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# ❖ ECSOGA Newsletter ❖

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Issue 19

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## From the Chairman

**D**ear Fellow Members,

From your comments we know that in the past decade, and possibly for much longer, ECSOGA has been a reassuring presence and a source of good times for most of our Members. So it is possibly unfortunate, even churlish-seeming, that we shall be disappearing when circumstances all around are uncertain and worrying. On both counts we wish it were otherwise, but ECSOGA's weaknesses pre-date the current economic woes and would still exist when today's recession ends, be it two or ten years hence. In other words, sad as it will be, and bad as our timing has turned out to be, we remain confident that closing-down ECSOGA is the right course of action. We are giving *The Friends of Enfield County* scope for connecting with leavers and opportunities for publicity via The Memorial Fund. Also we may possibly create a space where a 21<sup>st</sup> century alumni society can flourish. The Committee thanks every Member for her support and goodwill over the years. It has been fun for us and we hope that all of you have had some fun, too. On behalf of the Membership I record sincere appreciation to all Committee Members, past and current, for their time, hard work, commitment and good humour. Likewise our gratitude to the Historical Material Working Party, although it will be continuing for some time yet.

I am sorry that I cannot be present at the final Reunion – I will be with you in spirit. It has been a privilege and pleasure to be associated with ECSOGA: I shall long treasure the beautiful gift so kindly presented to me on 14 March. I hope that you all feel able to join me in cherishing memories of ECSOGA meetings when, together, we have commemorated our affection for ECS, our teachers and our classmates. We were very blessed in our youth, I believe. Maybe there is uncertainty now and the possibility of hardship in the future – so be it. We have our education to sustain us, our ECS friends to comfort us and our recollections of ECS and ECSOGA to inspire us. **ONWARD EVER.**  
All good wishes,  
HARRIETT NAILON (Lott 1956-63)



### Diary Date

Saturday 12 September  
2009

GRAND FINALE/  
CENTENARY REUNION

12 noon until about 4 pm

BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED  
also enclosed:

CENTENARY PUBLICATION  
ORDER FORM  
(For details see page 8)

## 2009 Spring Meeting Report I

On 14 March ECS was just a few months short of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its official opening. Appropriately, attendance on that day was just a few short of 100 people. With no traffic problems on the warm, spring-like morning almost everyone arrived in good time giving opportunity for coffee and conversation before the gathering was called to order for the presentation of ECSOGA's first Centenary Gift to the School: a wooden board inscribed in gold with the names of the Head Teachers, which was unveiled by Ms Rutherford and Miss Byard.

The formalities were completed in record time despite two non-routine items of business: the appointments of **Mrs Joan Hart** as **Vice President** and **Jean Potter (Nightingale 1946-49)** as **Vice Chairman**: both unanimously ratified to much applause. Jean will preside at the final Reunion as Harriett Nailon will be absent on 12 September, attending the wedding of her younger son. On behalf of the Membership, **Anne Wickert (1954-59)** presented Harriett with a framed flower print in recognition of her 11 years of involvement with ECSOGA.

With over an hour available for lunch, Members relaxed, enjoying the generous buffet and the memorabilia display which included the draft of an alphabetical list of all teachers from 1909 – 2009 and some sketches of dinner ladies in the 1960s. Raffle prizes were tagged with timetable subjects: e.g. a handsome teddy bear represented Zoology, oven gloves were labelled Domestic Science. All in all, there could be no doubt that the *main objective* of the day was to memorialise and celebrate all the staff of the first century of ECS.

See Page 2 for details of the tributes.

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## 2008 SPRING MEETING REPORT II

### *Let Us Now Praise Enfield Women – and a Few Men*

In 95 minutes fourteen contributors presented an anthology in words and music recalling almost two dozen members of teaching staff and dedicated to **all** the staff of the first 100 years of ECS. One page can contain only a few of the bon mots, insights and expressions of appreciation laid before a most supportive audience by our team of marvellous speakers and writers. Arguably the most difficult reminiscence had been allocated to **Susan Gardner (1957-64)**. In the tricky after-lunch slot, Sue was charged with paying tribute to the six Head Teachers of the School only two of whom she knew – and that at a distance. Nonetheless, as the retired Head of a school rather like ECS, Sue was able to explain what Heads do all day and gave us a sense of the varying challenges faced by Miss Broome and her successors. By contrast, **Lesley Humphrey (Mason 1955-63)** was able to speak in detail about Miss Coster and Mrs Wooldridge plus give us some facts about her husband, Prof Wooldridge, whose books on geomorphology were A-level texts for many years. Lesley also reminded us of some skills learned in geography lessons, such as finding south using the sun and an analogue watch. A tribute written by **Ann Haynes (1956-62)** and read by **Thelma Sutton (1945-50)** recalled Mrs Dean who “ruled over VIB Secretarial with a fist of iron and a heart of gold”.

