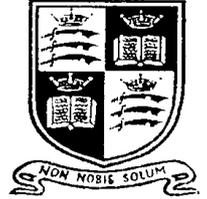


ECSOSA



Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

<http://ecsosa.org.uk/>

Spring 2007 Newsletter

See you there?

Make sure you book your place for the March luncheon. Spaces are limited so send in your booking to Frank as soon as possible. You will find a booking form later in this Newsletter. Come along and meet some of your old chums and spend a pleasant afternoon catching up on all the news!!

JOURNEYS TO HELL (continued)

by Maureen Shelley (Thompson) - 1951-56

I have been to Egypt on quite a few occasions, and I find it the most fascinating country of the many I have been lucky enough to visit.

I have also, until now, managed not to get caught up in one of the many terrorist attempts, which sadly have happened in this country. However, there was trouble brewing one year just as I was about to return home from Cairo, so I was pretty glad to get out of the Hotel I was staying in - the Holiday Inn - and get on the plane back. The next day I read in the newspaper that the Holiday Inn in Cairo no longer existed! It had been burnt down by young Army recruits in an uprising, complaining about the awful conditions in which they lived. The barracks were about 200 yards away from the Hotel.



On another occasion I had just returned from a Nile cruise, only to hear of the horrendous attack in Luxor at the Temple of Hatshepsut, where 60 people were killed by terrorists. My number of lives was running close to that of a cat!

So, when I took my next trip to Egypt I should have questioned what I was letting myself in for. It started

off with a problem! Egypt Air had made a mistake over my flight booking - but the good news was that they had upgraded me to first class. Quite an experience for one used to flying cattle class, but interesting in the fact that all the first class passengers were rich Egyptians. The Europeans were all at the back with their knees under their chins.

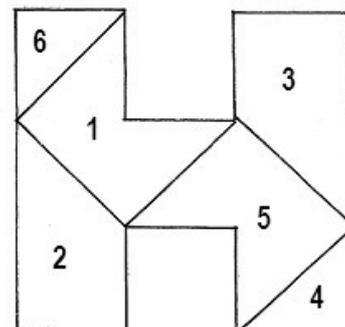
However, the change in flight meant that my timetable was upset, and arriving at last in Cairo I found that my two connections, one to Luxor, then the second to Aswan,

were completely disarranged. We had booked through a firm called Africa Tours, so I called them to see what arrangements had been made to keep me busy while I awaited my connections. None. So one young coach driver, hearing my plight, said "Oh, come on, I've got a few spare places on my coach, in which I am just about to leave to drop tourists off at their hotels. If you want I can take you for a drive and deliver you back to the airport in time for your plane." He also tried to contact his friend in Aswan to pick us up when we arrived there, but I realised later that he hadn't managed to.

So after a noisy drive around my most favourite city in the entire world - I will never tire of the noise, bustle and colour, I found myself back at the airport as the sun set. The plane for Luxor eventually took off at around 11 at night, touching down on the world's bumpiest runway about an hour later. After half an hour we were back down the bumpy runway again and up on our way to Aswan. We were just four passengers in a huge 767!

...to be continued

Here is the solution to the Happy Christmas Puzzle.



OBITUARY

I have just had news, via the Solicitors of her estate, that Beryl Anderson (nee Latham) died on 2nd May 2006.

Beryl would have attended school in approx. 1930-34, and she took part in two of the Shakespeare productions. She was Olivia to my Malvolio in 'Twelfth Night'. After school she was in the Old Scholars' production of 'Indoor Fireworks', and it was her mother (a former actress - stage name Monica Thorne) who was the Producer, and who, I think, acted with well known stars such as Ronald Coleman and Clive Brook.

During the war Beryl worked at the Admiralty and organised some dances, which Alec Redland, Cecil Young and I attended.

By coincidence Beryl's aunt lived in my village so we met on occasions. However, we drifted apart, but I did visit her at her home in Trowbridge and we both attended the last reunion.

I think she worked all her life as a Civil Servant, and in her retirement she had a lot to do with the Civil Service Golf Club.

