

ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2002

published by the Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association



Round the World in 28 days!

Everything went very smoothly - Bangkok/Sydney/Auckland/Honolulu/Toronto and then back to London. In each destination (except for Bangkok) we met up with friends or relatives, so this made the trip very interesting. In Sydney we spent the day with a newly-found 4th cousin of mine, courtesy of family history research, and, after a super cruise around New Zealand, we 'jumped ship' in Auckland and met up with some Latymer Old Students (John was at Latymer, which has a very active 'down under' section of its Old Students Association). As both Latymer and Edmonton County are in the same area, and students came from local junior schools, this meant we all knew similar places and people; we were shown around by Bernard and Joan Collins, who took us out to meet Alan & Barbara Bolam - Alan & Barbara play tennis with a near neighbour, Janette Smith (nee Dean), who is an ex-County School scholar. By the way, Bernard arranged an excellent couple of short tours for us with an interesting driver - and Bernard would be pleased to help anyone with advice if they're visiting Auckland (tel: Auckland 526-4940 - email BERNARDJOAN@clear.net.nz) We didn't have time to drive up to Whangerei to visit Ray MacMurdie (Edmonton County 1940-45) but I did telephone him from Auckland and had a long conversation about people and times past (his email is jenray@igrin.co.nz). In Honolulu we were met and spent some time with the father of one of our son's American friends - a Japanese-American who was born in Honolulu and served in the American military. We also visited the Arizona Memorial - the Pearl Harbour site - which was very impressive and well-organised; it was a worth while trip and we'd recommend it to anyone going there.

Then, in Toronto, we met one of John's cousins whom he hadn't seen since she went to Canada as a war bride in 1946 - and her daughter and three of the daughter's grandchildren - quite a meet-up!

The only hitch in the complex arrangements was when John's suitcase took the 'pretty route' from Honolulu to Toronto - going via Chicago and not arriving until



Exchanges in the Thirties

Looking at such a good looking group in the newsletter (outgoing committee in the Summer edition!!!!) inspired me to search out two photos which might be of interest. The group was taken in 1934, the setting the castle in Ghent. Miss Capewell in front next to (I think) Yvonne Spencer with Mr. Morris fourth from the left and Kenny



Wentworth extreme left. The other snap was taken in 1936 on Ostend quay. I am sure you will recognise the handsome features of Jack Long. The caps we are wearing were part of the Dinant school uniform. What made this trip so memorable was the return of the Rhineland to Germany. This resulted in quite a lot of martial activity, bridges having been mined and endless marching and counter-marching. Nothing changes, however hard we pedal.

Ken Young.

the following day! As we were in hot weather clothes on our arrival in sub-zero temperatures, this was a bit worrying; however, all was well when the change of clothes arrived.

Although we only briefly touched on Australia and the ports we visited in New Zealand, we have great memories of relaxed friendly people - if only they were nearer! - **Dee West (alias Doris Page) and John**

'72 Intake Reunion

More than eighty ex-pupils gathered at the school on Saturday, 9th February for a reunion of the 1972 intake. Many

bought their old photographs which sparked off memories and reminiscences. Conversation flowed and time flew so that people literally had to be "thrown out" at midnight. Everybody was very grateful to Huw Prosser for his help in obtaining the Hall for the occasion - he was there for the evening and gratified to be told "you have n't changed a bit".

The organisers would also like to thank the Head for her co-operation and especially Louis, the head caretaker for his help and forbearance - "he was fantastic" (sic). As reported by **Sue Zaidman (nee Littlejohns)**.

More lessons to be learned? There were

only five or so people from those years at our Millenium Reunion. The difference was down to all the work that Sue and her small band put into contacting and chasing her compatriots, just as the success of the Old Eds reunion was due to Hilary Walker, Bols et alia. If we are ever to have another major reunion, then your committee can only provide the central organisation - its success in attracting larger numbers depends on personal contacts from people from your own era. We will need at least one representative from each period of the school's life on the organising committee - otherwise there will be far too much work needed for just a few people to make sufficient contacts.

Obituaries

Arthur James Hutchinson, M.B.E. (1945-51).

Arthur played ice hockey for Haringay and enjoyed playing drums in a band. After leaving school at 18, he joined his father in business at Spitalfields Market. Together they expanded the business and he later took over when his father died. He married Shirley in 1955 and lived in Cheshunt - they had three sons, Christopher, Robert and Brian all of whom produced much appreciated grandchildren for Arthur and Shirley. When Spitalfields Market was moved to Nine Elms, the work that Arthur put into this enormous task was rightly rewarded with his MBE.