**Nancy Bower (Thompson 1933-39)** regaled us with recollections of Miss Forrest, evoking a clear picture of the formidable lady known to most of those present not in person but as the author of *Apprenons le français*. Nancy had brought along copies of other books written or compiled by “Forrie” and gave us some clues to her teaching methods. In France Miss Forrest was usually taken to be a native. In 1939 there was one ECS girl reading French at each of the Oxford women’s colleges. Small wonder Miss Forrest and ECS were so famous! **Jennifer Bath (Hall 1948-52)** gave us an equally recognisable portrait of Miss Hodgson both on the games field, where she was immaculate in divided skirt and college blazer, and at Cadet camp where she, and other teachers, took their turn with the chores.

**Margaret Meldrum (Clement 1956-63)** described the enthusiasm inspired by Mrs Martin in History classes and, on a more sombre note, her kindness following the sudden death of Margaret’s father. Mrs Martin entertained Margaret and her mother to tea and later introduced Mrs Clement (**Winifred Overall** when she was at ECS) to the Historical Association in which Mrs Clement soon became actively involved. Several audience members nodded in recognition of this generally unknown side of Mrs Martin. Afterwards others discussed their own memories of the Historical Association including evening meetings at the Gas Board Showroom and a Saturday Conference at ECS, organised by Mrs Martin, which featured a handsome young academic from Magdalene College, Oxford.

To help us recall Miss Morley and our Maths lessons **Dianne Crowder (1956-64)** had three of the audience cutting up paper circles, held up a picture of a sunflower to demonstrate the occurrence of a Fibonacci number in nature and pointed out an example of when probability theory can be helpful. Suffice to say, Dianne gave us a brief but tantalising glimpse of some of the finer points of Mathematics. This left some Members wistfully wishing that they had progressed further in the ‘Queen of the Sciences’. Dianne’s enthusiasm and ability to communicate her points to us, in just a few minutes, were a true and fitting testament to Miss Morley’s brilliance and lasting influence. A written account of Art lessons with Miss Rhodes and Mrs Hargrave, clearly describing the different media and techniques each favoured and their contrasting teaching styles, was sent from Toronto by **Madeline Wynn (Sutton 1956-63)** and sensitively read by Thelma Sutton. With greetings and thanks in Latin **Carol Bostock-Smith (Masters 1956-63)** gave us an erudite and sometimes gently humorous tribute to the Classics teachers. Including a quotation from Miss M C Sharp quoting Cicero and a reference to Pericles’ Funeral Oration over the Athenian war dead, Carol packed a great deal into the six minutes allotted to her as she recalled Miss F Sharp, Mrs Parker, Miss Elder and Mrs Denbeigh. An object lesson in concise analysis, elegant expression and the benefits of studying Classics. The roll call of teachers was completed by **Jenny Fisher (Steel 1956-63)** with a reminiscence of Miss Tomlinson, serene even when a pupil set an experiment on fire. By the early 1960s “although she had been teaching for over 25 years, Miss Tomlinson always seemed conversant with up-to-date theories. We later realised she was kept at the cutting edge of chemical research by her elder sister who was a senior lecturer and researcher in Organic Chemistry at Oxford. So, indirectly, we girls received the benefit of not just one but two Miss Tomlinsons!”

There were two musical interludes. **Janet Naylor (Riley 1949-54)** played Mendelssohn’s *Wedding March* from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* to recall the many teachers who either left when they got married or who changed their names whilst at ECS – for example Miss McGregor, Miss Healey and Miss Harding and Miss Brenton who became Mrs O’Reilly and Miss Bliss who became Mrs Paton-Walsh. This piece also reminded us of our lessons with Miss Thomas and Miss Benjamin, the first Shakespeare that we studied and two school plays - in 1950 and 1960. Janet Naylor was a fairy in the former productions, Susan Gardner played Lysander in the latter. Later we heard Bach’s *Air on a G String* and *Light Cavalry* by Suppe. Janet invited the audience to clap in time to the second of these which they did with great gusto and mostly on the beat, with just the odd straggler as the pace quickened. The day ended with a charming and heartfelt vote of thanks from our new Vice President, **Mrs Joan Hart**, and the presentation of token gifts to our speakers by our new Vice Chairman, **Jean Potter**. A great time was had by all and there was “an extra glow”- as one Member described it – when we sang *Jerusalem*. Our aim, to praise Enfield women – and a few men, was fully achieved and our centenary celebrations were begun in fine style. THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

# MEMBERS' NEWS and AN EXHORTATION

We were delighted to receive a letter from Ellen Roberts (Smith 1933-40) with news of several people. Ellen taught Biology and ballet until 1991 and is now kept busy by her two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ellen's daughter Julia Clarke (Roberts 1968-71) spent three years with a ballet company in Germany, is an associate of the Royal Academy of Dance and continues to teach ballet. The daughter of Ellen's Godfather was at ECS a few years earlier than Ellen: Phyllis Millie (Burrows when she was at school in the 1920s) is a lively 93 year-old with a wide family circle of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Phyllis's daughter, Brenda Gander (Millie) attended the school in the 1940s and was a bridesmaid at Ellen's wedding. One of Ellen's school friends, Betty Rouse (Rampton 1934-41) married a Physics teacher. At her wedding Ellen was the only bridesmaid. Betty now lives in Bath. Her elder son gained a First in Physics at Oxford, her younger son is a violinist who studied at the Royal Academy of Music and her daughter went to King's College, London. Ellen attended our 2002 Reunion where a letter was read out from Doreen Read (McNab 1934-39) who served in the WRNS and now lives in Scotland, looked after by her two daughters. Ellen wrote to Doreen following the Reunion and they have been corresponding regularly ever since. We hope that many more people, who have been brought together by ECSOGA, will be thinking about keeping in-touch as Ellen and Doreen have done. Thank you, ladies, for being such timely role-models!

