

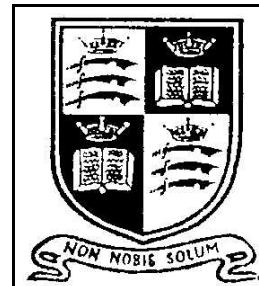
ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER

Published by the Edmonton County School
Old Scholars Association

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Autumn 2005



EDITORIAL

Now that the excitement of the cricket is over and the coveted Ashes are back in our possession, it is time to concentrate on the REUNION on 29th October.

Everyone has worked hard to make this a success so do turn out in your hundreds to support them!

It has been suggested that a list of E-mailers be compiled somewhat like a directory so that members can correspond with each other through the ether. If you would like your E mail address included, please send it either to me or Cliff Wilkins and we will try and get some order into it.

There has been a fair bit of correspondence regarding Basil Hoskins. Obviously, I cannot publish it all, but I have included some excerpts from various sources which you might find interesting.

OBITUARIES

Doris T. Cooper-Clayton nee Kersley (1929-34)

It is with great sadness that I have to let you know of the death of my sister Doris on 24th April. She so missed her husband after his death in April 2001 and 64 years of marriage that, in spite of the efforts of her daughters and families to encourage and interest her, she really gave up on life. Whilst my husband was alive, we were able to drive to visit her, but since his death in April of last year, to my regret, I had only been able to talk to her on the phone, as we lived so far apart. Doris met Peter about the time that she left the Edmonton County School in July 1934, just after her 16th birthday. They were engaged on her 17th birthday, and married in the April before her 19th birthday. They have four daughters, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, all of whom loved them and miss them both so much. Peter had to take early retirement at the age of 62 years because of heart trouble

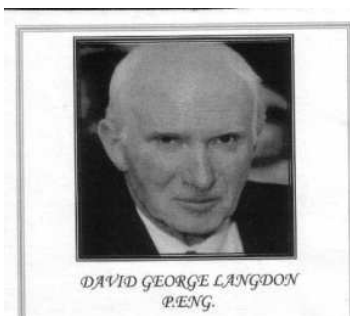
His doctor told him that, with care, he could probably expect to live for perhaps five, or with luck, possibly ten years. Well, Doris provided such great care and attention, that Peter was able to enjoy a very happy and reasonably active life until his sad death at the age of 88 years.

As I write this, on 17th July 2004, it would have been Doris' 87th birthday. Our older sister, Edna, who was also an Edmonton County School pupil, (1927-1932) died in March 2000 at the age of 84 years, and I miss them both so very much.

Olive A. Munden (nee Kersley)
1935-1940

DAVID GEORGE LANGDON 1933-2005. At ECS 1945-51

Blondie Langdon joined ECS with his older sister Ann at the end of the war. He was popular and good at games and sport. His greatest reading was the Internal Combustion Engine! He always enjoyed Solly Galen's science lessons. His friends included Peter Ellacott and Arthur Hutchinson.



DAVID GEORGE LANGDON
PENG.

After school, David went to an apprenticeship at Enfield Royal Small Arms Factory and then on to a sponsored Engineering Degree at Imperial College, London. This gave him enough money to run a rather ancient Riley whose brakes and electric system were somewhat suspect and on the way home from the King and Tinker, required a hand held torch in place of headlights! Motoring was rather laid back in those days.

He was appointed a commissioning engineer to the Nuclear Power stations at Huntersden in Scotland and then at Gloucester. He regretted the run down of power stations by the government and joined the American Westinghouse Group for whom he worked for many years, mostly in Japan and America. The Japanese found a tall, blond Brit. rather fascinating. Back in the UK, David continued working for Westinghouse, this time esconced in a superb penthouse with views overlooking Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace. The family really enjoyed visiting him there.

As a financial consultant, David then moved to Pittsburgh and Toronto. Travelling to Asia, India and Africa he met many heads of state and ministers.

He always enjoyed his golf and played so many of the world's courses with friends – a number of whom came to his Toronto funeral. His travelling gave him an insight into so many cultures and art. His talent for drawing and painting led him to paint excellent likenesses of his family, especially his nephew's two children.

Eric James and his wife Pat joined Ann, Ralph and Andrew at the funeral. On his easel at the flat where he died of a brain embolism was a charming study of an Italian shuttered window. Perhaps a symbol of a happy, generous talent, cut short and sadly missed by all

Ralph Christmas

OUTING TO SHUTTLEWORTH Thursday 5th May 2005

We all travelled independently to Old Warden Aerodrome which is one of the few remaining active grass airfields reminiscent of 1930's flying clubs.

Eleven of us registered and paid our entrance fees and proceeded into the hangars to view the 47 aircraft, all housed within eight floodlit hangars, including the workshop hangar.

The Shuttleworth Collection is unique. It is the world's only exhibition of flying historic aircraft dating from 1909 up to World War two and just beyond. Although best known for its aeroplane exhibits, the Collection also has a wide range of vehicles including veteran, vin-

tage and classic motor cars, motorcycles, cycles and horse drawn carriages. Whilst we were there, the Gloster Gladiator engine was being "run up" on the air field, also the Lysander was being used in a film.

