

Trinity Old Scholars Association

www.tosa.homestead.com

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A **BIG thank** you to all who have renewed their membership and to all who wrote letters—too many to answer individually but I have enjoyed reading them all.

You will find enclosed a Membership card which gives you your membership expiry date of December 2007. Those who have prepaid for 2008 etc. will have received theirs under a separate posting. Of course, it would make life much easier for your Treasurer (me at the moment) if you would set up a Standing Order at your Bank. The good thing about Standing Orders is that **you** can cancel them at any time. They cost you nothing, and we do not have to pay a fee either. Direct Debits cost 35p each (which we would pay) and **we** have to instigate the collection. I recently wrote up 15 paying-in slips each with at least 10 names (had to write names twice one copy for me and the other for the bank)... And then of course there were the reminders ..

Details for setting up a Standing Order are at the end of this newsletter. If you decide to make this step, do please remember to include a Reference of Your Name and year started at Trinity e.g. **BerylDSkinner42**. For joint memberships please use one or other name/year.

Remember you only pay £5.00 for Joint members at the same address. **Please send or take to your bank. DO NOT SEND TO ME.**

I am repeating the following which appeared in the December 2005 newsletter as new members may be interested

Have you a Heart-Throb ?

Peter Leighton (1936) has. In fact he is the Secretary of **Heart-Throbs Cardiac Support Group** operating in the borough of Enfield and adjacent boroughs.

Heart-Throbs has been in operation since 1990, giving help and guidance to many hundreds of people living in these boroughs, who have been affected by heart disease and who want to return to a more normal and active life. If you want more details on its activities, you can telephone Peter on 020 8886 6260 who incidentally runs the exercise group which operates at the David Lloyd Club in Enfield.

The group is affiliated to the British Heart Foundation

The War Memorial

Thank you to all those who returned their forms and also to those who wrote letters to express their wishes.

There was support for doing *something*, and most were in favour of us putting it in St. Michaels Church. We are now at the next stage of finding out whether we can do this. **This is not going to happen overnight.** Firstly, we have to get permission from the powers that be and then the design, type etc will have to be approved. The Rev Colin Collis who is the Vicar at St Michaels is quite amicable to the idea and will point us in the right direction. **SEE GOOD NEWS ON PAGE 8..**

Sadly we have lost the following Old Scholars .

Derek Spurrier (1955)

Lloyd Holden (1944)

Margaret Gare (Hun—1954)

Welcome to the following New Members :

Derek Ri-dout (44) Roy Brownjohn (47) Peter Tuck (47) Terry and Diana Hayne (Steer) both 47 ; Shirley Barnett (Briggs 47) Elsie Chambers (Toll 47) Bruce Rimmer (52) Betty Cohen (Appleby 43) Jeannette Risley (Wesley 48) Diana Vernon (Phillips 48) Dorothy Norris (Wraight 48) John Dickson (53) Valerie Dickson (Kearewy 54) David Collyer (48) Peter Dixon (48) Charles Stancer (40) Daphne Horscroft (Batstone 42) Daphne Edwards (Sparkes 43) Alan Nowell (51) Margaret Prater (Chaplin 47) James Boyall (40)

A scout concert in St. Michael's Church Hall was, on recollection, amazing! I danced, with other cubs, all dressed as girls, clad in pink and blue dresses, with garlanded hoops in matching colours, although I was mortified at having to wear knickers! Arkela, our producer, taught at RADA.

Probably it was at the same concert that I sang solo a forlorn song, 'I've gotta motta, always merry and bright'. It was purposely sung deadpan, with a mournful voice. I remember the words, but not the audience or their reaction. I have a feeling that my Father would have enjoyed it. No doubt, as usual, Mother made the costumes.

There was, and probably still is, a large Scout Park due west of Bounds Green tube station, the site of a former brick works, where I once joined in an outdoor re-enactment of 'Hiawatha'. My memory suggests that it was a big affair with a lot of scouts and cubs taking part. Being dressed as an Indian, I carried a tomahawk, but somehow managed to lose it there, somewhere.

An aunt from Hastings, NZ, Miss Emma Sissons, stayed with us for a year. Her Father went to the southern hemisphere to rescue the ill-fated Shackleton Expedition 1914-1916.

Our flat was above the Piccadilly underground line and the building shook a little each time a train went underneath. This caused Aunt to want to rush outside, because she was conditioned to react to the trembling warnings of earthquakes. She went home in 1939, on the last boat to sail before the war started. We went to the Vicar, Mr. Jones, for his signature on her passport renewal application. Mr. Jones went on to become Vicar of the splendid classical church with caryatids, St. Pancras parish church, opposite Euston station in London. While still in Wood Green he used to shin up the ropes suspended from the ceiling of the very lofty Church Hall opposite our school.

