

Old Raineians' Association NEWSLETTER

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email : admin@ldraineians.com



2016 AGM and Spring Reunion



Come and join us for the 2016 AGM
at St George in the East, 14 Cannon St Rd,
London E1 0BH on Friday 20th May at 6.30pm
followed by a special Spring Reunion
celebrating Gerry Calvert's 80th Birthday



A few words from Claire Burrows

Dear Members,

Most of you will remember St George in the East from Founder's Day at School. Back in 2011, we held a very successful Cheese and Wine Evening there and we have been fortunate to secure this magnificent Hawksmoor church once again. The Old Raineian's Association Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 20th May and commence at 6.30. The Meeting will be followed by refreshments & a special birthday celebration. Gerry Calvert taught Maths at Raines between the 60's and the 90's and is a regular face at our get togethers. He has chosen to celebrate his 80th birthday with friends, colleagues and past pupils at this special Spring reunion. Please come and join us at St George's. See back page for details.

The ORA website is up to date and the photos from the Winter Reunion are there, a very good evening in The Counting House in the City.

Gerry Calvert



80

When Gerry joined the school staff Harold MacMillan was PM
the farthing was still in circulation, The Beatles and Stones were
unheard of and the pill was still not available.

During his first year the E Type was launched, Tottenham won
the double, Strangers on the Shore was number 1
Diana Spencer and Frank Bruno were born

The year he left Raines' John Major was PM, there were a record
2,400,000 unemployed and the first Gulf War occurred.

The Beatles had been and gone, GB had its last nuclear test
PC World opened and Terry Waite was released.

Come along and share the celebration of his 80th birthday
on the 20th of May, there will be no Algebra or Quadratic Equations
permitted just wonderful memories of a truly great teacher

Roderick Rees writes:

Some of your older readers may be interested in this photo of the Upper Sixth Form taken on the steps of the school on Arbour Square in 1962. What is interesting is the small number in the sixth form. Only seventeen and yet fed by three streams of up to thirty pupils in each stream. Most pupils had left at the end of their fifth year. As it happens, I went on to college and then practiced as an architect in Suffolk for the next forty years, but I recall that many sixth formers did not go on to any further education. I suspect it is very different now, with most students carrying on to take A levels and with ambitions of a university education.



Raines Foundation School Sixth Form 1962

Roderick Rees: Brian Watling: John Chastel: Godfrey

Bill Russell: Ron Ham: Jimmy Warren: Roger Burberry: Clive Williams: Bill Scott: Martin Kirby: Peter Wright
Nigel Dobbins: Brian Ward: Mr Shivas: Mr Lyons: Lawrence Grundy: Derek Misel: Barry Neil





Jeff Hecker writes:

For the past three years (2013-15) I have entered the Cancer Research Shine Marathon Walk, a sponsored 26.2 mile walk around London at night, in late September. With the help of kind sponsors, several of them fellow Old Raineians, I have raised an average of £1500 per year. For the last two years I have been accompanied by my son, Paul, age 31. The 2015 walk took place over the weekend of 26 & 27 September, and we completed it in 9 hours 13 minutes 3.21 seconds....according to the official timekeeper - that isn't me being the ultimate nerd, keeping an eye on the stopwatch! We started at 9.30pm on Saturday and finished just before 6.45am on Sunday.

Paul and I both had a reasonably early night on the Friday and were allowed to sleep through until after 10am on Saturday. I had brunch at around 11am comprising cornflakes festooned with sliced banana, sultanas and milk, followed by 2 pieces of toast (seedy bread) with a slice of ham and a slice of cheese, all accompanied by tea, of course. Around noon I left to go by train to White Hart Lane. What happened there set me up mentally for the challenge ahead: Spurs 4 Man City 1 was special. I just hoped that my physical well-being would match my mental one!

In 2013 and 2014 I'd had no problems with muscles, blisters and general body fatigue; I did, however, on both occasions, have what I assume were problems with my metabolism. Around 3am in the morning, after about 16/17 miles, I felt ill. I discovered in 2013, when it caused me real concern, that there was a miracle cure: small bottle of water and - most importantly - a banana. The recovery was swift and I didn't look back after that. When the problem reoccurred in 2014 the same cure was just as effective.

I was fully prepared for the same thing to happen in 2015, but, guess what? It didn't! One thing I did differently from the outset in 2015 was that I didn't turn down sweets and chocolates that were being handed out by event officials along the route. All that 'bad stuff' (in a sense) probably did me a lot of good. I'm reminded that I was never any good at Biology, apparently human anatomy in particular, and didn't appreciate the energy that sweets etc could generate within me (maybe). I think I was always a disappointment to Miss (Bertha) Ringer, the Biology teacher, in my time.

As I said earlier, the walk started officially at around 9.30pm, in Southwark Park; however, there is a process just before the start which requires walkers to place themselves in a queue in front of one of three 'gates' - power walkers (those who think they will complete in 6-9 hours); striders (those who think they will complete in 9-11 hours ...that's us); and strollers (those who are allowing themselves up to 14 hours). The groups are released through the gates in this order, so quickest will be at the front. Once through the gates there is a walk of a few hundred yards to the 'proper' starting line.

