This newsletter will self destruct within two hours of opening the envelope so please read immediately. Some of you may remember something similar from “Mission Impossible” on TV in the early 70’s. I trust the following will also bring back memories.

NEW MEMBERS

- Gary Bird (74-81) went into freelance journalism after leaving school and is now a sub-editor for Recorder Newspapers which covers Newham and Tower Hamlets. He is very happily married and living in Upminster.

Gary was persuaded to join the Association after contacting Sandra Johnson for help in tracking down actress Ann Mitchell (see article at the end of this newsletter). Old Raineians with whom he is still in touch with are Linda Snooks (Hall), Bill Line, Robert Heading and Candy Preston (Sevren).

School recollections include being told by English teacher, Steve Johnson, that he would never get a career in journalism! Robert Heading promising he would buy him a pint!

Gary finishes on a sad note. He sends condolences to the family and friends of former pupil Michael Leonard following his recent death.

- Carole Day (72-79) is a bond salesperson in a German Bank (at last finding a job that suits her education - Maths and Languages). Carole is still in touch with a few of her school chums and regularly sees Carole Middleton (Passmore) who lives in Upminster with her 2 young daughters. She also visited for the second time Sandra Harewood (Matthew) in Barbados, who very successfully juggles her family (2 young sons); a demanding job for the British High Commission Dependent Territories Regional Secretariat plus entrepreneurial ideas for board games!

Carole is also in contact with Simla Nijran (Singh), living in Birmingham with her 3 children and who has finally passed her accountancy exams.

- B Feinstein (?) is now a retired Civil Servant. (More information please)

- Ian Groombridge (77-83), after leaving Raine’s, worked in the Construction Industry gaining a HNC in Civil Engineering at The Southbank University. He is married with 2 step-children both of whom attended Raine’s - Hannah who became engaged at the 275th Anniversary Reunion at the House of Commons to Barnaby Loades, the 1993/94 Head Boy and Christopher who is currently in Year 11.

Ian remembers many of the teachers and was surprised to find some still on the staff. Mr Croom, Mr Wilson, Mrs Pipe, Mr Wesley, Mr Hudson, Miss Naylor, as well as Miss Balls, Fr. Clinic, Dr Cioci, Miss Crowley and Mr Spooner.

Fellow pupils include Fred Grant whom Ian occasionally sees between his jaunts to the other side of the Atlantic. Others remembered; Adam Groves, Richard and John Morgan, Gemma O’Connor, John Hampshire, Duncan Hockley and Corrine Diable to name but a few.

Finally Ian would like to apologise to Janis Fuller for making her feel old when he attended his first Parents evening with Hannah!

- Elizabeth Lawrence (75-81) is working at a City solicitors and has been studying part-time to become a solicitor herself. She is already a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives and, all being well, will qualify as a solicitor early in 1996. She married Mark Lawrence in September 1994 after a whirlwind romance.

Elizabeth has kept in close touch with Sherie Wren (Abrahams), Debi Vennall, Judith Lissner (Cohen) and Justine Hershman.

- George Maloney (37-39) who was pleased to read a reference to Simon Kaminsky who joined the school at the same time as George when the first rumblings were beginning to be heard from Europe. In 1939, after 2 rehearsals, the school was evacuated to Brighton and quickly settled into Varndean College. At this time his 2 younger brothers were becoming somewhat unruly and, in November, they were all sent to Romford to join the rest of the family and John had suddenly finished his schooling.

In 1943 he joined the Royal Marines and later fought with the American Marines during the Korean War, after which, in 1953, he joined CAV Ltd for whom he worked for 30 years.
The committee decision to include a short message from the President in each Newsletter comes as I am leaving office! So, I’ll make this a long, out-going President’s message as compensation for it being my first and last.

Firstly, I congratulate Sandra Johnson on her election as President of the Association and I wish her success over the next 12 months (forget “the old school tie”, rather “keep it in the family”).

The last 12 months have seen many positive things happening with our Association, not the least has been a marked increase in the interest show by the members in the Association itself. There is this growing perception that it is worth being a member of and it is worth supporting and preserving. It is a case of “if there wasn’t an Association we’d form one”.

The Association exists to help members maintain their links with the school and the Association will help the school wherever possible. I encourage every member to keep the school constantly in mind. We recently provided some office furniture (filing cabinets, document storage cabinets) to the school. This type of furniture is expensive and many members would not think to ask the school if they wanted any surplus office equipment. Please, think of the school. If your company is looking for a school leaver, young trainee or office junior, again, think of the school and contact the Headmaster or careers officer. Don’t cut ties with the school - establish them.

During the last year much was achieved by the Association and possibly the most important thing was the agreement with the Bancroft Library to start and maintain a permanent safe depository of Raine’s school memorabilia (see February Newsletter). The archivist there has been very helpful and if anybody has anything that they would like to donate then they should contact one of the committee members. It is unfortunate that, with the many changes of building, changes in local authority directives and changes of staff, many of the school’s historical documents have been lost or purposely discarded. The Old Raineians’ Association has made it its duty to collect and safely store the school’s history. I trust that the formation of a safe haven for all the treasured bits and pieces that people have lovingly stored will encourage people to contribute them to a central record for all to share. In addition to this, the committee recently approved a project to store school photographs and other material on CD ROM.

The Old Raineians’ Association is not simply a collection of former staff and pupils who gather a few times a year for a drink or two. It aims to help and support the school where possible and to preserve the history and traditions of the school. Social events do, quite rightly, feature high on the priority list and during the last 12 months we have had good attendance and support from the membership and committee at:

- Prayers said for the school during evensong at St. Paul’s Cathedral on 11th May (and the subsequent gathering at a nearby hostelry).
- A one-day canal trip in late July starting at Camden Lock and travelling through Victoria Park, Mile End and Limehouse.
- The 275th Anniversary and Annual Reunion at the House of Commons in November.
- The Summer Reunion and AGM at the original school building in Raine Street, Wapping.

Also of continued great value are the regular Newsletters and I think that all the members will agree that the Newsletters continue to grow in information and quality of presentation over the last 12 months. A special thanks goes to Bill Richards for compiling the Newsletter and for the committee members (especially Gwynneth and Sandra) who gather the information.

During the year the committee ordered copies of the Association tie (based on an original loaned by Wally Spooner) and these are now available for sale and compliment the lapel badges that are also available for sale.

