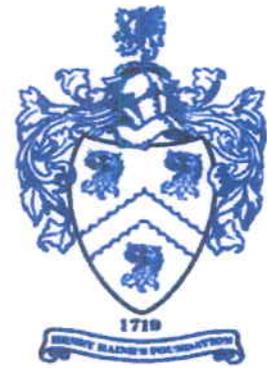


Old Raineians' Association NEWSLETTER

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



Spring 2010

ORA May Reunion 2010



Come and join us on Friday 7th May 2010

At the Crosse Keys (Wetherspoons)
9 Gracechurch Street , City of London
EC3V 0DR

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

President's Message

Dear Member, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year on behalf of the ORA committee and thank you for your continued interest in the Association.

The Association now has a NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE so please visit the site at www.ldraineians.com. All feedback or comments welcome (and thank you to Old Raineian Laurie Dalton for his work in setting it up).

Although not known by most members, the committee meets every two months after work, or at the end of the day to discuss matters such as the ORA website, newsletters, reunions, preserving school memorabilia, etc. and the Association owes its continued existence to these few dedicated persons. At the moment that committee is small in number, and although very competent and enthusiastic we really need new committee members to put forward new ideas and help to take the Association forward. People often comment on venues, mostly positive luckily, but there are members who are quite negative about them, but without suggestions (information on venue, availability, cost, location) it is difficult for us as a small committee to keep coming up with new locations. **Please help us, let us know where you would want to go for a Reunion, what time of the year should it be, should it be a week night or weekend? Please let us have your comments.**

The 2009 Winter Reunion held at the Poplar Rowing Club was a very enjoyable evening for all those who attended. The Club put on a wonderful buffet and 'a good night was had by all'. It is always good at these gatherings to see so many regulars but particularly welcome are those new faces, those that come for that first time, usually with a bit of trepidation, but who leave having had a wonderful evening of meeting contemporaries, ex-staff, of looking at memorabilia and photographs of their days at Raines. Particular thanks go to Gwynneth Jackson (ex staff) who continues to travel down for most reunions from Ripon, Yorkshire!

The former pupils of Raines Foundation School previously relied on the ORA to keep people in touch, reunite old friends and provide information on the current school activities. The age of the internet, friendsreunited, facebook, etc. has to some extent replaced that need but it should not mean the ORA is redundant. On the contrary, the ORA is using the internet to try to reach more former pupils via e-mailed newsletters and the ORA website. In addition to reunions and newsletters, the ORA has for many years striven to maintain school memories, its memorabilia and advertise its history - so please send in your memories, your stories of your days at Raines. Tell us about those contemporaries you are still in touch with or those you have met since leaving school through friends, work colleagues etc. Send us any memorabilia you have no further use for, eg Cameron Macphee contacted us to say that he had a copy of the 1964 Boys School photograph and would we be interested in having it. (Cameron kindly posted it over to us from Australia - thank you Cameron).

I hope that members recognise the importance of the ORA in preserving the school history and supporting the school today, and that you will continue to support us wherever possible.



Claire Burrows writes

The 2009 Winter Reunion at the Poplar Rowing Club was a very good get together, despite selling only 51 tickets and at least half a dozen were to non-members. The buffet was excellent and a display of interesting photos, newsletters and The Raineian magazines, spanning several decades proved popular. A good mix of regulars mingled with new faces and it was nice to chat to Derek Smith (59-64) and Tony Beard (60-65). They found that they shared fond memories of a master, Snowden, doing a Bruce Forsyth impression and of his continual nose-picking and bum-scratching habits! Eddy Dodwell commented that Mr Snowden was his form master in Roof 2 and against school regulations allowed us a portable record player during our lunch break, as he recalls Telstar by the Tornados was top of the Hit Parade at the time!

After flicking through an issue of The Raineian, ever the schoolboy Michael Cole (54-60) pointed out that the 1958 rugby team was captained by A Pratt, which caused much amusement, giving Claire Burrows, Roger Lane and Terry Devaney the giggles all night.

