

Trinity Old Scholars Association

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Dear All—what a year this has been ! I cannot believe where the time has gone, and here we are rolling up to the OCTOBER reunion, and by the time you receive this it will all be over for another year. However, to bring you up to date with what has been going on since the last news here are the updates on year/place reunions.

12th Annual 1954 Group Reunion at Ye Olde Cherry Tree on Saturday May 10th.

Wild, showery weather and last minute family & health problems affected attendance this year, but the occasion was lifted by some lively new, and newly re-united, friends from our year of 1954. We

had five non-54 pupils as well. The Reunion was a bit down on numbers of 1954 pupils (16), which was perhaps understandable because of the wild, wet weather, and so the number of 1954 pupils was less than 20 for the first time in 7 years.

Last minute sickness prevented Valerie Dickson (nee Kearey) attending and there were four email apologies from Fred Tippett, Clive Palmer, Myra Stanbury, Geraldine Warrant (nee Richards), Jean Frances (nee Meeuwissen) and David Crease when I got home, and earlier John Labarte (1955) sent his apologies by text during the day.

John Mercer, John Purser, Jenny Ashby (nee Hart) and Sandra Bacon (nee Negus) were expected, & also Pat Hatswell (nee Pearch, 1953), but we were out of luck this time. A recent operation prevented Pat Snelling (nee Wilson) coming down from Macclesfield.

On the plus side we saw Jeanette Henderson (nee Slaughter) for the first time and how very lively, amusing and interesting she was and now living a happy village life in Kent, and Jeanette was able to meet her close Trinity friend, Hazel Andrews (nee Cotsford), for the first time in 53 years. So, we hope to see Jeanette again, and her views on the Trinity experience closely matched many others!

GUESTS LIST

Roger (& Barbara) Butt, Ray Conner & Elaine Conner (nee Stubbings), Eve Patten (nee Weyler), Barbara Coe (nee Dunbar), Barry Livingstone (up from & back to deepest Cornwall in one day!),

Jeanette Henderson (nee Slaughter) by train & bus from Kent, Hazel Andrews (nee Cotsford), Malcolm Sell, Don Turner, Robert Bowes, Keverne Weston, Barry Wilkinson, Georgina Huber, (nee Hurst), Janet Turner (nee Creasy) & Peter Turner.

Guests from other Trinity years - Bob Heddle (1953), Colin Hale & Colin Marr (both 1951); Jackie Goodwin (nee Coulson, 1956) & Wendy Oag (nee Clarke, 1957), David Andrews, husband of Hazel, joined in our conversations very easily.

Many thanks to those who undertook very long journeys (heroic by Barry Livingstone) to get there in wet weather. There was some interest in the Jim Wallace set of photos from his books on rugby and his autobiography, plus further photos and testimonials from his Wanganui Collegiate School.

CONCLUSIONS? We are obviously facing a decline in numbers of all guests for several undeniable reasons, and perhaps, after next year, we should expect up to 25 rather than around 35 as in recent years. This could mean confining our reunion places to the upstairs Library function room, which could cause problems for some with mobility problems, unless we reserve one bay window table downstairs as well.

At the moment the function room gets severely neglected by our guests dining, so a compromise may be needed in order to keep the inn happy with the trade we bring, and the space we occupy, but the narrow stairs are a problem. Thanks for all your interest & support, and we hope to re-ignite that Trinity Spirit yet again during the next year, & pray for kinder weather on the reunion date.

Peter Turner—co-ordinator for 1954 group

HELLO FELLOW TOSA'S!

Yes – this was the 20th Reunion at Bournemouth. Thanks go especially to Jill Deamer (Honorary Member) who has arranged all twenty years' hotel bookings – a mammoth task made easy for us. Thanks again. (reminder from the Editor.. Jill took this roll on when her husband Lee Deamer passed away—the family connection is brother David see below)

Our group this year totalled 16 – although with the loud conversation at dinner it could have been a lot more! An enjoyable and successful weekend was helped by good service at the hotel and continuous sunshine (for the second year running!).

I need to record at this stage that George (Ann Flanagan's father) passed away during the last few months. He was a supporter of our reunion and will be missed. His stories were very interesting and entertaining.

