



ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER
Autumn/Winter 2002

published by the Edmonton County
School Old Scholars Association



Web-site Up & Running

for the latest news,
views and chat
log on to ecsosa.co.uk

We are pleased to announce that ECSOSA is at last "on line". Eric has been working hard to put the site together and now we can look forward to promoting the Association and contacting many more old scholars. Plans are in hand to set up a link to the school site and we hope that contacts with the saga and friendsreunited sites will spread the word even more. This does not mean that the Newsletter will be closed down or even reduced. Whilst the website should open up ECSOSA to many more with whom we have lost contact, the Newsletter will provide a link between them and those who do not want to join the technological revolution. Eric will continue to email the Newsletter to those who have requested it but if you prefer you will now be able to download your copy of the Newsletter direct from the website. Don't worry, it will of course continue to be sent out via the Royal Mail as usual to everyone else.

Belgium...and since

I was very surprised to find myself on the front page of the spring edition in the photograph of the group visiting Belgium in 1934. I intended to write at once as I could remember many names of the others, but it took the Summer Newsletter and your note about 'no recent contact' to produce this letter with a contradiction. In Raymond Tabor's letter he says 'I think the girl next to Mr Morris is probably Connie Allen' (who was she?). He is wrong! it is I!! (Beryl Latham) and I do remember a Raymond Tabor. I am standing next to Mick Morris under the number 25. Continuing left to right the boy next to me is Phillips (whose sister married Mr Elengorn), next boy possibly Reeves, the next three girls Margaret Amys, Peggy Spicer, and as you know Marie Hollywood. Is the last girl Joan Butter? In the front row Yvonne Spencer, yes, and on the left could it be Madeleine Taylor? Of the boys, Pinnock and Halpin could be there as we were in the same form. I'm shaking up the grey cells hard, but no other names are coming to the surface. I was in the 1934 Shakespeare production as Olivia in Twelfth Night and I

still have the programme of the 1935 November Speech Day in which many prominent names appear. I also have two small photos of the bigger group which went to Paris in 1935 made up from the 5th form and 4th Remove girls and boys. I remember more of these. I was at the new School on the Cambridge Road from 1930-1935 but had no contact with Old Scholars after that other than playing tennis. I did belong to the Thespians as my parents produced several plays for them. The names Douglas and Dorothy Waugh are remembered as our parents were friends. I joined the Civil Service and was evacuated to Bath with the Admiralty and have lived in the West Country since 1939 apart from between 1945-1948. I married in 1954, left the Civil Service but went back again from 1974-1981 and have always been active with Civil Service Sports Associations, particularly golf.

The only Old Scholar I know is a name often appearing in the Newsletter, Olive Hedley-Smith. We became acquainted when we were both in the Ministry of National Insurance at Bristol in 1948.
Mrs Beryl M Anderson (nee Latham)



The above photo is believed to be the prefects group taken circa 1947. Can anyone name all, or any, of the faces and confirm the year? If the winner is a lady the prize is a big kiss from Eric, if it is a man then find your own enjoyment! (sic) Please send your answers to Eric or Frank.

Chairman's Report

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Lower School on Thursday, October 17th and I was pleased to report a year of steady if not spectacular growth. Our finances under the new stewardship of Peter Mansell are healthy, although had our holdings in Bradford & Bingley been treated with consideration by that company, they would have been even greater. Bradford & Bingley's interpretation of our situation according to a rather unclear set of rules leads me to recommend that anyone dealing with them should look very carefully at their situation and consider the alternatives.

Socially, we can claim several successful events culminating in our biggest turnout yet at Whitewebbs with more than forty old scholars and partners. We are already planning for next year and will definitely include our first venture south of the river next May - anyone know of a good venue? The one slight blot on the landscape has been the Annual Dinner, however we have now found a promising venue for next spring. Desperate pleas for assistance have finally born some fruit with Jacky Robinson now well into the task of building up our contact data-base whilst offers of secretarial help from Mureen Bealby and Pat Rust have enabled me to carry on both as Chairman and Newsletter Editor. There is however still much to be done and I would be delighted to relinquish one or both of those jobs. There are other vacancies on the committee and we still need to attract new and younger members. In particular the future of the Association greatly depends on the success of the Web-site. The outgoing committee had proposed that the existing subscription rates were left unchanged but that additional rates for five and ten years were adopted. Current subscriptions are Annual £3.00, Joint Annual £4.00, Five years £12.50, Five years joint £16.50, Ten years £22.50, Ten years joint £30.00, Life £30.00 and Joint Life £40.00.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the Doris Staples Memorial Notice Board has been installed next to the office at the school. Some may not consider this as appropriate as our previous tree planting attempts which proved unsuccessful, however now at least there will be a permanent reminder and link to a continuing band of pupils, who after all were always Miss Staples main concern - perhaps she was trying to tell us something? F.W.

