



ECSOSA

NEWSLETTER
Christmas 2003
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Old Scholars Association



A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To All



FOLLOWING on from Peter Mansell's obituary to Ronald Rush in the last issue, comes another from Raymond Tabor on the same subject.

Raymond writes: A few days ago, Jean and I received a letter from Ron Rush's eldest daughter, saying that he had died on 24th May. She enclosed a copy of the funeral service sheet on which it was mentioned that he was an O.B.E. This was news to us so it seems he was very modest about the honour. Although he and I were contemporaries at the Edmonton County, it was as members of the re-formed post war Thespian Dramatic Society that we became friends and have exchanged Christmas cards ever since. Although some years ago now, we are happy to look back on an enjoyable day with Ron and Judy when Jean and I were staying at Henley in our caravan. We were all much more mobile then.

During his time with the Thespians, Ron played some impressive leading roles. Old Scholars and friends will remember his acting range in the following; "The Happiest Days of your Life", "Blithe Spirit", "The Gioconda Smile" and "The Man Who Came To Dinner". In her letter, Ron's daughter referred to her father as a man of many facets. This I can appreciate, having had discussions on his philosophy of life, in the early hours during 'after the show' parties!

He did not talk a lot about his business career but we know he held a senior post with The Nestle Company at the time of his retirement.

Raymond Tabor

James Batchelor writes:

I hope you will be able to include something about the enclosed 'Missing Persons' column which appeared in the Daily Mail. That paper may not be everyone's cup of tea (but we love doing the puzzles!)

I too, would love to be in contact with Peter Waller. After school days I lost touch with him as many of us do. I did meet him once out in Hertfordshire whilst visiting friends (The Illingworths) but since then, nothing. I guess our lives move on I'm sure there are many O.E.s who will remember Peter. Sadly other (with whom we 'mucked' around) don't seem to be O.E. members. I do hope that someone will fill in 'The Peter Waller Story' I wish there were more of my 'years' at the County who were members or kept in touch with the O.E.s. I have so



many happy memories of post school activities.

Wishing all members very best wishes.

James (Jim) Batchelor

(Jim, you didn't give me an address to send on any reply. You never know, there might be a sackful!!)

WEBSITE NEWS

Frank Wallder wrote regarding some points which have been raised about the Website: by Arthur Spencer whose letter appears on Page 2-. 'On the Newsletter format, you may be surprised to learn that whilst we print almost 350 Newsletters for normal distribution, only about 50 are sent electronically.

There are just over 160 old scholars registered on Friends Re-united, so even if there were no duplications (which there are) and every one wanted a copy E-mailed, the old fashioned printed format still holds sway.

The three column layout may be difficult to read on screen, but it is designed to be read as a full A4 page. This format gives much greater flexibility of layout and most believe is more visually interesting. Just compare it with some of the old newsletters when we did not have the technology available. We could quite easily produce a one or two column version especially for the screen but the layout alterations would be disruptive and I have to be convinced that they would be acceptable. I strongly suggest that you try printing out your copy.'

'With regard to FAQ's, you will be pleased to know that this matter is well in hand. However it is so very easy to say "I am sure that these could be compiled over time from old magazines and records." It is not so easy to find copies or the people to compile and sort the information. I set up a chronology and originally arranged with Martin Rainsford for access to all the old records; I also asked through this newsletter for volunteers in cataloguing and archiving the material.

Perhaps people who felt unable to offer to organise the job will feel able to give assistance. Arrangements with Linda Robinson are well in hand. You may recall that Jacky Robinson took on the task of database manager last year and is steadily working her way through all the information we can throw at her. Once we can get the archives sorted, there will be even more information to work with.

Finally, just to correct the record. The school was never known as Edmonton Upper School. It became "Edmonton School" when it went comprehensive in 1967, merging with Rowantree Secondary School. The terms Upper and Lower refer only to the two sites and are not part of the actual name. After much fighting, the authorities finally agreed to officially revert back to "Edmonton County" sometime in the nineties, although it was still always known locally as the 'County' throughout that period. **F. Wallder**

JUST FOR FUN

I received some photos from a contemporary Old Scholar the other day and I must confess that I could not recognise anyone in them! I think we tend to visualise our O.S.'s as they were when we were young. It might be interesting if we put matters right and had a bit of fun at the same time. Why not have a "Then and Now"?

Rake out your archives and send me a picture of yourself during school years, and a fairly recent one. It doesn't matter if the old ones are a bit tatty or grainy, it's just for fun! I'll start the ball rolling with myself at 12 years old and a recent one. At least we might know who we are if we should meet each other!!

1945 – 1949



JAN MILLS nee Cross

From Rowland Smith

In the Summer Newsletter, I read the interesting letter from Ted Richards (1925-30) in which he included some details of his early school attendance at St. Martins Hall Private School. As my father also attended this school, I wrote to Ted sending a photo of the boys at the school, one of which was my father.

