

❖ ECSOGA Newsletter ❖

Issue 15

Registered Charity No. 312623

Summer 2007

From the Chair

Dear Members,

This will be my last year as chair of ECSOGA and I am sharing the position with Harriett Nailon, as there is more to do than I can conveniently manage at the moment. I shall be helping to organise the Centenary Celebrations once I step down and I intend to support ECSOGA as much as I am able.

We are still waiting for volunteers to help with ideas and plans for the Centenary, particularly from younger Members, or even from non-members. We want to make the celebrations as inclusive as possible, covering the span of cultural and other activities enjoyed throughout the life of the School. So don't be afraid to make suggestions, even if they seem at odds with your idea of ECSOGA activities. (see p.8 for contact details)

ECSOGA congratulates the School for raising £1300 for Comic Relief; the Senior Football Team for winning the Borough 6 a-side competition and beating Edmonton County School 5-0 to win the 11 a-side competition; for winning a Healthy Schools Award of a doormat with *Welcome to our Healthy School* on it.

Finally I would like to apologise for any errors in this issue, as delays meant that I was the sole proof reader.

Looking forward to a happy and successful year for all in ECSOGA and at ECS,

Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52)



Diary Dates

Saturday 8 September 2007

Annual Reunion
12 noon until about 4pm
Decade Marking for those who entered ECS in 1940/50/60/70/80/90

BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED

Saturday 8 March 2008

AGM & Spring Meeting 2008
SPORT AT ECS
Full details and booking form
Late January 2008
Also enclosed: Additions to List of Members

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FROM HARRIETT NAILON - JOINT CHAIR

Hello Fellow ECSOGA Members!

At the Spring Meeting, we heard songs by two great composing partnerships. We trust this was an auspicious omen for our next significant landmark (although we acknowledge that *Stevenson & Nailon* does not have the ring of *Rogers & Hammerstein* or *Lloyd-Webber & Rice*). Nonetheless, Mary and I are hoping that we shall be remembered as the team that helped ECSOGA to mark the 100th anniversary of the official opening of Enfield County School in suitable style. Please see this and future Newsletters for items on Centenary Celebration plans.

Special celebrations aside, why, you may be asking, do the duties of the Chair suddenly need to be shared? Several factors cause this arrangement to be necessary. Some factors are personal and, we hope, temporary but the main one is the plain fact that ECSOGA is increasingly difficult to run. The usual dramas accompanying the staging of events and Newsletter production are exacerbated because the recruitment of younger Committee Members continues to be an insoluble problem. Long term planning is impossible. Having Joint Chairs for 2007/8 will allow one (Mary) to concentrate on immediate matters while the other (yours truly) looks at the long term situation by carrying out a Strategy Review. The aim of the Review is to enable ECSOGA to decide what we should be doing after September 2009. Please see page 5 for more details. Thank you, in advance, for your time and attention.

Best wishes to you all,

Harriett Nailon (Lott 1956-63)

SPRING MEETING REPORT

FOR SHE SHALL HAVE MUSIC WHEREVER SHE GOES

A Celebration of Music at ECS – in memory of Miss Hetty Benjamin

Where words fail, music speaks

Hans Christian Anderson

Words, however, are all that your reporter has to describe the inspiring, heart-warming Spring Meeting enjoyed by over 100 people on a beautifully mild, sunny March day. As Members and guests arrived, and during the lunch hour, strains of the ECS choir, under Miss Benjamin's baton, could be heard singing *Blow the Wind Southerly* and other well-loved songs which had been recorded in 1974 (on a 45 rpm EP). Thanks to Mary Stevenson's husband, Jack, the choir's performance has been transferred to CD. Members were able to study a display of photos, music scores, tributes and notes about Miss Benjamin and music at ECS. Most of this material had been specially loaned for the occasion. The Historical Material Working Party is most grateful to all those kind people who shared their treasured items with us.

After lunch and the draw for the raffle (with each prize adorned with a suitable quotation, like the one at the head of this report), the entertainment began. Twelve people took part – speaking, singing and playing the piano. **Mary Stevenson** was MC/Anchorwoman. **Mrs Joan Hart** outlined *The Early Years – to 1946*, wittily enumerating features of singing lessons conducted by a succession of poorly paid teachers before The Great War. In 1916 the arrival of Miss Woods laid the foundation of real musical education at ECS. Along with Miss Bidwell, Miss Woods founded the Enfield Musical Festival, which was mentioned by speakers later in the afternoon as being an important part of life in Enfield in the mid 20th century. There were many successes including a competition triumph in 1922 and a recording in the 1930s.

Next, **Mrs Dilys Pollard (Miss Thomas)** who succeeded Miss Woods, recalled in vivid detail, and to much laughter, the various aspects of ECS musical activity in the late 1940s, and sang three songs, accompanied on the piano by Eve Barsham. Tributes to Miss Benjamin from **Ruth Weinstein (Barbara Selby 1955-62)** and **Fay Winkworth (Freeman 1956-63)** were read by **Madeleine Radburn (Gayler 1956-63)** with a couple of phrases in a very convincing South Wales accent. Ruth and Fay were sometimes driven to school by Miss Benjamin in her little car affectionately called 'Elsbeth'. Madeleine added her own words of appreciation concluding with the thought that "Benjy had hundreds of musical daughters".

