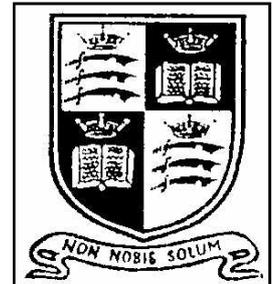


# EC SOSA

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005

Published by the Edmonton County School  
Old Scholars Association



## EDITORIAL

Now that the excesses of Christmas are behind us and our New Year resolutions well and truly broken, it is time to look ahead to the Spring and Summer.

Do please keep your articles and photographs coming in, they are the backbone of any Newsletter and no matter how trivial you think they may be, please send them anyway.

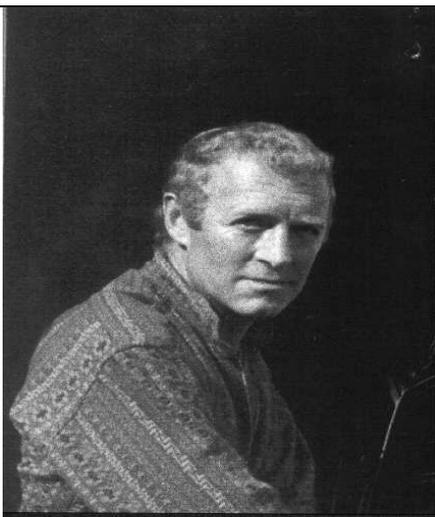
On page 2 there is a notice regarding the Joan Henderson Lectures which I have received from Dr. Dowling, and which some might like to attend.

## OBITUARY

### BASIL HOSKINS

1929 – 2005

Basil William Hoskins was born on June



10 1929, and trained at RADA. A devotee of Shakespeare from the John Harrison's production of *Macbeth* in 1951; after a stint in Victorian music hall he moved to Robert Atkin's Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park.

According to the Daily Telegraph, as Orlando to Mary Kerridge's Rosalind, Hoskins covered "the vast distances of the grassy stage with a good stride" and put on a wrestling match "in which necks seemed likely to be broken at any moment" He appeared in television dramas, among them *The Prisoner*, *New Avengers*, *The return of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Blackheath Poisonings* and *Cold Comfort Farm*. His film credits included *Ice Cold in Alex*, *The Millionairess*, *North West Frontier*, *Lost in London* and *Heidi*. Hoskins then spent five seasons with the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company at Stratford on-Avon. He appeared as Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice*; Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Fortinbras in *Hamlet*; Ferdinand to Geraldine McEwan's Princess in Peter Hall's first Stratford

production, *Love's Labours Lost*; and as Lucius to Laurence Olivier's Titus Andronicus (with Vivien Leigh and directed by Peter Brook). With Robert Tannitch's *Highly Confidential* (Cambridge 1969), Hoskins launched the first of a series of manly admirers of star actresses; three years later he had a similar part in the American musical *Applause* (Her Majesty's) opposite Lauren Bacall.

After touring in Stephen Sondheim's *Little Night Music*, Hoskins found himself again singing an actress's praises – this time Noele Gordon's – in Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam* (Victoria Palace, 1983). He continued to appear in musicals in London into the 1990's and also did much fine work out of London. Basil Hoskins never married; for many years he was the companion of the late Harry Andrews. He died on January 17.

*Daily Telegraph. Friday 11th Feb.2005*

### Ted Lawrence writes

Sorry to inform you that Basil Hoskins (1929-44) died suddenly on Sunday 16th January. He and I were friends at Raglan School, when we

were both about 10 years old. We entered Edmonton County School together, were the greatest of friends and were both made prefects when we were in the fifth form. Basil always knew from about the third form that he wanted to become an actor. Upon leaving school he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. In his career he appeared in a number of TV plays, including a long running hospital series called Emergency Ward Ten. He played various dramatic roles at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford on Avon and had a number of principal appearances in West End productions including leading parts opposite Lauren Bacall, Vivien Leigh and supporting roles with Laurence Olivier and other well known actors. Basil was 77 years old at the time of his death. Always a very cheerful, bright and breezy personality he will be sadly missed by his friends.

