

## Trinity Old Scholars Association

www.tosa.homestead.com email: trinityn22@hotmail.co.uk

Editor—Beryl Skinner (Hayter) 1942 Telephone 0118 9730589

Proof Reader—Peter Turner 1954 Telephone 01538 371331



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TRINITY OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION RAMADA COMET HOTEL HATFIELD 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010

#### Present

Margaret Driscoll; Peter Turner; Mary Davies; Judith Neville; Beryl Skinner; Grace Wardell;  
Doreen Stoddart; Mick Osborne; Alan Rutter; Colin Moore; John Rout ; Reg Rogers; Derek Coleman ;  
Margaret McGinn; John Glynn. Apologies received from Doris Chennells; Fred Brailey; Audrey and Roy  
Augood.

The meeting started at 4.45pm.

#### Minutes

1. The President Reg Rogers welcomed everybody and thanked Beryl Skinner for all her hard work. Beryl was appointed Chairman of the meeting.

2. Minutes of AGM 2009 were approved. Proposed by Colin Moore seconded by Margaret McGinn.

3. Members present were give a copy of the accounts and Beryl reported that although they showed an overspend of £100.74 for the current year, we were still solvent. Flowers had been sent to Diana Ireland's (our oldest member) funeral in the school colours and we continued to award prizes to Nightingale School. Treasurers Report was approved without dissent. Proposed by Margaret McGinn and seconded by Judith Neville

4. The previous committee are re-elected for 2010/11

Mary Davies; Margaret McGinn; Judith Neville; John Glyn; Vic Manning; Fred Brailey; Peter Turner; Beryl Skinner. Colin Marr is willing to continue examining the accounts.

Proposed by Derek Coleman and seconded by Mick Osborne

5. Any Other Business

Beryl expressed concern at the decrease in number at this year's Annual Dinner with many of our regulars unable to attend due to ill-health and other reasons. Unfortunately, we are all getting older and some do not like attending evening events. After discussion, it was agreed by members present, that a vote should be made at the dinner, to change the timing to a Lunchtime gathering, rather than an evening event and to continue at the Ramada Hotel who always look after us so well. \*

In view of the decline in support of the Annual dinner, together with the problem of arranging a suitable date in 2012, the "celebration"? of the school's closure in 1962 would not now go ahead in the format originally proposed i.e. at Nightingale School. We would need to arrange a weekend (probably a Saturday) during the School's closure for the summer holiday, which coincides with the Olympic Games when everything will be overly expensive for accommodation etc. We will hope to arrange something special at the October reunion 2012 . Newsletters – the number of issues may be reduced during the next twelve months- and will be left to Beryl's discretion.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.35 pm

#### School Reunion October 2010

\* This was the lowest number of attendees since the Association was re-established. However, that did not mean it was a sad occasion—far from it ! The whole evening was vibrant with laughter and talk, with people moving from table to table, engaging with old friends and meeting with new.

As you will see from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, the future of the Annual School reunion was discussed at some length, and this was reported during the social period of the Dinner. A "Hands up" confirmed that a majority would welcome a change from an evening function to a lunch time gathering, and this is what will happen in 2011. The date has been agreed with Ramada—Saturday 15th October-Overnight accommodation will be available on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be published in a forthcoming newsletter.

\*\* Another change— see Page 7 for more details...you will not regret it !

**Peter Turner (1954)** set the ball rolling by inviting **Don Turner (1954 and not related)** to investigate the 1955 School Inspection. The following is Don's interpretation, clearly setting out the inspection that may have resulted in the untimely resignation of Mr Swinden who will be remembered with affection I am sure, by many Old Scholars from the late 30's until the mid-40's as a Senior Master in the days of Dr. Jones and subsequently as Headmaster of Trinity from 1949. - Here is the result—and interesting reading it is. **Editor**

## THE SCHOOL INSPECTION IN 1955

These days school inspection reports are published in full immediately. Back in the 1950s they were strictly confidential and, along with other state secrets, classified for some fifty years. Release of the 1955 Inspection Report on Trinity heightens the mystery behind Headmaster L.A. Swinden's subsequent early retirement.