Good wishes to all who remember them have come from Meriel Downey (Dasley 1942-49) and Pat Barker (Butt 1943-50) who regret not being able to attend our events due to travel difficulties. Forty-five miles each way around the M25 or three hours by public transport is just too much. Ladies – we understand completely and sympathise: you are not alone in this, although we realise this is scant comfort. Thank you, Meriel and Pat, and all those who can no longer get to Enfield, for your great support over the years. Similarly Barbara Bolam (Williams 1943-47) would love to attend our final Reunion but, living in New Zealand, she finds “going over to Australia is the most I can cope with now”. However Barbara is kept very busy with visitors from the UK: no less than four different sets of relatives will have stayed with her in a six month period in mid 2009.

Congratulations to Janet Scott-Pearson (Lock 1956-63) on the arrival of her first grandchild, a baby girl. Exhortations to keep going ONWARD EVER to another of the 1956-63s, Lesley Williams, recovering from a hip operation. We missed you on 14/3, Lesley, but you were in the thoughts of the little band from your cohort.

At the Spring Meeting there was little time for our reporter to gather detailed news but we were very pleased to welcome two first-timers. Mabel Bourlet (Thomas 1947-54) was returning to Holly Walk after an absence of 55 years. She was thrilled to meet up with former class mates and speak “on a more level footing” to some older contemporaries like

“Jean Nightingale (known to us as Jean Potter) who was in the exalted position of Head Girl” when Mabel was “a mere second-former”. Mabel was vice-captain of netball and has a very good memory: she was able to inform us, for instance, that her fellow member of St Winifred's, Doreen Shaw (Braybrooke), was known as “Dodo”. (Given Doreen's well-known all-round sporting prowess we cannot believe that this name was a reference to any likeness to the poor flight-less bird). Mabel has three daughters, one son and seven grandchildren. Half of Mabel's family are on the other side of the world: one daughter and two grandchildren in Western Australia and her son and his family in Auckland, New Zealand. She visited them all in summer 2008.

Also attending her first ECSOGA event was Pamela Burt (Smithson 1940-46) who emigrated originally to Canada but now lives in California and whose accent clearly signals her as a trans-Atlantic visitor. One way and another there was quite a lot of talk of The Golden State because also present was long-time resident of the Berkeley area, Jeanne Pimentel (Duval 1946-51) while Harriett Nailon was inundated with questions about her son's wedding taking place on 12 September in San Diego.

This is the final page of Members' News as the News-sheet to be sent out in October will be taken up with the close-down. We are very grateful to all who have sent us information over the years, especially our regular contributors. True journalists, we guard our sources but our regulars know who they are - thank you very much. Members who are, or who, in time, will become, internet literate may decide to keep in touch with ECS folk via U-tube, Myspace, Facebook or whatever is the latest social net-work. (A few already do this, but we believe that a one-to-one email is Members' preferred modern format.) In truth, most of us born before, say 1960, find the idea of group conversations over the ether rather alien. Some readers will be shaking their heads, saying, “I won't ever tweet”. Do not be so sure! Some of us were never going to use a mobile phone: we owned one, because one of our children gave it to us – but would we keep it switched on, actually use it? Never! Then we were taught how to text - and now use our mobiles on a daily basis. . . WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO SAY IS JUST THIS: Never mind the medium, feel the message! Whether snail mail or email, twitter or semaphore we just hope you will keep in-touch with each other as much as you can – and pass news around your various grapevines. As JFK said, “Let the word go forth!” Put another way, “ON with the WORDs, for EVER!”

**See Page 6 for details of  
ECSOGA's website messages  
after 14/9/09.**



## HISTORICAL MATERIAL PROJECT I

### Fresh items – and reminiscences – welcome until 31 January 2011

Although the Historical Material Working Party has some duplicate items (see page 7) we are **still looking for fresh material** i.e. photos, documents and small artefacts not yet in the Memorabilia Collection **relating to the School in the period 1909 – 1967 and relating to ECSOGA and former pupils in the years 1909 – 2009**. Members will recall that the rationale for these time frames was explained in an earlier Newsletter. While originals would be particularly treasured, now that good quality copies can be quite easily and cheaply produced, we shall, of course, be more than happy with copies. We point this out because, back in 2003/4 when we surveyed Members about what historical material they might be prepared to give or lend us, some people had items which they either were able to loan on only a temporary basis or which they felt might not stand being posted to us. With the improvement in copying, and given that we now have an end-date for the Project, we hope that some Members, who were unable to help us when we did the original survey, may now feel in a position to make copies and send them or bring them to us. Just a reminder: we have no need for School Magazines, School Play Photographs or Whole School Photographs. Of particular interest to us are informal photographs – with date, occasion, names and relevant background information, items relating to school trips and outings and text books or other study items.

