

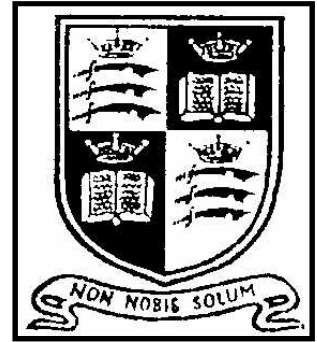
EC SOSA

NEWSLETTER

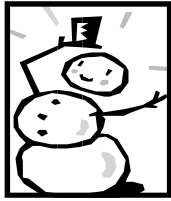
Christmas 2005

Published by the Edmonton County School
Old Scholars Association

Website:



A very merry Christmas and happy New Year to all



EDITORIAL

The Editorial this time is a piece of pure self-indulgence on my part. I am, of course, referring to the excellent reunion and all the hard work that went into the organisation and the staging of it. The archives alone which were set out in the various rooms must have been quite a mammoth task and when everyone had gone home, it all had to be cleared away and the school left as it was found. The Committee and the team of helpers did a terrific job and I am sure that all those present appreciated it. I was amazed at the large turnout and it proves that these occasions still matter despite the derisions in our modern society.

Thanks folks for a super day and I am so glad that I was able to be a part of it. It was worth the long journey, and lovely (as Cliff Wilkins so succinctly says) to be able to put faces to the E-mails!

Well done everybody and a big thank you from me and, I should hope, everyone else.

There have been no takers on the idea of an E-mail directory of members, so, unless somebody contacts us in the very near future, we will drop the idea.

It's annual Subs time again and Cliff would only be too happy to relieve you of your money! Please send your cheques directly to him.

Sadly, this will be my last Newsletter. Whilst I have thoroughly enjoyed the last couple of years, I am afraid that my failing eyesight is making reading extremely difficult especially for any length of time. It is time now to hand over the reins and I hope there is someone out there who would be willing to take it on. Please let Frank Wallder know, you would receive a very warm welcome!!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE AND THANKS

First of all, thanks to all who made the Reunion possible. Our last reunion nearly was just that, our last, as we had a distinct lack of volunteers to help. I am therefore particularly grateful to all those who rallied round to ensure that this reunion took place.

Denis Patten and Fred Schwier



Our gratitude to Linda Robinson, Headteacher and her Business Manager, Sarah Lichfield-Brown for their permission and help in arranging the day, and to the Site Manager, Jason Butcher for his co-operation and assistance – also to Southgate Red Cross for attending “Just in case”.

Thanks too to all the volunteers who gave their time today but especially Daphne and Alan Lodge who organised and dispensed the refreshments in the Canteen – this was an especially welcome and successful innovation. Also to Valerie Mantle (Adams) who got to grips with the School Song.

I would also emphasise my personal gratitude to the committee members and volunteers who have worked so hard. All their work today is just the tip of the iceberg. Not only did they all pool their ideas and contribute to the overall planning at meetings, but individually have given even more of their time in taking on specific tasks. Peter Francis, Tony Brown, John Kerridge, and Doreen Bayley have all made invaluable contributions and especially Pat Mattingly for arranging some excellent publicity and Derrick Stone for organising the signs and notices.

Beryl Cushion and Maureen Bealby spent months “archiving away” to produce the fascinating and well scrutinised displays found off the downstairs rear corridor.

Star of this year's event however must be Cliff Wilkins who has so efficiently gathered you all together – worthy successor to our original reunion instigator, Eric Wilkinson.

We are all getting older, so I hope that more of you, especially of the “next generations” will come forward to volunteer and enable future reunions to take place.

It is now only fourteen years to the school's centenary and, whether we are still around to attend or not, I am sure that most of today's committee will not be of much help in organising the celebrations. So, everybody, it is up to you whether you want another similar reunion and when you would like it.

Frank Wallder

OBITUARY

ERIC WILKINSON
(1931-2005)

We are sad to have to report the death of Eric Wilkinson who passed away on 29th October after a long spell in hospital..