Another change over the last 12 months was to hold monthly committee meetings (as opposed to quarterly) and this allowed more continuity and momentum in organising various programmes. The executive committee presently consists of:

1. Clive BAUGH (Hon. Treasurer)
2. Roy CATLEY
3. Kerry GOODALL
4. Tony GROVES
5. Richard HARRIS (Secretary and President Elect)
6. Edna HOWARD
7. Gwynneth JACKSON
8. Alan JOHNSON
9. Sandra JOHNSON (President)
10. Gareth LEWIS
11. Pat O’CAVANAGH
12. Philip PUTTICK
13. Susan SMITH
14. Tony SZULC
15. Harold TAYLOR

Bill Richards is Membership Secretary

During the year John Barry, Laurie Dalton and Frank Battes resigned from the committee due to other demands on their time. I thank them all for their help and support.

The Association is run by the committee but it is your association and the committee is elected by the membership. If there is anything that you feel should be done, or anything that you feel that you can contribute, please join the committee. There are regular meetings with the sole purpose of arranging social functions and promoting the school and association.

Finally, I look forward to the continued growth and influence of the Old Raineians’ Association.

Alan Johnson
• Leonard Rees (67-74) currently owns a chain of Estate Agents, property and restaurants. He, understandably, spends most of his time looking after his business interests.

• Roy Smith (70-77) is Marketing Manager with P & O Containers and is married with 2 boys of 7 years and 19 months and a 4 year old girl. Roy has spent many years overseas including Dubai, Zimbabwe and South Africa and twice visited Russell Obee in New Zealand. He has lost touch with Jonathon McCoin, who married a Norwegian, and wonders what has happened to Grant Sibley, Kathy Burke, William Leung and Alan Twynam (If any one knows, please write to us).

• Ronald Striebig (54-61) was Deputy Head Boy in 1960, left Raines in 1961 to attend Queen Mary College, graduating in 1966 with B.Sc. Hon Physics (Theoretical) and was married in 1967.

After college he went straight into teaching and then emigrated (temporarily) to Winnipeg, Canada in 1969 where he did post graduate work in Mathematics. On returning to the UK in 1970 Ronald worked in insurance for several years before returning to teaching. He has taught at several state and private schools since.

In 1988 he achieved his ambition of becoming a minor mathematician by finishing his M.Sc. in Mathematics at King’s, London and also has several publications of model answers for GCSE Maths.

Ronald is still teaching - having taught at Primary School to Oxbridge University level - and supposes he was a ‘born’ teacher, the only kind they say.

His daughter Jane lives in Geneva having graduated from Imperial College this year as a Ph.D. (Nuclear Particles) and is married to a nuclear physicist. His other daughter, Rachel, hopes to go to Cambridge next year to study Physics and he has a son, Theodore.

He regularly visits relatives in East London and hobbies include travelling (visited 35 countries); acquiring vast debts (glad to see the M.Sc. in Mathematics did not go to waste!!) and music, having attended the last 5 ‘last nights’ at the Proms.

• Robert Stuart (75-82) is a Librarian at Bow Library and plays in the same football team as Patrick Pallett.

• Debbie Thompson (75-82) is a housewife with a daughter of 20 months and is expecting a second child in June.

• Donald Ward (44-52) is a retired Customs and Excise Investigator and has been married to Janice for 36 years. He joined the school shortly before they were reunited with the Camberley contingent and amalgamation took place surprisingly quickly. Mrs Weingarten was his form tutor followed by Nobby Clark with Jim Shivias taking over in the Sixth Form.

During his 2 years National Service in the Navy he played rugby for HMS Vanguard - our last Battleship. They had a very strong team that lost only one game in 2 years to a British Army team in Spain - after they were sorry they could only field a team containing 14 internationals!!

Other News - 1

From Gwyneth Jackson

• Congratulations to Debra Reid (Harvey) on the birth of her second son in March.

• Barry Jones and Colin Nice were delighted to see so many people “in Parliament”. Other folk who enjoyed the houses of Parliament ‘do’ included Ann Lowes; Vivienne and Martin Dunne; Susan Wyburn (Brahame) and her sister Linnea; Wally Spooner (“as a nostalgic evening”); Gerry Calvert; Ros and Viv Nicholas; Zippy Auerbach; Margaret and Wilf Paish.

• Congratulations also to Janis and Graham Fuller-Willett on the arrival of their daughter.

• Old Rainees who slithered down ski slopes both in Europe and America this past season, included Janis and Graham (before the baby’s arrival); Clive Baugh and family: Joanne Marshall; Elizabeth Simpson; Gwynneth Jackson; Ros and Viv Nicholas; Frances and Bob Simmonds; Mark Tinkler.

• Michael Hazell and Ruth had a son in December and belated congratulations to Martin and Tracey Leonard on the birth of their second son - Martin is thinking of returning to teaching.

• Jackie and Robert Connolly spent this Christmas in England - a little different to the two previous ones, which were in Nepal.

• Michael and Peter Corrigan were married in Florida.

• Barbara Newton, sister of Janet, visited her other sister, Cheryl, who lives in Canada, last summer.

• Frances (Mott) and Bob Simmonds have a hectic time near Cambridge with their two children. Their son is County Junior Tennis Champion and their daughter plays the flute in various bands and orchestras.

• Joy Turner visited the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt last Autumn and this year will be in Warsaw for the Chopin Festival, as well as going to Malta on an archaeology trip.

• Deena Osborne (Gardiner) is enjoying University, but finding it hard work having to also cope with a family.

• John Blundell, despite living in the Orpington area, seems to get involved with environmental and rural tasks, such as hedge laying and acting as a Tree Warder for Bromley Council. This is in addition to being a member of a varied selection of committees and designing posters and notices for the organisations involved. Another of his tasks is helping to survey churches built prior to 1800 in the Rochester Diocese.

He also passed on news that Annette Boyce-Burgansky has a second daughter - congratulations.

• Alan Liddiard read the article on the 1944 reunion with interest, though the members were a year older than himself. He recalls joining the Brighton Sea Scouts, with his friend Terry Lythgoe, when the School was evacuated. On moving to Camberley, they formed the nucleus of a Sea Scout Patrol within the Raine’s Troop, whose leader was initially ‘Biffer’ Broughton. ‘Donny’ Lyons took over when they joined the armed forces.

They were also involved in Civil Defence
A couple of newsletters ago I mentioned that it would be nice to include some articles on 'Famous Raincians'. Harold Taylor wrote to me regarding Lord Sharp who sadly died in 1994. The following is from his obituary in The Times passed onto me by Harold, a contemporary.

**LORD SHARP OF GRIMSDYKE**

Lord Sharp of Grimsdyke, CBE, chairman of Cable and Wireless, 1980-90, died on May 2, 1994 aged 77. He was born on August 17, 1916.

A civil servant turned industrialist, Eric Sharp became one of the biggest names in telecommunications in the 1980s. It was Sharp who was largely responsible for transforming Cable and Wireless (C&W) from a sleeping industrial giant into an efficient private telecommunications company with huge interests abroad.