What we want most of all, however, are REMINISCENCES. Members will recall the column “Belated New Year Resolution” in the last Newsletter. We imagine that the dearth of responses to this article is because many of you are writing long, polished accounts to bring to the Reunion on 12 September! Are we hopeless optimists? If your conscience is pricking because you have not quite started to write your contribution to our Reminiscences Folder, let us motivate you with extracts from a marvellous seven pages received from **Dawn Adams (1958-65)** which begins with some observations on the nature of memory. We believe this may be helpful to some who are wavering about putting pen to paper or finger to key-board. Dawn begins her piece like this: “The ECSOGA Newsletter asked for reminiscences of one’s time at school, short or long. And I heard the People’s Front for the Liberation of Judea, or perhaps the Judean People’s Liberation Front, saying ‘What did Enfield County School ever do for you?’ This is a reminiscence. I have a full set of school magazines (and school reports) from 1958-65 resting in the loft. I have not referred to them. Memory is an active system. When I recall my 13 digit library card number, *that* memory is neutral. For this exercise, sounds and images were *selected* for storage, are being pulled out *selectively*, after 50 years of dancing with other images, with emotions and revisionist tendencies, and exchanging particles according to best forensic principles. If I mention someone, or some event, it is as I construed them at the time filtered through memory. I can’t be sure that it is ‘true’ . . . “

Dawn wanted to go to Tottenham High “on three grounds: it was all girls (as a plump, spectacled know-it-all, I had suffered from boys); I thought I could get there on the bus and the uniform included a smart Juliet cap with a red tassel. Enfield County ticked only one of these boxes. My mother chose Enfield County, partly, I am sure, because it was in a better part of town. Many girls from Southbury Road Junior School went to its ‘Senior School’, learnt to sew, cook dinners and bathe babies and then went to work in factories in Ponders End or Brimsdown. Several girls came from Southbury Junior to Enfield County with me: **Linda Chappel, Rosemary Walton, Gillian Larman**, possibly others.”

Then Dawn’s account goes systematically from first form days with Miss Bowen to the Sixth Form with comments along the way about Assembly, why classmates left and how new ones arrived and her post A-level party at which **Gillian Taylor** met her future husband. Dawn concludes with an account of her life since ECS which included a year reading Classics at Bedford College, London; the realisation that this was not right for her; a year in an office; a Psychology degree and becoming an Occupational Psychologist with the Post Office. In 1987, with her partner and their four-year old daughter, Dawn moved to Devon and developed what is called, in some circles, a portfolio of work including founding a volunteer-based caring charity. Now retired from paid employment, she is still actively involved in various volunteer groups. **THANK YOU, DAWN, FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL AND THOUGHT PROVOKING ADDITION TO OUR MEMORABILIA COLLECTION.** Dawn’s reminiscence will be available on 12 September for all to read. If the above taster does not inspire you, maybe the whole article will do the trick?

We would like to have the majority of your reminiscences in our possession by this coming September: the sooner we know the eras and subjects covered, the sooner we can put them into coherent order and, if necessary, try to fill major gaps. We do know, however, that good work cannot be done to order and the Muse can take a while to settle beside a 21<sup>st</sup> century woman! Therefore we will gladly accept pieces for a further 16 months after ECSOGA closes. The last date for receiving your reminiscences will be 31 January 2011. So, if your 2010 Christmas is quiet, or global warming means you are snowed in after it, you can fill your time by remembering and writing for ECSOGA.

**Please bring as many Reminiscences and Historical Items (originals or copies) as possible to the Reunion on 12/9/09 and give to Lesley Humphrey, Treasurer of the HMWP. After 12/9/09 please send Reminiscences to Harriett Nailon – address Page 8.**

THANK YOU, IN ANTICIPATION.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

One thing which we know many Members will miss after ECSOGA closes down is the opportunity to keep in up with the happenings at the School either from these Newsletter reports or from the Head's regular up-dates at our meetings. Your comments make it clear that some find it especially interesting if the activities being described are very different from those that we remember at Holly Walk, while others are more taken when there are clear similarities between "now" and "then". Of course, those living in Enfield will still be able to learn about some of the School's news from the local press: both the free papers and the Gazette carry regular reports of examination results, league tables etc and quite often have feature items about individuals or groups of ECS students. For example, in February 2009, under the heading **WASTE NOT: Pupils get into some serious recycling**, there was a colour photograph of Head of Year 10, Mrs Nicky Routledge, and three students weighing a bulging black bin bag. The paragraphs accompanying the photo explained that some twenty Year 10 students (that's Form IV, in 20<sup>th</sup> century-speak) sorted paper in an environment audit for part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Inspired by the sustainable living charity, Global Action, on one Friday the students collected 54 Kilograms from the classrooms and offices of Holly Walk. (For those who still think in 20<sup>th</sup> century terms, that is 118.8 lbs or 8 stone 6lbs) Further recycling activities planned include making clothes and fashion items from recyclable materials. All very eco-friendly and up-to-the-minute but, on reflection, not so different from some war-time and post war activities that Members over the age of 60 will be able to recall. In the 1950s and 60s many voluntary groups, like the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grange Park Guides, used to collect foil milk bottle tops and newspapers to raise money. And who can recall **Barbara Meyer (1956-63)** making a rather natty Alice band from dried melon seeds and a length of electrician's wire? We wish Year 10 good luck with their fashion accessories.

