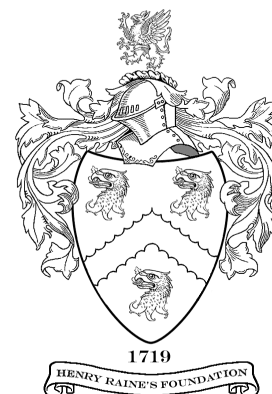


Old Raineians' Association

NEWSLETTER

E-mail: admin@rainesoc.com



Raine's Foundation School
Approach Road
Bethnal Green
London
E2 9LY
Tel: 020 8981 1231
Fax: 020 8983 0153

Alan & Sandra Johnson
9 Goddington Lane
Orpington
Kent
BR6 9DR
Tel: 01689 826854
Fax: 01689 873115

Tony Fuller
81 Rosewood Avenue
Elm Park
Essex
RM12 5LD
Tel: 01708 473821

Bill Richards
26 Shandy Street
Stepney
London
E1 4LX
Tel: 020 7790 9235

Gwynneth Jackson
Glevum
Kirkby Malzeard
Nr Ripon
North Yorks
HG4 3RS
Tel: 01765 658825

MAY 2001

As I finish producing this edition of the Newsletter, the sun is shining and all the signs are that we are going to have the summer we are wishing for. When the Newsletter reaches you I hope we still have the fine weather and that it stays around for the B-B-Q on the 30 June. Enclosed is an application form, if you missed it first time around, so please do try to come as last year was an enjoyable event.

As ever the news and memories are

member some of the names mentioned in your letter and have extremely happy memories of school life.

One of my first recollections of Raine's school in 1950 was pride in the transformation caused by wearing the smart school uniform with distinctive badge and school cap complete with house colour band on the back (mine being yellow for Winterton House). The second was the semi-detached girls Grammar school next to us (totally forbidden terri-

when he visited every classroom to discuss winter or summer school reports very publicly and individually with all the concerned quivering 'victims'. In 1955, Dr Shutt left the school and his post was deputised by Mr Luton.

In 1950, our first contact with academia was through our 'Form Master' and English teacher Mr Butterfield. He was a stern but extremely able staff member (I believe he was a Yorkshireman). Regardless of ability, everyone had their sideburns 'tweaked' at some time or other, either for attention lapse or minor to gross errors in their class work! Mr Butterfield had a cast iron exterior but occasionally, he would allow his fine sense of humour to shine through.

We were amused and impressed by our woodwork and technical drawing teacher, 'Charlie' Nay, who instructed us in the art of making table lamps and watch-stands. To this very day, I can still hear him shouting, "A place for everything and everything in its place", concerning tool order in our individual woodworking tool cupboards! (Lessons which I wished I had applied later in life to various garages in various houses over the years!)

Although being keen to come to grips with the French language, this was always countered by the fear of getting a blue cross for error in homework which earned 'one on the rear drum' with the slipper from our French teacher ('Donny' Lyons).

Although I can't recall his name, I remember the PE instructor's desire to make us Olympian hurdlers. I felt we were doomed to forever practice hurdle racing in the gym to the exclusion of all else (although it probably wasn't quite as bad as that!). This same instructor organised

Summer B-B-Q and Family Day

Saturday 30 June 2001

3.00pm onwards

Raine's Foundation School
Approach Road, Bethnal Green

Adults £3.00, Children £1.50

varied and if they strike a chord with you please do write and tell us by post, fax or e-mail. If you have an e-mail please let us know so we can send the Newsletter as an attachment. This method not only saves the Association money but also valuable time involved in folding, stamping, etc.

NEW MEMBERS

Arnold Coffey (50-55) was surprised to receive my letter 46 years after leaving school (*better late than never!* - ed.).

"The memory has become dim on the names of many classmates but I do re-

tory) and the understanding of 'iron curtains' between the two schools!

However, all of this would have to come second to the powerful image of our Headmaster, Dr Gerald Shutt who had left the quieter pastures of Surrey (Whitgift School) to take over an east London Grammar. To an 11 year old, Dr Shutt appeared a giant of a man (well over 6½ feet in height) and a very formidable character, being on the one hand very fair and reasonable in his Headmastership but coupling this with a firm disciplinarian approach to school life. Hopefully, one only ever saw Dr Shutt twice per year

TONY'S CURRENT'S

This is a new feature for the Newsletter in which I hope to bring you up to date with activities currently going on in the school:

Basketball

Three teams made it to the regional play-offs for the national last 16 stage, or directly through to the national phase in the under 16, under 15 and under 14 sections.

The U16s beat: Bow Boys 67-48; The Archbishop Lanfranc School, Croydon 98-45; Gravesend Grammar School for Boys 80-60.

In the last 16 competition the results were: Newsome High School 83-55; Bohunt Community School, Liphook 63-77; Great Baddow, Chelmsford 72-58.

In the final Raine's beat Blue Coat School, Merseyside 58-52.

Raine's team: Toby Oyeninde, Joshua Oladimeji, Adrian Pettigrew, Richard Pettigrew, Liam Johnson, Alroy Burke, Ashley James, Owen Holness, Adeola Akim, Gary Wallace and Okigbo Ikenga.

The U15s beat: Trinity School, Belvedere 87-38; Tasis England, Egham 67-40; Gravesend 86-35.

In the last 16 competition the team managed to reach the final but were beaten 'at the final hurdle'.

The U14s beat: Cornwallis School, Maidstone 92-22; Archbishop Lanfranc 86-20; Bow Boys 97-39 but, as with the U15s, they were beaten in the final.

The standard of play by all three teams was very high with some members of the U14 team playing in higher age range teams, whilst still maintaining a high standard, despite the age handicap. Two boys in particular, Adrian Pettigrew and Joshua Oladimeji, stood out as good team players.

Adrian not only excels at basketball but is also on the books for Chelsea football club and holds the English record for the U13 high jump clearing 1.70m and has since improved to 1.82m. He has also managed 11.2s over 80m hurdles.

Joshua has covered 200m in 24.2s, has been picked as a trialist for the English developmental team and plays for the East London Royals Basketball Club. More detailed reports of the basketball matches can be found at www.schoolsnet.com then click on sport then basketball.

Rugby (By Justin Childs member of the PE department)

"This has been a season of success for Raine's with the re-introduction of rugby into the lower school. They started the season slowly with a narrow defeat against Eastbury in Barking but have gone from strength to strength, ending the season with 8 wins, 2 defeats and 1 draw. This success has been clearly recognized with seven of boys being selected to represent the borough in the Tower Hamlets squad. The enthusiasm for the sport has also grown with over twenty-five boys training every weekend

down at Victoria Park along side Bow Boys.