Later childhood.

We were all staying with my grandparents at Chartham, a village near Canterbury, and heard the radio broadcast during which Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister, declared war on Germany. It was 11 am on Sunday, September 3rd 1939. Later that day a few small bombs were dropped within earshot, to underline the fact that hostilities had indeed started.

I remained with my Grandparents for the next year, and attended the village school, which I enjoyed. The headmaster was Mr. White. A Medway school was also evacuated to the village, but they were taught in the nearby British Legion hut. One of my memories of that time is of walking home along the Parish Road at night, with the stars shining brightly and in abundance. There were no street lights there to intrude, or any houses, either. The advantage of the blackout throughout the war was that the stars could be seen so clearly.

In 1940 I was sent to live with relatives in Exeter and remember lying in bed there one night listening to a bomb falling with a loud whistle and wondering where it would land. Fortunately it was not nearby. As London seemed relatively quiet, I returned to London in 1941 just before Exeter was blitzed, and my school flattened.

My parents, meanwhile, had moved to live in Highgate, near Kenwood. Many nights were spent in the garden, in the half buried Anderson air raid shelter. It was made of arched corrugated steel segments and with vertical end panels, all covered with earth. At night I watched German aircraft caught in searchlights, and heard the distant bombs and the shrapnel raining down. During the day I travelled back to school in Wood Green, via Archway, Turnpike Lane and then to Jolly Butchers hill. On the way to school, on the three buses, I passed thirty three public houses. Memory does not tell me, but I assume that bus journeys continued during air raid warnings.

I had gained entry to Trinity Grammar School. The Headmaster, Dr. Emrys E. Jones, was an imposing but kindly figure, always in black gown and mortarboard, who made a lasting impression on me. He had been a 'Pupil Teacher' in Merthyr Tydfil and had gained his doctorate in Heidelberg. He taught us some hymns in German, even in the war. Our chemistry master, Mr. Ellison, had been the first man to retaliate with poison gas on the Germans in the First World War. He opened the tap. Naturally, being a chemistry master, he was known as 'Stinks'.

The school playing field was occupied by an army searchlight unit, so no games were played. Many school hours were spent sitting in the windowless but spacious lower corridors. Because different classes were there, it was not possible to have normal lessons. I remember reading some of 'War and Peace'. It seemed an apt title, but heavy going. I remember sitting under a desk and continuing to eating rice pudding!

One night, while we were living in Highgate, a land mine dropped not far away, on a Council Depot. The depot contained a coal dump, the contents of which were blown up into the air and came down as coke and ashes over the surrounding district.to be continued.

Reunion News—Slightly out of order but have just received the following from John Glyn as we go to press !

1948'er Reunion on 21st April at Ramada Hotel, Hatfield

Twenty two classmates met up for our 8th reunion and once again it was a very happy occasion. Numbers were depleted due to holidays and illness but as the general opinion was that we should meet up again next year, **Saturday the 26th April, 2008** has been agreed—same time, same place. Watch the website and newsletter for more information by the end of this year.

Attendees

George Brett	Bridget Barling
Ron Bishop	Ray Blunt (Harris)
John Candish	Shirley Barber (Caiger)
Ken Coates	Pat Beckingham (Connock)
John Glyn	Sheila Dinnis (Ashton)
Derrick Hart	Margaret Driscoll (Bridgman)
Alan Hayes	Jean Luftig (Leslie)
Colin Moor	Peggy Pickering (Denton)
Alan Rutter	Anne Rossi (Wright)
Victor Whymark	Jacqueline Slater (Croxon)
Doreen Stodart (Dunstan)	Sylvia Turnham (Boyes)

Photos on the website.

Ever wondered... Why I can recycle my plastic bottles? what about other plastic items? The following may help.

Plastic bottles are specified as they are made from one of only three polymer types and are very easily identified, both by members of the public and those sorting the collected bottles. The three polymer types used are PET (e.g. fizzy drink bottles and squash bottles), HDPE (e.g. milk bottles and detergent bottles) and PVC (e.g. large squash bottles), although the use of PVC in such applications is in decline. Items such as margarine tubs and rigid food containers are made from a very wide range of polymer, many of which are blends. These are much more difficult to identify and separate efficiently. It is also more difficult to secure an outlet for the material as mixed plastics are not in high demand.