From the stage, **Rita Paris (Dyke)** who left ECS in 1949, sang *All I Ask of You* from *Phantom of the Opera* and a medley from *The Sound of Music*. With her husband (stage names Vince & Rita Starr) Rita has been professional a performer for almost 50 years touring the country, working

on cruise liners and running a pantomime company. Rita had the audience singing along to *Eidelweiss* and was then joined by Mrs Pollard for a very touching rendition of *All Through the Night* – in Welsh – with the audience joining in for the last three words of each stanza. Then came a rapid change of mood as **Diki Gleeson (Barbara Turpin 1943-50)** read one of Miss Benjamin's Alphabet of Humorous Verses (see page 4). **Jennifer Liljestone (1955-60)**, a professional singer and teacher, who was appearing at The Royal Opera House in her early twenties, sang two of Miss Benjamin's compositions, accompanied on the piano by her husband. One of these songs, *Your Wish is My Wish*, was often broadcast on BBC radio in the 1950s by Vanessa Lee, whom Members of a certain age may remember as a regular performer on the Light Programme.

Eve Barsham (1947-54) musician and teacher, read an extract from her school diary – 18 July 1951 – when the Small Choir went to HMV studios, by bus, to make a record. Eve then played two of Miss Benjamin's Nursery Rhymes on the piano. There were more recollections from **Hilary Finch (1962-69)** who will be familiar to readers of *The Times* as a music critic and who is also a regular contributor to BBC Radio Three programmes. Hilary described Miss Benjamin's O Level music classes which were "like a University seminar". A second Humorous Verse was read with characteristic verve and to great effect by **Brenda Saunders (1940-45)**. The celebration was concluded with a delightful reminiscence from **Miss Byard** which gave an insight into Miss Benjamin at home, with her beloved sister, Evelyn, their kindness and shared love of clothes, fashion and elegant living, whilst also recalling the joy that as a person, as a musician and as a teacher Miss Benjamin brought to all who knew her.

In short, the Spring Meeting was a most enjoyable event, a wonderful reminder of the excellent musical education available to all generations at ECS and a most fitting memorial to Miss Hetty Benjamin.

Many thanks to our musicians, singers and speakers for making it all possible, with a particular mention for Eve Barsham for her help in coordinating the programme. Also a big round of applause for the audience for being so appreciative and supportive – and for singing along when requested. There is no doubt that those present would agree with the words of Sir Thomas Beecham: *Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and leaves the memory with difficulty. Magical music never leaves the memory.*

JOTTINGS FROM THE SPRING MEETING

News gathering at the Spring Meeting is more difficult than at the Reunion because so much is going on, people are engrossed in the topic of the day, looking at the display and welcoming those who, often, are attending their first ECSOGA event. Accordingly, the following list of Members' activities is in not a representative sample of those who were present. Apologies to those who were not approached for a catch-up chat: please remember we are always happy to receive news via email or snail mail – see contact details on page 8.

We were very pleased to see seven former members of staff, all walking advertisements for the joys of retirement. They were, in alphabetical order - **Mrs Jean Clapham**, **Mrs Joan Hart** (who has a new book in the pipe-line, see Page 8 for details), **Mrs Pat Horrex**, **Mrs Susan Pettifer**, **Mrs Dilys Pollard** (one of the performers in the after-noon's entertainment), **Mrs Marjorie Taylor** (happily recovered from a recent accident) and **Miss Irene Byard**, (on her first visit to us since retiring in December 2005) with **Tina**, her Westie terrier, who is an Honorary Member. ECS today was represented by the Head, **Ms Pam Rutherford**, Head of Years 12&13, **Miss Kay Zantis**, herself a student at the School in the 1970s, Head Girl **Charlotte Koureas** and Senior Prefect **Sophia Tagliavalle** who is the daughter of **Maria Maisto (1972-77)**. Both students are in Year 13. Charlotte has a place to read History at Warwick University and Sophia hopes to take a Media Foundation course at Bournemouth University.

The Committee was present in strength with **Margaret Meldrum (Clement 1956-63)** the only absentee. Margaret was in Australia visiting her son for his engagement celebrations and a trip which included Adelaide, Great Ocean Road, Melbourne, and Sydney. Just returned from the Caribbean and so looking wonderfully tanned was **Jean Endean (1958-63)**. In the past 12 months Jean has become a grandmother (to Harry, who will be a year old by the time you read this), the owner of a Labrador puppy (same age as Harry) and managed to finish the rebuilding of the family's house in France: a five year project. The house is in the village of Vals, in the Ardeche, an area familiar to those who watch Channel 4's *A Place in France*. Well done on all three achievements, Jean! Another 'new' grandmother is **Lesley Humphrey (Mason 1955-63)** whose membership of the Historical Material Working Party has reunited her with a former work colleague from the library service, **Marion Wiley (1951-58)**.

