

## Trinity Old Scholars Association

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**W**ell here we are, already into the 2nd quarter of 2012 and the Olympics in Great Britain is "racing" upon us. I wonder how many of you managed to go to the one in 1948 formally known as the Games of the XIV Olympiad ? I am sure that the following (courtesy of the BBC /RadioTimes Archives) will spark some memories and I would be interested to receive any for inclusion in our next newsletter.

The event became known as the "Austerity" Games due to the economic climate and post-war rationing. No new venues were built for the games or the athletes but a former military convalescent camp was converted and updated to provide housing for 1,500 of the Olympic competitors.

The provision of accommodation was also politically sensitive. A balance had to be struck between the need for Britain to be seen as capable of providing an adequate level of comfort for its guests and the pressure to rebuild housing for those left homeless by the war. Evidence of 'Austerity Britain' abounded as single beds were lined up in cramped dormitories and a static water tank was described as a duck pond. However, some luxuries were provided as the camp also had its own Post Office, bank and milk bar.

Guards were posted at the Richmond Park site to prevent squatters moving in after the British Army had vacated it and other camps were also prepared at RAF bases in Uxbridge and West Drayton. Between them, these three sites catered for 4,300 of the 6,000 expected guests. Female competitors were housed at three colleges in the Greater London area. A record 59 nations were represented by 4,104 athletes, 3,714 men and 390 women, in 19 sport disciplines.

On the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1948 Prime Minister Clement Atlee welcomed the Olympic Athletes in a broadcast by the BBC wishing "may the weather be fine, the events well contested and records broken" . Listeners then heard a description by Wynford Vaughan Thomas of the scene at Dover earlier in the evening as the Mayor received the Olympic Flame from a naval runner and the Vice-Lieutenant of Kent despatched it on the last stage of its journey to London. The Flame, kindled at the little Greek village of Olympia, has been on its way across Europe since July 17, borne by relays of runners drawn from the countries through which it had passed.

At the opening ceremony at Wembley on the following day, His Majesty King George VI declared the games open, whilst commentator Wynford Vaughn Thomas described the scenes for listeners in Great Britain and overseas. Others broadcast in forty different languages for audiences throughout the world and it was thought that 80,000 people actually watched the parade of athletes and saw the lighting of the torch whilst many more viewed the scene by television.

Germany and Japan were not invited to participate because of their roles as aggressors in World War II; the USSR were invited but chose not to send any athletes. These were the first Games to be attended by any communist country, with Hungary, Yugoslavia and Poland among those competing. Italy (which had signed an armistice with the Allies in 1943) did compete and came fifth in the results table with eight gold, 11 silver and eight bronze medals. The United States team won the most total medals, 84, and the most gold medals, 38. Great Britain won 23 medals, three of them gold.

This was the second occasion that London had hosted the Olympic Games, the city had previously been the venue in 1908.

One of the competitors at the games was sprinter Fanny Blankers-Koen. She became nicknamed "The Flying Housewife" and the 30-year old mother of three children won four gold medals in athletics. The youngest male ever to win a gold medal was American Bob Mathias at 17 in the decathlon and the most individual medals were won by Veikko Huhtanen of Finland who took three golds, a silver and a bronze in men's gymnastics.

The 1948 Olympic Games provided BBC television with one of its greatest opportunities; an opportunity which was whole-heartedly seized. Live television covered all the main events at Wembley, where one unit was installed in the Stadium and another in the Empire Pool. Viewers had the opportunity of seeing the Opening Ceremony, the athletics, the boxing, the swimming, the diving, the football, the hockey, the riding and the Closing Ceremony. Television Newsreel enabled evening viewers to see something of the events like rowing, shooting, cycling and yachting, which took place at centres other than Wembley, as well as the most important events televised live in the afternoons.

