



ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2002

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School Old Scholars Association



Photos stir memories

Ken Young asks if the wonderful photo of the 1934 school trip to Belgium is of any interest. It certainly is to me - Norrie Kemp (Ethel Norton, 1927 intake). I went there in 1930 when I was fourteen. The same Miss Capewell was there with Miss Gatehouse (Headmistress) and a very young Miss Gill Fothergill whom we all adored. In those days it was an all-female party - the boys went separately to a different place at a different time. Sadly I have no photos of the people but I took an interior of Ypres Cathedral which gained first prize in a school photographic competition organised by Tibby Childs. Perhaps others of that era who were also on that holiday have photographs. I still keep in touch with Phyllis Cole (nee Freeman) of my year, I believe the only ones left alive. Won't it be great if I am proved wrong? We stayed in Bruges first, I think, and then went on to Dinant in the Ardennes (now paired with Hoddesdon, Ed). If Ken Young knows the names of any of the girls could he please let me know - some must surely be the "big girls" I looked up to. Of course I recognise Mick Morris in the back row. The boys were scared of him but he was all right to the girls. I recognise Jack Long in the other photo because I taught with his wife at Rainham Road School before the War. I enjoy the newsletter tremendously - I managed one dinner some years ago and got to the first reunion but sadly health problems have prevented me travelling since. Best wishes, **Norrie Kemp**. We do have records of another three of Norrie's contemporaries (and several who are older). However we have had no recent contact.

I found the photo on the front page of the Spring ECSOSA newsletter of particular interest. I think the girl next to Mr. Morris is probably Connie Allen. The girl with the long hair in the back row is Marie Hollywood who married Dick Luxon referred to in Mary Spurgeon's letter. Having exchanged Christmas cards with Marie, we were worried when one was returned about 3 years ago marked "not known at this address" and surprised like Mary that we had no news from her family - we would be interested to know how Marie obtained the news of Marie's death.

Jean and I seldom make the journey to Enfield these days although my daughter and family still live at Winchmore Hill and hence miss the various functions.

We keep in touch with Ralph and Ann Christmas and Ron Rush and his wife. Thinking back to the Thespians, do you remember "One Way Pendulum" and a couple of Thornton Wilder plays? **Raymond Tabor**.

Raymond refers back to the early sixties, one of the Thespians surreal phases - I believe "One Way Pendulum" marked his farewell appearance and "The Skin of our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder was Jean's. I well recall teaching 500 talking weighing machines to sing the Hallelujah Chorus. Other cast members of that time included Mike and Beryl Baynes, Diana Betty, Shirley Kennett, Colin Rochester, Peter Evans, Chris Barker, Margaret Connor, David Richardson, Susanne Johnson, Peter Motley and of course the stalwarts Jean Cawley and Jimmy Jay. Ralph produced "Skin" and Sam Elengorn "Pendulum" - Ray Cleverdon seemed to prefer more conventional stuff.

Found via the Web

I was Janet Cross and I was in Classes 3L 4L 5L. I seem to remember Eric as a tall boy with glasses. I left school at 16 in 1949 and worked as a secretary up to and after my first marriage. I had two boys now aged 45 and 36 and did part time work in various jobs and ended up as a bus driver with my second husband. My family moved to Colchester in 1954 and I went to the Maldon area of Essex in 1989 and moved up here to Lincolnshire in 1999.

I had an E mail from a Joan Coleman, who left the year before me and she sent me a photograph of the teachers who were in circulation during our time. The reproduction is very poor (she did apologise for this) but they are recognisable



Gossip at the Dinner

just the same. It's like being in a time warp looking at Mr. Champion, Old Q, and Sam Elengorn etc.!

I used to sit next to Annabelle Yugin who was the brightest girl in the class, (and probably the School at the time) and we were good friends. She later went on to become a Prefect, and, I believe, Head Girl. I had left and lost touch with everyone by then, although I do owe a lot to Annabelle. She kept me on the straight and narrow by refusing to talk or fidget or any other silly thing that kids do in class and thus forced me to concentrate and listen. Without her influence, I am sure that I would not have made the grade, and my one regret is that I cannot find her. I believe she went on to University, but from there the trail ran cold. I even tried many years ago to contact her through her family, but they had moved from their home in Palmers Green and although her father had had his own shopfitting business in London, there was no trace of him either.

