

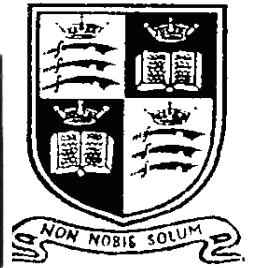


# ECSOSA

Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: [www.ecsosa.org.uk](http://www.ecsosa.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER Spring 2008



## JOBS FOR THE BOYS! (AND GIRLS)

See Chairman's Report

### Chairman's Report



As we approach the 10th anniversary of my taking over as Chairman I feel it is time to decide where we go from here.

We had a re-think after I took over revising the rules to make them more relevant to the nineties rather than the fifties, we followed up on Eric's instigation of a major reunion, we re-thought our social calendar, upgraded the newsletter and set up the website. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and support of your committee and officers and I take this opportunity to thank them all publicly.



I do feel, however, that any committee needs an active leader and I fear that I am no longer as effective as I once was. We have strengthened our financial position and increased our membership. I have failed however to reach those on whom we rely for our future.

During those ten years I have become a director and trustee of two national charities and my local Housing Association and I am not in a position to devote the time that ECSOSA deserves. I am happy to continue as long as I can still be of use, but feel that a fresh injection of energy and enthusiasm is the best thing for the Association. This could even be the time to introduce electronic committee meetings, perhaps eventually as a replacement, but initially probably as intermediary consultations.

Certainly there is no chance of organising another major reunion without more members contributing. If all the various group reunions that take place are set up via email why not a major one? Have we made the best of a members' Forum? Do we, as a committee, know what the members want? Do the members themselves know what they want? We are looking at ways of spreading the load on our "maturing" committee members. Whilst you may feel that you do not have the time to take on

the job of an officer, perhaps you could take on one of the tasks that form their job.

In some ways it seems like only yesterday that I took on the Chairmanship of ECSOSA. When a similar "tomorrow" arrives we will be preparing for the 100th anniversary of the School.

*Frank*

### OFFICERS AND TASKS

**Chairman:** Chair committee and general meetings; prepare for meetings; consider agenda, questions that are likely to arise, own position, consequences, actions required; be prepared to take on tasks that cannot be delegated. Represent Association—meetings and correspondence, mainly with Head, at functions speak, instigate initiatives.



**Secretary:** General correspondence, responsible for compiling minutes and keeping records, confer with Chairman on meetings.

**Membership Secretary:** Receive applications and renewals, bank subscriptions, keep records and inform others (e.g. Treasurer), send reminders, consider incentives.

**Treasurer:** Keep records of income/expenditure, check and pay expenses claims, prepare and present ongoing and annual accounts, update records at Bank, advise on accounts.

**Newsletter Editor:** Prepare and produce newsletter, correspond with members, arrange printing, send electronic copy to webmaster, arrange envelopes, postage and "stuffing", liaise with membership secretary over numbers and distribution.

**Archivist:** Log and catalogue all records we hold (magazines, photos, programmes, etc.), make electronic copies where possible.

**Webmaster:** Design and set up website, update site from newsletter and other sources, advise on development.

**Social Secretary:** Investigate options for social events, collate bookings, pay in cheques.

Opt to receive your Newsletter by e-mail and get it with **coloured-in pictures** (We'll try not to go over the lines!!). Save us the postage and the world a tree. Contact Cliff Wilkins now on [cliff@ecsosa.org.uk](mailto:cliff@ecsosa.org.uk)

# OBITUARY

## Donald Smart

Remembered by Edward Lawrence



Donald Smart, who died in July last year aged 81, was an only child and as a boy lived in Winchmore Hill. He entered Edmonton County School in 1937 and in addition to his academic ability soon made a name for himself as a sportsman, playing soccer, cricket and tennis and while still in the 5th form took part in the Middlesex County Junior Tennis Tournament with some distinction.

