

ECSOSA



Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: <http://ecsosa.org.uk/>

NEWSLETTER Winter 2006

as Tiny Tim would say...

"GOD BLESS US EVERYONE"

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Another happy Reunion - Form 4A (1947 - 1952) by Bryn Root

A mini reunion for those pupils in Form 4A was hosted by Brian and Eve Armitage at their beautiful home in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire.

Brian had managed to contact Roy and Judy Head from Ipswich, Les and Betty (nee Jipps) Dean from Wellingborough, Northants, Colin and Ann Walker from Woolacombe, Devon, Eileen Ford (nee Ambridge) from Enfield and myself from Broadstairs, Kent. Unfortunately Ann was hospitalised the day before our reunion so Colin was unable to join us.

Brian and Eve were the perfect hosts, providing a superb lunch, tea and breakfast for their guests. Needless to say, we all recalled the old times, discovered what our classmates had achieved over the years and had a good laugh at old photographs. We all vowed that we would meet up again next year, hopefully with increased numbers.

We listed the names of those classmates we would love to meet up with again:-

Janet O'Rourke; Muriel Cole; Rhoda Beharier; Valerie Start; Jean Martin; Jean Pegrum; Barbara Levy; Pauline Tropp; Gina Keyes; Barbara Drumgold and Maureen Hooper.

Bill Goodchild; Raymond Tilley; Peter Landsdell; Derek Jay (now resident in Canada); Ken Wilkinson; Laurence Simpson; George Nelson and Alan Fox.

Graham South has recently been in touch with Brian and has expressed a wish to attend our next get-together.

If you are one of the above please get in touch with Brian Armitage (61 Park Lane, Broxbourne, Herts. EN10 7PQ. Tel: 01992 463500), or myself Brian 'Bryn' Root (15 Belvedere Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PF. Tel: 01843 604470). We can then include you and your partner in our second annual 4A reunion, to be arranged probably in September/October, 2007.

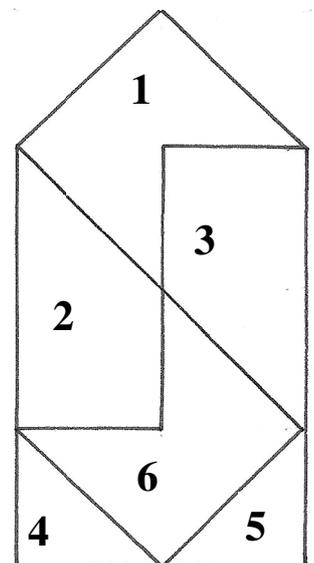
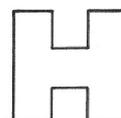
My advice to any old scholar interested in organising a similar reunion - don't leave it until you are 70 years old before attempting to trace your classmates!

Here is your Happy Christmas Puzzle



**First photocopy
the figure on the
right, then cut
along the lines
to give six pieces.**

**The object is now
to rearrange the
six sections to
form the letter H.**



OBITUARY



Mick Root (1945 - 1949)

Remembered by his brothers Derek and Brian ("Bryn")

Mick passed away peacefully on 22nd October 2006, having fought so bravely against cancer for the past two years.

Mick was at school from 1945 to 1949. He loved all outdoor sport and excelled at football and cricket. His contemporaries were Bob Morley, Maureen Bealby, Ted Robbins and "Curly" Ramsbotham.

Mick worked for the United Flexible Tubing Company in Ponders End for some years before moving on to Bonds, the sweet manufacturer. He became a Director and was responsible for the factory production. When the company was taken over Mick took early retirement.

Mick shared many happy retirement years with his wife Pam, his children David and Graham and their four grand-children. The whole family and all Mick's many friends will sorely miss such a kind, compassionate and generous person.



Pat Mattingley (nee Gibbins)...

A pupil of the War years - 1939-1944 (continued)

There were, of course, no school outings - the farthest I went was a walk with Mr. Comba to Whitewebbs and a visit to the Scala Theatre, where Donald Wolfit was doing his wicked Shylock bit in the Merchant of Venice - our GSC play that year.