Everyone at ECS is aware that 2009 is the School's centenary year. Since January there has been a large banner proclaiming the fact in the entrance to the Sharp Building and a variety of special activities are being organised. On 22 April there was a Big Read at the Palace Gardens shopping precinct, when girls from every year read extracts from classic literature and some of their own compositions.

Meanwhile, for September, the School plans more Centenary items, which were being finalised as we went to press, including the creation of a special garden and a wall display which will contain profiles of some former students. The organiser of Centenary activities, History teacher Miss Wolfson, has been in contact with several Members asking them to contribute to this display whilst former students from the past twenty or so years have been tracked down via the internet. In short, celebration is in the air at ECS now and for the rest of 2009.

## ECSOGA Memorial Fund Prizes awarded in 2008

**The Broome Prize for Religious Studies** – Isobel Mammen who has a place to study Religion and Theology at the University of Leeds, starting in September 2009. Isobel is currently enjoying a gap year in the world of work.

**The Florence Prize for Mathematics** – Meltern Centkas, who is reading Law at the London School of Economics with ambitions to become a solicitor or a barrister and eventually pursue a career in politics.

**Read Prize for Art** – Rebecca Condon who is at Portsmouth University studying English Literature.

**Senior Forrest Prize for Modern Languages** – Gilda Abbasnejad who is studying Architecture at Westminster University.

**Old Girls' Association Prize for English** – Helen Partou who is still at ECS, studying for her A levels.

**The Marjorie Read Prize for Business** – Nillani Jeypalan, who hopes to become a management accountant and is studying Management with Accounting at Royal Holloway College, University of London.

**The Mary Turnbull Prize for Geography** – Ayca Sonmez who is currently studying Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and hopes afterwards to work with the United Nations.

## THE MEMORIAL FUND: A PROGRESS REPORT

The 2006 amendments to the Charities Act of 1993 made procedures for transferring assets between small organisations much more simple than previously. Despite this there were a couple of false starts but, eventually, Harriett Nailon – on behalf of The Trustees – completed the necessary paperwork: Form CSD 1346B, for those who like precision in such matters. This certified that The Trustees had resolved at their annual meeting in 2008 (18/1/08) to pass the Memorial Fund to *The Friends of Enfield County*, subject to three conditions, which were printed in full on page 6 of the last Newsletter. After chasing, the Charity Commission confirmed to us by email, on 23 April 2009, that they had no objection to our resolution and that it would become effective from 4 June 2009.

As we go to press, practical arrangements are in hand to transfer the National Savings and the CAF Gold Accounts to *The Friends* – Reg. Charity No. 266993. Ann Wickert will be writing to those who make regular standing order payments to the Memorial Fund, to confirm arrangements. The Final News-sheet, due out in November, will give details of how to contribute to the Memorial Fund after ECSOGA closes down. ECSOGA will donate all of its own residual money to the Fund.

*Thank you, all, for your support of the  
Memorial Fund in years past, in 2009  
and in the future.*

## **WHAT ABOUT ECSOGA ON THE INTERNET? MAYBE THAT WOULD BE THE WAY FORWARD?**

Members will recall that thanks to the foresight, energy and generosity of **Dr Jennifer Caddy (1961-68)** a website was set up for ECSOGA in 2001. A year later Jennifer organised a private online mailing list for us, hosted by Yahoo, and in due course we were also able to offer Online Membership with the Newsletters being downloaded from the computer rather than being picked up from the doormat. Over the past few months several Members have raised queries about what will happen to these various internet activities after September 2009 and there has been some discussion as to whether ECSOGA could, or indeed should, continue in a “virtual” form.

Those who have asked such questions and made relevant suggestions are a small group, less than 2% of the Membership, characterised by their relative youthfulness (all under 60) and, most strikingly, by their interest in and command of electronic communication. To a woman, they are likely to have their pcs switched on for much of the time, consult Google or Wikipedia rather than a book, shop online and send emails hither and yon most days of the week. As one of these good ladies put it to the Chairman at the 2008 Reunion, “surely ECSOGA can carry on as an internet-based organisation”. For her, it was logical and easy to contemplate: a statement, not a question.

Much as the Committee would like it to be otherwise, we do not feel that ECSOGA can fulfil this wish. Aside from the need to find people with the necessary skills, time, interest and commitment to provide copy, keep the site/s updated and generally police everything, the existence of an Internet ECSOGA would conflict with our stated and sincerely held belief that by “creating a space” we perhaps might enable and encourage a younger, 21<sup>st</sup> century-type of alumni society, to come into being.