Sharp was a man with long, top-ranking experience in both the private and public sectors. Hence he was a strong candidate to groom C&W for stock market flotation. In 1980 Sharp was approached to be part-time chairman of C&W, and became its full-time chairman and chief executive the following year, on the company's privatisation.

He was then in his mid-sixties but had lost none of his vigour. He found on his arrival that, while the company's technology was state-of-the-art and its profits generally good, its organisation was being choked by centralised bureaucracy in London. He found, too, that C&W still suffered interference from the Government on board appointments etc.

Sharp set about rechannelling the management's mind into something more entrepreneurial. The result was one of the City's success stories of the 1980s. By the end of Sharp's decade at the helm, C&W's turnover had risen from £293 million to £2.3 billion and profits had grown from £62 million to £527 million.

In the process Sharp had achieved several extraordinary things including breaking the British Telecommunications monopoly on the domestic phone market, by setting up Mercury in 1984 and, by correctly foreseeing the potential of the mobile phonemarket, he had won a licence for C&W to operate the new personal communications networks.

Eric Sharp was born into a Jewish family in London. He was an artistic boy, and studied the violin on a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music. At one time he considered becoming a professional musician.

Instead he chose a more practical path, taking a degree in economics and statistics at the London School of Economics and, on graduating in 1940, joining the Army where he became a staff captain. Three years later he joined the Board of Trade and moved to the Ministry of Power in 1948. There he had his first dealings with C&W, which had just been nationalised by the post-war Labour Government.

Sharp cut his teeth, however in the electric industry. He was the UK delegate to the coal and petroleum committees of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. But after ten years as a civil servant he was becoming disillusioned by the early results of nationalisation and abruptly moved to the private sector. In 1957 he became a marketing manager at British Nylon Spinners, a company which seven years later was taken over by ICI Fibres. In 1969 he moved to Monsanto, the American-owned chemical company, becoming its chairman, 1975-81. He was appointed CBE in 1980, knighted in 1984 and created a life peer in 1989.

He remained a softly spoken and undemonstrative man. But always insisted that his experience in Whitchall was of enormous help to him at C&W - a company that dealt with 37 different governments around the world - describing his approach to diplomatic problems as being more "resilient" than that of colleagues with a background in marketing.

Sharp's association with C&W did not end with his official retirement in 1990, when he handed over to the former Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Young of Graffham, he continued to act as its president.

as messengers in the Fire Brigade, being on duty one night in four. The highlight was the Tuesday evening trip to Woking for training on a big red open Dennis Fire Engine. 'Biffer' was also a Home Guard, Butch Gee (German) a Special Constable and R H Dolby (Physics) was in the Observer Corps.

He believes that Bill Engledow is still alive, probably living in the Bromley area. 'Piffle' was a Scot and Mr Wilson, who taught French, was a good footballer.

- Peggy and Gavin Adlington and their two youngest children are in Russia, with the children attending the Anglo-American School in St Petersburg.

- Tom Bennett (30-35) sent a wonderful letter of reminiscences, sparked off by the last newsletter. Here is a selection, with others appearing in future editions.

The staff list in 1930 was as follows: - Mr Dagger (Headmaster); W D Davies and 'Slogger' Luton (Physics); A H Davies (Maths); Dr Wilkins and 'Fuzzy' Browning (Chemistry); Mr Pascoe and Alec Aldridge (French); 'Yapper' Curtis, 'Skinny' Coleman and Jim Shivas (English); 'Jooters' Preston and later 'Butch' Gee (German); 'Skinny' and later 'Nobby' Clarke (Music); Jimmy Beach (History); Captain Turnage and 'Biffer' Broughton (PE); Jimmy Horne (Art and RE); 'Joogie' Andrews (Mechanics); Charlie Nay (Woodwork); Messrs Tiller and Hayward (Geography).

'Jooters' Preston took up an appointment at Hull University in about 1938, but sadly died during the Siege of Calais in 1940.

Raine's sporting achievements were non-existent - last in East London Sports and roundly trounced at rugby. However the 1930 intake produced sportsmen such as Duggie Jewson, Arthur Smith, George Coplan, Jack Kerr, Alec Segal, Alfio Evans, Bobby Jones and Tom Bennett himself. Swimming was also introduced, with boys taking life-saving certificates. The father of Lassman presented a swimming shield for inter-house competition. Tom also still treasures his gold medal gained at the Sports Day after he
MARY CHRISTINA RANKIN

Mrs ‘Chris’ Rankin retired from Raine’s almost twenty years ago and, together with many others who knew her, I was saddened to learn of her death on Good Friday, 14th April.

Mary Christina Rankin - she avoided using the name Mary - joined the staff at Raine’s in 1964, having worked both in education and in commercial art. She held the London Art Teaching Diploma.

Although a tall, forbidding figure at first sight, those who knew her soon realised that she had a heart of gold and a dry sense of humour.

On her appointment as Deputy Head at the school in Arbour Square she also became responsible for the welfare of the girl pupils. One of her duties was to discourage smoking, not an easy task, as Chris had not managed to break the habit herself and was known to roll her own cigarettes! Her artistic skills contributed enormously to school theatrical productions; most of her teaching time was in the Art and Craft Department where she displayed particular skills in pottery and modelling.

In 1968 Chris married John Rankin, MP for the Govan district of Glasgow. Three years later she was involved in a car accident and, although seriously injured herself, managed to nurse her husband for many months.

For years she was in charge of fund raising on behalf of many charities, including most notably the British Polio Fellowship. Her organising of sponsored walks for that charity proved particularly popular and I was pleased to take over responsibility for this annual event only a few years later, until my own retirement.

During her years at Raine’s Chris was a keen member of the Old Rainians’ Association and could often be seen wearing her blazer bearing the school escutcheon and the initials O.R.A. on the pocket.

Only a short time before she retired in 1975, Mrs Rankin played Lady Bracknell in the school production of ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ - a memorable performance.

As I did not join Raine’s until 1973, I knew Chris for only two years. Even so, I have some happy memories of her smiling support so freely given.

After leaving Raine’s she retired to a villa near Malaga in the South of Spain, but recently returned to England to live in Steyning, Sussex. It was from there that her sister Eileen notified me of her very sad loss.

Deepest sympathies are surely extended to Eileen’s family by all at Raine’s who knew Chris during her time at the school.

John Blundell

had done his Matriculation Exams.

- Gwynneth Jackson raised £160 for the village pre-school unit and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust from two sponsored walks. She is now a Trainer of Voluntary Wardens in the Dales National Park and also on the panel of lecturers for the Council of National Parks.

As Musical Director of the Village Pantomime Society, she was recently involved with performances of Aladdin and as a member of the Village Hall Committee has to turn her hand to sandwich and scone making and washing-up at Domino Drives! (How the other half live!)

