

Old Raineians' Association NEWSLETTER



web : www.ldraineians.com
email : admin@ldraineians.com

Spring 2012

ORA May Reunion 2012



Come and join us on Friday 11th May 2012

At the Civil Service Club
13/15 Great Scotland Yard
London SW1A 2HJ

Refreshments from 7.30 pm
Preceded by Annual General Meeting at 6.30 pm

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

The Winter 2011 reunion at the Barrow Boy and Banker was bursting at the seams with Old Raineians. There were many former teachers sharing memories and the atmosphere was buzzing. The buffet was excellent and the manager summed it up in an email - "Thank you for your kind words and for having your party at the Barrow Boy. Wish we could have more nice customers like you. Kind regards, Karolina, Manager, Barrow Boy and Banker." We were not planning a raffle this year but two members, Joan Diss (nee Craze) and Joyce Hawksbee (Stonely) who have been friends since their time at Raines in 1938, both sent generous donations. I used the money to buy a Ticketmaster voucher for theatre tickets which went down very well and raised several hundred pounds. The winner was absolutely delighted. Thank you very much ladies, we hope to see you at a reunion one of these days.

My first year as President this term has almost passed and it has been busy and rewarding. With three successful reunions and a Sponsor, the ORA coffers are looking healthier. Thank you to Raymond Gregory (64-72) for opening his chequebook.

Following Raymond's initiative, Alan Johnson has stepped forward as this year's Sponsor and will fund the forthcoming AGM.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Alan Johnson (1960-1968)

Alan Johnson left Raines in 1968 and is eternally grateful to Viv Nicolas for introducing him to the subject of geology. After graduating in Geology Hons from Swansea University (during which time he married Sandra), and a spell as a gold mining geologist in South Africa, he took an MSc at Imperial College London in Petroleum Geology. Thereafter he joined the oil industry starting in the North Sea and working throughout the world largely on oil projects but also some mining ventures in Africa. For the last 20 years he has been the head of the oil and gas exploration and production division for Glencore International AG. During much of the latter years Alan has been on the ORA committee and occasionally President.

NEWSLETTER NEWS – from Sandra Johnson

REPLIES FOR MAY/SEPT/NOV REUNIONS 2011

George Giller (Winterton 1947-1952) Couldn't make reunion but hopes it goes well

Diane Gillespie (nee Brown-69-75) Unable to attend as was at a wedding and thanked us for the reminder.

Martin Warner (61-67), Eileen Vilka (45-53), Duncan Edmonston (58-65), John Matthews (50-56)

Alan Choat (59-65) Peter Thake (69-75) David Ward (71-78) Michael Robinson (51-56) Stanley Pessok (40-47) Sent their apologies

Ken Warren (49-53) Ken, can you enlighten us on a destroyed sink in the Raines chemistry lab?

Allan Leach (59-66) Sent apologies for not being able to attend the November Reunion. (We hope you had a wonderful time with your daughter and partner arriving from Australia).

Ian Adlington (62-69) Sent apologies and asked us to give his regards to all.

Greg Commons (75-82) Sent his apologies for the November Reunion. (Hope the job is going well and that your Primary School Reunion was successful – inspired by the ORA – Greg's words!).

John Masson (60-67) Wrote to say that he could not make the September Reunion as he and his wife would be taking their son Simon up to Keele University, where he will be studying medicine. By a strange coincidence, another Old Raineian, Peter Wilmshurst, is a senior lecturer at the medical school! So Simon may be taught by John's ex-classmate. Small world!

Luckily, John could and did attend the November Reunion at the Barrow Boy and Banker and looked to be enjoying the evening!

Terry Day (60-67) Wished us a wonderful evening and asked us to give his regards to those who know him or even remember him! Also, thanks Terry for circulating the details of the reunion to those you know.

Lesley Jensen (62-69) Wished us a wonderful evening (hope the wedding in Yorkshire went well).

Sue Colliss (Eales, 69-74) Wished us a happy evening.

John Clark (38-41) Was very sorry that he couldn't make the November Reunion but enjoyed himself at the September Reunion at St. George's in the East having driven all the way from Wales! It was great to see you again John and really appreciate your support of the Association.

John Newman (69-74) "I would love to be there but it's my wife's 50th Birthday and we will be celebrating with the family!

Please remember me to both Humph and Gerry, the latter had the dubious task of overseeing us in the 6th form in 1976.....Best wishes and hope the evening is a success".