Shirley and Arthur moved to a delightfully restored dairy in the tiny Essex village of Tilty. They enjoyed the countryside and Arthur reserved his "plot" in the churchyard amid trees and fields.

Resting after lunch on December 5th last year, he complained of a pain and was unable to get up. He was rushed to hospital but sadly died next day.

The funeral held at Tilty was attended by family, friends and many traders from the market. His youngest son read "Death is nothing at all" by Canon Henry Scott-Holland at the service and afterwards everyone went on to the Down Hall Hotel near Hatfield Heath.

Ralph Christmas.

Dr Agnes Bentley

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of Dr Agnes Bentley.

She died peacefully, after a short illness, in Bedford Hospital on Sunday 24th March.

Dr Bentley was teacher of German at Edmonton CGS from 1956 - 76.

Last September she celebrated her 90th



birthday which she felt was the milestone she had to reach. Although frail, she had a wonderful day, which is how the family will remember her. We had hoped that she would survive to see her first great-grandchild due in August, but it was not to be. She leaves behind daughters Margret (Meg) and Christel, sons-in-law David and Colin, and grand-daughters Cathy and Nikky.

Marie Luxon

I notice from recent newsletters that you are seeking news of Marie Luxon (nee Hollywood). I did not write after the first request as I assumed that one of her children would get in touch. Marie died 3 or 4 years ago, having spent her latter years in the Wirral near to her daughter Anne and her family after the death of her husband Dick.

When I joined E.C.S. in 1936, she was my form prefect, but we became close friends shortly after the war when both our husbands joined the staff of Latymer School. They retired from there within a year or two of each other in the early eighties, but sadly Dick died very soon afterwards - I lost my own husband in 1993. My brother Bob and his wife Marjorie (Fletcher), 1933 entry, have lived in Cornwall since the mid-seventies and this year will celebrate their Diamond Wedding.

Living here on the I.O.W. one of my close friends is Angela Spencer (Weed). Because of our age gap, our school years did not overlap but we have found many friends in common - we travelled together to the reunion in 1977.

I enjoy reading the newsletters and familiar names bring memories flooding back. I still a long photograph of the school (1938) which comes out occasionally when friends visit me and we try to put names to faces.

Mary Spurgeon (Redgrave).

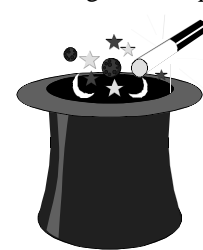
Mary's letter throws up some points

which arise regularly. Firstly, peoples' assumptions that someone else will send us information - in this case neither Anne nor Ralph Luxon are members so do not receive the newsletter.

Could it be that not only friends in common but also a shared background and outlook fostered by the school has brought Mary and Angela together. Angela was at the Dinner this year when she met up with several other old friends. The spread of intake years was over thirty (1936 to 1969) yet everyone blended and enjoyed an extremely convivial atmosphere. Another reason why, although we do all we can to help and encourage individual groups to meet, we feel that a strong Association is the basis of success. We ask therefore that every member not only continues to support the Association but also spreads the word and recruits new members at every opportunity - and please assume that we know nothing, so write and let us know of any news of old scholars or staff that you come across. Too much information is far better than too little! Thank you for writing Mary, we hope it inspires some more of our members to do so!

Social Diary

There are some places left for our visit to **The Magic Circle** on Tuesday, 21st May meeting at 7.00pm. The Centre is in



Stephenson Way, just a few minutes from Euston Station. **Dennis Patten** will be on hand to ensure we are given some personal service. After a welcoming

drink (sherry or fruit juice), we are treated to close-up magic. Then a presentation on the history and aims of the Magic Circle leads to coffee and a sandwich during the interval before the stage show in the theatre. There is also the opportunity to visit the Magic Circle museum &/or the bar. Show closes at around 10.30pm. The complete evening is excellent value at £20.50. To be sure of your place give Frank Wallder a ring on 01992 470316 before sending your cheque as places will be reserved on a strictly first come basis.

Whitewebbs Get-togethers -

A new season of Get-togethers starts with a lunch-time meeting on Thursday, 18th April at Whitewebbs House Restaurant, Whitewebbs Lane, Enfield. We meet again for lunch on Thursday, October 10th and in the evening on Thursday, June 20th. If you have not been along

before you can be sure of a very warm welcome. No need to book, just turn up and find us in the vicinity of Table No.1 (Past the Bar, turn left, straight on then look for a copy of the Newsletter) from 12.30 for lunch or from 7.00 in the evening. We are still hoping that someone will set up a similar get-together in their own area. It takes very little organisation and we will give any volunteer ideas on venue, publicity, etc. Just arrange a nucleus of three or four people to ensure a pleasant meeting and you could be surprised who else turns up.

