

newsletter

published by The Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association

SPECIAL REUNION EDITION September 1997

GRAND REUNION

August 16th 1997

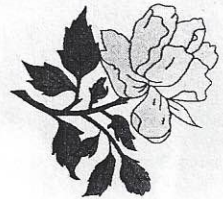


*Mr. Martin Rainsford
(Headteacher) presenting
flowers to
Mrs. Beryl Dewhurst
(Retiring Chairperson
OSA)*

On Saturday August 16th. 1997 some 500 old scholars and their guests met in the main hall of the school at 11 am. The weather was bright and sunny and everyone looked forward with excitement to the prospect of meeting up with old friends they had not seen, in many cases, for some 50 years or more. A number of the current pupils of the school were assisting with guiding the cars to the school field for parking and checking the tickets at the door. In the hall the people were offered a welcoming drink. A number of displays had been assembled by the Old Scholars Association which included lists of the old scholars intending to be present based on their names when at school, greetings from other old scholars unable to attend and information on the Old Scholars Association. Many people had brought or sent photographs from their school days which were of interest and the school had laid on a display in the library, previously the gymnasium. Judging by the number of people who crowded around these tables they were of considerable interest.

After an hour of chatting and meeting up with old friends Beryl Dewhurst, the retiring chairperson of the Old Scholars Association gave a short talk on the association through the years. Martin Rainsford, the current Headteacher then presented her with a basket of flowers and after a few words of appreciation for her work over many years she was offered the joint Presidency of the Association which she gracefully accepted. Mr. Rainsford then said a few words about the school as it is today before announcing that the school was open for people to roam at will and that school plans had been provided. The bar and buffet were then

continued on page 2



Diana

Princess of Wales

1961 - 1997

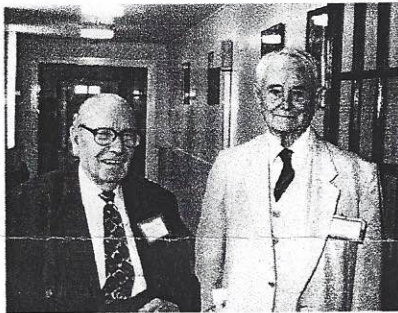
What a sad and emotional time we have passed through since we all met at the reunion. Diana was a rebel with a cause! She may not have suited everyone's taste but she did at least try to do some good in the world. A lesson of which, perhaps, we should all try to take note.

I expect, as I did, that many of you will have watched on Saturday the 6th the events on the television, perhaps some of you may have gone personally to some vantage point. The response of the people has been almost a quiet revolution, hopefully for the good of the Monarchy and a lesson to the media not to harass the Princes as they did their mother.

Farewell English Rose

declared open. The caterer had laid on a grand spread and there was plenty of drink, both alcoholic and otherwise to quench everyone's thirst on a hot day.

Many people had travelled considerable distances to be with us on the day, from Canada, USA, Switzerland and France as well as all over our own country.



William Woolbar & Charles Steel
1919-1923 1919-1924

Two of our founder members, 1919 intake, travelled from Kenton & Hatch End and one member in a wheel chair travelled from Birkenhead to be with us.

Alastair Traill
1952-1956



At 3.15 pm the school bell was rung, which caused some amusement, Kenny Clayton (nee Wilkinson) struck up the school song on the piano in the library. Everyone present sang, nobody noticed that more than one version was being sung! but nobody cared.

At 4 pm members and their guests departed and, judging by the number of telephone calls and letters thanking us for organising the day, all had thoroughly enjoyed themselves..

To all those who gave their congratulations either verbally or in writing many thanks. I know that I enjoyed myself and I am sure that the other committee members did also.

Eric.



Greetings from old scholars unable to attend the reunion

Eddy Coward brother of **Clifford Coward** 1932 - 1937. To anyone who knew my brother please ring 01268 742679 for a chat.

Carole Levinsohn 1958 - 1965 would like to hear from Linda Knox, Gillian Beeston and Olive Nye. Please ring for a chat 0191 2364451.

Gerald Bailey 1937 - 1942. To Alan Biffin, Ron Emery, Eileen Symes, Joan Crawford, Pat Johnson, Reg Francombe and Derek Ferdinando, where are you all now? 01703 261135.

Deborah Pile 1966 - 1971. Wishes to trace Brenda Southcott. 0181 8040108

Sir Roy Strong sends greetings to members of classes in the late 1940's and early 1950's.