As a pupil, little did I think that I would now be inspecting the inspectors. Their unflattering report contains blistering turns of phrase to describe our inadequacies, but faint praise too. Reviewing HMI's documentary evidence is really a poisoned chalice. Some scholars may prefer to have their fond recollections of the School undisturbed.

We must remember that an inspection is only a snapshot of school life and may not fully reflect the reality of our own educational experience. More so in the case of Trinity under Mr. Swinden's dark successor.

The Inspectors do not seem particularly mindful of the prevailing financial austerity of the post-war period, which had a profound impact on education resources and many pupils social circumstances. Our local rivals Glendale had a similar inspection in 1952. They too were victims of HMI's caustic pen.

## THE SCHOOL

Let us begin gently with a few benchmark statistics. During the academic year 1954/5 Trinity had 615 pupils, with 10% more girls than boys. Average class size, excluding the sixth form, was 28. The number of pupils per teacher came to 17.6, just within the Middlesex permitted ratio of 18.5.

In all we had 35 teaching staff, of whom 14 were mistresses, a lower proportion than desirable in a mixed school. I think the boys would echo that sentiment.

Glendale, a smaller three-form entry school with 440 pupils, had a similar class size and pupil-teacher ratio.

## THE INSPECTIONS

Events unfold in late February 1955. Pupils were given an unexpected two days extra holiday. A team of 14 Inspectors then descended upon the School to carry out a General Inspection, without the inconvenience of our presence. A few days later the Inspectors returned. This time it was to do a four-days Full Inspection. Their conspicuous arrival was marked by attendance at the morning Special Assembly to celebrate St. David's Day on 1 March. Soon after the Inspection, on 8 March, Mr. Swinden met with HMI and other officials to discuss the School in depth.

At that time, Trinity had no independent Governing Body to represent the interests of the School. One key topic was a recent plan, hatched within the Divisional Education Executive, to rebuild Trinity on its seven-acre playing field. No time horizon had been set. The plan represented a reversal of planning policy to eliminate Trinity and build two secondary modern schools on the School field. Mr. Swinden told the meeting he would face this with confidence, presumably encouraged by a political volte-face. However, this information leaked, causing a groundswell of dissent within the School at the prospect of losing our recreation facilities. Pupils had a greater sense of immediacy than planners.

Five months later, during the School summer holidays on 13 August 1955, a Saturday, two meetings with the Headmaster were held at the Local Education Office to further discuss HMI's report. The school-keeper was also interviewed and to cap it all, the GCE results arrived.

It must have been a day of intense psychological pressure for Mr. Swinden.

Less than two months after those meetings, on 5 October, a now apparently less confident Mr. Swinden notified Wood Green Executive of his intention to retire in mid-academic year, on 30 April 1956.

Glendale's inspection did not merit quite the same attention as Trinity. Only ten inspectors swooped. Acting with commendable efficiency their conclusions were discussed at a meeting held on the final day of inspection. No hasty judgements then. Headmaster Dr. S.A. Dymont survived. Both Trinity and Glendale were last inspected in the 1930s.

## 1954 INTAKE.

The timing of the School inspection means we can take a closer look, as HMI did, at pupils who joined Trinity in 1954. The intake of 125 boys and girls came from 40 primary schools in Wood Green and surrounding boroughs. Half made Trinity their first choice (or had it made for them). Almost all those who achieved the zone pass mark in the eleven-plus examination (30% of us) had their preference for Trinity satisfied.

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It was an increasingly popular School and the County standard was relaxed for admission to Trinity. This beneficial facility in the borough relieved pressure on other secondary schools. Paradoxically, the Inspectors found Trinity to be seriously crowded, with just enough classroom space for everyone to sit down. No grading took place in the first year, which resulted in insufficiently demanding academic work for the more intellectual pupils. Everyone will be relieved to know that Glendale's 1952 intake were of an even lower academic order. Only 15% of entrants reached the eleven-plus mark for Middlesex. For many pupils Glendale was their second or third choice.

