

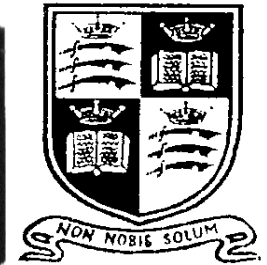


ECSOSA

Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: www.ecsosa.org.uk

NEWSLETTER March 2014



Wherefore art thou Thespians ..?

PETER M. EVANS (1955-61) appeals:

Peter is helping Beryl Cushion to catalogue and index the OSA archives. He has started with The Thespians and would welcome sight of any material relating to The Thespians and their productions, and particularly anything from the period 1927-44 inclusive and the years 1947, 1948, 1951, 1952, 1954 and post 1965. By 'any' material Peter means programmes, newspaper cuttings, photographs or reminiscences (if you just want to chat about it then email him (see below) your phone number and he would be happy to call you back). Photographs and written material photocopies would be fine, but any originals will be lovingly cared for and returned if you so wish.

Peter would actually welcome evidence of anything that relates to OSA and not just The Thespians. You can email him at pm.evans100@ntlworld.com and he would be happy to collect any precious items you do not want to entrust to the post, providing you live within a day's 'march' of Woking in Surrey. He goes on to say that at the time of writing Beryl is only making a particular appeal for material relating to the O.S.A. itself rather than the School. Any information is welcomed about the attempt in the late 1970's to early 1980's to revitalise The Thespians as an 18-25 Youth Theatre Group. He would also like to point out that he should not be confused with Peter L. Evans (1951-58)



Chairman's Report

We managed to hold the deferred AGM on February 12th and commenced by having a short silence in memory of Derrick Stone before getting down to the necessary business of the meeting.



We welcomed Dave Day, who has already, unofficially, started on the difficult task of taking over from Cliff, and making an excellent job of it. We also welcomed Joan Wilson, the latest addition to the committee. AGM'S are pretty boring but necessary to protect the membership and keep the Bank happy. Reports were submitted and Officers and Committee members were elected—a list is published elsewhere—Minutes are available if you require them, but the only important thing for most of the membership is that we have funds in excess of £6,000.

I explained to the meeting that my ongoing health problems prevent me, like last year, from taking as active a role as I would like, but they were kind (or silly?) enough to re-elect me, even though sometimes I will only have an advisory role. If there is anyone out there prepared to take on the role, please let Dave know, initially if you prefer as Vice-Chairman.

We held an ad hoc committee meeting after the AGM when we discussed some issues and we will be looking for some volunteers for various tasks.

The first task is to organise our Annual Lunch. This has been missed and needs someone to co-ordinate with the venue and take bookings from our members. As it will necessarily need to be held fairly locally any volunteer will probably also need to live fairly close to Edmonton.

Another task can be carried out from anywhere in the country, but only by someone computer literate, and preferably already conversant with Facebook. There are twenty odd Facebook groups under the name of Edmonton County but we do not appear to have a single member from any of them—I hope I am wrong. We need to contact them and find out what we can do to help. We have had requests from some to help them organise reunions, but unless we can establish contact and some sort of relationship there's not much we can do. We need a volunteer to contact as many of them as possible and "sell" ECSOSA.

We also need a volunteer to take on the task of providing a second Memorial to former pupils lost in the service of their country after those in the Second World War. We already have the full co-operation of the Head and have done some preparatory work. This means a lot to many people and would be a great pity if no-one came forward.

We have a couple of ideas in the pipeline but these need some development—the important thing is that any rumours of our imminent demise are greatly exaggerated. Watch this space.

Frank

ECSOSA would very much like to hear your opinions and suggestions as to how the Association can reach all students who attended the School.

What could we do to encourage participation?

PLEASE share your ideas and thoughts with us by getting in touch.

Contact: Dave Day, 11 Coniston Green, Aylesbury, HP20 2AJ. dave@ecsosa.org.uk. Your feedback will help us to promote and maintain interest for all former students.

Obituaries



PATRICIA WALKER (nee Fisher) (1947-53)

Pat and I were in the same year at school but not in the same group of friends. Our paths crossed again when we met up in our early 60's on the bowling green. We were both widows with a love of bowls and travelling so joined forces and holidayed together for about 16 years.