When I left School, I joined the Old Scholars Association and the Thespian Dramatic Society. I think the Secretary at that time was Raymond Tabor. How's that for a memory! The Thespians put on a play called 'Tons of Money' and I played the part of Miss Benita Mullett, a deaf, irascible old lady who kept losing her knitting. I was only 16 at the time!! I remember we had a lot of fun and laughs during rehearsals and we had a hall full of people for the performance nights. Unfortunately, I lost touch with everything over the course of the next couple of years with work and boyfriends and other activities and then my family moved to Colchester and I started a new life. I have often thought about the school days and would have loved to

Chairman's Report

It does not seem possible that I have just completed four years in the job - how time flies when you are enjoying yourself!!? Unless something changes however, it could well be my last.

Our appeal in the last newsletter produced just one offer of help and we are very grateful to Jacky Robinson who has taken on the task of Database Manager - this is a vital role in making contacts from the past and building the Association for the future.

However all the other jobs remain unfilled.

Your committee has given much thought to the ongoing problems caused by this lack of assistance. Obviously we would like enough volunteers to take them all on but realistically and failing that we will have to reorganise our resources.

If we can find someone who can take on the job of secretary and who is willing and able to word process your letters for the newsletter, then I will be able to carry on as at present. If however that help is not forthcoming then I must resign at the next AGM either as Editor or as Chairman - I can no longer do both jobs as well as Social co-ordinator without help. Please ring me with any offers or even ideas on how we can otherwise overcome this problem. Regular attendance at Committee meetings is not strictly necessary for this secretarial task, although it would be useful. Better by far however to have someone assisting from outside the area than to have no help at all. F.W.

If you would prefer to receive your Newsletter by email, please contact ERIC@wilkinsone.freemove.co.uk

Thanks from the Editor-

thank you to all who have contributed to this edition, some with a little arm-twisting, it makes far more interesting reading than my "fill-ins". Keep up the good work! and how about some more photos?

The committee would be pleased to receive nominations for Vice-presidents. If you feel someone deserves recognition for the work they have done for the association, please let us know.

have walked through the School now. I am sure it has changed considerably. **Jan Mills (nee Cross)** <janmills@beeb.net>

Royal Recognition

You already know that I am a "relic" of the years 1924/29 - there are very few of us left! Having been made a Freeman of the Borough of Torbay last year - a greatly appreciated honour- on the occasion of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee visit to Devon I was one of the small party from Torbay chosen to attend County Hall, Exeter. Even greater was my excitement when I was presented to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Old Scholars are still alive and lively! my pride in my old school is as great as ever.

Olive Hedley-Smith.

If you are a relic, Olive, I look forward to being 90. Olive was honoured for her work as Chairman of the Torbay & District Carers UK National Association, although that is far from being the only string to her bow!

Social Diary

Thanks to your contributions, most of this social diary consists of your comments.

Thank you for arranging the **Magic Circle visit** - we all enjoyed it tremendously. The Old Scholars events are always good fun - seeing people from years ago - I met somebody from the Old Scholars Choir and we swapped memories of meeting in the old music room, when Eric James ran the choir and Ken Wilkinson was the pianist. We remember singing "We'll gather Lilacs" in a garden in Enfield for charity and "Come to the Fair" in a Music Festival at the Methodist Hall in Edmonton - Happy Days!

We were promised "a unique and entertaining experience" and so it proved to be. On entering the House of 10,000 Secrets we left our coats and were directed to the bar or upstairs to the Devant room. At each turn of the stair and on every floor were urbane gentlemen in immaculate evening dress pointing the way. While waiting for the show to start we wandered

round the various showcases containing Tommy Cooper memorabilia, the Maskelyne award to David Nixon and the original "spend a penny" locks. The Old Scholars party sat by the

Houdini case and we all duly pressed the two switches to hear Houdini speak while watching the water torture cell illuminate- gripping stuff!