Don was made a prefect when he entered the 5th form and took his Matriculation in 1941, staying on for two years in the 6th form, taking his Higher School Certificate with an Inter BA grade in 1944. Almost immediately after leaving the school he was called up for his national service and spent his first six months at Wadham College, University of Oxford, following which he then entered the Royal Army Service Corps and saw service abroad, mainly in Italy.

When he was demobbed Don decided to take articles and study for his chartered accountants examination. Upon qualifying he was appointed as Chief Accountant and Company Secretary to Bairnswear Limited, a branch of the Courtauld Group, and remained with them until he retired.

After leaving school Don continued to live in the Enfield area and joined the Old Stud's cricket team, making a name for himself as a skilled batsman. Upon taking up his appointment at Bairnswear however he had to move to Yorkshire and this was quite a loss for the team.

Yorkshire had happy associations for Don even before moving up there; the early part of his army training had been spent there and that was when he met Daphne, whom he married in 1952, later having two children, a son and a daughter.

Don was a very modest, likeable, friendly chap with a good sense of humour who was well respected in both his professional and private life. I recall that when in the 6th form he caused quite a stir when he arrived at school one day on an autocycle, later holding a driving licence, a great status then, particularly as many members of the staff did not drive.

As the war was raging on while we were at school and air raids became a way of life, Don became one of the team of firewatchers and he and I often shared duties together, sleeping at the school and hoping we would not receive a hit. A male member of the staff and two 5th/6th form pupils, working on a weekly rota, had to sleep at the school every night, prepared to go into battle with our stirrup pumps if any incendiary bombs landed on the building. School life could be quite exciting in those days, and night bombing raids were not accepted as an excuse for not doing homework!!

Don was a credit to the school and we send our sympathy to Daphne and their children upon their loss.

## FREDA SNELGROVE writes to us from New Zealand:

Recently I looked on the net at the Edmonton County website and was interested in its history. I have taken the following information out of my old report book, but unfortunately I have mislaid the year book where I think my photo as part of the tennis team appeared. My name was Freda Dimond and I joined the School on 3.9.1941 in form 1c. I left in July 1946. My previous school was Hazelbury Juniors, then I won a scholarship to Edmonton County, which was considered to be something special at the time.



The teachers that I remember were Gus Locke, who took English; (his favourite saying was "What we want is more zeal, more fire, more enthusiasm"); Sam Elengorn took French and made it fun; Sollie Galin, the mad professor, who was so enthusiastic about physics; Issie Capewell, the Senior Mistress at that time, took geography and was very strict; Miss Fothergill who took mathematics, Miss Rudwick took history; Miss Hadley took the Handicraft or Housecraft classes; Miss Drummond took art classes; Miss Emery took speech training and did a good job organising the English Afternoons. These involved having a junior mime and a junior speech by members of the different houses, a senior mime and a senior speech. This was followed by each of the houses putting on a play that was written and acted by members of the house. The whole afternoon was judged by a West End actor or actress. Of the plays held during the years I particularly remember "Dear Octopus" and "The Importance of being Earnest"; the physical exercise teacher was Mr. Pretty, who used to catch us when we did flying fish. He took these classes for a while. Eventually Miss Nix took over the physical exercise classes, then after she left a Canadian teacher took over, but only for a very short while; Mr. Quartermaine was the Senior Master at this time and Mr. North was the Headmaster; Mr. Comber took biology and Miss Harding took maths in my latter years. Mr. Furnston, who was one of my form teachers, took French after Sam had left to join the war.

The staff were amazingly supportive of the students. I remember there was a girl who was studying for her pre-med to go to Med School and she got a great deal of extra tuition and support. The staff put in a lot of their own time and I remember going to see a Shakespeare play in the West End with the school. I know Mr. Comber took field days. He was so enthusiastic about biology he had a lot of geraniums around his lab.