During February half-term Raine's were invited to the Wasps training ground for trials to a RFU sevens squad coached by the Wasps and ex-Samoan player Trevor Leota. Out of the fifteen schools, which sent teams, five Raine's boys were chosen for a ten-man squad. Although the team was not very successful in the competition the experience and knowledge they gained was invaluable. This was clearly visible in our last match of the season against Bow Boys in which Raine's dominated the game and the score line (W42-12). With the season coming to an end we are already looking ahead at next years season with the school entered into the Daily Mail Cup and the new borough league."

We have just heard that 7 of the boys have been chosen to train with the Barbarians in the near future - ed.

Girls' and boys' PE are no longer two separate departments but are taught together sometimes in mixed classes. Who remembers the days when only Humph Long and Anne Lowes seemed to be the only two full-time PE teachers, with several others 'volunteering' (roped in more like it!) to help with afternoon PE lessons. It is now taught as a GCSE and is an examinable subject, consequently the department has expanded to four full-time teachers.

Although there is a lack of information on the girls' achievements this, I hope, will be rectified in the next Newsletter as Laura Warburton, who is responsible for girls' PE, has said she will write some items about the girls' accomplishments. There is a girls' football team and there are athletic competitions coming up so hopefully there will be some news from these events.

Other news

Again Sev Herbert has put on another drama production, called The Passion, which involved tying somebody to a cross!! (Things certainly have changed over the years - I think he dropped some litter!!).

Various parts of the school have undergone major repairs: the roof over the music room, at the lower school, has been repaired; a mezzanine floor put into the upper school art room so that 6th formers (now years 12 and 13) can display their work; rooms adapted, also at the upper school, for music practice. Hopefully the science labs at the lower school will be completely revamped during the summer holidays.

Recently, at both sites, picnic benches have been put into the playgrounds, just in time for our B-B-Q on 30 June. These were bought with money that the pupils had raised in a sponsored walk, the money divided between the school and the London Chest Hospital, the upper school's 'neighbour'.

I hope in future there will be more to report on, such as dates of school plays in case anyone wishes to see them.

Tony Groves

our swimming period at a local bath for first thing Monday mornings. Being then a puny non-swimmer, I would make every effort not to enter the pool (whose only source of heat appeared to radiate from a single candle power!) on cold, frosty mornings. Placing a large sticking plaster on leg or arm and pleading 'infection' often avoided the cold plunge into icy wa-

ters! I remember the thrill when I eventually climbed into the pool and swam my very first ever length with my classmates generously cheering me on!

We had a Belgian chemistry teacher, Monsieur Lambert for the first two school years. M. Lambert had a finger injury which was rumoured to have occurred during the last war when he was interro-

gated by the Gestapo and refused to divulge important secret information; well, that was the story we liked to believe! M. Lambert produced a very impressive demonstration on one occasion during a chemistry practical where he had set up apparatus producing hydrogen gas on one side of a bench and oxygen on the other. The objective was to show that combus-

tion of hydrogen and oxygen together produced water. He carefully aligned the hydrogen and oxygen outlet tubes together and applied a lighted match to ignite the gases. The flame burned for a few seconds, water droplets condensed and were collected as combustion products when, suddenly, a tremendous explosion occurred. This demolished the entire apparatus and covered those of us in the front row and beyond with various component parts of the experiment. We were very impressed with this and with the patchy green dye effect in our hair which persisted for a few weeks after the event!

Other memories are of Mr Mardell who took a great deal of trouble after school hours with a small group of hopeless mathematicians (including yours truly then). I can still remember the joy of at last actually being capable of solving quadratic equations!

Mr Aldrich guided us through poetry reading and other areas of literature while 'Nobby' Clarke's good humour and sense of fun encouraged us in music appreciation, particularly in the contexts of classical music and the life and times of great composers. I believe Mr Clarke composed the school anthem.

We eventually acquired another superb chemistry teacher (and Form Master), Mr Dobson, who was an excellent tennis coach and was able to improve my service and backhand skills. Mr Shadbolt was a dedicated geography (also possibly history?) teacher and we were always delighted when he occasionally revealed a glimpse of his wartime experiences in the army. Other memories are of wet and muddy winter cross-country running around the old airfield at Fairlop in Essex and muddy rugby practices on Wednesday sports afternoons at New Eltham; the high point of the athletics year being Sports Day at a Leyton venue.

School outings appeared to be few and far between although I do recall being taken to see the 'Climbing of Everest' film at a Stepney Green ABC cinema. In 1954, we were whisked along to the docks area of the Thames to wave at the Queen and Prince Phillip who were returning home up the Thames on Britannia following a post-coronation tour.

Apart from the passage of time eroding memory of teachers' names, the most annoying lapse of memory is in the area of classmate names, I now remember very few of them. We were impressed with the

exploits of one boy (was it Arthur Bloomfield?) who gave chase and brought down a man who had just stolen a ration book from a lady, using a splendid rugby tackle to retrieve the ration book.

Julius Lambert was adept at packing the rear of his trousers with 'insulation' to avoid adverse effects from any deserved slipper punishment. I also remember a lad (Hadley) with high ability in maths and physics who was determined to become an astronomer and I have often wondered

research appointment specialising in hormonal control of breast cancer at the research institute of a major national cancer charity. This proved to be an exhilarating experience, allowing me to participate with many international scientific collaborators. After a successful and rewarding period of innovative research, I was appointed Head of my own cancer research unit where work horizons expanded to include mechanisms of control and novel therapies in lung cancer and

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

Those who turned up for the evening had an enjoyable time (see photos on page 10). Claire Burrows laid on a sumptuous spread of cheeses, breads, savouries and fruits, and there was plenty of wine, beer and soft drinks to keep everyone happy. Display boards with photographs of past events (shown also on our website) brought back happy memories, as did the photograph albums and numerous past newsletters. Thanks to those who donated the raffle prizes and who bought tickets.

It was particularly nice to meet David Spencer after reading so much about him over the years in the Newsletter and hopefully we will see a lot more of him now he is to be based back in the UK.

Many of the regulars were there giving their usual support so many thanks to them for making it such an enjoyable evening.

Thanks also to Jane Gale and Samantha Wilcox for coming along. They enjoyed themselves and promised to round up some of their contemporaries for the next 'do'. (So start ringing around girls for the BBQ!).

Thanks particularly to Claire Burrows and her family who were kept busy all evening, Stephen taking charge of the bar, Emily helping with the food, new baby Isabelle giving out cuddles, and her mother-in-law helping where needed.

For those who were not there - You missed a good evening!

