

## EDMONTON (COUNTY) SCHOOL OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Headmaster : Mr. John Hulley

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Subs. Secretary</u>
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SEPTEMBER 1989

### ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

Our venue is again the Strand Room at Millfield House, Silver Street on Saturday 14th October 1989. We will meet old friends and renew acquaintance in the bar at 7.00 p.m. and then enjoy an excellent dinner. It is informal and friendly and husbands and wives are warmly welcomed. This year we celebrate the 70th year of our School so do come and make it a special occasion. Application form at end of page 3 of this Newsletter.

### THE SCHOOL REVISITED

Several old scholars visited the school during Community Week in July including Mr. Woolbar one of the founding members; Peggy (a.k.a. Doreen) Atkin - 1934/39; Jean Walford (nee Binder) - 1934/41. Peggy & Jean took photographs and also they commented that they were delighted the the hall hadn't changed. Other visitors were Mary Chennells, Rowena Sampson (nee Collins) and Mr. R. Fung (1968/73) who plays for the Old Boys.

Jean Patten wrote the following account of her visit with three other old scholars.

On Tuesday morning, 11th July 1989, four old scholars, shoes well brushed and necks well washed, went back to have a reminiscent look at the old Alma Mata.

At 11 o'clock Frank and Thelma Martin (nee Abbott) and Dennis and Jean Patten (nee Wilson) were met by the Headmaster, Mr. Hulley, outside the school and were ushered through the main entrance, up the front staircase (the forbidden front staircase!!) to his newly acquired office at the 'girls' end' of the school. This was the first change we noticed because Mr. Champion had his office at the opposite end.

Instead of the usual bottle of milk we were offered cups of coffee, and an explanatory talk on the whys and wherefores of Community Week was given to us by Mr. Hulley (Headmasters, like policemen, seem to be getting younger). Furnished with up-to-date plans of the school and details of various projects we started our journey round the old place.

Some of the school has been redecorated, but, as explained by the Head, the money had run out before it was finished. Not a lot had changed in most of the classrooms, but we noticed that where some had been refurbished they had the luxury of carpets on the floor - unheard of in our time. We made for the old library and were surprised to find that it is now one of three rooms devoted to handicrafts, the library having been relocated downstairs in the old gym.

We entered the Art room only to find that a false ceiling had been put in. This made the room warmer, but of course they have lost the north light. Gone are the orderly rows of desks, which have been replaced by large work tables and various equipment. The scope of activities has been substantially increased since our days, and Mr. Vinter, Head of Art, made us very welcome



and was ready to discuss both old and new art perception.

The Sciences are moving eventually to be together in one of the new blocks, but we noticed the old Biology lab. was still the same, where we used to dissect the animals and examine the plants.

The Woodwork room has also moved to a new block, where they appear to have every facility available to them. We were intrigued to see in one of the new quadrangles what looked to be a children's paddling pool set up. It was about 6' wide, 12' long and 18" deep. We were told that this was part of a 'bridge building' project. The pupils were divided into teams and given a number of tokens. The object of the exercise was to 'buy' pieces of wood and nylon cord with these tokens in order to construct a bridge to span the length of the pool, then stand the combined weight of the team on it. In the event of a tie the teams spending the fewest tokens were to be judged the winners. It was lunch time by the time we reached this, so alas we did not see anybody actually get wet.

We were shown round the Woodwork and Metalwork rooms and were amazed to see how well equipped they were with up-to-date machinery. Once again the Head of C.D.T. (Craft, Design & Technology as it is now called) Mr. Dunlop and his assistants spent a great deal of time with us, and explained how difficult it was to keep up with modern fast-moving technology.

One unusual feature we did have pointed out to us was that because of the custom of pupils no longer wearing coats, the cloakrooms were very little used, so valuable space was being taken up by rows and rows of hat pegs. Consequently the girls' cloakroom has now been converted to a new Staff Room and the boys' cloakroom has become the 6th form Common Room. Another innovation we noticed, which, if we'd had in our years at the school would have saved us a small fortune in car servicing bills, was the Mechanics' workshop. Nobody was working there when we arrived, but it certainly looked professional.

Unfortunately, the field is now much smaller than it was in our day, but space had to be utilised for all these new facilities, and apparently sports and athletics do not take up as much time in the curriculum as it did then. No longer do they have the old Andrew, David, George and Patrick Houses, although cups are awarded for individual prowess. A visit to the dining room in the new wing caused our taste buds to tell us that it was time for refreshment, so we found our way to the new well-equipped gym, had a quick shin up the ropes (well, we tried anyway), and then said our fond farewells and nipped up the road to the Beefeater for lunch.

#### THE BEGINNING

Mrs. Doris Sandell (nee Clapham) (1919/24) rang to say that for the first year the girls were housed in 2 rooms at Brettenham Junior School. Miss Seward was Head and when they went to Raynham School, she went with them as their Head.

