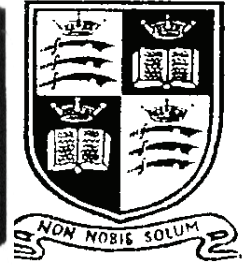


EC SOSA

Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: www.ecsosa.org.uk

NEWSLETTER June 2011



Didn't we have a lovely time.....



After an early morning frost some 31 members ventured out on a brilliant sunny day to meet the Jolly Farmers, and they didn't let us down. Excellent soup was followed by tender roast lamb and a good supply of assorted vegetables, with a sweet of profiteroles. Nothing too fancy or exotic, but well enjoyed by all as far as I could see.

REUNION LUNCH at the Jolly Farmers Saturday 19th March 2011 By Maurice Crewe (1949-56)

Our worthy Chairman, Frank Walder, said a few words, publicly thanking Cliff Wilkins for his major contribution in keeping the Association going and also thanked John Kerridge, Doreen Bayley and, in his absence, Peter Francis, for helping with tedious jobs like putting newsletters in envelopes.

Arthur Spencer then proposed a toast to Frank and also to absent friends; which brought a brief moment of quiet reflection to the proceedings. Mind you, it didn't stay quiet for long, and a good chinwag was had by all, with sufficient vigour to almost drown one's conversation with neighbours. Not only former classmates catching up on news but developing new friendships as well.

The raffle took place with some jollity and shortly after having won a bottle of wine I was asked to write a short report on the day—the timing was a coincidence—wasn't it?

We are looking for a new venue for the annual lunch next year. Has anyone any suggestions? Please contact any committee member if you know of a suitable place.

Frank also confirmed that the reunion lunch would continue to be organised while a sufficient number of Old Edmontonians were keen to attend. Any members who don't attend are missing a most enjoyable gathering, so I look forward to seeing just as many—if not more—next year.

Chairman's Report



I am delighted to report that I had an excellent meeting with Dr. Susan Tranter in March. She said that she is aware of the ethos and history of the school and is instigating an awareness within the school of the meaning and implications of our school motto. She is also very supportive of our aims and aspirations (indeed she even pre-empted some of my questions) regarding the War Memorial and our Archive material and, in fact, made some suggestions as to reinstating the memorial within the school. Beryl Cushion has offered to visit her to discuss and deliver the main archive to her, which has already been catalogued.

Dr. Tranter has also assured us of her co-operation in such matters as using the school for our meetings and I have promised our support in her promotion of the school's history as a motivation and guide to today's students.

In response to her very positive reaction to us and our aims I have reinstated our previous custom and asked her to become our Joint President and she (quote) "is honoured to accept".

Later in the week I wrote to Dr. Tranter suggesting that she may like to have the archive to hold for a time so that she could show her colleagues. In that case Beryl and I would be happy to then visit in order to discuss how it could best be used.

I mentioned that we still have some duplications and other records to be catalogued and if she would like to make the completion (or ongoing work) of the archive a project for her students we would be happy to assist and co-operate.

With regard to the memorial, I wrote that we would welcome any suggestions on its recovery, refurbishment and restoration and would also be happy to fund any work required.

Frank

Obituary

FRANK MARTIN

After publishing the obituary of Thelma Martin in our last Newsletter news has just come through that her husband, Frank, died in hospital on 4th May. We will publish more details when we get them.



"Jack Long's Legacy" (continued)

The School's early beginnings 1919-1936



1925-30. In 1927 the boys and girls were joined into a single school of 400 pupils, the County School, though still in two buildings half-a-mile apart. The staff was unified, and Frank Belton became the Head. He promised that new school buildings would shortly be ready.

Old Edmontonians' Football Club began in 1927—as a Rugby team. Soccer continued in the school. The Thespians' Dramatic Society improved its performances and put on its first play in 1926, followed by two others in 1927.

The school Houses changed their names under the union and became known as Andrew, David, George and Patrick, using the colours of the old girls' Houses.

Mr. Cowan went to be Head of Raglan new school and Miss Swainston went to be Head of Croyland Girls' School. Miss Seward, the first Head of the girls' school, left us in 1928, and Mr. Belton left in 1929. Mr. James North, from Latymer, became the new Head.

The Old Scholars reorganised their association with new rules: rugby and hockey, drama and debating and socials continued as they produced their new Stag magazine.

The editors of the School Chronicle had by now lost all clue as to the numbers and volumes used to describe the twelve issues to date! Plans of the new school were referred to at the 1929 Speech Day: Still plans. The school societies went from strength to strength, and the orchestra had a very active life helping others at their shows and at fetes.

1931-36: The School watched its new home being built. The school journeys to Europe had become a regular feature of school life. In 1931 the new school was occupied, and a grand Opening Day was held.

