

NEWSLETTER

published by The Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association

CHRISTMAS EDITION December 1997

The Chairman and Committee of The Old Scholars Association

Wish All Old Scholars everywhere

A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



ANNUAL DINNER 1998

The Committee have decided to hold the Annual Dinner next year at Firs Hall during October or November.

Firs Hall offers a choice of room sizes but we have to state the size required when we book. The size of the room governs the booking fee and it would be of great help to us if people who may be interested in coming. **LET US KNOW** by January 14th. that they are interested. You will not be placed under any financial obligation by doing so. Allowing for inflation and modest gratuities the cost per ticket looks like £20. Drinks will be extra.

Once we have some idea of possible attendance we will be able to book a suitable size room and will let you know the date and price in the next newsletter in April.

To make things easier perhaps you would like to telephone Eric Wilkinson on 0181 804 8975 and tell him your name and how many tickets you might require.

Once again you will be under no obligation at that time until you book formally.



INFORMAL GROUPS

A number of informal groups exist who meet for social reasons from time to time. If you organise such a group let Eric know so that we may tell others of your activities.

The following persons either organise a group or would like to hear of a group in their area.

Lynda Mernick (nee Plumb) 1966-1972 organises a meeting in the Enfield area which would welcome new members. 01277 631279.

Beryl Anderson (nee Latham) 1931-1935 is President of the Civil Service Ladies Golfing Society which holds three meetings a year in the London and Home counties. More members are always welcome. 01225 767040.

Betty and Les Dean 1947-1951 would like to hear of any group in the Northamptonshire area. 01933 276187.

Verona Moore (nee Pettengell) 1950-1954 would like to hear from any group in the Broxbourne area. 01992 465338.

Shirley Coode (nee Marter) 1946-1952 would like to hear from any group in the Ware area. 01920 460620.

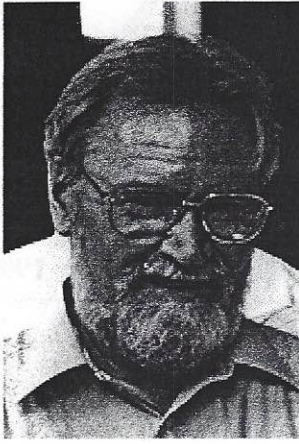
Ted Richards 1925-1930 would like to hear from anyone of the 1925 intake, A or B forms. Also from any bowlers who might operate in the Berks., Bucks and Hants areas. 01189 791209.



Old Scholars Association Committee

The Old Scholars Association is run by a committee which meets three or four times a year in the Enfield area. New committee members are always welcome, especially younger old scholars, in order to keep the association vigorous. With Beryl Dewhurst's retirement Eric Wilkinson has taken over as the acting chairman but his living intentions for the near future preclude his holding the position for more than a few months. Our Secretary of many years, Barbara Waters, is

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Professor John G. Ramsay, CBE, FRS. 1942 - 1949

⇐ at the Reunion 1997

at School 1947 ⇐

John writes, in his letter to Eric Wilkinson

... "I will not go into all my past movements but a few might be of interest. I went to Imperial College on a Royal Scholarship and got a B.Sc. and Ph.D. there. Then on to do my military service in the Corps of Royal Engineers, where I spent two years (1955 - 1957) with the rank of "Musician" playing the cello (and banging a drum on parade!). As a result of these years of full-time



musical activity I almost became a fully professional musician on my demob (as a 'cellist, not drum player). When this military life came to an end, however, I was offered, and took up a job as Lecturer and finally to Professor of Geology at Imperial College, London. I left Imperial College in 1973 to become head of the Earth Sciences Department at the University of Leeds and in 1977 I moved to the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH for short) and to Head the Earth and Geological Sciences Department at the University of Zürich. I remained there until my retirement in 1992, and since then officially reside in Zürich, Switzerland, but actually spend most of my time in our house in the south of France." ... "you will recall that we used to be in the same cross-country and track running team (and perhaps, even a little bit of athletic rivals!) as well as going climbing together in N. Wales. I have still kept in contact with a few of my old school friends, Reg Bayley (who now lives in N. Wales), Roy Willis (a year ahead of us, and who unfortunately died last year), Mike Fleuty (one year behind us, but he used to accompany us climbing), and rather remoter contacts with Alan Redman." ... "I would love to try to make some contacts with long lost friends."

Anyone who remembers John, and would like to contact him, telephone me on 0181 804 8975 and I will give you his address. Eric.



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finding regular attendance at committee meetings difficult due to the demands of her job.

The committee consists of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and other members with the job of Newsletter Editor as an additional job.

At the present time we need a Chairperson and a Minutes Secretary.

