



ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003

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School Old Scholars Association



Passing on the spirit of the County

The article by Miss Fothergill reprinted in the last newsletter refers to Louie Ims (page 3) " who is now (1969) Headmistress of a Coventry Comprehensive School." Small world - because the current Head of that comprehensive School , Lyng Hall , is also an old scholar....me! Miss Ims is still talked about.

It's my second headship. I was head of Holloway School in north London for 9 years and have been head of Lyng Hall for nearly 6 years. I had no idea that Miss Ims and I shared a school background. **Paul Smith (58 - 69)**

The Early Days

I was especially pleased to read the newsletter this time because there were so many references to old scholars I knew and to events I experienced. For example, I believe Grace Cleaver was in the same years as I and one Easter holiday before the Matric exams she had in her father's shop a collection of fellow students - weak at Maths, to receive special revision by one Devonshire who had volunteered to give us instruction. I was also reminded of the extraordinary triumph when we beat Latymer. The score was 5 - 3. I was captain and scored 2 of the goals. The team was an

exceptional one beating all the other county schools often with double figure scores! Outstanding members of the team I remember are - Harold Pluck, Phyl Oades, Munday Rattenberry and Bond (goal keeper). I hope you can read my writing, I am not at my best in my 89th year! **Roy Beadman**

We also had a letter from Bill, often known as Roy, Clark offering an alternative venue for our get-together on May, 15th. and with memories of Miss Fothergill. I am sure that our new Editor will find room for more reports of that era and an evacuation escapade from John Bradbury Williams.

Obituaries

Joan Catherine Henderson 1944-63.

Joan was born in London on 14th October 1915. In 1937 she took an Honours degree in History from University College, London, and in 1938 a London Teachers' Diploma from Maria Grey Training College. From January 1939 to Easter 1943 she was in charge of History at Eckington County School, Derbyshire: from Easter 1943 to August 1944 she was in charge of History at Penzance High School for Girls. She went to Edmonton County in September 1944 and stayed there till August 1963; she was Head of History from 1946 until she left the school. After that she taught at Wembley County

Last Minute Bookings for the Dinner - Telephone Frank Wallder 01920 470316

Grammar School and at Preston Manor. As well as teaching she continued with historical research, contributing to both the History of Parliament and the Dictionary of National Biography. Her chief research was on Robert Beale, clerk of the council to Elizabeth I. For many years she was a stalwart of the Institute of Historical Research and of its seminars. In the tea room she would give sympathy and advice to young scholars and teachers, and I am particularly grateful for that.

On her retirement from teaching in the 1970s she continued with research, though she also had other interests. She continued to enjoy the theatre and art exhibitions, and fine days would find her in her beloved Kew Gardens. Above all, she enjoyed her friendships, and loved to come to dinner and enjoy conversation round the table.

Maria Dowling

Miss Henderson was at Edmonton County when I arrived in September 1953. The first History lessons were inevitably on the story of Early Man (as it was inaccurately labelled in those days) I knew, in those early weeks at school, when new school uniforms were



There was a big response to the picture of the Prefects in our last edition. Several members still have a copy of the July 1949 School Magazine and others remembered their surnames, Bruce Goddard knew almost all of the Christian names but only Brian Root knew every one. (see box on the back page). Bryn has put his prize up for auction - so far the best offer is that he has to pay someone £7.10s.0d (and that's to Pat Wilkinson!) He suggests a packet of polos as an alternative. Lets see what response and information this photo brings forth.

still too large and ill-fitting, that I loved the subject of History and that I was inspired by the enthusiasm of my History Teacher. I went home one evening very soon after and announced to my bemused parents that I was going to go to University and study History. It was because of Miss Henderson's wonderful teaching that I eventually did so. Miss Henderson was an extraordinary woman. She won the respect of the students she taught. She quickly established who was boss in the classroom and I don't remember that ever being challenged. She came into the classroom, holding before her a huge pile of notes written in her small neat handwriting. Then a marvellous lesson would begin. What we didn't realise as school children was that Miss Henderson was a scholar of some repute. Her passion was the Elizabethan period. She studied the Elizabethan Parliaments, firstly under the auspices of Professor Neale, for the whole of her life. In her retirement, Miss Henderson went nearly every day to study at the Institute of Historical Research. The pupils of Edmonton County certainly benefited from the breadth and depth of her historical knowledge.

