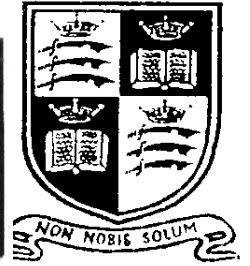


EC SOSA

Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: www.ecsosa.org.uk

NEWSLETTER Summer 2007



And a good time was had by all!!

Annual lunch—24th March 2007

New venue—New time

As last year's annual dinner was somewhat disappointing—the food, not the company—it was decided by the committee to change the venue and the time.

The event was held at the Jolly Farmers, Slades Hill, Enfield, in a private function room which held the number of people attending very comfortably. There were also bar facilities in the room which meant that no-one had to go into the main bar for drinks. However, it was also rather disappointing that there were only a few more new faces among the stalwarts! Some had made the journey from quite a distance, among them Shirley Coode came from Cambridge, Joan and Tony Joyce from Bedford and it was lovely to see Angela Spencer, who had once again travelled from the Isle of Wight to attend the lunch (in between visiting family and friends).

The three course meal was very enjoyable and all those I spoke to said the same and also commented on the generous size portions. The main meal was lamb with mint sauce, accompanied by several varieties of freshly cooked, **hot**, vegetables. Coffee was served at the end of the meal, and for those of us who prefer tea this was quickly provided.

The staff were friendly and helpful and the service very efficient. There was a slight shortage of cutlery at one stage, but this was quickly rectified and I don't think anyone had to wait to start their meal because of this.

All in all I think the new time and venue were a success and, judging from the chatter and laughter coming from all parts of the room, was enjoyed by all. I, for one, will be very happy to attend next year at the same time of day and at the same venue, and hope there will be many more new faces amongst us!



Thanks must go to Peter Francis for researching venues and negotiating with management.

Ann Barnard (nee Sadler)
1948-53



DID TOBY GET THE 'THUMBS UP'?

When we heard that our regular meeting place for lunches was to be changed from a Brewers Fayre to a Toby Carvery the committee decided that we would give it a try in April to see if it was still suitable for our get-togethers.

On arrival it was obvious that there were far more cars in the car park than usual—would we still have a section reserved for Old Scholars? When we entered the restaurant we saw that there were also far more people than usual, and there were no tables set aside for us. However, everyone managed to get seated, although not all together in a group as previously. (Apparently there were another two parties arriving at the same time on that day, which didn't help matters).

The main meal was the carvery, for which we had to queue, but there were other choices on the menu which could be served by the waitresses. The food was very good and value for money, and you could help yourselves to as much as you liked.

There were about 32 of us there and of course we all managed to circulate after eating and had a chat with our contemporaries. The general opinion was that we would not mind trying it again, especially if a section could be reserved for us, and perhaps arrive half an hour earlier to avoid the rush (see page 4).

The subject will be brought up at the next committee meeting, so if you have any thoughts or suggestions we would be pleased to hear them. Just contact any committee member.

OBITUARY

Jean Ellis (nee Bentley) (1939-44)

Remembered by Doreen Bailey

Jean Bentley was at the County School during the war years. She and I first met when we were six years old and at Raglan School. Being both only children we were like sisters, playing in each other's houses, going out or on holiday together.

The outbreak of war disrupted our transfer to E.C.S., but after several months at Enfield County and Latymer we were both very pleased to start the 1940 summer term at the County School.

Jean is remembered by her contemporaries at school as a quiet but determined person. In 1944 we all sat our School Certificate exams while the V1's (doodlebugs) throbbed overhead. Jean left school and took various clerical jobs until she married Geoffrey Ellis in 1952. They bought a house in Gardenia Road, living there until 1984, when they retired to Hemel Hempstead.

Two of her three children followed Jean to E.C.S.: Madeleine in 1965 and David in 1966. Jean was devoted to her home and family. Her children and her grandchildren were her life. Her other main interest was art and painting. She had an excellent appreciation of colour and style—evident even when she was at school.

