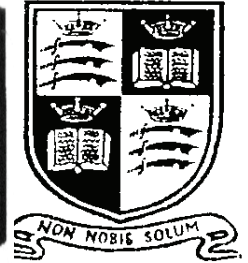


EC SOSA

Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: www.ecsosa.org.uk

NEWSLETTER March 2012



THE RETURN OF THE PLAQUE!

Hear what Frank Wallder has to say in his

Chairman's Report



The War Memorial was removed from the hall when it was redecorated, or perhaps desecrated is a better word, several years ago. The Head at that time was not a lover of the school's heritage and indeed removed portraits of previous Heads at the same time. The War Memorial was rediscovered during the reign of her successor and eventually placed on display in the History Room.

Our current Head, Dr. Susan Tranter, is much more in tune with the ethos and history of the school and so we are now delighted to report that the War memorial is being restored and refurbished, then replaced in its rightful place in the Upper School (or Cambridge Campus) hall. We are very grateful to Dr. Tranter for sanctioning this and to Sarah Litchfield-Brown for making the arrangements. Our thanks also to the many friends who influenced this decision by making clear to previous administrations just how important it is to us.

After consultation with as many regulars as possible we decided to hold our Annual Lunch at Bush Hill Park Golf Club. With rising costs this year in any case, we felt this was the time to move to a much more pleasant venue with an excellent reputation. It is a lovely airy, comfortable room with round tables of up to eight people on each. Thanks to Eileen Ford (nee Ambridge) for her help in arranging this.

Bookings have been coming in steadily—but remember, last date for booking is Wednesday, 14th March, so don't miss out. Check your diaries now—Saturday, 17th March—12.30 for 1.00 p.m. lunch.

Frank

Thanks to **Bruce Goddard**, who e-mailed us to recommend that we watched the second 'Grammar School' programme on BBC iPlayer, and also to **Arthur Spencer** who has sent in his thoughts on it.



The Grammar School: A secret History

It generally reviewed the history of the Grammar School expansion after the 1939-45 war and under the 1944 Education Act. It featured many personalities who praised the selective and educational system that allowed them to move from their social milieu—people like Lord Kinnock, Michael Portillo and Edwina Currie ... writers etc. and ... Sir Roy Strong. Most quoted the influence of one or more teachers during their school life who played a significant part in shaping their future and destiny.

The latter's contribution was perhaps more on his personal attachment to Miss Joan Henderson, and saw him with his school artworks and Christmas cards he had sent to her. He also mentioned that he had dedicated his first book to her.

The other side of the coin was not developed, apart from several references to the fact that where the Grammar School had been converted to Secondary Modern, educational achievement went generally downhill. With pundits on both sides of the political spectrum it seems surprising that education still remains such a political football, with so many schools failing to give their pupils a good education in their one chance in life for it.

Arthur Spencer

Last chance to book the LUNCHEON for Saturday 17th March 2012
At BUSH HILL PARK GOLF CLUB, Bush Hill, Winchmore Hill, N21 2BU
Three course meal (order vegetarian option on booking) followed by coffee £25.00

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.

A note from John Hulley (1945-52 and 1975-95)

My wife and I were saddened to learn of the death of Pat Mattingly. She had left school before I became a pupil, but I came to know her when she became a very supportive and valued member of my Governing Body three years after I returned as Headmaster. Fully committed to the development of the school's new Comprehensive role, she nevertheless treasured the old County traditions.

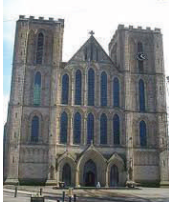


IAN MILLS researches an Old Scholar

For some years I have been trying to find some information about an old scholar, Ronald Perrin, who left school in 1949, and until recently I had not come across any. However, I have now managed to find some which might be of interest to those of us who are still around and who can remember him.

Ronald Perrin was a musical protégé and a popular scholar who, seemingly, could play virtually anything on the piano at the drop of a hat, and often played during assembly and other events. Ronald was a couple of years older than I was, but even at my tender age I could see that he was destined for a life in music.

He won a Scholarship to Christ Church Oxford, from where he graduated with an Honours degree. Following National Service his first appointment was as Assistant Organist at Leeds Parish Church. He went from there to York Minster and thence, in 1966, as Organist and Choirmaster at Ripon Cathedral in Yorkshire, where he remained for nearly 30 years. During this time he shared several recitals with the American virtuoso Carlo Curley, playing to huge audiences. He also taught music at Holy Trinity School, Ripon.



He was a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music and a Fellow of Trinity College, London. He was a prolific composer, and many of his compositions have been added to the repertoire of Ripon Cathedral.

Ron married three times. His first marriage ended in divorce, his second wife died and his third wife outlived him when he sadly died from cancer in 1997 at the comparatively tender age of 66.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Wed. 16th May. | Lunch Get Together. | 12 Noon. |
| “ “ “ | The Plough, Crews Hill. | |
| “ “ “ | Committee Meeting. | 7.30 p.m. |
| | Cambridge Campus | |
| Wed. 4th July. | Lunch Get Together. | 12 Noon. |
| | The Plough, Crews Hill. | |
| Wed. 12th Sept. | Committee Meeting. | 7.30 p.m. |
| | Cambridge Campus | |
| Wed. 10th Oct. | Lunch Get Together. | 12 Noon. |
| | The Plough, Crews Hill. | |
| “ “ “ | Committee Meeting. | 7.30 p.m. |
| | Cambridge Campus. | |

Two from way back

I came across this photo recently of the 1938 Old Girls' Hockey Club and I wondered if there are any of our year around.