Arnold Clayman, Portugal (42-47) Unfortunately couldn't come to the reunion but wondered if we had any info about three classmates of his and wrote:

We were put into the General School Cert by our form master, Mr. A. H. Davies a year early and all did well. They are Philip Rodin, Norman Krevis and Leonard Gerber. I lost touch with them and am currently writing a memoir of growing up in the EastEnd and would like to know how they fared after leaving Raines.

I know that Gerber became a judge, because I've seen cases in the news where he presided. I believe that Rodin became a surgeon, but I've heard nothing of Krevis (could be Crevis). He was a great mathematician so, presumably had a good career.

I'd appreciate any info you may have on them.

Alan Thoroughgood (54-61) Sent apologies for not being able to make the Reunion and wrote:

Sad to read that Ron Harrad has died. Like me, he lived in Rainham and when he started at Raines he had to put up with me showing him the ropes which included getting him to school. In those days it was the 87 bus to Barking, and then the trolley bus to Arbour Square. We hadn't discovered that it was better to get a bus to Dagenham East and use the District Line to Stepney Green!

Graham Hutchings (60-66) "Sorry I will not be able to make the Reunion but thought I would let you know, as having organized reunions for my cycling club you need to know numbers for catering purposes.

It is a great shame that I cannot get along as I would have liked to have seen Gerry Calvert (the maths master who helped me get 'O' level maths in my 4th year, a year early & was my form teacher). It would also have been great to see Mr (PE) Humph.

I enjoy being kept informed & up dated via the Newsletter & I am always interested to read of other Raineians that were at school around my years of attendance.

Kalu Agbeze (83-91) Kalu was sad not to be able to turn up for the reunion having recruited Mary Madden, Justin Green and Hakan Zeki to come along.

Thank you for all your messages Kalu and for endeavouring to be there. We are really looking forward to seeing you at the next one!

Tony Tobin (56-63) "Unfortunately, due to health reasons, I am not able to join you, but I do wish you, and all my 'Class of 62/63' all the very best. I have received a number of emails via the Friends Reunited website, and I know some of them will be making the reunion, so I wish them, and everyone else a good evening.

Fred Groom (61-69) "It would have been good to have seen Gerry Calvert and Humph Long, both of whom taught me across the years from 1961 onwards.

Please give my best wishes to any contemporaries of mine".

Peter Martin (59-66) "Very much enjoyed last night, perhaps not the best of venues but very good to see folks again. Many thanks to the Committee for organising. Here's to the next one".

Christine and Kenneth Crump (Ex Staff) "Apologies for our late Thank you for a very enjoyable evening. It was great for us to meet old colleagues and some of the very entertaining - and successful men and women in whose education we had a small part to play. These things don't happen without the generosity of those willing to organise. Many thanks again".

Raymond Gregory (64-72) 2011 ORA Sponsor "Your efforts in keeping the ORA going is much appreciated".

Congratulations on becoming a Granddad Raymond and hope mother and baby are doing well.

Cameron Macphee (62-69) "Unfortunately I won't be at the reunion, but I noticed that Gerry Calvert and Humph Long will be. They were two of my teachers for several years. Please pass on my best wishes to

them both from Australia. I hope the evening is a great success and please keep up the great work you are doing as a committee”.

WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Adrian (Bomber) Giles (69-74) “Another great effort. Please pass on thanks to all those doing a great deal of work to keep the ORA in good order”.

Also apologies for absence at gathering and AGM

Brian Chaperlin (63-71) Thanked those concerned for putting the newsletter together and commented on Lesley Jensen’s piece in the last newsletter:

In the first photograph of the boys and girls in costume, there is a question mark next to a girl’s name. That is indeed Margaret (Maggie) Bell, who was in my year. She had an older brother at the school, Maurice. Maurice was either Head Boy, or Deputy HB, although I can’t now remember which, nor can I remember the year! Maggie and Viv Waeland are cousins.

In the second photograph of the Upper Sixth, Lesley mentions ‘Flea’. His real name is Raymond Collier. He was known as Flea where he lived (Rotherhithe Street) and the name stuck when he came to Raines. He was in the year above me. In the year below me was a boy who came from the same area as ‘Flea’ and he was known as ‘Worm’; Keith Preston. It must have been an area full of budding biologists?

Later on, Lesley mentions Ms Gosman. I believe that she was known as ‘Gossie’, even to the staff.

Humph Long knew her quite well, so he might be able to fill in some details.