- Iris Tomlinson (Lyddon) recently met Angela Perry in Ilford and heard that Geoff Perry is a GP in Great Yarmouth. She also saw Julie Dawkins, who is now living in Lewisham.

The following is an article from Fred Barnes of his memories of the period 1944 - 1953.

In this quick trip down memory lane, I trust that I have the correct names, if not there is instant regret and apologies. Also, if anyone is missed out then it is not due to them but the vagaries of that memory.

The first memory is in 1944 taking a form of entrance examination under the instructions of Mr Davies, whom I remember as acting head. Being well under age for normal entry, I was allowed admission as a fee paying first former. I think the sum was some three guineas per term. Rab Butler’s Education Act was later to change the school’s status whereupon I was able to continue as a normal free member. Life was initially peaceful in this small school, however, the peace was broken with the return of the refugees from Camberley. Outside life at the beginning of this period was most decidedly not peaceful, for I had joined at the peak of the doodle-bug campaign. I remember many occasions walking between school and home, watching the ‘flying bombs’ pass overhead to bring destruction nearby. Another fact about the out side world which we have forgotten, was the misery and lost days due to the thick acrid fogs.

During the next year besides the return from Camberley there was a small trickle of staff back from their war service. At this stage I particularly remember the great French enthusiast, Aldridge (Christian name long forgotten), who appeared non too well. The Geography ‘chair’ was held initially by a great exponent of the flying chalk trick, Ruddock by name. His crew cut was kept at a half inch, and he could flick one’s head with his piece of chalk, at any range. Others in this period, remembered, are a Davis arousing my everlasting interest in Physics. To this day I can repeat his first form class on potential energy, with great feeling he explained the unfairness of having to pay for the water board to pump water up the hill to his home in Wales. In the laboratory he made great attempts to continue the demonstrations and experiments with a very much depleted set of equipment. The glass tanks used for such as refraction

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Mrs Creasey was school and Headmistress’s secretary throughout my time at Raine’s Girls School and had been with my predecessor, Miss Haugh for many years before that. She remained with Raine’s when the Girls’ and Boys’ Schools combined and did not retire until 1976 (?)..

When I arrived at Raine’s in 1955 it was as a ‘new girl’ to the job and I therefore had to rely on my secretary to an unusual degree. Mrs Creasey was an unfailing source of information about things, people and procedures. All this she imparted with courtesy, good humour and a fund of good common sense. I owed her a debt of gratitude for her professional competence and her personal help and friendliness.

Her daughter Joan (who was a schoolgirl at Greycoat School when I first knew her!) fulfilled her parents ambitions by becoming a nurse at a top London teaching hospital and later marrying a doctor. Mrs Creasey’s grandchildren were a delight to her and I know that all who knew her join with me in offering Joan and Roland our sincere sympathy.

Joan Mangold

When ever Madge Darch (Lewis) and myself were involved in late-night rehearsals for a drama or a musical production, a tasty meal would always materialise, cooked on the small stove in the medical room. Before she commuted daily from Leicester she spent weekdays with her sister at Southfields and I used to give her a daily lift. I got to know her well and how fond she was, not only of her own family, but of Raine’s, its traditions and standards. Once we were fogbound at the school one winters evening and spent the night in the school staff room, with blankets kindly loaned by Mr White, the Schoolkeeper - who woke us at 7.00 am the following morning!!

Gwynneth Jackson

tests were a particular worry, as he had remade them using sealing wax. One was always likely to be showered with a surge of water.

The next memory is strangely a smell. Once a week we toiled away in the woodwork room, under the great wood of Charles Nay (small in size but with a large appetite to help). When the masterpiece, perhaps a bookend or a toast rack, was completed the great moment arrived when the cauldron of foul smelling glue was opened.

A courageous decision was made after the first full year of peace, to resume the overseas Easter holiday trip. So a small group set out across war hit Europe to Switzerland. A journey undertaken with much changing of trains, and most of the long journey spent on wooden seats. At the change in Cologne I particularly remember the devastated station and having to walk along paths dug through the rubble. What bliss it was to see una haired life and to be finally at Hotel Alpenrose in Grindlewald. I can only recollect ‘Donny’ Lyons being on the trip, and I suspect that the junior members were only allowed on the holiday to ensure the staff won at bridge.

Who else do I remember. I regret that many names have been lost over time, but I do remember those who inspired and in many ways founded my career, so it must be with sincere thanks to:

Dr Wilkins who set the initial stages of my chemistry knowledge, a quiet but astute teacher.

Dr Shutt appears to have left a reputation with the cane, however, whilst on the chemistry front, three of us in our last year in the Sixth Form had the good fortune to be taught an extra chemistry course by him, having volunteered his efforts to overcome a time-tabling problem. He demanded really hard work, and responded with sympathy. Also, he had the reputation of being a fearsome bridge player.

‘Biffer’ Broughton with determination and grit finally gained an understanding of history, humour and pragmatism. He had an unfulfilling love of rugby, which was well demonstrated at Twickenham in the late 40’s. At the final whistle, ending with Wales winning 3 - 0 with a William’s try, he leapt from our touch line seat to lead the pitch invasion. After leaving school, I had the honour to guest for the staff in the annual match against the 1st XV, to understand how well he played, and the impression he gave, say at penalty kicks, “Just point me at the posts boy (or was it boyo?) and I’ll kick it”.

‘Nobby’ Clark, who also taught English kindled a love of music in many of us. Besides his lunch time ‘concerts’, for a period he arranged for us to attend the afternoon BBC Symphony Orchestra rehearsals at the then Peoples Palace (now the Queen Mary and Westfield College), before the evening broadcast.

‘Slogger’ Luton was my mentor for many years at Physics, a most ‘British’ gentleman, and I was amazed to hear the rumour that he took an appointment in the States on his retirement. [This may be worth verifying]

‘Donny’ Lyons tried for many years to teach me the incomprehensible German language. (If only I had listened more, for my first real job was in Germany, living as a local in a small village). Another school rugby enthusiast, who used to cause dread if he was to take care of the XV for the Saturday game. We had to assemble after school on Friday for a talk on tactics, whereupon he would fill the board with diagrams to demonstrate the required positional play.

(Ted?) Swain arrived late in my time at the school to teach Mathematics. A most radical and progressive teacher who powered us through our A-levels. Besides his teaching he was writing cheap books on Maths.

Jim Shivas another quiet teacher who expected and obtained hard work and good manners.

Last but not least, I remember a young chap arriving to teach us Geography. Wally Spooner was quite a revelation, for no longer was the subject a matter of colouring maps, but about places and people. He was full of advice, and I
HISTORIC RECORD

During my years at Raines, I remember always looking forward every September to the publication of the latest ‘Raineian’. There would be new reports of school trips, sporting achievements, and often many articles or poems from those with a yen for putting pen to paper. Also, there would sometimes be photographs of significant events in the school year, such as the performance of the school play or an important sporting fixture with rival schools.

