

Old Raineians' Association NEWSLETTER

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First of all I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. It only seems like yesterday that we were preparing for and/or panicking about the New Millennium and here we are entering its sixth year! (Unbelievably that 'white elephant', The Millennium Dome, is still standing and wasting money – the one bug of the New Millennium?)

Following is the usual mixture of news, with an excellent article from Richard Tillbrook. Also included is an item that was originally in the Raineian, the school magazine, from 30 years ago. I hope this will trigger some memories as it mentions staff, trips, plays, etc.

NEW MEMBERS

• **Bob Ayres (45-50)** wrote to Alan Johnson.

"Many thanks for the Newsletters and application form to join the Old Raineians. Please find enclosed the completed form together with a cheque covering my membership and the cost of a copy of the History of Raine's. I saw a copy at a small gathering of ex Raineians that met in Brentwood (Essex) to have lunch and to talk over old times. Most of them I had not seen since I left school in 1950. I, like you, also married an Old Raineian, and have been married for 48 years. My brother Pat and my wife's sister, Irene Poole, also went to Raine's.

My brother and I lived at No 42 Arbour Square, which is the first house on the right of the boys' part of the school building. (It was a single sex school in our days).

My friends at school were Alan Saunders (who became Head Boy), Johnny Mitchell George Wright, Ted Jarvis, Eddie Ayers,

HELP!!

Your Association Needs You

The Committee is the smallest in years and new members are desperately needed.

Calling all volunteers

Please contact us if you are willing to join. Our details are on the top of all Newsletters or e-mail to admin@oldraineians.com

Terry Hollingsworth, Bobby Raybould and George Anderson. Whilst others outside of school but were still Raineians, Alan Grannard, Alan Garman, Steve Simmons, Bobby Gasman, Barry Clayman and Vic and Richard Mason. (All of these lived in the Arbour Square area.) Unfortunately Alan Saunders and Ted Jarvis are no longer with us. Alan was my Best Man at my wedding.

Some of those at our get together may already have knowledge of Don Ward, Geoff Ridgeway, Leslie Lagsding, Alan Childs and Martin Kamina.

As you may be aware there are lots of names on the Friends Reunited Web Site from where Les Lagsding got my details to contact me.

I look forward to receiving the book and for future contact with the Old Raineians."

• **Sydney Langford (38-45)** joined after contacting us by email.

"I was very pleased to receive the membership form and various newsletters regarding The Old Raineians Association from Claire Burrows.

It is quite a story in itself how I got reunited with you all. Firstly my grandchildren persuaded me to join the human race and get a computer. It's amazing how we

managed all those years without one; now I find it's part and parcel of my life.

Next, they persuaded me to start writing my autobiography. There were two main reasons for this: firstly, to have a record of my families history as my grandparents were immigrants and the children wanted to have a record of their roots. Secondly, my life was so different to theirs because of a very poor (money wise) upbringing and my war time experiences and National Service.

It was whilst I was researching details of the school's time in Brighton that I came across a piece about the memorial that the ORs were sponsoring for Kenneth Carter and this led me to your goodselves.

I was at Raine's, apart from a short time at the beginning of the war, from 1938 to 1945. I have very clear memories of Brighton and Camberley and I have one or two sports team photos with names.

My name in those days was Langdorf and scholastically I did not particularly distinguish myself but sports achievements was a different matter.

I would be quite happy to send you more details of my recollections (*we look forward to reading them – ed*) but meanwhile I am returning the membership form. If you find this letter of interest you may publish it."

NEWS

Among those who contacted us was **Richard Tillbrook (61-68)** who was kind enough to send us his memories.

"It never really occurred to me as I read, with great interest, the various articles

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printed in ORA Newsletter that I too have become quite an old, old boy. Though not quite a 'Wasser', I passed the 'half Wasser' stage some eighteen years ago. (Those who regularly attended ORA Dinners at the Great Eastern Hotel, The Volunteer and other venues in the 60s-80s will remember these expressions.)

My journey at Raine's began in 1961. I recall, to my embarrassment (though actually with gratitude), that mum travelled on the Underground and buses with me on that first day and kissed me goodbye at the gate. It was the only occasion when she did so. As I moved down the slope into the boys' yard a terrifying man (as he appeared to me) shouted "Get down the slope new boys and line up". It was Grundy (I never knew his Christian name [*Lawrence - ed*]), the Head Boy. Then Prefects were definitely in charge and not to be messed with!

I was quickly marshalled into a line when a whistle went. Eventually we 'first year' were taken to the hall. In those days it still had the sliding screen across and the decor was dark brown wood panels and cream paint. Mr Roden (Head of Physics) seemed to be 'in charge' of us first years because he addressed us. We did meet Mr Lyons eventually. I was ushered into Mr Harrington's Form and we met in one of the rooms in the hall as our Form Room for the year. The desks were joined to the benches upon which we sat and the benches were for two. Hence, if your neighbour decided to sit down you sat down as well because the plank on which we sat would force you into the seated position. In latter weeks this became a source of amusement to boys who would use their heel to force the plank down and make you sit when you should be standing because a Master had entered the room. All our worldly belongings were kept in the desks and most of our ordinary lessons took place in this room. This was before the days of children going to where the teacher was (except for specialist subjects).