In 2007 she featured in the BBC documentary series, Heir Hunters. She never married and lived alone in Bexley, save for her cats. She died intestate and the programme was about the firm of Fraser and Fraser trying to trace any heirs, so that her estate did not go to the government (and Fraser and Fraser got a cut of her worth!). Her family came from the Newcastle upon Tyne area and eventually cousins were traced. A bit of a sad end to someone that had devoted her life to teaching others. There must be plenty of people that now benefit from what she taught their mothers, or grandmothers!

On the same tack, I was contacted by another firm of heir hunters, anxious to trace a former pupil, who appeared to be the sole beneficiary of an intestate’s estate. I can’t say who it was, but they had moved abroad and as a result, they were difficult to trace. I heard that they were eventually tracked down, by Fraser & Fraser!

Fred Cloke(1943 – 1947) writes

“Born in 1930, the 4th in a family of 5 children, I was just 9 years old at the outbreak of World War 2 and in September 1939 we were all evacuated to Oxford. It must have been an exceptionally hard winter as I distinctly recall that the local pond in a nearby park froze over to the extent that many people skated on it - not something that we would see these days. In April 1940, as undergraduates were returning to Oxford and accommodation was required for them, we all returned to our house in London, and due to the shortage of school places we only attended for ½ days. We remained there until our house was destroyed at the beginning of the blitz when we were first evacuated temporarily to Ealing and then to Ammanford, a small town in South Wales.

During my first year there, I sat for the Junior County Scholarship and was awarded a place at The Roan School for Boys which had also been evacuated to Ammanford from Maze Hill, Greenwich. I attended this school until August 1943 when, because of a lull in the bombing of London, we all returned to Stepney and I then continued my education at Raines in Arbour Square.

Fortunately, we moved to Wellesley Street which was a continuation of Arbour Square towards Mile End so I did not have very far to go to school. I remember that a classmate named Wilby (?) used to call for me as he passed our door but I do not recall the names of many others but would very much like to hear from any who might be reading this. As the war was continuing, our activities were confined to the school site and the attached playground where our only games activity would be Handball. I enjoyed this and remember a boy called Danow (?) who was a very good goalscorer.

The Headmaster was Mr A Wilkinson Dagger and I recall teachers such as ‘Alec’ Aldridge, ‘Donny’ Lyons, ‘Butch’ Gee, Spooner, Wilkins Strangely enough, when my younger brother George was at Raines. I later lived near Dr Gerald R Shutt (who succeeded Mr Dagger) and often walked to the local station with him. In general, I think we respected our teachers most of whom were male although I do recall a female Geography teacher who we took advantage of and led her a merry dance. I could not stand the school lunches but as I lived near I went home for mine. Much of my schooling is now rather a blur but I do recall that, when V1 ‘buzz bombs’ & V2 rockets were attacking London, some of our

schoolwork including exams was carried out in the Gymnasium basement. There was also a short period when I was excused PE through illness and luckily another boy (Cresswell ?) who was excellent at Mathematics tutored me during these periods with the work I had missed.

For Religious Instruction periods all the 'Christian' boys for the whole school were so few in number that we met together in one class (with Mr Aldridge, I think) whilst the remainder of the pupils probably remained in their own class groups. Girls also attended the school but we were kept entirely separate each in our own half of the building.

My schooling at Raines ended in the summer of 1947 when I achieved Matriculation.. At that time, most of us left school at 17 - very few going on to further studies. Knowing this, earlier in the summer I had gone to County Hall to sit the entrance examination for employment with The London County Council where, having been successful, I stayed for 5 years. 1952 - 1970 I worked in the accounts department of a West End tailoring firm and from 1970 -1979 my wife and I were Methodist Missionaries in Lusaka where I served as the Treasurer of The United Church of Zambia. On return to the UK in 1979 I took up the position of Assistant Bursar at Kingswood School, Bath (founded by John Wesley) where I remained until retirement in 1995 and am now still living in the Bath area near our son and daughter".

William (Bill) Layzell-Smith (1948-1953. Taylor House) writes

"George Osborne passed me a copy of the ORA newsletter which included his very amusing article on 'Shin Kicking' ! I enjoyed it and reading all about the other subscribers which brought back many happy memories of my own. I was one of only three boys in my year who attended Raines but actually lived in East Ham. A journey by No. 690 Trolley bus to East Ham Town Hall and then a long No.15 bus ride to Arbour Square; hats adorned before getting off the bus and quickly taken off on the bus on the way home, unless a prefect or Master happened to get on.