It is not easy to assess the impact a teacher can make. There is often no feedback. Who knows, as a teacher, whether you have made a difference to pupils lives. Sir Roy Strong (writer, museum curator and expert on Elizabethan portraiture) chose Miss Henderson as the teacher who had had the most impact on him in an article for the Times Educational Supplement some years ago. I am sure she transmitted a love of History to many people. I shall miss my Christmas letters from Miss Henderson. This year I returned from this Christmas holiday with my son and his family, to find instead a letter telling me of her death. There were nine Old Scholars at St Mary's College Chapel, Strawberry Hill, for her Memorial Service on 9th January, including Sir Roy Strong and Lord Tebbitt. So at the celebration of her Life, there were people from Edmonton County to remember her.

Sylvia Collicott (1953-1960)

Albert Belverstone 1927-1933

I write to inform you of the death of my father, Albert Belverstone, on 11th November last, the day before his 86th birthday. He had been ill for a considerable time; the end came quickly as his condition deteriorated dramatically in

the final week.

Dad entered the County in 1927 and was, I think, one of the first to be in the "new" building on the Cambridge Road. He was following in the footsteps of his brother Leslie who was eight years his senior. My turn to attend the school came in 1957.

He looked back on his school years with some affection and particularly enjoyed the fact that some of his teachers were still at the school in my time. In particular Sam Eलगorn taught us both. On one occasion, when attending a parents' evening during my school years, Dad took in his own Report Book to show Sam what he had written in it. I suspect that they spent more time reminiscing than talking about me.

Dad left school having achieved the School Certificate and joined a mining finance house, Selection Trust Ltd., in the City and, apart from his war service, was employed by them for his entire working life. He retired in 1976 and lived with my mother, who survives him, in Epping. **Tony Belverstone**

School News

Reflections on the Technology Bid

The beginning of October seemed to come around very quickly as the completion date for the school's Technology Bid. There was a real sense of relief as the regulation five copies of the final document were dispatched to the DfES for their scrutiny. We wondered how our plans would be interpreted? We were full of optimism that the ideas put forward for both our school, our associated schools and the local community, contained some exciting ideas.

It was with some relief, tinged with trepidation, that we were advised by the DfES of a visit in November from one of their team of inspectors to assess our bid and us. He duly arrived on 20th November and spent time going through the finer points of our plan with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. He then went on a whistle stop tour of both sites with Mr Tate and finally met up with the Heads of Departments from ICT, Mathematics, Science and Technology over a working lunch. This final meeting was encouraging, as the set questions that the inspector asked all seemed to have been covered by the documentation of the bid and he was complimentary about the work already undertaken by the school. He would not be drawn on whether we would be successful with our application although all the comments were very positive.

There is nothing more than we can do but to wait! Will we be successful in our bid

to gain Technology status? The funding that will come to the school should benefit us all as it is worth some £240,000 a year for four years. It could see an improvement in the ICT provision, interactive white boards in many departments, the opportunity to fund catch-up cases and expand the Summer School. It may make it possible to bring in outside specialists to help students with their work and allow greater contact with local industry and commerce. It will see a refurbishment of both the Textiles and Food Technology Rooms on the upper site: planned for some while but awaiting suitable funding.

Bob Dunlop, Technology Co-Ordinator & Head of CDT

Recognising Service to the Association

The response of our nominations for Vice-Presidents has been very gratifying, producing some interesting memories and news of people without whom there would be no ECSOSA. **Jack Long** rang in and was delighted to be nominated. He supported the sentiments of John Hulley and, although frail, the old Jack spirit shone through our conversation.