Douglas Waugh

FROM BRIAN WARE 1954-60

I recently met up with D. Stringer, T. Kirby and K. Mathews for a mini-reunion and hope to widen the field a little in 2007. I wonder if we could put something in the Newsletter to this effect?

A reunion in April for those who left school between around 1954 and 1960. I can be contacted on 'brianzenenw@aol.com'.

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS...

From 19th March to 30th April Nancy Gadson (1940-46) will be exhibiting some of her paintings, together with Gunvor Leeson and Maureen Garside, at the Broxbourne Civic Hall. Nancy has previously worked in oils and currently enjoys working in pastels and watercolour. Her paintings cover a wide range of genres, including landscape, still life and life drawings. Nancy currently lives in Cheshunt.

Do you have any achievements, news, exploits, adventures, comments you would like to share. Why not write them up for the next newsletter. We welcome any type of articles that would be of interest to Edmonton County School old scholars. Please send any contributions direct to our Editors, Dennis and Jean Patten at 14 The Crest, Goffs Oak, Herts. EN7 5NP, or email at Editor@ecsosa.org.uk

Was this E.C.S's first jazz band?

At E.C.S. music had only a limited profile. We had a school choir, led by Noel Wilkinson, and each year a few soloist musicians played the piano, or occasionally the violin, etc., yet, I remember that there were, in the music room, caricature drawings (was it by T. B. Child?) of a school orchestra, which had existed prior to 1939. Music education was non-existent and was always of the 'serious' kind, epitomised by Jack Long introducing to many a catholic choice of the world's music and performers in his lunchtime concerts. Out of this unlikely background, during the year 1950-51, emerged the lower VI's idea of starting a jazz band.

Colin Parnell was the one who really got things moving. First problem! Apart from a piano, which existed in most homes of the day, we had no available instruments. The potential players, mainly scientists, who all read music, agreed who was attracted to which instrument and could see how it could be acquired. By September 1951 all had worked hard practicing their instruments. To our surprise there was much interest in the concept among the staff, and the headmaster, Mr. Champion, approved our practicing after school each Friday.

The line-up comprised: clarinet - Colin Parnell, trumpet - Ken Woolner, tenor saxophone - Ray Williams, piano - Arthur Spencer, drums - Tony Parratt, double bass - Michael Fielder, guitar - Brian Newlands. John Ash (1944-9), at that time a reporter on an Enfield paper, also slipped into the school when he heard about us to sit in playing his clarinet!

Getting the large instruments to school wasn't easy as Vith formers didn't drive to school in those days! With his double bass Michael Fielder mostly used a trailer attached to his bicycle in preference to the bus, and Tony Parratt wheeled his drums in a pram!

Frankly, the early weeks were very painful! A few brave teachers came in to see what we were up to and hear what a row we were making, and perhaps to encourage us to better things! Just as a choir makes an agreeable sound and comprises a number of people who would never make it to the soloist platform, so I think that our combined practised effort didn't sound that bad! I am sure that this music interlude provided us with some form of relaxation from our studies for 'A' level! When it came to the summer term and the exams we ceased our weekly sessions. However, we were 'booked' to play at the end of year social for the Vth and VIth forms. After the exams, renewed practices enabled us to play a short programme which was received with much enthusiasm and acclaim - at least by fellow pupils!!

What did we play? We played the tunes we listened to on records or had heard at a jazz club, on the weekly B. B.C. Jazz Club or Sid Phillips' programmes, or the



crackly reception from Radio Luxembourg and A.F.N., essential listening in form V and above! We managed to play presentable versions with the aid of the 'professional' piano conductor music. Our repertoire was also extended into the popular dance music of the day of such people as Gershwin and Irving Berlin and the tunes of the swing era which we all knew so well.

When we left E.C.S. we all headed in different directions, most to universities round the U.K. Although we maintained social contact the camaraderie that had existed at school had gone, and we only played together again a few times over the first Christmas holiday.

Looking back, I suppose it was far-sighted of the school to encourage such an initiative and allow such an innovation within the school boundaries. It represented perhaps the first step by the E.C.S. to the brave new world of the acceptability of popular music into school, and even academic life.