Gunpowder Mills. Following last years highly enjoyable visit to Bletchley Park, we felt that a similar venue "nearer home" might attract greater numbers. We are therefore planning a visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills near Waltham Abbey later this summer. Its exhibitions and displays are housed in buildings dated back to the 1790's illustrating over 300 years of history. The Mills played a part in technology from gunpowder to the bouncing bomb and development of materials used in everyday objects such as the golf ball. Interactive computer displays help in recreating explosions and scientific inventions. Visitors are free to explore a large area of the site including a wildlife watchtower. The many historic structures and canals combine with extensive wooded areas to create a hidden world with a thriving ecology. Admission cost is in the region of £6 including free parking, with reductions for concessions and groups. If we can gather a sufficiently large group together we will also have the services of an experienced guide who can offer insights into this previously secret world.

Annual Dinner

Despite early indications, numbers attending this year were extremely disappointing. A great pity as this was univer-

Many of you will be aware of the friendsreunited web-site - did you know that there is now also a site run by the Saga group which will apply to most of our members?
Log on to www.saga.co.uk and follow the Forum link.

sally agreed to be one of the most enjoyable events for many years. Unless we can attract greater numbers however, we will be unable to continue this longest established event on our social calendar. Without greater attendance, the economics of the function are simply not viable and we will have to look at poorer alternatives. If you are one of those who do enjoy this event, talk to your friends, arrange to meet them, organise a group table - unfortunately with any social event you can no longer just turn up and expect your friends to be there.

School News

We are pleased to report that the Technology Status appeal has been successful. A major sponsorship has topped up the school fund-raising effort and donations with the ESA guaranteeing a loan sufficient to reach the target of £50,000. More details to follow with a report on the implications of this to the school as they become clearer and what steps are to be taken next.

An OFSTED inspection took place during wk/c 11th February. A parents evening took place in late January to answer questions, take views on the schools performance and discuss how it

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will affect pupils, parents and school. A new School Development Plan is being prepared and the inspection will give an indication of what priorities should be.

The London Education Authority has asked the school to take an additional entry of 30 students next September. The issue is a concern to all staff who feel the Lower site building is already full - in fact there are already nearly 30 students per year over the "standard number" of 243. The numbers attracted by the continued success and reputation of the school must eventually start to have an adverse effect and the LEA must take responsibility for any drop in standards, whether educational, behavioural or in the wide range of ex-curricular activities which benefit the pupils. There is an unwelcome increase in the number of pupils who appear to be resorting to violence to settle disputes. Much of this may be put down to modern attitudes and standards perhaps but whether or not you believe in the principles of comprehensive education, the pressures put on today's teachers by overcrowding and sheer weight of numbers can only have a deleterious effect on the life of the school.

Meanwhile the wide range of activities undertaken by pupils and reported in previous newsletters continues. Music, sport, voluntary work, charity fund raising and educational visits have been taking place both at home and abroad.

Special mention must be made of the Year 9 Football team who, when we last heard, were at the top of the Enfield league, semi-finalists in both the Enfield and Middlesex cups and in the last 16 in the English Schools Cup.

Shades of the Sixties! Incidentally, why is it that all references are made to Year7 through to Year 12 and no mention of first to fifth forms, yet there is still a thriving Sixth Form?

Association Officers

Joint Presidents:

M/s Linda Robinson, Headteacher, Edmonton County School, Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1HQ
Mrs. Beryl E.Dewhurst, 22, Queen Annes Gardens, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2JP, Tel. 020 8360 4679

Chairman: Frank M. Wallder, 6a, Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts., EN11 0RH, Tel / Fax. 01992 470316

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Peter Mansell, 10, Station Road, Foxton, Cambs., CB2 6SA, Tel: 01223 503131

Newsletter Editor: vacant

Membership Secretary: Eric Wilkinson, 108, Butchers Lane, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, CO14 8UD, Tel. 01255 677946, e-mail: ERIC@wilkinsone.freeserve.co.uk

Minutes Secretary: Mrs. Angela Painter, 17, Wallers Way, Hoddesdon, Herts., EN11 9LH, Tel. 01992 464303

Committee Members: Mrs. Pat Mattingly, 4, Riverdale Court, Bush Hill, London, N21 2BY, Tel. 020 8364 2606

