

❖ ECSOGA Newsletter ❖

Issue 12

Registered Charity No. 312623

Winter 2005/6

From the Chair

Dear Members,

Miss Irene Byard Retires after 20 years as Head of ECS

Miss Byard retired at the end of the Autumn term, but she said farewell to ECSOGA at our Autumn Reunion. Originally on a short term contract as Head, Miss Byard stayed for 20 years of constant change in the Education System. She instituted the change of name from Enfield Chace School back to Enfield County School and ensured that the School Archives are maintained and kept safe for the future.

More recently the School has achieved Language College status and the new building, which Miss Byard has long struggled to have built, has been completed. Those of us who attended the September Reunion were impressed by the up to date equipment and leading edge technology available to the current students. They have much for which to be grateful to Miss Byard.

Miss Byard has served and will continue to serve as a Justice of the Peace, has been a Governor of Middlesex University and is now a Governor of Capel Manor. She intends to travel in her free time!

ECSOGA presented the School with a portrait of Miss Byard for the gallery of ECS Heads and contributed towards another portrait (for the *Byard Building*), both of which can be seen in the photograph above right.

ECSOGA thanks Miss Byard for her help and co-operation over the years and wishes her a joyous retirement.

Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52)



Presentation of the Portrait of Miss Byard for the Gallery of ECS Heads

2005 REUNION REPORT

For the eighth successive year over 100 former students and staff gathered at ECS in early September. Skies were dark but smiles bright and the torrential rain did not start until after most had arrived. We were particularly delighted to see (in alphabetical order) Miss Hetty Benjamin, Mrs Jean Clapham, Mrs Joan Hart, Mrs Pat Horrex, Mrs Margaret Kingston, Mrs Heather Leigh and Mrs Marjorie Taylor. During the speeches Mrs Kingston said a few words of thanks for the support received from Members during a recent illness. Those too young to remember Mrs Kingston – or Miss Ellis as she was – were amazed to discover that she had just celebrated her 90th birthday. There cannot be many organisations which can gather together so many lively octo and nonagenarians: thank you, ladies, for your inspirational example.

For the tour of the newly completed *Byard Building*, groups were led by Miss Byard (assisted by Tina, her Westie), Mrs Rutherford, Head Girl Madeleine Vellupillai and her deputy, Amy Mann. Everyone agreed that the new facilities are most impressive and there was a great deal of what might be termed 'comparative reminiscing'. Lunch was served a little later than usual and as a result the queue seemed to move more quickly and appetites were heartier than in previous years: both welcome trends. Thanks to Ann Wickert and her team for the lovely food and to Miss Benjamin for some relaxing piano music as the meal drew to a close.

All too soon the new clock on the wall was showing 3.45 and Chair Mary Stevenson was giving votes of thanks and reminders of forthcoming events before leading the singing of *Jerusalem* and the *National Anthem*. Congratulations to the Committee for, once again, organising such an emotional, enjoyable and energising event. Please keep up the good work!

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REUNION GLEANINGS and MEMBERS' NEWS

Decade Marking is catching-on well: the September Reunion was attended by five people from the 1948-55 cohort, six from 1958-65 and nine from 1968-75. In this last group, eight had not previously attended an ECSOGA event. Our thanks to Christine Austin (Orrill) for bringing the others along. Christine still lives locally, works as a pre-school supervisor and has a daughter aged 22 and sons aged 20 and 18. The first-timers who responded to Christine's persuasion were as follows: Amanda Bevan, a geography graduate from Keele, now a regeneration manager for a housing association in Wolverhampton and the mother of sons aged 17 and 14; Gillian Cornelissen (Lockey) also has two sons – somewhat older – aged 32 and 29, and works as deputy head of administration for the Greater Peterborough Primary Care Trust; Lucy Cowell (Pettigrew), who was at ECS only in the Sixth Form, is a family law solicitor in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, having begun her law degree at the age of 40 after raising four children now aged 19, 17, 15 and 13; bi-lingual secretary Caroline Fisher (Dawson) worked for some years in Geneva but now lives and temps in Saffron Walden and has teenagers aged 15 and 13; Pam Slack (Goodhead) is a Norwich Union pensions expert with sons, 18 and 17 and a daughter of 15; Jacky Wise (Dean) has two daughters, 23 and 20, and now works for a stockbroker in Aylesbury, having cut her teeth in merchant banking when she left ECS. Bev Ray and Judith Williamson (Beecher) were the other two representatives of the 1968-75 cohort but our reporter ran out of time before she was able to interview them. We hope to remedy this omission at an event in the not-too-distant future.