R. V. Brimicombe-Wood 1938 - 1943 sends greetings to Ted Lawrence, John Davies, Freddy Wells, Roy Pullen, Basil Hoskins, Pamela Cornell, Helen Folley, Eileen Greenwood, Edna Lilley, Kenneth Parker, Derek Randall and Albert Capon. 01797 362558.

Raymond Tabor 1931 - 1936 and **Jean Thomas** 1936 - 1941 send greetings to Ron and Judy Rush & Ralph and Ann Christmas.

Barry Curtis 1958 - 1965 sends greetings to all of his contemporaries. 0181 348853.

Pamela Weed 1951 - 1959 would like to hear from anyone in form V (1956) especially June Taylor. 01452 812117.

Doreen Godfrey ^{Doreen} 1942 - 1947 would be glad to hear from anyone who remembers her. 01395 578878.

Basil Hoskins sends his best wishes. 01580 880663.

Roy Blower 1936 - 1941 and **Joan Marriott** 1936 - 1943 send best wishes to their classmates.

Brenda Poynton (now Mme Barillon) 1939 - 1944 sent greetings via Dee West (Doris Page).

Brenda Brown (Koniotes) 1944 - 1949 sent her greetings as she was unable to attend at the last minute. 01707 330414.

Pamela Menlove 1950 - 1955 and in memory of her sister Brenda Menlove, who sadly passed away in 1984.

Should you remember my sister or myself I would love to hear from you. 01582 664468.



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. 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.

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.

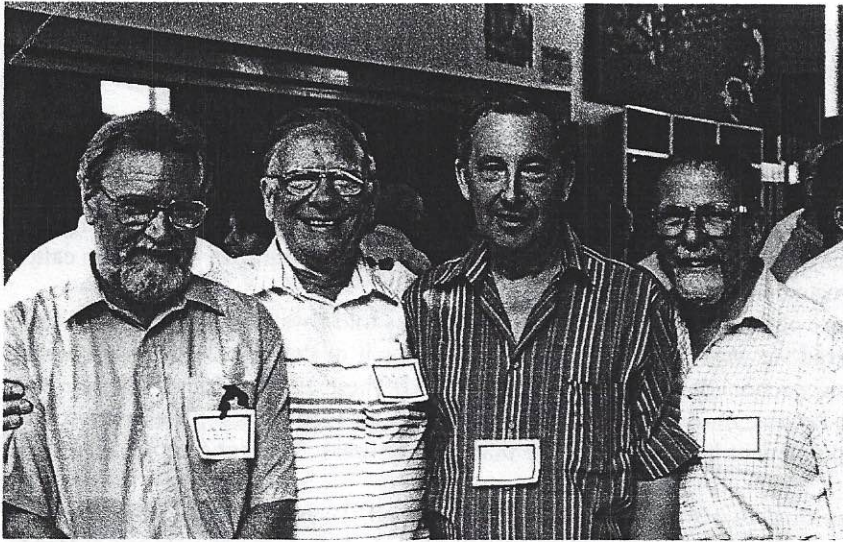
Groups such as: Cricket, Tennis, Golf, Bowls as well as things like Chess often have a local following. A number of local groups already exist and might welcome new members.



Old Scholars Association Committee

The Old Scholars Association is run by a committee which meets in the Enfield area three or four times a year. Except when a large event, such as the reunion, is being organised the demand on each member is very small, even so members after they have served for some time may feel that they would like a rest. It also benefits the organisation if people with new and fresh ideas join the committee.

continued on page 3



John Ramsay 1942-1949

Peter Mansell 1943-1948

Eric Wilkinson 1942-1949

Reg Bayley 1942-1949

We four have not met up together since 1948/9! John, Eric and Peter were in the Cross-country team which won the Southgate Harriers cup for the school in 1947 while John, Eric and Reg used to go climbing together in North Wales. John travelled from his home in the South of France, Eric lives in Enfield, Peter came from Cambridgeshire and Reg from N. Wales for the day.

What a great day for meeting old friends.

*Walker on Naze
3 Bed - bedroom.*



Helpers are always welcome to fold, put into envelopes, stamp, label and post the newsletter. If you live within the area and would like to join the committee or help us in some other way please let Eric Wilkinson know.

Membership matters

May we remind you once again that all matters relating to membership such as change of address and payment of subscriptions etc., should be sent to the Membership/Subscriptions Secretary (Eric Wilkinson) and not to any other person. Failure to do this may result in delay or even loss.