Mr. T. B. Child and Miss Emery produced our first Shakespearean play, with scenery and costumes made at the school. "The Tempest" was put on for two performances, and the scholars played their parts excellently. Mr. Child (Caliban), Mr. Locke (Trinculo) and Mr. Elengorn (Stephano) rollicked through the comic relief in a manner incredible looking back on it. The whole was an artistic and financial success, though the 1931 Financial Crisis was upon us.

We recorded our first University Open Scholarship, Louie Ims being elected Drapers Company Exhibitioner in 1932.

The new school library opened in its new room after being fitted out and filled with books. It scored an immediate success, but was foreseen to be probably inadequate in the future.

In 1932 "The Taming of the Shrew" enhanced the school's reputation for Shakespearean productions, and was followed by "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1933 and "Twelfth Night" (which filled the house at all performances) in 1934. A production of "The Merchant of Venice" was aided by the school orchestra. The Old Scholars produced "Romeo and Juliet" to show their Shakespearean paces.

The Speech Days recorded more successes and awards, the second Speech Day after the opening of the new building being held in the hall and gymnasium (now the Upper School Library). The Library in 1933 was nearing 5000 volumes.

Taken from "The Magazine" 1969

Malcolm Noble (1919-1924)

Later Borough Librarian of Edmonton



The Daily Mail article about Sir Roy Strong's childhood, mentioned in the last issue seemed to contain many location mistakes. No doubt these were made by the newspaper but have prompted the following poem, written by another of our Old Scholars—**JOAN NEGUS** (nee **Ivanoff**). This has been kindly passed to us by **Joan Wilson**.

Roy Strong, dear Roy Strong
You've got it all wrong
Your memory, we fear
Is not very clear.



The County was great
And we all feel proud
To be called the 'Old Eds'
Why, we shout it out loud.



We knew you all through
Those years so sublime
From first year to sixth form.
A very long time.



Sorry to say
Some directions you need
The school's on the A10
Not North Circular—indeed.



And Raglan, your primary,
Is in Bush Hill Park.
Did you say Winchmore Hill
Just for a lark?

But we are so pleased
Your life's going well
You meet many people
Who must ring your bell.



And we all feel famous
Midst family and friends
And still see each other
Such joy never ends.



Joan is one of the group of Old Scholars calling themselves "The Class of '46", and they meet up on a regular basis. Other members are Mavis Bartram (nee Cattrall), Pat Barnes (nee Creighton), Shirley Goode (nee Marter) and our correspondent, Joan Wilson.

Cycling with 'Bruiser'

By MALCOLM PRIOR (1944-49)

Flicking through old copies of the Newsletter I came across Brian Armitage's memories of "Bruiser's" school camps—all except the first and only one that I attended, of which I have some recollections.

The location was Ecclesbourne Glen, between Fairlight and Hastings, and an easy walk down to the town (but a hard climb back up the road—at one point 1:3½).

On the Saturday, while everyone else had travelled down by train, I had cycled there, covering the 70 miles in four hours and arriving in time for lunch. (I wonder how many youngsters just short of their 14th birthday would be allowed to undertake such a journey on today's roads?)



In the afternoon Bruiser took us all into Hastings to pick up supplies (I cycled), including three heavy army surplus one gallon cast iron billy cans, which were hung on my bike for me to transport back to camp. On the steepest part I was forced to dismount and push my loaded bike to the top of the hill, by which time I was totally shattered!!

My other abiding, and most memorable, recollection started when we got back to camp, where we discovered that a



group of Salvation Army Guards (their equivalent of the Girl Guides) had set up camp next to our tents, and consisted of around 20 girls who, like us, were aged 13 to 15.

Bruiser engaged in conversation with the three "Sally Army" Ladies chaperoning the girls and, at his suggestion, a camp fire sing-song was arranged for the Sunday evening. After spending the morning on the beach we returned to camp for lunch and spent the afternoon collecting firewood for the bonfire, which was lit at about 8 p.m.

The boys and girls intermingled around the camp fire, and some had clearly paired up. By dusk, against the glare of the bonfire, it was impossible to see beyond the circle.



Everything was in full swing when suddenly there was pandemonium, when one of the "Sally Army" Ladies noticed that several of the girls and boys had slipped away into the darkness.

One could see the shock-horror on the ladies' faces as they ran around like headless chickens, imaginations running riot that their charges were about to be "deflowered" by our lusty young lads!

After the initial panic the absconders were rounded up, no harm done, but all the girls were sent straight to bed, bringing the evening to an abrupt end. The following morning the girls were made to decamp to the far side of the site.

After that I have little or no recollection of the trip, or who else was there, but I think these may have included Jack Frazer, Pete Foster and Tony Parrot. Perhaps someone else can fill in the blanks for me!

I have some other unrelated recollections of "Bruiser", who was one of my favourite teachers, but they will have to wait to another time.