After lunch some of the party went to view the Swiss Gardens. Both site visits were enjoyed by everyone.

Tony Brown

Carina Garner writes regarding Basil Hoskins:

When my sister Sheila (nee Male) born in 1928) and I were evacuated to Braine in 1939, we were billeted next door to Basil who volunteered to "take care" of my little sister – so I imagine they were both in their first year at the County School. Subsequently he and I, both drama mad, attended classes held by a Mr. Bissett in Enfield and we became quite good friends. Later he went on to become a professional actor.

Much, much later, he came to the Rose Theatre here in Kidderminster in a play about the first World War poet Siegfried Sassoon, 'Not about Heroes.' There were only two in the cast and it was very well done. He was still handsome – tall and slim, and his mop of curly 'ginger' hair had by then turned grey. My husband, Bob Garner (1935-40) and I had a brief chat with him in his dressing room after the show, reminiscing about our time at the then Edmonton County School.

Another memory from Pat Johnson:

To say I was deeply shocked to read of Basil Hoskins' death is to put it mildly! The last time we spoke on the telephone, he was in great form. Somehow I thought he would always be there, and I even had his 78th birthday card waiting to be posted. I also met him at Raglan Road – we used to walk to school together. When we were both prefects at ECS I remember us leaning against the heaters in the prefect's room, trying to learn to whistle! And we did!. We both left school at much the same time – end of 1943 in Basil's case and February 1944 in mine – but would meet for lunch when we could. He was so unhappy with the job he was in and only ever wanted to be an actor, so as he was not due to register for National Service until March 1945 we thought a Scholarship to R.A.D.A. might be a good thing. Strongly supported by Miss Emery and his dear mother, off went Basil and came back with the Scholarship in his pocket. He did one year before before he was called up, and got into the entertainments unit, travelling to the Far East, as I recall, and on his discharge he com-

pleted his second year at R.A.D.A. before going into Rep. There he was spotted and in time began the first of several seasons at the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-on-Avon.

Pat Johnson

From Ted Lawrence:

I write concerning Dee West's letter about Basil Hoskins' date of birth. He was, in fact born in 1927 not 1929 and he died five months before his 78th birthday which would have been on 10th June 2005. I have in fact been in communication with those responsible for winding up Basil's estate. They have told me that on both his driving licence and his passport his date of birth was given as 1929. I had pointed out to Basil some thirty years ago that the date given on his driving licence was wrong and his only comment was, "Well you know I was never much good at maths" and presumably he never got round to dealing with it!

It may amuse your readers to know that when Basil and I were at a dinner party some 40 years ago, I happened to mention in the course of conversation that Basil and I were in the same form at school. When, a few minutes later, I made some mention of being in the fifth form in 1943, I received a sharp kick in the ankles under the table and a withering look across it from Bas. He age was something about which, like most actors, he was rather sensitive.

With regard to two other matters: Dr. Galin's first name was Simon, not Solomon, and Mr. Ackhurst acquired the nickname of Bonk because, prior to the War, he used to play the cello in the school orchestra, and the sound emanating from his place was just a sound of bonk, bonk, bonk, hence the nickname.

Ted Lawrence.

Raymond Tabor sent the two following pictures. Can anyone fill in the names. Can you recognise yourselves or others? Raymond remembers the faces but not the names!



Quite a challenge.! Raymond is in hospital at the moment. We wish him well)

Best wishes also go to Eric Wilkinson who, as I write, is in Papworth Hospital following a heart operation.

We hope that they will both make a fast and full recovery.

QUOTES FROM THE WISE?

For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose sixty seconds of happiness that you can never get back.

Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

Application to join the Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association

First Name(s) Surname,Nee.....
 Telephone No. Fax..... E.Mail.....
 Address.....

Years at School. 19.... To 19.....

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

How did you contact the Association – from School () through Newsletter () through Friend ()

Through Reunion () Through Annual Dinner () other

Please return this form with the appropriate payment made payable to ECSOSA to

Cliff Wilkins, 214 Maltby Drive, Hoe Green Village, Enfield, Middx. EN1 4EP

Tel: 020 8805 1570/8350 3670

E Mail: Cliff@wilkinsck214.fsnet.co.uk

May we retain your details to pass on to any old scholars who may wish to contact you? Yes () No ()

Current Membership Rates: 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, Joint £40.00

More on the Great Strike

The notes by Arthur Spencer in the Spring Newsletter regarding the 'Great Strike' reminded me of the event and as a member, at that time of Form 5S, I am able to shed further light on the origins of the protest.

The year was 1947 and the Headmaster at that time was Mr. Champion who also gave lessons in religious instruction.

After a Morning Assembly, and during 'any other business', he announced that boxing lessons, dancing lessons, and the Prefect system were now cancelled. At that time, while during the normal physical education lessons boys and girls were separately taught, we also came together fairly regularly for lessons in Ballroom Dancing. It then followed that, during lunch times when the weather was bad, dancing was allowed in the hall after the school dinner tables had been cleared away. Music was from the school radiogram and dance records were available.