Sandra Johnson

whether he reached that objective.

I left the school in the summer of 1955 having achieved a most unimpressive GCE result, believing time spent on aeromodelling and reading science fiction was preferable to studying the curriculum for the exams! Fortunately for me, this attitude was rapidly reversed within 6 months of leaving school, undoubtedly as a result of the 'Raine's inheritance'!

Having reformed my outlook, put my nose more heavily to the academic grindstone, and previously completed a compulsory commitment (by invitation!) to the Royal Air Force (attended Air Navigation and Control School), and obtained the relevant 'pieces of paper', I entered the exciting field of new drug development after joining an international American pharmaceutical company. This was eventually followed by a period of work and postgraduate research on human drug metabolism at the London Hospital Medical College (now the Royal London).

In 1973, I was fortunate to be offered a

topics related to disease spread (metastasis). The 27 years spent in cancer research could not have provided me with more job satisfaction!

In the summer of last year, I requested retirement (just 4 years early) so that I/we could develop entirely different aspects of life away from professional commitments which had been so totally absorbing (including the daily 50 mile commute each way to London from Hampshire), although I am still able to participate when required as a specialist consultant.

I married Linda (we met at College) in 1962 and we have three children (all boys). The eldest is tenured Associate Professor in Pulmonary Diseases at the Academic Hospital in Utrecht; middle son (a qualified Geologist) an IT Manager and youngest son is a computer whiz-kid and graduate Software Engineer.

We had lived in Hampshire for 25 years before moving to our new home, recently built in Dorset last year and just a mile from the coast. While I hope to

maintain some professional contacts, retirement leisure time will now be spent travelling, improving on French language (conversation), attending sailing school and completing my current training course to qualify as an Adviser with the town's Citizens Advice Bureau. Along with this, I am about to come to grips with controlling a large radio-controlled model aeroplane!!"

- **Roy Dole (49-54)** memories included two similar to those mentioned by Arnold Coffer.

"My memories are: (1) Nobby Clarke, my form master, a very kindly and helpful man; (2) Our Headmaster, Gerald Shutt, who appeared to be at least 8ft tall, with a voice like thunder; (3) PT which served me well in the armed forces.

If only schools like Raine's existed today, we would have no education problems."

- **Zane Grant (49-54)** said it was nice to hear from us as he thought we were no longer in existence. He remembers "Wallie Spooner as our form teacher and Mr Butterworth, who came into our class room for the first time and slammed a slipper on the desk. He soon had our attention! I remember a trip to France and seeing the France v England rugby match. I may have some photos of this. (*Any chance of getting some copies done? - ed.*)

- **David Grout (72-78)** was another surprised to see that the Association is still running and "also to see some names of former fellow pupils that bring back great memories."

"My early memories of school are the first few days and my first form teacher, Fernley Copping. In class 1F I recall that he would always remind us of passages from the Bible and if a child, or the whole class, had misbehaved he would call us "sinners".

As I was a fairly sporty child I remember our PE teacher, Humphrey Long - a big, happy man with shiny bald head! (*Some things never change - ed.*)

I also remember a physics teacher (Italian I think) called Dr Ciocci, 5ft nothing, who used to race round the class room like a whirlwind and Mr Reffold (French) who liked to put the fear of God into everybody.

I still have a school photo from 1978 and I look at occasionally to see how many faces and names I can remember.

I left school and went to work in the City as a Marine Insurance broker in Lloyds of London. I left the insurance world (after nine years) and then worked for Nat West Bank for five years. I have been a Licensed Taxi Driver since 1993.

I am married with two children aged 13 and 11."

- **Edward (John) Lyes (49-54)** replied in two parts.

"After leaving the school I went first to Meredith and Drew in the Highway and then British Drug House in City Road as a laboratory assistant. During this time I was given day release and together with evening classes this allowed me to add to my GCEs. I ended up with A level Botany, Zoology and Chemistry. This enabled me to leave full-time work and enrol onto the BSc Sp Zoo degree course at Sir John Cass College and I graduated in 1962 with 2:2 Hons.

From here I went to Forest Hill

My main interests are the family; genealogy; gardening and DIY."

After John joined I sent him January's Newsletter which triggered some memories.

"Well, the one name that stood out was Wallie Spooner. Undoubtedly the most liked member of staff at the school while my cohort was there. For the last couple of years he was not only my geography but also my form master (4b and 5b), in a room at the corner of the balcony and one of the class rooms on the roof. This latter room had, for a short time, one great advantage - we could see into the girls' class room. This was accomplished through a series of fanlight windows which were almost a floor level, whereas we had to climb a few stairs to our form room. The prized desk in the form room was the one nearest to the door. This allowed, when the door was propped open during hot weather, glances, signals, etc., to the girls in the classes below. Obviously we were too much for the delicate young ladies because, when we came back after one weekend all the windows had been painted over! So no more trysts.

But back to Wallie. He took over from our former form master who I think was Mr Mirrnaigne (?), who left to go on to greater things. Or maybe we just wore him out. Looking back we must have been quite a handful. I can recall, after a particularly fractious period, Wallie addressing us

after lunch in a very strong manner. For him this was unusual. The phrase he used, which I can still recall, was "I know your b***s are getting hair on but...." You can appreciate that being spoken to in this manner by a teacher really pinned our ears back. I don't recall what else was said during the address, but the opening phrase certainly made an impression on all of us.

Wallie also took us for rugby which meant the lengthy trek to the underground station and the long journey to Fairlop.

One year Wallie organised a school journey to the Isle of Arran at Easter. If my memory serves me correctly this was the first one organised while I was there. A great time! Overnight coach trip and then the ferry across to the island followed by a weeks walking.

The other members of staff I recall were: Miss Ringer (biology).

Mr Butterfield (English), who came back after one Christmas break with a new



School, as an assistant master, to teach biology, eventually being promoted to being in charge of the biology section. I then moved to Norwood Technical College in 1968, followed by South London College and Lambeth College, which I left in 1989. During this period the teaching was mainly biological A levels initially but moved on to courses for day release students studying at the college. In my last years I was almost fully occupied on City & Guilds Horticulture courses. Together with this teaching programme, obtaining promotion to Principal Lecturer, I was overall in charge of the administration of the biology, chemistry and horticulture sections of the college.

Leaving full-time teaching in 1989 I spent a few years helping with special needs at a local boys school until finally retiring in 1999. I married Pat in 1962 with Allan being born in 1970 and Liz in 1974, both of whom have now 'flown the nest'.

briefcase on which were the initials FB in gold - very apposite!

Dusty Traille (PE) who was astonished, when he arrived, that there was very little equipment. So he set about making some. A set of hurdles knocked up in Mr Nash's woodwork shop. These were used extensively in the PE lessons.