Congratulations, also, to **Carole Howell (Dyer 1962-69)** who has completed her Capel Manor/Birkbeck College course in Garden History and Design. Carole was awarded her diploma in summer 2006. **Jennifer Caddy (1961-68)** has now retired and moved from Wakefield in Yorkshire to Godalming in Surrey. Her newly-acquired 35- year-old house is showing signs of age and so, in March, was being

rewired and having new phone lines installed which has involved Jennifer in learning how to drill out bricks! By contrast, **Wendy Knowles (1957-64)** is still working full time, commuting across London and has no plans to give up. **Beryl Muffett (Egan 1954-61)** still pursues several hobbies including ballroom dancing and is "waiting for the call from *Strictly Come Dancing*".

Nan Whitman (Lucas 1943-49) was accompanied by her daughter, **Claire Coulson** (at ECS in the 1970/80s) who was pleased to meet contemporaries **Sula Gleeson** (daughter of Diki) and **Lisa Cussens**. Sula trained to be a primary school teacher and, since 1997, has been a freelance sign language interpreter. Lisa's first career was as a Cordon Bleu pastry chef and she worked at, among other places, Terence Conran's revitalised *Quaglino's*. A trip to New Zealand and the realisation that catering shifts were becoming too much, saw Lisa change course. Now she is an homeopathic practitioner working at clinics in Oakwood and Willow Road. Among memories recalled by Sula and Lisa was the 1984 Sahara Expedition, with their HE teacher, Mrs Cooke. Recollections by older generations of Lake District geography trips seem a little tame by comparison. Some former Committee stalwarts attended too: **Betty Archer (Young 1937-44)**, **Jean Potter (Nightingale 1946-49)** accompanied by her sister **Dawn Nightingale (1948 -45)** and, particularly welcome after a spell of poor health, former Secretary **Helen Dordewic (1965-70)**. Another pair of sisters present were **Elisabeth Wilkins (1949-56)** and **Jocelyn Marsh (1952-57)** whose mother, Lady Millis, at the School before World War II, is still going strong and enjoying life. Sadly some of our regular stalwarts could not be with us: **Doreen Coker (Stableton 1937-44)** planned to come but was kept at home by a slight indisposition while **Nancy Bower (Thompson 1932-39)** was busy helping to entertain visitors from Russia at her Oxford home.

As always at an ECSOGA event, the talk was eclectic, passionate and serious, joking and ironic. **Lesley Williams (1956-63)** received scant concern for her injured, strapped hand – the result of playing netball. Sitting with celebrated un-sporty peers **Carol Bostock-Smith (Masters)**, **Carol Chattaway (Crow)**, **Willa Hislop**, **Jenny Fisher (Steel)** and **Harriett Nailon (Lott)**, Lesley knew better than to expect anything other than mock sympathy. On a more serious note, we were interested to learn from **Ann Robinson (Head 1968-74)** of her volunteer work at a drop-in centre for the deaf and with people who have learning difficulties. Ann has been a Cub-Scout leader for 33 years. Carol Bostock-Smith has been a Brown Owl for a similar length of time. In the year of the 100th anniversary of Baden-Powell's first camp at Brownsea Island, it is good to know that some ECSOGA Members still work in the movement that meant so much to generations of ECS girls – and, of course, to Miss F Sharp and Miss Hodgson.

one of Miss Benjamin's Alphabet of Humorous Verses

This it the tale of a man called Neville
Who used to be a real daredevil.
As a student in his teens
Dressed in skin-tight leather jeans,
With hair spiked red and blue and green
Neville never cared a bean.
A rocker, with a noisy bike,
You never knew just where he'd strike.
Roaring through the streets at night
And giving villagers a fright,
His parents begged him mend his way-
The more they begged, the more he'd play,
He'd never qualify, they said –
“So what? Just look at Uncle Fred!
An ignoramus, if there's one -
But look how well he has done!
He's loaded now, you must agree,
Yet he failed to pass his degree”

They all but gave up in despair,
When one day he appeared there -
His hair now brown, without a spike,
A car instead of motor bike.
Gone were skin-tight leather jeans,
And looking like a man of means,
There he stood as if on show,
With a lady friend in tow.
A well groomed lass indeed was she-
He'd brought her round to have some tea.
Can you imagine their relief,
To see this change beyond belief?
Gone for good was the young daredevil;
An angel now stood in for Neville.
The change of course was for her sake
Oh! what a difference love can make.