Increasing deafness in later years meant she avoided social occasions. She was always a very private person and this trait affected her attitude to her own health, so it was a shock to her family and friends when it became obvious that she was seriously ill. She died on 19th February 2007.

Jean will be greatly missed, but will be remembered with much love and affection.



JOURNEYS TO HELL (continued) by Maureen Shelley (Thompson) - 1951-56

Down to earth again in Aswan, we made our way through Passport Control—the customs officer woke up to receive the four of us—we picked up our cases and the airport lights were turned off behind us. The aircraft crew nipped off to bed and I was left looking for the promised 'mate' who would take me to my boat. Nobody around except a departing airport worker and two half derelict taxis. I jumped on the worker and yes, thank God, he did speak some English. I explained to him that we were now virtually 24 hours late for a boat that cruised not on the Nile but on Lake Nasser, above the Aswan Dam, and please could he tell a taxi driver where to take me. He did just that and off I set.

But, hang on, I know that to get above the Dam one has to turn right at the roundabout on the outskirts of the town—and we had turned left! Oh dear, another woman for the slave trade, nobody knew I was there there was not a soul about, Aswan was totally deserted and unlit, and every now and then we came across packs of what looked like rabid dogs roaming the streets. We drove on for what seemed an eternity until I saw the flicker of an oil lamp—a petrol station! The station keeper was huddled up under his Djelaba fast asleep. He was awakened, the tank was filled and we were off, this time going back to the roundabout and taking the right road. Escaped again to tell the tale!

We drove in pitch black, with just one headlight, there were no windows in the taxi and the door handle was missing so it had to be opened from the outside. Miles and miles over dried sand and earth, no roads, on and on.

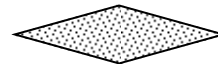
What I hadn't realised is that this area is a Military Zone and all ships are under heavy armed guard. By now it was four in the morning and the first rays of light were coming into the sky. Suddenly there was an enormous commotion, the place was lit up by huge searchlights, shouting in Egyptian and automatic machine guns aimed on us from all angles. We had strayed into the Military Zone. Convinced that we had come to the wrong place, I made signs to the taxi to turn round and head out, but he insisted we stayed.



Well, having sat terrified for over half an hour, struggling with an Officer who knew only half a dozen words of English, a most charming young man arrived out of nowhere and took us under his wing. A guard had woken him to say that there were a couple of Europeans and was he expecting them? Yes, but 24 hours ago!

Since the terrorist attacks the boats on Lake Nasser were now under guard in the Military Zone, and if we had arrived at the right time we would have had no trouble in getting to the boat. It was a very frightening experience, one I will not forget in a hurry. But then, I always do things the hard way that's what makes travelling fun!

The trip on the Lake was a wonder beyond words.



And we have a letter from BETTY BOURKE (nee Spencer) 1932 -36

I lived in Bush Hill Park and joined Edmonton County School from Raglan Elementary on 12.1.1932 and left on 30.10.1936. I then worked as a clerk in the N.U.T. headquarters in London until 1939, when I became a full-time A.R.P. Warden up to 1942. I then trained as an Inspector for the Aeronautical Inspection Dept. and did service in factories on the Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, then as a civilian in an electronics firm in Camberwell, London. I also did part-time service in the Red Cross at Chase Farm Hospital.

After the war I went out to Ceylon and stayed with Naval relations in Trincomalee. I met my husband, a tea planter, and we married in Kandy. We were growing tea on plantations until 1954 when we came home and settled in Hindhead, Surrey. We returned to Ceylon several times in the 50's and 60's by ship, on business visits.

My husband died in 1978 and in 1990 I moved to Liphook, Hants, where I am now. I interest myself in watercolour painting (exhibiting), flower arranging and U3A activities. As I didn't learn it at Edmonton County I am now learning Latin at the great age of 88!