The Chairperson needs to be able to control the meetings in order that business is carried out efficiently avoiding the necessity to call more meetings than necessary.

The Minutes Secretary might find short-hand useful and should have access to a typewriter or wordprocessor.

The Newsletter Editor should have a PC with a desktop publishing programme and a laser or inkjet printer, and a desire to have a go!

If you think that you might be able to cover any of these jobs please telephone Eric on 0181 8048975 for a chat. The workload is not very high.



Your articles are of interest to other members

If you meet with other old scholars on an informal basis tell us about the meet. Your successes, achievements and your life so far is of interest to your old friends. Please write a few words for inclusion in the newsletter, if you have access to a wordprocessor and can supply as a file on a PC format 3½" disk, we can accept RTF, ASCII, TXT or many of the most popular wordprocessor file formats which will save retyping. If you only have a few words to say then telephone Eric and tell him verbally. Short snippets as in "I remember, I remember" in the last newsletter are also welcome. It is hoped that, if the inclusion of photographs increases interest in the newsletter, we may be able to include "Then and now" type articles with your photograph when at school together with your photograph now. Get cracking and help to make the newsletter more interesting!

Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 1st 1998.

Old scholars groups

If you run or would like to join a local group of old scholars please let us now your name, telephone number, years at school i.e. 19** to 19** and your locality and we will try to put you in touch.

Groups such as: Cricket, Tennis, Golf, Bowls as well as things like Chess often have a local following. A number of local groups already exist and might welcome new members.



Articles for the Newsletter should be sent to: Eric Wilkinson, 136 Broadlands Avenue, Enfield, MIDDX EN3 5AG. 0181 804 8975.



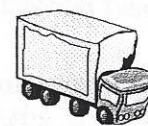
Pat & Eric Wilkinson are moving

home early in the New Year.

All mail will be redirected and we will let you know our new address in the next

newsletter.

Anticipate end of January move!



Obituaries

Donald Tervet 1929 - 1934

Donald Tervet attended the reunion in August and sadly passed away on October 4th.

His widow writes Don joined Post Office Telephones (now BT) when he was 18 (1936) and retired when he was 61 (1979).

He joined the army in 1940, served in the Royal Artillery on searchlight sites for 4 years, was transferred to the Royal Engineers. He lost a leg and the sight of his right eye while clearing mines in December 1944.

We married in May 1943 and had twin girls, born in September 1944 and a son born in July 1953.

One daughter died of Hodgkin's disease when she was 27 (1872). We now have 4 grandchildren.

Dons hobbies included cycling and cricket umpiring. After retirement he helped in such activities as delivering Meals-on-Wheels, driving people to hospital etc., also printing the Church magazine and helping to produce tapes for Newspaper for the Blind.

He still maintained an interest in cricket and Friends of (local) Museum.

For nearly 10 years he was membership secretary for our local (Hertford based) National Trust Group.

He will be missed.

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Muriel Jean Stechman nee Carley (1932-37)

I don't have any details of her school activities only a few photographs of 5th form outings with Miss Staples and Sam Elengorn. I think they went to Broxbourne for the day.

During the war she joined the Wrens before marrying Fred Stechman whom she had first known at the County School.

They lived in Edmonton before moving to Cheshunt in 1958. I know because I was also at the County School at that time and suddenly I had to cycle from Cheshunt daily. Really I should have changed schools but the County was held in such esteem in our household as Doris, Sam and Jack Long were still on the teaching staff and had been my parents contemporaries in their younger days.

She worked for United Dominions

Trust at Cockfosters and was head of department for more than 21 years before she retired.

She then took up golf and found some lasting friendships on the golf course. Another hobby was dress-making and she made a number of her own clothes and with pride sewed her own makers label in them.

When Fred died she joined a group of ladies in similar circumstances which affectionately became known as the Glee Club and they travelled extensively. At the time of her death they were planning a trip to Canada, coast to coast. And a visit was scheduled to Switzerland to see her two grand daughters.

During my last leave to UK we took the opportunity to scatter her ashes at the Golf Club at the same spot where Fred had been scattered four years earlier. As it would also have been her birthday on that very day we opened a bottle of Champagne and toasted her much to the amazement of the Club secretary and a pair who were playing the 18th at the time.

That then, in a few lines, is the story of my mum.

Peter Stechman

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Ron Steventon 1937-1942

Ron who died on 28th September 1997, left from the fifth form, after taking his General Schools, in 1942.

For a short while he was articled to a firm of chartered accountants but, the war still being on, he soon joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. With his sense of dedication to the job in hand, and his will to succeed, he was soon commissioned and was later to command one of the tank landing craft in the Italian campaign.