## THE GATHERING OF THE CLAN

**Reunion 2005 has been fixed for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October in the Upper School. Be there! Also, please bring your friends who have not yet joined our Association. Entrance fee for non-members is £5 but if they sign up on the day the membership fee will be reduced. The entrance fee for members is £3.**

**There will be plenty of car parking space and doors will be open 10.30am to 3.30pm so you can come and go as you please. Tea and coffee will be available all day at no extra charge but, if wanted, please bring your own food and alcoholic drink. All of the school premises will be open for you to explore and to see the many changes made since your day. There will be plenty of memorabilia - photos, school mags, programmes etc- on display.**

**We shall need all the help we can get to make the reunion a success. So if you think you could give up just one hour of your time to assist the committee by checking admissions at the door or serving teas, etc .please let Frank know so that he can draw up a timetable. Also, we are in need of a pianist to accompany the school song. Do you know of anyone? A ticket application form is at the end of this newsletter. Please send it off NOW. We look forward to seeing you**

## LIFE AFTER ECS

Alan Flook writes

I saw a request for contributions to the ECSOSA Newsletter in a recent edition. This is just a brief resume of a life after school days.

I attended the school from 1951-1956 and achieved a uniform level of mediocrity in all subjects (*Join the club Alan!, Ed.*) I kept in touch with a few of my school friends for a few years and we then just drifted apart as marriage and moving away took its natural toll.

Life has now gone full circle for me as I retired from gainful employment at the end of May. On leaving school, fitted for nothing in particular, I took a clerical job with the Port of London Authority for about 18 months. Boredom promoted a move to The Prudential and a switch to what became known as Information Technology eventually saw me moving to an Australian bank in London. I built a decent career out of diligence rather more than brilliance and was then 're-trenched' at the age of 52. I 'retired' with a fair number of colleagues of a similar age as the company decided on a change of course. Certain phrases stay with one for a long time and I well remember the management meeting chaired by a hatchet man sent from Australia. His message was that London's role had been to introduce the international computer system for the group worldwide and then to maintain it. A review had led the company to – and I still love the expression which must have come from some dire management college – 'switch the technology dollar from maintenance to the development of a new system' What it meant was that a number of us were no longer needed and we were paid off and given immediate pensions. I keep in touch with a few of the guys that survived the cull and, about 12 years later, the new system still hasn't seen the light of day. After nearly 2 years of unemployment a chance conversation led me to take employment with a large High Street law firm, where I developed and looked after the management systems (among many tasks). This was a satisfying period of my life but, gradually, the external pressures on the firm's ability to make money led me to the decision that, at the age of 64, I could do without the aggro. And I retired at a time of year when my close involvement with cricket could see me through the first few months of my new life.

My main hobby is cricket umpiring and I have got a reasonable way up the ladder in that endeavour. I just wish I had got involved earlier in life as it would have been nice to try and get that little bit

further. A chance conversation about 3 years ago got me back in touch with a few of my old school friends and we have met up once a year for the last 3 years. At a recent get together at my home in Goffs Oak, we gave a magnificent (?) rendition of the school song synchronised with a fellow Old Boy joining in in Canada.

How many people out there can remember beyond the first couple of lines. We are still hoping to find the whereabouts of Michael Molyneux and Michael Haynes of the same vintage, so, if anyone has any ideas. Please let me know.

I have fond memories of the School and feel that it gave me an excellent grounding in the values which I hold dear today. **Alan Flook. 7 Doverfield, Goffs Oak, Herts. EN7 5EL, E.mail. Alan@flook1.fsnet.co.uk**

## THEN AND NOW

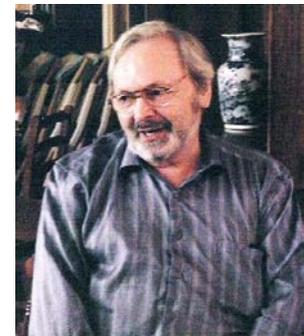
FRANK WALLDER

Then



Can anyone name the masters standing behind Frank?