We, in 5S, were a fairly close group, and were not happy with the Head's announcement whereon the boys organised a protest. It was reasoned that, as Morning Assembly was clearly so dear to the Headmaster's heart (he had taken his degree in Theology), then that would be the place and time to start the protest. Word was passed to sympathisers in Forms 5L and 5H on what was proposed and the word spread to the 4th forms. The lower forms were not informed.

During the next morning assembly, the protest started with the upper forms staying silent during all but the last verse of the hymns when they then joined in with enhanced gusto! This went on for several days and was followed by chanting our demands for the reinstatement of all three activities under the Head's office window, which looked out over the boys playground.

By then, the lower forms, realising what was going on, joined in and the broken windows resulted when one of them cut one or two windows with a diamond ring and then knocked them out, although to cause damage to the school buildings was not, of course, in the plan.

This occurrence was, however, used to further justify our demand for the reinstatement of Prefects.

The teachers knew what was going on and must have given their tacit approval as, in my memory, no punishments were ever administered.

I left the 'County' in 1947 and so did not know how long the reinstatements lasted
Rowland Smith

ECS SPORTS HEROES

Reflecting on some of the sporting memories of my time at ECS, 1945-52., inter-town schoolboy football was a big thing in those days and the name of Ray MacMurdie, now in New Zealand comes to mind. He was also an outstanding swimmer and water polo player.

Later I remember a cricket match in 1946 where I suppose a 'win' would determine which House would take the Cup. Peter Woodgate, a contemporary of Dick Platt, who was a high order batsman, perhaps opener, was a tall fast bowler. Derek Ball was the opposing batsman playing for George house, for some reason so often the underdogs in my era. Derek bravely took a stance a foot or so in front of his crease to upset Peter's length and pitch and the latter tried to alternate shorter balls with full-toss to break through Derek's defence. As far as my memory goes, I remember Peter's wrath – and inconsistency – went up as Derek saved the day for his House!

I was in a junior cricket team when Mick Root took all 10 wickets in an inter-school match. This was a great personal triumph! Quite a few capable sportsmen went through the school. I remember swimmers June Walton and Dick Radford, and Jack Fraser who excelled at any sport and whom I last saw (many years ago) persuading his young son to sit still while

having his first haircut!. It was sad to see and hear at the reunions that a good many of the outstanding sports performers at school had poor health or had met an early death in their mature years. I have little doubt that many injuries or knocks sustained at school were not adequately treated then, for instance, I can't think that heading a water-sodden leather football can have been the wisest thing to do!

Perhaps others will have similar sporting memories to tell?

Arthur Spencer

Mr. P.J. Saint wrote to me to ask if anyone could help him make contact with some old school friends, Alan Young, Peter Coakes and Richard Chinn in particular. He would also like to contact two people from an old school photograph taken in February 1967 by Ray Studios Ltd. of Braintree of the entire school. They are the second and third from left girls on the back row. The second is 'Rita Simmons', the other, I think, was called 'Janet' or 'Janice', but cannot recall any other details. If anyone can help. Would you please contact:

**Mr. P. J. Saint, 27 Montpelier Court,
Washington Close, Paignton,
Devon. TQ3 2QL Tel: 07799613759**

**Please send all communications to:
Mrs. Jan Mills, 278 Westhorpe Road,
Gosberton, Lincs. PE11 4EP
Tel: 01775 841320.
E Mail: Jan@Ecsosa.org.uk**

Application for Reunion Tickets &/or to join the Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association

First Name(s)..... Surname.....
nee.....

Address.....

Telephone No.....

Fax.....E -Mail.....

Years at School.. 19...to 19...

Please reservemember tickets @ £3....non -member tickets @£5 for the Reunion at Edmonton County School on 29th October, 2005.

I am available to help on the day, please contact me ...(initials)

I am already a member/would like to join the Edmonton County School Association and claim my Reunion ticket at the reduced rate. I attach a list of others in my party.

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

Please reply to Cliff Wilkins 214 Maltby Drive, Hoe Green Village, Enfield, Middx. EN1 4EP

DIARY DATES 2005

ESA AGM	Lower School	Thursday 6th October 8.p.m
Deadline for registered members to record their votes for the AGM		Friday 7th October
ECSOSA AGM	Lower School	Thursday 13th October,
8.00 pm		
Reunion 2005	Upper School	Saturday, 29th October
		10.30 a.m
Archive Group	Upper School	Wednesdays TBN
(Contact Frank Wallder for details)		4 p.m

RE-UNION 2005
Saturday 29th October
10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Contact your friends and arrange to meet at the Re-union.

Send your booking to Cliff Wilkins (to ensure we have enough programmes and can cater for you all)

If you come across contacts at the last minute, tell them to pay at the door on the day.

Bring your old photos, magazines, etc. to show to your friends.

If any of you have laptops you don't mind us borrowing for the day, we have a great deal of archive material to show. Power-point welcome but not essential.

Members will be coming from all over including Eric James and his wife from Canada

Contact Frank Wallder and volunteer to help on the day.

Tel: 01992 636164 or E-mail: frank@ecsosa.org.uk

Look forward to seeing you all