I still keep in touch with my first boyfriend from Form 1B in 1933.

D. Lampard (nee Symes)



When war was declared my parents sent me to stay at Hereford with relatives. They didn't know about evacuation as my dad, who worked for India House, London, as an Accountant, was called up and sent to many areas in Essex and always found somewhere nearby where my mother and me could stay. My dad then discovered that my school had evacuated to Braintree, Essex, and my mother went home and I lived with a lovely family—Mr. & Mrs. Ward and two year old Roger.

My dad was later sent to Scotland. The war was still on and I went to a school called Manor College. I came back to the County School for the last year.

I kept in touch with Mrs. Ward and her family for many years. She died quite recently. Renee Clarkson was a friend of mine in my class and now lives in Canada. She sent me this photo of our class (Form B 1937-42) and the names of the pupils.



Top Row: James Moore, ? Eagles, Williams, ?, Betty Bedford, R. Clarkson, V. Bowser, Barbara Cross? Joyce or Dorothy Davis .

Middle Row: ?, ?, Dave Barret, Ron Stevenson, Ron Wright, Pye, Betty Johnson, Dorothy Hillman, Pat Johnson, Inez?

Bottom Row: Ferdinando, Weldon, Colin Creawford, Togwell, Don Smart, Muriel Edwards, Florence?

Vera Hoy (nee Bowser)

A letter from Olive Munden (nee Kersley) (September 1935 to November 1940)

I always so enjoy reading our newsletters, although I seldom seem to see anything from the people who were in class with me from September 1935 to July 1940. I was with the group who attended the Enfield schools (girls in one, boys in another), along with non-evacuee pupils from the Latymer and Tottenham High. We had a couple of our own teachers from each of those schools, and I seem to remember some days we had only one or two lessons, as we had to fit in with the real Enfield school pupils. We were there from about the end of September until Christmas. The Latymer School was opened in January and we were transferred to there, along with the Tottenham girls, until Easter, when our own schools were re-opened, much to our relief. It was our Matric exams year of course, and we'd had quite a varied schooling. However, I was delighted that I did manage to 'matriculate'.

I remember a great deal about the pre-building days of the school as I had two older sisters there before me. Both Edna (1927 to 1932) and Doris (1929 to 1934) went between the two schools (Polytechnic and Croyland Road), before our lovely modern Edmonton County School was built and ready for them to attend.

Whilst they were at the County I went to watch many Sports Days and School Plays from a very early age. I have always remembered seeing the school production of 'The Tempest'. I was absolutely fascinated by the very young girl named Peggy Rayner, who played Ariel. 'Tibby' Childs and Mr. Locke were also in the cast. I was about 8 years old at the time. Some years later, when I was in the third or fourth year, we had a guest speaker at one of our Speech Days. I'm ashamed to say that I have forgotten her name, but I believe her Christian name was Joan, and she may have been a Shakespearean actress. Anyway, she asked if anyone of us remembered when the school put on 'The Tempest'. I think that I was the only pupil who did so, as no-one else put up their hand—all attending in 1932 had left by then.

I've not been back to Edmonton for many years since my parents died and other relatives and friends have moved right away. I have managed to attend one or two reunions over the years, but apart from one in 1943 I've not met any of my old classmates. It isn't so easy to get from here now unless my daughter is free to bring me.

However, I still keep busy as I'm very involved with the Royal British Legion. I have been a member of the Women's Section for more that 30 years and have been their local Branch Treasurer since 1995. I'm also on the County Committee and my daughter and I are the local district Poppy Appeal Organisers.

My very best wishes to all the dedicated people who keep the ECSOSA newsletter coming. I'm sorry that I have never felt able to do anything to assist, other than to keep up my subscriptions, as did both my sisters. I did send you letters when each of them sadly passed away. Perhaps my daughter will do that for me when my turn comes, which I hope will not be for some time yet.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

This letter was passed on to our Archivist, Beryl Cushion

Hi,
I'm sorry to bother you but I am looking for an old teacher of mine named Edna Marter. I googled her name and some photographs of the early war years came up with a girl named Edna Marter on two of them. I am almost sure it is her—her face looks familiar. I met her in the early '50's when I was a pupil at Prince Rupert School, an Army school in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, where she taught history. I remember that she had bright red hair and was only in her mid. Twenties or thereabouts. If you have any more information regarding her it would be much appreciated.

With thanks,

Sylvia Tadd (Qld. Australia)

Beryl replies:-

Edna Marter was a prefect from 1943 to 1944, and Girls' Captain of St. George House. She contributed to a report on Harvest Camps of 1943, but it is not clear whether she went with the party to Manningtree, Essex, or the one to Suffolk.