For a week I hated Raine's and cried at home practically every night, it was so different from my Junior school and right across London, almost a foreign country to a South Londoner. Soon, however, I came to love it and have never regretted being sent to Raine's.

I don't think I have ever heard any of my original and longest lasting friends of those days mentioned in the Newsletter and

I confess that I haven't seen any of them since we left school but it is friends and good teachers who get you through school life and I'd like to mention them here. My

past, it is important to pay tribute to those friendships now. I hasten to add that I enjoyed the friendship of many other scholars over the years, especially when we all went into the Sixth Form and they were (are) just as important and many of them have gained frequent mentions in ORA news and histories over the years.

The staff on my first day, as I recall, were Mr Landau for History and English; Mr Torode for Maths; Mr Neuf for Chemistry; Mr Roden for Physics (absolutely terrifying!) with his 'Board of Education' but a very good teacher; Mr Shivas, and a strange American man for English (all I can recall is him constantly telling us how to spell Mississippi); Mr Spencer for Woodwork; Mr Gray for Technical Drawing; Mr Sell for Art; Mr Howard for PE; Fr Loughborough and Fr Herriot for RE and Mr Harris for French. Later on Mr Allison (Geography); Mr Dowling; Mr Calvert (certainly the best Maths teacher of them all); Miss Beryl (History who married Mr Nicholas). I still have the most terrible guilt complex that we were so unkind to Miss Beryl once as we had never had a lady teacher before and I think we were a little rude. She forgave us.

Then there was Mr Conchie (Physics and a great laugh); Dr Lombaire (who spoke with a very strange accent and we called him Dr Zonk); Mr Harding (who was also quite terrifying in the early days and nicknamed Chicken); Mr Long took over from Mr Howard and, so far as I was concerned, PE took a definite upward turn. Humph was (is) a great man and did marvellous things for us 'East End boys'.

Of course Raine's wouldn't have been Raine's without Mr Spooner and Mr Broughton, both men totally dedicated to the school and, though they kept a stiff upper lip, to us. It was a great privilege for me that Wally asked me to give a sermon at his funeral. Other teachers who influenced my life at Raine's were Mr Eames (and for a while, his dad) in the Woodwork Department; Fr Burrows (whom I still see in my priestly circles); Miss Jackson who, of course, improved my love of singing etc., but more especially increased my love of the country and I spent many a happy weekend on climbing and walking holidays with her; Mr Nicholas who was the first to introduce a real choir at Raine's and a concert

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HENRY RAINE AND THE HISTORY OF RAINE'S SCHOOLS



*The Bust of Henry Raine,
situated in the entrance hall to the
Upper School Building, Approach Road*

"Come in and learn your duty to God and Man"

**The History of Raine's Schools (282 page A4 booklet)
is now available from Alan Johnson (address on first
page) for £15.00 + £2.50 P & P. Cheques should be
made out to the Old Raineians' Association. All profits
go to a worthy cause - the ORA!**

first pal was a boy called Nick Vardill (of course he called me Tillbrook and I called him Vardill - that was the way it was). Nick's dad was a teacher at Stepney Green School and much loved there. They even named a house after him there. The Vardills lived in Ilford which was very posh then. Nick left school at the end of the fifth year and I never saw him again. He was in Mann House, I was in School (Dagger as it was then), David McDonald was in Winterton and, I always thought very clever. He lived in Surrey Docks as did Bob Simmons. Geoff Clarke was in Taylor (Foundation) and his dad owned a Gas Show Room in New Cross Road. Barry Goddard was in Dagger and he lived in Eltham and had a ridiculous journey to school each day. Barry Smith was the only boy who came from the same school as me in the Elephant and Castle. He was in Dagger house as well but I don't know what became of him. We were all great friends, as were many others over the years, and though that was all in the

in the Girls' Gym; Mr Russell (Prof); Mr Russell (Jim); Mr White (Schoolkeeper, and a man of great pride and tradition, always properly dressed) and, of course, Mr Stanney who steered us through the amalgamation of boys' and girls' schools and presided over the school for many years. He was a gentleman and a man of great dignity (I guess he still is).

There are two other Masters whom I wish to make special mention of in my own journey. The first is Fr Clynick, mentioned recently in dispatches. It was through Fr Clynick that I came to faith and I often quote the encounter which led to it when I am preaching and being asked how I became a 'proper' Christian. He was, undoubtedly, a very difficult man in many ways but he was totally dedicated to the East End people and to us at Raine's. RE lessons were not inspiring but his holiness certainly was.

When he taught us naughty 5T boys on the top floor he was so exhausted by the time he climbed all those stairs that he invariably had a nap and let us get on with it! Nevertheless, I learnt so much from him and when I went to St Mary's Cable Street to Mass it was like heaven and I have never faltered or looked back since.