Highlights of the rest follow:

The idea to appoint vice-presidents in recognition of those who gave much of their time in the past to the OSA is very commendable and your suggestion that I should be included in the nominees is much appreciated. **Raymond Tabor** Many thanks for your letter offering to nominate us. We are both privileged to be asked and delighted to have our names included. **Dennis & Jean Patten** Thank you for your nomination which I would be honoured to accept if elected. Regarding nominating other old scholars, I find this difficult, not only because my memory is poor, but also because so few members were interested in the Association. Ninety nine per cent were only interested in their section ie, football, cricket etc. As you know my ex-wife had a genuine interest in the Thespians, fund raising and all the OSA interests that I was involved in, ie, football, cricket, club house, magazine, newsletter etc. If you recall the OSA committee used to meet at our house. Linda Wickert and Denis Patten were on the committee during that period. **Brian Root** Thank you for inviting me to be nominated as a Vice President of the Association at the next AGM. I am very honoured and would be delighted to accept. I can't be sure how long I was on the Committee but I know that I joined fairly soon after leaving School and I think I may have stayed until I moved to Surrey in 1975. I have such a lot of memories of the various events we used to organise, especially

Chairman's Report

To recognise their various contributions to the Association, we have put forward forward members to join Eric as Vice-Presidents. Excerpts from their responses are printed elsewhere. If there are any that you feel should be added to the list, please write to me or Eric.

I think it would also be nice to find a way to remember others who kept ECSOSA going in the early days who are no longer with us. Sid Perry was of course the giant but others who spring to mind include Fred Norbury, Alf Gant, Doris Chalmers, Bert Smith, Graham Briggs, Connie Cook and there must be more that you could suggest. We cannot use the term "Roll of Honour" as that is forever associated with those ex-pupils who gave their lives in WWII - any other ideas?

Our social calendar continues to blossom. The final Whitewebbs of last season was the best yet - now we look forward to the coming year. For those of you in the south who find that too far to travel, we are launching a new venue in your area on May 15th and will be pleased to help set up meetings in other areas - we have old scholars in all parts of the country (and the world). Even the Dinner seems to have found a new lease of life, perhaps due to the new venue. We have now arranged with the school to archive and catalogue old records, photos magazines, etc. - my thanks to Maureen Bealby who has volunteered to take on the initial appraisal and hopefully more. The amount of material we have found so far is disappointing, we may need your help in augmenting it - watch this space!

Last but not least, my thanks to Janet Mills (nee Cross) who takes over from me as Editor for the next edition of the newsletter - thank you to all who have sent letters, emails and photos, please keep up the good work and send Janet plenty of material. **F.W.**

the Annual Dinner and Dance at 'Pearsons' in Enfield. It was always very formal - evening dress, a professional Toastmaster and a live band. We also used to organise an annual Christmas Party for members' children, and a couple of Summer Fetes on the School field. There were other activities too but they will probably be all listed in the old 'Minutes' books. I can't really think of anyone else for nomination as many of the people I worked with were much older than me and may not be still with us - Sid Perry, Ray Tabor, Fred Norbury are some I remember. The later ones were when you

were involved - 'The Roots', Beryl Dewhurst (of course) - even John was Treasurer for a couple of years before we moved. I think Jean and Denis Patten were on the Committee at one time. I look forward to seeing you at the Dinner.

