

Trinity Old Scholars Association

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Well, here we are again, six months into and I am still awaiting enough booking forms for the October lunchtime reunion. In case you have mislaid your form another is attached at the end of this publication.

CLASS REUNIONS

Peter Turner 1954 reports:

42 former pupils and their guests enjoyed another successful reunion, our 11th consecutive annual reunion, at Ye Olde Cherry Tree, Southgate. 25 pupils from year 1954 attended, the same number as at the first one in June 2003. It seems that our usual format of an open reception style event had stood the test of time, & the event was enhanced by the presence of four new faces, three from 1954 & one from 1953.

May 18th was chosen so John Morriss & his wife Glynis could attend during their first European tour from their long time home in Adelaide. John Horder came for the first time with his wife Claire, & Jennifer Hart was able to stay for the first time until 1.30, and exchanged experiences with first timer, Patricia Pearch from year 1953. Next year they hope to be there again with former school friends, Sue Binning & Janet Creasy.

LIST OF 1954 PUPILS (using maiden names)

Robert Bowes, Roger Butt, Ray Conner, Roger Faulkner,
Peter Haines, Jennifer Hart, John Horder. Georgina Hurst,
Barry Livingstone, Jean Meeuwissen, Jennifer Hart,
John Mercer, John Morriss, Sandra Negus. Clive Palmer,
John Purser, Malcolm Sell, David Stevens, Elaine Stubbings,
Donald Turner, Peter Turner. Keverne Weston, Evelyn Weyler, Barry Wilkinson, Pat Wilson.
(25)

OTHER YEARS (9)

Wendy Clarke 1957, Jackie Coulson 1956, Tom Doig 1952, Colin Hale 1951, Bob Heddle 1953,
John Labarte 1955, Colin Marr 1951, Pat Pearch, 1953, Pat Savage 1957.

PARTNERS (8)

Barbara Butt, Carol Blignaut, Claire Horder, Glynis Morriss, Roger Snelling,
Ann Stevens, David Lynch, Geoffrey Gauge.

OTHER FEATURES

The present premises manager of the old school building, Owen Thomas, was unable to come, but Keverne Weston sold 14 copies of his newly published book, "Life Changes", so was very pleased that the effort to bring copies was fully justified.

Two framed panoramic whole school photos from 1955 & 1958 were on show, and also some A1 boards with thematic photos previously shown at this event since 2009 and 2012. These provided some interest in finding & identifying themselves and other friends, especially for the first timers at the reunion.

Next year the reunion is likely to be at the same venue on Saturday May 17th.

Peter Turner

Vic Manning reports on the Bournemouth reunion:

Hello fellow TOSA's.

YES - next year will be the 20th REUNION at Bournemouth!

What an achievement – and it is all down to the forethought of the late Lee Deamer, and the efficient work of Jill Deamer, who once again dealt with the hotel bookings - thanks Jill.

We lost Philip Glyn (alias 'Pip') recently - a stalwart of the Trinity acting fraternity, especially 'Gilbert and Sullivan' productions and many other shows. He was also a keen supporter of our Bournemouth group of TOSA's, along with his wife, Jane.

Numbers were marginally down on last year but nevertheless it was an enjoyable weekend, which of course was helped by the continuous sunshine.

After 19 years of reunions, it is now difficult to reflect on any more experiences at Trinity. However, our resident comedian (aka Les Grafton) stepped in to treat us to a few jokes and a quiz - even the hotel staff joined in! Thanks Les!!

Anne Flanagan followed on to give an insight into her father's remarkable service in the second World War. I say 'remarkable' because here was a man who has done many good things, experienced good and bad, and although he is in his twilight years he can still recall his experiences and pass them on to others. Thanks Anne, and good wishes to your father, who is now unable to come to the reunions.

Obviously TOSA numbers generally will continue to decrease, and Reg told us the sad news that the Enfield group have now ceased their monthly lunch meetings. This, along with the news that the 46'ers have stopped their get-togethers, leads me to wonder whether some of you who have not shared the Bournemouth experience may care to join us next year.

Those attending this year included: Jill Deamer, David Deamer, Reg Rogers, Les and Margaret Grafton, Beryl and Geoff Ivatt, Pat Driver, Vic and Geraldine Manning, Jean and Peter Zimmerman, and Anne Flanagan.

Thanks for your continued support - **the date for your diary is 11-14 April 2014.**

JOHN Glyn reports on the 46'ers

This was our 12th annual reunion at The Ramada Hotel, Hatfield attended by 26 classmates including spouses and friends. The hotel staff made us very welcome and the consensus of opinion was that the meal was one of the best we have had.

There were many familiar faces but the guest of honour this year was Barry Guttridge and his partner Evelyn who now live in Australia and had planned their holiday so as to include our reunion. I often wonder where the time goes during our get-togethers but from the buzz we are never short of subjects to discuss.