### SCHOOL LIBRARY

A sign of the times is revealed by our former Headmaster, Dr. E.E. Jones. As a co-opted School advocate he hinted disbelief that Trinity needed a library when there was a good one at Wood Green. HMI took the opposite view, deciding that the School did in fact merit an immediate block grant to fund books. Moreover, the Inspectors also stressed the pressing need for a library "to serve as the intellectual centre of school life" at both Trinity and Glendale.

One wonders whether Dr. Jones would have achieved his own academic distinction at Wood Green public library.

### PREMISES

Trinity's building no longer suited the educational requirements of a large secondary school. Inspectors found it "difficult to know what can be done", short of reducing pupil numbers by 25% to create space. They recognised that would not be possible, because of the increasing demand for secondary school places.

Poor standards of hygiene and care-taking, the need for a library and improved science facilities, no space for private study, an overcrowded common room for masters, inadequate heating and lighting, internal and external redecoration, refurbishment, the list of defects goes on. We even had an unsightly array of dustbins stored within the School building by the main entrance, which HMI laconically labelled "dustbin land". Bright spots were the clean School kitchen and new, but small, gymnasium for boys. Girls had to use the main hall for P.E.

Mr. Swinden was nonetheless congratulated on his persistence for the many improvements he had managed to secure. In today's affluent society it is easy to lose perspective on the depth of lingering post-war financial stringency.

A similar story of deprivation emerged at Glendale, except that the caretaker's work was well done!

### STAFF

Almost two-thirds of Trinity staff had less than eight years' service at the School. The exodus, soon after A.H. Dalrymple's appointment on 19 April 1956, seemed to represent the old guard. They included those whom the Inspectors had described as "teachers of distinction ... who lend considerable strength to the history and modern languages departments in particular."

Their departure, which Mr. Dalrymple later passed off in the School Magazine as a "healthy sign", left a gap in permanent staff of at least eleven experienced teachers, until successors were appointed one term later.

Even before this hiatus, HMI noted that Trinity had more non-graduate teachers than is normal at a grammar school. Some needed considerable assistance because of their inexperience or lack of qualifications to teach a subject.

Within the largest departments Inspectors observed inadequate leadership, teamwork and course planning.

This dispiriting situation goes some way to explain resentful recollections of our own grammar school education, especially under the new leadership.

Calmer waters prevailed at Glendale, which experienced much careful but undistinguished teaching. A few older staff members were showing "some indications of declining powers."! Dr. S.A. Dymont, a physicist appointed in 1939, was criticised for the unseemly appearance of his room, but had a good relationship with his staff. Shades of Jimmy Edwards and 'Whacko'!

### PUPILS

The Inspectors did not mince their words. Pupils' wide-ranging intellectual calibre made Trinity "a very difficult school to teach in." Only half had the ability to follow the traditional grammar school curriculum. By contrast, sixth-form work achieved Scholarship standard in some subjects.

HMI advocated a system of setting in major subjects, to reduce the spread of ability in classes and allow the necessary variation in teaching. The introduction of this procedure might explain why some of us reminisce today somewhat confused by who was in which class.

A further challenge was presented by those for whom part-time employment (milk, butchers and newspaper rounds) and outside attractions (sports, dating, coffee bars and glorious Spurs) "constitute an obstacle to their education." Early leavers were also a significant problem, worse than the national average.

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In GCE examinations the School average was to present 6.1 subjects and pass 3.6. These results were depressed by the two lower streams, which achieved less than 2 passes. The two upper form results were therefore "reasonably good". Comfort to Trinity results is given by Dr Martin Stephen (now High Master of St.Paul's in West London – one of the top academic schools in the country) who recently described the GCE O levels of 1955-59 as "a stinkingly hard, fact-based exam". As a pupil in Rutland in the 60's he achieved the lowest pass grade in all but two subjects !

Contrary to popular belief, Inspectors found a good standard of School uniform and tidiness at Trinity, with few internal discipline problems. For boys, perhaps it was a case of being made presentable for the occasion, as would happen for a visiting auntie. When not under close scrutiny, 'Just William' behaviour would embrace using School caps as goalposts in the playground; ambushing hapless students of Clark's College at winter lunchtimes for one-sided snowball fights; dropping an occasional stink bomb at a strategic moment during morning assembly; and classroom pranks to enliven boring lessons.