Yoghurt pots are not generally accepted in plastic recycling schemes as they are in fact made from polystyrene. This has an entirely different make-up to the polymers used in bottles and there are currently limited outlets for the material. Again, there are fewer clearly identified end markets for the material at this time. The quality of the material is often compromised as a result of food contamination, making it necessary for householders to thoroughly wash the cartons before depositing for recycling. **More details to follow—abbreviated to insert 48'ers reunion**

Thought for today

Chinese Proverb:

When someone shares something of value with you and you benefit from it, you have a moral obligation to share it with others

Memories .I wonder how many Old Scholars spent part of their youth in one or more of the Wood Green Cinemas?

The Gazeteer of London Cinemas lists 3. The Ritz (later ABC) at Turnpike Lane, the Rex in Station Road, and the Gaumont (later became Odeon) in the High Road.

It was at the Gaumont that a special afternoon screening took place (circa 1952) and the whole school were taken to see the film. Can anyone remember the name?

Mr. Wayne - our intrepid music teacher was a keen organist, and took great delight in pointing out to us the Mighty Compton Organ which resided in the orchestra pit.

When the cinema closed, the organ was saved and was re-installed in the Technical College in Twickenham. After some years there, it was purchased by the organ enthusiasts of Gosport, Hampshire, and now lives in the Thorngate Hall in Gosport. See www.cinema-organs.org.uk Click on Venues, then Gosport.

John Cattermole (49)

Editor's Note. I did just as John suggested and found the following:

The Compton had been opened in the Gaumont Palace Wood Green on 26th March 1934 by Frederic Bayco. It was sold for £300 in 1966 to Twickenham College of Technology and was first heard there in 1969. In 1980 it was once again on the move, this time to Gosport in Hampshire where it was opened on Sunday 16th April 1983 by John Mann.

A kinura and trumpet was added in 1985 and it is believed to be the only surviving Compton organ with electro-pneumatic action.

Courtesy Gosport and District Organ Club.

On February 17th 2007, BBC Radio 4 broadcast a Half-hour programme remembering “Six-Five Special” It went out fifty years after its debut on Saturday February 16th 1947. Here are some reminiscences by Jack Good.

THAT was also my debut in the television business. I was twenty six years old and I think I was quite terrified. What saved me perhaps, was that until that point I had always wanted to be an actor. Thanks to encouragement from Miss Ellen Munday, my teacher at Trinity and from that splendid and daunting Headmaster, Dr Emrys E Jones (Dokker) I cut my eye teeth as producer, director and actor with *Twelfth night* (1948) and then again with “*Othello*” in 1950. Mr Gwilyn Morris also played a great part in teaching me not to make too much of a fool of myself and at least to look as though I knew what I was doing. I have also to thank our French Master, Mr Dean for giving us sixth formers (and especially my dear old friend and fellow Thespian, Victor Hext,) an enthusiasm for French drama and especially to *Cyrano de Bergerac* . To that play I owe the development of “*mon panache*”. Victor and I and other Trinity friends had seen Ralph Richardson give a marvellous account of *Cyrano* at the Old Vic. As a result, I practiced looking confident and enthusiastic even when, for instance, Oliver Gagggs was cursing in the background having burnt his fingers trying to unscrew a hot lamp. Victor and I were avid fans of the Old Vic Company and we went to great lengths to be in the front of the queue for the gallery seats (1/6). I believe that the Old Vic Company led by Laurence Olivier and Ralph Richardson together with a host of wonderful performers (Alec Guinness among them) was the greatest ever and that there is nothing comparable today. From that Company we learnt the importance, among other things, of pace and excitement. I used to write *ZOOM !* in Red greasepaint across dressing-room mirrors—just to keep the adrenalin pumping (which reminds me as I write this, I almost forgot to take my Beta-blocker pills. I think my heart has put up with too much excitement in its 75 years) So really, it was my years at Trinity that prepared me for my life in show business. I tell no lie when I say that at Trinity I had the best fun ever. How come? Simple - we made our own entertainment. Of course, I am grateful and amazed that the BBC decided to celebrate 6.5 Special, fifty years on—who would have thought it ? Some people seem to think that I must have had a whale of a time hob-nobbing with celebrities in Hollywood in the Sixties. Not so. I was very, very busy indeed. No time for parties or wild shenanigans. I never took drugs nor danced with wild women! I had a wife and three kids and they were my life. We had our own fun at home especially at Christmas and the holidays. I am now the proud grandfather of ten wonderful teenagers, but I am afraid that they will never have such creature fun as our gang at Trinity.