The Early Days

I have just received the ECSOSA Newsletter and have one bone of contention to raise. As one of the 1925 intake, I have always thought that I joined Edmonton County Secondary School, with the boys at Croylard Road and the girls at Raynham Road, both boys and girls uniting at the 'Tech' in 1927. I was unaware that it was not until 1927 that it's title became E.C.S.S.

But enough nit-picking. I wonder if Norrie Kemp (Ethel Norton 1927 intake) is the same Ethel Norton who was a friend of a cousin of mine, Hilda Lillian Richards, who used to attend a Gym class at St. Alphege's Hall. Hilda was 4 years older than me having been born in 1910. I attended the first Student Re-Union and according to the lists published on the School wall, the only name from my intake attending was Leslie Grew. Unfortunately, I was unable to contact him, I would be interested to know if any of my intake are still alive, especially Jimmy Gordon, Norah Tidey, Evelyn Burlock and Grace Cleaver.

Ted Richards (1925-1930)

As I reported last time, there were eight articles on the early years in the school's fiftieth anniversary magazine. I simply quoted verbatim from the piece by Miss E. Gatehouse, one of the original members of staff. Miss Fothergill's article is included in this Newsletter and other articles were contributed by "Q", Mr. Richman, Miss Staples, Sam Elengorn and original ex-pupils Isabel Finch (nee Angood), Ernest Rayner and Malcolm Noble. We have to remember therefore that they were written from memory many years after the event. All had different recollections and nobody gave exact dates. The consensus appears to be that we became the "County" sometime in 1922, having been founded in January, 1919 as the Edmonton Central school. We are hoping eventually to determine the exact situation from more contemporary records and I would like to produce a Chronology for the Website. Meanwhile thanks for writing Ted and if anyone can throw more light on those early years we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Annual Dinner

We have decided to hold our Annual Dinner at a new venue this year, the Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Road, Potters Bar. Within easy reach of junction 24 of the M25, it comes highly recommended with a more intimate atmosphere and excellent service. This means however

that numbers are limited and will be selected on a strictly first come - first served basis. The good thing is that we are able to hold the price for the fourth consecutive year at £21 each. Full details and directions will be sent out with tickets, so contact and make arrangements to meet up with your friends, apply early and put a note in your brand new 2003 diary - ECSOSA Annual Dinner, Saturday, 15th March, 7 for 7.30pm.

Other Social Events

Joan and Tony Joyce wrote about the 10th October gathering, "Once again Tony and I had a really enjoyable time at the **Whitewebbs Reunion**.

It had seemed a bit daunting when we contemplated driving there straight from the airport and a 9 hour flight from USA but we were glad we made the effort.

It was really great to see so many people there that were our contemporaries way back. Some we recognised - others we had to be told a name first and then we could see the boy or girl in the man or woman. Fifty years just fell away and we all chatted as though our last meeting was just a couple of weeks back. Tony met a couple of lads that he used to give pillion rides to on his motor bike. They were still bikers and had even come on them. Tony sadly gave up the motor bike many years ago. It was good too to meet once again the 'new' friends we had made at the last gathering and we are looking forward to the next get-together which we will be hopefully free to attend. Thank you for the work you put into making these meetings a success."

Dates for next year's Whitewebbs Get-togethers have been set for Thursdays, 10th April and 9th October, 12.30pm on for Lunch and in the evening on Thursday, 19th June from 7.30pm on.