Our 'Memory Lane' seems to have come to a dead end, after serving us well over the years – but poetry has come to our rescue and taken us to a new level! I dropped this in the third year at Trinity, but at this late date found it quite refreshing. Thanks to Les Grafton for this idea, and to his guest speakers – Jackie, David, Margaret and Geraldine – all presented old favourites with oratory expertise.

It would be nice to see a few more faces – so give Bournemouth a try!

Those attending this year included:

Jill Deamer, David Deamer(35), Reg Rogers(34),(Les (40)and Margaret Grafton, Beryl(Cole 38)and Geoff Ivatt, Pat Driver(Tilling43), Vic (49 and Geraldine Manning, Jeanne (Webb 50) and Peter Zimmerman (47), and the 'fantastic foursome' aka Jackie, Stella, Viv and Valerie!

Thanks for your continued support - the date for your diary is 10th-13th April 2015.

Vic Manning (Co-ordinator for the Bournemouth Group)

Reunion for Class of 1946 held on 28th April 2014

Alan Rutter & Peter Seager report

The Class of '46 enjoyed their 14th reunion at the Ramada Hotel, Hatfield where 12 attended. The numbers attending the reunion have gradually reduced over the years and there is probably only about 12 of us each year that turn up, come what may. This year, we experimented and we didn't pre-book a sit-down meal allowing people to choose their own order from the hotel menu - this seemed to work very well.

Those attending were Sheila Dinnis (Ashton), Jim Dinnis, Colin Moor, Peter & Jan Seager, Doreen Stoddart (Dunstan), John Glyn, Pat Beckingham (Connock), Alan & Val Rutter, Roger Cole, Jackie Slater (Croxon).

The general consensus of opinion was to hold another reunion next April. Alan & Peter will contact you nearer the time.

A reaction to Peter Turner's 'Jim Wallace, a favourite Trinity Teacher, What happened next'.

Robin Valleley (49) writes

I am not one who would normally want to respond to articles, not least as my memory bank was never as detailed as some ex scholars who amaze me with their detailed knowledge of perhaps sixty or more years ago.

I found it quite amazing that a biography written in a personal manner for his grandchildren should detail so much about my (and others) yesterdays. I can relate to so much of that which Peter quoted, all the events, incidents, names and teachers. I have never had any reference to Jim Wallace since leaving in '54. It is fantastic to know he went on to such greater things and fame, and that he felt his time at Trinity was so worthwhile recalling for others.

Old scholars from this time will recall how the forms were a,b,c,d for the first two years and separated into 3arts, 3sci, a,b at the start of the third year. I along with 30 or so others went to 3sci, our new form master being a Jim Wallace, who would also take History. As far as I knew he had not been in the School before, but reading the details it looks as though he had two training terms in the School the previous year. He stayed with us for the next 3 years.

It is amazing to think he was only 23 at the time he arrived at Trinity, little more than 10 yrs older than the group he was teaching. However it rapidly became clear he came with a reputation. The stories were, as noted, that he played for Saracens at rugby, and also that he had had trials for the All Blacks. In addition he had run in Europe against Arthur Wint the Jamaican Olympic 400yds champion. Neither of these latter things was ever to my knowledge confirmed by him in the three years he was our Form Master. He does deprecatingly confirm this in the piece about school athletics.

Genial, friendly with a tough streak would I think be a fair description. Disruptive pupils would be asked to 'Go downstairs and get a drink of waterand don't be too long'. A pupil's protest that they were not thirsty, would be met with assurance they were, and that the alternative could be much worse.

I have to admit my preferences on balance were more towards sport than academia. However his teaching of his subject and the period covered, changed my whole outlook on history. From being in earlier years in the bottom quarter in the subject, I moved to the upper quarter, largely I believe due to his enthusiasm and teaching of his subject.

Probably the greatest memory was of being taught the Hakka for a year group Christmas party presentation. Being a science class, I think (in those days) there were perhaps less than one third girls –not sure if they were part of it. Certainly there were 20 or so boys. I can still remember at least the first 3 lines. Not sure if lines is the right word.

His memories of Mr (Dick) Mackay ring so many bells. I did not know he was at Arnhem, (or that he was Welsh). He certainly was considered tough but fair, and could engage with pupils.