Selective viewing was essential during this period and to help viewers in making their plans it was arranged to announce at the end of each evening's programme details of the events that would be televised the next day. In addition, announcements were made every half an hour during the programmes. The Radio Times published the planned programmes, but a measure of flexibility was retained so that viewers had the chance of following the progress of the British competitors in the various events

A special television cable was laid from the centre of London to Wembley and the pictures were equal in quality to those transmitted from Olympia and from Lord's Cricket Ground.

The opening of the Games was one of the most impressive ceremonies ever televised. It started at 2.45 and its climax came at the moment when His Majesty the King declared the Olympiad open, just before four o'clock. A fanfare of trumpets, a salute of guns and the release of several thousand homing pigeons preceded the arrival of the runner carrying the Olympic flame.

When the Olympiad ended on August 14, Television had broadcast more than fifty hours of programmes, an average of three and a half hours a day. That did not mean that there were no studio programmes, for the service continued to provide one and a half hours of programme every day. From correspondence received it was clear that a large percentage of viewers had tried to see all the programmes televised.

Editors note : I have no doubt that the enthusiasm of everyone at the BBC in 1948 continues today and we can look forward brilliant coverage of all the events this year.

You can view the complete version at [http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/olympics\\_1948](http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/olympics_1948)

## NEWS FROM ABROAD

What must be in our minds is the passing of Derek Ridout (47) who left us suddenly on the 1st February. He enjoyed receiving his newsletter in New York, and was a great supporter of TOSA albeit at a distance. Our condolences have been sent to his family.

Mick Osborn (47) writes:

**Dear Beryl**

Further to you email of 1st February I can offer no background to Derek's life in America. It was a few years back (around 2006/7 I believe) that Brian Surridge (a 47'er gone native and moved back to Scotland) heard from him. Derek came over to the UK with his new wife (Janis) a lovely person. We got together and Derek and Janis joined us at most of our Annual reunions thereafter.

**Mick**

**From Ottawa Christine MacPherson(Upton 56) writes (just missed the December news)**

My husband and I had a lovely six week trip to Broadstairs Kent this year to spend time with my parents who are now 90 and 89 and still living alone. Whilst there I contacted Susan Seymour (Wright) from Trinity and we had a lovely visit at her home nr Reading. It was the first time we had seen each other since leaving, and although I would love to come to some of the Trinity reunions, unfortunately there are never any in the summer when I am there.

We had an unseasonably mild fall last winter and even now in December there is no snow on the ground. All the houses have their Christmas lights on and it looks so much better when snow is on the trees. I belong to a group of 14 ladies who go shoeing three times a week in the winter and walk in the summer. We have a privately owned forest in town and are allowed to walk, snowshoe and ski in there all year. Just hope that the owner does not decide to sell for development as it would certainly be a treasure lost. Now we are anxiously awaiting snow so that we can get our snow shoes out. Many people from Ottawa head south to Florida for the winter months to escape the snow but I rather enjoy getting out on a bright sunny day with the crisp snow underneath. I think I would get bored with perpetual summer.

Editor's Note : I have been in contact with Sue Seymour, and we have been able to meet for coffee. Sue is now a member of the Reading Group who meet a couple of times a Year and is made up from members who live within a 25 mile radius of Reading and further afield.

**Who knows—perhaps Chris and her husband can join us this year when we have our Summer meeting in Pangourne ! They and anyone else who would care to join us would be made most welcome.**

**News from home**

The following email is submitted after a phone call from Peter who insisted that I published it un-edited for reasons which will become obvious I hope.

From: Peter Deller

Date: 05/12/2011 08:35:18 To: Beryl Skinner Subject: TOSA

Beryl Just a brief note to inform you that the renewal membership fee for my wife, Janet Deller, (nee Evans of the 48 vintage) has been transferred to your account. Hopefully that will avoid that metaphorically tedious 10 miles' journey on your bike, which seemed to be the underlying message of your plea to simplify the transfers of finances! Whilst writing I should bring you up to date that Jan had her second hip replacement a fortnight ago and is now home, making a good recovery in her convalescence.