According to the Inspectors there was a lack of clarity of speech, accurate statement and simple note-taking skills, but what was written was neatly done! Mainly detention lines, I suspect. Despite these bemusing shortcomings, HMI still acknowledged Trinity as an increasingly popular school of first choice, with quite a good record of further education beyond grammar school. We also have the added consolation of knowing that many pupils at Glendale enjoyed "a style of teaching which makes insufficient demands on their limited powers", with about one-quarter leaving school before the age of sixteen.

Perhaps the real lesson of a grammar school education is that it is not a predictor of academic performance or vocational achievement in later life.

## **CURRICULUM**

In 1954/5, under the Middlesex Agreed Syllabus, we had essentially a common curriculum within the School. The main subject exceptions were biology for girls, physics and chemistry for boys, and 'A' stream Latin, all of which began in the second year. An imbalance of time allocated to subjects broadly favoured mathematics, taking seven periods a week in the first year.

The Inspectors obtained "clear impressions" of teaching standards in various streams of the School. Apparently, everyone received a good education in history, art and boys P.E. In the larger departments standards were variable and not always consistent with pupils' ability. The teaching of Latin, music and handicraft were considered below average.

The Inspectors' report contains detailed observations on all subjects, dissecting the complicated nuances of school life across the syllabus. Special mention should be made of music and boys P.E. to illustrate how discipline influenced results.

Mr. McDonald, the young music master who joined Trinity 18 months earlier, is credited with a wholesome musical atmosphere in School and enterprising work out of School hours, involving an 80 strong four-part choir.

Unfortunately, the third form were particularly disruptive in class, inattentive and unruly. This disciplinary problem had also filtered down to the first two forms. The Inspector suggested that "a quieter and more insistent manner and softer piano playing might help him obtain better control." !

In stark contrast we had redoubtable Mr. Mackey, the boys P.E. master. Although waterlogged football pitches had been out of use for four months, younger boys still had two gym sessions a week and a double period of games. The P.E. schedule was broad in scope, carefully planned and energetically carried out. Mr. Mackey taught vigorously, effectively and was unflagging in his efforts. The Inspector dryly added, almost as an afterthought, that "boys respond well."

Unlike the Inspector, we knew the consequences of not doing so, mindful of the slipper, the rope and suspension from wall-bars as deterrents to misbehaviour or lack of effort under Mr. Mackey's severe regime. For all that, we were not only extremely fit but immensely proud of the School's county reputation in sport, at which we excelled.

HMI also noted the particularly full record of Trinity life, published each term in the School Magazine, soon to be slashed by Mr. Dalrymple to one edition a year.

## **HEADMASTER**

The School Inspection and Mr. Swinden's subsequent resignation seem inextricably connected. His School Diary gives no clue as to the motive.

I imagine we all remember his bouncy walk, dapper suits, gravitas and formal manner with pupils. Mr. Swinden's allegiance to and pride in Trinity is unquestionable. Indeed, HMI records "his great desire to serve wholeheartedly this School which he knows so intimately".

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Mr. Swinden had previously been Headmaster for three years at Bounds Green Secondary School until 1949, when he joined Trinity in the same capacity. A separate HMI Report in 1952 attributes much credit for the healthy state of Bounds Green to Mr. Swinden's "wise guidance". Before that, he had spent seventeen years as Assistant Master of mathematics at Trinity where, under his later headship he "shows great devotion to details of organization".

The Headmaster and his Senior Mistress, if I can put it like that, are both described as "capable teachers, brisk and clear in exposition and demanding active participation of their classes". Although Mr. Swinden graduated in mathematics, Miss Parsons, also a B.Sc., headed the department of eight staff.