Val Challiss (nee Dunn)

Thank you for your thoughtful suggestion - of course I would be honoured to be nominated. Sadly my vices and virtues are limited at the moment as I have just returned from hospital with a new knee - and it's a bit painful! By about March I should be much more mobile and painless so I'd be pleased to see you at Whitewebbs etc. Ann was amazed to see her picture on the front of the Autumn/Winter 2002 edition with Joyce Brazell (nee Skinner) - with whom we stayed in Dawlish just a couple of months ago. **Ralph Christmas.**

Firstly, I would be delighted to be nominated as a Vice-President of the Edmonton County Old Scholars Association. I must say that it was a great pleasure to be able to help the Association in the past. Having moved away from the area some thirty years ago I look forward to receiving the Newsletter. I think my wife June, likes to read it as much as I do, even though she was not brought up in the area. In the early years of our marriage she played badminton at the school, supported the old Eds football and attended a few of the dinners. In fact, I celebrated my 70th birthday on the 29th and Alf Tester, an old Ed who now lives in Woodley, near Reading, came over to the party. I still regularly see Merl Young, who was in my year. We meet every 6 - 8 weeks in Liverpool Street for a pie and a pint. I also hear from Denis Patten and Ralph Weston.

Unfortunately, I have had Parkinson's Disease for the past ten years or so and although I drive around locally I do not drive any great distances. June hates to drive in London and so our visits to the area have been curtailed. However, if anyone is ever down this neck of the woods I would always be pleased to see them. We are hoping to move sometime this year but I will, of course, let you have the new address as, if or when it happens! I am hoping to play a little golf when the weather improves - it has been rather cold and wet recently and the snow hasn't helped either. **Peter Sutton**

I was quite surprised and flattered to be nominated - the days of Thespians, summer fetes and fund raising seem a life time away. I keep abreast of old scholars news via the newsletter, unfortunately there is little mention of many of my old classmates. Brian and I still see each other regularly - we have two gorgeous grand-

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views and chat
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children courtesy of our oldest daughter Helen, who is married to one of my stepsons - thus I am both my daughter's and stepson's mother-in-law! **Chris Humber (nee Jolly and later Root)**

As I have not seen anyone for some time I enclose a quick resume of my life after ECS. I left in 1954 having started in 1947 and worked in the library at Edmonton transferring later to Islington and then Thurrock. In 1967 I left local government and worked for Thomas R Miller and Son as a librarian and then various jobs ending as Office Manager in 1960. This was my first early retirement. I then joined the Prudential for 6 years when I again retired at 60 only to join the United Friendly retiring again at 65. So I kept busy. I have also worked for Kent County Cricket Club for 12 years as a steward. I married my first wife in July 1961 and have 2 children. She died in 1969. I became treasurer of the League of Friends for our local hospital in 1996, met and then married the Secretary - Maureen. Between us we have 8 grand children so are kept fairly busy.

I was also secretary for the Folkestone of the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs for 20 years and a qualified umpire for both cricket and hockey. Unfortunately I was taken ill in June this year and rushed to Ashford Hospital later transferred to Canterbury. I have complete renal failure and will be on dialysis for life unless I get a transplant. **Bernard Brown**

Thinking back over so many the years, my memories of our early committee meetings are almost lost in the mists of time, but I well remember how Sid Perry and I went together to the old Edmonton Town Hall to discuss a suitable site for the club house with the Borough Surveyor. I can even recall that it was my suggestion that the Head Boy and Head Girl should be invited to our Annual Dinner, and I was so determined about it that I funded their tickets for the first year. I have a feeling, too, that you attended in such a capacity and either proposed or replied to one of the toasts - or is my memory playing me false?

Edward G Lawrence. *No its not, Ted but I did n't know that you paid for my ticket when the committee nominated you , honest, cross my heart, etc, etc. I was sorry to learn from Val Challiss that my partner for the evening, Head Girl Christine Petty died a few years ago.*

Diary Dates 2003		Half Term	week commencing Monday, 26th May
Annual Dinner 2003	Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Lane, Potters Bar.	Committee Meeting	Lower School Thursday, 5th June 7.45pm
	Saturday, 15th March 7 for 7.30pm	Evening Get-together	Whitewebbs Park Thursday, 19th June 7.30pm on
Lunch Get-together	Whitewebbs Park Thursday, 10th April 12.30pm on	Summer Term ends	Tuesday, 22nd July
Spring Term ends	Friday, 11th April	Autumn Term starts	Monday, 1st September
Summer Term starts	Monday, 28th April	Day Out	Duxford Museum Sunday, 14th September 11.00am
Lunch Get-together	Crown Point Inn, Sevenoaks (A25) Thursday, 15th May 12.30pm on	Lunch Get-together	Whitewebbs Park Thursday, 9th October 12.30pm on