We have also set the date for a **lunchtime get-together "south of the river"**. Many of you have travelled to Whitewebbs on different dates from Kent, Surrey, Sussex, etc., so we hope that even more will join us on Thursday, May 5th. We are looking for a venue convenient to the southern M25, with similar facilities to Whitewebbs, i.e. Restaurant with plenty of room and a non-booking policy offering a choice of snacks or full lunch with vegetarian options, all at a reasonable cost. Whitewebbs is a Brewers Fayre but likely alternatives could be Beefeater, Ember Inns, In & Out, Millers Kitchen, Chef & Brewer, etc. Perhaps you know of a local brewery which has a suitable

outlet. If so, please let us know so that we can confirm the venue in our next newsletter and also on the website. If anyone else would like to set up a meet in their own area, please contact me for advice and free publicity. We have for instance many members in the West and I can thoroughly recommend as a venue the Fromebridge Mill on the A38 just off the M5 a few miles south of Gloucester.

The visit to the **Royal Gunpowder Mills** proved to be very interesting and successful. As Arthur Spencer commented "we were very lucky to have the services of such an interesting and knowledgeable guide". Ernie Cooke worked for many as a scientist at the Mills until they finally closed in 1991. It was impossible to cover everything in the time available, so this visit proved to be just a taster. Most will be returning again next season and taking advantage of the offer of two days entrance for the price of one. Next year we plan to visit **Duxford Airfield and Museum** on Sunday, 14th September. We estimate a one and a half hours drive from Edmonton and will meet in the Car Park at 11.00 am. Any other ideas welcomed.

School Beginnings

There is a saying 'Distance lends enchantment to the view' so in settling down these reminiscences forty years after the beginning of my association with Edmonton County School I will record facts and feelings as truthfully as I can. I joined the staff in 1929 when the School was housed in two buildings in Croyland Road School and Church Street Institute, and there was no sixth form. Mr James North had just become Headmaster and my senior colleagues were Dr Galin, Mr Richman, Mr Morris, Mr Quartermaine, Miss Rudwick, Miss Capewell and Miss Gatehouse, who had

just been appointed Senior Mistress. It was a time of unemployment and parents found it a great struggle to keep their children at school for two years beyond the statutory leaving age. Nevertheless, Speech Day was a proud day when the girls wore white dresses and the boys their best suits, and an Edmonton County Court Judge presented the prizes at the ceremony held in the Central Hall. Conditions of teaching and learning were difficult but the staff, dedicated to their calling, looked forward to the day when the school would move to the fine new buildings which were rising on the Cambridge Road. In 1931 the great day arrived and at last the school was under one roof with modern classrooms and laboratories, an Art Room, Domestic Science and Handicraft Rooms, a gymnasium, a library, a stage and a fine assembly hall. The playing fields were adjacent to the school – no longer a 15 minute walk after school for games practice, which had to be abandoned between November and February because of lack of daylight! Standards of play were consequently low and it was a great day for the school when the first teams scored their first victories against Latymer, a school twice our size. Then followed eight years of steady progress. The school had established itself in the eyes of the neighbourhood and there was cause for quiet rejoicing when Mr North announced at a staff meeting that the parents of all our next season's first year pupils had made the County School their first choice. Early in the 1930's the school had its first university scholarship, won by Louie Ims who is now (1969-Ed) Headmistress of a Coventry comprehensive school.

In 1933 the shadow of war appeared and next summer staff were recalled from holidays to organise the evacuation of the school. For a whole week the school

assembled each day with rucksacks, their contents checked by the staff. Then at 7.00am on September 1st 1939 more than half the pupils and all the staff walked from school to Lower Edmonton station, and a few hours later arrived at Braintree in Essex. I well recall that beautiful autumn morning when the school gathered in the grounds of Bocking Place for the first assembly and sang 'Jerusalem'. There must be many past pupils who remember that lovely autumn followed by a very severe winter when some of us enjoyed skating on the Gosfield Lake.

When we returned to London in 1940, we attended school from 10 o'clock to 2.30 with a half an hour break for lunch, which Mrs Howard, our devoted cook for upwards of 25 years, provided for pupils and staff. All now settles down to school routine, and there were many narrow escapes during those nightly raids. Happily the school did not suffer a single casualty.