Sharing the same table as the 1968-75s, were two people whose 'official' *Decade Marking* will fall this coming September 2006 – Maria Walker (Constantinou) and Sally Wren (Blackwell) who both attended ECS 1979-84. Maria still has close connections with the School as her elder daughter is in year 12 and her younger daughter started at Rosemary Avenue in September. Sally also still lives locally and works as an holistic therapist. Maria and Sally are planning to gather together as many of the 1979-86s as they can, using traditional grape-vine methods and friendsreunited.co.uk. We look forward to bringing you names and news of this and some of the other '6' cohorts this time next year. Just to remind everyone: the record for the biggest gathering of a single cohort was set by the 1956-63s in 2003 when 48 of their number (36% of the original intake) came to Holly Walk. We would love to see this target beaten – go for it you 1939-46s, 1949-

56s, 1959-66s, 1969-76s, 1979-86s, 1989-96s! Yet again the most senior former student present was Olive Sellick (Watts 1925-32) who was accompanied by her daughter, Sally Packer (Sellick 1957-64) who is head of the English department at Roedean and normally has to teach on a Saturday. As usual there were some who had travelled a long way to be with us: special mention for Jeanne Pimentel (Duval 1946-51) who lives in California and Una Herbage (Leonard 1943-50) who lives in Spain. A frequent topic of conversation at ECSOGA events is travel, either recently enjoyed or being planned. Paula Booth (Windebank) and Helen Dordewic (both 1966-72) took a cruise down the Nile in October. Harriett Nailon (1956-63) spent eleven days in Ontario in September, including a two-day stay with former class-mate and lunch-table chum Pam Newton (Darroch) a leading business woman in the delightful town of Perth where she runs a pharmacy, assists her husband with his reprographics business and has recently branched out into property development with her elder son. Pam took Harriett to a Beethoven concert in Ottawa attended by the Governor General of Canada. Pam and Harriett met Madeline Wynn (Sutton) whom they had not seen since 1963. Madeline teaches art and English in a Toronto school and had just returned from taking students to see a production of *Hamlet* at the famous theatre in Stratford, Ontario. The seal was set on the day when it was discovered that the trio's afternoon tea, at the King Edward Hotel, was 'on the house'. Harriett's years work for Forte Hotels were not totally in vain, it seems. Still on travel and the 1956-63s, in summer 2005 Carol West took delivery of a folding caravan complete with a shower and toilet compartment. Now retired after 30 years as a mid-wife, Carol has had surgery on her knees in recent years but remains a keen traveller and, until now, inveterate camper. Carol is delighted with her new acquisition and recommends it to likeminded outdoor types. Visit www.goburcarouselcaravans.co.uk for details. Another topic at reunions, among those of certain vintages, is the arrival of grand-children. Congratulations to Sue Venamore (Lys 1964-70) on the birth of her first – Mason George, born in early 2005. Good wishes also to Sheila Youngs (Hynd 1945-49) who has started a two-year, part-time Masters course in International Relations at Selwyn College, Cambridge. Sheila's thesis will be on her father's years as a member of the Atlee government with particular reference to his role as head of the Control Commission in Germany after the War. Be warned, Sheila, we hope to hear more about it in due course. Maybe at a Spring Meeting? Watch this space, everyone!