So, with apologies to those Members who are keen web-browsers, tweeters (or is it twitterers?) U tubers, Myspacers, Facebookers et al, and who, therefore, would like to see ECSOGA going onward “virtually” - we must say, with great regret, that it is just not possible. Sorry, ladies!

**However, to tie up the loose ends of ECSOGA and technology, the internet situation for the immediate and medium-term future will be as follows:**

**Our website: [www.onwardever.org.uk](http://www.onwardever.org.uk)** This will carry a “farewell” message from 13 September 2009 until January 2011 (when the current domain name registration expires). The message will include directions to *The Friends of Enfield County* page on the School’s website and encouragement to former students to support or become actively involved with *The Friends*; an explanation of Margaret Meldrum’s letter forwarding service; a description of the status of the Historical Material Working Party plus Harriett Nailon’s phone number for answering any queries, particularly relating to the HMWP.

**All other ECSOGA internet activity will cease after 13 September 2009.** Online Members should be sure to download this and other Newsletters by that date, if they want to preserve a hard copy. Online Members will receive the Final News-sheet, due to be mailed out in early November, in the form of an attachment to an email which will be sent to you by the Membership Secretary Margaret Meldrum.

As plans stand at the moment, after early January 2011 there will be no ECSOGA material on the internet. If, after October 2009 there is any change to this plan we shall have use the School website to make an announcement – see the last paragraph of this article for an idea about this.

When there is no long any mention of ECSOGA on the internet we envisage that queries about old girls/ former students will come in the old-fashioned way: enquiries by phone or in writing to the School. We plan to supply cards which will brief staff in the School Office to advise callers of the demise of ECSOGA and refer them to *The Friends* and/or Harriett Nailon. However, *maybe sooner than we can currently imagine*, the staff in the office will be able to answer queries with the exciting news that a new 21<sup>st</sup> century alumni society has been formed and give the contact information – which will also be available on the School website. Naturally, any current ECSOGA Members will be welcome to join such a group, if and when it comes into being.

**So, here’s an idea: why not make a note in your diary to check the ECS website once or twice a year?** On your birthday perhaps - and another significant date: maybe St George’s Day/Shakespeare’s birthday – April 23, or Trafalgar Day - 21 October? On these days pay a visit to the School website and catch up with the latest news, check what activities *The Friends* are organising and, especially, find out if there is a new page announcing to the world that a phoenix has arisen on Holly Walk!

**MAKE A NOTE OF THE SCHOOL  
WEBSITE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!**

**<http://www.enfieldcs.school.uk>**

**IN CASE I FORGET  
Letters to my goddaughter  
by Joan Cherry (i.e. Joan Hart)**

**Copies will be available for sale at the reunion.  
Don’t forget to obtain your copy!**



## OBITUARIES

**Mrs Eileen Arnold (Peachey 1951-58)** of Plymouth, Devon, died January 2009 leaving two sons and four grandchildren. A white girdle holder and prefect at ECS, Eileen worked in the laboratories of Allen and Hanbury (now Glaxo) before marrying and moving to Devon where she became interested in tourism. Among a variety of posts, Eileen was a Sales and Interpretation Officer for Historic Houses and Gardens. In retirement she pursued a wide range of interests including local history, archaeology and environmental issues. Eileen attended ECSOGA reunions in recent years and was able to renew several friendships from her schooldays.

**Mrs Caroline Fisher (Dawson 1967-73)** of Great Sampford, Essex, died January 2009. After ECS Caroline became a bilingual secretary, working for some time in Switzerland. She met her husband, Bob, an Enfield Grammar School boy when they were both teenagers employed one summer on a local egg farm.

**Mrs Janet McKenzie (Cormack 1942-50)** of Otago, New Zealand, died January 2009 in Wellington Hospital, after some years of poor health. Well known at ECS for her keen participation and prowess in a wide range of sporting activities, Janet read Zoology at Bedford College, University of London and sailed off to sample life in New Zealand in the early 1950s. The first person she saw on disembarking from the ship was Fergus, a cousin whom she had never met before, who had come to greet her. He became her husband not too long afterwards. An avid and vivid letter-writer, Janet kept in touch regularly with several ECS friends some of whom she had not seen for many years.

**Mrs Val Lakeman (Eileen Hursey 1929 -34.)** of Double Bay, Australia, died January 2009 aged 90 years. Secretary of the Sydney branch of the war brides association. Her sister is Betty Nudds who is in a nursing home near Sydney, having joined Eileen in Australia in the 1950's. Eileen's great friend was Irene Spackman (Adams).

### SOME NOTES ABOUT THE CENTENARY / GRAND FINALE REUNION

#### 1. What a difference six years can make or Nostalgia bargains coming your way!

Back in 2002, when the idea of setting up a working party to gather historical material was first mooted, one much discussed potential problem was the expense and difficulty of making copies of photographs and other documents. Our anxious conversations on this topic were rather a waste of time as, within three years of the first meeting of the HMWP, we had access to home computers with scanners which have made the work of copying much easier and less costly than we could have dared imagine at the outset. One unexpected benefit of this technological advance is that the Working Party now has quite a stack of duplicate, and in some cases multiple, copies of photographs.