*Read at the Spring Meeting by
Diki Gleeson*

GENERAL NEWS

Margaret Rochester (Frier 1964-71) has sent us an article from the British Dental Journal, Oct 2006, by her class mate **Liz Robb**, in which Liz tells of her return to the UK after 25 years in Africa. At the age of 45, after two decades in dentistry, Liz had become founder director of Childline Zimbabwe which, while a real success story, did not prove a suitable launch-pad for restarting life in Britain. So Liz had to go back to being a dentist. It took a couple of courses – one discovered completely by chance – before she was able to pick up the threads of her career. There is a happy ending, however, and Liz is now settled in the West Country, her sons are finishing their education (the main reason for her return) and her pension is starting to grow. However, it is clear from the opening sentence of the article that Liz is missing “the warmth of the African sun” and “beloved Zimbabwe”. The home of **Dr Frances Gerrard (1968-75)** was one of the two hundred or so in the village of Bow Street, Ceredigion hit by a tornado in late November 2006. Luckily, no one was hurt and everyone proved to be very resilient during the emergency and its aftermath. Freak weather permitting, Frances juggles a post in Medical Education at Cardiff University with part-time General Practice.

In early 2006 **Leigh Grayston (1972-77)** enlisted the help of an Enfield local paper to try to track down friends from 5L of 1976/7, whose class teacher was Mr Williams. Sadly, the article and photograph of **Lynne Peters, Josephine Foot and Janet Riley** (yes, another one!), did not appear in the paper until after the date of the reunion! Despite this, Leigh managed to gather some twenty of the class, some with partners, and so a great time was had by about 35 people, many of whom had not met since leaving school. Following the late newspaper article, several more people contacted Leigh and there are hopes for another get-together before too long, possibly at our Reunion on 8 September. We hope so, and look forward to learning a little about what went on in 5L, thirty years ago!

A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM THELMA SUTTON (1945-50)

"I would like to thank the Members of ECSOGA who were always so kind to me while I was looking after my Mother. In particular, I would like to thank the Members of the Committee for their great sympathy and understanding when I had to miss Meetings, and for letting me off washing-up duties. I will try to make up for it. Thank you all so very much."

ECSOGA PRIZES FOR 2005/6

Broome Prize for Religious Studies - Lucy Ripsher
Florence Prize for Mathematics - Melihat Akay
Senior Forrest Prize for Modern Languages
 – for French - Natasha Tangwah
 – for Spanish - Sinnaead Dennehy
Marjorie Read Prize for Business - Charlotte
 Shamoon-Nikcheh

Read Prize for Art - Amy Gibson
Hodgson Prize for PE - Katie Moore
OGA Prize for English - Marie Panayi
Mary Turnbull Prize for Geography -Madeleine Velupillai
As always, Treasurer Ann Wickert has received some beautifully composed and sincere thank you letters and cards, which were on display at the Spring Meeting.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Before the formal business of the AGM, on 10 March, Ms Rutherford gave a brief report on recent activities at the School. Included in the impressive list were trips to France and Spain, to consolidate language learning; a Careers Education event at a Youth Hostel in Cheshunt working on team-building and leadership skills and coaching for Hickstead 2007. On the very day of our meeting, ECS's Senior Netball Team was in action in the County Competition being staged at Twickenham.

STRATEGY REVIEW – INITIAL FINDINGS

by Harriett Nailon – Joint Chair (with Mary Stevenson)

In the three and a half months since my appointment as Joint Chair, I have analysed patterns of Membership, considered ECSOGA's strengths and weaknesses and discussed these with the Committee, with a small but fairly representative cross-section of Members and with a couple of former students of ECS who are not Members. *Thank you all, ladies, for your time, ideas and advice.*

Thanks also to Members who responded to my Winter Newsletter article *MIND THE GAPS!* which was, actually, a prelude to the Strategy Review. Asking how we can recruit younger age-groups, brought the seemingly simple suggestion that we tell potential recruits "What to expect" & "What is in ECSOGA for them". These apparently straight-forward questions turn out to be rather complex. As well as holding meetings to bring people together, ECSOGA can do other things: satisfy curiosity, evoke nostalgia, put youthful experiences into context, clarify memories. These phrases have all been used in expressions of appreciation to the Committee over the years. We now realise that just listing our activities is not enough to show people what can be gained from joining us.

We hope to be more descriptive from here on but, right now, our most pressing need is to find a new generation of Committee Members – in particular someone to be Chair from March 2009 onwards. In addition to our plea for volunteers in the last Newsletter, we have sent out 40 letters to Members who left ECS between 1965 and 1985 and live within 90 minutes travelling time of the School. We received 18 replies to this mail-shot and are heartened to find that there are eight people among the age group 40–60 who, one day, would like to help to run ECSOGA. The difficulty is the time lapse until this help will be available. One correspondent explained that those who left ECS in the late 1960s/early 1970s were the first beneficiaries of the Equal Opportunities legislation. These trail-blazers (and those following) usually did not take a child-rearing break – just maternity leave – and now are at, or nearing, the peak of successful and hard-fought-for careers. So it will be at least three or more years before any of these talented people see themselves being able to commit significant time to ECSOGA.