Ted sent me a very nice letter in reply and identified himself in the photo and also others who I know have had some connection with my family

Ted and his wife, Ellena, were visiting Bournemouth recently and my wife and I visited them at their hotel and had a very enjoyable "chinwag" during which I learnt more of the girls section of the school and of which I had no knowledge before Ted's original letter..



As my father had three sisters who would almost certainly have attended St. Martins Hall, I wonder if the Grace Cleaver Ted mentions, or any other County School girl, would have a photo of the girls at the school, taken around 1921, that I could borrow to copy and, of course, to return safely. By this means I could add more detail to my "family history" efforts.

Rowland Smith

20 Venator Place, Wimborne,
Dorset. BH21 1DQ.
Tel: 01202 889917

Responding to the Autumn newsletter 2003, I could say I can name ALL the prefects in the picture, but that would be cheating. In fact I have the magazine of July 1943 (incidentally price 6d. What a bargain) with the actual photo which gives all the names.

The names missing are:- F Howard (possibly Fred), then R. Fish, T. Perkins. Sitting:- Edna Marter (not Harris), Edna Wetherhilt (not Jean Pengeley) The rest as named.

I particularly remember Pat Johnson, as she was our First Form Prefect when I joined the school in 1942. She would listen to what we had to say and draw little pictures in our autograph books. My book unfortunately lost many years ago. This magazine also has a photo of Mr. North, which he signed for me. I have also kept the following year's magazine as it has a photo of that year's Prefects, which includes Les Kirby, whom I married in 1953.

We keep in touch with Ken and Joy Parker (nee Bickell) who now live in Australia and Thelma Briggs (nee Thomas), and have managed to all get together for a good chinwag..



Very nostalgic. Best wishes to everyone.

**Betty Kirby nee Brooker E.Mail:-
Betleskirby@bushinternet.com**

Arthur Spencer writes re the Web-site.

"I thought the information given was an excellent start and offer my congratulations for the achievement to date. One must start somewhere and I think that the basic information that one would look for is there, adding newsletters is an excellent idea and will be appreciated more and more in due course. Those comments of praise said, I make the following comments which I hope will be seen as constructive and perhaps might stimulate further thought and development.

Content: One of the questions which will surely crop up is 'Is XX a member, is there a list of members etc.' I know that data protection is a problem but perhaps E-mail to a source might be an avenue?

Links. Is ECSOSA a member of any of the old student websites? Perhaps link can be placed there to ours? Readership of a website is always a problem. One needs to have links with perhaps the school site, the other names for the County school in recent years such as Edmonton Upper School etc. Perhaps there are some sites relating to Edmonton history etc.

Newslette: I have no difficulty in reading the newsletter, zooming etc. I think that the newsletter presentation will have to be changed from the 3 column format to 2. It is cumbersome running up and down the

Application to join the Edmonton County School Old Scholars Association

First Name(s).....Surname.....
nee..... Telephone No.....
Address..... Fax.....
.....
Years at School.. 19.. To 19..... E.Mail.....
I enclose cheque/postal order for £.....made payable to ECSOSA.
How did you contact the Association – from School () through Newsletter () through Friend () through Reunion ()
Through Annual Dinner () otherPlease return this form with the appropriate paymentmade payableto ECSOSA to Eric Wilkinson, 108 Butchers Lane, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex.CO14 8UD, Tel 01255 677946, e-mail: Eric@wilkinsone.freeserve.co.uk
May we retain your details to pass on to any old scholars who may wish to contact you? Yes() No ()

Current Membership Rates: Annual £3.00, Joint Annual £4.00, Five years £12.50, Five years joint £16.50 Ten Years £22.50 Ten Years joint £30.00 Life £30.00 Joint Life £40.00



the columns. Perhaps the text should not be in columns at all? Most websites have FAQ's. I am sure these could be compiled over time from old magazines and records, such as: when was the school founded, when was the term County added? Numbers at the school. Etc. If old magazines were scanned and added to a database, and the ECSOSA magazine which existed at one time, many of the potential FAQ's might be fulfilled

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have to report a year of consolidation rather than growth. Our finances remain healthy, allowing us to recommend maintaining our subscription rates at the same level.

Socially, we have had mixed fortunes. Whitewebbs continues to provide popular meetings for more members than ever. Our first venture south of the river at Sevenoaks; was encouraging however both our second there and our Duxford outing failed to attract any members.

The new venue for the Annual dinner proved successful in every way except one – we hope that even this can be remedied in time for next year's event.

Requests for another Reunion have been taken on board and committee members are enthusiastic; the Head has given her agreement in principal. It is my job however to bring the cold touch of reality to the situation.

I remain aware of all the work and effort that went into the Millennium Reunion, that every single committee member sacrificed meetings and chats with their own friends on the day and that we are now older and fewer.

Personally therefore, I am not prepared to take part unless we receive sufficient genuine offers of help both in organising but especially on the day itself.