She had many interests and many friends, and will be especially missed by Holtwhites' Bowls Club, having been their Ladies' Secretary. Pat was the sort of person who did things before people realised they needed doing! She bowled for Middlesex for many years and was justly proud of the fact that she became a National Umpire. Together we went on several Middlesex County Bowls tours, and she would persuade me to help with entertainment on the last evening, organising a group of us as belly dancers, Chinese acrobats and Morris Dancers for instance.

Sadly Pat was taken ill on our last holiday. We were enjoying a cruise and were due to arrive at Muscat, Oman, in a couple of hours when she suffered a stroke. Immediately we docked she was transferred by ambulance to the Royal Hospital where she died on 5th December. Unfortunately I had to continue on the ship without her and fly home from Dubai. Her funeral took place on 23rd December. She leaves a son, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Pat enjoyed life and I think she would like this quote I saw recently:

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out and screaming.

'Wooo Hoooo what a ride! I wanna go round again!'

Gwen Young (nee Atkins) (1947-52)

GEORGE SCOTT (1941-46)

It is with great sadness that I report the death of my brother George, aged 83. He died in Weybridge, Surrey, where he had lived for most of his life together with his wife Joyce, following their marriage in Enfield in 1955. In addition to Joyce he leaves a daughter, Susan, and two grandchildren.

George had fond memories of his school life at ECS and he always spoke highly of the teaching staff who, he felt, had given him a sound grounding in both academic and life skills. Those who knew George at school will remember him for his positive attitude and for his ability to mix and work with others. These attributes served him well when he was evacuated during the early part of WWII and later, when on National Service with the RAF.

George was always keen on sporting activities and had a natural talent in a wide range of sports. While at school his main interests were in football and cricket, and after completing his period of National Service he was pleased to be able to restore his links with ECS by joining the OSA football and cricket clubs. This link was eventually broken when George and Joyce moved away to Weybridge, but once established in their new home George's talents were soon put

to work in the organisation of social and sporting activities in their new community. This involvement in local activities continued throughout the rest of George's life. He was always generous with his time and effort in response to requests for help from family members, friends or local charities. He took the view that if something was worth doing it was worth doing well. In addition to his professional skills this characteristic was probably apparent to his employers throughout his working life during which he was rapidly promoted from his initial post as a junior office assistant to his final position as Pensions Manager for a major Engineering Company.

In general I believe that George will be remembered for his good humour, his zest for life and his love of music. He was a skilful musician and he enjoyed nothing more than playing a piano surrounded by a group of family and friends, all happily singing together. Such sessions often went on for hours with George, apparently never tiring. He is greatly missed.

Cyril Scott (1950-57)



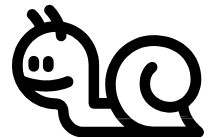
We have also heard that the following have unfortunately passed on but we have not received any other information.

Alec Longworth (1943-48)

Richard Brimingham-Wood (1938-43) of Tenterden, Kent.

Len Corr (1935-40) of Milton Keynes.

JUST IN FROM SNAIL MAIL



DORIS CRAWLEY (Nee Baggott) (1937-44) has sent us this photograph of the September 1937 intake which was probably taken in the summer of 1938 or 1939 when learning about photography.



Top Row: Jean Bennett; Edna Marter; Thelma Hillingdon; Gizella Bennett; Eileen Symes; Doreen Ellis; Reggie Herbert; Len Smith; John Williams; ?David Follows.

Middle Row: ?Betty Winter; Joan Slater; Doris Baggott; Joyce Pengelly; Sheila Hay; ?Thelma Treacher; ?; ?; Albert Boreham; Frank Hall.

Front Row: Dorothy Frost; Connie Budd; Jose Fenwick; David Hill; ?Ian McCabe; Fred Howard; Walter Young.

MARION HEATHER (Nee Southgate) (1950-55)

I began my secondary school education in September 1950 in Form 1a. I was proud of my new uniform, except THE LARGE HAT that came with it. Being petite (nickname "Titch") I felt I looked like a mushroom and detested it. I usually valued my elder brother's opinion, but when he said it looked fine I was not convinced.