Alas this may be too little, too late. Also, experience warns us that undertakings on a time-scale greater than 12 months tend to be unreliable. Women aged 50 to 60 often find that elderly parents, grandchildren and family or personal health problems can constrain or dash plans which, at the half-century point, looked perfectly feasible.

All this means that **we still face the problem outlined in *MIND THE GAPS!* in the last Newsletter: there is a gap in the membership structure which is making ECSOGA, in its present form, increasingly unsustainable.**

We can see our way clearly until September 2009, when we shall celebrate the School's centenary. After that, however, things look very uncertain: several of the current Committee hope to have stood down before or by March 2010. In addition, in October 2010, many Members' subscriptions become due for renewal and the Constitution is due for review. This means that 2009/10 will be a very significant period in terms of Committee work and decision making e.g. should we try to phase out Postal Membership and have most people as On-line Members? Should subscriptions be altered? Will we send out new Membership Cards or will people be happy to download their cards? Even, do we need Membership cards?

In the next six months we must find four or five energetic, committed people, living fairly near Enfield, interested in all ages (not just their peers) to join the Committee in 2008/9, with two of them willing to assume leadership roles from March 2009 onwards. Despite best efforts in the past 12 months we do not have these people in view.

At the time of writing it appears that, after September 2009, ECSOGA faces three possibilities:

- 1. Try to carry on** as it has since 2000 – with a tiring Committee, falling attendances (because 75% of Members are aged 60+) and the consequent financial issues (e.g. healthy surpluses from meetings fund the Newsletter).
- 2. Cut-back activities** to, say, one event and one mail-shot a year, and hope the reduced work-load may encourage people to come forward for the Committee, possibly helping to turn us into a mainly internet-based operation.
- 3. Wind up in an organised way**, "going out on a high" with The Centenary Reunion, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the official opening of ECS, in autumn 2009, and leaving the field clear for a new group to be formed (perhaps), which will be more appropriate to the 21st century than ECSOGA can ever hope to be.

At the 2008 AGM there will be opportunity to debate these alternatives – all of which have merits and drawbacks – and to contribute to the decision about ECSOGA's future. Also the views of the Membership as a whole will be canvassed by a questionnaire in Winter 2007/8 Newsletter. So, watch this space and, please, give the possibilities listed above some thought. Meanwhile, if you have any concerns, revolutionary thoughts, fantastic ideas or a wish to take over as Chair, please, get in-touch – see contact details on Page 8.

OBITUARIES

Mrs Olive Sellick (Watts 1925-32) of Enfield - died 4 April 2007 just before her 93rd birthday.

Daughter of a well-known local teacher and headmaster - trained at St Katharine's College Tottenham 1932-34 - taught at Raglan School until her marriage to fellow teacher Harry Watts. After the war, once her children were at school, Olive returned to teaching at Chase Side Primary School, Grange Park and finally at Honilands, where she was deputy head. Her husband initiated a series of annual photographic weekend conventions which Olive continued to organise for a further eleven years after his death, receiving thanks and a presentation by the Mayor of Enfield when she stepped down. A long term Member and supporter of ESOGA, serving on the committee until 2002, Olive was also an active member of other local societies, such as Enfield Preservation Society and Enfield Decorative and Fine Arts Society, of which she was also a committee member. Although chairbound, Olive attended this year's AGM and Spring Meeting, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She was bright and enthusiastic and appreciated the round of applause, which she received from the other attendees.

£845 was donated to Teacher Support Network in Memory of Olive by her friends. She is survived by her daughter Sally Packer (Sellick at ECS 1957-64) and son Stephen.

Mrs Shirley Joiner (Hedworth 1946-53) of Cheltenham – died 12 April 2007 .

Shirley was a Primary School Teacher, meeting her husband, Peter, through teaching. She taught part time while her daughters were growing up and then again later, when she and her husband were running a B & B in Cheltenham. After being diagnosed with cancer about 5 years ago, Shirley was determined to keep as active as possible and, with her husband, she took a train trip across America, a boat trip to Russia and visited one of her daughters in Australia. Shirley is survived by her husband and two daughters.

SNIPPETS FROM THE MEMORABILIA COLLECTION

A poem by Miss Rudkin

Among the items left by Miss Cox and kindly donated to ECSOGA by her family, is the following poem written by Miss Olive Rudkin [1894-1991] who taught History at ECS for 30 years, from 1924 to 1954. During World War II Miss Rudkin adopted a refugee girl, Greta Glauber. It is not too fanciful to suppose that this poem was written with Greta in mind, probably sometime in the 1940s. It appeared in *Punch* but we do not know the date of publication. As always with Memorabilia Collection items, if any readers have more information about the poem or the circumstances surrounding it we shall be very pleased to hear from them. Please contact Harriett Nailon.