Being an East Ham resident, and my own foolishness, brought about my first caning ! A letter to parents was given to us to take home and as one of the other East Ham lads was away that day I was entrusted with delivering his letter as well. He and I had had a difference of opinion (playground fight I think) the day before and I was unhappy at having to break my long journey home in order to deliver his letter. Fuming on the bus I took out his letter and stupidly and carefully changed his name into a rude word and popped it through his letterbox. Well, his mum complained and by a simple process of elimination, Smith was discovered as the 'postman'. Hauled up before the Head, got a severe dressing down and 6 of the best.

I was a member of the School Junior 15 in 1951/52 when we had an excellent year. Taylors won the House cup and the Severns in the same year, I think, where I was Captain of the teams. I later achieved a first 15 cap and played mainly in the three quarters line up. My initials then being WFS I was nicknamed 'Wiffs' (Nothing to do with body odour I hasten to add) and this caused great ribaldry, especially when I was throwing in to the 'line outs' at away matches with our forwards calling Wiffs for the ball. No high lifting or secret code numbers in those days.

I married Audrey Layzell (Not an Old Raineian – Lister Tech. in Plaistow) and as all five of the descendent branches of her family were females or had no male heir, we added her name to mine to perpetuate it, with the agreement of our son. The reason being that it is an old Huguenot name, with lots of family history, and it would otherwise have died out.

I am also a member of the Old Boys Masonic Lodge and, like George Osborne, would be pleased to hear from any OR's who might wish to join us. Many thanks for your reply.

Apart from George Osborne I am only in touch with one other OR but only once a year, Christmas time. That is John Matthews who was at school in the late forties/early fifties like me. Not sure if he was a year above or below me but we were both in the Life Saving Team. I have a photo of us 'skinny kids' with names on the back to verify it.

New Member

Welcome to Ray Parkin (62-64)

Ray was only at Raines from 62-64 before emigrating with his family to South Australia. Ray remembers Ian Adlington, we were in the 34th Stepney scout troop together, has a vague recollection of Clive Woods and remembers Terry Plummer very well. He along with some other boys took me to see Zulu in the West End and then to a restaurant afterwards before I left for the Antipodes.

My nickname, and I think Terry may remember it, was Muscles, mainly because I didn't have any! They were a great set of lads in the two forms that I was in.

Sad News

Margaret Wellington (Nurthen) (60-66)

Having read your latest notices, I thought perhaps I should inform you of the sad news of Ingrid Carlton's passing. Ingrid and I were at Raines together and had remained friends. Sadly she lost her fight with breast cancer in April this year, so awful, as Ingrid was only 62.

John Newman John Newman of the Newham Bookshop was recently nominated for his contribution to the world of children's books in the Eleanor Farjeon Award 2011.



My Dad always said I should open a bookshop and although we disagreed a good deal about what I should do with my "education" he was absolutely right about me and books. I have been very lucky to have had a relationship with the Newham Bookshop since 1983 after we had set up home in East Ham. It was also around this time that I met Vivian Archer who then ran the Paperback Centre in nearby Green Street and who in 1987 moved over to the shop in the Barking Road where she has presided ever since. I initially worked part-time in the shop but when our second child came along I returned to social work. It was Vivian who encouraged and supported me to return to bookselling when John and Jean, stalwarts of

the children's shop, began to plan for their retirements. I have never regretted the move for one moment and despite the almost ceaseless changes within the publishing industry I never ever wake up reluctant to go to work! I love living and working in a vibrant and diverse part of London where I spend most of my day enthusing and sharing information about books and reading. My mission has always been to try to bring the best books to the community and to endeavour to ensure children see themselves in the stories and pictures. I value the conversations I have with customers of all ages and the feedback I receive on what worked and what did not! We have been privileged to have been supported by our local community as we look ahead to our 34th year of trading in 2012.

There is a process which I have been involved in on countless occasions. It begins with the arrival of a manuscript or proof copy which I usually open with all the excitement of a child anticipating a long awaited birthday present. It can then lead to attending a launch event where it might be possible to congratulate the new author and wish them and their book well. An event might follow which wherever possible is carefully planned and executed in an effort to ensure everyone benefits from the experience. If all goes well there may be other events with a successive title or even a new series. The venue may need to change to accommodate a bigger audience. The quality and quantity of questions may then encompass matters relating to plot or characters rather than simply the usual round of probing for details of earnings accrued or how long it takes to write a book.