The point is that the magazine was a well produced and interesting pot pourri of school happenings throughout the previous school year. Often these might involve forays into the local community, usually tolerantly if not jubilantly received, and reinforcing social links that were important in maintaining the school as a vibrant living part of the area, adding value to local life.

Many of you must have held on to your copies of these publications out of sentiment, providing personal memories of what was important to you in your school life. At the same time there is no doubt that as time goes by, such documents can become rich sources of social history.

We would like to mine this vein of information as part of the project to chronicle as much as possible of the history of the school. I can contribute my own collection, spanning the years from 1960 to 1966. If you have any magazines covering before or after that time, would you be prepared to lend them for recording of significant events? Over the years, attitudes and perspectives change subtly. For example, things that were recorded during and soon after the Second World War will doubtless have been flavoured with the hopes and difficulties of the times, in marked contrast to the renaissance feel that tended to characterise the 60s.

If you are willing to lend your magazines, with the assurance that they will be returned promptly once copied please contact me, Roy Catley, 46 Avenue Road, Heme Bay, Kent, CT6 8TG (Tel: 01227 741207). Please write or telephone before sending the magazines as we may already have copies of the years you are offering.

If we get enough material, it should be possible to produce a narrative document representing the life of the school in the community context. I hope you feel this worthwhile and will help if you can.

Roy Catley

recollect at one lesson he suggested that we try to remember facts by associating them with some other known subject. It must have been very soon afterwards he took me to task after marking my effort on Scotland, “There is no such town as Stirling Albion”. My last memory of Wally at school is a happy one, on the Isle of Arran, another school trip. A most pleasant week, but quite tough on the feet. Evenings were memorable for there under the strict eye of the local Scottish hostel manageress we learnt many local customs including the war dances such as ‘Strip the Willow’ and ‘The Eightsome’.

Whilst I seem to remember a few of the staff my mind is almost a blank on my compatriots. I will delve into the inner memory, and if names can be retrieved will send another missive.

Following graduation from Nottingham I took a permanent commission in the Royal Air Force, and spent 18 great years in different guises, at a number of locations throughout the UK and the world. I left in 1974 to join British Gas, and have just taken redundancy to start a new career. So far my working life has been spent in the likes of computing and communication matters. I now have the new challenge of interim management to look forward to.

I read in the last newsletter about the amalgamation of the two schools. We beat that date in 1951, when two intrepid gals came through the dividing wall to join us for sixth form science.

Lastly, I wonder whether the extra mural activities (overt and otherwise) are still active. In-house there was a thriving History Society under the deft guidance of ‘Biffer’ Broughton. Our pinnacle was to produce a newspaper covering the local area and London for the year 1719, with much research started at the church down the road from Arbour Square, where our founder is laid to rest. Many a great evening was spent playing others at chess. We had a very powerful team. On the dark side, I can reveal that there was also a thriving inter-school bridge fraternity!

- Frank Clarke (31-35) kindly donated another £15.00 life membership although he is already a paid up member. He mentions how stimulating it is, to one past his sell-by date, to read of so many boys and staff of the early thirties. It is thanks to the Association that they are not forgotten. He concludes with one small quibble - Skinny Colman not Skinny!

- Another member who enjoyed the February newsletter was Robert Taylor (39-46), mentioning that both the production and content were splendid. (Thank you from all the people involved. I just need to start a pension fund and will feel I am a real newspaper owner. One other advantage is that I can’t swim either!) Regarding the last newsletter he goes onto write:

I remember some of the matters mentioned on page 5. Mr Hayward was always known as ‘Jock’ and taught Economics and Geography. Memories of him are that his lessons consisted of instructing the class to draw some map or other whilst he just sat there. When necessary he would fish around in his pocket to issue someone one of the copious supply of little rubber erasers he kept there. They always smelled of tobacco, and I can never smell stale cigarette smoke without thinking of ‘Jock’ Hayward.

‘Little Mr Horne the hornithologist’ was, of course, Mr Horne, Ornithologist. He was a lovely man who used to give us Nature Study lessons and would often bring in birds that he had stuffed himself (no comments please). He made me a present of a book of butterflies from his own library. I believe he may also have
taught Art and History (see page 6), but I only recall him in Brighton. Whether he retired or returned to London I don’t know, but he wasn’t at Egham or Cramberley.

‘Piffle ?????’ was in fact Mr Wilson, a rather awesome figure to the juniors, although his bark was much worse than his bite. He was a Scot with a very strong Glaswegian (?) accent. He taught French and the combination of the 2 accents was quite bewildering. Any silly answer or shoddy work was always greeted by him with the cry of “Piffle! Absolute Piffle!” Hence the nickname. I recall my very first French lesson with him, when he attempted to make us learn to conjugate the verb ‘avoir’ and not having a clue what he was talking about. Luckily I was rescued by ‘Eggie’ Engledow (love the nicknames) who took us over both as Form Master and French teacher. ‘Eggie’s’ approach to the teaching of French was entirely different and involved a study of phonetics before we were allowed to see the printed word. ‘Eggie’ was then called up into the army and wasn’t seen again for some years, until I met him by chance one day, by which time he was at Parmiters and I myself was now teaching French.

On page 6 mention is made of Billy Wilkins. In fact, though I think he may have been called ‘Billy’ by some pupils, his real name was Dr Henry Wilkins known to many of us as ‘The Doc’.

On page 10 the article by Sue Smith mentions the Hilmans brothers who I remember quite well. Apparently they wondered what happened to Miss Ringer who remained with the school until the late sixties. Part of this was for business but primarily it was holiday and an opportunity to visit old (and I mean old!) friends and to see how they were getting on in the former colonies.

The holiday started in Auckland where we spent a week with Keith Roberts (Dylko) and his wife Marj. Keith has two children, Paul and Michelle, both of whom have finished their education and who are now making their own way in the world. Keith himself has finished teaching and is working as an independent sports consultant, specialising in the speed events.

On page 1 Jack Rodin asks if any of the teachers of his day are still alive. Sadly, many are gone. But Bertram A Dalton (‘Dickie’) - who taught Geography and was in charge of the Egham group - is still alive, though in his 80s, frail and almost blind.

- The following is from Terry Day (60-67) regarding a visit ‘down under’.

Just so that you don’t think that I am totally unprepared to help the Old Rainians’ Association I have jotted down below a few notes concerning the current whereabouts and status of some old Rainians as per our trip to New Zealand and Australia at the end of last year.