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

MRS PAMELA RUTHERFORD PROMOTED TO HEADSHIP

Many readers will already be aware that in January 2006 Mrs Pamela Rutherford, formerly Deputy Head, took over from Miss Byard as Head of ECS. On behalf of all former students, ECSOGA offers warm congratulations and good wishes to Mrs Rutherford. Members who are able to come to our events know Mrs Rutherford well as she has rarely missed one of our meetings in recent years. We look forward to welcoming her as our President at the AGM and to getting to know her even better as time goes by. We trust that she will follow the tradition former presidents in addressing our meetings on a regular basis to share news and ideas with us. As Mrs Rutherford is an historian ECSOGA can rely on the same level of support and interest in relation to our Historical Material Project as we have been privileged to receive from Miss Byard. We know that Mrs Rutherford has some wonderful scrapbooks recording highlights from her 25 years on the staff at ECS and hope, in due course, to enlist her help in identifying and captioning photographs from the 1980s onwards. Mrs Rutherford's daughter, Emma, is currently a student at ECS. In years to come, when we hope that she will be an ECSOGA member, maybe we will be bold enough to ask Emma to write an 'inside story' for ECSOGA Newsletter.

SPEECH DAY REPORT: RECORD NUMBERS GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Seventy-nine ECS students secured places on university and college courses at the end of the 2004/5 academic year. Eight past and present ECSOGA Committee members attended the Senior School Speech Day on 25 November to celebrate these and many other impressive achievements by students from every year group. Those now at university include four studying Medicine (at KCL, UCL and Birmingham), three studying Nursing, four Psychology and two Archaeology. Other scientists are reading Biomedical Sciences (Hull), Human Genetics (UCL), Biological Science (Lancaster), Forensic Science (Kent) and Physics with Space Science (again at UCL, where there is also an ECS girl studying History). There is an ECS girl at Bath, studying Mathematics and two Engineers – a construction engineer at Loughborough and a mechanical engineer at Southampton. Law or a related subject is being studied by six people while other degrees being pursued are in traditional single disciplines such as English, Geography, Biology, Art, French and Spanish. Among the newer, more vocationally orientated courses being followed are International Fashion Marketing, Media Production, Event Management and Drama and Performance Studies and, reflecting the School's particular focus, a foreign language combined with another subject, for example International Relations with French

(Kent). One of the three leavers taking a degree in Politics is going all the way to the University of Texas.

The Head's annual report outlined a year of solid academic achievement and progress in all areas, including GNVQ Health and Social Care where the School's 100% pass rate was maintained, and Community Languages where nineteen students gained GCSE or A level qualifications in a total of nine languages ranging from Arabic to Urdu. The list of visits and enrichment activities described was nothing short of breath-taking. Some items sounded wonderfully reminiscent of the mid-20th century: a Year 8 visit to the Tower of London, a geography field trip to Suffolk in freezing conditions, success in the Enfield Schools' Netball League, theatre outings to *The House of Bernard Alba* at The National and *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Globe and in-school drama productions including *Much Ado* and *A History of Literature*. Similarly the busy schedule of the Music department reminded ECSOGA listeners of their own school days although – perhaps inevitably – the styles of music performed and enjoyed have changed more than a little. Among the highlights of the year were the participation of the Gospel Choir, with groups from ten other London schools, in a Gospel Extravaganza and the tour of Italy undertaken by the Jazz Band and Concert Band at the end of the Summer Term. On Speech Day evening the entertainment consisted of Mozart's *Romance* from the Woodwind Ensemble, a solo of Beverley Craven's hit *Promise Me* from Lauren Gorman, who accompanied herself on the piano and, from the Choir, a spirited and complex rendition of Cy Coleman's *Rhythm of Life* – which those of a certain age will recall was a hit for Sammy Davis Jnr in the late 1960s. As observed above, times – and tunes – have changed. Other items in the Head's report further demonstrated how things have altered since 1964, the year when one of the Committee was last at a Speech Day: for example, the achievements of the football teams, the work by Year 12 History and Religious Studies students for Black History Week and by Year 9 in the Borough Science Challenge where they had the opportunity to extract their own DNA which they then displayed in a necklace. In the UK Mathematics Challenge ECS students achieved Gold, Silver and Bronze awards while Year 10 visited a Coding Work-shop. One feature of modern school-life particularly striking to those of bus-pass age is the way that barriers between arts and sciences have been eroded. In the list of GCE A Levels achieved there are some interesting combinations: Biology, Chemistry and French for example and Biology, Psychology and Religious Studies with A/S level Spanish. Also, in Miss Byard's report there was mention of the History department and the Textile department working jointly on an exhibition at Forty Hall on fashions since 1945, plus descriptions of how the Drama and Modern Languages departments teamed up to work on *Cyrano de Bergerac* part of which was recorded for posterity by students taking Media Studies at A Level.

