

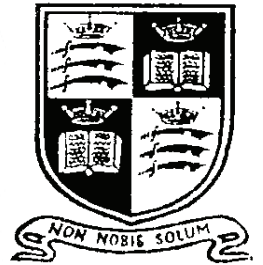


EC SOSA

Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: www.ecsosa.org.uk

NEWSLETTER March 2011



Here at last is the School's most requested photograph!

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme— Jan 9th 1947



Eric James writes

This is a very interesting photo. In addition to Arthur Spencer, who played a significant role in the play, the photo shows Doreen Aris, in the middle, who went on to RADA and became a professional actress. She was a couple of years behind me at school but I remember her well. Some years after I emigrated to Canada I was watching a TV movie and recognised, with pleasure, Doreen playing the role of the ingénue.

Also in the photo I recognise the late Eric Wilkinson, who served so well as the Association's Secretary. I think I also recognise Ken (Buzzer) Sagers, who was well known in the school at the time. Among other things Ken was in a small group of us who formed what we called 'The Hillbillies'. There were four or five of us who dressed up in pseudo 'cowboy' clothes and sang western songs. As I remember there were Keith Townsend, who played ukulele, Geoff (?) Mason on guitar, Ken Sagers, who had a good singing voice, and myself on the fiddle. We must have been well received since we were asked by the staff to play for the school population on several occasions, when a suitable blank in a programme had to be filled.

Ken Sagers also participated with me in a romp which presented a highly condensed version of Macbeth. At the

time Miss Emery mounted a lavish production of Macbeth with the lovely Brenda Poynton (who also went to RADA I believe) as Lady Macbeth, Doug Dawkins as Macbeth and the tall, elegant Ron Bushell as Macduff. I appeared as Malcolm.

During rehearsals, if I remember correctly, Ken and I would amuse the cast by doing a condensed version of the acts of the play we were rehearsing. We subsequently went on to do a condensed version of the whole play. We were later asked to perform this parody for the whole school, so, dressed in gym kit, we did our stuff. We spoke lines, dashed off stage, right around the back to reappear stage left as another character, and so on. We 'did' the whole play in about 15 minutes. I hope you can see the need to perform in gym shorts, vest and running shoes. It sounds completely crazy, but both staff and students thoroughly enjoyed it judging by the reception of the audience.

As well as the names mentioned above other cast members were: June Gates, Helen Klein, Peter Lilly, Cicely Alexander, Peggy Barrett, Tony Dray, Brenda Collins, Pat Costigan, David Osen.

* Editor's Note; We haven't used this photo before as we decided it wouldn't be clear enough to reproduce but we have bowed to pressure—fingers crossed!

Obituary

THELMA MARTIN (nee ABBOTT)
(1929-2011)

Reported by her husband FRANK



Thelma died on 6th January after battling with Alzheimer's for more than 10 years, the last six and a half of which have been in a nursing home.

Her first contact with the School came when she was evacuated to Braintree along with her older sisters, Stella and Rita, both of whom still survive. At school her biggest impact was probably on the hockey field, where she captained the school team as a dynamic centre-forward. This interest continued into the Old Scholars' Association, where she also served on the Committee for several years as Social Secretary, and this in the days when we ran regular dances in the School hall.

Finally, a fact which I suspect not many people will know. Until we had to move to Surrey in 1955 she regularly washed and ironed the shirts for the football team, ensuring that they were at least immaculately turned out, even if our performance on the pitch did not reach the same high standard.

After moving she became a Brown Owl in the Guides, delivered Meals on Wheels and served on the Old People's Welfare Committee in West Horsley.

She is survived by her children, Heather, Bryn and Jane and obviously myself.

A word or two from
a former Teacher.
JOHN ADRIAN FOX



From 1958 to 1963 I taught mathematics at ECGS and became Deputy Head of the Maths Dept. under Mr. Akhurst. Contemporaries were Graham Briggs, Pat Fagan, Hammersley, Jacky Long, Armand Cohen and Dr. Bentley (who was married to a German officer killed in the war and had lived in the 3rd Reich throughout the hostilities). There was also Cecil Crellin (who commanded ships ferrying Japanese POW's from Burma, and at times was the only English Officer on these Japanese ferry ships). The Head, whose name I cannot recall, was well known for touring France with a car load of baked beans as his staple food. Doris Staples, the Senior Mistress stood at the entrance to the school every morning with a ruler to ensure girls' skirt lengths were no shorter than mandated.

