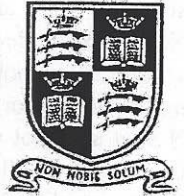


ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2001

published by the Edmonton County
School Old Scholars Association



LETTER FROM LEATHERHEAD

Reading the summer Newsletter we were excited to see the letter from Shirley Sheriden (nee Kerridge) as we had only recently come across a photo of her taken at a party in 1956!

Janice Simpson was of course Eliza in the school production of "Pygmalion" of December 1956 in which a number of us including Liz Smith participated.

We recently met up again with Peter Evans, David Curtis (Curt) and Mike Watson (Chick). (*look out for now and then photos in our next edition, Ed.*) We were hoping to see Steve Black (who now lives in Canada again and didn't come over as originally planned) and John Aungier (Onny) who was unwell. We poured over the school photo of May 1955 putting names to faces, which was very nostalgic. We are planning a further reunion in June next year at our house in Leatherhead. Are there any others from 1951-59 who would like to make contact?

Peter has been trying to get hold of Alan Flook, without success. They were in contact for many years after leaving school but lost touch when Alan moved from Barnet to he-knows-not-where. Do you know Alan's whereabouts? We have also completely lost contact with David Richardson and wonder where he might be now. The last we heard he was working at Scotland Yard.

Unlike many of our friends we are still working and haven't joined the idle retired - yet! David travels to Welwyn Garden City each day, so he thinks about the Edmonton/Enfield area regularly, especially when in traffic jams on the M25 in Hertfordshire.

Meg's mother, Dr. Bentley (teacher of German, 1956-76) is still soldiering on, still has all her marbles but is physically rather frail now - she will be 90 this year. She was sad to hear that Mr Doubleday had died; there are not many of her contemporaries left now.

David too was sad to hear about Mr. Doubleday; he says "Dubs formed (and in some cases reformed) many of our ideas and attitudes to life and our fellow men!".
Meg (Margret Stiven, 1956-7) & David Brett (1952-58)



Your outgoing Committee

L-R : Pat Mattingly, Frank Wallder, Angela Painter, Pat Walker, Doreen Bayley, Peter Francis, Eric Wilkinson, John Kerridge, Derrick Stone (Pictured at the Reunion 2000 - Tony Brown was unable to attend due to a family wedding commitment)

More Old Scholars News

Congratulations to John and Jean Kerridge who celebrated their Golden Wedding in June and to **Peter and Eileen Francis** who celebrated theirs in July. John has valiantly held down the post of Treasurer for several years now, the last two under sufferance as we had been unable to find a replacement. Peter has done sterling work in co-ordinating and promoting our association with the school. All this in addition to the work they both put in on the committee, especially for the reunions, the Whitewebbs get-togethers, Bletchley Park visit and distribution of this newsletter. We are delighted to have such an opportunity to thank them for all their efforts and their ladies for their support. We trust that they will continue to enjoy many more years of their retirement.

Olive Hedley-Smith, MBE, ACII (1924-29) was made a Freeman of the Borough of Torbay on 15th May. Now unfortunately wheelchair bound with Osteo-Arthritis, she still looks forward to the Newsletter.

The wedding of her son Philip to a Czech girl gave **Angela Painters** family and friends, including brother **Frank Wallder** and **Pat Norris (Rust)** and **Janice Cooper (Lingard)** an excuse for a jaunt to Prague. Visits to this beautiful city are thoroughly recommended

Derek Watson 1943 to 1948

I graduated in 1948 along with around 90 others. My bosom buddies were "Paunch" (Cyril Crossley) and "Toddles" (Brian Sweeney), neither of whom I have seen or heard from since all the world was young, lad.

After a spell in the Air Force where I learned the rudiments of the skills, which were to sustain me for the rest of my working life, I emigrated to Canada; this was in February 1957. I was employed by Decca Navigator Company where I had been a technical instructor in London.