Janet Snook (Dorris 60-67) regularly attends, driving up from Ramsgate and meeting with Sue Smith (Holden 62-68) en route. They were pleased to get together with Glennys Hughes-Jenkins (Jenkins 60-67) after many, many years. Glenys came up from Kent and met with Tony Szulc.

John Clark (38-41) drove all the way across from Pembrokeshire, just beating Gwynneth Jackson down from Yorkshire in mileage - 246 v 223 - there's commitment for you! Sorry Paul Szucs, Germany doesn't count as you were in the UK anyway and nor does Florida, Alan Thoroughgood, as you squeezed us in between your many other parties!

Take a look at our new style website and see the photos, taken by Sandra Johnson and Colin Hunter, under Reunions.



New Member Anthony Beard contacted Claire Burrows through friends reunited and came along to his first reunion.

He writes :

I thought the reunion was excellent and I spent a good deal of time in conversation with Derek Smith (59 - 64) as four out of five years each at school coincided.

It was wonderful to see the early issues of The Raineian magazine, which sadly reminded me that I possess few items from my time at school. However I do have two panoramic photographs from 61 and 64, three personal reports and a certificate for coming 2nd in the 220 yard sprint.

Unfortunately, my father passed away while I was in the second year. Being an only child, my departure from full time education was somewhat hurried in order that I might bring in a weekly income to supplement my mother's meagre wages and pension.

Nevertheless, the school did manage to ensure I received a good grounding in English which has helped me enormously when writing or co-writing books. As this work has involved much research, during one of my visits to the Greater London Record Office (now London Metropolitan Archives), I noted that among the accessions were files regarding the school. I am pleased that the ORA also found them during your researches.

The Raines book is fascinating. I haven't read it all yet but I am sure there must be a reference to the request us boys were required to make when we wished to visit the toilet....."May I go forth?" Some new masters were not told of this ritual and were taken by surprise during their first lessons (but they soon caught on!). One reply I remember hearing was "you can go fifth if you want to" whilst occasionally "forth in thy name o Lord you go" came from the more established masters. I can still name most of the masters in the 1961 and 1964 photographs and most of their nicknames, such as Mollie Morgan (we put fish food in his tea) , Bertha Ringer, Gaffer Harrington (my first form master and my wife's maiden name (not "Gaffer")), Biffo Broughton and of course, Zonk. Donny (from the French verb to give) Lyons had a PE slipper called Sammy, the acquaintance of which he warned us not to make. Happy Days!

Best wishes, Tony.

News from the old drill sergeant, Humphrey Long.

I was diagnosed with atrial-fibrillation, a racing heart & after spending a time in hospital have been taking the tablets to get back on track. That now seems to be under control. Back in coaching & able to attend a ceremony for an award for involvement with Phillips Idowu's world championship triple jump. Then four weeks ago I was leaving a game walking along a very dark passage, crashed over on the concrete ground. It was like being hit by large truck! Ended up in hospital again black & blue all over, a spell in resuss. Took a week to learn to walk again with a zimmer frame & told it would take 8/10 weeks to gain full mobility. There was fear of a bloodclot and/or DVT but prompt injections alleviated that. Now at home & improving every day, gradually getting myself back. It was tough in hospital but seeing so many worse cases than mine makes me grateful my injuries were basically superficial. I hope that brings you up to date.

David Spencer (75-82) spotted this very early panoramic photograph of the girls from 1919 on ebay. The earliest we have is the 1950 boys which is on the website. So start looking in your parents' loft to see if you can fill in the decades for us. Find below the only two portions clear enough for reproduction from the ebay advertisement.