I was form master of 2C as it started. I had not intended to stay in teaching long, but grew fond of my pupils so stayed until they had completed their 'O' levels.

I remember some girl pupils' names because I had 13 boys and 22 very dominating girls in my class. Those listed below were not all in my class:

Barbara Phillips, Jacky Anderson, Chris Woor, Marianna Altschul, Frances Marsh, Helen Gunnell, Valerie Hounslow.

I also remember one 6th form which was particularly brilliant, with several State Scholars.

I got married in 1963 and left teaching to go into industry, from whence I had come anyway. Since 1967 I have lived in Emsworth, which is a small pretty town on Chichester Harbour.

If anyone has any information on ex pupils of mine I would be glad to hear of them, or from them. My email address is foxtheden@btopenworld.com.

A couple of e-mails just received

BRIAN WARE (1950-57) e-mails about the mistake in his last month's article—"Syd's name was Trigg not Frigg—Freudian slip?" He also forwarded this e-mail he'd received from:

MAUREEN (nee SMITH)

"Hello Brian—Just received the OSA Newsletter with that photo of V Alpha! Fancy not remembering the girls' names, tut tut.

Let me put you in the picture:

Back row l to r—Joan Perkins, Heather Grainger, Fi and Yvonne, Maggie Milton, Paris Gilder, Sheila Morris.

Front row l to r: (me) Maureen Smith, Jean Hilton, Irene Douglas and Margaret Beck.

There must have been some people away that day as there were more than that in the class.

I am still in regular weekly contact with Yvonne and Irene, also Margaret who has lived in E. Sussex for the last 46 years).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 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. followed by Committee Meeting |
| Wed. 6th July. | Lunch Get Together. 12 Noon |
| Wed. 14th Sept. | Committee Meeting. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Cambridge Campus. |
| Wed. 12th Oct | Lunch Get Together. 12 Noon. |
| Wed. 12th Oct. | A.G.M. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Cambridge Campus. |

JANICE PATIENT (Nee Baker) 1945-51

has sent along a Newspaper cutting about Old Scholar Sir Roy Strong and writes:

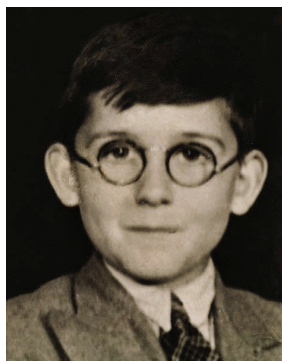
Thank you for the December 2010 edition . I am in the front row of the photograph on page 1, but that's irrelevant.

I am writing about a couple of things. I want to query what Arthur Spencer said about the subjects for which we had to get 50% to matriculate. I think they were English Language, Maths, a Science OR a Modern Language (and the Arts stream entered both French and German), plus two other subjects. I also think (referring to Arthur's earlier instalment) that we were probably the second intake which did not have to pay any fees, rather than the first.

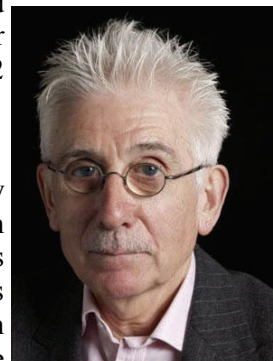
Quite by accident last weekend I came across an article "Me and my School photo" by Sir Roy Strong (ECS 1947-1954 or thereabouts) in the Weekend magazine of the Daily Mail (12 February 2011).

—ooo000ooo—

The article sent by Janice shows the high regard held by Sir Roy for the old School. He tells of the encouragement received from his Teachers; of Doris Staples, who taught him Latin (which was not part of the School curriculum) and Miss Emery, who fired his love of Shakespeare. He mentions Joan Henderson teaching him Elizabethan History, which led later to his gaining a PhD at the Warburg Institute with his thesis on Elizabethan Court Pageantry.



Raglan photo



In recent times

He tells of his letters to Miss Henderson, which he wrote from 1953 to the day she died. She kept every one and he now has their complete correspondence over a period of 45 years. Sir Roy concludes by saying that "the Teachers at the School were amazing and enormously committed".

VALERIE HARTE asks:

Can anybody remember (or can name those I am unable to identify) the pupils on the ECS Paris Trip at Easter 1957:

Starting upper left:

Douglas Pledger, John Curtis, Colin Rochester, David Eva, (Paris Guide), ?
With camera, Bill Donohue.