HMI observed difficulties within Miss Parsons' department concerning effective leadership, team co-ordination and variable teaching standards. Yet the School had an enterprising Mathematical Society and Mr. Swinden's unusual collection of working mathematical models in his study. The fact that these models were rarely seen by pupils is perhaps testimony to the sparing use of corporal punishment under his stewardship, unlike his successor. Miss Parsons resigned from Trinity during the exodus of staff in the first year of Mr. Dalrymple's reign, to become Deputy Head of another grammar school.

Presentations to Mr. Swinden by prefects, scholars and Wood Green teachers at several events in the month before retirement, serve to endorse his own good reputation.

Without sight of the resignation letter, which in fact may contain no explanation, speculation inevitably takes over. I sense that Mr. Swinden's departure was triggered by the merging in his mind of several issues.

**Firstly** the Inspection Report, which crystallized serious problems:

1. teaching pupils of wide-ranging academic ability to the same GCE standard in crowded premises;
2. tensions within his own department of mathematics;
3. no independent Governing Body
4. **and** an uncertain future for Trinity, the School to which he had devoted most of his professional life.

**Secondly**, meetings held at the Divisional Education Executive during the summer vacation of 1955, may have been decisive. At that time Middlesex was a focus for the policy to close grammar schools. The Executive could have reneged on the plan to save Trinity and confronted Mr. Swinden with an agenda for change on how the School would be managed.

At some point a decision was taken, with effect from the Autumn term of 1956, to house first form pupils at the old White Hart Lane School. Perhaps the sudden prospect of Trinity becoming fragmented was the last straw for Mr. Swinden.

Whatever prompted his resignation, there can be no doubt about Mr. Swinden's dedication to Trinity. In the end, it seems that events simply conspired to frustrate his Great Expectations, so often the story of life.

**Don Turner © (1954) - October 2010**

### A REMINDER

**Subscriptions are due on 1st January. Many of you will already be set up to pay by Standing Order for which we thank you—Still time : Please complete form overleaf and take/send to your own Bank. Please do not return to me.** Standing Orders can be cancelled at any time by you. **Annual Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. . THERE WILL BE NO REMINDERS THIS YEAR, and if subs are not received by the end of January—this is your last Newsletter. The following have already paid:**

Aberdour Ken ; Andrews Philip ; Baldry Lesley ; Boyall Laurie ; Brooks Les; Butt Roger;  
Collingwood Dennis; Deamer David; Ellicott Rosemary ; Featherstone Maurice; Lindfield Alan; Lines Derek;  
Major Irvin; Moody Jackie; Preece Jim; Pritchard Eddie; Ring David; Saunders Kathleen; Say John;  
Waugh Les; Wilson Margaret; Palmer Clive; Heading Joan (Beau) Godfrey Betty

The following do not pay: Life Members ; Honorary; Overseas ; Joint members pay one subscription only;  
Cheques payable to **TOSA** to :

**TOSA, 110 Reading Road, Finchampstead, Berks, RG40 4RA**

## MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

### A Wartime Memory

The first time I attended a Trinity reunion I was introduced all round as a former pupil of Tottenham Grammar School by my wife Joy, (Joyce Thompson – 1944 - 49)

One group remembered hearing the bang and seeing the smoke plume in the distance when the V2 rocket landed adjacent to the school. They asked me whether I had been in the school at the time and in fact I was.

The day began in routine fashion with assembly. Among other things the Headmaster announced that any boy in the second year who was available on Saturday morning should report to room 11 during the lunch hour. A film company wanted to speak about getting some shots of boys chasing Spurs players for their autographs. This was right up my street and I duly turned up. The rocket fell during the lunch hour and room 11 was at the furthest point from the impact. The room itself was undamaged and nobody was hurt. After a short interval of shock a prefect opened the door and ordered everyone to report to the playground. We found ourselves clambering over broken glass and shattered door frames.

When some sort of order had been restored it emerged that two boys had been killed, and one seriously injured while several had minor injuries. This was a very low casualty rate for V2 incidents. There were two reasons for this. Although the waste ground on which the rocket fell was very close to the school it was higher and much of the blast affected the upper storey. The second factor was that it was lunch time. The biology laboratory was the nearest point to the impact and was upstairs. Had a class been in session it is easy to imagine that some thirty boys and a master would have been killed in that room alone. If the rocket had landed in the play ground the numbers killed would surely have reached three figures.