How I came to be at Raine's by John Clark (1938 - 1941)



In 1936 I was living in Nairobi with my parents and attending a small local school. Although not very good at games, I was tolerated because it was discovered that I could shoot on the .22 range. Two bullets in the same hole? No problem. This not unpleasant existence was rudely interrupted when the secretary of the branch of the London firm, run in Nairobi by my father, ran off to South Africa with all the money and someone else's wife. Talk about "are you married or do you live in Kenya?" ! This meant that we had to come back to base in Ilford rather smartly. For the time being, I was enrolled in a commercial college, not at all to my liking, and in conversation with some friends with whom I had caught up, I discovered that that type of education was for me, pretty useless. My Uncle Bert had a son, Cecil Toll (anyone remember?) at Raine's and they seemed to be doing a good job on him, although he was reckoned at one time to be ineducable. Not because of being dim, but he was interested in two things only (no, no that!) – cars and car-engines, nothing else mattered. After a few months, we had moved to Upminster and I was commuting daily to school at Ilford via Green Line bus until I refused to go anymore but by that time my mother had had an interview with the fearsome Wilkinson-Dagger. Shortly after I had one too, with interviews by other masters, and apparently being considered no detriment to the school, was admitted. Now this was obviously more like an education and School Cert loomed. By the way, if anyone watches "Neighbours" on BBC1, the character Lou is my Uncle Bert to the life ! Looks like him, sounds like him especially the laugh and has the same slightly dodgy attitude to business! In Upminster, I discovered not exactly to my horror, but with a bit of a shock that Capt Turnage of Raine's lived next door! We did our best to avoid each other most of the time when commuting but he and his wife were very good to me in the absence of my father, who to earn a crust, had gone back to Kenya for the Ministry of Food. In all I didn't see him between August '40 and June '48, when we met again in Kenya as I applied for and got overseas demob, six months overdue but nevertheless there. But that's another story. After a year or so at Arbour Square came the war and quite a lot has been written about this as it affected so many, Brighton and Camberley. Then finally, out into the big wide world and not sure what to do with myself. But it's not turned out too badly, might say and never a dull moment without too much exaggeration!

2010 Dates for your diary

May reunion and ORA AGM Fri 7th May, 6.30pm buffet from 7.30pm RSVP please

Winter Reunion Fri 26th Nov venue tba

plus

Bi-monthly committee meetings, Tuesdays 13th Apr, 8th June, 3rd August, 5th October
At the Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ.
All welcome from 6.30pm.

May Reunion Venue Crosse Keys (Wetherspoons) 9 Gracechurch Street, EC3V ODR

Distances in Metres.

Monument 230

Bank 270

Cannon Street 410

Fenchurch Street 450

Liverpool Street 570

Mailing List and email

We have recently updated our email lists and those that we had no reply from will be deleted from our lists, so if you know of anyone who complains of not having received their newsletter please ask them to get in touch to be re-instated with an updated email address. We will also be doing the same for the postal address list. Our costs have gone up substantially for postage particularly and for the printing and stationery so it is vital for as many members as possible to move over to electronic mail, there is minimal or no cost for us to send it out. PLEASE, PLEASE, if you are on email but are still receiving newsletters by post PLEASE LET US KNOW! This newsletter has been printed courtesy of Raines Foundation School and the present Headmaster, Mr.Gordon Clubb who as well as keeping down our costs has asked that every 6th year student be given one. Welcome to those Raines students who hopefully are reading the first of many of our newsletters (there's life after Raines!), and a particular thank you to Mr.Clubb for his initiative.

Thanks to all contributors including Dr David Spencer, Anthony Beard, Humphrey Long, John Clark, Colin Hunter and the Committee for their articles and memories.
We depend on your letters and photos and we look forward to hearing from anyone with an interesting story from their time at Raines.

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Other Committee members

Clive Baugh, Treasurer

Anthony Groves. Secretary

Eddy Dodwell

Gwynneth Jackson

John Smith

RSVP

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email : chezjohnsons@aol.com

I am/unable to attend the May Reunion and ORA AGM on Friday 7th May 2010

Name of member.....Years at school.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....email.....

Telephone home.....mobile.....

Please specify any special needs, diet, wheelchair