Editor Notes :

Re Jack’s references to Victor Hext and Oliver Gagggs, - attendees at the 2003 Hatfield Reunion were delighted to a shortened performance of one of the Henry plays by WS. What fun ! Photos are on the website in the 2003 reunion news.

Some 16 years after *Othello* for Trinity, Jack conceived and produced a rock adaptation of Shakespeare's *Othello, Catch My Soul*, which opened on stage in Los Angeles (featuring Jerry Lee Lewis as Iago) and then had a run in London (with P.J. Proby) for a season. The film version was released in 1974 having been directed by Patrick McGoohan (*The Prisoner*).

Did you also know that Jack discovered Sonny and Cher ? On a Michael Parkinson show which I was watching,, Cher was telling the story of how she and Sonny first got started in the US, and how they were not well received because people thought they were weird. [her words]. She then went on to say, "there was a man called **Jack Good** who was presenting a USA show called *Shindig*, who loved us. He said "**you've got to go to England**", so we sold everything, and we were famous here first. Even the older generation would ask for our autographs, and when we got back to America we were huge, and everyone thought we were English”

I am sure that we all associate Jack with *Six-Five Special* in particular but he was also responsible for the ITV television show *Oh! Boy!* in 1958. Jack also directed the musical *Elvis* with “*Shakin’ Stevens*” which ran at The Astoria, Charing Cross Road from October 1977 until the 7th June 1979. It won the *Evening Standard* musical of the year in 1978.

The list is endless.

To say that Jack has retired would be an understatement. He is still as enthusiastic as ever about life in general, and who knows ...
.....?

Beryl Skinner

Hot and steamy in Bournemouth ? Yes, Bournemouth ! and the weather was as well !

The Reunion took off on the Friday, and continued for most of us until Sunday morning. Although numbers were down to 23 it wasn't through lack of effort - as I had written to another 28 old scholars, without a single reply! I feel that this was extremely poor as a simple 'no' would have been quite acceptable .. Having got that off my chest, down to 'Trinity reality'

We started this some years ago at the Bournemouth reunions and have never looked back (well, only in the literal sense!). It just amazes me how the stories keep on coming - no doubt it is because of the thirty years of entries we have.

It was very nice to see Dorothy Gulliver, Kathleen Saunders and Tom Woodcock who had all missed a couple of years David Deamer was recovering from an encounter with a cyclist in Oxford Street whilst alighting from a bus, and Reg Rogers (our Vice President) was recovering from an attempt to emulate Michael Schumacher - with the wrong result! Reg - we now have Lewis Hamilton, so take it easy! !

We took our meals in the Anthurium restaurant and had never discovered why it is called this, but the Anthurium is a sexy plant with large red leaves and a long yellow stamen coming out of the middle of each leaf. . . We got up close and personal this year as more intimate details emerged of school life and pupils' fantasies! I never knew Miss Mundy or Miss Schofield, but we were reliably informed by Les Grafton and David Deamer that they both had gorgeous legs! In addition, David told us that Miss Mundy's perfume was something to die for and he was always quick to encourage her to correct his mistakes at close quarters, just so that he could smell her perfume - whatever next?

On a more serious note, David paid tribute to Dr. Jones, who was remembered with great reverence, having died 50 years ago almost to the day of our reunion: Trinity was his life and he made you acknowledge the school likewise. Dr. Jones was a Head Teacher of superb quality, whose legacy lives on in these reunions.

We have recently created some new Associate Members in TOSA, but we had with us the original Associate Member, Jane Glyn (Phil or Pip's wife), Jane took us back to the early days of the Theatrical Society, when they put on their first production 'Pride and Prejudice'. Jane was not a Trinity scholar but had attended all the rehearsals with Pip. Dr. Jones noticed this and asked Pip if he was going to make an honest woman of her! Pip's response was positive so Dr. Jones then proposed that Jane be made an Associate Member of Trinity, and instructed Mr. McPhee to second the proposal- hence a 'first' and Jane then participated in the plays etc. This meant a great deal to Jane, who has a strong relationship with Trinity. There were also amusing anecdotes from our resident 'Court Jester', Les Grafton, and he was on fine form. Apparently Miss Mundy (his favourite teacher doubtless because of her legs!) taught French and she decided to go round the class calling the boys by their equivalent French name e.g. John became Jean, Michael became Michel etc., but when she came to Les he finished up being called Felix! Oh well, that's life! A lot of the pre-war Clubs, like Walking and Camping, disappeared during the war years, but other activities were more important e.g. pea picking. Yes, the boys did go pea picking. The peas were put into a sack and weighed. However, the picking period mentioned in the Trinity book is some 3½ weeks - a rather strange figure! Why? Well, to speed up the process, somebody put a brick in the bottom of the sack. When the sack was emptied into the peeling machine - bingo, one damaged machine and the job ended after 3½ weeks! The gathering were spellbound by these revelations, and many more. Thank you, Les.

