



EC SOSA



Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association
<http://ecsosa.org.uk/>

NEWSLETTER Autumn 2007

Do you remember?...

Were you at the School in 1945 when a mock election was held? The Editors are looking for someone to write an article on this project, which they feel would interest many of our readers. Everyone we've asked, even folk who were involved at the time, seem unable to remember much about it. The information gleaned so far is as follows:

Lord Norman Tebbit writes... *"I cannot be sure that there was a school-wide election - or indeed that there was an election in every form. All that I can be sure of is that there was an election in Form VS, that I stood as a Conservative and Alan Prior as a Communist. I was defeated by Labour (the first and only time) but I cannot remember who was the candidate.*

I am not sure if those few recollections would be sufficient material to unearth memories from other members, but it might be worth a try."

Keith Noble writes:

In 2006, soon after discovering and joining E.C.S.O.S.A., I appealed for help to find a friend, John Butter, last seen when we both left the County School in 1945. There was no response until, months later, the cousin of another friend, Angela Spencer (Weed), another Old Scholar, phoned me with a contact number in Devon. After chatting and writing we met at last at his log cabin near Barnstaple, where he is responsible for various tracts of woodland and has produced several excellent videos of the area.

The sixty-two year gap was eliminated in minutes and memories flooded back. I remembered a lunch break when pupils visited the cake shop opposite. I got there late and exclaimed loudly 'There's a huge queue inside!' At that precise moment the well-built, fierce deputy head, Mr. Quartermaine, known to us as 'Q', appeared in the doorway and glowered down, reducing me to the size of an amoeba.

The amoeba was probably the starting point for Mr. Comber's biology lessons, always interesting and followed up with detailed work lists repeating the essential facts but leaving gaps for students to add specific words.

Some weekends he would organise walks in Wormley Woods to study the practical side of our subject. It was there that John and I enjoyed the company of two older

girls, Peggy and Doreen Ellis who, surprisingly invited us to join them for a walk when there wasn't a general one. I remember being very impressed by the illustrated nature notebook which Doreen kept. No doubt influenced by that I have, for many years, drawn maps, adding photographs and notes for all my long walks. I wonder where Peggy and Doreen are now? I still frequently walk the eleven miles, well way-marked Broxbourne Woods National Nature Trail - highly recommended.

We were 5th formers in 1945 and I have now contacted just four other 'boys'. Apart from my ungainly efforts pushing a girl round the hall during ballroom dancing sessions I don't remember many girls as they resided on the other side of the classroom.

I have unearthed a panoramic photo of the staff and students of that year and have enlarged four sections. I would be happy to send copies, in return for a few names on the photos and/or memories, to anyone from my year.

Finally, the memory of a little boy sitting cross-legged on the school hall floor looking at the shield above the stage with the inscription beneath 'HUGO GOETHE' and wondering for years after where Hugo went! I have managed to read one book by Hugo but not got round to studying Goethe yet.

OBITUARIES

Olive Hedley-Smith

**Maureen Bealby (nee Clark)
(1946-51)
Remembered by Joan Wilson**

Maureen lived in Bush Hill Park as a girl and attended the Edmonton County School from 1946 to 1951.

After her marriage she moved to Ware, becoming a popular member of the community.

She was a very active member of the Old Scholars' Association, helping to sort out archive material submitted by members, and was a regular attendee of our lunchtime meetings at the Whitewebbs Restaurant.

A very gutsy lady who fought hard against her illness, Maureen died on 19th June this year and will be greatly missed by her old classmates and friends.

**Joyce Cutler (nee Davis)
(Nov 1926 - May 2005)
From Ivy Cooke (the other 'Davies')**

Joyce was born in 1926 of parents who owned a Grocery "Corner Shop" in Grovenor Road, Edmonton. In 1938 she came to Edmonton County Grammar School and joined a class together with another Davies where they sat together and enjoyed life at school together all through.

She attended evening classes to obtain her Secretarial qualifications and her boyfriend used to meet her from classes, as did the other Davies's boyfriend, and all four became firm friends for life.

She married James Cutler in September 1949 and had two children, Ian and Valerie. They travelled a lot, especially to America to meet Harry James, as they (Joyce and Jim) ran the "Harry James Appreciation Society".

In the latter part of their lives they lived in Woodford Green, then later moved to Inverurie to be near their daughter Valerie. It was there that Joyce died in May 2005 and she was cremated at Enfield Crematorium a little later. Jim is in a home in Kent.

**Kelly Johnson
Notified by Rae Wall (nee Hill)**

It was reported in the Daily Telegraph that Kelly Johnson, who died in July, aged 49, was educated at the Edmonton County School in the 1970's. After leaving she became a guitarist and later founded the all-girl heavy metal rock band 'Girlschool'. Originally called 'Painted Lady' the band was formed in 1975 by school friends Enid Williams and Kim McAulliffe and three years later it was renamed 'Girlschool'.