In the Province of Nova Scotia, I was to assist in the setting up of the Decca organisation's servicing depots.

Adventure called, and I next ventured up to Canada's north where on the D.E.W. line (Distant Early Warning) I spent two contracts in the Arctic where "technical types" repaired, maintained and operated all the radio and radar equipment.

Returning south to Nova Scotia for "debushing" I was next employed by E.M.I Cossor. The chief engineer, who was eventually my boss, was an ex Latimer grad. His wife, Rene, graduated from ECS around '46, small world!

I was first injected with a taste for teaching while in the Air Force, where in Malaya I was attached to the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force as a radar instructor. Then there was a two-year spell in London as instructor for Decca. So when,

after nine years at E.M.I. the province of Nova Scotia decided to open several vocational schools, I ended up as electronics instructor in the South Shore of N.S. at a school which was to become a Community College a few years later. Hence, my last 25 years of my working life went by very pleasantly. I wangled a couple of University degrees (hear that oh teachers, mine?) and did my best to emulate the best of what I could remember of the old "County School".

I am married to a Nova Scotia gal. Our children and grand children are all Nova Scotians; My wife and I are still living in the south shore, as it is called.

I was so sad to hear of the passing of Miss Staples a while back. I can never forget her enthusiasm and her wily ways that were used to get her points across. I always tried to use her techniques. I will never forget her. Nor will I ever forget Sam Elengorn bursting in to the classroom every day and ripping his gown on the door as he did so. Or, the smell of linseed oil in the store room where all the cricket gear was kept! Or that time after a snowstorm the whole school was turfed out for a grand snowball fight, the boys versus the girls. Or the delight on Q's face as he made all the persistent late comers run around the field, after school. Oh yes, thanks for the memories E.C.S.

Obituary

David Stubbs.

It is with great regret that I have to report the sudden death of my brother as a result of a heart attack on Thursday May 17th 2001 at his home in Holt, near Wimbourne in Dorset.

David, like me, was born at 78, Edenbridge Road, Bush Hill Park. We had a very happy home life, both went to Raglan Road school and then to Edmonton County. I well remember an occasion when I was being bullied and David although nearly three years younger coming to my defence against boys who were bigger and older than him. On the outbreak of war he was evacuated to Braintree but it was not long before he was back with the family.

When I married in 1947 he was my best man. In 1954 when he married Rita I was his best man and my daughter was Rita's bridesmaid. Both our wives originated from Palmers Green and we were both married there in St Johns.

He transferred to work and moved with his family to Holt in 1972. David soon became involved in village life and when the village school was closed in 1976, together with another resident, negotiated

with Dorset CC for its use as a village hall. A signatory on the trust deed, when a management committee was elected he volunteered to act as Treasurer, a post he held until his death.

He also organised the Holt Monday club, the Bowls club, the Mens club and Neighbourhood watch. Active in the Wimbourne Horticultural and Photograph societies, using his technical knowledge he repaired and adjusted talking book machines for the local blind. He was in the process of producing a video record of village life in Holt.

Very loyal to all around him he kept in contact with three of his old school friends John Kerridge, David Bolam (now in New Zealand) and the late Harry Reeve. David certainly fulfilled the maxim of our Alma Mata "Non Nobis Solum".

Although we lived separate lives and were not "in each others pockets" we corresponded by email and exchanged ideas. We both had similar PC's and were recently discussing the merits of various updates. I will certainly miss his counsel and cheerful philosophy on life and it was evident at his thanksgiving service in Holt that many others felt the same.

Phil Stubbs.

The committee were fortunate enough to meet David when he stayed over with John Kerridge for the last reunion. The way he cheerfully and wholeheartedly weighed in to help with both preparations and afterwards the clearing up endeared him to us all. As John said "a man of action rather than words".

School News

The impressive new block astride the original Football pitch at the upper school was officially opened on Thursday, 21st June, although it has actually been put to good use for nearly a year now.