Peter J.Francis, 21, Lakenheath, Southgate, London, N14 4RJ, Tel. 020 8886 7350

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Derrick Stone, 4 Brodie Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0EZ, Tel. 020 8363 3631

John F.Kerridge, 6, Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2HP, Tel. 020 8360 2560

Doreen Bayley, M.B.E., 10 Gardenia Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2HZ, Tel. 020 820 8360 7274

Diary Dates 2002

Lunch Get-together	Whitewebbs Park		Deadline for the Summer Newsletter	June 2nd
	Thursday, 18th April	12.30pm. on	Committee Meeting	Lower School
Committee Meeting	Lower School			Thursday, 18th July
	Thursday, 25th April	7.45pm	Visit to Royal Gunpowder Mills	T.B.A.
Magic Circle Visit	Tuesday, 21st May	7.00pm.	Lunch Get-together	Whitewebbs Park
Evening Get-together	Whitewebbs Park			Thursday, 10th October
	Thursday, 20th June	7.00pm. on		12.30pm. on

Chairman's Report

You may have noticed that there are no adverts for volunteers for **Association Officers** in this edition but does this mean we no longer require help? On the contrary. We desperately need people to fill vacancies.

So what is involved for each job? Currently there are not more than three or four letters per year to write, so the **Secretary's** job consists mainly of writing up and distributing just five sets of minutes and Agendas annually.

The **Social Co-ordinator** has very little to organise for our Whitewebbs get-togethers or any other visits such as to Bletchley Park or the Gunpowder Mills. Ticket distribution is needed for the Magic Circle visit and the Annual Dinner - other Dinner tasks are covered by the committee.

The **Newsletter Editor** has probably the highest profile job in that most members think of their quarterly update as "the Association". The worst case scenario is writing four Newsletters of four pages each per year, taking extracts from members written correspondence and School Newsletters. In reality this is reduced by photographs and greatly helped by members sending emails or letters on disk, both of which can be transferred directly into the newsletter format.

Apart from the secretary, the **ESA Co-ordinator** is the only position which requires the holder to live within reach of the school. This job is still developing but currently involves maintaining con-

tact with the ESA and the school and distributing our Newsletter to them. Currently Peter Francis does much of this work and would be happy to advise and help in the post. We are grateful to the school for facilitating reunions and committee meetings - this role will ensure our continued co-operation and help us to assist the school in the future. If the Newsletter is the present fulcrum of the Association, then a Web-site is the future - and the sooner the better! The success of recent group reunions would not have been possible without the use of the Internet. We need our own web-site if as an Association we are not to be left behind and eventually dwindle and die! Thanks to generous donations we already have the software, we have contacts and help but we don't yet have a **Web-site controller**. Even if you are not confident that you have the expertise to fully develop a site to its full potential, can you help us get it off the ground? We had hoped to advertise the Dinner on the friendsreunited web-site, but were not even able to arrange that successfully!

Last and definitely not least is the position of **Database Manager**. This is not so much an Officer, more an ongoing role. In the long term it is vital as the means of old scholars maintaining contact. We cannot rely on Contact web-sites as they only work if people register on them. Not everybody is on the Net and many of those that are do not bother to register. With a little detective work, we can build on web-site registrations

and help to fulfil the Association's primary objective. This is a job which will need ongoing commitment rather than a requirement to meet particular deadlines.

So all in all, although there is a lot of work to be done, no individual job takes up too much time or effort. Unfortunately they do in total - and in addition to the Chairman's role, I am trying to hold down all but two of them - which means not one of them is being done properly! All of the other committee members are more than pulling their weight - they each have other commitments and anyway have long records of service to the Association. If we cannot find fresh blood to take on these jobs, then your committee must revise our priorities in the light of our limited personal resources. The situation cannot go on and something has to give. Personally I do not intend to walk away completely but certainly I cannot afford the time to carry on as at present. I must decide which one job is of most use to the Association and the others must go by the board unless other people take them on. Do we progress as an Association or do we break up into a few small unconnected groups? Non Nobis Solum?

If you have always thought you would like to do something for your old school friends, now is the time. Please do not hang back because you feel you are not qualified, if you have some time give me a ring and see what we need and how you can help. **F.W.**

Please reserveplaces at £22.50 each for the visit to the Magic Circle, to be held on Tuesday, 21st May, 2002 at 7 for 7.30pm.

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

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

.....Fax.....

e-mail.....

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

Please check places are still available before returning this form with the appropriate payment to

Frank M Wallder, 6a Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts., EN11 0RH Tel / Fax 01992 470316