The other great man is often overlooked because he really came and went as a Master and that was Bill (Wic) Everett. His greatest influence was as the School Scout Master and he never actually taught me at school. He was another man who was totally dedicated to the school and to the Troop. The Scout Troop was very important in the school and we all put our uniforms on in school on Founder's day and even presented the flags at St George's in the East during the Founder's Day services. Hundreds of boys must have benefited from his leadership and his teaching. Certainly to my own knowledge hundreds of us learnt about duty, responsibility and looking after ourselves in

the 'wild'.

My Church newspaper carries a series called 'There were giants in the land' which tells the story of priests in poor East End parishes who made a huge difference to the



lives of the people. What better start in life could I and my generation have had than to have been educated and nurtured by these 'giants' in our school.

There is so much more I could say and

Roger can be seen in the second row, third from the right (as you look at the photo) and in the rugby team he can be seen standing next to 'Rusty' Ironmonger on the right of the photo. Roger cannot remember many of the names in the two teams – can you? No prizes for naming the the two teachers as 'Biffo' Broughton and Aubrey Ironmonger. If the faces do 'ring a bell' do contact us and add any memories that may come to mind about the characters or the sports involved.

• Following Pearl Pipe's news on Ryan Davenport in the last Newsletter, *David Spencer (75-83)* sent the following update.

"Ryan Davenport (93-98) has appeared in many TV dramas and at the moment is on screen nightly in 'Family Affairs'. He plays a character called Justin Mackenzie and has been in this Channel 5 Soap Opera since June 2003. To

get you up to date with Ryan's role as Justin, here is the story: Local dimwit Justin is the junior partner in the MacKenzie & Sons family building firm, and son of the Mayor of Charnham, Doug. Despite not being the brightest bulb in the box, Justin has a heart of gold and has recently adapted well to the challenge of fatherhood, having witnessed girlfriend Kelly give birth to his daughter, Susan.

Despite once fancying himself as a bit of a ladies man, Kelly and the baby are now everything to Justin and he finds life without them difficult to imagine. With Doug's mayoral duties



I should be at my word processor for days if I tried to write it all down but I wanted to pay this small tribute to those who cared for me and who were my friends in our school where we were encouraged to "Come in and learn our Duty to God and Man".

• *Roger Exley (52-57)* sent some photos from the mid-fifties, two of which are included on this page. In the athletics group

taking up a lot of his time, Justin is also finding himself taking on more responsibilities within the building firm. The jury's still out on whether or not this is such a great idea, but if his stunning 'work' on Les Boulter's oven is anything to go by, he should certainly keep clear of anything involving gas!

At home, everything is going entirely to
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plan. It's anyone's guess how long Charnham's only non-dysfunctional family will last.

Ryan's other guest starring roles include Night and Day and The Bill (2001)."

- David also sent the following:

"The website Friends Reunited (www.friendsreunited.co.uk) looked at the 22,000 secondary schools it has listed on its site and calculated how many ex-pupils have got back in touch with other former pupils through the site. The number crunching produced a 'friendliness rating' for each school.

Raine's Foundation Grammar came in at 155th place out of 22,000 schools in the School Friendship League Tables for 2004, rating them as one of the friendliest schools in the country. Raine's currently has 2,220 former pupils registered on Friends Reunited and 59% of the pupils send out an average of 2.67 messages each....a Friendliness Rating of 35.2%."

I remember catching a boy and girl behind the bike shed indulging in an impromptu 'biology lesson'. I thought it was about time I announced their names to the unsuspecting world. They were

... Unfortunately the rest of this is in the 0.33 of the third message on Friends Reunited!! – ed.

- **Norman Kindler (44-49)** wrote after reading the last Newsletter.

"As a life member of the Association, this is my first foray into the world of 'letters to the editor' but the item from Bernard Harris in the October issue prompted me to do so.

While I do not remember Bernard, he was almost right when he mentioned the V2 rocket. This rocket was in fact the last but one to fall on London in 1944 but did not fall in Albert Square. He must have been watching East Enders when he wrote it! No offence Bernard! That monster actually dropped on Havering Street which was,

maybe still is (*yes – ed*), adjacent to Albert Gardens not Square. It destroyed the entire street and caused much loss of life. It fell at midnight and the clock at the old Maternity Hospital in Commercial Road stopped. How do I know this? Well I was one of the few survivors in Havering Street and was buried for six hours until rescued at six am

- The Reunion at the end of November was not the success it was hoped it would, although enjoyed by those who attended. One of those was **Tony Groves (64-72)**, President of the Association.

"Dear all, thank you for your support concerning the reunion, especially to Jo Roberts for organising it. For those who

were unable to attend you will be pleased to know that the evening turned out to be one of those classic events that only the ORA are able to come up with. It was on a par with the square dancing evening we had all those years ago. We had most people dancing with Mick Jagger impressions, air guitarists and so on. ****

(name withheld to save embarrassment, although remember there is another Newsletter to come, so that envelope with the 'donation' better arrive soon! – ed) and myself even managed to fall in a heap on the floor surrounded by the ORA dancers. We even managed to get Tommy Nunn dancing. Comments ranged from, "a fantastic venue"; "great music"; "thanks to the committee for organising it"; "when's the next one?"