BRIEFMAIL COLUMN

For responses to Valerie Harte's plea for names at the 1953 Paris trip (see page 3 in the March issue) we have to thank Mrs. Carole Duddy and Valerie Challis.

Back row, second from right, next to Bill Donoghue: Philip Kingberg.

Ground in front: Eileen Streeter

Mr. Leeming's row, right of Joan Reece is: Carole Lomas (Mrs. Carole Duddy)



Peggy Mansell writes in about Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme and says: "Thank you for the magazine. I am in the picture, standing second from the right, and Pat Coe, who is not named, is between me and Eric Wilkinson. I do not remember a girl called Peggy Barrett, who is named in the cast list, although there could have been one, and I wonder if it was me as I was Peggy Birkitt. I have been Peggy Mansell for the last 56 years".



We have received an e-mail from **PAT WALKER (nee FISHER)**, who says: I was very interested to read the article by Malcolm Noble in last month's Jack Long's Legacy column. I was in the same class as his son, Robert Malcolm Noble, and we were very good friends. After leaving school we were still friends with his wife Jackie and my husband Brian Walker. Robert went to Australia to work for a Chemical Company, who later sent him back to England, where he was living in Hadley Wood. We were still in touch at this time but I have heard nothing since, and no-one seems to know where he is. I wonder if anyone reading the Newsletter has any information about him".



Does anyone have any news of Roy Feacey, who was at school from 1944 to 1949. He had a nickname "Face-ache Feacey". Any news would be appreciated.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed. 6th July.	Lunch Get Together. 12 Noon The Plough, Crews Hill.
Wed. 14th Sept.	Committee Meeting. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Cambridge Campus.
Wed. 12th Oct	Lunch Get Together. 12 Noon. The Plough, Crews Hill.
Wed. 12th Oct.	A.G.M. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Cambridge Campus.

From our postbox:

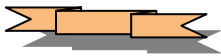
Thank you for the B.G. picture in the March issue. I have my copy at home. The original wasn't much good was it? I think I was in it but I can't find myself in the picture, and my memory says I only had a small part. I've looked at my diaries (yes, I have them for all my school years (1942-49), but they are not very clear.

*Incidentally, the entry for Saturday 14th December 1946 says "In the morning went to school for dress rehearsal (sic!) of *Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. Bad show. Good performance!" The following Monday it says "Presented B.G. at the school". That's all—no further comment. I used to have a programme for it, but I recently gave it to Beryl for her archive.*

By the way, the boy standing on a chair at the back on the right hand side is Alan Loe.

Bruce Goddard

Editor's note: In the cast list Bruce is shown as playing Covielle, the servant of Cleante, played by Eric James.



From Cicely Smith (nee Alexander) (1942-1947)

The article in the newsletter has stirred so many memories, and delving into old end-of-year publications I can confirm that "The Bourgeois Gentilhomme" was performed as part of the French afternoon in 1947. On the same programme I appeared in a French play translated into German. Eric James played the doctor, shown in a white coat in the attached photograph. I am fourth from the left.



When we were 14 years old my best friend, Doreen Aris, and I appeared in the 1945 production of "Macbeth" as "extras", sitting around the banquet table in the Banquo ghost scene in very nice, hired period costumes.

I have a 1944 programme showing a short play in which N. Tebbit appeared as Prince Simon. He was a contemporary of mine, but not a personal friend. On the same programme, but in another play, I played Princess Blowflower and Eric James played King Samilo of Argumania.

I have another 1947 programme for "Twelfth Night", in which Eric James played Sir Andrew Aquecheek. I played Olivia and Doreen Aris played Viola. I also remember being in a performance of this play at the Open Air Theatre in Pymmes Park. I left school at the age of 16 and went to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for two years. Doreen Aris followed me some time later, but she persevered with her career while I gave up to get married!

Miss Emery was the producer of most of the plays. She also gave lessons in poetry, and I gained many certificates and medals from the "Poetry Society". The examinations were held at the school on a Saturday morning.

Because it was war-time, holidays by the sea were not possible. I went to the "Harvest Camps" twice, once at Kelvedon and another time near Dorking "Lending a Hand on the Land". We slept under canvas and worked several hours each day.

Stooking corn was painful and scratchy on the limbs, while hoeing and weeding low rows of vegetables entailed much bending. When I arrived home my mother noticed that my waist had shrunk considerably! But it was good fun.

My five years at Edmonton County were among the happiest of my life, despite the war-time restrictions and sadness and the frightening bombing raids, during one night of which the house of a good friend, June Ball, was hit, injuring her mother but leaving June unscathed.

For we teenagers, about to embark on real life away from our wonderful school, I believe we had received the very best education and grounding to face whatever might befall. Edmonton County served us well.

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