TO A CHILD REFUGEE IN A FOREIGN LAND

Little daughter, was it you and I who played amongst the snow
Twelve age-long months ago?
You I held so firmly
As joyously our sledge flew down the hill?
Or do I dream that you and I on that still
Sunny morn scabbled the light-dropped snow away
To give the gentians and crocuses a peep of day?
And are these garments close-packed in a drawer
Clothes you will never wear
Now strangers harbour you?
Ah, liebbling, may the greatness of my pain
Mean less of loneliness for you and less of strain
In lisping in a language not your own
And may the happiness I've lost to you have flown.
The dying Christ prayed for his enemies
Pride-blinded Pharisees
Who knew not what they did.
Oh God, our rulers cannot make that plea;
They know my baby needs its home – and me.
I must not, will not, ask for vengeance yet,
But cure their madness, God; and help me to forget
The purple crocuses.

Memories of Rex Wooldridge and other canines at ECS

Thanks to Historical Material Working Party Member, **Lesley Humphrey (Mason 1955-63)**, at the Reunion we were able to display a lovely photograph of Rex, Mrs Wooldridge's cocker spaniel, which occasioned lots of reminiscing especially amongst those who took Geography at either O or A level. Lesley has also tracked down information about books written by Mrs Wooldridge's husband, who was a Professor at King's College, London. One of these books was the main A level text for Physical Geography in the 1950s and 60s. It was also recalled that in the late 1950s Miss Morley (Head of the Maths Department) had a terrier of some sort (Cairn, Scottish, Norfolk? no-one could remember). In the Memorabilia Collection we have a staff group photograph, as yet undated but possibly late 1940s, in which Miss Morley is holding a dog. Clearly she was a dog-lover as was Miss Gardner-Hopkins (PE – early 1960s) who had a puppy Yorkshire terrier. One of the sports teams bought the pet a huge bone (bigger than the dog itself) at the end of one term and presented it decorated with green ribbons. Does anyone remember anything about Miss Morley's dog/dogs? Were there any other staff pets which came into school? **Reminiscences** on these subjects – or any other topics that interest, amuse or move – **very gratefully received**. Please send to **Harriett Nailon or bring to the next meeting**.

MY HOME OFFICE CAREER

Hilary Anderson
(Ramsbotham 1956-63)

I always wanted to work in central London so, once my inability to master physics ruled out going to university, I decided to try for the Civil Service. I passed the entrance exam and was allocated my first choice of Ministry, the Home Office. I was required to attend on a certain day in September 1963 when I would be assigned to a Department. There I sat next to a lady who had a degree in Russian, quite unusual in those days. She was allocated to a finance section and I, with my A level in Maths, was sent to the Immigration and Nationality Department. I worked in Immigration control for 8 years. After 4 months initial training I began dealing with applications from aliens, as they were still known, for permission to stay longer or vary their conditions of stay. The work was extremely interesting and very varied. Eventually I moved to the Deportation Machinery Group. As the name implies this group dealt with the physical removal of those against whom the Home Secretary had signed a deportation order. We dealt closely with the Metropolitan Police, who often had to escort the most unsavoury individuals back to their home soil.

In 1972 it was decided that the Immigration and Nationality Department would move from High Holborn to Croydon. As I was by then married, and living in Hertford, this did not suit me. I went to work for the Ugandan Resettlement Board, which had been hastily set up to assist Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin. On the day I arrived to start this work, at the old Home Office building in Whitehall, there was a total of 3 staff, including me! There were demonstrations outside the building objecting to this mass influx. My first task was to draft a guide to life in the UK including such things as the colour of post boxes. We expanded rapidly and my section dealt with accommodation, both private and council. Many were housed initially in disused army camps, and were obviously desperate to move out.

After a year I left this work to start a family and it was 17 years before I returned to the Civil Service. During that time I had done some accountancy work after taking an A Level in Accounts, and it was this new skill that enabled me to get back in at my old grade. I went to work for the Police National Computer Organisation (PNC) as a finance assistant to the Technical Director. How things had changed in 17 years. Gone was all the formality, and everyone, at all levels, was known by their Christian name. I had my own computer and was required to use spreadsheets. Training was very good and I soon began to enjoy the new technology. PNC, as well as running the Police National Computer at Hendon, was also concerned with developing technology to assist the police with various routine tasks. PNC became the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) launched by Michael Howard and taken out of the Home Office. One of my tasks was to set up a Project Support Office for the Technical Direc-

tor. I was sponsored by the Home Office for an Open University degree course, and 6 years later I finally achieved my degree. I left PITO in 2002.

I feel mortified when I read so much criticism in the press and it does seem as though some sections of the press have had it in for the Home Office. I feel that ministers could defend actions taken in a more robust manner. Quite often there is a perfectly adequate explanation for what seems like a blunder. There is also the question of priorities. Do we want more prisons or do we want more hospitals? Do we want more civil servants? If the answer is no then we have to accept that services will be slower or not available when we want them. The formation of the Ministry of Justice may prove to be a good way of reorganising the work. The old Prison Service, now amalgamated with the Probation Service to form the National Offender Management System, will come under the Ministry of Justice along with the judiciary, who are not happy with this situation. At present all is in a state of flux, but once it settles down it may prove to be a more workable arrangement. Let's hope so!