The date was 15th March 1945. Although we were lucky that the casualty list was low it is all the more poignant that only some two weeks later the last V2 fell as the allies advanced and in less than two months the war was over. **Eric Riley (Tottenham Grammar School 43 – 48)**

Seventy years since the Battle of Britain and the blitz and memories return. During the last few years before retirement I had to visit Biggin Hill once or twice a week. The RAF was no longer using the base and it operated as a civil airport. Just along the road from the main entrance stands the Memorial Chapel. At one time a Spitfire and a Hurricane stood as gate guardians but because of their increasing value they were replaced by scaled down fibre glass replicas. Inside the Chapel there are stained glass windows and a memorial book. The floor is made from old wooden aircraft propellers, the hassocks were embroidered by ladies from the locality and there are other items of memorabilia. The original wooden Chapel burned down in 1946 and Churchill asked that it should be replaced and the present brick built structure opened in the 1950s. The Chapel is open daily from 1100 to 1600 (times vary slightly depending on the day of the week) and opening hours can be confirmed on 01959 570353.

I recently visited a simulation of a 1940 air raid. This involved a replica of a brick shelter and there were realistic sound effects of gun fire and falling bombs accompanied by the building appearing to vibrate. (I remember there was one such shelter at the entrance to Ally Pally at the top of Palace Gates Road. There was also an ARP post at the road junction.) Seventy years on I looked across at my daughter and grandchildren who seemed to be unaffected by the experience and I suppose as a child I regarded it as a bit of an adventure but then my thoughts turned to what my parents must have been felt during the air raids. I know Beryl had a narrow escape when Bounds Green Tube was hit. Fate works in strange ways. A colleague I have known for fifty years was in a shelter in Plymouth and was sitting at the entrance with his mother and grandfather. A lady with a young girl asked if they could change seats as the daughter was feeling unwell. My friend and his mother moved to the back of the shelter and gave them their seats. Minutes later a bomb fell near the entrance and killed the lady, daughter and the grandfather. My colleague and his mother were buried in rubble but were rescued and survived.

**Cecil Webb 45**

### Standing Order Instruction

**To Manager.....(Bank) Branch.....**

**Please Pay immediately £5.00 (Five Pounds) to TOSA Sort Code 30-91-11 Account No. 03469989**  
and then Annually commencing 5th January 2012 until further notice

Reference .....

( yournameYear joined Trinity e.g. Fred Blogs41 )

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

**Name.....**

Signed .....

Date.....

## 17th TRINITY OLD SCHOLARS REUNION AT BOURNEMOUTH

Friday 15– Monday 18th April 2011

We are indebted to **Vic Manning (49) with his wife Geraldine** who have investigated the new venue, and find it comes up to the standard you would like and have negotiated the rates for you. Many thanks to Jill Deamer who continues to handle the bookings.

They write:

Next year the Reunion will take place from Friday 15th to Monday 17th April 2011, and we hope that some of you will join us - particularly because we have a **NEW VENUE**.

The Reunion will be held at The Arlington Hotel, Exeter Park Road, Bournemouth BH2 5BD

This is a family-run hotel and its position is ideal whether you want to stroll along the promenade, or have a look round the shops. The bar looks out over the hotel's terraced garden, which opens (via a locked gate) directly into the beautiful gardens in the centre of Bournemouth. All the bedrooms are en-suite and the hotel has its own car park.

Rates for dinner, bed and breakfast are as follows:-

1 night stay Saturday 16 April	£59 p.p.
2 night stay Friday 15th/Saturday 16th	£99 p.p.
3 night stay Friday 15th/Saturday 16th/Sunday 17th	£129 p.p.
Meal only Saturday night 16th April	£18

If you wish to make a reservation, please contact:

**Jill Deamer**

**3A Church Road**

**Preston**

**Weymouth DT3 6BU**

Please book early to avoid disappointment!

We look forward to seeing you there.

### Editor's Note

Photos of the hotel are on our Website [www.tosa.homestead.com](http://www.tosa.homestead.com)—the link will be found under INTERESTING READING.