Photographs of the occasion

Our thanks are due to Derek Tamea 1940-1945, who came down from Newcastle to be with us, for taking photographs of the occasion. This took up a lot of his time on the day.

The photographs have been placed in an album for display on special occasions.

For those who remember having a photo taken copies will be available size 7"x5" in a folder for £5.00 each including P&P. Please phone Eric on 0181 804 8975 and he will tell you if there is a photo of you available.

Sorry Derek the little fellow above does not look a bit like you. You are much better looking!

Eric



I remember, I remember

When I was in the sixth form just at the end of the war. We ran a photographic club, at school, when film was very difficult to find. Every Saturday morning I used to go up to town and wander round the 2 Kodak showrooms, the Ilford, Ensign and Dufaycolour showrooms waiting for them to put some film on the counter. I bought anything, even if I did not have a camera of that size, and exchanged it with the others on Monday morning.

After a cheese roll and a cup of tea I used to queue up to get a seat in the

Gods at the theatre to see a show in the afternoon.

I saw *Song of Norway*, *Howard Keel in Oklahoma* (boy could he sing), *Aida* (very heavy) and many others. And I only earned five bob delivering papers!

Eric



**From Beryl Dewhurst 1933-1939
Joint President of the Old Scholars
Association**

The reunion was such a success - so said everyone. So many people were on a natural high. Memories were flooding back and contacts made for future meetings. It all went smoothly due to months of planning and the organising ability of Eric Wilkinson and his computer backed by the Committee. People were there from all years up to the 1980's.

The school at its new building on the Cambridge Road started with 450 pupils and is now geared to take 1750. It is a good school and those from the upper forms who helped impressed all by being very helpful, efficient and friendly.

I have been on the Committee of the Association for 50 years and Chairman for 24 years so it seemed a good time to resign. I was honoured to be made Joint President which will enable me to still take an interest. It has been a lot of work but I have enjoyed it and met many people and know a lot more whom I have never met but have spoken to by telephone and the written word. As I said on the day, we must always remember educational statistics are really a group of real people with real personalities and I am sure, if you wish, friends made at school follow you throughout your life.

My best wishes to you all.

Beryl Dewhurst.



Our Grateful Thanks are extended to Mr. Martin Rainsford, his PA Mrs. Carol Taylor, the Caretakers and the young Ladies and Gentlemen of the school who so willingly gave up their time to help on the day, and not the least, to all of you who came to be with us.

What a Great Day!



John Hulley, Ex Headteacher and pupil 1945-1952

John and his wife were delayed in traffic and arrived too late to make his speech.

He writes in a letter to Beryl and Eric ...

...”The school has, indeed, seen many changes in its now quite long history. When I was there (1945-1952) there were only about 450 students occupying what seemed a vast building. I was not around in 1964 when the Science & Canteen block, the new gym and some workshops were added to accommodate the rise from 3 to 4 form entry.

Of course, the big change which was, understandably a shock to many, came with the borough’s change to comprehensive in 1967 when the school was “reorganised” and took over the premises at Rowantree. Various so called “temporary” buildings (huts!) had to be erected on both sites.

When I arrived in 1975 the temporary nature of these huts was confirmed and I was told I was high in the queue for a proper sixth form block. At the time I retired we were at last beginning to plan for it in the next block on the upper school site to complement the one in the lower school designed in the year I retired. These are necessary because it had at last been accepted that we would have to become nine form entry, having been 8+ for many years. [The lower school temporary huts were not replaced with a permanent building for more than twenty years. The upper school ones are still in use for some purposes.]

One thing that especially pleased me in my final year was getting the name changed. To you and the public we were always the County, but, as you know, we were renamed Edmonton only in 1967. Legally we were always a county school and the local authority no longer stood in our way and accepted the change.

I have said that comprehensive was a shock to many but I have always believed in it and still do. For me what was happening was that more and a wider range of children were experiencing the values we stood for. And so many more than would otherwise have been the case have achieved academic distinction in school and gone on to higher education...

....Regards to you both, John.



A view of the main hall taken from the balcony while old scholars chinned-wagged about the good old days.

It was very crowded until people started to look at the school exhibit in the library and began to wander around the school.

Old scholars found the exhibition of photographs and other memorabilia, which the school had provided in the library (once the gymnasium), very interesting, judging by the numbers who collected around the tables.