HISTORICAL MATERIAL PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT

Working Party Personnel:

In theory, the HMWP has lost one member and gained one member. While no longer attending our meetings and so, officially, no longer a Working Party member, **Brenda Saunders (1940-45)** is continuing to help us with captioning the play photographs. So (to use the style which will be recognised from the School Magazine of the mid 20th century) this is a formal Vale to Brenda with much appreciation for her staunch support, encyclopaedic knowledge, wise counsel and ability to make us all laugh. At the same time we are pleased to say Salve to **Thelma Sutton (1945-50)** whose attention to detail and administrative skills (honed during her career with Midland Bank) and her artistic eye (painting is one of her hobbies) will be great assets to the Project.

Recent Activities:

Many thanks for all the encouragement and words of praise received and overheard at our last two events. If the Working Party were to choose a motto, it would probably be *Festina Lente* or, less pompously, the old British Rail slogan *We're Getting There*. In other words, progress is slow – but sure. More of the play photos have been captioned (but not yet mounted and typed) and, of course, quite a lot of time was spent preparing the Spring Meeting display. Currently we are trying to track-down material relating to the historic year (at least as far as ECS was concerned) of 1967 to put on show on 8 September. **If Members have anything relating to 1967 – or the years either side – which they can bring to the Reunion we will be delighted to include it in the exhibition and, if appropriate and possible, copy it for inclusion in the Memorabilia Collection.** Thank you, in hope rather than expectation.

Reminder:

There are several people who promised us memorabilia material who have yet to send the items to us. We now have room in our cupboard so please, ideally, bring the items to an ECSOGA meeting or post to Harriett Nailon, address page 8.

ECSOGA Committee for 2007/8

Date in square brackets [] refers to year elected to present post. Some members previously co-opted.

Elected -

Joint Chair: Mrs Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52) [2004]
 Tres: Miss Ann Wickert (1954-59) [1992],
 Sec: Mrs Beryl Muffett (Egan 1954-61) [2004],
 PR Officer: Mrs Carole Howell (Dyer 1962-69)[2000]
 M'ship Sec: Mrs Margaret Meldrum (Clement 1956-6)[2004]
 General Members: Mrs Pat Clarke (Ascroft 1945-50) [2005]
 Dr Wendy Knowles (1957-64)[2003]
 Mrs Janet Naylor (Riley 1949-54) [2004]
 Miss Jean Savage (1947-53) [2005]
 Miss Thelma Sutton (1945-50) [2003]
 Mrs Maria Walker (Constantinou 1979-84) [2007]
 Mrs Nan Whitman (Lucas 1943-49) [2003]

Co-opted -

Website Manager: Dr Jennifer Caddy (1961-68)
 Mrs Alev Cozimoglu (1979-84 who is on the Committee of *The Friends of Enfield County*, hopes to enable improved liaison between ECSOGA and the *Friends*)
 Ms Jean Endean (1958-63)
 Mrs Harriett Nailon (Lott 1956-63) who will be Joint Chair for the next 12 months with a view to being sole Chair from March 2008 onwards.

Contact addresses below and on our website

www.onwardever.org.uk News items always gratefully received

ECSOGA HISTORICAL MATERIAL WORKING PARTY

Chair & Secretary: Harriett Nailon (Lott 1956-63)
 General Members: Helen Dordewic (1965-70)
 Lesley Humphrey (Mason 1955-62), Jean Savage (1947-53)
 Thelma Sutton (1945-50), Marion Wiley (1951-58)

IN CASE I FORGET**Letters to my goddaughter**

by Joan Cherry (i.e. Joan Hart)

The story of an only child growing up in a religious and old-fashioned family in pre-war Liverpool who became a teenager (called an adolescent then) in the widening world of political tension and slow-moving feminism.

Due to be published in the UK and USA in early summer 2007. It will be available in bookshops but can also be reserved and sent to you by post. Please contact Mrs Hart by phone – 020 8363 7626 – or in writing: 23 Curthwaite Gardens, Oakwood, Enfield EN2 7LW.

As all who have read *Onward Ever*, the history of ECS, will know, Mrs Hart has a most readable style and an unusually acute eye for detail. Her publisher proclaims that *In Case I Forget* “has the feel of a *temps perdu*”. It looks like another best seller. Hurry to reserve your copy NOW

LOOKING AHEAD

Next Meeting: Annual Reunion: Saturday 8 September 2007- **Booking Form Enclosed**

Spring Meeting 2008: Saturday 8 March 2008 - AGM and buffet lunch, followed by

THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT AT ECS

The last three Spring Meetings have been most successful. So it is a triple case of “How on earth do we follow that?” We shall turn from the sensitive and aesthetic to the hearty, and possibly controversial, realm of COMPETITITON. The most obviously competitive areas at ECS in the mid-20th Century were the class room and the sports field. Academic and scholastic achievement, prowess in games and athletics were all fostered through the House System. There were other rivalries, too - between Forms in the Tidiness Campaign, with other schools, mainly through sports, but also in Modern Language and Classical Verse Speaking Competitions and the Enfield Musical Festival. Then there were the opposing passions (e.g. Ban The Bomb) seen in the Debating Society and sometimes even at break times.