Most were surprised at the lack of numbers but the consensus was they had missed out on a fantastic evening, and would be quite

upset that they chose not to come. Roy Smith did extremely well in getting at least £80.00 on the raffle and this was before he did a final round of persuading people to part with their cash. This reunion was a great success despite the lack of numbers, the loss of the £300.00 deposit and a hostile host. Success should not just be measured in the amount of profit at the end of the day but also on the pleasure, fun and feeling of happiness that the reunion had on us all. Well done to everyone and thank you for your support."

Janet Nunn (Britton, 64-70) echoed Tony's comments:

"Just wanted to say how much I and Tommy liked the venue – what a great pub! How disappointing that more people

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The boy who didn't come home

On Thursday 6th May, 2004, numerous Raine's Evacuees from World War II descended on Egham to thank the local community for taking care of them.

The day's events included a plaque commemoration, a headstone dedication and an Evacuee Reunion. There was also a ceremonial planting of a shrub donated by the Old Raineians' Association.

The events of that day were recorded and a copy of the video or DVD is now available. The Video costs £9 and the DVD costs £5. Both include postage & packing. The film was made by Orpington Video and Film Makers (www.ovfm.org).

The DVD would be particularly good value as it will have both 'The boy who didn't come home' and another film 'The day the children waved goodbye' under a cover title 'Remembering the children of war'.

Cheques/postal orders should be made out to 'Evacuees Reunion Association' (or ERA for short) and sent to:

Jean Slattery
10 Cloverdale Gardens
Sidcup
Kent DA15 8QL

Email: slattery@scramble.demon.co.uk

the next morning.

I was off school for some months and this I feel did hamper my subsequent education at Raine's. It was always a matter of catching up with the others. I loved my time at the school in spite of the war and set backs and I too have my hymn book, cap and tie also rescued from the debris. Alas my reports and other incriminating evidence have long gone. However I cannot complain. I am alive and I think I have led a good and interesting life, but that's another story (*tell us it – ed*).

My very best wishes to you all at the Association who are doing a wonderful job in keeping it all going and hope you do so for many years to come. If any of my old classmates are around, good health and God bless you."

EDDIE SUMMERS

In the October Newsletter Ronald Merrett included an extract from a book written by Eddie Summers. Following is more information on Eddie.

Eddie Summers was born Israel Seratsky on 26 May 1932 in London's East End, the eleventh of thirteen children. His parents Golda and Moishe were Russian Jewish immigrants who arrived in England in 1912. Eddie (then Issy) attended the Robert Montefiore School from where he was evacuated during World War Two. He later joined Raine's Foundation School in 1942 leaving in 1946, at fourteen, to work in the clothing trade and at eighteen was conscripted into the RAF on National Service.

After demobilisation he took various managerial positions before going into retailing, and is currently employed as a Sales Agent. As a life-long member of his club, Oxford and St George's, he is still very active, writing comedy sketches and playlets for the play-reading group, as well as compiling and chairing quizzes. In the years 1993-1994 he made several radio broadcasts for Michael Freedland on the programme 'You Don't Have to be Jewish'. Eddie Summers has been married since 1958, lives with his wife Jackie in Hertfordshire and has two sons, Laurence and Danny and two grandsons, Richie and Sean. In 2004, Eddie Summers published a book 'Enough, Already!: Mainly Jewish, Mainly Funny, Mainly Me' (Clio Publishing, Southampton, ISBN: 0954265017, available through www.amazon.co.uk). The item was titled 'Recollections of a Fourth Former'. This nostalgic and humorous anthology of articles, stories, comedic wordplay, personal recollections, social commentary and playlets traces many aspects of the author's life as a second generation English Jew.

Eddie recalls with gusto the eccentricities and atmosphere of London's Jewish East End, Petticoat Lane and Stamford Hill, the experience of National Service from 1950-52, the advent of Bingo, Butlin's Holiday Camps, Jewish youth football, picture palaces, Jewish courtship and weddings, and the lost world of the Yiddish language. The author has evolved and created his own wonderful comedic landscape over the last five decades. Zany, pithy, tender, the book includes pearls such as 'Finkelfeffer, Where are You?', 'Hymie Takes a Hint', 'Claret and Blue Jew', 'Weekend Pass', and 'The Immortal Utterings of Moishe Seratsky'.

On a more serious note, however, are the stories about the author's brother who never returned from an RAF bombing mission in 1944, and his father whose life was saved by a Cossack officer in 1903. A Glossary of Yiddish words and phrases is included in the book. Eddie himself writes about the book: "Over the years family and friends (isn't it always?) have urged me to write a book, or at least,

to collate the many pieces I have written dating back to the late 1940s when I was a teenager. These were of strong Jewish appeal and in humorous vein. I have usually dismissed these suggestions with replies such as "Well, maybe when I retire and have the time", or "Who's going to read it except people I know?" But of course these are just get-outs. You can make the time and effort if the will is there. And if nobody reads the book outside of your inner circle (there's a London Underground joke in there somewhere!), so what? You've achieved something you never thought would happen.