There were no bananas throughout the war, and only 5" of bath water allowed. Helping our mothers queue up for food took endless time and effort.

By 1943 the raids during the day had become much less frequent, but it was in 1944, just before our exams, that the effects of the war were brought right into the classroom. On the 20th June 1944 the flying bombs, or doodle bugs, began to be launched against S.E. England and the London area in

vast numbers, so much so that we were in the school shelters nearly all day long. These attacks, unfortunately, coincided with the start of our GSC exams and all this disruption threw the local Education Authorities into a real panic as to how we were going to sit our exams. Fortunately they came up with a solution quickly. With parents' consent we were to be placed in the safest part of our schools. Our class was situated in the geography room, on the ground floor, and heavily protected.

We were to continue whether there was an air-raid or not, but were to listen to the whistle from the roof of the school where a few masters and a couple of 6th formers - I believe Ted Lawrence was one - were stationed to watch for the doodlebugs. Once these weapons had passed Alexandra Palace and became closer they would blow their whistles and we would then dive under our desks until the danger had passed. It was sheer chaos, but despite everything we managed to get through all our papers, and eventually pass!!

Mr. Locke was our form teacher in the last two years and was a very calming influence during those turbulent times.

When we eventually said our final goodbyes at the school gates in July most of us had been touched by the war in some way or another, and as we looked back at the school we wondered if our building would remain untouched by the end of the war. We should not have doubted this; of course it did, and still stands today, a happy reminder of the way we were.

Chairman's Report



We end the year on a sad note; I am sorry to report that Dennis Dewhurst has finally lost his 15 year battle against his degenerative disease. Dennis was always a tower of strength to Beryl throughout her many years of service to the Association and always supportive of our activities. John Kerridge and I attended his funeral on 24th November. Our thoughts are with Beryl and the family.

Whitbread have, in their wisdom, decided to change Whitewebbs from a Brewers Fayre to a Toby Carvery. Whether this will be as suitable for our regular informal lunches remains to be seen, so we will be keeping our first lunch of the season, on 26th April, at Whitewebbs and review the situation after that.

We have also been looking very carefully at both the format and venue of our Annual Dinner. Members have been expressing dissatisfaction with the facilities and falling standard at Old Owens. Also, atmosphere on a Saturday evening no longer seems to attract the numbers we achieved in former years, and certainly very few 'fresh faces'. Therefore we have decided to hold, on a trial basis this year, a semi-formal lunch rather than Dinner. This will be held, after some tough negotiating by Peter Francis, at the Jolly Farmers, Slades Hill, on Saturday 24th March. Booking form elsewhere in this newsletter.

There has been the expected and usual response to the idea of setting up a group to arrange another reunion - a resounding zero! No enquiries as to how it might be set up, no suggestions for a target date, no offers of help.

To remind you, the idea is to set it up as an email group, so that ideas and planning are not constrained to those who still live in the Edmonton/Enfield area. Hopefully this idea would also attract some of our younger members. Certainly the team responsible for the first three reunions will not be able to take on another unaided.

Why not consider the idea as your New Year's Resolution?

Frank

Arthur Spencer

Downe House (Darwin's home near Sevenoaks) in June 1950. Do you recognise anyone?



Neville Shaw, Dr. S. Galen, Brian Swanton, the Caretaker, Ted Baker, Peter Symonds, James Jay, Roger Deans, Mary Gifford, Esme Benn, Annabelle Yugin, Doreen Catherall (at back), Pat Hudson, Jean Veit, Peter Batchelor (at back), Doreen Wood, B. Zeitman, Beryl Buckingham, Margaret Worthington, Pam Hutcheson, Miss D. Staples.

Seated: Ralph Western, Jack Fraser, Mick Ardouin, Diana Ormes, Beryl Levett, Mike Fleuty.,



ARTHUR then goes on to write...

I had the good fortune to join two Geographical Field Excursions to the Lake District led by Jack Long in 1950 and in 1952.