HISTORICAL MATERIAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Now in its third year of existence, the Historical Material Working Party continues to meet at least twice a year. We have been joined by **Jean Savage (1947-53)** and **Lesley Humphrey (Mason 1955-62)** so there are now plenty of hands to put up and dismantle our displays at events and plenty of brains and memories to give ideas and help with captioning. The process of gathering material for the Memorabilia Collection goes ever onward, albeit not perhaps as quickly as had originally been envisaged. In October 2005 we took possession of a brand new and spacious cupboard in the M C Sharp Building and therefore we are hoping to speed up our activities now that we are not relying on working party members' wardrobes and sideboards for storage.

The task of cataloguing every item in the Memorabilia Collection has been started and it is our intention to have the catalogue available at every meeting for Members to consult. If any Member wishes to view the total Collection while attending an event (in other words to visit and look into our new cupboard) please do not hesitate to ask. Access to the Collection at other times can be arranged, given sufficient notice: please see page 8 for contact details.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

1. Those who kindly offered material in response to our summer 2003 questionnaire:

You will recall that we said "Please don't send anything yet". Well, now that we have our cupboard, we can accept your contributions. Please send material to me at the address on page 8 or, better still, bring it when you next come to an ECSOGA event.

2. Everyone: **We need your REMINISCENCES!**

It can be a few lines or several pages – handwritten, typed, emailed – in prose, blank verse, rhyming couplets – whatever format suits you best. We draw the line only at text messages, for the moment, at least.

In the hope of prompting you, here is a list of memory snippets emailed to us last year by **Ruth Simmons (Leigh 1965-72)**:

What do I remember of my days at ECS?

- Miss Mancus making us stand up and pledging to join a union . . .
- The time in 4 or 5 alpha when we collected Wagon Wheel bags over several weeks and then blew them all up and banged them during morning break . . .
- The fun we had decorating the classrooms for Christmas: I still have my map of Middle Earth from the year we did *The Hobbit*!
- The prim and proper English teacher who said only ignorant people used "bloody" as an adjective. . .
- Playing tennis before school, at break and lunchtimes. There were eight of us (six in the school team) and if we couldn't get two courts we all played on one and lobbed the ball as high as possible in the air.

We have asked Ruth to elaborate on some or all of this list – in a few years time, when her life is less hectic. (Note: ECSOGA is going to be in the business of collecting Memorabilia, including reminiscences, for a long time.) Maybe some other Members remember the same incidents and can supply us with more details: to take just one example - What subject did Miss Mancus teach? What led up to this call for union membership? Were there any dissenters?

Those of us just a decade older than Ruth and her classmates were immersed in careers or motherhood by the revolutionary late 1960s and the student protests in Paris, etc. For us it is almost impossible to imagine ECS as the scene of such an overtly political moment as that which occurred in Miss Mancus's class. Accounts of incidents like this illuminate how values and behaviour changed during the middle and late 20th century. One of our objectives in asking for Members' reminiscences is the hope of charting and illustrating some of these changes. With the benefit of hindsight you can comment, criticise and reflect as well as giving us the facts. **So, please, let's be hearing from you!** In the long, dark evenings ahead, when there is nothing of interest on the TV, why not see what memories, insights, opinions and judgements you can record for ECSOGA's Reminiscences File? Thank you, in anticipation.

