



ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER
Summer 2003
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School Old Scholars Association.



Early Days

I arrived at Edmonton County School in December 1933 at the age of 14 on account of my father's move to a new appointment from Ewell in Surrey to Bush Hill Park. Having already taken my Oxford Junior certificate earlier in 1933, I was placed in Form 5 and passed my matric. The following summer after my 15th birthday. I then went into the Sixth Arts form (only 4 of us at that time) and was awarded an open Exhibition in Modern History at Emmanuel College, Cambridge in December 1936, taking the London University Intermediate B.A. in the summer of 1937. I went up to Cambridge in October 1937 to read History and later Theology, I was most interested to read Miss Fothergill's reminiscences in the Autumn/Winter newsletter, 2002. I was an appalling mathematician and she just managed to get me through my maths in London matric. The staff was a very distinguished body, as Lord Tebbitt (another old scholar) has recorded in his autobiography (Upwardly Mobile). Miss Rudwick had a great influence over me – she taught both history and Latin. In those days, if one was going to take an Arts degree, one had to matriculate in Latin before, and she succeeded in getting me through Latin matric. in 9 months (a pretty formidable gestatory period!)

She was a lady of high culture and

she endowed my suburban mind with a metropolitan, European dimension, for which I shall be eternally grateful. There were others too, on the staff in my time, to whom I owe much – Mr. Richman, who taught me ancient, as well as modern history – a sturdy, typically English, dissenting patriot: Mr. Elengorn and Miss Staples, who gave me a life-long interest in French literature. Doctor Rogers, who introduced me to Jane Austen and that whole transitional period between Augustan and Romantic English literature, which has given me a lifetime of delight.

I valued my five subsequent years at Cambridge, but I can honestly say that my four years at Edmonton County School under the discipline of highly responsible and cultivated teachers was the really formative time of my life.

Canon Donald Bradley. 1933-37

Roy Beadman

I was thrilled to read in the last ECSOSA newsletter, a letter from Roy Beadman. He and I must be the only survivors of the 1924-29 crowd! Indeed, I thought I was the only one! (*Not quite! Ed*)

Olive Hedley Smith

It was wonderful for me to hear (Spring 2003) from Roy Beadman who is 89 years old, as I remember him well and two of his younger brothers, Arthur and Edgar.

Arthur, who was two years younger than Roy was in my year. He became an RAF pilot and sadly was killed during the war. Edgar, a few years younger still, was quite dashing, as I recall, but then all the Beadman brothers (4 altogether went through our school) were all good looking and very popular with the girls.

My school friend, Phyllis Cole (Freeman) who, like me is 87 years old, recently unearthed four very old and faded snapshots which to Phyl and me are treasures.



The first is Miss Fothergill by herself. She was everybody's favourite and helped coach the school hockey team of which I was the captain. When I returned to Edmonton in 1936 to take up a

teaching post I joined the Old Scholars hockey team, and there was Miss Fothergill, still supporting us.

We kept in touch on and off over the years. I last saw her (in the 70's I think) when my husband and I called in on her in her sheltered accommodation in Yorkshire. We all went out to lunch together in the best hotel in the district. It was great!

The second is the group of girls who went on the girls only trip to Belgium in 1930. Phyl is in the back row, right hand end and I am in the middle of the front row in a light coloured coat.

The third is our teachers. Miss Gatehouse (Headmistress), Miss Capewell (Geography) and Miss Fothergill (Maths.)

They are having their muddy shoes cleaned by local women in Namur. I don't suppose Roy will remember me, though he might if he can recall the school Shakespearian production of 'The Taming of the Shrew' 1931 and the Merchant of

in both plays.

Finally – yes Ted Richards, I must be the Ethel Norton your cousin Hilda Richards knew at a gym class in the St. Alphege's Hall. I



belonged to the church there from childhood until I was evacuated with my class in 1939, and was always up the front where there was PE or sport Best Wishes, **Norrie Kemp (nee Ethel Norton)**

More of the Early Days

I read with interest Roy Beadman's letter. Grace Cleaver, Philip Oades and myself all started our education at the age of 5 years, at a private school, which was held at St. Martin's Church Hall, Edmonton, for which our parents

in those days as Grace Whillock) AlfWhillock for a 'trim up and short back and sides' haircut for 6d (l.s.d.)

September 1925 saw us three altogether in Form 2a under Miss Gatehouse at the County. Philip in Shaftesbury House (St. Patrick) and myself in Bruce House (St. George). Philip became the School's fast bowler in the 1st X1 at Cricket and I became Captain of the 3rd X1. Grace, meanwhile, became one of the stars of the girls' school's hockey team. In 1927, the houses were prefaced by a Saint's name, and I think it was in 1928 or maybe it was 1929 St. George and St. Patrick met at cricket. In one over, Phil's first ball hit me over the heart and made me briefly unconscious. When I had recovered, I hit Phil for 3 sixes and 2 boundaries, an unforgettable over, producing 26 runs and a victory for St. George.

This brief trip down memory lane would not be complete without mentioning an episode which took place during the school trip to Boulogne in 1928. A party of us were exploring a superstore when one of us found exploding corks, which he bought. After a certain amount of discussion, it was finally decided to place three corks on the tram lines to see the effects. I think it was Roy Beadman, in fact, who actually placed the corks on the tramway, although I could be mistaken, in which event, please accept my apologies, Roy.

Anyway, what none of us realised was that the building facing the area where the corks had been placed, was the local gendarmerie. When the gendarmes came out of the building, after the corks had exploded brandishing their revolvers, you can be sure that we did not wait upon a command of retreat.