Next row:

Miss Staples, Anne Hill,
? Palmer, ?, ?, ?, Mr. Elengorn.

Next row:

Rosalind Revill, Brenda White, Valerie Revill, ?, Alan Coe.

Next row:

Mr. Leeming, Elizabeth Smith, Anne Fellows, Joan Reese, ?.

Ground in front:

Eileen ?.

Miss Henderson was also on the trip but not photographed.



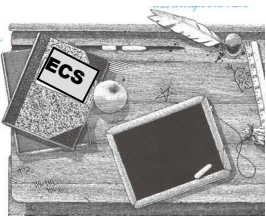
Last bookings being taken for ANNUAL LUNCHEON on SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2011
At the JOLLY FARMERS, SLADES HILL, ENFIELD. 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.

Three course meal followed by coffee—only £20.00

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

Please ring Frank Wallder on 01992 636164 (mobile 07985 013032) to secure a place.





"Jack Long's Legacy"

The School's early beginnings 1919-1936

1919. Many local schools lay claim to long histories; these are largely fiction, thin and tenuous tracings from charities or personal bequests of money being turned into schools!

The County School began its career of certainty as a school in January 1919. I was there on that cold morning as a pupil, to be admitted at Croyland Road School with 79 other boys to be Edmonton Central scholars. Inside, unknown to the pupils, were Charles Richman and Simon Galin, the two first masters, conferring with Frank Belton, Headmaster of Croyland—later to be full-time Headmaster of the new school. Meanwhile, at Brettenham Road, 80 girls arrived to form the girls' school. The two first mistresses were Miss E. M. Gatehouse and Miss R. S. Mawer, and Miss B. W. Seward was the Headmistress.

So the two classes of boys and two classes of girls, with four teachers and two part-time Heads, were the beginning of the school, which was set in four classrooms—two at each end of a mile journey. The teachers went to and fro—Mr. Richman for history, Miss Gatehouse for English, Miss Mawer for French, while Mr. Galin, promptly named Sol (for Solomon) by the boys, sat in his science laboratory and was visited by the girls—in classes!

1920: In 1920 there arrived a further 80 boys at Croyland. A further 80 girls made their appearance, and the 160 girls moved to Raynham Road School—increasing the gap by another half mile.

The first school magazine (by the boys) made its appearance very early. Charles Steel and Eric McQuin printed it by offset from a jelly pad. Cecil Rayner wrote the entire copy; and Malcolm Noble sold the entire output at ½d. a copy.

Messrs. A. J. Quartermaine and M. Morris, Miss Capewell and Miss Rees joined the teaching staff.

1921: The school was recognised as a secondary school after its fledgling two years as a Central school. It also developed notions of essaying the London General Schools external examination at the end of its first scholars' contracted four-year stay in 1923. Entrants were persuaded to extend this by the necessary two terms.

1922-24: The annual intakes continued. The scholars' life was grimmer—especially the boys', because it had been well nigh impossible to teach the necessary French for the forthcoming examination contests; all depended on this for the entrants who became the first Matric forms. A creditable performance was, however, recorded. Three boys and three girls achieved the Matriculation exemption standard. School clubs and societies sprouted; chess, camera, orchestra, all the sports. The schools went into Houses; their names were Bruce, Gordon, Shaftesbury and Wolfe for the boys, and Blue, Green, Red and Yellow for the girls. The first Speech Days "inspired" the girls and "encouraged" the boys. The official School Chronicle appeared and killed off the do-it-yourself model; the first issue is dated December 1923. Our first Old Scholars appeared and at once formed their Association (1923).

H. Cowan (French), G. Locke (English), E. R. Topping (Art), E. J. Baker (Science), Mr. Williams (French), Miss M. Cheeswright (German) and Miss Swainston (English) came on the staff to stay, while others lent us a more temporary assistance.

The second Matric forms, including our first scholars who completed their fifth year in the school, produced 27 more successes, 14 of them Matriculants. A joint Speech Day was held at the Central Hall, the chief guest being Professor Starling of University College.

The first Sixth form is recorded—it had one pupil in it. The second, in 1924, was rather larger with six. I temporarily made a seventh, but left to begin work and study in the local public library.

To be continued

Malcolm Noble (1919-1924)

Later Borough Librarian of Edmonton

We are short of news for future Newsletters. If you have a 'tale to tell about your school days or after', an interesting event or happening, a funny or disastrous experience that would be of interest to other Old Scholars we would love to hear it. Just send it to the Editors at editors@ecsosa.org.uk

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