Although strictly none of my business, since my educational roots were planted at Southgate County Grammar School, I have always been invited to read your newsletter and I think that you personally do a first rate job for your membership. Wishing that I enjoyed a similar experience with my own Old Scholars' gathering and groupings leads nowhere, as it is unfair to criticise would be volunteers. Nevertheless, looking over the hedge at your list of members and some contributors has been an enjoyable reminiscence for me as well because many of your Old Scholars were known to me at some time or other in the time frame from 1939 until my marriage to Miss Evans in 1961. After that contact with north London was infrequent, the reason being that I was a naval officer doing what the Royal Navy used to do in the second half of the last century.

In the earlier years of that time frame I met and was known to a few boys and girls who were then attending or were to become pupils at Trinity. At my Primary School (Bowes Road), I was in the same class as Sylvia Atkinson, who was a very bright and clever individual then, not in any way lost upon her teachers at Trinity from which I think she gained admission to Oxford. Joe Barling was my patrol leader of the Tigers in the 151 Scout Group based on St Gabriel's church (now demolished). Others in that troop (some, I think, are named amongst your membership) were also attending Trinity at that time. Strange that I did not place Trinity amongst my choices at the 11 plus, because I lived nearer Trinity than any other grammar school and was aware of a number of your students who had addresses in Warwick (where I lived), Shrewsbury, Maidstone, Bounds Green, Brownlow Roads et al. However, I only had eyes then for a place known only as Fox Lane, otherwise the SCGS.

The competitive edge between the respective teams fielded by Trinity and Southgate was always evident as was the spark shown by Mr Mackey. I was the captain of all the football teams in which played throughout the years, including a 1st team game on the Trinity grounds 1949/50. It was a bit heavy underfoot as I recall, when I scored from a very poorly taken penalty kick. Mackey, the referee, could not resist telling me how lucky I had been as we jogged back to the centre circle. That competitive spirit was always in evidence on behalf of your school whenever he was encountered at Broomfield Park, White City, on the respective cricket squares etc. He was a tremendous asset to your school as Robbie Robertson, doing the same job at Southgate was for us. Two fine Sports Masters of the highest standards. I was also able to learn via that splendid tome "A School of the Past" brought together by Mr Grammer of some of the other worthy aspects of your old school.

I do hope that your membership cherishes you and your efforts.

Kind regards. Peter Deller

**To which I replied**

May I please put your letter into our next newsletter as I am sure that many will enjoy the read and you may even find that some of them would like to catch up with you again.

I would also like to personally invite you to join us at the October reunion in 2012 by when I hope that Janet is dancing the LIGHT FANTASTIC!! We do like the "other Halves" to come for the very reason that even though they may not have gone to Trinity - they may well have played football/tennis/cricket against them!

One lady brought her husband this year and he went to Glendale (who were our arch rivals) and had a whale of a time!

very best wishes to you both

Beryl

Reunion News Peter Turner writes:

Hi Beryl

Our 10th consecutive annual reunion for 1954 starters will be on Saturday, May 19th, 2012, from Noon to 4.30pm at the Cherry Tree in the Library function room and nearby tables.

Nine years since starting in 2003 the group hopes for another successful annual reunion at the usual venue, Ye Olde Cherry Tree Inn, The Green, Southgate, London, N14 6EN.

Trinity pupils from all years are very welcome to join the 1954 group for their very informal reunion & there are no bookings or fees involved, so any food and drink is bought personally on the day. Members are asked to notify Peter Turner if definitely coming, especially if you want a name badge & be readily identified on the day. This also improves the accuracy of the guest list sent out before the day.

The pub is not renowned for its cuisine but is in a super location with no fees for booking the function room, so we just count our blessings! (Tel 0208 886 1808)

For those not familiar its location, the Inn is 400 metres north of Broomfield Park, at the junction of Cannon Hill with the top of Waterfall Rd, and half a mile from Southgate Tube Station.