Dr Lambert (chemistry) who took us in hand in the 4th form and was a very good teacher and much respected. A Belgian I think and again he bought quite a bit of chemical apparatus for the school.

He took over from Mr Dobson who had been taking us for chemistry, but who also took us for tennis during the sports afternoon - but I can't remember where.

There was a maths teacher, Mr Swain, who taught the top form. We were always very grateful that we didn't have him. All his classes started with ten mental arithmetic questions, followed by immediate marking. For each wrong answer, straight to the front for one from the slipper!!

The Head when I was there was Dr Shutt, a very tall, gaunt looking gentleman who went in for public flogging on the hall stage in front of the assembled school. This was in the 1950s and him a JP - so much for justice! He left just after we did.

I recall the last Prize Day when we went back to get our O level certificates. One of the results announced was a degree in geography obtained by Wallie Spooner. He had been attending evening classes after doing a full-time teaching job. When the announcement was made there was thunderous applause from all the boys present. Poor old Dr Shutt was quite taken aback by it - one could almost say astonished - by the depth and magnitude of the goodwill, etc., that the boys felt for Wallie. They certainly felt none for him.

I have tried to put together a class list, but this is as far as I can get with my failing memory: Patrick Castles, Michael Robinson, Alan Spencer, Keith Lardner, Brian Newburry, Terry Tyler, Chris Russell, 'Willy' Waterman, Ronald Lee, Frank Katz, Richard Blacker, Alan Jacobs, Clive Milligan, Robert Lewis, Brian Evans, George Nicholls, Brian Harris, Stanley Robinson, Royce Young. There are more but at the moment I can't recall them.

The other memory in the Newsletter that I also share is Jacobs sweet shop in Commercial Road. This was a regular lunch time stop for goodies especially once rationing ended and we didn't need the coupons any more. Oh! those bad old

days."

• **Gillian Mantle (Armstrong, 58-65)** joined after her address was passed to me by Kaye Saunders (see further on in this section).

"Kaye Saunders (Prince) told me that you had contacted her, and I'm so glad she gave you my name. Receiving the latest Old Raineians' newsletter was a wonderful surprise, especially since it included a letter from Angela Blaydon (Fisher) one of my contemporaries. I have never been interested in joining old girls' associations - being content to leave the past where it was, but I suppose one must reach a 'certain age' when one begins to mourn for one's youth, and I seem to have reached it!

I immediately dug out my old schoolgirl diaries, which cover my last three years at Raine's. Spending several hours reading through them has unleashed a million memories, even though I don't seem to have said very much about what went on in class, except to complain frequently about the amount of homework and the unfairness of various exams. I do record the occasion of a general science class taken by Miss Raines, on the subject of eclipses, where her moon kept dropping off its string and the sun kept blowing out. Miss Braitch (music) features often, largely because I was her form prefect for a while and the choir seems to have been always practising for something, usually in my free periods.

Most of my time as a prefect appears to have been spent collecting names of late comers and chasing people outside at break time - both of which I mention frequently. I also spent a lot of time with various boys in the park and walking to Stepney Green station with them after school. After the schools became co-educational, in my last year, there is even more mention of boys. There were frequent invitations to and from the sixth form boys for coffee (and even once or twice to the pub) and we were always the ones left with the washing up!

Strangely, names I haven't thought about since leaving school have suddenly come flooding back. What amazes me even more is that surnames keep coming back too. Jane Cooper, who was head girl, Sandra Briden, Sharon Samuels, Valerie Woods, Frances Daniels are only a few.

And teachers. Wasn't it said in an advertisement recently that you always remember a good teacher? I was sorry to

hear of the death of Miss Miller. I wasn't a star pupil in French, but she taught us thoroughly, and I think my French is better than my children's, even now.

Miss Munn's death was also mentioned. To her I owe a lifelong enjoyment of Scottish dancing - though I didn't enjoy Wednesday afternoon hockey at Fairlop. I prayed regularly for rain. Miss Turner was responsible for revealing to me the pleasure of Shakespeare, and Miss Bailey. Latin may not be a fashionable subject now but I am grateful almost daily that I had the chance to study it.

When I left school, I went on with Maggie Griffiths to do nurse training, up the road at the London Hospital, where she married the Church Army captain she had known since school days, and I met and married a Scottish theology student. This will come as little surprise to the first formers who used to ask me if I was going to be a nun, after my frequent involvement in House and School prayers.

We spent several years in Scotland in various parishes and chaplaincies before coming back to England, finally ending up in Brighton for the time being. John commutes almost daily to London, where he is involved in the induction and training of bishops. I have stayed in nursing.

After midwifery training in Edinburgh, and having two of our own, I am now a specialist practitioner in general practice nursing. Our daughter is now 22. After finishing her degree in philosophy at Stoke-on-Trent, (strangely, at the same time that Kaye Prince's son Matthew was there too) she has just returned after a year travelling the world. It has been a tremendous benefit to her in many ways and I am really envious, I feel my generation has really missed out there. Now she is enjoying life in the big city, working temporarily at the Natural History Museum until something permanent comes along.

Our son is 18 and facing those awful A levels this year, before hopefully going on to a BSc in computer science. I have thoroughly enjoyed digging up all these memories, and I hope they may stir up a few more in other people. I shall forward news about the Old Raineians to one or two others I am still in contact with- maybe they will soon be in touch too."

• **Gillian McDonough (Curtis, 59-65)** was the first to join via our website having printed the application form and posted it to me.

• **Joyce Medley (Pilgrim, 45-50)** was one whose address was given to me by Norman Holland.

“After school I worked in Hackney Libraries for 11 years and a further 10 years for Stepney Library Service. I moved to Newbury Park 1969.

I meet two of my class mates twice a year, Audrey True (Marshall) and Dorothy Varley (Livermore). Unfortunately another friend, Maureen Carter (Cassidy) died in 1998. We used to go to St Peters Youth Club in Wapping and remember the boy and girl statues very well.

Some other girls who were at Raine’s at the same time were Mary Bevan, Sylvia Meader, Sheila Gamble, Maureen Jacques, Angela Cohen and Ann Groves.

I was most surprised to receive the Newsletter as I was under the impression that Raine’s no longer existed let alone the Association.”

• **Frank Pegler (50-55)** was pleased to join the Association.

“I met up with Tom Cornell some time ago through business and I guess he passed on my details. I am not sure about the names of others you mentioned but Biggs and Walton ring a bell. Anyway keep the Newsletters coming and I will attend the next function.