The groups of around 40 were accompanied by Miss Fothergill, and Mr. Doubleday. In 1952 Miss Joy Hill (Geography) and Mrs. Mary Long also came. In 1950 the boys lodged in a Holiday Fellowship Hostel at Newlands, west of Lake Derwent Water and the girls in the more comfortable HF Portinsacle Guest House on the lake's shore. The journey was also laborious going by train, necessitating a change at Penrith.

In 1952 one of the Ted Lawrence coaches took us door-to-door and stayed the week. The well-managed Guest House, Underscar in Applethwaite, at the foot of Skiddaw, overlooked Derwent Water. I believe this house had originally belonged to the Newnes publishing family.

The programme of walks and excursions were planned to introduce us to mountain scenery and how it is created, to the agricultural, industrial and community life in such a distinctive region, and to highlight its literary associations. Jack Long was indefatigable in increasing 'erosion' with his hammer, explaining the geological structure of the Lake District and the evolution of its scenery. There is also nothing like a day in the hills exposed to the elements to appreciate and understand how weather systems work - especially if you visit Seathwaite (for tea) with its reputation for receiving the greatest volume of rainfall in the country!! So indoctrinated were we with the jargon of Borrowdale Slate, hematite rock, corries, scree slope and hanging valley that when 'glaciated' cherries were served at breakfast no-one batted an eyelid!

When you think of the range of outdoor clothing available today it is amazing to reflect on the 'rig-outs' that most of us sported. Typically, one was kitted out in gear from the many army surplus shops of the day: a pair of ex-army boots, perhaps studded with clover nails, an army surplus gas-cape as waterproof, thick ex-navy socks and so on! (I think that clothing rationing had ended only in 1948 or '49?). For most it was probably the first visit to a mountainous area, and probably the only time that many had ever walked all the way up and down a 'real mountain' - and experienced the blisters and aching muscles to prove the point!!

Considering the wide range of physical strength and athletic prowess of such a mixed group it is surprising that the accompanying staff managed to keep the whole group more or less together most of the time and without mishap! I well remember that an object lesson was spelled out to the 'strong ones': "in the mountains climbers stick together, the speed is the speed of the slowest and one does not head straight downhill across cattle and sheep pastures but respects the farmland and keeps to the marked footpaths".

There are some things that stand out in my memory: At Newlands the heating system was non-existent and the pat of margarine that one received for breakfast was more like hard cheese and unsplendable on the doorsteps of bread.

BOOK NOW for the FIRST Annual Luncheon on Saturday 24th March 2007

to be held at The Jolly Farmers, Slades Hill, ENFIELD 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.

Three course meal followed by coffee (vegetarian option) £19.50

First Name Surname Nees
Address
Years at School: 19..... to 19..... E-mail

I forward a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to ECSOSA, together with the full names of my guests.

Please return this form, together with the appropriate payment to
Frank M. Wallder, 12 Bray Lodge, High Street, Cheshunt, Herts. EN8 0DN.
Tel/Fax 01992 636164. E-mail: frank@ecsosa.org.uk

A visit to the Lake District continued

I suppose that it was on such fare that the man we named 'The Hulk' trained. He was an Austrian climber who ascended three peaks over 3000 feet in one day while we struggled with one!

Then, in 1952, there were the two fifth formers vying with each other to offer Mrs. Long their arm when the track got hard or her spirits were flagging! This was, of course, the gallant thing to do, but they were often provoked to compete even more by Brian West and others in their circle! (Many of us - boy or girl - might also have had feelings from time to time that we might have been glad to have been offered a helping hand!)

At Underscar the resident manager, Mr. Roberts and his wife, were excellent hosts and the house party atmosphere provided talks, dancing or other entertainment each evening after dinner. He had been in Austria shortly before the 1939 war and had a variety of stories, which probably had an element of truth even though the tale had lengthened.