We have been supported by many authors over the years who have regularly returned for events and signings. One of our earliest and most important supporters was the writer and compiler of oral histories Gilda O'Neill who very sadly passed away last year. Gilda was always generous with her time and never missed an opportunity to point people in our direction. Benjamin Zephaniah and Michael Rosen have also been hugely supportive of what we do and our work with them was inspirational in giving us the confidence to develop the events work which is now integral to our business. It is a must for bookshops to cultivate relationships with authors and illustrators and develop mutually supportive ways of working together. It is also vital to have contact with sales reps and it is sad to witness them becoming a diminishing part of the trade. I always look forward to being shown new titles and love the fact that this will often spark off ideas for promotions and activities both within and outside the shop!

Some years ago now Bali Rai was being his usual entertaining self in an event at the central library here in Newham. A young and dedicated teacher had managed to persuade three teenagers who were not keen readers to come along to the after school session. As Bali wrapped up the question element of the evening the lads made their way to the exit and disappeared into the night. "Oh well", said the teacher, "at least they nearly stuck it out to the end" As the signing queue began to lessen the same three boys were suddenly very much back in the room. "Sorry sir", one of them said, "but we had to go and get the money

to buy the books” This is perhaps one of my favourite stories from many years of organising events and I never tire of telling it because it validates all the efforts of the author, publisher, bookseller, librarian and teacher to organise community based events.

Things do not always run smoothly or go according to plan. I must admit to anxiety about getting it right and when I don't I am pretty hard on myself because whatever happens on the day is ultimately down to me especially if I have instigated the process and identified the venue. I recognise that for an author to give up a day of their time is a big commitment especially if they are in the middle of a writing or editing phase. But over the years I have met some wonderful people and have been regularly delighted in the way children and young people have responded to having an author in their midst. Long may this continue!

Vicar in revolt over 50% rise in funeral and wedding fees *(from London Metro Newspaper, 23.02.12)*

A vicar is defying his church and refusing to pass on increased wedding and funeral charges to parishioners.



Fr Richard Tillbrook says rises of up to 50 per cent imposed by the Church of England are too high and he will stick to the existing fees while the economic downturn continues.

The General Synod voted for the increases which would mean Fr Richard charging £400 for a wedding, instead of £262 at present, and funerals going up from £105 to £160.

But the vicar said: ‘We work very hard to encourage people to go to church and to get married in church and I worry this will turn people away. I have not seen anything happen or any reason to justify the increase.’

‘In this economic climate in poor parishes this is a huge increase which is not acceptable,’ added Fr Richard, of St Barnabas Church, Colchester.

His stance was applauded by Colchester MP Sir Bob Russell who promised to raise the matter with the synod and in parliament. Sir Bob said: ‘Church costs have to be covered but when it comes to weddings and funerals the church should be mindful of the financial implications.

‘Fr Richard is to be congratulated. If he can do it then I would hope

others may be able to follow his example.’

Longer-serving vicars like Fr Richard are free to choose their own rates with guidance offered by the diocese but newer vicars are bound by the rates.

Social Networking

LinkedIn [Raines Foundation School\(Old Raineians Association\)](#) and on Facebook we have a group of the same name which can be accessed at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/Raineians> .

Weekly Facebook Page Update



Raines Foundation School (Old Raineians Association)

New Likes	Talking About This	Weekly Total Reach
33	6+20.0%	118+140.8%

Dates for your diary

May reunion and AGM Friday 11th May

Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HJ

WANTED

Your old foreign coins.

The ORA will attempt to raise some funds using your old donated foreign coins.

Euros, Dollars, Swiss Francs, Hong Kong \$, etc etc

Why not bring them to the AGM Reunion in May.

Or you can post them to The Treasurer, Old Raineians' Association, c/o 53 Glendale, Swanley, Kent, BR8 8TP.

Thank you

ORA Committee

Thank You to all contributors

We depend on your letters and photos and always look forward to hearing from anyone with a story From their time at Raines.

Please contact us, details below.

The Committee consists of

Claire Burrows
Presidentess
Alexander Coach House
Vines Lane
Hildenborough
Tonbridge
Kent
TN11 9LT

Sandra Johnson
Membership Secretary
Rounds
Warren Road
Chelsfield Village
Kent
BR6 6EP

Other Committee members

Clive Baugh, Treasurer

Anthony Groves, Secretary and
President Elect.

Eddy Dodwell, Newsletter

Gwynneth Jackson