After an introduction by the Headteacher, Martin Rainsford, a plaque commemorating the occasion was unveiled by the Mayor-elect, Councillor Yasemin Brett. A vote of thanks proposed by the Gordon Thongs-George, Chairman of Governors, amusingly and cleverly combined thanks to the various people and groups who had worked to make the project possible with a plea to complete the facilities needed by the school with a sports hall.

The building, served by a lift, is on three floors with large, modern classrooms, most with their own attached preparation areas. The two lower floors have sections for Art, IT, and Geography whilst the upper floor is exclusively for use of the Sixth Form with its own Common Room

complete with kitchen area.

Unfortunately I did not meet the new Head as she was unable to attend, so news of her background will have to await the next edition. Meanwhile an invitation to become our joint President has been sent to her.

Having achieved recognition for the quality of Work Experience a few years ago and Investor in Careers Award last year, the school has now achieved an "Accredited Careers Library" award from Prospects Careers Service. It has been selected as a pilot school for the new Connexions support service for young people.

Along with the rest of the country, the school has suffered the problems of teacher turnover and recruitment. Ten teachers have moved on, while Lesley Cruden is retiring after 22 years at the school. Chris Deacon is returning to the classroom full-time after 13 years as Deputy Head. In his move to Salisbury School, Martin Rainsford has wisely recruited Carole Taylor - his gain is our loss - our thanks to both for their help and co-operation with the association and our best wishes to all in their new situations. Last term the emphasis was, as ever, on examinations; there were however many school trips and sporting activities.

It was good to see that Cricket remains pre-eminent, while it is believed that the Year 10 Netball team won the Enfield league. Sailing and Karting continue apace and a silver medal in the 400 metres was won at the Borough Athletics Championships.

At the London Youth Games, individual achievements included a Gold at Showjumping (*no, that is not a misprint*) and a Bronze at Judo, whilst two girls were in the Gold-winning Football team and one boy won Silver with his Football side.

There were outings by a variety of groups at the school, including Music, Politics and Drama; many of these involved degrees of participation. Celebratory Trips included a Sixth Form Boat Trip on the Thames, Paris (including Disneyland), Barcelona (billed as educational for the Travel & Tourism group), Alexandra Park Ice Skating, Chessington World of Adventures and Drayton Manor Park. Pupils still found time for a number of Charity fund raising activities and to complete the Year 8 Millenium Garden Project.

History of the School.

We still intend to compile a history of the school, however with the removal of Martin Rainsford and Carole Taylor, it is

only reasonable to give their successors time to settle in before we approach them for help. Meanwhile, if anyone would like to help in this task please call us. Also if you have any old School or Stag magazines, photos., etc. please let us know, especially if you were thinking of disposing of them.

Contact Database Exercise

A special thank you to all who replied to the request for information in our last newsletter which elicited a further 83 contact names. Not too bad you might think, until you realise that this was from just 18 replies, one of which alone, from Arthur Spencer, produced 25 names. Thanks also to Meg Brett (Stiven), Maureen Bealby (Clarke) and Fred Schwer who produced 30 between them. 5 replies produced no names at all, although I know at least two of them have surviving siblings!

Having said that, at least they replied, which means that 313 members still have not.

As a result, we have decided to try a different tack. We are going to produce for everybody on our database an individual list of people who you may possibly still be in contact with and send it to you.

THIS IS GOING TO GIVE A GREAT DEAL OF EXTRA WORK FOR YOUR COMMITTEE!

However once it is sent out, is it too much to ask that you simply check and return your listing, hopefully together with other names that we had not considered? Because of the work involved, this will take some time to prepare.

So meanwhile PLEASE, do not simply leave it to someone else, let us know of any old scholar or Ex-Staff with whom you are still in contact.

Social Diary

Following consultation, the **Annual Dinner** next year is planned at the David Lloyd Centre, Enfield on Saturday the 2nd March.