At Christmas I took early retirement but I am still active as a consultant. I can even claim to be a student now as I am on Havering College computer course which keeps me out of mischief two days a week.

Sorry I don’t really have much to pass on for your Newsletter. I guess I can claim to have had a reasonable career. After National Service I worked in the City for Ellerman Lines and upon being taken over by Andrew Weir, I met up with Tom and we found ourselves working for about the only shipping line left in the City. In fact AWS is the largest Container Line in the British Fleet after P&O.

During my time I have worked a lot overseas being Chairman of Companies in Sweden and Portugal. I am still a Director of a subsidiary of AWS. Rememberin the times and let’s face it the 50s were tough, Raine’s did give me a start, and one regret is that my early married life had to be spent with little money and trying to get started after National Service was not easy.

Well, we celebrated our Ruby Wedding in 1999. My wife Beryl and I have one daughter who is a top city lawyer having gone to the rival school of Coopers

after they moved out to Upminster. My sister also went to Raines but she is not very well.

I saw in the Daily Telegraph last week the Raynes School of Bow still has a Rugby Team...any connection or do they have my problem of spelling? *(Yes is the answer in both cases and it happens quite often I am afraid - ed.)*

The name Arnold Coffe*(see earlier - ed.)* is well known to myself and my wife as, although we lost track after leaving school, Arnold was in the same junior class before Raine’s as my wife. In fact he would have known her family in Bow as he lived near them. I may have known Dennis Schaffer but memories fade.”

• **Kaye Saunders (Prince, 58-65)** was another of my “married ladies” *(see page*

only fifteen stops on the Underground and the other side of London! I was up at the crack of dawn to catch the 7.20 a.m. from Latimer Road to Mile End *(no school runs in those days, thankfully - ed.)*. Life improved the following year when the family moved to Newbury Park and I managed an extra 10 minutes in bed.

The school building, in Arbour Square, was quite impressive, with the little statues on either side over the gates. Inside I remember up to the fifth floor, then down to the first, then up to the fourth, for lessons - a real fitness regime, probably to make up for the minute playground. Of course we didn’t miss out on games, playing netball at Shadwell, down by the river. I presume this is a very upmarket, developed area now *(well the prices are upmarket - ed.)*. At that time it was a walk

BBQ REMINDER

We will be running some stalls at the BBQ and would like to know if anyone has any suggestions on which type of stalls would be popular. We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to use one of the stalls to sell their own handicrafts, plants, etc.

The Family BBQ is for everyone, so bring your parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, children and even your friends. It's a great opportunity to have a get-together in a relaxed setting with something for young and old! The School has a covered area outside, so come whatever the weather.

When sending your application for tickets (and please do that now so that we can get numbers for the catering), please state whether girls or boys when ordering children's places and put their age so that we have the right sort of gifts in the lucky dip.

We also need some volunteers to man the BBQ, and any donations of raffle prizes would be gratefully accepted.

Please, please come along. Last year was very successful and those who attended had a great time, so get those applications off as soon as possible!

Sandra Johnson

5, January 2001 Newsletter - ed.)

“My thanks for your research into tracking me down.

‘Being a post-war boom-baby was always going to present problems’ - so they said. Hence when I passed the 11+, finding a suitable school was not easy. My parents rejected the offer of a place at the new 1000 pupil Comprehensive at Notting Hill. They chose Raine’s Foundation Grammar School for Girls, in Stepney -

through tenement blocks and rag-trade factories.

The weekly games afternoon was held at Fairlop, where we played hockey and tennis, in all weathers, including the ‘can’t see the ball’ smogs of that era.

I also remember the folding wooden and glass screen across the main school hall, separating the girls from the boys, until the great amalgamation in 1964. I have several newspaper cuttings concern-

EILEEN MUNN

Eileen Munn, was a small person with enormous energy and end enthusiasm. I am sure she inspired many girls to excel or at least do their best in whatever activity they engaged. Her own exemplary determination to win was passed on to our school teams who, I remember did very well under her coaching. Who could forget her going like the clappers on the last leg of the swimming matches between the staff and the VI form in the annual galas?

She entered with enthusiasm into all the school activities including Sunday afternoon 'connoisseur' outings; theatre trips; YHA; backpacking holidays and the fortnight in Sistrans with the highlight of the Oberammergau Passion Play.

Also, who remembers the hind legs of the camel in the staff's surprising 'Aladdin'. Eileen was indeed a fun-loving person who had a great affection for her pupils and a deep, serious understanding of life.

Joy Turner
English Department - Girls' School

ing this. No doubt my parents protested along with many others, but it did give us the chance to do woodwork in the 6th form and we had some fairly interesting discussions in Current Affairs.

On leaving school I trained to be an Occupational Therapist and have worked for several years, both with psychiatric and elderly patients. Nowadays life revolves around caring for my own elderlies and helping run the family farm.

I have been married to Brian for 7 years and we have an arable farm in the heart of Northampton - very different from my early days in London. I enjoy all aspects of home life in the country, walking the dogs, gardening, sewing, playing the piano, trying to keep my two (fairly grown-up children) in tow.

I believe life is a continual learning process, so at Raine's I must have made a start in "learning to do my duty to God and Man"; only time will tell if I got it right."

• **Dennis Schaffer (50-54)** joined after receiving the 1950 mail shot.

"I am the same person who attended Raine's all those years ago, another world away, in fact. When I left school I worked as a trainee pastry cook (my uncle's bakery) for a short time and then in a handbag factory. From there I became a tailor's cutter until I went into the army for National Service (I told you it was a different world). When I left the army I became a taxi driver (black cab) which I still do 40 year on.

My form master was Mr Butterfield, who also taught us English and emphasised the verbs by hitting a pupil on the back of the head five or six times, telling the class that each hit was the verb (a doing

word). The PE teacher was 'Dusty' Traillie who told us constantly that we were all gutter snipes. Try to get away with that today. Mr Broughton was a big Welshman who took us for rugby.

Then there was Dr Lambert who was Belgian I believe. A very strict man always angry with us for no reason. Anyway he was a science teacher and in one lesson he was showing us an experiment which suddenly exploded in his face. Although shocked he was unhurt. This made him even angrier, trying to blame us for doing the experiment wrong when we were just sitting at our desks watching. Oh happy days."

• **Audrey True (Marshall, 45-51)** was another of Norman Holland's contacts.

"I sometimes think it was a miracle I ever got to Raine's at all. Leaving Shadwell, London during the 'doodlebug' days my brother and I were sent to Yorkshire to stay with grandparents. During this time my father arranged for the scholarship papers to be sent to Leeds (how, during wartime, with all the red tape involved I'll never know). Consequently I remember being taken to Leeds University and sitting the scholarship alone in a vast hall with just the invigilator keeping a beady eye on me. I shall always be grateful to my father for this.