Venice 1932, as I was lucky enough to have the great privilege and joy of playing the leading lady

paid 1/3d (about 5 new pence), per week, in 1919. I used to go to Grace's stepfather (she was known

Are there any other survivors from the intake 1925 – 1930 still existent, as I would dearly like to hear from you, particularly Jimmy Gordon and Cyril Rattenbury. Incidentally, Roy mentions Munday Rattenbury, is this the deliberate mistake? **Ted Richards 1925-30**

Staff Photograph

Last Issue

Ted Lawrence writes: I recognised the staff photograph on the front page and the fact that it was taken to mark the retirement of Mr. North as Headmaster at the end of the Summer Term 1943, when I was in the fifth form.

I think I can name everybody in the picture correctly, so here goes:

BACK ROW (L to R) Mr. Leeming, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Locke, Mr. Comber, Dr. Rogers, Mr. Pretty, Mr. Akhurst, Mr. Mason, Dr. Galin, Miss Staples. FRONT ROW (L to R) Miss Rudwick, Miss Hadler, Miss Ashworth, Miss Emery, Miss Capewell, Mr. North, Mr. Quartermaine, Miss Fothergill, Miss Drummond, Miss Nix, Miss Horrex (School Secretary)

Kindest regards – **Ted Lawrence**
(There were quite a few replies to this picture, but Ted's was the most complete. I don't know what the prize (if any) might be, as I am new to this game, but in my wartime school days it would have been a food parcel!! Ed.)

ECSOSA Database

Jackie Robinson, (nee Rowley) who is editing the ECSOSA database has asked me to print her E-mail address so that anyone with changes of address or information

can inform her. Her address is Steiffyok@aol.com

Change of Address

Brian West and Pamela (nee Goodman) have now moved from Maidstone to "Woodstock" 2 Meadow Road, Dunston, Lincoln. LN4 2EF

Art Exhibition

Derek Tamea (1940-46) is a portrait photographer and has two exhibitions which travel the country. The next hanging is at Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery from June 8th until July 4th. Entitled "Brief Encounters", it is a collection of almost 100 colour photographs of 'the rich, the famous and the (frankly) very interesting' His web site will tell you more (www.derektamea.com) He would like to see any of the ECS folk there and it is handy for anyone living in South London, Kent, Sussex and Surrey (or anywhere in this day and age)

On the opening Saturday, there is a private view from 2 – 4 but anyone wishing to come to that, please go into the website and e-mail me on the connection there. **Derek Tamea.**

1958 –1965.

Carole Durose (nee Levinsohn) writes to ask for news of people who were at ECS between 1958 and 1965. She is living in Newcastle on Tyne and unable to come to ECSOSA events but would love to have some contact with her contemporaries.

School News

The Edmonton County is now a specialist Technology School. The bid to become such has been successful. The official announcement was made on 10th February and we will begin working on our plan from September this year.

Technology status will considerably enhance the resources in the school. This means new courses can be offered into the curriculum and better meet the needs and ambitions of the students. Our commitment, through the plan, lasts for four years, initially, During this time we will receive additional funds into the school budget that will support developments in Technology, Science, Mathematics and ICT.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It seems strange writing my report and not knowing where it is going to end up in the Newsletter – a very welcome development. I trust that you will give our new Editor the support enjoyed by me for the last three years and Eric previously. My extra time has gone towards archiving some of the material held at the School with the invaluable assistance of Maureen Bealby. Among the gems are a copy of the original (and unofficial) first ever School Magazine, staff records from the earliest days and a host of photographs. I am pleased to say we have found more School Magazines than we at first suspected. However, there is a paucity of Speech Day programmes, Stag magazines, programmes of Sports events and

Diary Dates 2003

Half Term

Committee Meeting

Evening Get-together

Summer Term Ends

Autumn Term Starts

Day Out

Lunch Get-together

A.G.M.

Week Commencing Monday 26th May

Lower School, Thursday, 5th June,

Whitewebbs Park, Thursday 19th June

Tuesday 22nd July

Monday 1st September

Duxford Museum, Sunday 14th September

Whitewebbs Park, Thursday 9th October

Lower School, Thursday 16th October

7.45 p.m.

7.30 p.m. On

11.00 a.m.

12.30 p.m. On

Drama.

As we compile the records we will be able to identify the gaps and then to appeal for your help in filling them. Meanwhile, if you do come across anything relevant to the School or Association, please put it in a safe place to ensure it is not lost to posterity.

We should be in a position to go through the Magazines and photographs in more detail by the Autumn. This should be an interesting task, so if anyone wishes to join us on the second Wednesday of the month at the School, please contact me for more details. We may also be in a position to auction off duplications to augment School Funds – watch this space! Our social calendar continues to be successful. Our two Joint-Presidents were at the Dinner this year. The new venue was an improvement and hopefully we have turned the corner with this, our oldest established function. Whitewebbs goes from strength to strength with average attendance around the forty mark. Our first venture south of the River attracted 23 people, which is very promising for the first time at this venue.

If you have any ideas or requests

for new activities, please let me know. The Association is here to help you set them up with advice, publicity and even, if required, financial support. **Frank Wallder**

Please note new address:

12 Bray Lodge, High Street,
Cheshunt, Waltham Cross,
Herts. EN8 ODN

Tel: 01992 636164

Mobile: 07985 013032

AGM. This year we are putting forward several members for election as Vice Presidents. If you have any other nominations or any propositions or motions that you would like considered at the Annual General Meeting, these must be forwarded to the Chairman by 31st July.



Found Amongst Miss Henderson's Effects

The picture above was sent by Beryl Cushion (nee Levett) and was found by Miss Henderson's friend Maria Dowling. Beryl thinks it dates around 1952-3. Can anyone verify this and identify them all?

Please send all contributions for inclusion in the Newsletter to:
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