends was written. For instance, the anthem 'To the Lord our God', which is dedicated to Ottley, has 'Composed at Rome. 1851' in Ottley's handwriting on it. Captain Ottley was one of the first Fellows, and it was he who gave Ouseley the copy of the Messiah. There is also a very early albumen photograph of the interior of the Church. It must be prior to 1889 as the wall is blank where the memorial to Ouseley was later placed.

Is my intention to bring some of the volumes that I have from St Michael's Library and the Founder's autograph letters to show people at the Reunion in September. It is also my intention to bring copies of my printed book to the Reunion in September 2011.

## SMCS Subscriptions

The Society subscription is **£10** per annum (minimum). If necessary could you please update your standing order accordingly. Many thanks.

A Standing Order Form is printed elsewhere in this Magazine or is available on our website <http://www.smcsociety.co.uk>

## SMCS Website

The SMCS website ([www.smcsociety.co.uk](http://www.smcsociety.co.uk)) continues to be a source of interest to not just 'known' members of the society but also many people who are just browsing through and find things of interest.

There is always room for more photographs/articles etc on the site. If you have something that you would like to see there, e-mail to [info@smcsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@smcsociety.co.uk)

## News of Members

**Tim Goode** - left teaching in 2007 and studied theology at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. He was ordained on 28th June at Southwark Cathedral and served his title at Croydon Parish Church. His Priesting was at Croydon on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Court Circular in the Daily Telegraph - Lt Col **Francis Acton** was received by the Queen as assuming the appointment of Commanding Officer of the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry.

**Mike Ricketts** - living in Frome in Somerset with his wife Polly and six year old son Tom. He is an artist and also a Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Art at Christie's Education in London. 'So all those hours of early morning art came to something, I guess!', he comments.

**Simon Holt** - left his jobs as Director of Music at Calvary Church and Executive Director of Calvary Music School in Stonington, Connecticut at the end of July to take up the position of Chair of the Fine Arts Department and Director of Music at St. James School in Hagerstown, Maryland.



As this is a boarding school, in fact one of the oldest Episcopal (Anglican) boarding schools in the nation, Simon and his wife will be living in school accommodation and coming back to Stonington for school vacations.

He has left St. Thomas Choir School in New York City as Director of Music in School but after the move to Maryland will retain his position as Executive and Artistic Director of Salt Marsh Opera Company based in Stonington ([www.SaltMarshOpera.org](http://www.SaltMarshOpera.org)). 'We will see how managing the opera company will work from 400 miles away!' he writes.

His elder son Oliver, now 18, is going into his second year at New York University as a voice major and Joe, 16, will be entering his senior year at St. James School, hoping to go in a year's time to the Berklee School of Music in Boston to major in composing and rock music. Alison will be teaching violin and viola at St. James School and overseeing the orchestral program there.

**Gavin Birkett** writes - Yesterday I played the LP "Sing Joyfully" recorded long ago by St Michael's. My LP is now almost worn out with quite a few clicks and scratches but, the beautiful quality of the singing and music is still there. It brings back many happy memories of my time at St. Michael's. I don't suppose that there's a chance of it ever appearing on a CD.

I am retired now and having worked at the BBC in London for almost my entire working life, I have purchased some quality video editing equipment and cameras. So I have been recording a number of concerts and drama activities at King Edwards VI School (Shakespeare's School) here in Stratford. The school has recently specialised in 'Boy Players' in Elizabethan times. Not just Shakespeare but, his contemporaries of the time like Middleton and Marston.

They have performed at the Globe in London, Oxford University and University of Warwick. The recordings have gone out far beyond the UK to the States, Canada, Sweden, Italy and Australia. I have also been recording the occasional lecture for Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust and an odd educational session or two at the RSC. It seems true that you feel busier in retirement.

**Stewart Meikle** (1967 - 73) is still living in South Staffordshire. He and his wife Sally have four sons aged 17 - 3, so life is always busy. He works as an IT and Projects Manager for Advantage West Midlands, the Regional Development Agency, which the Government has recently announced will close by March 2012, forcing a future job change for Stewart. He says he wants to return to manufacturing and start doing a proper job again!

**Chris Higman** writes - I was browsing through the internet recently and came across the SMC Society website, which I enjoyed tremendously. I was at St. Michael's from 1951-1958. Looking through the 2009 newsletter, I was able to recognize names of contemporaries such as Charles Beresford and David Wells-Cole, staff (Brian Demaus, Kenneth Beard) and Christopher Robinson (whom I knew when he was teaching at Oundle).

The only SMC contacts that I still have are Ted Thomas (chaplain in the 1950s and with whom I still exchange Christmas cards) and of course my two brothers, Julian and Lionel. I live in Germany (have done since 1974) so that coming to the reunion will not be so easy. It will be impossible this year because of prior commitments, but it might be possible occasionally in future years.

For your information, I left St Michael's with a scholarship to Oundle (due to much encouragement from Dick Stride) and from there went on to Oxford to study maths. My main career, however, has been as a chemical engineer and although I am officially retired, I still do considerable consulting all over the world (clients in USA, Canada, Australia, S. Korea, South Africa and a number of European countries). My main topics are in the energy area (power generation, oil refineries, chemicals etc.), which includes a lot of CO2 issues.

If any of those, whose name I have mentioned above, are at the upcoming reunion, then I would certainly appreciate it, if you can pass on my greetings.

Your website inspired me to look up some old photographs. These two even have names on the back - some of them of still active SMC Society members.



The First XI is (from the back, left to right):

Dick Stride, Brian Demaus  
Charles Beresford, Chris Higman, Young, Ahmed, Bickmore  
Burrows, Mansell, GJ Wells-Cole, Richardson, Patrick Dunn  
(who was studying art at the Ruskin, while I was in Oxford)  
PD Wells-Cole, Tariq Ismail

The scout troop is:

Kenneth Beard, Mansell, Wall, Ed Gould, GJ Wells-Cole, Richardson, Bickmore, Charles Beresford, Walker, Mr. Oldroyd  
Yarnold, Bunch, Chris Higman, Burrows, Young, Field, Jackson, Ahmed, Humphries, JR Evans, Watson  
Lowder, Jones, Cartwright, Harris Ismail, Nelson, Patrick Dunn, Corbett, Vann

