

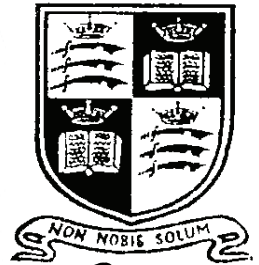


# ECSOSA

Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: [www.ecsosa.org.uk](http://www.ecsosa.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER December 2010

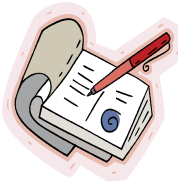


## Ding dong merrily on high ...



*Wishing all our members a joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year*

### Chairman's Report



It has not yet been able to determine if the school has become part of a corporate trust. The two sites are now operating as two separate campuses, Bury and Cambridge. Each incorporates all eight years of the school curriculum and pupils do not move between the two sites. There is one overall Head but each has Deputies. The present Head, Siobhan Leahy, is in place until Christmas, when she will retire. The new Head will be Susan Tranter and I will try to arrange a meeting with her as soon as possible, but this will probably not be before next year.

Beryl Cushion brought along a very comprehensive archive to the October lunch and I suggested that a good place to keep it would be the school library, if the Head would agree. It was noted that a lot of the records were from the former Rowantree School in the 1960's as many photos came from a teacher there. The archive forms a very solid basis on which to build, and I feel that it would be ideal if this archive work could remain on the school premises if possible. Among the records were two films that Jack Long took on school trips. The possibility of transferring these to DVD has been discussed.

With regard to the ongoing problem of involving younger people in the ECSOSA. I have received a message from a committee member asking "should we bother"? It has been agreed that this problem does need to be addressed. Some of the younger groups are not Association members, many are just class or year groups. Cliff has mentioned that applications to join ECSOSA from pupils after the school became comprehensive has reduced rapidly, so he feels that there was a pride in having been at the Grammar School but little pride in having been at the Comprehensive.

Our last year's accounts are now available on our website, or direct from Cliff or me if you haven't got a computer.

Merry Christmas to you all.

*Frank*

### Class of 1945 (continued)

In 1950, in the Vth, we were up to our ears with the last year of the old General Schools' Certificate, requiring 6 passes at a pass mark of around 40%, and "Gen Schools with Matric Exemption" calling for 5 subjects at 50%, including English Language, Maths, a modern Language (French), a Science and one other subject. Speech Day programmes and the annual School magazines in the 1940's included the exam results. These reveal that many must have left school with nothing by way of a piece of paper reflecting what they had achieved at school. I also believe that before sitting the exam some had left on reaching the then school leaving age of 15. No wonder that one contemporary said to me at the time of the 1997 Reunion "I achieved nothing at school and do not hold those days at ECS with any special regard!" However, he seemed to have thrived and still cherished the memory to return for that great day!

#### 5th form 1950



Daphne Akester, John 'Jack' Thornton, Kenneth Woolner, Albert 'Ray' Williams, Cyril Hunt, Michael Fielder, Michael Hill, Peter Ellacott, Jeffrey Franklin, Colin Parnell, David Langdon, George Pollitt, Arthur Spencer, Alan Jones, Colin Cooper, Malcolm Pryor.

Joan Heathman, Veronica Cooper, Mary Moore, Kathleen Taylor, Joyce Thornton, Mr S. Akhurst, Christine Wilmer, Hilda Harris, Sylvia Ludwig, Shirley Faulkner, Jacqueline Tyrell, Marian Quartermaine, Janice Baker, Joyce Cox.

About 18 of the 96 entrants in 1945 stayed on to the VIth form and some progressed to higher education in the autumn of 1952. Quite a difference from today!

*Arthur Spencer*

## Obituaries



**REGINALD EDWARD BRAY (1918-2010)**  
Reported by Barbara Smith.

Reg Bray passed away on June 22nd in a Nursing Home in Hailsham, Sussex. I had been his companion, and latter years carer, since 1996. We had played bridge together for several years before that. In 1997 I persuaded him to leave his four bedded home in Letchworth and live in a flat opposite me, as he had spent most of his Sundays mowing his grass and had been very lonely since his wife died several years before. We had a good life together for most of those years, holidaying all over the continent as well as cruising the Baltic and Mediterranean.

I became ill myself in 2009 and he went into a home in November of that year. He hated leaving his home and was not happy, so it was a happy release for him. He had a large funeral back in Baldock, attended by many of his friends.

### JUNE ROBERTS (nee TOFTS)

June died in October after a long illness. She taught English at the school from about 1963 to 1968 and she attended one of the reunions held at the school a few years ago. It was then obvious from Old Scholars' reactions to her that she was remembered with affection and respect by many who attended the school during that time. June leaves two sons and several grandchildren.

### PAMELA SPEAR (nee MALLET)

(1928-2010) by Melvin Spear



Pam started at the Edmonton County School in the late 30's where a German refugee, Herbert Spear took her notice in his German national costume, lederhosen. Pamela's family were then evacuated to Horsforth, Leeds. Whilst at school in Leeds her teachers realised her talent for art and predicted a future for her as an artist. After the blitz Pam returned to ECS and was reacquainted with Herbert and was later married in March 1951. Pam was welcomed into Herbert's German family, which led to many fond memories.