The only doubt is whether we can attract sufficient numbers so please let Frank

Lost Members, Please help us find them.

Post marked Gone Away

Mrs M Luxon 1931-1938

Mr A Hutchinson, MBE 1945-51

Mrs C Humble 1962-

Mr P Simpson 1966-1970

Mr P Stechman 1955-1961

PO Box closed and no reply to emails.

If any member knows the current whereabouts of any of these, please let Eric know. 01255 677946

Wallder know if you hope to attend as soon as possible.

We need just a few more people than last year to guarantee our booking and hold down the price for three years running - so why not contact a few friends and make an occasion of the evening? You cannot expect them just to turn up - a phone call (fax or email) is all you need to check with them first. It was a "good do" last year, don't miss out again.

We are hoping to arrange a visit to **The Magic Circle** next Spring courtesy of **Dennis Patten**. Numbers are limited and we have to pre-book, so if you are interested, don't leave it too late, let us know soon.

Whitewebbs Get-togethers -

The next informal Lunchtime Get-together at Whitewebbs House Restaurant will be on Thursday 25th October. The evening meal on Thursday, July 12th attracted similar numbers to our first ever lunch session, so that is a good omen for the future. Certainly it was enjoyed by all. We look forward to seeing some new faces but if it is too far to travel, why not set one up in your area? Meanwhile we'll be at Whitewebbs House, Whitewebbs Lane, Enfield. No need to book, just turn up and find us in the vicinity of Table No.1 (Past the Bar, turn left, straight on then look for a copy of the Newsletter).

Bletchley Park.

Don't forget the outing to Bletchley Park, famous as the site where the German Enigma code was cracked during the Second World War, on Sunday 16th September.

Bletchley Park is situated very close to Bletchley railway station, Milton Keynes, approximately 1¹/₄ to 1¹/₂ hours journey time from Enfield.

We are meeting in the main house at 10.45 for 11.00am. The entrance fee is £5 per person (£4 concession) paid at the gate includes free parking and a guided tour. Hot and cold food is available in the house or you can picnic in the grounds. More details of the venue are available by telephoning 01908 640404 or of our arrangements by contacting Peter Francis on 020 8886 7350.

If you cannot make it with us, Bletchley Park is open alternate Sundays for most of the year. Dr. Mark Baldwin tours the country giving lectures and demonstrations on an original Enigma machine. He will be at Broxbourne Civic Hall on Wednesday, 31st October - details from the Box Office, Tel. 01992 441946.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Lower School on Thursday, October 18th 2001.

The main business will be to receive reports, the election of Officers, adoption of the Accounts and finalising the day-to-day rules under which we operate. We are delighted to say that Peter Mansell has volunteered to take over as Treasurer and confidently expect him to be elected. All other members are standing for re-election. If anyone would like details or wishes to contribute their ideas please contact any member of the committee.

Chairman's Report

Despite adverts, personal contacts and pleas, we still lack all the new blood we require to expand and prosper. Even when we produce the ideas people seem to want, lack of response is very dispiriting. Then along comes the odd comment "keep up the good work" or letter which gets us back to the grindstone. We will do what we can but it would be nice to have more feedback and help from the ordinary members. In particular we need help on building up the contact database. We

STILL URGENTLY REQUIRED

Volunteers for the following positions

**Secretary, Social Co-ordinator, Newsletter Editor,
ESA Coordinator, Web Site Controller, Database Manager**

**For Great Satisfaction in return for a Little Time & Effort
telephone Frank Wallder on 01992 470316 to discuss what you can offer
and find out what we need**

Diary Dates 2001

1972 Reunion	September TBC
Autumn Term starts	Monday, 3rd September
Day Out Bletchley Park	Sunday, 16th September 11.00am
Committee Meeting	Lower School Thursday, 4th October 8.00pm
"50's" Get-together	Enfield October Shelly Arnold
Deadline for registered members to record their votes for the AGM	October 15th
AGM	Lower School Thursday, 18th October 8.00pm
ESA AGM	Lower School Thursday, 18th October 8.00pm