Now



**From Geoff Neal in Australia** comes the following:

I have a panoramic rolled up picture of the whole school taken in 1966. Mr. Hudson was Headmaster then. If I come to the reunion in October, I will bring it along. Do you know of other members who were there in 1964-1969? Thanks. Geoff Neal. Canberra, Australia. E mail: ggneal@bigpond.net.au

*Hands up at the back there!*

## JOAN HENDERSON LECTURE

Wednesday 18th May 2005

**DR. GLYN REDWORTH**

**THE NUN OF SPITALFIELDS;  
LUISA DE CARVAJAL AND THE  
LONDON OF JAMES I**

**Waldegrave Drawing Room,  
St. Mary's College,  
Strawberry Hill,  
Twickenham.**

**To be followed by a buffet reception in the Long Gallery**

**All enquiries to  
Dr. Maria Dowling.  
Tel.020 8240 4082  
Email: dowlingm@smuc.ac.uk**

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts the moment you wake up and doesn't stop until you get to work!

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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Spring is in the air once again and, although I am a bit of an autumn man myself, I cannot help but have a feeling of anticipation of a full social calendar. The Annual Dinner is almost upon us and indeed will have gone by the time you read this. Numbers are encouraging with several old friends joining us after various intervals. All that is missing is a few more newer ones. With Whitewebbs proving increasingly popular, we have booked our usual dates even though the autumn lunch is fairly close to the Reunion. We believe they are sufficiently different types of event not to clash. There is a move to also reinstate our south of the river venue, but we need to be convinced of the demand and so – if you would like a lunch nearer your home, then speak out now. Despite the limited demand, our other “special” visits have proved very enjoyable. This year, therefore, we are trying out Shuttleworth, in which several people have expressed interest, on May 5th. They have a variety of attractions to suit all tastes and many of their visitors return to catch up on things they missed the first time. Then, of course, there is the big one – **Reunion 2005** on Saturday, 29th October at the Upper School starting at 11.00 am. Arrange to meet friends there and, if previous experience is anything to go on, there is every chance that you will come across many more. We know many groups meet up regularly – this is the golden opportunity to meet up again with others outside your immediate circle.. We are also hoping to attract many more ex-staff than previous years although several have already said they are coming. We look forward to the biggest and best event yet.

**Reunion News**

We are very grateful to Linda Robinson for her co-operation and support for our Reunion. Beryl Cushion and Maureen Bealby are developing the archive which means even more photographs, magazines and programmes will be available for your perusal this year. Searching through the records is extremely interesting, so if you want to join us on the occasional Wednesday afternoon, please contact me for dates. The Library will be superseded by displays in classrooms this year, each one concentrating on a particular era. This should give everyone a better chance to view records

From their own time and also to explore other parts of the school’s history. Outside catering has not always proved satisfactory in the past, so this time we are suggesting you bring your own food which you can eat in the canteen at your leisure. Previously we only provided a welcome drink but this year tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits will be freely available not only with your lunch but throughout the day, covered by the overall entrance charge. If you want something stronger, please bring your own (in moderation) The date has been moved from summer to autumn, mainly to avoid clashes with your holiday and wedding dates but in addition we are assured that all contractors will be clear of the premises. We are developing the souvenir Newsletter/Programme to include more maps of the school at its stages of development and also the words of the School Song. Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help on the day – this is one of the best ways of meeting everyone who is there. We need even more helpers however to ensure that everyone only works for a maximum of one hour and gets the chance to talk to all the friends they meet. How else can you help? Mainly by spreading the word. Tell all your friends and especially any ex-Teachers with whom you are still in contact. Publicise the website and encourage friends to join us.. And help us to find a pianist! Remember this is a reunion for all Old Scholars of whatever era – last time many people thought there would be no one there that they would know only to find out afterwards how wrong they were. Don’t make the same mistake again!