We have just received news from Cliff Wilkins that Olive Hedley-Smith died on 4th August. She was probably our oldest member. Does anyone know any further details?

Our Secretary asks...

As the last issue of the Newsletter has been returned from the following Old Scholars does anyone know their whereabouts?

Barry Curtis who no longer works at Middlesex University.

Mr. R. M. Noble who has left his previous address in Cherrywood, Australia.

In addition he has had a request to contact an Old Ed. who is not a member of the O.S.A., his name is Robin White, whose age now would be about 70.

If anyone knows the current whereabouts of any of these please contact Cliff Wilkins.

Also, as it's 60 years since they commenced school together, Brian Armitage is organising a get-together of Form A, 1947-1952. Ten people have been contacted which leaves approximately 15 others. If you were in this form please contact Brian (Tich) Armitage 01992 463500.

Valerie Hicks (nee Fowler) has got in touch and is able to put some more names to the people pictured in the photograph of Class '48-'53, sent in by Elaine Streeter (Woodgate). The photo, you remember, was on page 3 of the Summer Newsletter.

Back Row: Ann (?), Valerie Adams, Nina Mariani.

Middle Row: Joan Regan, Valerie Fowler, Joan Coleman (Now Joyce), Sylvia Noquet, Mavis (?)

Front Row: (?) Greenberg, Gertrude Greenberg, Pamela Baylis (now Young).

STOP PRESS

It has just come to our notice that some of our e-mails may have been forwarded to the wrong address, which means that occasional articles sent in by members may have been mislaid. If you sent in something for inclusion in one of our Newsletters could you please send it again to 'editors@ecsosa.org.uk', where it will be processed as soon as possible.

Sporting Reminiscences From Bob Goodman (1944 - 49)

I couldn't wait to leave E.C.S. in 1949 - until the day dawned when I walked through the school gates for what I vowed would be the last time. For some obscure reason I was in tears; somehow an anchor in life had been removed and I faced an unknown future. And then, four years later, I walked back through those gates!

It was all my sister's fault, although I remain forever grateful to her. I had completed my National Service; I was just twenty years of age and all my friends were still "in the mob". My girl friend had chucked me and I was in a job which I detested. I was at a very low ebb. "Join the Old Scholars" said Pam "they are looking for footballers". A simple solution but one which worked!

So along I went and met the redoubtable Alf Gant. In no time I was part of the Old Ed's second XI, starring in the famous half back line of Pete Sutton, Alf and me. I played for nine seasons, from 1954 to 1962, scoring 86 goals, most of them from left half, and quite a few of them for the first XI. They were wonderful days and I couldn't wait for the Saturday match. On Thursday the postman would deliver the postcard completed in Bobby Crowl's careful handwriting telling me I had been "selected" to play on the Saturday and giving precise joining instructions.

In October 1956 I was selected to play for the Old Ed's in a Cup match against Old Danes at Hanger Lane. These were the days when you worked on Saturday mornings. It was also the day that my firm moved from Shoreditch to Ilford and we were expected to report to the new office to help set up. I was detailed to turn up at Ilford from where it would be impossible for me to get to Hanger Lane in time for the match. I went down on bended knee to the Office Manager and he must have been in a good mood because he allowed me to stay at Shoreditch and help pack up the furniture and equipment there. This was a passport to disaster because a heavy table top fell and made violent contact with my left thigh. Through all the agony there was only one thought ... "I'll never be able to play this afternoon!"

I abandoned my duties and went to the local chemist and bought a bottle of embrocation. For two hours I ran up and down two flights of stairs, stopping every now and then to drop my trousers in the toilet and rub in copious amounts of this embrocation. And somehow it worked; we won 6-0 and I scored the best goal of my career with a shot from 30 yards. And yes, you've guessed it - it was a left-footed shot! I ended up with the finest bruise ever seen, but it was worth it!

Close seasons would be occupied by tennis on the school courts, but one Summer's day in 1956 I answered a knock

on the door. A young person stood there: "Would you be available to play cricket for the O.E's?" When I asked when I was needed the reply came back "This afternoon".

In vain I protested that I hadn't any kit. "Pat McCabe will

loan you a set of whites and all you need is a white shirt and a pair of plimsolls" said my visitor.

So off I went to Sudbury, batting somewhere near the tail, praying that I didn't get a full toss on my toe or elsewhere (no box!). I scored 22 runs and from then I was hooked; goodbye tennis, hello cricket!



O.S. Cricket Team at Arkley in 1956.

Back Row: Len Outridge, Ian Cromar, Pat McCabe, Peter Trippick, Mr. Young (Umpire), Gordon Richards, Jimmy Batchelor.

