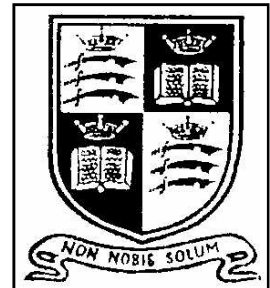


ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2005

Published by the Edmonton County School
Old Scholars Association



EDITORIAL

Having duly put our X's in the little boxes, our thoughts can now turn to Summer and the Summer edition of the Newsletter. Where is this year going? It only seems five minutes ago that I was preparing the last issue!

The article on Basil Hoskins has brought forth a letter from Dee West who says:

The obituary of Basil Hoskins is a bit strange. I hope you don't mind me being a bit picky over some of the details in the Newsletter. His date of birth is given as 1929 which, though it may be a bit of artistic licence, isn't right. Basil was in at least one form higher than I at the County – certainly he had left and was doing some acting work when I was in the 5th Form (and actually I have checked my memory with another 1939 - 44 pupil, just in case old age had really set in!!).

Then we have Ted Lawrence's letter, which says 'Basil Hoskins (1929-44) which is neither his school dates nor his birth/death dates. He says Basil was 77 when he died – and that isn't right either from the dates he gives or from the probable date of his birth. I am 77 now and was born in 1928.

As I say, I'm sorry to be a nuisance in this respect, but felt some of the dates should be corrected. I presume that the School now no longer has 'Entry Rolls' for checking when people joined and left the School?

Regards, Dee West.

Joan Joyce was turning out a cupboard and found a copy of The Stag – Journal of the ECSOSA March 1963. There are two plays, Running Riot and Doctor in the House.

DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE



RUNNING RIOT 1962



I am sure there are lots of you that can recognise yourselves or your contemporaries.

OBITUARY

Jean Tabor

It is with much sadness I report that my wife, Jean, nee Thomas, died in hospital on 14th April. A survivor from cancer since 1986, this visit was to ease breathing difficulties. However, a previously damaged heart could not cope and then gave up.

Jean was at the Edmonton County from 1936 to 1941. She joined the OSA in which she was on the committee for some time. She was a keen member of the Thespians when they re-started in 1944. She said that she most enjoyed the part of Madame Arcati in Blithe Spirit and also as Miss Whitchurch in the Happiest Days of your Life. As the Fortune Teller in Skin of our Teeth she found most harrowing. Also she had a very busy career in the publicity department of the 20th Century Fox Film Company and also as PA to the company President on his visits to this country. He tried to persuade her to work for him in the USA but although tempted, she refused. By that time she and I had become, as now said, 'an item'.

In 1947, we were married and in due course our children, Janice and Graham were born. We have been very proud of their achievements, Janice running her own ballet school and Graham now a senior project manager in the IT business. I am very grateful for their support during this difficult time.

Whilst space does not permit some of Jean's stories about her other careers when the children became older, I should mention the great work she did for the local Big C Appeal, raising money through coffee mornings, car boot sales and similar efforts. Takings usually amounted to several hundred pounds each year. This cancer charity supplies equipment and facilitates research in the Norfolk and north Suffolk area hospitals and to date is into the 5 million pounds mark.

Raymond Tabor

The article on 'The Strike' has brought forth some more comments.

From Arthur Spencer:

At the dinner, a contemporary of mine, Malcolm Prior brought up, without any prompting – the incident that I wrote up about the 'strike' His memory differed a little from mine on the origin: he thought it was over a ban on cross-country running. His brother was in the senior school, and he may have had another slant on the story. He also volunteered the name of the person I thought was the perpetrator of the 'strike', but perhaps it would be preferable for such name not to appear in print! When I said Boxing, he said that perhaps I was right! But he brought another slant on the reason for the ban: he thought that there had been some 'shenannigans' concerning the ownership of the ring! It will be interesting to see if anyone comments on its accuracy!

Another letter came from Norman Tebbit (Rt.Hon. Lord Tebbit CH).

My recollections of the school strike, which I think took place during my third or fourth year, 1944 or 1945, and could not have been later than 1947 as I left school in that year.

The course of events on the day was, I think, as Arthur Spencer related in the Spring Newsletter, with the exception that – as I remembered it – the breaking of two panes of glass persuaded most of us that the extremists were taking control and the event should be called off. I have no memory of it being related to boxing, nor any recollection of the introduction of boxing. As I did not take part in PE, regarding it as an undignified waste of energy, I might well have been unaware of that proposal even at the time.