**Frank Wallder**

**Arthur Spencer writes**

During lunch last week at Whitewebbs, the chat inevitably went back to events which stuck in the memory in the years when one was at ECS. These events are not those recorded in the school magazine of academic achievement or sporting prowess or drama productions, nor of individuals’ creative ability. Two events in particular always seem to crop up among those of us who were at the school in the 1950’s. The ‘Great Strike’ and ‘The leg through the school ceiling ‘ incidents! Inevitably the versions and recall varies from person to person and embellishment creeps in over the intervening 50 years. I hope that this version which attempts to objectively recall the events will at least establish a record, if imperfect ,and perhaps provoke others who may have been involved in some way to also commit their personal version to paper! I can’t even recall the year, what a start! - but I guess that it was 1947, probably shortly before Easter. The word was spread round the school hall during the service of lunch (we always called them school dinners of course!) There would be some form of protest in the boy’ school playground – the girls were not, as far as I recall, in any way involved. When the bell was rung for the usual para-military parade style line up of classes in the playground before afternoon school, and we were told that we were to continue with our football and other games and ignore the summons. It was the custom that the duty teacher would stand in the doorway at the head of the 2 or 3 steps at the playground entrance to the school!

Application for Reunion Tickets &/or to join the Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association  
First Name(s).....Surname.....  
Ne.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Telephone No.....  
Fax.....E-Mail.....  
Years at School.. 19....to 19....  
Please reserve .....member 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

## DIARY DATES 2005

Summer Term starts		Monday 11th April	
Lunch Get together	Whitewebbs Park	Thursday 21st April	12.30 on
Day out	Shuttleworth	Thursday 5th May	11.00 am
Half term	Week commencing	Monday 30th May	
Deadline for contributions to Summer Newsletter		Tuesday May 31st	
Committee Meeting, Lower School		Thursday 16th June,	8.00 pm
Lunch Get together	Whitewebbs Park	Thursday 23rd June	12.30 on
Summer Term ends		Friday 22nd July	
Deadline to register postal votes for AGM		September 11th	
Lunch Get together	Whitewebbs Park	Thursday 15th September	12.30 on
ESA AGM	Lower School	Thursday 6th October	8.00 pm
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	11.00 am
Archive Group	Upper School	Wednesdays TBN	4.00 pm

(Contact Frank Wallder for details)

My memory is unclear as to which of the teachers had the unfortunate task of facing this uncharacteristic disobedience. It was perhaps Mr. Leeming, the teacher of German (and sometimes French) and such a gentleman should not have had to face such a happening and unprecedented disobedience, in spite of his World War I experience.

By this stage, things were getting distinctly out of hand – for the ECS of the day! I think that a couple of the small window panes were broken, and there was some verbal barracking. However, my recall is that the boys just ignored the bell and merely made a pretence of continuing with their previous activity – though keeping a half-eye open, to see what would happen next! When further ringing of a handbell led to inactivity by the boys, the teacher retreated inside to cheers of jubilation! This was short-lived however. Within a few minutes, a window at first floor level was thrown open and the formidable and ferocious face of Senior Master Mr. Quartermaine appeared. I do not recall what he said – but whatever it was reduced the unruly mob to jelly! Few had the gall to stand up to Q's wrath! I suppose that he had seen the whole event as his small office overlooked the playground, and there wasn't much that escaped his eyes! The whole thing was over therefore within perhaps ten minutes!

I purposely left to the end what this strike was all about! Those who were there knew – I think. Those who were not present will surely want to know!

Boxing had been introduced to the range of school sports around 1945 by Mr. Brunyeels, already – and who doubtless, not without reason, had been nicknamed the Bruiser! A boxing ring was acquired for an inter-house tournament probably held in the spring of 1946. It was either the following year or 1947 when there was some feeling that boxing was not a suitable sport for the school. The inevitable criticisms were, I support, centred on its being a potentially dangerous sport, aggressive, engendered unsavoury attitudes – even when practised in silence dictated by the amateur rules. The Boxing Tournament was cancelled – and that was the cause of the riot! Anyone would have thought that boxing was a really popular participative sport among the boys. Apart from the feeling that a little knowledge of self defence might come in handy at some stage in one's life, there were not many boys were enthusiasts as far as I recall

The result of the Great Strike – the Boxing Tournament was re-instated, but I think only for a couple of years. Doubtless there will be a reader of this account who will feel that he played a more decisive role in inspiring and Organising the Great Strike than I did.

Let him put the record straight!

Arthur Spencer

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

Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individual contributors and are published in the interest of information and debate. ECSOSA itself holds no collective opinions.

**Gossip grows like a snowball, but it is not so easily melted away.**

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