Arthur Spencer writes:

Eric was several years older than me at the Edmonton County School, but



Eric Wilkinson

I got to know him well as he started and ran for several years a school Photographic Society. The regular meetings gave many of us an initial grounding and understanding of the process of photography in all its aspects. He helped me develop my first films, and to make enlargements on equipment which he and his then school friend in this activity, Michael Young, had put together. I still recall the talks that he and Michael gave about modifying a camera to reduce negative size on economic grounds, and making sense of the focal length of a lens before the subject was discussed in science lessons!

Under Mr. Quartermaine's wing, he was always the lighting and effects man in the wings of the stage for a number of years.

The stage was always being used for some production or other in English and French (and occasionally German Afternoons), Junior and Senior Speech Day productions, Staff Concerts, and regular Dramatic productions. During one performance for French Afternoon in which I was participating, I remember Eric providing the sound effects of a vehicle crash with a sheet of metal purloined from the handicraft workshop opposite the stage! Eric was also an all-round sportsman. I know that he played in the school football teams, but it is perhaps his running for which he will be especially remembered. He was way out front among long distance runners and cross-country. I believe that he was the first boy at ECS to break 5 minutes for a mile on the grass track at the school, and achieved much faster times in the Middlesex Schools events. Perhaps others with better memories than mine, or access to records of the day will be able to provide more precise information. I then didn't see Eric for many years until I rejoined the ECSOSA. There is little doubt that the Association would have folded without his work (and Pat's sympathy at the time he dedicated to it). It was a fitting tribute to him that we have just held the third of the Grand Reunions of the past pupils of the School, which he inspired.

Arthur Spencer.

From John Kerridge:

I first got to know Eric in April 1995 when I took over from Chris Swinson as Association Treasurer. Eric was then Subs. Secretary with Barbara Waters, Secretary and Beryl Dewhurst, Chairman. In those days, Beryl dealt with most of the correspondence, composed and published newsletters and arranged annual dinners. As we then thought it high time to hold another reunion at the school, Eric volunteered to take on the onerous task of organising it.

On Saturday 16th August 1997, this proved to be a most successful event with an attendance of over 500.. When Beryl retired in 1996 Eric became acting Chairman and Newsletter Editor. Frank took over as Chairman the following year when Eric continued with the jobs of Subs. Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Annual Dinner organiser until 2001 when Frank became Newsletter Editor. It was not until the year 2004 that Eric was obliged to relinquish the post of Subs. Secretary due to failing health.

In 1997, Eric moved to Walton-on-the-Naze from Enfield, where he became involved with several local activities including Treasurer of the Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust and the running of the Lifeboat Museum. A popular, hard working member of the Association, who never shirked taking on yet another task to keep the good ship ECSOSA going. He will be missed by many

John Kerridge.

Frank Wallder writes:

Eric appeared in my life when I took over as Chairman upon his removal to Walton. Despite the distance, he was an excellent mentor, was always available on the phone and made the trip several times to personally guide me through the early days and pass on the benefit of his experience and enthusiasm. Even then he still regularly produced our Newsletters and kept on the task of membership secretary until the stresses of ill-health forced him to reconsider his commitments.

Despite a long period of uncertainty over his diagnosis, Eric retained his optimism and humour, supported, as he had been for so many years by Pat. I was particularly pleased when the Committee agreed to revive the office of Vice-President and Eric became our first for many years. Whenever I was able to pass on news of his progress to gatherings of Old Scholars, I was struck by the warmth of their feelings towards Eric and their genuine affection and gratitude for all that he did for our Association. Our thoughts go out to

Don't forget your tickets for the Annual Dinner on Saturday 25th March 2006

Please reserve places for me at the Annual Dinner, to be held at the Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Lane, Potters Bar, on Saturday 25th March, 2006 at 7 for 7.30 pm.

First Name(s) Surname nee

Address Telephone No.

..... Fax

Years at School... 19...to 19..... E mail

I will forward a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to ECSOSA before 31st January, 2006.

Together with the full names of my guests. Tickets held for the sixth year at £21 each

Please return this form and then the appropriate payment to Frank M. Wallder, 12 Bray Lodge, High Street Cheshunt, Herts. EN8 0DN Tel/Fax. 01992 636164. E.mail: frank@ecsosa.org.uk

Pat and their family. Eric will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Frank Wallder

JACK LONG
1916 – 2005)

From Arthur Spencer:

Jack Long was born, according to my information on 6th February, 1916 which made him 89 at the time of his death.