Looking back from 'old age' it certainly seems hard work doing what we did for the good of the Association. I still remember a Sunday in 1964 when we were clearing up the school field after a Saturday afternoon fete. I thought we would never find the last piece of litter - we had promised the Council that we would leave the place tidy!! **Ken Shaw**. I am indeed honoured to be put forward for election as a Vice-President of the ECSOSA. I consider myself to have been singularly fortunate to have spent twenty one years of my career working in the school where I was a pupil and I look back on them with much nostalgia. In my time I had a string of deputies who contributed enormously to the development of the school. One who is still there and who, I believe, has dedicated his whole career to the school is, of course, Huw Prosser. All who have known Huw would want to see him honoured. I would also suggest the name of a lady who retired some years ago and who worked indefatigably to keep us on the straight and narrow - Joan Ward.

John Hulley.

We are still looking for

Mrs Knightley nee Halls 1973-80,
Mrs Greenaway nee Cawley 1930-35
and Vic Lucas 1955-62,
all members who have moved without giving a forwarding address.

Can anyone help?

Prefects Puzzle.

The names of the Prefects featured in the last edition were -
Back Row: Beryl Levett, Derek Ball, Mary Gifford, Brian Swanton, Beryl Taylor, David Osen, Peggy Sutton, Bruce Goddard, Jean Corbidge, Ron Perrin. Front Row: Eric Wilkinson, Ann Langdon, Peter Lilley, Joyce Skinner, Reg Bayley, Helen Klein, John Ramsay, Joyce Newman, Denis Ardouin, Pat Hudson. The photo appeared in the July, 1949 edition of the "Edmonton County School Chronicle".

The following is an extract from the editorial - note the price and also the powers of prophesy of Brian Swanton. "Unfortunately rising costs have forced us once more to raise the price of our magazine, but we do not think the extra threepence (*to 1/-3d - 6p!*) is liable to cause too great a financial strain. We hope you will agree that it is worth doing without just one 'highly coloured beverage', in order to ensure that we can still have a yearly magazine. So another year has passed in the life of this school and we hope that some of its many aspects have been recorded in this number of the magazine. If in some future years this should recall some incident you had forgotten and evoke some happy memories - then we will have been successful. Brian R Swanton".

Did you spot the deliberate mistake?

Our first Lunch Get-together for those of you "in the south", eg. Kent, Sussex and Surrey will be held at the Crown Point Inn, Sevenoaks on Thursday, 15th May, NOT the 5th May which is Bank Holiday Monday. The menu and venue is very similar to Whitewebbs, which has proved increasingly popular. It is also a Brewers Fayre and is situated about 4 miles from Junction 3 of the M20 on the right of the A25 going west or 4 miles from Junction 5 of the M25 on the left of the A25 going east. Why not arrange to meet up with friends and be pleasantly surprised at who else turns up? Meet from 12.30pm on in the restaurant and look for a copy of this newsletter on the table. See you there!

and finally

This is the last edition to be edited by Frank Wallder. Please send any response, letters, photos, etc. to our new editor, Janet Mills (nee Cross) 278, Westhorpe Road, Gosberton, Spalding, Lincs., PE11 4EP Tel. 01775 841320 - janmills@beeb.net Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individual contributors and are published in the interests of information and debate. ECSOSA itself holds no collective opinions.

Please reserveplaces at £21 each for me at the Annual Dinner, to be held at the Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Road, Potters Bar on Saturday, 15th March, 2003 at 7 for 7.30pm.

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

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

.....Fax.....

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

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to ECSOSA .

My guests are (full names please).....

Please return this form with the appropriate payment to

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