Contemporaries I remember as friends: Joan Bulter married Bob Haycroft (cricketer), Joy Duncan, Peggy Spicer, Madeleine Taylor, Joan Cook. My sister, Beryl, followed me at E.C.S. I wish all the best to everyone.

So we soldier on for the moment. My thanks to my committee for all their hard work and to you, the membership, for your support.

As for the future, what do you think? Is anyone out there from the "new generation" prepared to contribute or do you feel there's no need?

I look forward to handing on the reins sooner rather than later, or do you want me to preside over a slow and painful demise?

Frank

We have been sent this picture of Class 1948-1953 on the school field by Elaine Streeter (Woodgate). She has managed to put names to some of the faces, but can anyone fill in the gaps?



Chairman's Report



My tenth anniversary has crept us on us, so perhaps now is the time for a review of progress. Not being a politician, there is no need to put a gloss on it, so to sum up, some progress but could do a lot better.

We have a small but, for the most part, reasonably interested membership. We have developed various functions which are supported and therefore we must assume, enjoyed, but despite all our efforts we have been unable to recruit more members to replace our ageing numbers.

It's a chicken and egg situation. We are obviously not offering them what they want, but until they join and tell us we cannot break the cycle.

The reunions, although enjoyed by the vast majority who attended, have failed to attract new generations in sufficient numbers to guarantee that we can carry on. There are other groups who meet but seem to feel that they do not need to join E.C.S.O.S.A.

I think that they are wrong, and that without a central organisation to provide a contact point for members who have lost touch, or who are now in some far-flung location, these individual groups will find it increasingly difficult to survive—and without their membership we too at E.C.S.O.S.A. will fade away.

The usual supporters continue to support and we have two "younger" members who have come up trumps in Cliff Wilkins as Secretary and Graham Johnson as Webmaster.



FIRST ROW (TOP)

Ann (?), ?, Valerie Adams, Nina Mariani.

SECOND ROW

Joan Regan, Valerie (?), ?, ?, ?.

BOTTOM ROW

(?) Greenberg, Gertrude Greenberg (sisters), and Pamela (?) (aka "Fuzzy")



We are rapidly running out of copy for forthcoming newsletters. We would love to hear of any news or exploits of Old Scholars anywhere. There must be lots of interesting stories out there in which we would all be interested.

SUMMARY OF LIFE

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptise cats.
2. When your mum is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. Never ask your 3 year old brother to hold a tomato.
5. You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
6. Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7. Never hold a dust-buster and a cat at the same time.
8. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
9. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don't hurt.
3. Families are like fudge .. mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held it's ground.
5. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

1. Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional.
2. Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
3. When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
4. You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
5. It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
6. Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

SUCCESS

At age 4 success is ... not piddling in your pants.

At age 12 success is ... having friends.

At age 17 success is ... having a drivers licence.

At age 35 success is ... having money.

At age 50 success is ... having money.

At age 70 success is ... having a drivers licence

At age 75 success is ... having friends.

At age 80 success is ... not piddling in your pants.

JOAN HENDERSON LECTURE at St. Mary's University College, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4SX.

This year's lecture, "Compassionate Puritanism?", 'Teaching Calvinism to the Church of England, 1580-1620' will be held on **Wednesday 30 May at 6.00 p.m.** in the Waldegrave Drawing Room. Chaired by Dr. Michael Hayes, Head of School.

For further details on location and directions, see <http://www.smuc.ac.uk/Contact/maps.htm>

To be followed by a buffet reception in D121 afterwards.

All enquiries to Dr. Maria Dowling (dowlingmaria@yahoo.co.uk; tel. 020 8948 4705)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thur. 21st June.

Wed. 12th Sept.

Thur. 13th Sept.

Wed. 10th Oct.

Lunch Get-together. Whitewebbs Park. **12.00 noon on**

Committee Meeting. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Lower School.

Lunch Get-together. Venue to be confirmed.

A.G.M. Lower School. 7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.



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