He was a local boy who had been to Latymer before reading Geography at University College in London. He must have joined the School in about 1937 and would have been the second geography teacher, the Head of Department being Miss Capewell. I know that he took part in at least one visit to the continent with pupils from the school. He told me a year or two ago that he still had a cine film from that trip.

He served in HM Forces throughout the 1939-45 war in the RAF as meteorologist, and weather forecasting was always an especial interest which he retained.

He returned to the ECS during the School year 1946-7 and quickly assumed the role of head of the department, as Miss Capewell was by then Senior Mistress. In those days, he used to ride a 'sit up and beg' bicycle with a basket on the front in which he deposited exercise books.

He was one of the first teachers to own and drive a car to school regularly in about 1948.

He was a considerable influence on many pupils of my generation in a number of different ways, firstly, as a geography teacher, secondly, in running the first X1 cricket team and thirdly, in instilling in so many his interest and taste in music.

1. As head of geography for so many years, he inspired many to read geography at university each year, (or occasionally geology which was not a school subject) at university. He was an early user of visual aids in his subject and his teaching style was relaxed. Every two years he led field trips to the Lake District, a region which he loved and knew very well. I had the good fortune to be in the parties of 1950 and 52. He also led occasional field visits around London demonstrating to pupils how one should look at the landscape and understand the factors which had led to its appearance. At the very least, many must owe any ability they have in reading a map to him!

2. Jack played for Edmonton Cricket team from his youth. He was a good batsman and kept wicket, though I believe that he suffered an early injury to his nose! He coached the 1st X1 cricket team throughout my years, when the school boasted many capable cricketers.



JACK LONG

3. ECS had no special music department in the years 1945-52. George Locke and later Noel Wilkinson had 'taken' the one or two music periods allocated to each

Application to join the Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association

First Names(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@ecsosa.org.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, Joint five years £16.50;

Ten years £22.50, Joint ten years £30.00, Life £30.00, Joint £40.00.

DIARY DATES 2006

ECSOSA Annual dinner
Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Lane,
Potters Bar

Saturday 25th March

7 for 7.30 pm

Lunch Get Togethers
Whitewebbs Park

Thursday, April 27th

12.30 on

Thursday, June 22nd

12.30 on

Thursday September 14th

12.30 on

form each week. The latter also drilled the school choirs which performed at Speech Days and special events. However, it was Jack Long who took over the running of the School Music Society and provided a medium through which many must have heard quality music and performance during lunch times or after school. Although a lover of the classical repertoire, he had catholic tastes in music and admired any style providing the performers were the best.

He was a popular teacher among the pupils. He was a favourite of the girls (*I can vouch for that! Ed.*) with his ever present smile and good looks, which were always used to good advantage when playing the hero or lover in the once a year 'Staff Concert' which was scripted by 'Wilkinlock'

I believe that Jack eventually became Senior Master under John Hulley before retiring around 1980.

His wife, Mary, who provided great support sadly died in 1996.

Few teachers can have had such an influence on a school and its pupils over such a long period and few can have contributed so much.

Arthur Spencer
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A number of people who were not able to attend the Reunion (and some of those who did) have asked how they contact people they knew at school. As Cliff has no record of them being members of the OSA, he has suggested that we have a 'Where are they now?' section. That seems like a good idea, so here goes!

Keith Noble (1940/45 wishes news of John Butter.

David Tilley (1951/6 wishes news of Peter Agland.

Brian Ware (1951/7 wishes news of Geoff Heywood, Alan Leftwick, Jacqui Thorne, Pamela Carter and Betty Parker.

If anyone has any information on these people would you please contact Cliff Wilkins and if there are any others out there looking for old friends, Cliff would be pleased to hear from you.

Finally, this being my last Newsletter, I would like to thank all who have helped me in any way and to all the contacts and friends I have made during my two year stewardship, Please keep in touch, I have so enjoyed 'talking' to you mostly via E mail.

On behalf of the Committee and all the powers that be, it just remains to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Please send all communications to Frank Wallder, 12 Bray Lodge, High Street Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN 8 0DN. Tel: 01992 636164. E Mail: Frank@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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