Anne Flanagan (1958) enlightened us on the final days of Trinity - which were sad. Trinity merged with Glendale and subsequently became Wood Green Grammar School, with all photographs and references to Trinity removed. I would think that it was very depressing for Anne and her colleagues. It's good to hear, however, that Anne is in contact with about 40 of the 58'ers, who will be holding their own Reunion in May. Well done, Anne.

I could go on, but I won't. You've probably had enough by now! However, I will finish with one final story from David Deamer, which has some parallel with Dad's Army. Ted Baynham was one of our original members at Bournemouth and apparently on the day he was made a prefect at Trinity he was determined to nail somebody for detention, so he picked on David! But instead of asking for his class, he bellowed after David 'what's your name Deamer?!!! Trinity's own answer to Captain Manwaring!

NEXT YEAR'S DATE 25/26/27 April - join us and bring your own memorabilia and stories.

Bournemouth Reunion – April 2007
 Attendees

Mrs Jill Deamer
 David Deamer
 Reg Rogers
 Peter Zimmermann with wife Jeanne (Webb)
 Beryl Ivatt (Cole) with husband Geoff
 Vic Manning with wife Geraldine
 Kathleen Saunders (Brandle)
 Josephine Gillard (Payne)
 Dorothy Gulliver (Newling)
 Phil Glyn with wife Jane
 Les Waugh with wife Mona
 Les Grafton with wife Margaret
 Anne Flanagan with father George
 Tom Woodcock with guest Mavis
 Reg Hanks

We have news of former Head Girl and Prefect **Thelma Hodgson** who married David Battlebury also an Old Scholar.
 They now live in Wiltshire and Thelma is enjoying Volunteer work in the local community.

North London Group Monthly Meetings are now at Trent Park Golf Club—ring Reg Rogers 0208 440 2646. CHRISTMAS LUNCH IS ON MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY



The booking form for the Annual School Reunion (the 15th !) is attached. The format will be the same as last year..

1. You will all have a great time
2. You will meet old and make new friends
3. Put on your glad rags.. Dinner Jacket and Party Dress optional ...just be comfortable.
4. Celebrate the 47'ers 60th
5. Celebrate your own joining !
6. Please let us have your booking form by 15th July at the latest... we must have 60 diners.

For the best deal—stay the night we need to reserve your rooms

7. Your cheques will not be cashed until September.
8. Annual General Meeting is at 4.30 pm ..Choose your Committee. Have your say.
9. SPREAD THE WORD

Standing Order Instruction

PLEASE TAKE OR SEND DIRECT TO YOUR BANK

To Manager.....(Bank)

Branch.....

Please set up a Standing Order to:

T.O.S.A. Sort Code 30-91-11 Account No. 03469989 Reference

Example YournameYear joined Trinity

Amount £5.00 (Five Pounds) Annually on 5th January commencing 2008 until further notice

Please debit my account No.....Sort Code.....

Signed.....

The following has just been received from St Michaels Church.....
 Dear Mrs Skinner
 Thank you very much for your letter regarding the War Memorial.
 I raised the proposal to introduce a memorial in St Michael's at our church council meeting last evening. It was favourably received, although with some caveats, mainly concerning the siting and general design of the memorial.
 As you will have seen on our website, we have a wooden memorial which has a large empty panel at the bottom. Members would be happy to see a brass memorial introduced into that space, with the names of the 55 scholars of the school who gave their lives during the war, engraved on it. It could also perhaps have some other appropriate engraving explaining the memorial's purpose. The size of the space available measures 17" x 8½"
 I look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions for the design of the memorial, which I will present to the church council for their approval in due course.
 With every blessing
 Fr Colin Coppen

**Your committee will proceed along these lines for quotes etc.
 Can anyone recommend an Engraver—NOT Trophy.**

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.
I had amnesia once -- or twice.
I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?
All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.
If the world was a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses side saddle.
What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?
They told me I was gullible... and I believed them.
Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the Motorway.
Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.
One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.
My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies.
I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.
The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.
How can there be self-help "groups"?
If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

**And Finally -
 Remember :**
Friends are quiet Angels who lift our wings when we have forgotten how to fly

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