When the war finished and Ron returned to civilian life he at first returned to accountancy but, after a little while, found a need for a more challenging occupation and joined the Metropolitan Police. He served as a uniformed P.C. at Edmonton for a while before joining the C.I.D. as a Detective Constable. He had a distinguished career, working his way up through every rank until he reached the rank of Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard. His

service to the police force was recognised when he had the distinction of being awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and, a short while before his retirement he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Ron was immensely proud of having been at the County School, as was his sister June who followed him there a couple of years later. The family connection was strengthened when his daughter Lynda also entered the School, leaving from the sixth form to go on to Southampton University where she took her B.A. degree.

If I had to sum Ron up in a few words they would be Loyalty, service, duty and integrity, liberally mixed with a large helping of humanity and humour.

Ron died only a few days before his 72nd birthday and also his golden wedding, and our deepest sympathy is offered to his widow, Jeanne, his daughter Lynda, his grandchildren and all his family.

Ted Lawrence

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Snippets

Roy Garner 1935-1940 took part in the Cowes Regatta on 16th August and records that they came 6th in the race out of 35 in their class. *Well done!*

Roy (1936-1941) & Joan (1936-1943) Blower are helping their son-in-law to convert and improve a house in France and helping to look after their grandchildren.

Gerald Bailey 1937-1942 writes to say he and his wife spent 25 days touring around Georgia playing 7 games of golf on 4 different courses in 4 different states, (in Nth. Florida golfing is free). When looking for alligators they met rattlesnakes and ran back to the lodge to report this to a chap wearing canvas trousers who turned out to be a convict! They recommend Georgia for golf and will be pleased to pass on information to other interested parties.

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Reginald Bayley 1942 - 1949

In 1936 my parents moved from Tottenham to Enfield and in the Autumn I was sent to "The Raglan" elementary school in Wellington Rd.. Unlike many six year olds I did not think much of school, I was asked to do unpleasant and seemingly pointless things and I was expected to do them day after day! I must have given my teachers a rough time. At home there was never a shortage of writing paper but to me it was drawing paper and I drew pictures of steam engines, so far as I was concerned that was what paper was for! I tried to do at school what I did at home and it was months before my teachers cajoled me away from my steam engines...!

My parents met while working in factories in Tottenham. Dad had come to London when quite young, not to seek his fortune but to work very hard and earn enough to have a few luxuries, of which I must have been the most expensive. I never knew what my Dad hoped I would make of my life but Mum told me, several times every day, that I was expected to go "into BUSINESS". It really was uppermost in Mum's thoughts and I must have broken her heart when, after winning a place at Edmonton County, the subject I enjoyed most was woodwork. Mr. (Daddy) Mason taught us woodwork on Friday afternoons - it was heaven - no writing, no revision, just pure unalloyed delight.

In the second year we came under the influence of one of the most inspiring men I have ever known, Mr. (Larry) Comber. He opened new worlds and I realised that I wanted to be some sort of scientist - science was wonderful we carried out experiments to test ideas, possible explanations and even theories! There did not seem to be so much writing involved, science was for me! My poor Mother was not too happy with this, I had given up the woodwork bench for the chemists bench, I seemed incapable of leaving those benches alone.

Much later in my school life I started to enjoy a few outdoor activities. In the company of John Ramsay and Eric. I started cross country running, they were really good and won races whereas I enjoyed the scenery and their companionship. In the same company I was introduced to rock climbing and eventually mountaineering. These activities were to be a permanent joy to me.

When I left the County I travelled north to Glasgow and studied Chemical Engineering and after a couple of years in the army I worked in a research lab. managed by Magnus Pyke (yes). For a year or so I had control of a small distillation column - yes I distilled whisky - legally. Magnus was a very unpredictable leader but I always found him to be helpful and truly kind.

Following a few years in Whisky I moved into sewage! In Stevenage there was a lab. within the Scientific Civil Service that carried out research into all the problems associated with waste water including making it fit for Londoners to drink. Those were very rewarding years spent in the company of some excellent researchers but in my 50th. year I felt I needed a total change and as my first child had just been born I decided to be a full time Dad!

I now live on the edge of Snowdonia, I don't do much research but I do a great deal of woodwork. Each day I am reminded of the teachers and friends who influenced my thoughts at school. Many thanks to them all.

Reg Bayley



I remember, I remember *Item sent in by Daphne Roberts 1948-1953 Author unknown*

WE ARE SURVIVORS *(For those born before 1945....)*

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, Frisbee's and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball-point pens; before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes ... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized rain coat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1945 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, 'a joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby. 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today *BUT*
By the grace of God we have survived! Hallelujah!!!