I could claim a reasonable amount of success with school sports teams and a niche ability in athletics – did manage a Mackey /Wallace team one year for discus and Middlesex finals - but others were outstanding. In our year Brian Owen was Middlesex Mile and Cross Country champion, along with Tony Smith 400yds champion, and Brian Strong who I think was a couple of years above was Javelin Champion. All went to the All England schools finals that year, in Ashington Northumberland. Brian I knew particularly well as he was my desk partner for 3 years. We had contact after leaving school, and still do occasionally. It is certain Dick Mackay's was the initial driving force behind what was an outstanding period of athletics success, but I feel sure Jim Wallace's experience and influence must have enhanced the end results.

Anyone who wants to recall either Jim Wallace or some of the athletic team of that time can see on the TOSA website at the following. <http://tosa.homestead.com/1953Athletics.html> and then 1954Athletics.com

I believe we were in at the Start of Rugby at Trinity. The first team was assembled from the first /second XI soccer teams plus anyone of ability. I played in goal for the first XI, consequently I was told I was playing at full back because I was used to going for the ball with my hands and could fly-kick . Not as that seemed to do anyone any good as I was mown down most times before I could put a boot to ball. We were all taught to tackle correctly etc, but it still hurt. I think it was rugby playing Tollington who were the first match .

Luckily I did not have to play in the later scratch School XV versus a Staff XV where a pupil who shall remain nameless found the more aggressive on field nature of Jim Wallace, when the ball was not too close by.

I cannot say I remember the particular Staff X1 versus School X1 soccer match. I certainly played in one, and in goal. You would have thought I would remember the incident where the keeper dived one way and his mis-kick trickled the other, but.....

Alexander Palace (The People's Palace) was of course the transmitter and studios from which the BBC broadcast, as the single black & white channel, up to I think the mid/ late fifties. It is a massive building which at one end housed a roller skating rink which we occasionally made a paid visit on a Saturday morning. This area of the building was gutted by fire in the '80s. Ally Pally was within walking distance at lunch time particularly in the Summer. I believe our class 3science, and I am not aware of another in the School, was the first to receive the experimental schools broadcasts. I can still remember the first two. One was the simple illustration of how an aeroplane wing lifted an aircraft into the sky. The second was an experiment with frogs muscles and electrical stimulus. That memory suggests the broadcast lessons stuck more than some others!

I, along with so many other people I am sure, will be saddened to belated hear of his passing at a relatively young age. It is remarkable to have a gap of more than 60years and then to have your memory jogged in this way. What is perhaps not so remarkable is that Jim Wallace would go on to success and fame back in his own country, as he always stood out as someone of great strength of personality.

Robin Valleley (49)

Aug '14

School Reunion on 18th October 2015

Although numbers were down this year with only 40 actual members attending, the balance made up by friends and family, an enjoyable lunch was had by all those attending, renewing old friendships and sparking off many memories. Derek Colman (42) was taken ill at the last moment as was Beryl Skinner. (Hayter 42)..See personal letter from Beryl included with this newsletter. We were delighted to give Reg Rogers a resounding "Happy Birthday" having celebrated his 92nd Birthday in September. He is now our oldest member.

Attendees

Reg Rogers 34	Don Grammer 37	Yvonne Grammer 39	Roy Augood 41	Tony Judkins 41
Les Brooks 42	Joan Valley (Charig 42)	Bill Kenny 42	Victor Hext 43	Oliver Gags 43
John Brown 43	Audrey Augood (Latter 44)	Rosemary de Rossi (Willson 44)		Colin Moor 45
John Glyn 46	Doreen Stoddart (Donstan 46)	Sheila Dinnis (Ashton 46)		Alan Rutter 46
Patricia Beckingham (Connock 46)	Peter Seager 46	Peggy Pickering (Denton 46)		
Janet Smith (Willson 47)	Meg Langtry (Brown) 47	Alan Johnson 50	Cynthia Blake (Johnson) 50	
John Rout 50	Kemal Ghafur 51	Tarik Ghafur 53	Peter Watson 53	Janet Martin 53
Janice Thompson (Churchman 53)	Georgina Huber 54	Peter Turner 54	Janet Turner (Creasy 54)	
Pauline Johnson (Rust 55)	Jackie Goodwin (Coulson 56)	John Warren 58		

Last but not least—some words found in previous newsletters

Enjoy the simple things. Laugh often, long and loud, laugh until you gasp for breath. The tears happen, endure, grieve and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Remember that friends are quiet Angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

And a new one

No one is a failure who has friends
From "It's a wonderful Life"