In September 1945, Arbour Square seemed magnificent to us war kids, although very few facilities were available. We were bussed to playing fields in Brentwood - a very slow journey in those days. There was also a bus journey every week for cookery lessons at Fairclough Street School, near Aldgate, where I can remember being taught to make pancakes

and iron a shirt.

Things changed a lot during my six years at the school. Our year was the last to sit the old 'school certificate with exemption from matriculation', where you had to have five credits in certain subjects including maths English and one foreign language with passes in at least two others to get your 'matric'. Quite a tall order but most of us succeeded.

The house system in the girls' school was originated amidst much excitement and discussion.

Four of us who were great friends at school, Joyce Pilgrim, Dot Livermore and Maureen Cassidy have held our own twice yearly reunion with some other old friends of those days. Sadly, Maureen died of cancer three years ago and is very much missed.

I can remember a number of the girls in our form who it would be lovely to hear about. They are: Sheila Gamble, Sylvia Meader, Betty Halser, Lily Fassensfelt, Jean Fredericks, Doris Slack, Ettie Crowe, Angela Cohen, Evelyn Berger, Mary Bevan, Beryl Eddison and so on."

• **Dorothy Varley (Livermore, 45-51)** was the last of Norman Holland's contacts.

"My first year at Raine's began in September 1945 at age 10. I was too young to have taken the scholarship and entered through an entrance exam. When my original class took the matric I was again too young, at 15 and had to stay on in Upper 5A for the year 1950-51 to take the first year of O levels.

On leaving school I went to Pitman's College in Southampton Row for a year studying shorthand typing, book keeping, etc. I then worked for a firm of Chartered accountants in the city until April 1962 when I married and moved to Rochford in Essex.

After having a family, I returned to work in 1972 working part-time in the Treasurer's Department of Southend Borough Council. I retired last year.

I regularly meet up twice a year in London with friends of years ago. Two of them went to Raine's, Joyce Medley (Pilgrim) and Audrey True (Marshall). Some other names I remember but have no idea of their whereabouts are Anne Groves, Angela Cohen, Ettie Crowe and Mary Bevan. My cousin, Robert Coombes (1942-47 I believe) went to Raine's Boys School but sadly is now deceased.

Some teachers names I remember are:

Miss Foot (geography); Miss Grafton (French); Miss Kennerley (PE); Mrs Weingarten (history); Miss Whitehead and Miss Haugh (Headmistress)."

- Jack Godfrey (54-60)
- Steven Isitt (75-81)
- Geoffrey Petto (64-70)
- Michael Rasser (49-54)

OTHER NEWS – 1

From Gwynneth Jackson

Richard Tillbrook had visited John and Julie Chappell and Tony and Maria Mole. I hear that Maria has been leaving home at the crack of dawn for her teaching job, owing to the traffic problems caused by the closure of Richmond Park during the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

• Bob and Frances Simmonds, living near Cambridge have a daughter at Durham University (having spent a gap year house building for a voluntary organisation in Fiji) and a son now in the Lower 6th who spent part of last summer in Australia playing in an International Hockey competition in the Olympic Stadium.

• Colin Nice (Maths Dept) has a son at Southampton University, (where Colin studied) and a daughter at Gravesend Girls' Grammar, where Mike Holmes (Geography Dept) is Senior Teacher. Mike, who met Colin at a school concert, has 2 sons and he and family also keep in touch with Janis Fuller and Graham Willett.

• When I came south for the November Reunion, I stayed with friends in East Horsley, and reading through the Village magazine, found an article on the local bird population (feathered variety) written by Roger Beck (Languages Dept). Do any of those who were on the hostelling trips remember Roger and Alan Barnes con-

vincing some members of the group that a sparrow was a baby pigeon?

- We hope Robert and Jackie Connolly have a better 2001 than 2000.
- Gerry Calvert is still in Forest Hill; do come along to a reunion, Gerry, folk always ask about you!
- John Blundell is as busy as ever, artistically, and in his local Community.

• Margaret Paish is enjoying having two grandchildren, but found time for holidays in Jordan, Florida and Italy last year. She had been visited by a former Raines member of staff, and had been to Fountains Abbey, but, unfortunately not when I was on a warden duty.

• Jack Lowe almost got to the last re-

• Ching Fun Wong (Lee) spent Christmas in Hong Kong, visiting relatives with her husband and 2 young sons. Her sister Grace lives in Reading and has a young son.

• Melanie and Peter Corrigan had enjoyed the reunion, but were sorry not to see Iris Lyddon there. Iris visited me in early March and experienced the restrictions and precautions in force in the Foot and Mouth crisis.

• Barry Jones (History Dept) went to the talk given by Tony Fuller at the Ragged School Museum and found it very interesting. He was pleased to see John Blundell there.

• Zippy Auerbach always keeps in touch and she still teaches in Watford.

• Debra Reid (Harvey) has a busy time with her 3 young sons.

OLD RAINEIANS' COMMITTEE

We are looking for new members to join the committee. Meetings are held every other month, near Trafalgar Square, where future events are discussed and planned, etc.

The committee are always looking for ways to improve the Association. Therefore, if you feel you would like to add your voice and ideas to these meetings why not join? I am sure that there are a number of you out there with thoughts of how the Old Raineians' Association should be run. This is your chance to show us!

If any of you are interested please contact one of us listed on the front page.

• Frankie Henry (Music Dept) still teaches cello at Raines and must now be the longest serving member of the music department. I also hear from Sue Bishop, who taught clarinet for many years.

• Lynn Dawson (Bryant) is expecting a second child, whilst sister Pat is a doting aunt.

• Anita Merker (Smith) lives near Basingstoke, her family is grown up now, so she says she and her husband may go skiing!

union, but for a last-minute business commitment. He is now working in the coinage division of his Canadian Company which he describes as an "eye-opener".

• Alan Russell (Languages Dept) was very sorry to hear of Basil Dowling's death, which he had read about in a New Zealand Tourist Board News-sheet, sent to him by his brother who lives 'down-under'.

• Viv and Rosalind Nicholas are now both enjoying retirement, (who doesn't?) and planning to spend time sailing, skiing and travelling. Viv is also keeping a hand in education through consultancy and training.

• Mike Hazell lives in Bristol and is Training Manager for Zurich Insurance based in Cheltenham. He has a son and a daughter.

• Charmaine Kerridge has 2 young children and is giving piano lessons.

• Barbara and Tommy Thompson escaped the Bognor flooding. Tommy played the organ for Pam Macdonald's wedding in October, so met up with several present and former members of staff.