#### DEATHS

Hilda Jones (nee Cole) (1930/35). The letter reporting Hilda's death in February 1989 and sent to one of our members has been lost, so if anyone knows the address/tel.no. of any of Hilda's family we would like to know.

Joan Cook (1931/36) Joan died on the 13th March 1989. She was a prefect at school and was a Corporal in the ATS, Worcestershire Regiment during the war and kept in touch with friends she made there. She had a lot of hobbies, flower arranging, basket work and pewter work. Joan did a lot of work for charity and the



and the Methodist Church. She never married but looked after her mother and thought a lot of her nephews and was a great 'family person', much missed by her brother.

#### OLD SCHOLARS NEWS

**MAGGS Rhys** (1953-60) 'phoned Beryl on a 2-day lightening visit to England from Australia. He wished to contact his old form mates and gave eight names. Beryl managed to trace 3 and gave him their telephone numbers when he telephoned back. He telephoned one of these, Mrs. Barbara Stogden (nee Martin) from Ireland where he was visiting his wife's relatives to say he was leaving from Heathrow and had 2 - 3 hours to wait and would she meet him there. Barbara agreed and they met and had a good talk over old times. On Rhys's next visit, Barbara hopes to have more notice and to be able to round up a gathering of old school friends.

Rhys was engaged in Air Traffic Control for some time, but has now taken over the job of Director of Emergency Services for the State of Victoria, Australia.

Does Anyone know where Lionel Ripley, Michael Shepherd, Vera Davy, Brian Perry or Colin Bradshaw are now.

**PATTEN Dennis** (1944-49). The BBC are repeating the WIZBIT series of children's programmes in which Dennis's Punch & Judy Show appears. The accompanying Book of Puzzles & Book of Magic Tricks were illustrated by Dennis. When the book Magic for Beginners, written by Harry Baron, illustrated by Dennis, was republished recently a copy was given to President Bush. Dennis also entertained the children at the birthday party last year of Emily, daughter of Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer and a nice letter of appreciation was received afterwards.

**BRENDA NORMAN** (nee Baxter) (1939-44) Brenda completed Nursery Nurses Exam. Board course in 1946. She joined the WAAF and became a radar operator in 1947. She married in 1949 and had 4 daughters, now all married, and she has 8 grandchildren. Her husband Ted died suddenly in 1978. After his death she opened a bookshop, Edwards Bookshop in Henley on Thames. Brenda would particularly like to meet or contact : Brenda Poynton, Fred J. McAdam, Elsie Allen.

**GORDON LEGGETT** has been married for 12 years and has one daughter. He was made redundant but moved to Bengeo where he now works for a sand and gravel firm.

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**REUNION DINNER** - Saturday 14th October 1989 at Millfield House, 1 Silver Street, Edmonton, near the Cambridge roundabout, gates opposite Windmill Road.

Please reserve ..... places for the following : (Years at school, if known)

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@ £1025 per person. We would/would not like wine (please delete as necessary)  
TIME : 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. until 11.00 p.m.

We would like to contact ..... if possible.  
Please return to : Mrs. Beryl Dewhurst, 22 Queen Anne's Grove, Bush Hill Park,  
Enfield, Middx. EN1 2JP



**ROWENA SAMPSON** (nee Collins (1965-68) Rowena attended our school for 3 years and then changed to Hitchin Girls' Grammar School, when her family moved. She married in 1975 and has 2 daughters.

**BERYL DEWHURST** had a painting hung in the South Eastern & International Exhibition of Art Societies exhibition held at Tunbridge Wells in June. This would not have been possible but for the kindness and help of Bernard and Peggy Mayes. Bernard who took the picture from London to Tunbridge Wells and Peggy who then took it to the gallery and collected it afterwards. Grateful thanks.

**EPPS Judith** (1966-71) is taking a course at the Middlesex Guildhall till October on how to Swear Justices Oaths.

**CHALMERS Doris.** In May Doris took the lead in 'A Murder has been Announced' by Agatha Christie produced by the Metro Players at the Co-operative Hall.

**HETTIE AUPERS** We have received a letter from Hettie, widow of Stan Aupers, to say she is staying in Vera, Spain, as she has some wonderful friends there, both Spanish & English.

**CAROLINE DEWHURST** Caroline is still in Melbourne, working very hard for ABC TV, radio, the Age and the newly launched Herald, newspaper. Caroline revelled in the hot summer, the beach and the bush, but now the temperature has dropped. She has enjoyed, however, skiing in the mountains.

**CLUBHOUSE AND/OR FOOTBALL REPORTS** - Up to date reports will be included in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Meanwhile, don't forget to reserve tickets for the Reunion Dinner.

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