I have already put this point to the membership but as yet have not had any response whatsoever – if this remains the case, then as far as I am concerned, there will not be another reunion

I was extremely grateful to be able to hand over the reigns as Newsletter Editor to Jan Mills, who has already established her own individual style. We are planning to instigate procedures to ensure that teething troubles with 'official' announcements and the social diary are eliminated

Maureen Bealby has proved a tremendous asset in the task of setting up an archive of school records, programmes, magazines, etc. This should soon be on the Web-site. It should enable us to identify missing items and hopefully obtain copies from members. Eventually we plan to copy them electronically for site reference and direct access on the Web-

After many years of sterling service, Eric Wilkinson finds himself no longer able to devote so much time to ECSOSA. We need to find people to take over the tasks he undertakes for us – Membership Secretary, Website Coordinator and to produce the labels for our quarterly newsletter

Also I mention once again, in desperation and hope rather than expectation, we still need a secretary.

We have recruited several new members but some thirty members, recruited mainly at the millennium reunion have failed to renew their membership. Some members are having problems reaching the web-site

The following were elected as Vice-Presidents of the Association.

Bernard Brown, Valerie Challis (nee Dunn), Ralph Christmas, John Hulley, Christine Humble (nee Jolly), Edward Lawrence, Jack Long, Dennis Patten, Jean Patten (nee Wilson), Hugh Prosser, Martin Rainsford, Brian Root, Kenneth Shaw, Peter Sutton, Raymond Tabor, Joan Ward.



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, 20th March, 2004 at 7 for 7.30 p.m.

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

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

Fax.....

Years at School. 19.....to 19..... E-Mail.....

My guests are (full name please)

Please return this form with the appropriate payment made payable to ECSOSA to:

Frank M. Wallder, 12 Bray Lodge, High Street Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts., EN8 0DN Tel/Fax 01992 636164

DIARY DATES 2004



Spring Term Starts
 Visit to Cabinet War Rooms
 Committee Meeting, Lower School
 Archive Group Upper School
 Half Term

Week Commencing

Archive Group Upper School
 Annual Dinner 2004

Old Owens Pavilion,
 Coopers Lane, Potters Ba

Spring Term Ends
 Summer Term starts
 Lunch Get-together
 Archive Group
 Lunch get-together
 Half Term

Whitewebbs Park
 Upper School
 Crown Point Inn
 Week Commencing

Monday 5th January
 Thursday 8th January
 Thursday 15th January
 Wednesday 4th February
 Monday 16th February
 Wednesday 3rd March
 Saturday 20th March

11.00 a.m
 7.45 p.m.
 4.00 p.m.
 4.00 p.m.
 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Friday 2nd April
 Monday 19th April
 Thursday 22nd April
 Wednesday 3rd May
 Thursday 13th May
 Monday 31st May

12.30 p.m. on
 4.00 p.m.
 12.30 p.m



Directions

Whitewebbs Park (Brewers Fayre)

From Junction 25 of the M.25 towards Enfield on the A10. At the first traffic lights turn right into Bullsmoor Lane. At T-junction Turn right then after 50 yards follow left into Whitewebbs Road. The entrance is just past the King and Tinker. Inside the restaurant, go past the bar, turn left, straight on past the food counter, then look for a copy of the Newsletter.

Crown Point Inn, Sevenoaks - a Brewers Fayre and is situated about 4 miles going west from junction 3 of the M20 on the left of the A25 or 4 miles going east from junction 5 of the M25 on the right of the A25. Inside the restaurant, turn left past the bar, then look for a copy of the Newsletter.

Old Owens Pavilion, Coopers Road, Potters Bar. From Junction 24 of M25, take A1000 north into Potters Bar. Turn right at traffic lights into High Street (still A1000) past bus garage on left and look for B156 branching right at traffic lights signed Northaw and Cuffley. After leaving built up area (Chequers Pub on left) look for Old Owens Sports Ground entrance on left and drive up to Pavilion. If you come to Northaw Place or Well Road, you have passed the entrance

Website problems. As some people are apparently having difficulty in accessing the website, I have been asked to point out that you should use the Internet Explorer 'GO' line and NOT your ISP 'search' line. Type in the following and you should have success

[Http://www.ecsosa.co.uk](http://www.ecsosa.co.uk)

-My Christmas Present To You A SMILE !

According to a news report, a certain school recently was faced with a unique problem. A number of middle school girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips to the mirror, leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night, the maintenance man would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally, the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man.

She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night. To demonstrate how difficult it had been for him, the Head asked the maintenance man to demonstrate how he cleaned the mirrors. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it. Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror. There are teachers, and then there are educators.!

I would like to thank everybody who has been kind enough to write in with the various articles and news, not to mention the very kind words of encouragement to this 'new boy'. Please do keep writing and sending in your 'bits and pieces'. Without them, I shall have nothing to do and nothing to write about!

On behalf of all the Committee and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the **Compliments of the Season and that you all have a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year** (Remember to take plenty of water with it!)

Jan Mills



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