*To be continued*

### SNIPPETS:

The article by Arthur Spencer on his school band has reminded Brian Ware of the Robin Bick's New Orleans Jazz Men who played in the school around 1956/57. Unfortunately the photos he sent were not clear enough to reproduce here. Brian is arranging a reunion on May 1st in Enfield for scholars who attended in 1949/54 and 1955/62 Contact Brian on [Brianzenzenw@aol.com](mailto:Brianzenzenw@aol.com).

Gerry Bailey, who lives near Winchester, would like to hear from anyone from the 1937 intake. Contact him on 02380 261135 or [gjbailey@talktalk.net](mailto:gjbailey@talktalk.net)

Ray Mackmurdie writes from New Zealand to extend an open invitation should any Old Scholars be in the 'Land of the Long White Cloud'. Contact him through our Secretary, Cliff Wilkins.

# LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

by Joan Joyce (nee Coleman (1948-53))

Friends asked us to join them on their Golden Wedding cruise to Norway on P & O Oriana. We had never explored Norway and thought the scenery might be repetitive, but that was far from the case. Each port of call was different—some tiny hamlets where we had to go ashore by tender and others cities—though perhaps large towns by our standards would be a more accurate description. We had expected to feel cold, but were surprised to find the first few days were hot and sunny, even when we climbed way up to the tops of mountains.

Our first port was Stavanger—temp 70°F - and we boarded a smallish motor cruiser and cruised Lysefjord. It was the beginning of the snow melt and the waterfalls were spectacular. Mind you the halfway stop for waffles, sour cream and strawberry jam was the highlight for us, especially with the Greig music playing as we sat beside the fjord. Back on board Oriana we were thrilled when a pod of killer whales were sighted alongside the ship.

The next stop was Gerainger and we took a coach to the top of Mount Dalsnibba. The road had only been open for about a week. Hairpin bends and sheer drops to the valley below (our Guides throughout called them “Walleys”). We started to notice the strange rooftops of some of the houses and bus stops. They lay turf on the roof and encourage it to grow for insulation. We then made our way to Trondheim, a lovely old town with a strange contraption there called a bicycle lift which, after payment of a small sum, whisks the cyclist to the top of the hill without the necessity of dismounting.

After Trondheim we headed steadily northward through the Norwegian sea, eventually crossing into the Arctic Circle, for which we all received a certificate. The sun was shining round the clock and it was very strange indeed to go to bed in brilliant warm sunshine. Only the wind chill reminded us of where we were. We were heading towards Ny Alesund, an Arctic Research Station and the northernmost settlement in the world, being only 600 miles from the North Pole. We had special permission from the Norwegian Government to land, but with strict instructions to stay on the designated pathways.



We were all warned beforehand of the dangers of polar bears and instructed to wear black headgear if we had blond or grey hair as the Arctic terns, which nest there in profusion, would mistake us for polar bears and attack us. Indeed the air was full of these birds, but luckily we were not dive-bombed as we wore the suggested headgear. Apparently they are studying the effects of global warming there at Ny Alesund, and many nations are represented. It was a strange place, remote yet it had a small post office, a landing strip for a small plane and helicopter and a shop to tempt us tourists and a building with North Pole Hotel written on its roof. Until 1974 mail-bags used to be dropped from a plane. This place was the base camp for the start of the polar trip by Roald Amundsen. In winter there they are in total darkness for 4 months and when daylight does approach it is only visible for one minute on the first day and then gradually increases. Not surprisingly there is an Institute in Tromso for the study of SAD because there are many depressed people in that part of the world. The lowest temperature recorded there is 46.3° below zero. We saw their winter equipment outside the buildings—sledges, snowmobiles and a compound of adorable husky dogs. One of their handlers came back from exercising a dog which had been pulling her along on her bicycle. We spotted a reindeer in the distance but never a polar bear. Perhaps just as well.

We were reluctant to leave this fascinating place, but then the Oriana’s Captain gave us a real treat by taking us into a small fjord and as close as he dared to a glacier—300ft high and 3 miles wide. The blue of the ice was incredible and we stood on the balcony watching the icebergs float past and tried not to think of the Titanic!