Lunch Get-together	Whitewebbs Park Thursday, 25th October 12.30pm on wk commencing Monday, 22nd October
Half Term	
Autumn Term ends	Friday, 21st December
Deadline for contributions to the Winter Newsletter	October 31st

ESA Auction of Promises	Lower School Saturday, 17th November 7.00pm
Autumn Term ends	Friday, 21st December
Magic Circle Visit	proposed for Spring, 2002
Annual Dinner 2002	David Lloyd Centre, Carterhatch Lane, Halfway House, Enfield Saturday, 2nd March 7 for 7.30pm

know people want to arrange get-togethers, so it is in your own interest to help us to trace old scholars and ex-staff.

Meanwhile the social calendar continues to expand slowly but surely - attendance at each function is not overwhelming but most come back again so we must assume that they approve. Individual events do not take a great deal of effort to organise, so it would be nice to see people set up meetings in their own part of the country. There are several areas where we are well represented already and if our contact database takes off, who knows where we could end up? Of course the next thing to do is to persuade your contacts to actually join the Association! We are very hopeful that it will not be too long before our Website is operational - this could prove the catalyst needed to

kickstart more activity.

We have already thanked John Kerridge elsewhere for his contribution to the Association, however I must make special mention of his role as Treasurer and assistant to Beryl when she gathered together the small band which kept us afloat for so many years. Although John has finally relinquished the money, he intends to help ensure that the newsletter continues to reach the membership. We are in his debt.

'Overlooking the Obvious' or 'Ever-decreasing Circles' being a not so imaginary conversation between "A Member" and your committee..

A Database of Old Scholars? What a good idea! I'd love to contact old so-and-so and thingy ! Can you tell me where they are? - What do you mean

you can't ? Someone MUST have told you where they are! It wouldn't take much for people to let you know friends they've kept in touch with. I mean I still see Fred and Jim every so often - and I exchange Christmas Cards with Tom, Dick and Mabel - and I know she's in contact with Jemima. Of course you knew that didn't you? - What? You didn't? What do you mean "How could you?" - I knew, so I thought one of them must have told you! - So why haven't I, then ? Well I didn't think to - and I don't get a lot of time these days - but I promise I'll send their details soon - but meanwhile could you send me the addresses of so-and-so and thingy? What do you mean you can't ? (go back to line 5 and go round again).

A Big 'Thank You' from Eric

I would like to thank all of you who, by email, post or collective verbal messages, sent me your best wishes during my recent hospital stay. The time has been a little like an episode from a 'Carry On' film.

I went to hospital for a mornings out patient treatment and managed to escape four weeks later! The only saving grace was that they carried out many tests and discovered another problem, which can be treated. I had always thought that there was more than one thing wrong and they finally proved it.

They also kindly gave me a gift of drug induced gout. I then went home for about ten days and returned for a week, to have the original treatment carried out. This has been successful, so far. From this visit they sent me home with a severe urinal infection which gave me extremely high temperatures and required a week of a strong antibiotic and a further week to get over it. I hope that I will now be able to regain my strength and start living life once more. All the best to you all. Eric

Please reserveplaces for me at the Annual Dinner, to be held at the David Lloyd Centre, Carterhatch Lane, near Halfway House, Enfield on Saturday, 2nd March, 2001 at 7 for 7.30pm.

First Name(s).....Surname.....Nee.....

Address..... Telephone No.....

.....Fax.....

Years at School..19.....to 19..... e-mail.....

I will forward a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to ECSOSA before 31st January, 2002.

together with the full names of my guests.

Pre-booked tickets held at 1999 price of £21 each.

Please return this form and then the appropriate payment to

Frank M Wallder, 6a Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts., EN11 0RH Tel / Fax 01992 470316