We were then entertained by a series of magicians, including one lady improbably named Fay Presto. There were card tricks galore, a ring disappearing (concern on face of owner!) and reappearing in a bottle or some other unlikely place, a £5 note transformed into £10 and then £50 (but alas reverting to its original value) and all accompanied by non-stop comedy banter which had us laughing and applauding.

Then it was up to the theatre for the history of the Magic Circle and down again for refreshments and a visit to the museum. The highlight of the evening was the show where four acts amused and delighted a packed theatre with a variety of tricks and jokes. Coloured scarves became a shower of paper, a duck picked the right card and one performer had to leave because his wife had tonsillitis - and he didn't want to waste a minute away from her. The final act was pure magic - without words but with great style. Lovely doves appeared from jackets, hats and cupboards and then disappeared into a box never to be seen again! Another staircase led to our coats and a wet street near Euston. Questions kept us going all the way home - how did they do this or that trick and whatever happened to those doves? Magic!

Maureen Jaques (nee Forster)

This is an evening which can be thoroughly recommended. If anyone wishes to go another time, I will be happy to forward details.

Tony and I would like to say how much we enjoyed the evening get-together at **Whitewebbs** on Thursday, June 20th - incidentally the day before our 44th Wedding Anniversary. We were a little apprehensive as we had not attended a reunion function for about 40 years. However we need not have worried as from the very beginning everyone made us feel completely welcome and the



More Gossip at the Dinner

conversation flowed easily all evening.

In fact by the time we came home we felt we had made a whole new bunch of friends. A couple of those present found themselves in the two school magazines we had taken and learned about various members of Staff and pupils we had known. We both wish we had found out about ECSOSA before and attended the big reunions. However we look forward to seeing everyone again at another get-together - here's hoping we are free when other dates are set.

Best Regards, **Joan & Tony Joyce**

The final Whitewebbs Get-together of the season is a lunch on Thursday, October 10th. Meet in the Restaurant from 12.30 onwards.

Nice to receive the latest newsletter but a bit miffed that it was too late to attend the latest Whitewebbs Get-together on 13th April. Probably because I neglected to inform you of my recent change of address, thus a delay in re-forwarding of mail so I was on holiday on its eventual arrival. Ces la vie - yes I did fail my French G.C.E. I always look forward to contact with "Old Eds" and hope to make the 10th October venue. **Jim Batchelor** A salutary lesson, Jim. He has moved to 73, Dane Rd, Minnis Bay, Birchington, Kent, CT7 9QT Tel. 01843 845318 - and would be pleased to hear from old friends - just to rub salt in the wound, the dates for the Whitewebbs Get-togethers had already been published in the previous newsletter as well!

I was glad to receive the newsletter recently. It is excellent that Eric has managed to get such a variety of stuff to put into it! It was disappointing as you note that there were so few at the **Annual Dinner**. Once we got the bar open, the



Even more Gossip at the Dinner

evening seemed to go quite well. Did you ever comment to the management on the problem of service? I am unable to attend the Magic Circle or April Whitewebbs but would like to go on the Gunpowder Mills trip. **Arthur Spencer.**

Two points Arthur - Eric had to relinquish the Editor's job two and a half years ago but he continues to be of great assistance in producing photographs and passing on news from the letters he still receives. Re. the Dinner - the problem we have is in balancing the level of service we expect against the prices we are asked to pay. Certainly we have had no complaints about the meal provided - however to replicate the surrounds and standards of Firs Hall service we would have to increase our prices by half as much again! - and remember Firs Hall has now gone out of business because they could not attract enough customers. Even keeping our prices down to the £20 mark, we are unable to attract sufficient numbers to be viable. We are going to have to look very carefully at any plans for a function next year. We need your views!

The visit to the **Royal Gunpowder Mills** near Waltham Abbey has finally been confirmed as Sunday, 13th October. We have managed to secure the services of a

guide who worked on the site for many years. His interest in the history of this unique establishment guarantees you an insight not open to the ordinary visitor. 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 less than £6 (depending on numbers and age) including free parking. There is a land-train tour available for £1. Entrance is via Beaulieu Drive, left at the traffic lights opposite McDonalds on the A121, the main road between Waltham Cross and Waltham Abbey. Meet outside the entrance from the Car Park at 10.30 am to ensure that you are part of the guided party. See you there!