We sailed on to Tromso and met our first day of rain. That evening we had a Sail-away party—about 1,000 crazy Brits singing Rule Britannia and “Enery the 8th” etc., waving Union jacks out on the deck in the rain to the utter mystification of a bunch of Americans on the cruise ship alongside, who must now believe that the Brits are potty.

We had two more stops—Andalsnes, where we rode on a veteran train through the mountains, and Bergen where we felt we saw the real Norway—small communities in each “Walley”, breathtaking scenery and we even walked **behind** a waterfall. All this and great on-board entertainment made for a never to be forgotten trip to the Land of the Midnight Sun.

## Only a few places left for the Annual Luncheon

**ON SATURDAY 8TH March 2008 (Check with Frank on 01992 636164 for availability)**

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

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

First Name ..... Surname ..... Nee .....

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. Wallder, 12 Bray Lodge, High Street Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN8 0DN.



# ELECTION—THE PUZZLE CONTINUES



**Ray Mackmurdie, N.Z.**, writes: I would hate to disagree with Lord Tebbit, but there was no Form Vs in July 1945. I, along with 30 others, was in form Va and the other two fifth forms were Vb and Vc. There was a school election in June/July 1945 with very similar results to those of Miss Emery's class. I clearly remember the electioneering going on under the large shade trees at the rear of the main classroom block, with the candidates addressing the multitude whilst standing on wooden benches.

**Betty Boorman** (nee Spalding) 1943/49 reports from I.o.W.: I was in Form Vs in 1945 and voted in the election. I well remember the debate and discussions that occurred at the time. There were 28 of us in Vs, 7 of whom were girls. Unfortunately I didn't keep in touch and often wonder what happened to them.

**Arthur Spencer** says: Len Costa writes about "the mock election which was held in 1945...." He continues "and was held to coincide with the first post-war General Election." Now, we do know that this National Election was held in July 1945. I remember the Mock Election well, but entered the school only in September 1945, so it could not have been before that date!

Len Costa, following Norman Tebbit's comment, contends that the event took place when they were in Form Vs. However, Beryl Cushion has confirmed: "The Senior Speech Day programme of November 1947 includes the name "N. Tebbit" among those who matriculated in 1946-47, and also "A. Prior". Therefore the Mock Election took place either in the school year 1945-46, when the candidates (if all in the same class) were in Form IV not V; or the Mock Election took place in the school year 1946-7!

I did think that the event was school-wide. Is there any possibility that there was a IVs class-only election in the autumn of 1945 and a later mock election in the school year 1946-47, which was school-wide when the candidates were in Vs?

**Malcolm Prior** writes: Both Len and Norman have indicated that they were in Vs in 1945, but this cannot be correct since the 3 candidates were born between September 1930 and August 1931, so they would have been part of the September 1942 intake, which would have put them in the 3rd Form from September 1944 to July 1945, when the General Election took place. Len Costa said that Norman was 15 at the time, which again puts them in the 3rd year. I believe there must have been a second election at about the same time, open to the whole school, since I recall my brother Alan as having received three votes and my being badgered by a number of pupils as to whether I had cast the extra vote for him. I conclude that the election/elections took place in 1945 or 1946.



## CONGRATULATIONS

To Pat and Alec Mattingley who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 20th December last year.

On 22nd December family and friends joined them for a meal in a local restaurant to mark the occasion..

We wish them all the very best for many more happy years together.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. 8th March.	Annual Luncheon.	Jolly Farmers	12.30 for 1.00 p.m.
Thur. 24th April.	Lunch Get-together.	The Plough, Crews Hill.	12.00 Noon onwards.
Wed. 7th May.	Committee meeting.	Upper School.	7.30 for 7.45 p.m.
Thur. 19th June.	Lunch Get-together.	The Plough, Crews Hill.	12.00 Noon onwards.
Thur. 11th Sept.	Lunch Get-together.	The Plough, Crews Hill.	12.00 Noon onwards.



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