Free car parking is behind the Inn via a side road, The Mall, approached by a mini roundabout in front of the Inn - drive to the right of the inn, and turn left into the car park after 100 yards.

This year we expect several new visitors including at least two from overseas and two new members who could not come last year because of last minute problems.

Spouses, friends and companions are welcome too!

We estimate about 30 guests will come from year 1954, plus several pupils from 1951, 1952 and 1953, also 1955 and 1956, so the total with companions could be over 40.

For more details please contact Peter Turner on 01538 371331, or by mobile on the day, 0777 381 8478 (Email - [trinians54@btinternet.com](mailto:trinians54@btinternet.com))

A note for your diary—Ann Flanagan tells me that the reunion for the 58'ers this year will take place on Sunday 23rd September in Enfield—12.30 for 1pm. Further details to follow—watch this space and our website.

News from home continued

Jeanette Risley (Wesley) 48 writes on 16th February 2012

Dear Beryl

As there seems to have been problems contacting you via email in the past I thought I would write to you instead.

Sometime ago the "joy-germ" was mentioned—I also received a print of such a character from Mr Swinden but cannot think why now.

I thoroughly enjoyed my 5 years at Trinity from 1948—1953 and am pleased to be a member of TOSA. I always look forward to the newsletters and love to reminisce with the articles submitted. I have never attended the reunions at Hatfield although I live only a few miles away from the venue, but my dear friend Marion Manketelow (Paul) always tried to persuade me. Sadly the support from the 48's is disappointing although I did enjoy meeting up with you and others at the reunion organised by Roger Pye at Enfield in March 2007.

With the Olympics in mind this year I remember going to the local Gaumont Cinema with school to see a film of the 1948 Olympics at Wembley. I thought the recent documentaries about Grammar Schools was very good, did you see them ?

If you choose to reply to my letter and email would be appreciated. I am not familiar with the computer but my husband always informs me of any correspondence for me and likewise operates the TOSA website for me.

Kind regards

Jeanette Risley

#### **NOTE FROM BERYL**

I updated this newsletter on the 12th March and had a telephone conversation with Jeanette. I had been off colour until this week with the horrible flu-like bug that has been doing the rounds. I thought it very strange and coincidental that I had decided to include in this newsletter, a story about the 1948 Olympics and which had been written long before Christmas 2011 ! I think Jeanette must get some praise for being the very 1st with a memory of that event. I also hope that any 48's who read this newsletter will consider joining us at the OCTOBER reunion if only to renew friendships and meet like-minded people (i.e. those who just enjoy being an Old Trinity Scholar !) I hasten to add that we have a 48'er serving on the executive committee who regularly attends the October reunion— Margaret McGinn (Stretton 48) who I am sure would be delighted to meet up with her contemporaries.

#### **Cecil Webb writes:**

Weddings, a special licence and the unanswered question..

We recently celebrated the Diamond Wedding of my sister (ex Glendale). The wedding took place at the now demolished St. Saviours in Alexandra Park Road. The reception was held above the Gaumont cinema in Wood Green High Road. My cousin had been a five year old bridesmaid and I asked her sixty years on if she remembered the wedding. All she could recall was getting out of the car at the Gaumont and thinking why are we going to the pictures if it is a wedding. My sister worked for the old Tottenham and District Gas Company in Woodhall House, Lordship Lane and her husband was employed across the road in the old Bowes Park telephone exchange. My brother (Tottenham Technical College) married Dorothy Allum (Trinity) at St Saviours nine years after my sister.

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For some reason we were married in a small and leafy Surrey town although I was living in Wood Green and my wife's (Middlesbrough High School for Girls) home was in the then beautiful town of Kendal in the old County of Westmorland.