I am part of a large Jewish family, where comedy and fun was a way of life. The house was always filled with laughter. Clowning, wisecracks, impersonations, Dad's broken English, sparkling wit, misuse of words, dialects and accents – the hilarity while growing up was constant. Brothers Alf and Bernie in particular, who have appeared in shows, plays and broadcasts are accomplished comedians. They still delight audiences at my Club, now based in North London, but first founded in the parish of St Georges-in-the-East in Whitechapel in London, by the great East End Jewish social worker and reformer, Sir Basil Henriques, in 1914, five months before the outbreak of the Great War.

In 1941 my whole family moved from London's East End to Stamford Hill in North London. The Jewish departure from Whitechapel, Stepney, Bow and Bethnal Green to the suburbs was just beginning, reaching its peak in the 1950s, petering out in the 1960s. Stamford Hill was considered a big step up from tenementland, boasting trees, avenues, large spacious houses, grand cinemas and Springfield Park. To East End inhabitants of the period this was luxury! In my own writings I have been greatly influenced and inspired by Groucho Marx, SJ Perelman, Robert Benchley, Stephen Leacock and the zany humour of those classic Goon Shows of the 1950s. It is from these wonderfully gifted humorists that I have striven to create a style of my own. If I have succeeded in this aim it is due to my passion for humour in most of its forms (especially comedic wordplay), love of the written word, and being Jewish! Why the main title, Enough Already? The immigrant Jewish population that came to England in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century not only brought with them their brilliantly colourful Yiddish language but in the process of learning English devised phrases which are uniquely expressive.

Although my articles appeared mainly in Jewish publications such as Jewish Youth, Menorah and Frates and were intended to be funny there is a serious side to my work too. This is shown towards the end of the anthology."

David A. Spencer (75-82)

weren't there; I know how much work must go into organising such an event. I think maybe having it on a Saturday evening wasn't so good for most people, but obviously a night when it's open to the general public wouldn't work either. It's good that you still have the enthusiasm to try and arrange new and different venues. Maybe the next one will be better attended. Still, I enjoyed my little boogie with Eileen Gurney and a few others from my year!"

• Some had to miss the function due unavoidable situations. One was *Lynn Mallory*

(*Newman, 60-66*)

"Foiled again! Every time I resolve to attend a reunion, something gets in the way – but this time, I'm happy to 'pass' on the invitation. As I write, my daughter is in the High Dependency Unit at the Neurological Hospital in Queen Square (London), having had a brain tumour removed. Although it was completely successful and she may be transferred back to the surgical ward in the next day or so, I am reluctant at this time to commit to being anywhere other than at home or the hospital, or in transit between the two.

However, please remember me to anyone who recalls me from '60 to '66. Miss Mangold was Head Mistress, Mrs Weingarten taught French (followed by Miss Griffin). When I was in the fifth form (I think), the school started a mixed intake into the first year (*it was 1964 – ed*). I was in the Secretarial Sixth Form with just six other pupils and the teacher was Miss Rayner (who lived virtually round the corner, off Commercial Road, near the Rotherhithe Tunnel entrance).

If anyone does remember me and wants

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SCHOOL NEWS 1973 - 1974

Every year a few familiar faces disappear from the school and a number of new ones take their place. The staff are no exception to this rule. At the end of the Christmas term three members of staff left Raine's: Father Burrows, who had served the school for nine years, six of them as Head of History, and who is now in charge of the parish of St. Clement's, King Square; Mrs. Chisholm, to whom we extend our belated congratulations on the birth of a daughter; and Miss Clarke, who receives our best wishes on her marriage and her subsequent removal to Saint Athan. In July, Mr. Copping ended his versatile career at Raine's and moved to the Stationers' Company School as Head of the Religious Education Department. We wish him well in his new school and in his marriage. Mrs Bamford, Mr Coomber, Mrs Owen-Conway, Frau Eikenbusch and Mlle Pejean also left us at the end of the academic year. On the 'credit' side, Mrs Geddes and Mr Hart joined the Modern Languages and History Departments respectively earlier this year; Miss Firth joined the Physics Department, and in September, Mr Darch, Mrs Gilchrist, Mr Perrett and Mr Wallis joined us. We wish all these members of staff success and happiness in their new posts, whether at Raine's or elsewhere.

Our congratulations go to Mr Crump, who became Head of the History Department on Father Burrow's departure, and our good wishes to Miss Groner, who was married in August and returned in September as Mrs Auerbach.

It was with sadness that the school learnt of the death of Mr Frank Hirtes, early in January. Mr Hirtes was an old boy of the school and a member of the Governing Body for many years.

In the course of the year, many pupils have distinguished themselves in different spheres. Particularly worthy of commendation are Gary James, who became the Junior English Champion over 800 metres, and Helen Beeson and Karen Winter who won ILEA Modern Languages Travelling Awards. Jack Lowe, who won one of these awards last year, deserves our warmest congratulations on his obtaining a place at Oriel College, Oxford, where he will read French and German.