Front Row: Bob, George Scott, Cyril Scott, Bert Smith, Stan Aupers

The Old Edmontonians played most Saturdays and Sundays up and down the Lea Valley and on the School field... courteous, gracious games before the advent of the ghastly cricket leagues, and I derived much enjoyment from the sport and from the people with whom I played. I eventually became the wicket keeper and still have the scars to prove it - a seriously thinned right eyebrow, standing up to one of Pat McCabes's slow leg breaks which saw me carted off to the North Middlesex Hospital for four stitches. I even went to the extreme of buying my own cricket bat. Pete Sutton and I went to Stuart Surridge's shop in Borough High Street and I invested £5.00 on a super bat which served me for years and ended up doing great things on the beach at Skegness with the children!

So many other memories: The Christmas dance when the M. C. was taken ill and I had to deputise; Mixed hockey matches against Pearl Assurance down at their lovely ground at Berrylands... the list is endless, but everything will be in the book Once I've written it!!!

PLEASE NOTE

We have changed the venue for the September luncheon and this time it will be held at The Plough, Crews Hill, Enfield. We look forward to seeing you all there on the 13th at 12 noon.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds. 12th September	Committee Meeting.	7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.	Lower School.
Thurs. 13th September	Lunch Get-together.	12.00 Noon.	The Plough, Crews Hill.
Weds. 10th October	A.G.M.	7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.	Lower School.

www.icnorthlondononline.co.uk Wednesday, July 25, 2007

School teachers stage walkout over workload

By Nick Tarver

STRESSED-OUT school teachers went on strike last week because they believe they are being overworked.

Edmonton County School, in Great Cambridge Road, has fallen into budgetary difficulties and has increased the workload on teachers in a bid to save money. Some have had to teach an extra lesson a week.

According to the National Union of Teachers, the school has predicted a moderate deficit for this financial year, which it expects to increase over the next three years.

Last Wednesday's strike forced the school to close as 60 teachers refused to go to work.

Roger Gow, the Enfield secretary of the National Union of Teachers, believes the new headteacher, Siobhan Leahy, has inherited a "mess" and it is the fault of the school governors.

He said: "I have been involved with the NUT for 20 years and I have only seen one strike, so people can appreciate how rare this is.

"Apart from forcing teachers to work more hours, which contravenes a national agreement, the school has also employed unqualified low-paid persons to be in charge of classes."

Mr Gow said the school, as a concession during negotiations, said the teachers would no longer have to invigilate exams.

But the NUT had discovered it was written in the teachers' contracts they should not have to invigilate anyway.

He also said the teachers had received "tremendous support" from the public and will strike again in September unless the issue is resolved.

He said: "There was a very positive attitude from the teachers and public. Lots of people, including a police officer, were tooting their horns as they drove by."

In a joint statement with governors, Siobhan Leahy said: "The headteacher and the governors of Edmonton County School have been seeking, in good faith, to find a way to address the concerns of the NUT members, but the decision of the NUT members to strike while negotiations were in progress is premature and makes it much more difficult to find a solution.

"The statement issued by the Enfield NUT officials about the industrial action is misleading, inaccurate and unhelpful."

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Enfield Advertiser, 3rd floor, Refuge House, 9-10 Plver Front, Enfield, EN1 3SZ
E-mail lettersenfield@trinitysouth.co.uk



Action: Edmonton County School teachers on strike

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President:	Mrs Beryl Dewhurst	22 Queen Annes Grove, Enfield, EN1 2JP. Tel: 020 8360 4679	
Chairman:	Frank Wallder	12 Bray Lodge, High Street Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, EN8 0DN. Tel: 01992 636164. (mob.07985 013032)	E mail: frank@ecsosa.org.uk
Secretary & Membership Secretary:	Cliff Wilkins	214 Maltby Drive, Hoe Green Village, Enfield, EN1 4EP. Tel: 020 8805 1570/8350 3670.	E mail: cliff@ecsosa.org.uk
Treasurer:	Peter Mansell	10 Station Road, Foxton, CB2 6SA. Tel: 01223 503131.	E mail: peter@ecsosa.uk.org
Newsletter Editors:	Dennis & Jean Patten	14 The Crest, Goffs Oak, EN7 5NP. Tel: 01707 873262.	E mail: editors@ecsosa.org.uk
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs Angela Painter	17 Wallers Way, Hoddesdon, EN11 9LH. Tel: 01992 464303	
Website Co-ordinator:	Graham Johnson		E mail: graham@ecsosa.org.uk
Archivist:	Mrs Beryl Cushion	Tel: 01923 855247.	E mail: beryl@ecsosa.org.uk
Committee Members:	Peter Francis	21 Lakenheath, London, N14 4RJ. Tel: 020 8886 7350.	
	Tony Brown	52 Longmoor, Cheshunt, EN8 9HL. Tel: 01992 632721.	
	Derrick Stone	4 Brodie Road, Enfield, EN2 0EZ. Tel: 020 8363 3631.	
	John Kerridge	6 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, EN1 2HP. Tel: 020 8360 2560.	
	Doreen Bayley M.B.E.	10 Gardenia Road, Enfield, EN1 2HZ. Tel: 020 8360 7274.	

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