• Joanne Day (Marshall) is expecting to become a Mum later this year. Carla

(Marshall) and Fred Stratford have a second daughter.

- Maxine Lourden (Gibbons) had a daughter last summer.
- Elizabeth Simpson is now living in Kent.
- Maggie Bell still lives near York (and we still haven't met up!).
- Mary (McCurry) has one child and was expecting another.
- Ann Lowes (PE Dept) has been in better health and manages to do charity

commute between his job in Portsmouth and Mumbai in India, where he helps to run a project for Indian Street children.

- Clive Baugh now commutes daily to Sunbury, 105 mile round-trip, record time for one-way, 55minutes, longest time 210 minutes! The whole family are ardent skiers, but they weren't joined by the Wallis and Tinkler clans as has been a regular habit for several years. However they did spend a camping holiday in the south of France with the Wallis family (Diane Tinkler).Tinkler).
- Vivienne and Martin Durne fortunately live on high ground near Uckfield, so were

been spent in Wharfedale, advising people where they can and can't go in the present situation. We all know the tourist industry is suffering but until the outbreak is really under control, precautions cannot be relaxed. Most people are very understanding but we've had one or two awkward 'customers', including some 'locals'. Small world though, a visitor I chatted to yesterday spoke of seeing herons in Hackney and was amazed when I said "In Vicky Park?"

OTHER NEWS – 2

From Bill Richards

I start this section with a letter I received after sending out one of my mail shots. It made me stop and think that all was not ideal at Raine's. Could it be that the majority of us look at our time at the school through 'rose-tinted glasses' and, perhaps, were blind to the faults? I make no apology for quoting this letter but will not name the sender.

"With reference to the attached I did attend Raine's between 74-79 and whilst I applaud the work you are doing I am afraid I do not want to become a member. My years at Raine's must rate as one of the worst periods of my life. Being the target of teachers jokes in front of class, slapped across the face by a history teacher and several slippers from Mr Spooner are just some of my memories that I would rather forget. It is a chapter of my life in the past and I do not wish to relive it with people who were there at the time.

I am sure the association gives a lot of pleasure to many people and keep up the good work. I have passed the application form onto another former pupil and they can contact you direct.

I would like to wish you well."

I would be interested to hear if any one has any comments regarding the above.

- Sadly, in response to my request for memories of Basil Dowling, only **Duncan Pott (59-66)** replied.

"Thanks for the latest issue of the Newsletter.

I was sorry to hear of the passing of Basil Dowling and the obituary produced in the Newsletter. Basil Dowling was my form master in 2A from September 1960 to July 1961. I remember during that period, I think it must have been in the spring /



work for the Children's Society, Tear Fund, running tabletop and car-boot sales, coffee mornings, Summer Fete, Christmas Market, etc. Also many people in the district drop in and discuss their family problems with her.

- Gavin and Peggy Adlington continue to lead their hectic life style. They were spending Christmas in New Zealand with friends from their time in Malawi and expecting to become grandparents in January.
- Madge and John Darch have now been resident in Nottingham almost 2 years. One son is at Newcastle University, the next about to take A-Levels and the youngest in the Lower 6th. How time flies! Madge will soon be embarking on her summer period of exam marking, when she goes into enforced hibernation.
- Alan Waters (EWO) continues to

unaffected by the worst of the flooding in Sussex.

- Alan Liddiard is a Guide at Exeter Cathedral and, despite the Foot and Mouth outbreak, has had many groups of German tourists. He enclosed a photograph of a school outing to Canterbury Cathedral in the summer of 1939, which includes the Rev George Loughborough and a resident Canon of Canterbury, Canon Crumm, also a good friend of Raines. Identifying the boys after over 60 years proved to be an impossible task.
- Mr Paul Stanney wrote to say that the year 2000 was, for him, pleasant but uneventful.
- I have recently spent holidays in Switzerland and Germany, (can't compete with Miss Mangold and her adventurous globe-trotting - I've just received a card from her from China!) but much time has



summer of 1961, that Basil was quite seriously injured one games day at Fairlop. I recall that apparently somebody had thrown a discus and that Basil was struck on the head by it. His injuries must have been quite serious because he was off school for quite some time and we (2A) had a temporary form master, but I can't remember who.

However what I do remember is that Raymond Harris, a fellow pupil in 2A, and I were 'volunteered' / 'chosen' to go to Basil's house in Highgate with the best wishes for his recovery. I can't recall if we

- **David Spencer (75-82)** has relocated back to the UK after 15 years of living abroad (Switzerland, USA, Norway, South Africa) and was able to attend his first ORA function in February since 1987! He recently received the Freedom of the City of London at the Guildhall and was admitted to the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers. He was also recently certified as an Independent Professional Earth Scientist (CIPES), and was elected a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain (FMinSoc) and a Fellow of The Institute of Continuing



took a present from the class, but I do remember that it was a hot day and Raymond and I were invited through the back garden, where we sat and had glasses of homemade, chilled, fresh lemonade. Basil was still bandaged around his head. He introduced us to his wife and daughters and made us very welcome

We stayed for an hour or so, though I can't remember much more, except that Basil Dowling was a kind and gentle man.

Professional Development (FICPD).
 Over the past year, David has given many lectures in Europe and USA on his attempt, in spring 2000, to climb Mount Everest (reaching the south summit before running out of rope). He has been interviewed by BBC Radio 4, as well as interviewed / profiled in numerous articles and newspapers concerning the hazards and environmental considerations of high altitude climbing. David has just completed the Thames Path Walk (180

miles/288 km in 7 Days).

Currently working on his family history, David recently found out that his mother (Veronica C. Bonanno) had attended Raines Foundation Grammar School from 1948-1949. Although evacuated to Ammanford in Wales during World War II, she had won a scholarship to study at a Welsh Grammar school. When Veronica returned to London, she was then accepted into an equivalent Grammar school (Raine's Foundation). Veronica's only recollection of someone at Raines Foundation, at that time, is Edith Vogel. His sister Susan (at Raines from 1977-1982) is currently living in Croydon and works in Holborn. David has recently met up with friends who were at Raines including John Coster, Carole Day, Karl Schwarz and Neil Wilson. David can be contacted at das@davidspencer.com.

- **Lana Busby (55-58)** contacted us by way of **David Hart (60-65)**.

"Last year I joined a company in the city of London and worked with a lady called Marian Hart. One day chatting about things in general I discovered that her husband, Dave, went to the same school as me! – Raine'. Marian told me that Dave was an Old Raineian member and received newsletters at regular intervals. She promised to bring one in for me to read.