The school year has been punctuated by various festivals and functions. Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated on October 12th in the school hall, which was decorated with gifts of groceries provided by pupils. The Reverend Ellis Slack gave the address and the Choir sang "Thou visitest the earth". Speech Day followed on October 18th. Lady Prudence Loudon distributed the prizes and trophies and once again the Choir supplied various musical items. At the Remembrance Service a lesson was read by Mr B Lambert, the President of the ORA, and the Choir gave a rendering of "I heard a voice". Carols by candlelight were sung at Saint George-in-the-East, where the Founder's Day service also took place, on May 3rd. On that occasion, the Reverend Canon C.E. Young, an ex-Governor, preached the sermon. The music provided included "Jesu joy of man's desiring" and "The trumpet shall sound". A special Ascension Day assembly was held at the school, with pupils playing a major part in the conducting of the service.

The secular side of music and drama has certainly not been;

neglected in the past twelve months. In December, two highly successful performances of "The Pirates of Penzance" were given by the Senior School, and just before the Spring Bank Holiday the Sixth Form treated us to a Maytime Revue. House-play competitions were held, as usual, in the Christmas and Spring terms, and in July, to round off the year's dramatic activities, the Junior School presented "The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew" by Robert Bolt.

Members of the school have also enjoyed visits to various musical and theatrical productions this year. Third to sixth-formers have attended several concerts, operas and ballets of which "Cinderella" and "The Sleeping Beauty" were particularly impressive. A party of fourth-formers saw a performance of "Macbeth" at the Shaw Theatre, while fifth-formers were taken to see "Much Ado About Nothing" and "Look Back in Anger" at the Young Vic. The English 'A' Level groups have been to a number of the productions of the National Theatre Company, by courtesy of the Education Authority. It is pleasing to note that the Sixth Form in general have developed a keen interest in the theatre, the newly formed Theatre-Going Society having attended five evening performances in the course of the year.

Other school visits have included day trips to Hatfield House, Whipsnade, Winchester Cathedral, Marwell Zoological Park, Boulogne and Dover Castle for the juniors. Groups of senior pupils have attended various lectures, including the Annual Ford Lecture delivered by Lord Hill, visited Windsor Safari Park, the Wellcome Museum of Parasitology, the Science Museum and craft and engineering exhibitions at Shoreditch and Paddington Colleges. The Secretarial Sixth have, as usual, visited a number of business concerns in the City in the course of their studies.

Longer excursions and visits were also organised for various groups. In March, a group of sixth-formers went caving in the South West; Youth Hostelling holidays in Somerset and in the Ardennes were organised for the fifth, fourth and third forms; fifth and sixth-formers camped and climbed in Wales in October, May and July; the annual skiing holiday in Austria took place at Christmas time, and thirty-five pupils flew to Greece at Easter.

'Working parties' also travelled to Lyme Regis in March and St. Agnes, Cornwall, in May to undertake Geographical Geological and Biological field work. A new departure was the organisation of junior Geography field trips for the third and fourth years, who studied selected areas of Derbyshire and South Wales respectively.

The school year has also seen much fund-raising activity, entertainment of OAPs, the appearance on television of two sixth-formers and the school chaplain, taking part in a Religious Knowledge competition, not to mention jousting at the Tower of London! Once again we did well out of the Royal Family in November when the school enjoyed an extra day's holiday to celebrate Princess Anne's wedding.

Our thanks must be expressed to the Parents' Association for their untiring efforts on our behalf and for the generosity which they show towards the school.

*M L (Miss Lewis, English Department?)
From the Raineian 1974 (Published October 1974)*

to get in touch, please feel free to pass on my e-mail address.

Very many thanks for keeping me in touch and my very best wishes for a successful (and well-attended!) evening on the 27th." (*We trust that your daughter continues to improve in health – ed*)

Alan Thouroughgood (54-61) had the usual problem of getting a cab home to Florida!

"The usual apologies for Susanne and me. I'm sure it will a great evening and please say "Hi" to those we know.

We had a very interesting 6 weeks

through August and September and now know what hurricanes are all about. But the memory tends to be short and the weather now reminds us of why we live in Florida.

Continued on page 8

COAT OF ARMS

In the June 2004 Newsletter, I mentioned that the coat of arms used by the school has never belonged to the school, or even to Henry Raine himself. As a Trustee of the School, I brought this up and the Trustees agreed that it would be appropriate to correct this matter and, at that meeting, authorised a petition to be made to the College of Arms to have the Coat of Arms properly registered and recognised as belonging to Raine's.

Just before Christmas, Roger Hadow (Clerk to the Trust), John Matthews (an Old Raineian and Member of the Raineian Lodge) and I had a meeting at the College of Arms with William Hunt, Windsor Herald of Arms.

William Hunt is one of the Officers of Arms known as the 'Heralds in Ordinary'. He is one of 13 Officers of Arms, a member of the Royal Household directly appointed by the Sovereign on the recommendation of the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk. Today's Heralds are some of the country's finest genealogists and William is always seen participating in some of our country's most ancient and prestigious ceremonies, including, in past years, the State Opening of Parliament and the recent State Funerals. William's yearly income of £17.80 was granted by James I and it seems that no monarch since has remembered to give him a pay rise! Fortunately, he is allowed to charge professional fees for the work he undertakes although the Heralds also have to meet the cost of the upkeep of the College and the security of the records themselves.

