

WALKS TO THE POET'S STONE



Do you remember walking, perhaps in a group with Brian Demaus or John Gray, up to the Poet's Stone at Leysters? This area was appreciated by William and Mary Wordsworth more than a decade before Ouseley built the college.

Mary Wordsworth's nephew Thomas Hutchinson had been vicar at Kimbolton from 1841. There was no vicarage, so he built 'Grantsfield', where he stayed for 62 years. He was so pleased to have the famous family stay with him in 1845 that he had their initials carved on what is now known as the Poet's Stone, a place where they sat and mused.

On occasional Sunday afternoons for many decades since then generations of boys and girls from St Michael's have walked to the Poet's Stone. It made a useful target for a walk and included the opportunity to rediscover the carvings. Some may have heard about its history and possibly even wondered about what stimulates poetic imagination ...

SHARING INTEREST IN St. MICHAEL'S

Individually readers of this magazine remember St Michael's from time to time and many appreciate opportunities to share this with others, both online and at the reunions. Some may wonder whether others find our interest rather curious as it is 33 years since the college closed.

People with several other perspectives have an interest in aspects of Ouseley's legacy without having experienced life in the college as most readers knew it :

- i. worshippers at the present church at St Michael's;
- ii. staff and students at the present school at St Michael's;
- iii. the Ouseley Trustees, deploying the income from the sale of the buildings;
- iv. Musicians who appreciate the Father Willis organ, the acoustics and the musical tradition of the choir;
- v. Archivists who value the collections at Hereford Cathedral and Oxford's Bodleian Library;
- vi. Academics and others interested in a range of areas such as the development of English Church music, the architecture of Woodyer's buildings, Victorian philanthropy, the evolution of the Church of England, educational opportunities in choir schools and boarding preparatory schools, local history of the area etc.

i. The present church at St Michael's

St Michael's Church is part of the Tenbury team ministry serving 13 churches in the area and continues to be used regularly for worship. The population of the parish in the 2011 census was 480, of whom 66% claim to be Christian. A service to commemorate the Patronal Festival of St Michael and all angels will take place on the Sunday of the reunion weekend with a visiting choir.

ii. The present school at St Michael's

The Head of the present school is leading a tour of the buildings during the reunion weekend. Each year the Society rewards a couple of outstanding students nominated by the school.

Jenson Jones presented the awards this year :



Academic Achievement :

Filip Stanisic is studying Mathematics, Physics and Further mathematics. He hopes to study mathematics at a University overseas. Filip has been Head Boy and is from Montenegro. He is a talented basketball player and has won the ISSA sportsman award at two ISSA basketball tournaments.

Service to the Community :

Anas Zain gained this award for outstanding work in social media and marketing for the school. Anas has made a number of videos and photographic work for the school. He studies Maths, Biology and Chemistry and hopes to study medicine in a University in South Africa. His family live in Saudi Arabia.

iii. Ouseley Trust.

www.ouseleytrust.org.uk

The interest on funds derived from the sale of the College continue to be deployed to promote the Anglican choral tradition, as the Founder wished in his Will. This has included helping with school fees where a child is singing on a regular basis in a cathedral choir. Grants totalling more than £2.5 million have been made to churches and choral foundations over more than 20 years.

iv. Musicians who appreciate the organ, the acoustics and the musical tradition of the choir

The fine Father Willis organ continues to be used regularly for worship and musical events. Details of these are on a new website www.musicatstmichaelschurch.wordpress.com

St Michael's Choir

In 2018 the Archive of Recorded Church Music has uploaded onto you-tube broadcasts from SMC transmitted in 1959, 1964 and 1967. www.recordedchurchmusic.org

NB. Unfortunately the Evensong broadcast in June 1959 during Kenneth Beard's last term is accompanied by a photograph from Spring 1957. This includes Tony Smith, who died on 2nd March 1957, David and Gerry Wells-Cole and Charles Beresford.

v. Archivists who value the collections at Hereford Cathedral and Oxford's Bodleian Library

The Dan Symonds collection of archives about SMC is with many others at Hereford Cathedral Archives. The archivist is Dr Bethany Hamblen. The archive catalogue is not yet online but can be accessed in the Reading Room, which is open from 10 am to 4 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; from 10 to 1 on the first Saturday of the month; and by appointment at other times. Phone 01432-374220.

vi. Academics and others interested in a range of areas

For example Ellen Rachel Scott's 1997 MA thesis '*Sir Frederick Ouseley, the foundation of St Michael's College, Tenbury Wells, and the ideals of Anglican choral tradition in the Victorian age*' is available online at Durham University etheses.dur.ac.uk.