I have only just had the opportunity to read the February Newsletter. I am not sure how the ORA manage it but it always seems to arrive whilst I am away on business and June always files it in a drawer pending my safe return home. This Newsletter turned up when I was having a massive clear out and consigning most of the contents of the said drawer to the dustbin! Anyway, on with the story.

June and I went down to New Zealand and Australia shortly before Christmas 1994.

He now sells his body and his skills to the highest bidder! One of his contracts was working with the All Blacks on their ‘speed training’ in preparation for this year’s World Cup and one of the highlights of the holiday for me was being able to attend one of the training sessions and being able to help. Okay - so it was only writing the times down on a piece of paper but somebody has to do it! Therefore, if the All Blacks win the World Cup, and it looks as if there is a good chance they will, the school can at least claim that certainly one, and possibly two, old pupils assisted in this success. (The All Blacks thrashed England in the semi-finals. Do you still want to claim any involvement, Terry!!)

E-MAIL

No, it’s not another magazine in competition with Cosmopolitan, but a bright idea from Alan Johnson and Roy Catley.

If anybody has any information why not send it via e-mail or Internet. Please use the following:-

X400 (e-mail)

c=gb
a=telemail
p=glencore
o=wwglen
ou=ldnwigmore
g=alan
s=johnson

Internet

alan.johnson@ldnwigmore.glencore.sprint.com

So, there you are all you computer buffs. Start sending. You also have the more ‘normal’ methods such as post, telephone and fax!
Christmas Eve saw us travel to Sydney where we spent the holiday period up to and including the New Year staying with Norman Evans and family and visiting, drinking (in particular) and dining out with Dennis MacNamara and family.

Norman and wife Helen now have three children Andrew, Lloyd and Bronwen all of whom are at school. Norman is a free lance computer systems analyst/programmer and his major customers are The Sydney Stock Exchange and the associated brokerage houses. Norman’s primary hobby is brewing his own beer. Not from packets you understand but from the natural ingredients or developing a culture from commercially brewed beers from all over the world. He has entered his home brews in a number of competitions (or comps as the Aussie’s say) and has won a medal or two. His most potent brew is called “lunatic soup”. I’m not totally sure of the alcohol content but I wouldn’t mind betting that it’s in double figures. Norman tells me that nobody ever had a hangover from drinking too much. They never last long enough to get drunk - they fall over after the first two or three!

Dennis Mac and his wife, Helen (you don’t have to be called Helen if you’re a female in Australia but it certainly helps) have one child Claire who is coming up for two years of age. Having declared himself a non-parent some years ago it is quite amazing to see the contrast that has whilst cooking the Boxing Day barbecue. Not a very pleasant sight but at least it didn’t put me off my food! Dennis works for the New South Wales Government and is the manager of the Open Learning program which provides adult education throughout the state.

Having left Sydney we spent about ten days or so doing the tourist bit and finally deposited ourselves on Micky Dunn before flying home from Brisbane.

If you are able to display a poster advertising the Association at your office or sports club or wherever, one is included with this Newsletter. If you need more please contact Sandra Johnson.

Please let us know if anybody has any other ideas to achieve the following:

1. Locating former pupils
2. Getting them to join the Association
3. Generally increasing membership

A great part of the expense of the Association is preparing and dispatching the Newsletter. Therefore, if anybody can help with envelopes, A4 paper, secretarial services, postage etc. it will help to preserve our meagre funds. These can be delivered to the school (c/o Old Raincians). We would like to thank the Headmaster, Mr Lewis, for agreeing that the school will act as a collecting point.

FUNCTIONS

- Anybody interested in an ORA Eurostar away-day to Paris in late September (on a Saturday) should contact Alan Johnson. There is already a group of more than 20 Old Raincians who have already expressed interest in this trip (subject to cost).
- Richard Harris is organising a golf day. Please contact him if you are a golfer or a hacker.
- If anybody has any suggestions for other functions, venues and activities, please contact any member of the committee.

ORA members can advertise small businesses in the Newsletter. A business card size advert will be displayed in the Newsletter for free. Alternately, a whole page advert will be displayed included for a small donation to the Association (minimum £25). Send the details to Bill Richards.

Dennis is still able to fit into his Taylor House Rugby Jersey (just) and wore it come over Dennis. I don’t think that I’ve ever seen a father dote on a daughter quite so much. Dennis is planning to bring Claire on a three month tour of the UK in July of this year although I think Helen has other ideas. Anyway, if they do come, Claire’s not old enough to get into the Brewery Tap! (were any of us?).

Micky and his wife Maureen (you can tell she’s not Australian by her name) have two children, Courtney and Keeley. Courtney, like dad, is a keen rugby player and has represented Queensland under 19’s and looks as if he could go on to better things. As he’s built like the door of a brick built out building I’m not going to disagree with him! Keeley is currently at University and expects to finish shortly. Micky’s greatest claim to rugby fame is he
was recently in an over 40’s side which won the state championship with the final played at Ballymore (the Queensland equivalent of Twickenham). Micky was very pleased with his performance as he ran in a try under the posts from the half way line. He showed me the videos (on more than one occasion - joking) but was unimpressed when I asked if he could show me the normal speed version and not the slow motion one!

Micky is very successful, being a partner in a chain of carpet stores. If my memory serves me correctly they have about 5 stores/warehouses located all along the Queensland coast from Brisbane to Cairns although most of their work is for commercial companies rather than domestic. Micky and I shared a few jars and even teamed up to play golf against an assistance that I may need. If any Old Raineians’ would be interested in joining, if one were to be formed, please ask them to contact me. Dependent upon response and availability of time I will do my best to move this forward from an idea to reality.

Keep up the good work.

Thank you Terry for the information of some of the School’s ex-pats in Australia and not a mention of Bruce, Sheila or sheep shearing!

- In the middle of June George Osborne and Peter Hood visited the school. The two had known each other since their days in Form 3A where they laboured under the late Don Lyons. They had served in the RAF and later played rugby for the Old

DIARY DATE

As the 275th Anniversary Reunion at the House of Commons was a huge success, the Committee have decided to return there. The date is Saturday, 9th December. So please make an early note in your diary to ensure that it does not clash with any other event and that you are available.

A letter regarding the confirmation of your booking will follow in due course.

Aussie/Kiwi partnership and tied the game on the final hole!

Micky has said that he would like to join the Old Raineians’ and I shall be sending him a form, as I will to both Dennis and Norman, when I finally get around to sending their copies of my photographs.

All of the Old Raineians’ had very fond memories of the school and the friends they made and I am sure would wish to extend their best wishes to anybody who remembers them. All of them have settled down very well in their new country and have a quality of lifestyle which I am sure many of us envy.

On a final note I have for some time considered that an appropriate way for Old Raineians’ to meet on a periodic basis would be to form an Old Raineians’ Golf Society. I have a friend who is a treasurer of a similar society which meets three times a year and he has told me that he would be willing to give me any advice or

born was long gone.