The allied invasion of Europe in June 1944 brought flying bombs spasmodically by day and night, and much time was spent in cloakroom shelters. I well remember my attempts to teach mathematics without a blackboard. By Christmas the worst was over and there followed the years of rebuilding. Mr Champion succeeded Mr North and the sixth form was growing steadily; each year the school sent its pupils to college and university in increasing numbers. Teaching was always enjoyable. I recall the small first-form boy who had just discovered that the angle sum of a triangle is always 180 degrees whatever its shape. He asked 'Miss why do we learn Geometry?' I answered 'Because it's fun', to which reply he smiled brightly and agreed with me.

And there were all the happy by-products of teaching at E.C.S. The Speech

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Diary Dates 2003		Lunch Get-together	Surrey/Kent venue TBA
Spring Term starts	Monday, 6th January	Half Term	Thursday, 5th May 12.30pm on
Half Term	Monday, 17th February	Committee Meeting	Lower School
Committee Meeting	Thursday, 27th February 7.45pm	Evening Get-together	Whitewebbs Park
Annual Dinner 2003	Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Lane, Potters Bar.	Summer Term ends	Thursday, 19th June 7.30pm on
	Saturday, 15th March 7 for 7.30pm	Day Out	Duxford Museum
Lunch Get-together	Whitewebbs Park	Lunch Get-together	Sunday, 14th September 11.00am
	Thursday, 10th April 12.30pm on		Whitewebbs Park
Spring Term ends	Friday, 11th April		Thursday, 9th October 12.30pm on
Summer Term starts	Monday, 28th April		

Days, Sports Days, Swimming Galas, Field Afternoons, School Plays, singing in the Choir and the choir concerts conducted by Mr Wilkinson. The 'Operas' created by Mr Wilkinson and Mr Locke and performed hilariously by the staff to an astonished school on the last afternoon of the Easter Term. The Staff v School matches and the Masters v Mistresses cricket matches on the last day of the summer term when the masters batted left-handed and bowled underarm and the mistresses took it all very seriously and occasionally won! And of course the friendship of one's own colleagues and the pleasure of meeting them again at the beginning of each term.

The school has reason to be proud of its achievements in the past fifty years. E.C.S. has given more than a formal education to its sons and daughters. We who laboured there endeavoured to send them out into the world equipped with a scale of values which has surely enhanced the quality of life in both the individual and the community.

Miss K M Fothergill

Information Needed

Val Richardson from Victoria, Australia has written asking for information about her relatives. She knows that they attend Raynham Road School and believes

that most attended the County, although there is some doubt about this. If anyone can throw light on any of the following **Richardsons**, please contact Eric or Frank so that we can pass the information on to Val. They are George, born 7/7/1903; Lilian, 29/10/1906; Francis (or Frank) 16/9/1915; Doris, 20/4/1917; Arthur, 24/4/1919; and Olive, 2/10/1922. Also can anyone confirm that the Higher Grade school was sited in Wilbury Way? Does anyone have any news of the following whose newsletters have been returned marked "Gone away"? Mrs Knightley nee Halls 1973-1980 Latymer Road, Edmonton. Mrs Greenaway nee Cawley 1930-1935 College Road, Harrow Weald Vic Lucas Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill If you have any news please let Eric know by email to eric@wilkinsone.freeserve.co.uk or by post to 108 Butchers Lane, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex CO14 8U

and finally

fewer letters for this edition but thank you to all who have written during the last year, or sent photographs. Unfortunately the quality of some means it is not always possible to reproduce them, especially photocopies. Jpegs are always the best option but we are able to scan most originals - we simply cannot

deal with slides. Why not make a new years resolution to write at least once to the ECSOSA newsletter?



Best Wishes to all our readers for a Happy Christmas and Successful New Year from the ECSOSA Committee

Edited by Frank Wallder, 6a Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts., EN11 0RH
Tel / Fax 01992 470316. Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individual contributors and are published in the interests of information and debate. ECSOSA itself holds no collective opinions.

Please reserveplaces at £21 each for me at the Annual Dinner, to be held at the Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Road, Potters Bar on Saturday, 15th March, 2003 at 7 for 7.30pm.

First Name(s).....Surname.....Nee.....

Address..... Telephone No.....

.....Fax.....

Years at School..19.....to 19..... e-mail.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to ECSOSA .

My guests are (full names please).....

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