**Apart from being a delightful seaside resort, Bournemouth has many things to offer the intrepid visitor and a must will surely be a visit to East Cliff Hall**

East Cliff Hall was the home of Sir Merton Russell-Cotes (1835-1921) and Lady Russell-Cotes (1835-1920). The building of East Cliff Hall was begun in 1897 and was completed in its first form in 1901.

The house was designed by the architect John Frederick Fogerty, who moved to Bournemouth in the late 1880's. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that there was a great deal of input from the Russell-Cotes.

"After considering several designs" Sir Merton wrote, "I had made up my mind to construct it architecturally to combine the Renaissance with Italian and old Scottish baronial styles."

On the 15th July 1901 Sir Merton presented East Cliff Hall to his wife as a gift on her birthday. This date is significant as it was the year that Queen Victoria died and makes it one of the last Victorian buildings ever built. Like many wealthy Victorians, Sir Merton and Lady Russell-Cotes travelled the world visiting many countries including Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, America and Hawaii and used the house as a showcase for their growing collections. Many of the individual rooms were devoted to the places they visited such as the Mikado's Room based on their visit to Japan.

In 1907 Sir Merton and Lady Russell-Cotes announced that they were giving their home together with their collections of art and beautiful objects to the people of Bournemouth.

The Russell-Cotes continued to live in the house, which was officially opened in 1909 with public admission on the first Wednesday of the month, up until their deaths in 1920 and 1921 respectively.

It is now managed by Bournemouth Council and can be found at Russell Cotes Road, Bournemouth BH1 3

**Admission is Free and it is open Tue-Sun 10am-5pm**

**Dates for your diary : 2011**

**North London Group** meets for lunch on the 3rd Monday in the month At Trent Park (Opposite Oakwood Underground). You will need to let **Reg Rogers** know if you are coming- **0208 3669427**

**1946 Group** will hold their annual Lunch-time gathering at the Ramada Hotel at Hatfield on Saturday, 16th April.  
Contact **Margaret Driscoll** on **01327 350283**  
**OR John Glynn** on **01372 802576**

**1954's**—7th May at Ye Old Cherry Tree, Southgate.  
Noon until 4.30 pm  
Contact **Peter Turner** on **01538 371331**

**Since our last newsletter we have said goodbye to the following Old Scholars. As always, our condolences have been sent to the family at this sad time, and more information can be found on our website under Obituaries.**

**Dorothy Gulliver (Newling) 33** her daughter writes: my Mum, passed away on 8th October 2010. She thoroughly enjoyed her reunion weekends in Bournemouth as she liked to make new acquaintances, and hoped to see the same faces as well as new ones at the next occasion. I was able to see for myself why she enjoyed herself as one year I accompanied her and was well entertained at the Saturday dinner. **Alison Brown**

**Thelma Bamford (34)** died peacefully on the morning of Saturday 30th October 2010. Her niece writes— She was 87 years old on 6th June this year, and had made it clear that she was ready to go . Thelma donated her body to medical education so instead of a funeral, a memorial service was held on 2nd December.

**Lesley Jordan**

**Editor's note.**

I have since discovered that Lesley Jordan (see above) spent the first year of **Wood Green School** (as it then was 1962-3) in the Trinity School building. At that time she was in the lower 6th and at Glendale before that. She is still in touch with one of her school friends who was at Trinity.

Finally to make you laugh—**truths For Mature Humans**

**The following is from Catherine Richell (Derek Richell's widow who remains in touch from California).** Derek was responsible for converting the first database for "Big John" Snellgrove and also for setting up our website which he taught me how to do.

1. I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
7. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of tired.
8. Bad decisions make good stories.
9. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
10. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection... again.
11. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
12. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
13. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

**And last but not least :**

14. The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

**Ladies.....Stop Laughing.**

**And finally—my thanks to the contributors during the year and a very Merry Christmas to you all—may you and yours enjoy good health during the coming year (s) and happiness in the days to come .**

**Remember :**

*Friends are quiet Angels who lift our wings when we have forgotten how to fly*