On arriving at Approach Road they were informed that the honours boards still exist, but were not currently available. I managed to find both Peter’s and George’s names in the Roll Register and all the relevant information even though it was May 1943 when they entered the school. There was a final column in the register which showed each boy’s first job or further academic career. Two unusual examples were fairground attendant and farmer! (Reminds me of the joke about the man in the dole queue in the centre of London being asked what sort of work he was looking for and replied “shepherd”. They obviously found him something similar!)

George is a former Secretary and past President of the Association.

- Roy Forward of Bristol is trying to trace Irene (Toni) Harden who was an evacuee from Raine's to Hurstpierpoint during the war and her last rumoured place of living was Haywards Heath. He says his brother Den would love to meet Toni again. Therefore if any body has any information would they contact me (Bill Richards).

AGM/SUMMER REUNION

It was decided that this year the AGM (Summer Reunion) would be held at the old school building in Raine Street, Wapping. This was the ‘Lower School’ building from 1719 until the school moved to premises in Cannon Street Road.

On arriving at the building one could still see the statues of the boy and girl and also the motto, “Come in and learn your duty to God and Man”. A perfect place to hold a reunion (especially as it had a bar!).

The manager of the tenants club that used the building filled us in on some of the past history of the building. It was taken over by Radley College in 1920 and became a boys club for members of St Peters School until the war during which it was used as a rope factory. After the war the building remained derelict for many years. Later, although only the front part of the building was still standing, the building was renovated.

In the late seventies English Heritage, Docklands and GLC gave permission for
the extension (where the food was served) to be built. During construction 2 cellars were discovered underneath the site which housed 2 beautifully preserved kitchens from the original Raine’s School. The tenants association applied to use the kitchens/cellars, but English Heritage filled them in with sand for preservation (but nobody can see them! Where’s the logic?). English Heritage have pictures of the school BS (before sand!!) when it was in use.

Over 50 people attended the AGM and appeared to enjoy the evening.

Main points that emerged from the meeting included; the Association have funds of approximately £4000 (full copies of the accounts can be obtained from Clive Baugh); Sandra Johnson was elected President. Paul Thienal as President Elect was unable to stand for election due to pressure of work commitments; Richard Harris was elected President Elect.

Another interesting point discussed was the idea of placing the Associations archive material on CD Rom. David Ward reported that he may be able to organise this. One disc could hold between 500 and 1000 photographs, with each disc costing £20. The work for scanning material on to the discs would cost approximately £100 and it was suggested that the Committee should investigate this further. This would enable us keep good copies of memorabilia for future reference as well as being extremely useful for the compilation of the Newsletter.

AGM NEWS

• Clive Shilson appears on the current TV advert for the AA; is playing Henry VIII at Tudor banquets and will soon be seen on TV in Israel. Clive is also looking for investors for a new show in the West End - could he be the new Alan Ayckbourn?

• Susan Brewington (Penfold) left Raine’s, after the amalgamation, in 1965 and worked in local government before having a family of four. She now lives in Gidea Park and works part-time in a hospital.

• Patrick McCurry has worked for the Financial Times in Brazil for 3 years. His sister, Mary, teaches Maths at George Green School and describes a year spent teaching in an American High School as “horrendous”.

• Sarah Smith is marrying in September.

• Sharon Simons is on a Teachers Training course and her sister Cathy now works with a firm of solicitors.

• Michael Jacobs is living in Manchester and has 2 children.

• John Wilson plays the organ at St Dunstans and is warden of an old people’s home.

• Jonathon Doherty is shortly to have a book about sex in the nineties published under a pseudonym.

• Debbie Poole lives in Wanstead and expects her second child. Her sister, Margaret, is married and has lived in Australia for 3 years.

• John Webster (52-58) lives in Sunbury-on-Thames and is married with one daughter and a grandson. He is Chairman of the Beresford Group of Companies who are, among other things, involved with publishing and security. John says he can remember many of the names of his year, but did not find any among the May Reunion.

• Emily Galbraith (who rarely misses any of the reunions) sent her apologies because she had in important Church meeting. She attended a Prime Minister’s Question Time the following week and, in between her hectic schedule, is conserving her energy to read the Queen’s telegram on her 100th birthday on 6th, July.

• Tony Szulc, although still suffering the after effects of his malaria bug is a man who cannot be kept down for long. He plans to go to Africa (Tanzania or Kenya) to do a Blue Peter project. (Down Shep!)

• Jo Roberts (48-55) has been a close friend of Ann Mitchell since starting in the Raine’s kindergarten when she was 8 where they were both primed for the select Grammar School.

She was a teacher of English for many years at Abridge in Essex and now works in tourism. She lives in Stepney Green and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Ann Mitchell was her bridesmaid.

• Ann Mitchell sent her apologies for not attending the AGM. After her success on television in ‘She’s Out’, she visited the school and also Arbour Square (see the end of the newsletter).

• By coincidence on the same day as the reunion she had been speaking with Leonard Fenton and did not know he was an Old Raineian. Leonard turned up for his first meeting and may be remembered as the familiar face of Dr Legg in Eastenders. He recently appeared in lunch performances of ‘The Irish Hebrew Lesson’ at ‘The Man in the Moon’, Chelsea. This was seen by Sandra Johnson and Sue Smith, who both enjoyed the performance.

Leonard was at Raine’s from 37-44 under the Dagger regime and left to become an engineer. Quite a contrast from his real desire to become an artist. He went to drama school in 1953. He also has a love of painting and exhibits his work in various media.

• Rosemary Ellis (Sewell, 70-75) is living in Wanstead and is married with 2 children, James. 11 and Lauren, 8. She has run her own business selling stationery and printing for 15 years.

• Clare Whiteman (Burrows, 70-75) lives in Blackheath with her husband and 3 children, 8, 5 and 3. She is successfully designing and selling clothes.

• David Arter (53-59) took redundancy from Midland Bank after 27 years, 6 of which were as a Bank Manager. He now works for the social services and lives in Theydon Bois with his wife and 3 children, all of whom, incidentally have been taught by Richard Tillebrook (61-68 and past President).

• Roy Catley (60-66) works in Personnel Management at the Department of Environment and lives in Heme Bay, Kent. He has fond memories of creating a version of ‘Ghost riders in the Sky’ with brilliant guitarist Phillip Puttick. He would be interested in trying it again (as they are now both committee members there should be no problem).