It began by drawing up a Petition to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England, requesting a Warrant to the Kings of Arms. For this Petition, we had to provide the date of Foundation of the Raine's Trust (Deed of Trust – 22 June, 1736), the Act under which the Trust was constituted (An Act of Parliament that received Royal Assent on 1st August, 1780) and details of how the Trust is governed (eleven Trustees led by a Chairman with a Clerk). The results of this petition should be known early in 2005, although we are obviously optimistic!

We also began the detailed task of analysing every record and photograph that we could find that shows or describes Raine's Coat of Arms. We had to agree, as only one such version is to appear on the Letters Patent. Evidence has already shown that the blazon or description of Henry Raine's arms was "azure, a chevron engrailed between three eagles heads argent in their 'beques' an acorn slipped proper". However, looking at the old photographs of the banner of the school (that

used to be behind the stage in the Old Arbour Square building) shows that the eagles were in fact griffins. Which one should we choose?

Another interesting sideline on this is that, at the Visitation of Yorkshire in 1665-6, the family of "Raynes of Apleton in the Streete" requested that their Coat of Arms be accepted. Their blazon: "Azure, a chevron engrailed between three cranes' heads erased Argent, each holding in the beak an oak-branch, leaves Vert, acorns Or" shows a very similar Coat of Arms as the school uses today. But "No prooffe made of these Armes" was listed under the picture from 13 August 1666,



meaning that the application for Arms was rejected. This is intriguing. What was the relationship between the "Raynes of Apleton in the Streete" and Henry Raine? Did he (or his father) descend from this line but alter the coat of arms (cranes became eagles or griffins) to show their uniqueness? A clear word play on 'Raynes and Cranes' is obvious although no formal application procedure has since been unearthed to show this. William Hunt has spent hours looking at all the birds' heads in the records of the College of Arms – a job taking many hours – and has currently drawn a blank. Hence, there is still no formal record of any Raine's Arms.

Next came the colours of the Arms. The royal and light blue colours of Raine's are currently heraldically acceptable and there does appear to be evidence that the engrailing of the chevron was in gold. The crest has to be totally unique for the King of Arms to grant this to Raine's and it is very likely that the one that is used at present, an upstanding

griffin, has been used before. However, after much discussion, if the griffin held "an acorn slipped proper" then it is likely that we would be unique in this way. Finally, there was the subject of the mantling, typically the main colours of the coat of Arms themselves (royal blue, light blue, white and gold). It was obvious that if we used only the blues, they would look undistinguished on a black blazer background. Hence, we settled for the royal blue and gold.

We now await a draft sketch before proceeding any further with this. Only with this accepted draft will we be able to realise if we have managed to do what Henry Raine didn't; that is pass the scrutiny of the Kings of Arms and have our Arms recognised once and for all. We also requested that the motto of the school "Come in and learn your duty to God and Man" be placed below the arms.

A grant of coat of arms can only be made to one corporate body. In this respect, the Raine's Trust, the School, the ORA or the Raineian Lodge could make the application for the Coat of Arms and allow its use to the other three institutions. All present at the meeting felt that Raine's Foundation School Trust was the most obvious choice of body to be granted the Arms as this was set up in the Will of Henry Raine to look after the School. Also, the Trust has recognised that this is something of great importance to the School, the ORA and the Lodge and has agreed to fully fund the petition.

We discussed the Letters Patent, the formal document that will be signed and sealed by the Kings of Arms, and will be presented to Raine's within a year. Its presentation will be highly enhanced by the generous offer and contribution of John Matthews to have it hand painted and specially framed.

It was a successful, but exhausting meeting. We all left with the feeling that after 286 years, we were trying to correct something that we all passionately believed in. No longer will that letter of 1895 with those unforgettable words "The arms of Henry Raine are of Private Adventure, I fear" be valid. No longer will the Coat of Arms seen on Henry Raine's grave in St George-in-the-East, be deemed to be 'made up'. . . and no longer will the school risk the possibility of being told to remove the arms from the notice boards, blazers and letter headings, because someone else has registered them. I am sure Henry Raine would appreciate that the Trust he set up in his Will, had many years later, corrected something that he had not managed to do.

David A. Spencer (75-82)

• Members, such as **Bob Ayres (45-50, see New Members)**, were still complimenting Alan Johnson on the book:

"Dear Alan, many thanks for sending me the booklet, it is making some interesting reading and bringing back many nostalgic thoughts. For your information, I can put names to two of the team members on page 225. In the back row, next to Mr Lyons, is Brian Chambers, who was unfortunately killed whilst flying when serving in the RAF. Sitting next to me in the front row, is Steve Simmons. By the way Rogers first name is Stanley. Thanks once again for your great work in the Old Raineians. I only wish I had known about it sooner. There's not much you can do when you are 71 and set in the ways of the local community. I'm lucky though, as I still play competitive cricket, with both my sons, and grandsons."