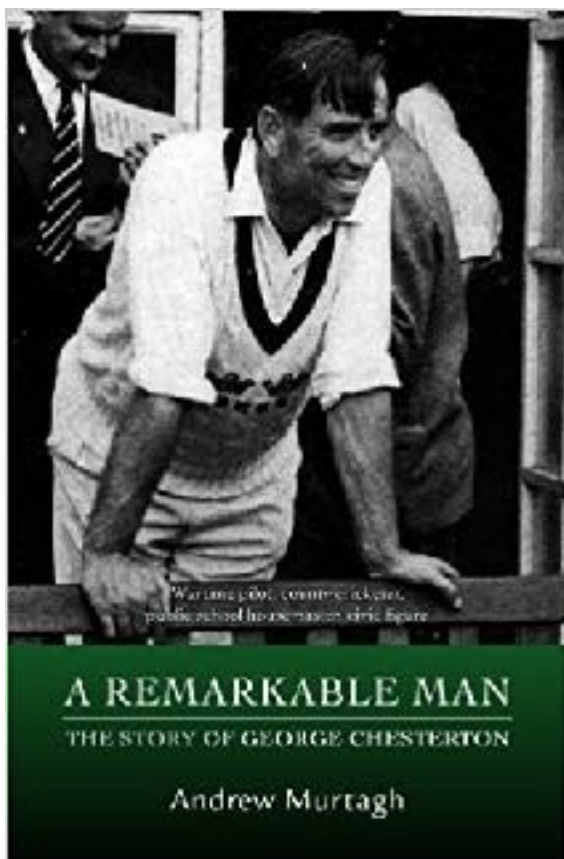
RECOLLECTIONS



Brian Demaus' 1930 MG M-type, registration JV 291, was a familiar sight to boys at SMC in the late 1940's. He wrote about his experiences in it in *Motor Sport* (April 1948, p.104).

The car is currently being restored by Derek Chatto and has been plated as MG 1930 since 1981.

Publication by and about a former pupil



George Chesterton MBE (1922-2012) (SMC 1933-6) wrote 'Also flew' (2008) - the wartime RAF exploits of this significant cricketer (Oxford Blue, Worcestershire & MCC).

“Authoritative and urbane, a distinguished schoolmaster” He was Deputy Head of Malvern College and also wrote a history of its Chapel.

A biography of him by Andrew Murtagh was published in 2012



Among the guests who visited SMC was Field Marshall Montgomery in 1964.

Mike Houghton wonders what they discussed.

Readers can fill in their own speech bubbles ...

NOTICES

Subscriptions

The Society's annual subscription is £15 - this is a suggested figure - you may donate more if you wish ...

The Treasurer is Tarquin Wiggins, 3 Green Meadows, Hom Green, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7RE.

A bank Standing Order form is available on request from the Treasurer or from :

The SMCS Website : <http://www.smcsociety.co.uk>

Please contact Will Jenkyns by e-mail <william@jenkyns.com> if you find any memorabilia that might be of interest to others. Photos should be accompanied with names if possible.

Magazine

If you would like items to be considered for next year's magazine please contact the Secretary : <tim-coles@hotmail.co.uk>

Golf

Lionel Higman (1955.3-1961.3) writes that among this magazine's readers, there may be some who might like to take advantage of his being currently the Secretary of the Seniors' Section at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire, which is also the location of the National Golf Centre, the HQ of the English Golf Union. As a member he is allowed to take up to 3 "Guests" round at approx. 25% of the normal green fee.

Memorabilia

The following may be available to purchase at the Reunion, if not sold out previously. Please bring any such items that you wish to part with, in case anyone else would like them.

SMCS ties (£10) and Centenary mugs (£3.50)

'Memories of St Michael's' (£7) edited by Charles Beresford in 2006. Flashbacks by 30 people who were pupils between the 1920s and 1980s, with articles and appendices with names of staff and pupils.

Recordings of St Michael's Choir : 2 CD set compiled by William Jenkyns (£10), available from Michael Hart.

'Elgar, Ouseley and St Michael's' (£2.50) A personal account by John Austin (2006)

'Ouseley and his Angels' The life of St Michael's College and its Founder (£21) by David Bland (2000)

Where are you?

The lists of addresses, e-mails and telephone numbers are currently being updated. Do you know the addresses of any missing names or know of anyone who has moved house or died?

It would be very helpful if you could send updates and amendments to the Secretary, Tim Coles.