Marian brought one in and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Later, she and I attended a colleague's birthday party, where I met her husband, Dave. He asked me to write something about my "Time at Raines" or "Life after Raines" as it is good to hear from girls who had attended Raines over the years. Well, I can't say I've done anything extraordinary, not for printing anyway! I thought I'd remember a few people and incidents at school, who knows, some of them may read it in the newsletter. It's quite a coincidence, but the first newsletter that I read featured an article about Mrs Weingarten's passing. She was my first form-teacher at Raine's (1W, 55-56). I stayed at Raine's until December 1958, just after my 15th birthday and started work in January 1959 @ £4 and 10 shillings (£4.50) a week.

I didn't really like school - Raine's seemed so strict and I wasn't very academic - so I couldn't wait to leave. Maybe that's why I was allowed to leave earlier than the compulsory leaving age of 16. The girls in my first year all stayed to-

gether right through the years before reaching leaving age, with a different form-teacher each year. As I mentioned, Mrs Weingarten (1W), Miss Jenkins (2J), Miss Hone (3H) and Mrs Thomas (4T). Mrs Weingarten taught history and she told us that her husband was a concert pianist - quite grand to us girls - even though, at the time, we had not known his work as we were all heavily into 'Rock & Roll', Bill Haley and Elvis.

Miss Jenkins was very young compared to most of the other teachers, so we related to her more. She taught us English and we all thought her very pretty. She also wore very modern and stylish clothes; I can particularly remember her in a pink suit (funny how certain things stick in your mind). Miss Hone taught English Literature and drama. I can remember being in a school play, the part was Geoffrey something or other, about some medieval characters. My one and only line was "My liege, my thanks" addressed on bended knee to some king.

Mrs Thomas taught French (one of my best subjects and I always got good marks!). She made French fun and I remember she always used to sit on her desk or on one of the front row desks and gather us round to teach us. She often spoke about France as well which made the lessons interesting.

I was often in trouble at school and was sent to see Miss Mangold a number of times, usually about my uniform. The uniforms were so expensive then, but my mum insisted I had all four of the summer dresses and a Panama hat that I hated (and not worn very often!).

The dresses were striped in blue, red, green and brown. The winter uniform was navy with blue shirts and velour "pudding basin" hats. Everything had to be bought from 'Henry Taylors' in Walthamstow - no diversions!

The dresses, I remember, were £2.10 shillings each, a lot in those days. The hats, after a time, lost their original shape as most of the girls pushed and pulled them into the most diverse shapes so that they didn't look 'square' to other schools. If we were caught without them on our heads outside school we had to do 'lines' or 'detention'.

I didn't have a navy overcoat, only a blazer. When it was really cold one year I wore my duffel coat, but was reprimanded and sent to Miss Mangold. I had to freeze, I suppose, when I walked from Mile End to

Arbour Square.

Another time I went to our weekly 'games lesson' at Fairlop. I only had orange shorts (from my holiday) to wear and Miss Munn, the PE teacher, told me off and said I would have to play hockey in my navy knickers, to which I answered "I'm not running around in my knickers at my age" (14 at the time!), so I had to stay in the changing rooms and report to Miss Mangold.

Our group often had 'detention or lines' as we were up to mischief! There was an old wooden table at the top end of the playground and we commandeered it - no one else ever sat on it when we were around! All we did was talk about boys, records and 'girls' things'.

My best friend was Ann Hutt (Bethnal Green) so we were a pair. Pauline Hughes (Shadwell) paired with Maureen O'Connor (Stepney) and Sandra Higgins (Poplar?) paired with Brenda Critchett (?). There were also the Tarlton twins, Sandra & Ann (East Ham), Annette Foley (Poplar) and Joyce Burnett (East Ham). This was our main group. Others in our year were Pauline Joel (Chingford), Helen Lazarus (Ilford?), Christine Patrick (?), Eunice Bernstein (?), Carol Feldman (Bow), Mavis Murray (?), Elizabeth Coker (Limehouse), Ann Robertson (Manor Park) and a girl called Doreen, whose surname I can't remember.

As I left school earlier than the others I drifted away from everyone and lost touch, but in the early 60s I was working with a man called John Heathcote, again talking about schools etc., it turned out that his brother was married to Sandra Tarlton. He told me that, at that time, Sandra still lived in East Ham, but her sister, Ann, had gone to America and married a golf pro (if my memory serves me right!). Later I was working with an employment agency and Pauline Hughes walked in. She had moved to Kent and had two daughters. I think Pauline told me that Christine Patrick had stayed on at school and become Head-prefect, as for the rest - who knows?

In general the teachers were nice, but to us, at the time, a lot of them seemed old. Raine's was held in high esteem then and my mum was proud to think that I had passed my 11 plus to get in there. I tried hard at first but I could never get my head around maths, algebra, etc., (where were you Carol Vorderman?).

No matter how much Miss Whitehead tried, I used to get disgusting marks in

tests, etc., the same in science with 8/100 in one exam! Her accent was very strong and the only thing I remember about science was lighting the Bunsen burner. I suppose with the school being quite strict and the teaching intense (well it was to me then) I didn't apply myself - but I still think the methods of teaching and discipline gave good grounding in all subjects (no options at 14 as there is now). I notice the difference when my own daughter was at school (mid 70s & 80s).

The only thing I hated at school was homework - so much of it. Up to 5 subjects a night sometimes with each to last at least 20 minutes, which of course always took me longer. This led, of course, to some of us exchanging or copying homework (with the odd extra mistake, etc.) i.e., my French and maths, especially in my last year.

Because of the amount of homework in my first year at Raine's, I had to give up piano lessons (I used to practice every evening at my Nan's house), I just didn't have the time and something I now regret. In those days I also had some household chores to do after school, as my mum worked full-time (not so common at that time, most of my mates mums were at home all day).

One of my step-cousins also went to Raine's, his name is Melvin Furze but he left during my first year. Two Raine's girls, Ellen & Pat, kept following him home (he lived next door to me). Ellen really fancied him and they eventually married and moved to Kent. One of my neighbours now was a Raine's boy, John Lacey, he was at school around 1960.

Well that's all from my Raine's memory lane, maybe a few names are recognised, it seems ages since my schooldays, especially when my retirement is not so far away. But I do look at that time with some happy memories and although I did not realise at the time, I am glad that I went to a well-respected school."

Once again we come to the end of another packed edition of the Newsletter. My apologies to Alan Johnson and others, whose contributions I have had to omit due to lack of space, but will endeavour to include them in the next 'run'.

Please keep sending your news and memories and if you know of anyone you can sign up to join the Association please let us know.

Bill Richards