Of course the forthcoming Olympic Games was mentioned and one or two of our members recalled visiting the Empire Stadium and Pool, Wembley whilst I was given tickets for the Basketball at Harringay Arena.

I think that free tickets were sent to the School for various events and that we had to ballot for them. I still have the official programme for Thursday August 12th 1948 priced at one shilling.

The first match started at 2 pm and the last at 9 pm - a long day but well worth it.

We are planning next year's reunion for the 20th April 2014 so please note this in your diaries

I wrote in the last newsletter about the family of Trinity and I make no apology of repeating that here... the 54's have really had some sadness in the last few months we really do 'STICK TOGETHER' when the chops are down

Kevern Weston (54) writes of the death of John Wright (1954), which came within a short time after that of Tony Heaton.

'I did not really know John, not remembering him from school and seeing him only once when he came to the 2012 reunion for our year group. However, I knew quite a lot about him and how sad his life had been; His mental health problems had made him into a restless soul and he moved from place to place, sometimes taking his medication, sometimes not. For several years John could at least count on the friendship and regular visits of David Stevens and Barry Wilkinson. They would travel many miles to wherever John happened to be and attempt to alleviate his pain in any way they could. When John moved to the north of England, Peter Turner, our indefatigable 1954 convener, also began to visit John.

Earlier this year John's condition worsened and this was exacerbated by bodily injuries. David, Barry and Peter made long journeys to London to visit John in hospital, take him gifts and sit with him. I'm sure John did not feel so alone because of their care. I am also sure that I speak for all fellow Trinitarians, especially those who knew John Wright, in saying a heartfelt 'thank you' to these three, who made many long journeys, never knowing what they might find, to see one of their former schoolfellows.'

Just to show what we can do !!!!! Copy of emails received re
THE 51'S AT THE Frog and Eel , Hoddesdon on the 24th June.

Dear Beryl

Greetings from The Villages, Florida,USA

Have just got around to reading the Newsletter and found it so interesting and informative. We have a thriving British/ American Group here in The Villages and I am gratified to see an old Trinitarian, Sandy Burford (Rawle) '53 at the monthly breakfasts although she was two years behind me. My husband and I will be in England between 18th June and end of August and I wondered if there is a date for the '51 group yet. If so perhaps you could send it to me when you get a chance.

Thanks again for all you do

Rita Dill (Robinson)51

From Kim Ghafur

Beryl thanks

I received an email to-day saying Rita hopes to come with Joe her husband.

Best Wishes Kim 51

Editors note

I apologise for the briefness of this newsletter.....and once again I must thank everyone who has given me such support over the past three months. I have been diagnosed with Breast Cancer but am having the best care that I can possibly ask for from my Hospital team at the Royal Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke. Thank you to your Committee who are regularly in touch with me and I keep them and very close TOSA friends updated on my recovery. I am undergoing Chemotherapy at the moment which puts me out of action for a couple of weeks. I have no really bad side effects except for the Fatigue which is normal. The prognosis is good and I am positively thinking that I **WILL** be at the October Reunion !!! Make me happy and send in your booking forms before the end of July—when we will be able to celebrate together on the 19th October

NEWS FROM ABROAD—JUST TO STIR UP YOUR MEMORIES

Bernard Lacombe writes

John Steerwood – Hello John!

I am so pleased to hear from you. Not only that – you forced me to do some thorough spring cleaning, sweep out cobwebs, and dig deep into my memory bank. Of course you should know me, and I'll tell you why by reciting some of our pre-arranged secret passwords – Pegrum's Bakery, Ottley Motors, Poole's Hardware, Dagmar & Crescent. You've started me thinking. These days, I can only handle one

thought at a time. Oh Boy! – one thought leads to another – and all at once I am off topic. Remember the plane trees on Palace Gates Road? The privet hedges on Victoria waiting to be trimmed? The white horse-chestnut spinney, the sticky buds, the flaky (a bit like the plane tree) bark, conkers? How often were you “lardy”? I was five when I joined the baby class at Muswell Hill School. There was an almost life-size – ten to twelve hands, anyway – rocking-horse in the corner of the room – maybe I exaggerate – OK, nine hands – so there! Be a good child, answer correctly, “Go, climb on the horse” – survey the world from on high for sixty seconds. I already knew how to write the letters of the alphabet – block letters – small letters – some of the times tables. I went to school. I was bored.