The walk itself is a great experience. Every time that I've done it the weather has been reasonable for the time of year, although in 2013 there was a period of heavy rain whilst I was waiting in a long queue for a working portaloos, just outside Buckingham Palace; that wasn't pleasant. It's very pleasant taking in the sights at night/early morning. The 2015 walk continued from Southwark Park, describing a circular route around London that ended back at Old Billingsgate, near London Bridge. The route embraced Tower Bridge, St Paul's, King's Cross, British Museum, Bayswater Road, St James Park, Victoria, South Bank.



What might interest Old Raineians more than the walk itself is the preparation I did. This included quite a bit of walking, of course, but in August and early September I did three significant walks. These walks had ‘added value’ to me, because I recorded them by taking photographs en route and sharing them with a ‘Hackney’ Facebook group to which I belong.

The first was 13 miles from home, Enfield, to Hackney, which included a nostalgic ‘stroll’ around places that mean something to me and family - Stamford Hill, Hackney Central & parts of South Hackney. The second was 15 miles, Enfield to Dalston via Wood Green, Manor House, Balls Pond Road; then, down to Hackney, Mare Street and back to Seven Sisters. The heat of the day made this walk quite hard going.

The final ‘significant’ walk was 19 miles. Once again I walked to Hackney, but this time I started from Liverpool Street Station and took in the East End and Stratford. This included a nostalgic walk down Commercial Road, to what was Stepney East station, then back, past the school in Arbour Square, and through surrounding roads, such as Jubilee Street, Jamaica Street, Stepney Way, Sidney Street. From Mile End Gate I walked down to Bethnal Green and past the school’s current location, on the site of Parmiter’s in my day. Then, I headed for the Mile End Road and Stepney Green Station, the swimming baths, and Queen Mary’s ‘College’, now, of course, University.

You might be interested in some photographs. (Though there is always the option of strolling along the same route yourself via Google’s street view!)



Commercial Road

I was very surprised to find that there are still traces of the 'greasy spoon' (Callegari's Restaurant, shown in the picture, next to Peri-Peri) that I used to inhabit at lunchtime, with Allan Leach, Achilles Sotiri, and various others from time to time.



Though I wasn't much of one for going to the pub during my school days, I can remember when this place saw better times.



Other locations along Commercial Road worthy of note were: Health Centre (was East End Maternity Hospital)



Across the road from the Health Centre, the shops which included a sweet shop, I seem to recall; it also sold those little plastic balls with which we played football in the playgroundI think. Some of these memories are not 100% clear.



The Proof House Of The Gunmaker's Company Of The City Of London (I missed this whilst I was at school as well!)... Off Commercial Road, and into Arbour Square



....then, remember the police station, just up the road from the Square? This was it, wasn't it?



Meanwhile, in Bethnal Green, at the old Parmiter's site



... onwards to Stepney Green ... station and baths... memories of the trip to Fairlop for games (quite pleasant), and swimming lessons on a Friday as a non-swimming first year ('horrific' would be an understatement - thank you Rusty)



Then, QMC (now U), scenes of Speech (or Prize, if you were so lucky, as I was in RE once!) Days.

Alan Butler writes:

Two recent sad deaths to acknowledge:

The first was my second son Neale who passed away on January 8 aged just 47. Born with spina bifida and confined to a wheelchair from age 12, he battled against ill-health all his life, yet met challenging goals. He was UK disabled pool champion three times and undertook a 108-mile wheelchair push with his paraplegic friend Peter Hull to raise funds for their special needs school, Hephaistos. They wheeled from Windsor Castle to Clacton-on-Sea over a rainy 5 days and attracted enough donations to keep the school going for another 10 years. He was finally overcome by a painful combination of extreme curvature of the spine and bladder cancer. But he will not be forgotten.

The second was my university football coach and mentor Jimmy Hill, whose passing was widely reported. Like Raines, he was a great influence on my life. No doubt he also had an impact on my Raines contemporary **Norman Giller** who has followed football as a successful writer for over 50 years

With respect.

Madeline Barrington writes:

I was reminded by your recent newsletter of walking past the tall flats from Stepney Green tube to Arbour Square to go to school and remembered I had this photo – may be of interest to someone. Regards Mann House 1965 to 1972.



The Committee consists of:

Anthony Groves, President
Tony Beard, Secretary
Eddy Dodwell, Newsletter
Laurie Dalton, Membership Secretary

Other Committee
Sandra Johnson

Claire Burrows, (for correspondence) Alexander Coach House, Vines Lane,
Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent. TN11 9LT

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Reunion RSVP for Friday 20th May 2016

To: Clive Baugh 53 Glendale, Swanley, Kent BR8 8TP

Email: CliveBaugh@hotmail.com

I can join you for the reunion on Friday 20th May 2016

I would like tickets.

Name of member

Years at School

eMail address

Telephone (m).....

Telephone (h)

Address line 1

Address line 2

Address line 3

Town

Postcode

Country

Mobility, dietary or other requirements

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