Some of the copies are what, in retailing circles, would once have been labelled "Seconds" but which are now more euphemistically described as "Special Purchase". Whatever these extra items might be called, it seems a waste to just discard them. Therefore at the Centenary / Grand Finale Reunion there will be a table or two of these surplus items. Members will be invited to help themselves to material for their own photo albums and personal archives in return for a nominal donation to the Centenary Appeal.

Until the Working Party has completely sorted and graded the items for disposal, it is not possible to state what the exact tariff for donations will be. We expect that it will be of the order of 5p per not-so-good item, 10p for a fair copy and a discount for a bulk purchase so maybe 80p for 12 good copies (e.g. a set of play photographs, complete with captions).

If those who are likely to be interested in these priceless, historical bargains can come armed with plenty of small change, please, that will make for swift and efficient transactions. If business is less than brisk, we shall be open to offers. Remember, it is all in a good cause – gifts for the school to mark the Centenary - and any monies over will go to top up the Memorial Fund. First come, first served!

#### 2. Sign your way into the ECSOGA Memorabilia Collection

It has been suggested that everyone who is at the last ECSOGA Reunion should have a chance to record their attendance and, perhaps, leave a "message for posterity" – possibly words of appreciation for, or congratulations to, ECS to mark the centenary. We always try to respond to ideas from Members – and this one came independently and spontaneously from at least three of you. So there will be a book circulating on 12 September for signatures and whatever else people feel moved to write. The completed volume will be lodged in the ECSOGA Memorabilia Collection along with items recording our events in the last twelve years, Committee papers going back to the late 1980s and documents relating to the management of the association, including the closing-down process.

The finished article will be like an autograph book for the School and for ECSOGA, recalling the late 19<sup>th</sup> and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century fashion for such books. Please come armed with an appropriate phrase, quotation or aphorism – if that is your style - and, if you wish, your preferred writing instrument although a decent ball-point pen will be with the book as it makes its way around the Hall. **Note: If someone would like to write a reminiscence about the practice of collecting autographs, that would be an added bonus.**

**See Page 4 for more about reminiscences – and how we would like to have as many as possible.**

**. ECSOGA**

**President – Mrs Pamela Rutherford Vice President - Mrs Joan Hart  
Committee for March – September 2009**

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

**Elected** - Chairman: Mrs Harriett Nailon (Lott 1956-63) [2007], 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 1956–63) [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), Ms Jean Endean (1958-63), Mrs Jean Potter (Nightingale 1946-49) Vice Chairman, Mrs Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52) [Chair 2004-08] with responsibility to edit the Centenary publication, Mrs Barbara Thompson (Elkington 1957-64)

Contact addresses below and on our website [www.onwardever.org.uk](http://www.onwardever.org.uk)

**ECSOGA HISTORICAL MATERIAL WORKING PARTY**

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

**Special Commemorative  
Publication**

Compiled and edited by  
Mary Stevenson

*With grateful thanks  
to all contributors*

Recollections of staff and students over  
the years and some milestones in the  
century of ECS's history

A limited number of printed  
copies will be available at the  
Centenary Reunion  
£2.50

Order form enclosed  
An extended version will be on the  
ECSOGA Members' Website and may  
be downloaded free of charge

**ECS 1909 – 2009**

*Saturday 12 September 12 noon onwards*

**Centenary/ Grand Finale Reunion**

£10 per person including lunch

*Please see ENCLOSED BOOKING FORM for full details.  
The capacity of the Hall for an event of this sort is 198. So, don't delay -*

**SEND IN YOUR BOOKING TODAY!**

**Special bags & Mugs**

will be available to  
commemorate  
Our centenary year  
Please order in advance  
As the items are produced to  
order

**Order details enclosed**

or

Phone Dikki on:  
020 8363 1506

**Reminder - and almost Farewell**

This is the penultimate communication that ECSOGA will be sending out to all Members. **In November there will be a final News-sheet**, just two pages with a report of the Reunion and the EGM and a summary of essential information regarding how contributions can continue to be made to the Memorial Fund (via *The Friends of Enfield County*), the on-going work of the Historical Material Working Party and some useful contact details, both online and traditional. Whilst we know that ECSOGA Newsletters are sometimes safely treasured, we suspect that more often they are environmentally filed. **We suggest that the final News-sheet may be something to put in an address book or filing drawer, rather than the recycling bin.**

**THANK YOU DEAR MEMBERS AND READERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS –**

**Contact details:**

**Donations to Treasurer: Ann Wickert, 84 Hoodcote Gdns, London N21 2NE (Payable to ECSOGA)**

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

**Queries & Historical Material to: H Nailon 56 Palmerston Road, London SW19 1PQ Tel: 020 8543 6830**



ECSOGA

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

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

# Grand Finale/Centenary Reunion

in the Hall of the M C Sharp Building, Upper School, Holly Walk

**Saturday 12 September 2009**

**12 noon for 12.30 pm until about 4 pm**

(enter via Silver St - Holly Walk gate closed - there should be enough parking for everyone)