Bank staff and shop assistants have developed a habit of saying; sorry to keep you waiting and this always reminds me of our wedding. Through no fault of her own my wife was fifteen minutes late for our ceremony. There was a dog show in the field next to the church and her car could not get down the grid locked lane. In the end the vicar went out in full robes and directed the flow. She gave me a broad smile as we finally stood together at the Chancel steps and I knew it said, 'that had you worried but I am sorry to have kept you waiting'. I suppose I should have sung, 'there was I, waiting at the church' but the song relates to the vicar not turning up and that happened at the wedding of one of my cousins. At a pre wedding meeting with our vicar he had told us that nothing could go wrong because all that was really required was for us to tell him in front of two witnesses that we wanted to get married. Anyway, we had the unabridged version.

Although family weddings are close to us there is another one that had nothing to do with me and I did not attend .It stays in my mind as a wartime wedding, especially at times like Remembrance Day, VE day and VJ day etc.

As choirboys at St Saviours we were paid one shilling for each wedding attendance and one Saturday in 1944 we were required for two in a row. Despite wartime restrictions the second of these seemed to be a lavish affair. Morning dress, several bridesmaids, the bride in what must have been a very expensive gown and a large number of guests. After the ceremony we collected our pay and were free to go home but we waited around and watched the photographer at work. Then the wedding party and the guests departed in what seemed to be a fleet of limousines.

There was, however, a third. A complete contrast to the one before it and it is this one that my thoughts have returned to over the years. As we were about to disperse a soldier and an ATS girl, both in khaki uniform, walked up the hill and into the church followed by a couple of older people. After about fifteen minutes the two in uniform came out and walked hand in hand down the hill followed a bit further back by the other couple. We were later told that this had been a special licence marriage as the man was on embarkation leave before posting to the fighting overseas.

Hence the unanswered question. Did he return safely? Let us hope so.

Cecil Webb 45

**As we near the end of News from Home I am very sorry to announce the passing of Jonathan Steward (1936). A constant supporter of the North London Lunches, he will be missed by all his friends.**



For your diary the Annual School reunion is at 12.30pm on Saturday 20th October at the Ramada hotel at Hatfield. Reservation forms will be sent to last year's

Attendees towards the end of the month AND I will need confirmed numbers by end of July.

If you DID NOT come last year and would like to join us -please let me have an S A E

Or email me at trinity22@waitrose.com when a reservation form will be sent to **you**.

And hot off the press as we go to print : Kim Ghafur is pleased to announce the 51'ers Reunion at the Fish and Eels Riverside pub /restaurant , Hoddesdon ,Herts EN11 0AY on MONDAY 11th June—from 12 noon onwards- All years welcome—just turn up ! Further Details from KIM on 01992—462471.

**FINALLY A REMINDER TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS THAT SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW OVERDUE. PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE FOR £5. IMMEDIATELY IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING NEWSLETTERS AND DETAILS OF EVENTS ETC.**  
**TO**

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

Barnes Stella 1944  
Beckingham Pat 1946  
Binge Pat 1942  
Brown John 1945  
Browne Pauline 1945  
Carter Maureen 1947  
Chant Ben 1941  
Codling Gillian 1950  
Cook Leslie 1951  
Daniels John 1943  
Deamer David 1935  
Driscoll Margaret 1946  
Driver Patricia 1943  
Ellicott Rosemary 1943  
Gardner Alan 1953  
Godfrey Betty 1940  
Haines Peter 1954  
Higgins Clive 1946  
Horsecroft Daphne 1942  
Kane Pauline 1948  
Karunaratne Janet 1951

Mayhew Joyce 1935  
Palmer Clive 1954  
Paramor Richard 1950  
Parkes John 1944  
Ring David 1943  
Russell Alan 1949  
Sharp Robert 1942  
Snelling Pat 1954  
Stevens Denis J. 1946  
Tallboys Larry 1935  
Viles Peter 1942  
Webb Cecil 1945  
Williams Sheila 1937  
Williamson Douglas 1952  
Wilson Margaret 1939