Arthur Spencer 1945-52

We have just unearthed this sketch of a former groundsman, Mr. Pettifer, which was drawn by a popular member of staff who taught at the School in the 40's and 50's Can you guess who the artist is? If you can - 'tres bien'!! Answer below.



Did you guess the answer? The clue was in the question! It was Sam Elengorn who drew it.

We are still looking for ideas for this year's outings. Can anyone come up with some suggestions. So far we have Wimple Hall, Buckingham Palace, Chartwell or Woburn Abbey.

Please put your ideas to Frank on 01992 636164 or Email him on frank@ecsosa.org.uk. We would like to receive them before the next committee meeting so that we can come to some arrangements.

BOOK NOW FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL LUNCHEON ON SATURDAY 24TH MARCH 2007

to be held at **THE JOLLY FARMERS, SLADES HILL ENFIELD 12.30 P.M. FOR 1.00 P.M.**

Three course meal followed by coffee (vegetarian option) **£19.50**

First Name SurnameNee

Address

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

I forward a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to ECSOSA together with the full names of my guests.

Please return this form, together with the appropriate payment to Frank M. Walder, 13 Bray Lodge, High Street, Cheshunt, Herts. EN8 0DN. Tel/Fax 01992 636164. E-mail frank@ecsosa.org.uk



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The new year has brought some changes. Linda Robinson left as Headteacher over the Christmas holidays to, as she put it, "face fresh challenges". The new Head is Siobhan Leahy. I have not asked to meet her yet as I am sure she has plenty on her plate in these early days. Heading a school of our reputation and history has always been a huge responsibility, but nowadays it is a much more complex task. Linda accepted the Association's historical links to the school and has always been most co-operative; I trust Siobhan will settle in well and will continue our happy relationship. We wish them both well.

Another change is our experimental decision to have a Lunch instead of a Dinner. Reservations are most encouraging, with some new faces already booked, but some regulars still to confirm. Check out the booking form for details and book now to avoid disappointment.

With Whitewebbs altering from a Brewers Fayre to a Carvery we cannot be certain that it will still be the best place for our regular more informal lunches. We will check out the new menu and arrangements at Whitewebbs on 26th April, but will by then have some feedback on the facilities at the Jolly Farmers. We'll let

you know where our lunch will be held on 22nd June in the next newsletter, whether Whitewebbs, the Jolly Farmers or some other venue. Your comments and ideas are always welcome.

Frank

A WORD FROM CLIFF

More and more people are getting computers now and are on the internet, so Cliff Wilkins is asking if you would like to receive your Newsletter by Email. The mention made by Chairman Frank in the Autumn edition has resulted in quite a few people contacting Cliff to have the wheels put in motion. Just to remind you Cliff's address is 214 Maltby Drive, Hoe Green Village, Enfield, Middx. EN1 4EP, telephone number is 020 8805 1570, e-mail cliff@ecsosa.org.uk.

We are also looking for the whereabouts of the following. Can you help us?

Kalvinder Bamrah - ex Enfield. Mrs. Joyce Cutler - ex Woodford, Richard Beadman - ex Poole.

We have three new members: Eileen Irvine (1956-61), Maurice Crewe (1949-56) and his wife Patricia Crewe

HELP

Does anyone have any spare space in their home where we could store the Old Scholars' archive material? At the moment it is spread between members and in a School cupboard, but we would like to keep it all together if at all possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. 24th March	Annual Luncheon. Jolly Farmers. 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.
Thur. 26th April.	Lunch Get-together. Whitewebbs. Park. 12.30 p.m. on.
Wed. T.B.N.	Archive Group. Upper School. 4.00 p.m.
Wed. 9th May.	Committee meeting. Lower School. 7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.

**Just to remind you, there are still a few Subs to come in for 2006/7
if you do not pay soon your membership will be lapsed!!**

RATES FOR 2006/7 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Annual	£3.00
Joint Annual	£4.00
5 years.	£12.50
Joint 5 years	£16.50
10 years	£22.50
Joint 10 years.	£30.00
Life	£30.00
Joint Life	£40.00

Please send your payment to:

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

Published by the Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association.

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