Later, berets replaced the hats, although most of us weren't keen on them either. Our Senior Mistress, Miss Fothergill, a kindly soul, was a stickler for her girls leaving school each day wearing their berets. She would wait by the side door to make sure we had one on our heads. We used to get around this ritual by throwing a beret back through the cloakroom window for anyone who needed it. I found a good use for mine—I stretched it over my bicycle saddle to keep the rain off when I left it in the cycle rack.

I can still picture dear Miss Fothergill standing in the hall during our Christmas assembly, sweetly singing her part of "We wish you a merry Christmas", and the whole school belting out the chorus.

Aah Christmas! Such happy memories. A few weeks before Christmas 1950 we had dancing lessons with the boys in the hall instead of P.E, which involved a lot of giggling. I remember Terry Nunn, a tall lad, prancing around with another boy at one stage. These 'lessons' were in preparation for the Christmas parties and games. Our lovely Headmaster, Mr. Champion, whirled me around so my feet barely touched the floor.

The staff Christmas show was another enjoyable event, and I thought they were all 'good sports' to entertain us and risk mild humiliation. (Mr. Bradley was named Enrico Mario Bradley after singing something operatic).

It was a great loss to us when Mr. Champion died unexpectedly. Mr. Quartermaine acted as Headmaster until Mr. Hudson was appointed. Clive Broad was in my class and was very good at caricatures. I still have one he drew of Mr. Hudson, complete with the haversack he carried around. I also still have my school tie, rather crumpled now, and my

blue linen-covered hymn book, also rather the worse for wear but containing quite a few autographs I collected round the school before leaving in July 1955. The one thing I never kept was that awful hat

That summer in 1955 we organised school leaving parties among our classmates. One was held in my home in Fotheringham Road and another in Barbara Edney's house in Bury Street. We also had a fireworks party, though I don't remember which year or whose back garden it was. One bright spark thought it would be interesting to light a banger and cover it with a metal bucket. We all survived and chipped in to buy a new bucket for her mum.

I had a happy time at ECS, although I sometimes found the amount of homework overwhelming, never understood chemistry and never relished the tepid showers Miss Roberts insisted on after P.E. We were taught well by excellent staff and have good reason to be grateful to them all for setting us on our chosen paths in life.

Here is the First XI Hockey team of 1955 with a few names added. although can't remember all the surnames.



Back row L-R: Miss Quinton, Marion Southgate, Jeanne Bayliss, Viola Akhurst, Penny (don't know surname) Joan Page, Janet White.

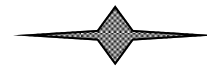
Front row L-R: Carol Smith, Brenda Atterbury, Marion Thornton, Pat White, Elaine (don't know surname)

INITIATION RITES by Roy E. Smith (1951-59)

In his memories of five years at ECS, recorded in the December 2013 Newsletter, Ray Powell relates the ritual of 2nd formers 'ducking' 1st formers and stuffing an itching powder concoction (made from the fruits of the plane trees which lined the sports field) down their necks. Through his rose-coloured spectacles Mr. Powell opines that the following years 'his lot' didn't repeat this treatment on the unfortunates who made up 'my lot' (1951-59). I beg to differ. As one of the intake of 1951 I can attest to the fact that the 2nd formers of that year did indeed continue the practice of terrorizing the 1st formers. I can only suppose that Mr. Powell had a compassionate nature, even at the age of twelve, and did not participate.

There is one aspect of that year's initiation which should be brought to everyone's attention. One of our number (the lowly 1st years) was so tall for his age that he must have had a 'bye' on the wearing of short trousers. This was Dave

Brett. He attempted to masquerade as a 2nd former, and thus not only escape the rigors of initiation but actually participate in the inflicting of the indignities upon his fellows. Somehow the 2nd formers bought into this subterfuge for a while. There is no prize for guessing who it was that 'outed' him, or what his fate was! Dave and I ended up as fast friends after that—which just shows how bad he is at holding a grudge.