Mr. Doubleday came into his own when we visited such places as Wordsworth's Dove Cottage after the ascent of Helvellyn, with talks about the Lakeland Poets, Ruskin and the Herries novels which were very popular in the 1940's. In those days the gated road to Watendlath was opened by an old man who

earned a few extra coppers from walkers, encouraged to admire the view while he recited or sang in the Cumberland dialect. He was heard from time to time on the 'wireless' whenever regional accents had an airing on the Third Programme! This gave 'Dubs' the opportunity of emphasising that the received pronunciation to which we all aspired in those days had the effect of eliminating regional linguistic inflections that enriched the English language. From someone whose diction was also very distinctive, this was unusual in those days!

The coach journey home in 1952 permitted Miss Forthergill to return to her origins in Accrington, Lancashire and enabled us to visit a (doubtless long-disappeared) cotton mill in full operation that was managed by her brother.

In those days there were few, if any, tour operators specialising in this kind of business and it was a matter of 'do it yourself'. I don't recall anyone missing a day out for any reason in spite of the aches and pains, blisters or merely the inclement weather promised! There is no doubt that these school trips placed an incredible burden on the teachers organising such trips - and Jack Long led all the walks but one! That was a climb up Skiddaw when Mr. Roberts led the group up and safely down through a tricky, steep, snowy gully in the cloud and the wet!



We are looking for ideas for next year's outing. Places proposed so far include: Wimpole Hall, Buckingham Palace, Chartwell or Woburn Abbey. Has anyone any other suggestions?

Please contact Frank on 01992 636164 or Email frank@ecsosa.org.uk with your reactions.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed. 20th Dec.	Last day of school term. Finishes 12.10 p.m.
Wed. 7th Feb.	Committee Meeting. Lower School. 7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.
Sat. 24th Mar.	Annual Luncheon. Jolly Farmers, Slades Hill, Enfield. 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.
Thur. 26th April.	Lunch Get-together. Whitewebbs. Park. 12.30 p.m. on.
Thur. in May	Day out. To be arranged.
Thur. 21st June.	Lunch Get-together. Whitewebbs Park? 12.30 p.m. on
Thur. 13th Sept.	Lunch Get-together. Whitewebbs Park? 12.30 p.m. on

REMEMBER

**Subs to be paid to
Cliff Wilkins at
214 Maltby Drive,
Hoe Green Village,
Enfield EN1 4EP**

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Joint Presidents:	M/s Linda Robinson, Headteacher, Edmonton County School, Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, Middx. EN1 1HQ. Mrs. Beryl Dewhurst, 22 Queen Annes Grove, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middx. EN1 2JP. Tel: 020 8360 4679
Chairman:	Frank Wallder, 12 Bray Lodge, High Street, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN8 0DN. Tel: 01992 636164. (mob.07985 013032) E mail: frank@ecsosa.org.uk
Secretary & Membership Secretary:	Cliff Wilkins, 214 Maltby Drive, Hoe Green Village, Enfield, Middx. EN1 4EP. Tel: 020 8805 1570/8350 3670. E mail: cliff@ecsosa.org.uk
Treasurer:	Peter Mansell, 10 Station Road, Foxton, Cambs. CB2 6SA. Tel: 01223 503131. E mail: peter@ecsosa.org.uk
Newsletter Editors:	Dennis & Jean Patten, 14 The Crest, Goffs Oak, Herts. EN7 5NP. Tel: 01707 873262.
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs. Angela Painter, 17 Wallers Way, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 9LH. Tel: 01992 464303
Website Co-ordinator:	Graham Johnson. E mail: graham@ecsosa.org.uk
Archivist:	Mrs. Beryl Cushion. Tel: 01923 855247. E mail: beryl@ecsosa.org.uk
Committee Members:	Peter Francis, 21 Lakenheath, Southgate, London, N14 4RJ. Tel: 020 8886 7350. Tony Brown, 52 Longmoor, Cheshunt, Herts. EN8 9HL. Tel: 01992 632721. Derrick Stone, 4 Brodie Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0EZ. Tel: 020 8363 3631. John Kerridge, 6 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middx. EN1 2HP. Tel: 020 8360 2560. Doreen Bayley, M.B.E., 10 Gardenia Road, Enfield, Middx. EN1 2HZ. Tel: 020 8360 7274.

Published by the Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association.

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.