I had it in my mind that the refusal to go back into school was a show of support for a popular staff member (I cannot remember which) who we thought had been poorly treated by the Headmaster.

Norman Tebbit

More in the next issue

LEG THROUGH THE CEILING

On the afternoon of Speech Day in the autumn of 1950 a strange event took place on which today it is possible to look back with humour and relief that no serious accident befell anyone.

The School Hall served as a multi-function hall during this period. It started its day as the setting for the daily morning assembly.

The girls and boys had alternate weekly use of the gym and the hall morning and afternoon. Near Christmas, gym lessons were occupied for a couple of weeks with rudimentary instruction in ballroom dancing, some Old Tyme dances and a few traditional country dances. The morning break saw the hall used for serving milk, free to pupils for most of the 1950's and just before lunch, the caretaker Mr. Hasemore and his assistant Dick Claydon would set out tables for perhaps 300 lunches to be served at previously laid tables. The hall obviously served for seating the school for drama productions, Speech Days etc. Separate Speech Days were held for the Junior and Senior School from about 1947, and it was in preparation for one of these in the autumn of 1950 that saw this event unfold.

After lunch each day, the hall was emptied of its tables and the floor cleaned ready for its afternoon temporary gym use. On Speech Day, the tables were moved from the hall to the adjoining gym and the hall was prepared with seats for the evening. There were always volunteers from junior boys to join in this task supervised by Mr. Quartermaine aided by school prefects which was how I happened to be in the hall. The front half had already been equipped with its seating, a complicated process of using wooden straps to link 4 or 5 seats together for safety reasons – yes, it was obvious that Health and Safety reared its head even in those days! Suddenly, we were showered with we knew not what, and looked up to see plaster fragments raining down on us – and a trousered leg sticking through a hole in the ceiling nearly up to the knee!

We all know that a fast start in the 100 metres (in our days 100 yards) is essential if one is to have a good chance of winning. I don't think that Q's start could have been bettered by any Olympic athlete today! He shot out of the hall and up the stairs! His instantaneous reaction as to what had happened told him that he

must get to the exit from the loft over the stage before the unfortunate culprit could make good his getaway!

Many might have spent their whole school career without wondering how anyone could get above the school hall! Or why anyone should want to go up there! ECSOSA dances years ago were usually equipped I think with a rotating mirror-faceted globe on which a light was shone during the 'last waltz' ! For those who never ventured on the stage, they may have had the curiosity to wonder the purpose of the locked square-shaped door, located some 4 or 5 feet above the floor on the wall opposite where the library was in those days.

A pair of steps sometimes leant against the wall which gave access to the stage loft where backdrops, scenery, costumes and stage props were stored. From that loft, a further flight of wooden steps led to the loft space between the hall ceiling and roof. It had a catwalk the length of the hall and branches off to service the lights etc. It linked with a path to other trap doors in a few upstairs rooms.

The hall was re-cleaned and the skilled improvised repair covered the hole in the ceiling which most would not have noticed but for the Headmaster, Mr. Champion saying during his speech, words to the effect that sometimes he went home feeling that the school was falling to pieces - and everyone looked up at the ceiling! It paid considerable tribute to the magnanimity of the powers-that-be that the boy concerned who had erred both in going into the loft unprepared for the dark, and in stirring from the catwalk allowed to complete his fifth year before leaving. It demonstrated I think that boys will be boys and have a spirit of adventure when the opportunity arises!

Arthur Spencer

Application to join the Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association

First Name(s) Surname, Nees
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

Peter Mottley writes:

I assume Arthur Spencer will be outlining the notorious incident of the leg through the ceiling in your next issue. However, in case he doesn't, I'd like to offer what I know of it.

The year was 1950, when I was in the 5th Form, and the date was sometime in November, during the afternoon of Speech Day.

Dave Hagger and one or two others had gained (unauthorised) access to the space above the main hall. Dave stepped off the catwalk, and plunged through the lath and plaster ceiling being saved from a long drop and serious injury on the chairs below by the plaster on his already broken arm jamming across two beams. There weren't usually chairs set out in the hall but on this day they were out ready for Speech Day.

I have reason to remember the incident: Dave had been the school's First Team goalkeeper at the beginning of the season, but had broken his arm after only a couple of matches. I was promoted from the Second Team, and held the position for the next four years, getting my School Colours at the end of that first season.