12.30 Opening Address – Vice Chairman, Jean Potter

1 pm Buffet Lunch served

2.15 approx Raffle Draw - proceeds to the Memorial Fund

2.30 Tour of The Broome Building – optional

3.40 Extraordinary General Meeting – see details overleaf

3.55 Farewell and Jerusalem

This will be ECSOGA's last event -  
we are aiming to go out in great style

**£10 per person for the day to include a generous lunch with wine**

All the usual features of our annual Reunion plus some extras

- 1 Presentation of Centenary Gifts to the School
- 2 A bumper raffle with 100 as the theme
- 3 A special memorabilia display
- 4 Opportunity to acquire historical items for yourself – for a very modest donation
- 5 Centenary Publication, edited by Mary Stevenson (for sale & collect orders)
- 6 Sale of stylish Centenary souvenirs, organised by Dikki Gleeson

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 4 Sept 2009

Please note: Lunch can be guaranteed only for those who have booked in advance

**Any questions about this event please contact the Treasurer, Ann Wickert on 020 8360 5573**  
or VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [www.onwardever.org.uk](http://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 @ £10 each for the Grand Finale/Centenary Reunion on 12 Sept 2009

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.

If you are NOT a Member of ECSOGA please write your address on the reverse of this slip.

## ECSOGA & Memorial Fund 2009 AGM – Summary of Minutes

12 noon Saturday 14 March 2009, ECS Upper School

Present: President, Chairman, 11 Committee Members, 86 Members, 2 Guests

1. Apologies received from 1 Committee Member and 15 Members.

2. Minutes of 2008 AGM taken as read.

3. Matters arising - None.

4. Chairman's Report for year ended 31 December 2008. A successful and unique year. Thanks expressed to all those who had written to support the decision to close-down ECSOGA. Membership 450: no enrolments in view of the closure. Appreciation expressed to Committee and HMWP. No questions to the Chairman. Report adopted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report. Copies of the Accounts sent in advance to Town Members and available at the Meeting. Association's net assets at 31/12/08 were £6,805.94 - an increase of £646.38 since the end of 2007. Assets include £768.18 specifically donated for historical material work. Appreciation expressed for all donations received during the year.

Total assets of the Memorial Fund stood at £13,465.05 - an increase of £1,183.09 over the year.

Donations totalled £630.31. Interest on the Fund's capital was £531.58. Spring Meeting raffle proceeds = £176.00. In 2008 the Fund provided seven Speech Day prizes at a cost of £175.00. No questions to the Treasurer. Report and accounts unanimously adopted.

6. Committee Elections: All Members willing to serve until October 2009. Unanimously elected. Co-opted Members increased by one: Mrs Jean Potter appointed as Vice Chairman, to preside at Final Reunion on 12 September as the Chairman, Mrs Harriett Nailon, will not be present. Mrs Joan Hart appointed as Vice President, to much applause.

7. AOB: The Chairman was presented with a gift and the traditional certificate of service, in recognition of her 11 years of close involvement with ECSOGA.

8. Notice given of EGM – Saturday 12 September 2009 at 3.40pm approx – see Agenda below.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies – to save time Apologies List will be tabled at the front of Hall and taken as read.

2. Minutes of AGM 14/3/09 – will be taken as read. Summary above, full Minutes at front of Hall.

3. Matters arising.

4. Report and Message from Chairman, Mrs Harriett Nailon.

5. RESOLUTIONS:

A) to confirm the decision of the 2008 AGM to close-down ECSOGA

B) to mandate the Trustees of the Memorial Fund and the Committee of ECSOGA to carry out all necessary measures, as described in Newsletters in 2008 and 2009, so that all affairs of the Association are properly wound up by 31 October 2009. Confirmatory notice will be posted in Enfield Public Library (Main Branch) and in a News-sheet to be mailed or emailed to Members.

6. Any Other Business

7. Jerusalem and National Anthem.

# ORDER FORM

## ECSOGA CENTENARY PUBLICATION

£2.50

For collection at the Grand Finale/Centenary Reunion Saturday 12 September 2009

Please reserve .....copy/copies of the *ECSOGA CENTENARY PUBLICATION*

To be posted, please send .....copy/copies to:

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Please add Postage & Pkg UK £1 Europe £2 US/Australia/New Zealand £3

Orders to: Mary Stevenson, 45 Highview Gardens, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5PN

amount enclosed:..... cheques made out to ECSOGA please

A slightly extended version will be available on the ECSOGA website  
and may be downloaded free of charge. [www.onwardever.org.uk](http://www.onwardever.org.uk)

cut here -----

### ECS CENTENARY SOUVENIRS

**Featuring the designs on the left**



**Porcelain or China Mugs £10 each**

**Large Fabric Bags £10 each**

**Small bags or bottle bags £5 each**

**A limited number of the above items will be available at the Centenary Reunion. To ensure supply of the items you require**

**ORDER BY AUGUST 14 2009:**

**from B Gleeson (Turpin)**

**Telephone: 020 8363 1506**

**email: [skg@skdiki.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:skg@skdiki.freeseve.co.uk)**