Sidney Lazarus MBE (39-44) was another:

"Many thanks for sending me a copy of the 'Henry Raine & the History of the School'. I am finding it fascinating to read – may I add (and I have never used 'kiddology' in my professions or otherwise) that if you think it is rather 'amateurish', I just wonder where a professional would have done a better job. I am NOT so sure.

As far as being worth the money is concerned – to my way of thinking – it is of the greatest value, and all I can add is that it is a sad day that you are leaving the committee.

I do appreciate (though somewhat surprised) that I got a mention in it, but at least I am 'just above' Jack Rodin who was one of my best friends there when I lived in Stepney and while we were away!"

Kenneth Warren (49-52) was pleased to receive a copy of the book:

"What a delightful surprise! I received a copy of your Raine's history book, which is my old school. My sister, Iris Prizeman (nee Warren), sent your book. Iris was head girl at Raine's when I started 1st form.

Reading some parts of the book that applied to my years there, and seeing photos from yesteryear was very touching and I'm sure many old Raineians, like me, will thoroughly enjoy your production. You are to be congratulated for such a wonderful effort.

I left England for California in 1963. It was a very good move for me and my young family. Thanks so much in part, because of the education I received at Raine's and my further education at the London School of Art. I have been a graphic designer for most of my adult life and have been fortunate to be able to switch to computer graph-

ics in the last 15 years.

Don't you often wonder what happened to those old class mates of yours? I know I do, I only know one or two. My oldest friend Brian, whose wife was at Raine's at the same time as me, were with us for Christmas last year. Is there any way to connect to old classmates? Let me know if there is a list available of class members and possibly Email addresses.

Thanks again for a great book!"

• **Sue Morton (Yeates, 75-82)** sent the following email to Alan Johnson:

"After getting my newsletter today it reminded me of an argument my husband David and I had a couple of weeks ago. Both being Raineians we shocked our children at still knowing the school song – probably due to Miss Jackson drumming it into us. However we could only remember the first verse and then argued over whether there were two or three verses. (*In fact there are four – ed*)

I wonder if you could sort out this domestic for us as the song is now buzzing round my brain.

Has anyone still got a copy of the words? Thanks for your help."

Alan replied, sending the words by email. He also took the opportunity of sending a copy to all the email members. Some of you responded.

Yetta Ferguson (Levy, 60-67) has the song pinned to her notice board at home. "It has been there since the last reunion I was able to get to, which sadly was also Wally Spooner's last."

Janet King (Hayter 59-66) remembered it well.

"We had a music teacher called Miss Braitch whose job it was to make us cockney girls say "never was a better motto". Of course it came out as "neva wasa betta motta" (remembering to swallow the "ts" in the best East End fashion).

Your comments on geology and the article on remembering Father Clynick also brought back memories. I was the only one in my A level year doing scripture and therefore had private tuition from Father Clynick which resulted in my grade A. I sat one of my scripture papers in the science lab with those doing geology practical and was far more interested in the rocks they were studying than my own paper."

Susan Fleming (Berry, 91-98) was another who remembers:

"I have to say I can remember every word as my first music lesson at Raine's our home work was to learn the school song

and Miss Jackson (music teacher) went round checking we had learnt it by heart the following week. Never will it be forgotten."

As I close this edition of the Newsletter I am pleased that it covers the decades from the 40s to the 70s. Of course this is reflected in the make up of the membership, but it would be nice to include more recent memories, especially from the 80s.

As you may remember this will be my penultimate edition of the Newsletter and so that only leaves you one of the regular publications to get in your news, memories etc. to me to help make it a memorable 'final' (unless, that is, someone volunteers to 'take the reins') edition. Who knows, if enough of you write in, I may have to postpone my 'retirement' for an edition or two.

During proof reading of this newsletter Alan Johnson remembered – if his memory serves him well – Everett the Scout Master (see Richard Tilbrook's article) telling everybody that he was also a part-time actor and one of his claims to fame was being in 'The Blue Lamp' and he his the policeman near the end who shouts down the stairs "we've got him Sir".

Also, whilst the second-last V2 fell in Stepney (see Norman Kindler letter), the last one fell in Court Road, Orpington and destroyed the house opposite Alan's present home in Chelsfield Village (it's a small world - nothing to do with Walt Disney !!).

If anything in this newsletter stirs any memories please let us know – send anything to admin@oldraineians.com or write to Bill Richards at the School."

Finally, I will leave you with a couple of extracts from Del Trotter's report from Dockside Secondary Modern when he was 13 (going on 30!?):

In French "Derek has a firm grasp of the basics but is prone to use phrases at completely the wrong moment and believes he is much better at the language than he actually is. Once he realises there is more to learning French than attracting members of the opposite sex with phrases such as Je suis frontieres and remembers Bonjour means hello and not goodbye he has the ability to become quite fluent."

Also "Derek has an enthusiastic approach to History but does tend to get dates and events confused. It was not Stan Laurel who said 'Kiss me Hardy' and there was more to Henry VIII's beheading of his wives than the fact he was "getting a bit of grief from the enemy". Probably can't do better."

Can you?

Bill Richards