In October 1944, at Speech Day, she received a VIth Form prize, a Grand Concours prize, and her Higher School Certificate with inter B.A. exemption. On the results of this Higher School exam she was awarded the school's first State Scholarship.

I remember her having red hair, but I can find no trace of her earlier than 1943—could she have joined the school in the VIth form?

I have attached her very small part of the prefects' photo. I hope this helps.

Beryl

Sylvia Tadd replies:-

I am very grateful for the early information and photograph. I understand that on moving back to the U.K. she became Assistant Head at Christ Hospital Girls' School, married later in life and on my brief contact with her in the early 90's she was living in Hertfordshire, retired, widowed and in poor health. Sadly I moved and then we lost touch. I remember her as a beautiful and gracious lady.

Final request: Your subs due on 1st September

| | | | |
|----------|--------|----------------|--------|
| 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 |



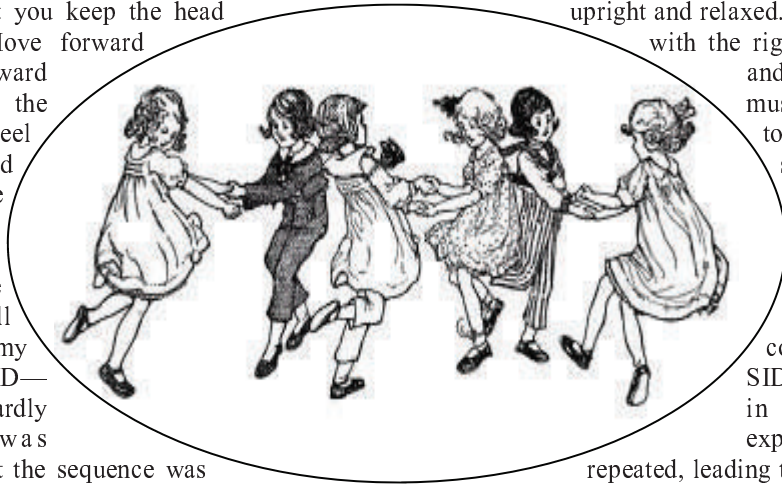
Please send your payment to Cliff Wilkins

STRICTLY COME DANCING—SCHOOL STYLE

By Dr. John Norrington-Davis

Midway through the Autumn term the boys and girls joined together in the gymnasium for dancing lessons. These were conducted by Bill Pretty, with Miss Nix in attendance to act when required. The lessons were formal and disciplined. Bill Pretty knew that there could be no freedom without discipline. Educational instruction in the armed services has always been first class, and one feels that a term with the military would greatly benefit those undertaking teacher training.

Subject retention is much enhanced by a sequence of hearing, seeing and doing. So it was with our P.E. Teacher. “Today we are going to learn the waltz. As you move you will rise and fall rhythmically, keeping your shoulder parallel with the floor. You boys see that you keep the head upright and relaxed. Look over the right shoulder of your partner. Move forward with the right foot, take the weight on the heel then roll forward and rise to the toes, commencing on the first beat of the music and continuing to the third. Then lower the heel to the floor. Now carry the left foot forward and sideways until it aligns with the right foot to the left. These movements are leading off with the left foot.” We concentrated, those piecing blue eyes willing it thus. “Now get fell in, boys to the right, girls to the left, steady! On my command, leading with the right foot, FORWARD—SIDE—TOGETHER.” Off we went, singly but hardly in unison. Once grudging satisfaction was expressed by the dance master with the first movement the sequence was repeated, leading this time with the left foot. Free now to roam at random about the gymnasium chanting “forward-side-together”, we made funny faces at each other.



Next came the drill for facing up to one’s partner, something here for ‘Relate’ perhaps. Bill was softening in his approach appreciably, for Miss Nix was to be his partner for the forthcoming demonstration. Blessed from the point of conception she had not looked back, her exquisitely proportioned body honed to perfection by her application to gymnastic exercise. “Facing your partner toe to toe,” Bill went on, “leave an adequate space between you. The girl is to place her left hand on the boy’s right shoulder, the boy places his right hand in the small of the girl’s back, thus” One could not see what happened to the small of Miss Nix’s back on “thus”. “Finally, the right hand of the girl will join with the left hand of the boy. Hands will be held at shoulder height.” Miss Nix was compliant. We were then lined up with our backs to the wall bars, girls north side, boys south. Bill said “When told to do so you will cross the gym in a straight line, the girl opposite you will be your partner.” This ensured equal opportunities for all; rejection was not an option!

As the next evolution we moved about the place with partner crying “Forward! Side! Together!” At least, that was the intention, but as we had always moved the right foot first the girls received a battering anywhere from mid-shin downward. Many girls were not at all pleased, particularly those who felt that the line-up had gone against them in the first place. It was their own fault of course, they were supposed to move the left leg back at the start. In time, most of us got the hang of it, for others there would never be enough time.

A final demonstration by Pretty and Nix was accompanied by music. **What a fine couple they made!**

Extracted from Dr. John’s book ‘Cheerful with insufficient reason’ available from him at donnorri@btinternet.com

| | |
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