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

If you have the facilities to receive your Newsletter by email please get in touch with Dave Day, dave@ecsosa.org or diddy1cg@talktalk.net and he will put this into operation. As prices continue to increase year by year it will save us the expense of posting it out to you each quarter.



Some memories of E.C.S. by RAY POWELL (1950-55) (Continued)

Back to the lab now. Our Chemistry teacher was Dr. "Solly" Galen, who had taught my father, I believe, in the twenties, and later his younger brother. This was prior to Edmonton County School being formed and when it was known as the County School, girls and boys separate.

Solly was a very clever teacher, albeit a touch volatile, as witnessed by his actions one day of using a lab-stool as a missile in an effort to reprimand a pupil for talking/laughing during the lesson, with the immortal words that still ring in my ears—"I don't want to see your fangs Shepherd!"

Prior to my leaving in '55 and obtaining an Electrical Engineering apprenticeship with British Oxygen in Angel Road, I visited Dr. Galen at his home in Green Dragon Lane, Winchmore Hill, where he gave me an excellent reference for my future employers.

The teaching staff in those days were second to none, and those who took us were no exception. They were all excellent in their disciplines, from Miss Emery with her enthusiasm and knowledge of literature, particularly the works of Shakespeare, and also an understanding of young people growing up, to Sam Elengorn who created France in the classroom. Even Mr. Buckle, the Biology master, who though often grumpy and a bit handy with the blackboard pointer, broadened my love/interest of the natural world. The only member of staff that I could not bring myself to like was Mr. Doubleday, who took us for English one year. Although a clever teacher, and obviously there were those who got on with him, I found him sarcastic and overbearing, and in two instances very rude in his manner of address to me. I found out later that several of my classmates, Dave Durant being one of them, had complained on my behalf to our Form Teacher, who was Mr. Elengorn at the time.

As I mentioned, Miss Emery, who took English Literature with us, organised trips to the Old Vic and I remember going twice, first to see 'Hamlet' and then again to see 'Richard II (or III)', which is what we were taking for 'O' level. My only memory of the plays themselves was that Virginia McKenna was in one, I cannot say which. I do remember however, that on the Underground returning home two of our number, Alan Jepps and Greg Hare, dived out onto the platform as the doors closed. I don't think they were returning to the theatre for the next performance!

From two lads disappearing through fast closing doors to an object, a foot to be precise, coming through the ceiling of the main hall. We were putting out the chairs in rows for a Speech Day event that evening and were working under the watchful eye of Mr. Quartermain, Deputy Head. Suddenly we were showered with broken plaster, and upon hearing the cracking noise 'Q' looked up to see a shoe wriggling about before being pulled back through the hole! Muttering something under his breath he took off like a rocket, gown flapping, to catch the culprit, who we later found out was a chap called Dave Haggar, a Sixth year I believe. When we returned to school that evening for the prize-giving the hole had been repaired with a neat patch over it! As explained in a previous account of this happening, there is, or was, a cat-walk in the Hall loft space running between an access hatch in the corridor behind the gallery to a point above the stage, presumably so that the back-room boys could move between the two locations without disturbing whatever was going on in the Hall. Providing you did not slip off it!

To be continued

CO-EDITOR GETS AWARD



DENNIS PATTEN (1944-49), who helps his wife Jean (1947-52) to produce our Newsletter, has been presented with a gold and silver magic wand. It was awarded for his outstanding service to The Magic Circle.

His interest in conjuring started when he saw a show at Raglan, his old school. He has been a performer since he left the County and has been illustrating magic books and magazines for over 60 years.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed. 12th March.	12.00 Noon	Lunch at the Plough.
Wed. 14th May.	12.00 Noon.	Lunch at the Plough.
	7.00 p.m.	Committee Meeting.
		Cambridge Campus.
Wed. 2nd July.	12.00 Noon.	Lunch at the Plough.
	7.00 p.m.	Committee Meeting.
		Cambridge Campus.
Wed. 8th Oct.	12.00 Noon.	Lunch at the Plough.
Wed. 15th Oct.	7.00 p.m.	A.G.M.
		Cambridge Campus.

THE NEW COMMITTEE

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