Pam's artistic ability got her a position at the Deco Art Studio in Bayswater Road, freehand painting patterns onto trays and bowls. In 1959 Melvin Hugh was born to Pam and Herbert and Pam became a full time housewife and mother. In the early 60's Pam and Herbert lived in Barnet and later moved to Gloucester and then later to Cheltenham, where she became a member of the Cheltenham Art Club. She also tried her hand at pottery, but that whim did not last.

Pam always had a love for gardening and her well tended garden gave her great pleasure.

Old Scholar **Dr. JOHN NORRINGTON DAVIES'** book 'Cheerful with insufficient reason' has now been published. It is the story of a London Welsh grammar school boy who attended ECS between 1938 and 1943. Dr. John, Analyst, examines in relation to those times family, war, education and personalities; even sex is touched upon, but tastefully. There should be a giggle or two along the way, the teaching staff having been watched as closely as they watched him. It is available from lulu.com, Amazon and the author, The Manse, Dolybont, Borth, SY24 5LX. at £15.00 plus £2.75.

## BRIAN WARE (1950-57) writes from Japan.

The publication of the photo of Form 5 from 1955 in the June 2010 issue of the Newsletter has prompted me to answer the request for information of at least one scholar in that photo.

Three years ago, at a reunion, I met up with Greg Hare, who now lives in Cheshunt. Since that time we have been in email contact and on 9th August met up for lunch in Munich. Greg and his wife Chrissie, on the right of the photo, were following some American relatives on a choral tour. My wife Hiroko (on the left) and I live partly in the Alps between Munich and Salzburg.

Seeing the Form 5 photo I thought I might send in my copy of the Form 5 Alpha photo of the same year. This photo also shows Danny Sleeper, whose untimely passing away was reported in the September Newsletter. I'm afraid I don't remember the names of too many in this photo, however 4th from the left in the back row is Fiona Walker, 5th Yvonne Seymour and 6th myself. Danny Sleeper is on the extreme right. Boys in the front row, from left to right, are Alan (Daisy) Deighton, Sid Frigg, Spud Beaumont and Peter Ramsdale. The popular Miss Haswell is in the centre. I must apologise to the rest of the girls for although the faces ring bells I cannot recall their names. I understand that both Alan Deighton and Spud Beaumont have also passed away.



If you wish to get in touch e-mail [brianzenzenw@aol.com](mailto:brianzenzenw@aol.com)

### An e-mail from Michael Ardouin (1943/51)

I came across the Winter 2006 Newsletter the other day and noted a photograph of a school trip to Charles Darwin's house in 1950. There are two head boys, Brian Swanton (1950) and Jack Fraser (1951) and two head girls, Diana Ormes (1950) and Beryl Levett (1951). I am in the front between three of them, a mere deputy head boy, and probably only remembered because my father was the dreaded school dentist in the days when dentists' drills were more suited to digging up roads than teeth! More important are the two teachers, Dr. Galen and Miss Staples. I expect many of the pupils from 1950 now have grandchildren (I have twelve!) and at the moment of writing they might be worrying about their grandchild's 'A' level results and problems related to University applications. In the 1950's there were enough University places for the demand, and generous student grants with no fears of massive student debts, unless you spent every weekday, as well as weekends, in the pubs. You did perhaps need a bit of a brain, but most of all you needed the inspirational minds of the likes of those two teachers. My brother benefited from the truly brilliant mind of the former, and later became an Orthodontic Consultant. I, and anyone else choosing the Arts as opposed to the Sciences, could not have gained a University place without 'A' level Latin. Miss Staples was the only Latin teacher, and even she could not cover the syllabus within the normal school day

**BRENDA KONIOTES (nee BROWN) (1944/49)**

*Sends a photo from her home in Cyprus and wonders how many of these people are still around*



I believe it was the first school trip to Paris after the War, and the year that I left—1949. I thought it was wonderful to be able to travel abroad to France by ship (Londres) - I still have the postcard of the ship that I sent home to my parents. I said we had had a lovely trip over. In this picture we all look very happy. I presume that all of these pupils still have their pictures too. There were some pupils from the fifth and sixth form plus teachers. We stayed in the accommodation of one of the Universities. After all the years of confinement during the war it made the trip even more special, with very good memories. I still have pictures of the Eiffel Tower and the views from it as well.

After marriage in Bush Hill Park in 1956 my husband and I came out of the church to discover a line of hockey sticks for us to go under. It was quite a surprise, but a very fond memory, with a good photograph to keep. It was the O.Ed. Scholars' Hockey Team, with whom I played for many years, even after my first child was born!

**The 1A Class from 1947**  
24th to 26th September 2010.

Another September, another reunion, this time Roy Head's stamping ground in Ipswich. Roy and his wife Judy had organised a superb weekend starting with reservations for eight at an excellent waterside 4 star hotel.

It began in Judy's soup kitchen for early arrivals Colin and Ann Walker at Friday lunchtime. Refreshments in the hotel lounge allowed Les and Betty Dean, Brian and Eve Armitage, Graham South and me to complete our group of ten, and catch up on all the latest news.