At this distance we cannot list speakers or precise topics but we aim to examine most aspects of competitiveness, including pros and cons, mainly in a light-hearted manner but with sufficient seriousness of purpose to satisfy those still motivated by intellectual rigour. To generate a ghost of the competitive zeal of yesteryear we ask, please, that **everyone comes wearing either a garment or ribbon in their House Colour**. Those at ECS after Houses were discontinued will be invited, on arrival, to become temporary members of the House of their choice. The raffle will have a House theme – last prize to be given out will be a wooden spoon.

More details (including reminder of House colours) + booking form with next Newsletter.

Contact details:

Treasurer: Ann Wickert, 84 Hoodcote Gardens, London N21 2NE Tel: 0208 360 5573

Membership Sec: Margaret Meldrum, 46 Heath Drive, Ware SG12 0RF Tel: 01920 461826

Newsletter Editor: Mary Stevenson, 45 Highview Gardens, Potters Bar EN6 5PN Tel: 01707 650560

Newsletter copy to: Harriett Nailon, 56 Palmerston Road, London SW19 1PQ Tel: 020 8543 6830

ECSOGA
(Registered Charity No. 312623)
*keeping former students of Enfield County/Enfield Chase in-touch
with each other and the School*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF MEMBERS 1st May 2006 – 30th April 2007

We trust that the details given below are correct. As in previous years, please accept advance apologies for any errors and send corrections for publication in next year's list to the Membership Secretary,

Margaret Meldrum

46 Heath Drive Ware, Herts SG12 0RF

Phone: 01920 461826

Members are reminded that contact can be made with anyone on the List of Members by writing c/o ECSOGA Membership Secretary. Please put your name and address on the reverse of the envelope.

Except in very unusual or urgent circumstances, ECSOGA does not give out addresses, even to other Members.

If you move house please let us know. Sadly, we lose track of someone every year – make sure you keep in-touch. We need you all.

<u>Current Name and Title</u>	<u>Name at ECS</u>	<u>Years at ECS</u>	<u>Residence</u>
# Mrs Jeanette Lane	Laird	1947 –50	Horsham W. Sussex
Miss Margaret Turner	Turner	1945 –50	London SE12
Mrs Samantha Bassett	Fricker	1981 –87	Enfield, Middx
Mrs Rita Paris	Dyke	1944 –49	Ascot, Berks
Miss Dawn Andrews	Adams	1958 – 65	Exeter, Devon
Mrs Anne Winfield	Chandler	1946 – 52	Potters Bar, Middx
Mrs Ann Robinson	Head	1968 –74	Enfield, Middx

online member

ECSOGA

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

All former students and former staff of Enfield County/Enfield Chase School are warmly invited to the

ANNUAL REUNION

in The Hall, M C Sharp Building, Enfield County School, Holly Walk

Saturday 8 SEPTEMBER 2007

from 12 noon until about 4pm

(There should be ample parking)

PROGRAMME

- 12.30 Welcoming Address by ECSOGA Joint Chairs,
Mary Stevenson/Harriett Nailon
- 12.45 Address by Ms Pamela Rutherford BA, MA(Ed) NPQH
Headteacher
- 1 pm Buffet Lunch served, sale of raffle tickets and News from Cohorts
- 2.15 Raffle Draw
- 3.45 Farewell and Jerusalem

Please encourage non-members to come along by passing on a copy of the booking form

A special welcome is extended to those cohorts celebrating their
Decade Marking i.e. all who entered ECS in the following years:

1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990

This is a very informal event with the emphasis on giving people time to talk and socialise and give news of your cohorts to the gathering. We look forward to welcoming you and your friends but don't be concerned about coming alone: Committee members make a point of introducing themselves and helping you to find your contemporaries. Carers (male or female) are also welcome.

£12 per person for the day

to include generous buffet lunch and drinks

Capacity of the Hall is limited. To reserve your place please complete the slip below and send with your cheque to the Treasurer a.s.a.p. CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS: Friday 31 August
Please note: Lunch can be guaranteed only for those who have booked in advance

Any questions concerning the Reunion or Decade Marking please contact Membership Secretary, Margaret Meldrum on 01920 461826 OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.onwardever.org.uk

cut here -----

To: ECSOGA Treasurer, 84 Hoodcote Gardens, London N21 2NE

FROM: Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Years at ECS _____

Please reserve _____ places @ £12 for the Reunion on 8 September 2007

Cheque / PO enclosed for £ _____ (Please make payable to ECSOGA)

We do not send out tickets or receipts. If a receipt is required please send a s.a.e.