Obituary

It is with much regret and sadness that I announce that my wife **Jean (nee Templeman, 1942/47)** lost her fight with breast cancer on 13th June. My loss comes very hard to me as we had been together since our 5th Year at school and celebrated our 49th Wedding Anniversary last year. **Len Outridge.**



Association Officers

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The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Lower School on Thursday, October 18th 2001.

The main business will be to receive reports, adoption of the Accounts and the election of Officers. You are aware of my position - if not please read the Chairman's Report - all other members are standing for re-election. We are also recommending the election of Vice-Presidents in recognition of their service to the Association over many years. We are pleased to announce that Eric Wilkinson has agreed to be the first nomination. If anyone would like to suggest others, wants details or wishes to vote by post or contribute their ideas please register their interest before 30th September.

School News

It has been confirmed that the School Technology bid has been backed by the Goldman Sachs Foundation to the tune of £40,000. This will be held, if necessary, to the end of the year in case a second bid is required. The combined lottery and fashion show raised almost £8,000. The school has been asked to strengthen one part of the bid by the DfES in order to submit in the October round. Despite the overcrowding at the Lower School, the LEA has insisted on an increased intake this coming year - some funds for minor building adaptations have been allocated. A wide range of in-school and extra-curricular activities continues to take place, including school visits, charitable works and of course sport. From a starting list of over 1,000 schools, the Year 9 Football team reached the English Schools Cup Final. Played at Villa Park, they were only narrowly beaten 2-1, a superb per-

formance. The Lower School is introducing one far less strenuous activity - a Knitting Club. Although there are many keen pupils, they are desperately short of knitting needles and yarn. Have any of you out there got any equipment you no longer use? The school could put it to good use.

Early Years

In July, 1969 the school produced a special edition of the magazine sub-titled '50 years of "Us"'. The following is an extract of an article by Miss E. Gatehouse, one of the original members of staff.

At first it was not even one school but two separate departments of boys and girls in different buildings and under different Heads, the boys being at Croyland Road under Mr. Belton and the girls at Brettenham Road under Miss Seward. In each school there were two classes of 40 scholars, using classrooms in the elementary schools. At first there were just four members of the Staff, namely Dr. Galin, Mr. Richman, Miss Mawer and myself. Owing to this small staff we each did what we could to help fill the gaps until more staff were obtained. Although my special subject was English, in addition I took Needlework, Art, P.T., and Music with the girls, and Music and Art with the boys. The staff changed schools in the afternoons and

some scholars also did so two or three times a week in order to have such special lessons as Science and Cookery. As the number of pupils increased and more accommodation was needed, the boys took over Croyland Road and the girls the Raynham Road Junior Schools. The schools were still really separate, although Sports Days were combined; and it was not until 1927 that both departments joined at the Technical School in Church Street and became Edmonton County Secondary School. In 1930 the present Upper School buildings on the Cambridge Road were commenced and it was a great day when the foundation stone was laid by the then Headmaster, Mr. North in the presence of pupils. At last in 1931 the building was practically completed and the school became known as the Edmonton County School and was formally opened in November of that year.

Other articles were contributed by Miss Fothergill, Mr. Richman, "Q", Miss Staples, Sam Elengorn and original pupils Isabel Finch (nee Angood), Ernest Rayner and Malcolm Noble.



Still going!

Diary Dates 2002

Deadline for the Autumn Newsletter	September 20th	Visit to Royal Gunpowder Mills	Meet at Entrance
Committee Meeting	Lower School	Beaulieu Drive off A121	Sunday, 13th October 10.30am
	Thursday, 3rd October 7.45pm	Annual General Meeting	Lower School
Lunch Get-together	Whitewebbs Park		Thursday, 17th October 8.00pm
	Thursday, 10th October 12.30pm. on		

I hereby register my interest in the AGM on Thursday, 17th October, 2002. Please send me details of the meeting and a voting/proxy slip.

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

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

.....Fax.....

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

Please return this form to

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