Judy, with the help of Roy, had arranged a superb five star dinner at their lovely home, and we all admired the finest china and cutlery being used. Excellent food, complimented with fine wine, created a grand social evening.

Saturday was dry but rather cold, but we wrapped up well and went on a most interesting guided tour of Ipswich. A short drive to Woodbridge followed, where we had lunch before exploring a very interesting Tide Mill (hands up all those who have seen a mill driven by tidal water).



After a rest (we are all looking forward to free TV licences next year!) we went to a waterside Bistro and enjoyed an excellent dinner.

Time flew by. Sunday morning, another super breakfast in our hotel then off we went to the Ipswich Transport Museum. Thanks to Roy we were treated to a very interesting guided tour. Alarmingly we realised that the majority of the old exhibits were remembered by us from way back—how time flies! Then off to Felixstowe for a hearty lunch to combat the cold wind and rain before we said our goodbyes, having already decided that Wellingborough in Northants was the destination for our 2011 reunion next September. Our thanks to Roy and Judy for organising a very successful weekend.

Anyone reading this from Forms 1A -5A, 1947-1952, why not join us, 9th-11th September 2011. Telephone Brian Armitage on 01992 463500.

*Bryn Root*

**Book now for next year's ANNUAL LUNCHEON on SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2011**  
**At the JOLLY FARMERS, SLADES HILL, ENFIELD. 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.**

**Three course meal followed by coffee—only £20.00**

*(If you prefer vegetarian option or a cheese board for sweet please mention on booking)*

First Name ..... Surname ..... Nee .....

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, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN8 ODN.**



## JOAN JOYCE (Nee Coleman) (1948/53) reminisces

firework display afterwards. We went down to the Hythe Marina and then a couple of days later watched her sail out on her maiden voyage (with more fireworks).

Other ships have been launched from docks that we can view from the bottom of our road, and we have often just hung out of the bedroom window and watched the fireworks and listened to the ships' horns blasting off. As for 'Azura', we saw her when we were on our way home from shopping in the West Quay precinct. We drove onto the Town Quay in glorious sunshine and there she was—absolutely beautiful and enormous. She dwarfed the terminal buildings and made the nearby waterfront apartments look like a model village. I was cross with myself for not taking a camera.

However, I did have a camera when we walked to the bottom of our road at the end of February and there was P & O 'Ventura'. Nearly as impressive as 'Azura' but definitely smaller!! (See picture) We still have to pinch ourselves to realise that we live here with so many beautiful places to visit. A week later we drove to a couple of gardens open under the NGS scheme. Both of them were in



different parts of the New Forest, and we drove through previously undiscovered areas for miles and miles. It is a strange experience to find your progress halted by an enormous cow (with lethal horns too), who is happy to just stand in the middle of the road gazing into space for what seemed like hours, and then several horses just wandering wherever they choose. One day we were blocked in front by a dozen horses and decided to reverse, only to discover



another herd behind us and we were sandwiched. I got out of the car and did my whirling dervish dance, and somewhat understandably they took off away from this mad woman.

Yes, we miss our friends, but they have already started to visit us. One couple came for a week and others have dropped in en route to visit relatives in Bournemouth, and Dennis and Jean Patten came to see us when Jean was playing in a bowls match on Hayling Island. We are always pleased to see anyone, however briefly. We have not yet found time to become properly involved in the village, but we now know several folks to say hello to—one couple are called Joan and Tony would you believe—and we intend to go along to some of the events at the Village Hall. I have in fact joined the Keep Fit class and everyone is very friendly. So we are settling in to this new life and making discoveries all the time.

### Did you remember, subs were due on 1st September?



Annual	£3.00	Joint Annual	£4.00
5 years	£12.50	Joint 5 years	£16.50
10 years	£22.50	Joint 10 years	£30.00
Life	£30.00	Joint Life	£40.00

**Please send your payment to Cliff Wilkins**

3 The Hawthorns, Allington Gardens, Allington,  
Grantham, Lincs. NG32 2FS.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed. 9th Feb.	Committee Meeting. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Upper School.
Sat. 19th Mar.	Annual Luncheon. 12.30 p.m. Jolly Farmers, Slades Hill
Wed. 18th May.	Lunch Get Together. 12.00 Noon. The Plough, Crews Hill..
Wed. 6th July.	“ “ “
Wed. 12th Oct.	“ “ “
Wed. 12th Oct.	A.G.M. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Upper School.



### ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President:	Mrs. Beryl Dewhurst.
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, 3 The Hawthorns, Allington gardens, Allington, Grantham, Lincs. NG32 2FS. Tel. 01400 281359
Treasurer )	E mail: cliff@ecsosa.org.uk
Newsletter Editors	Dennis & Jean Patten, 14 The Crest, Goffs Oak, Herts. EN7 5NP. Tel: 01707 873262. E mail: editors@ecsosa.org.uk
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs. Angela Painter, 17 Wallers Way, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 9LH. Tel: 01992 464303
Website Co-ordinator:	Graham Johnson. E mail: Webmaster@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.**

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