• Phillip Puttick (60-67) could not attend the AGM. After working in Poland for a year and returning in April he was knocked off his beloved bike by a motorist, resulting in injuries that included 2
THE ORA IN CONJUNCTION WITH RAINIE’S OLD GIRLS’ CLUB

4TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL SATURDAY MAY 17TH 1924

IN CELEBRATION OF FOUNDER’S DAY

HELD AT HAMILTON HALL LIVERPOOL ST HOTEL

If you had tickets to attend, what a wonderful night you would have had! There is no doubt that the gentlemen would have been in evening suits and the ladies in their finest long evening gowns and dancing shoes clutching their programmes ready to book each dance with their favoured partners.

An elegantly embossed menu and programme tied with dark and light blue ribbons shows for all time the delights in store for the former pupils and honoured guests. “A man seldom thinks with more earnestness of anything than he does of his dinner - Samuel Johnson” was the first of several quotations which acted as aids to digestion listed between the eight courses of the dinner:

1. Hors D’Oeuvres Varies
2. Consomme Versigna. Creme Clamart.
4. Vol au Vent Toulousaine
8. Cafe.

Toasts were made to the King, the pious and immortal memory of Henry Raine, the Presidents of the Association and Club, and lastly to visitors and absent friends.

And if you could still stand after the meal, “Music does all our joys refine, And gives relish to our wine. - John Oldham” there was the dancing to the music of Dover’s Imperial Orchestra. The dances were listed to allow partners to be noted along side each. You could choose from: a Waltz; March; Fox Trot; One Step; Paul Jones and the Blues.

This programme and those for the years 1925-1928 are now held at the Bancroft Library.

Leslie Jensen

broken wrists and a fractured jaw. It has been really difficult being immobile and not being able to eat solids for a few weeks, but he is now unwired and recovering rapidly.

- Joanne Marshall (74-81) is Manager of Environmental and Educational Studies at the Soames Centre. (And not a grave digger, as stated by Elizabeth Simpson!)
- Carla (Marshall) and Fred Stratford are going off to discover the world later this year. Intended stops enroute are Egypt, Thailand, Singapore and various other exotic locations. This is to be sandwiched in between holding down very high powered jobs in the Insurance and Travel Industries.
- Darren Stratford is a cab driver and is getting married later this year.
- Lorraine Copley has now finished extensive renovations on her ‘Stately Home’ in Bexley and one recent visitor noted that it was unrecognisable from their previous visit.
- Sarah Jane (75-82) is a Scientific Officer at Guys Hospital, specialising in anatomical photography. She is getting married in September (Mary McCurry is to be chief bridesmaid) at St Dunstans where she is Parish Clerk. In her spare time Sarah is a Rainbow Guider and Sunday School Teacher.
- Peter Lodemore (74-79) passed his driving test at the tender age of 29. He works for Kent County Council as an HR Management Trainer and has a little boy, Jack, aged 1.
- Wendy Selby (74-81) was an acrobics instructor at the Sanctuary and is now counting time in the accounts department. Married with twin girls, Hope and Megan.
- Barnaby Loades (87-94) is doing a HND in Agriculture at Aberystwyth and attended the reunion with his fiancee, Hannah Metcalfe (86-94) who is at the City and Islington College. Barnaby took leave of absence from his college to attend and must be congratulated for his effort and keenness.
- Apologies were received from:- James Keen (in Spain); Penelope Fairies; John Matthews; Melvyn Mott; John Clark and Bob Brady who are presently in Hong Kong where he is working on a new bridge which must be completed and opened before the colony is handed back to China. If anyone is visiting Hong Kong and wish to contact Bob they can phone him at the following numbers: home 24411743 or work 24919318 ext 29.
- Robert Bowman wrote to send his father’s apologies for not attending. John Bowman, “at the age of a robust 88”, was in hospital at the time after a severe operation and course of treatment.

To quote Robert, “It is generally considered that nocturnal adventures on May 11th will not be considered with approval by his medical mentors and tormentors.”

John’s period at Raines, so long ago, is frequently spoken about with much nostalgia and affection. He sends his thanks for the invitation and, when young again next year, looks forward to the next invitation!

My thanks to Gwyneth Jackson, Elizabeth Simpson, Sue Smith and Sandra Johnson for gathering the news during the Summer Reunion.

Bill Richards
Ann recalls days in old schoolyard

ACTRESS Ann Mitchell has fond memories of her school days in Stepney. The star of the tough TV drama She's Out and Wives was enrolled at Raine's Foundation Grammar School for Girls in Arbou Square, at the age of four, 51 years ago.

Today the building in now a further education college and the present day Raine's School is in Ayrnsuch Road, Bethnal Green.

Last week the Recorder joined Ann for a nostalgic journey back to the old building where she retraced the worn steps from the school yard into the Girls School building, past the canteenroom and the office of the head mistress.

The building has been changed. A large partition that separated the Boys and Girls schools is gone. It weighed one-and-a-half tons and Japanese engineers used to visit Raine's to marvel at its construction. Now only part of the dividing wall in the yard remains.

Ann was amazed to discover the bike sheds still standing - next to a new creche. She spotted some of her old classrooms above what is now the college's learning centre.

She said: "It's a very strange feeling being back here. The building is the same but it's not the same. It's weird."

Ann confessed she never liked school dinners. When the white blew at lunchtime, the last child off in a 20 minute walk home!

She said: "My mum was a very good cook and I realise now all that walking must have kept me healthy."

Ann recalled the teachers were "all excellent and very interesting women."

She said: "Miss Weinstein was very helpful. She gave me elocution lessons in her free time. She is getting on now but I watched all of She's Out and I am going to see her again soon."

Encouraging

Another teacher - Miss Hughes wasn't so encouraging of Ann's ambitions to become an actress. "She told me I would never get anywhere because of my Kenton Cockney accent."

But Ann did get somewhere! She was offered a scholarship with the East 15 Acting School run by the Theatre Royal at Stratford. She has been leading lady with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Award-winning writer Lynda La Plante created the role of Dolly Rawlins in the first series of Widows especially for her.

At the present day Raine's School, a surprise was waiting for Ann. Head teacher Gareth Lewis showed her the admissions register and for the first time she saw the day of her enrolment - May 1 1944.

Ann was delighted and took home a copy of the entry for her mother, who still lives in Mile End.

Her admission to the school at the age of four also came at a very difficult time. Her mother Raine's had only taken 11 to 16 year-olds and he had not known there was an infants' school in those days.

Admission

Ann's admission entry shows a fee paid by her mother. She explained: "My mum had to pay to send me to Raine's until the Labour Government got in after the war."

The school opened in 1919. A host of the school's benefactors Henry Raine - a wealthy brewer from Wapping - was taken from the old building to the Bethnal Green premises. After leaving Raine's in 1926, Ann worked in hospital kitchens, as a nurse, and in a library before studying languages, getting married and having a baby.

She was 21 when she got her scholarship with the East 15 Acting School, and the rest is history.

WORDS: CATHERINE HOWARD PICTURES: STEVE POSTON