In grade-3– is that what we called it? – Donald “Donny” Wallace and I sat near each other and stayed close until Form Va at Trinity County. For the moment, I don't remember whether Donny was with me in VIa at Hatfield Peverel. Anyway, Donny was just as smart as me, sometimes smarter – better behaved, for sure – and we worked our way to the end of the grade-3 arithmetic book almost before the rest of the class had a chance to open it. Such large print! The correct answers, hardly necessary for us, were at the back of the book. Miss Yates – did you know her? – said, “Stop talking. No whispering. Please don't work ahead of the class.” Too late! We used hand signs, exchanged notes, closed the arithmetic book for good. Donny and I were so bored. We never missed school. One boy, name forgotten, frequently missed Mondays, sometimes Tuesdays as well – brought a note from his mother to school – if he also missed Wednesday he would have needed a note from the doctor – Miss Yates read the note aloud – shame and humiliation – another “bilious attack” – I believe the boy had more cousins with birthdays than there are weekends in the year – he was happy to tell us what they ate – sausage rolls, little mince pies, sandwiches, cold meats, pickles, jelly, trifle, custard, ice cream, and, of course, marzipan birthday cake. He never seemed to tire of missing school. Miss Yates kept a desk for him at the front of the class. Donny and I were at the back, near the door. No wonder I don't remember his name.

Half way through grade-3 we moved lock-stock-and-barrel from the Tin Pot School building to Rhodes Avenue School – brand new, solid brick, shiny hardwood floors, “please do not walk on the grass” quadrangle, and large windows to let daylight in. If I remember correctly – tell me if I am wrong – the rocking-horse went to the knacker's yard. Miss Cox – she wore lipstick – joined the staff and was my teacher for grade-4. She liked Donny. He had blonde hair and blue eyes. Miss Cox wrote on my report that I didn't deserve to come first. I must have been a terror. I recall the classroom – Miss Cox used a window for a mirror Friday afternoons to primp up so that she could dash off to meet her boyfriend the moment the bell rang. That was the year I slowly read my way through the dictionary from aardvark to zyxt. We scrubbed our hands with zyxt soap at the time. The dictionary said the word was archaic. I might have written aardvark in my lifetime, but I don't recall writing zyxt in a sentence until today.

Which brings me to the bicycle. You need zyxt to clean your hands after the loose chain drops off. Sorry about your split lip. Probably healed by now. The bicycle must have belonged to my brother Albert – energetic lad, soccer player, a little foolhardy (to lend his bike to you for only a ha'pny). I wouldn't be surprised to hear you say you remember being at Hatfield Peverel together, 1941 to January 1943. I left Trinity in mid-October 1939 – went off to work for the Alliance Assurance Company, volunteered for the Royal Navy, hardly saw Albert after that. Oh yes! Mrs. McGregor was our grade-5 teacher. A blessing after Miss Cox. Mrs. McGregor taught us copperplate handwriting with pen and ink – no more chalk tablets or pencils. I haven't forgotten how to write. One of my grandsons, Dennis, texts faster than his teacher. I don't text at all.

I live in Toronto, Ontario now. Was entertained for my 90th birthday this January – kids, g'kids & two g'g'kids – I do the daily Los Angeles Times online crossword puzzle (not the world's most difficult) – write memoirs (this will be added) – garden indoors and out – pretend I am a carpenter or a cabinet-maker from time-to-time – watch the news (I've been doing that since the mid-1930s) – a terrible habit.

I remember 5 Victoria Road. Walked past it many times when I took that route to or from school. Mr. Meadows, the milkman, tied his horse Dobbin to a tree, or the fence, close to your house. By the way, did you have a cat? If yes, did you know the cats'-meat man? Ever eat some of his sample dog-biscuits?

John, if it is true you and Albert chummed around at Hatfield Peverel, I and my entire family would be absolutely delighted to hear your recollections about the war-time months you spent together – I am certain the Trinity Alumni would, too. How about it? Go for broke. Mention things to jog my memory. I started sweeping cobwebs. Now to stir up the silt. With a little encouragement, I can recite hitherto untold Trinity tales. No better time than now.

BOOKING FORM
Trinity Old Scholars Association
Lunchtime Reunion on
Saturday 19th OCTOBER 2013
12 Noon for 12.30 pm at
Ramada Hotel, Hatfield

Choice of MENU
Select and tick one item from each course

Name PLEASE PRINT

STARTERS

Classic Minestrone Soup

Buffalo Mozzarella and Plum Tomato Salad with Basil Oil.....

Cognac laced Chicken Liver Terrine with Melba toast and a caramelised onion jam.....

MAIN COURSE

Steamed Cod Fillet with a white wine and tarragon cream

Slow Braised Belly of Pork with a cider jus.....

Roast Chicken with a mushroom and red wine sauce.....

Main courses served with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables

DESSERT:

Double Chocolate Gateaux with Vanilla Cream.....

Fresh Fruit Salad.....

Apple, Raisin and Cinnamon Crumble with Custard.....

Coffee or Tea included

NAME AND YEAR JOINED.....

GUEST NAME.....

SIT WITH.....

Address.....

..... Telephone NO.....

Email address.....

I enclose cheque forpersons @ £23.00 per head made payable to TOSA

Please return to TOSA Lunch
110 Reading Road
Finchampstead, Berks, RG40 4RA

By 31st July 2013.

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We will not deposit your cheque until 1st September and you may date your cheque 1 September