Incidentally, Arthur Spencer was a year above me, but when we were both in the Sixth Form we were part of an ad hoc group that occasionally went on rambles to places like Chingford and Epping Forest.

Peter Mottley,
pmottley@dial.pipex.com

Masters behind Frank Wallder.
(pictured in last issue)

No trouble in recognising the dark slicked back hair and stance of Mr. Kevill, the Latin/German/Russian teacher from my days at ECS from 1963 - 70.

Peter Spiller
peter@spiller2002.freemove.co.uk

THE PAOMNNEHAL PWEOR OF
THE HMUAN MIND

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in what order the ltteers in a word are, the only iprmoatnt thing is that the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit benign a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?
Can you read this?

(My splelchckeer had a branistrom!)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND
REUNION NEWS

Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself? (or is it just that I am getting older and older?) Already we have had our second Whitewebbs of the year and have a successful visit to Shuttleworth behind us – thanks to Tony Brown for a very successful day, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We can prepare for the AGM with confidence and an almost full committee, however we would welcome someone to take on the job of Social Secretary full time – any ideas?

We also need help from representatives of the many groups who hold their own get-togethers to plan our Reunion 2005.

You should be aware by now that this will be held on Saturday, 29th October at the Upper School starting at 11.00 am.

Bookings have already started arriving, but please note they should be sent to our Secretary, Cliff Wilkins, not me or anyone else. Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help on the day, we will be getting back to you with a timetable later.

There are however still many gaps and the more offers we get, the less there is for each to do. We particularly need someone to organise the refreshments. Spread the word to all your friends and also, if you know the whereabouts of any ex-staff, please contact Cliff or the website.

The website is getting more and more archive material thanks to the efforts of Beryl Cushion and Graham Johnson. Maureen Bealby is also ensuring that even more photographs, magazines and programmes will be available for your perusal this year.

You are welcome to join us searching through the records on the occasional Wednesday afternoon; please contact me for dates. And we have a pianist already practising the School Song! (words in the souvenir Newsletter/ Programme).

To sum up the main points of the programme.

The date has been moved from Summer to Autumn to avoid clashes with your holiday and wedding dates and to ensure that all contractors will be clear of the premises. Displays will be in classrooms this year, each one concentrating on a particular era, giving us more room in the Hall and Library.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits will be freely available not only with your lunch but throughout the day, all covered by the overall entrance charge. If you want something stronger, please bring your own (in moderation).

Due to the cost of outside catering, we are suggesting you bring your own food which you can eat in the canteen at your leisure.

There will be a souvenir Newsletter/ Programme with maps of the School at its stages of development and also both sets of words of the School Song.

Volunteers are still needed to help on the day – this is one of the best ways of meeting everyone who is there. Remember to spread the word –this is a reunion for all Old Scholars of whatever era.

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.

Frank Wallder

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

Summer Term ends		Friday 22nd July
Deadline to register postal votes for AGM		September 11th
Lunch Get together	Whitewebbs Park	Thursday 15th September 12.30pm on
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 (Contact Frank Wallder for details)	Upper School	Wednesdays TBN 4 p.m

(The other master behind Frank Wallder in the Spring issue was Mr. Hammersley)

REUNION 2005

Saturday 20th October

10.30 am to 3.30 pm.

Displays of Photos, Magazines,
etc. from every era.

Arrange to meet your friends.

Souvenir Programme, Parking.

All Day Light Refreshments.

All inclusive.

ECSOSA Members £3.

Non members £5.

A SENIOR POEM

A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyse myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they don't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know.....
Is what tells each one where to go!

From Brian Llewellyn.

I attended Edmonton County from
1955-1960
Regarding the nickname for Solly
Galín, I believe his first name was
Solo

Solomon, hence Solly. He retired at the
end of my first term (or maybe my first
year – it was a long time ago).
I remember because he was the only
person I ever saw wearing an
old-fashioned (even in those days) wing
tipped collar with a bow tie.

I suggest you include “Bonk” for
Mr. Ackhurst. He was bald, hence the
name) and a disciplinarian, who held the
boys mostly in fear.

Bryan Llewellyn.

E mail: llewlew@shaw.ca

*(I can't help thinking that
Mr. Ackhurst's nickname would be
highly Non PC these days!!) Ed.*

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 interests of information and
debate. ECSOSA itself holds no collective
opinions.

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