Harriett Nailon, Secretary to the Historical Material Working Party

EDITOR'S NOTE: The article below was written for ECSOGA in the spring of 2004 but space constraints have delayed its publication. Apologies to author and readers. With the plight of Africa so much in the news in 2005 we believe that Members will be heartened and inspired by news of a successful, hopeful project.

AN ONGOING AFRICAN ADVENTURE

by Ros Chamings (Hobbs 1956-62)

I am grateful for the opportunity to share something of our time in Uganda, although condensing six weeks into a few paragraphs will be a challenge so we'll see if Miss Millen and co. managed to teach me anything about precis.

Kampala itself was a culture shock but we soon became used to the mosquitoes, traffic, noise, heat and dust and even managed to understand the complication of finding the right bus from a taxi park of about three acres jam-packed with minibuses. We were in Uganda to work with two orphanages - one in a suburb of Kampala called Makindye where Joseph and Rose, two Ugandans, have started an orphanage and school for over one hundred children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS. We were there with an English organisation called *Amigos International* who heard about the struggling work and now give financial support. They have already started a garden and a chicken project giving each child fresh fruit and vegetables and three eggs each week.

Part of our time was spent looking for suitable land to build a new, purpose-built home and school as the present premises are very basic: every drop of water for cooking, washing and watering the garden has to be carried. The plan is to make the work self-sufficient by incorporating a huge commercial hatchery on the land.

When we arrived with our cases of clothes, school books and craft materials and toys the children immediately went into a song and dance of thanksgiving. We were glad of our sunglasses to hide the tears. The first four weeks were spent teaching at Makindye and also finding a reliable carpenter (that's a story in itself) to make twenty new desks and storage units for the teachers to use. We had been horrified to see the children crammed five to a desk that had been built for two. Needless to say cheating abounded!

Our last two weeks were in a very pleasant town called Seeta, ten miles towards Jinja. This is a smaller orphanage in a beautiful campus in much quieter surroundings, run by *The Cogwheel Trust*. Again the spontaneous joy and gratitude from chil-

dren who had neither parents nor possessions made us emotional. Our brief here was to plant a vegetable garden which we managed only by getting up at 6 am, working until the heat stopped us and then returning again in the evening. The rest of the day was spent in visiting grandparents who were so grateful that their grandchildren are being cared for and educated. While we were there we witnessed so much grief and trauma. The *Cogwheel* cook lost her third brother and we met grandparents who had lost many of their own adult children. On a practical level, we were able to fill the water tank, provide bedding for a destitute grandma and send all the staff and children on an outing to Entebbe Zoo.

There is so much more that I could write but mustn't take any more space except to observe that as both organisations are manned by practising Christians (hard not to be when 80% of the population attend church) we witnessed the love of God in action in a most remarkable way and, yes, we plan to return, probably in February 2005.*

* **POST SCRIPT:** As events turned out, only Ros's husband returned to Uganda in 2005 because the two orphanages were moving site and there would not have been sufficient work for two people. In the intervening months Ros has continued raising awareness of the projects in the UK and gathering clothes etc for the children but now with a better understanding of what can and cannot be purchased in Kampala and what are the real priorities. Ros is determined to go out again in 2006 with her husband and other members of *Amigos International* to help the children of a country which she thinks is 'brilliant'.

Thank you, Ros, and good wishes to you and all concerned. We trust that the delay in printing your first despatch will not deter you from sending us a progress report now and again. Ed.

ECS IN THE LOCAL PRESS

In late October 2005 the Enfield Advertiser featured a photograph of a Year 9 student, Pamela Gledhill, taking part in a challenge run by the training advisor for local construction company Lovell. As part of National Construction Week, a UK-wide campaign aimed at demonstrating to young people the career opportunities available in the construction industry, 180 students at Rosemary Avenue worked in teams of five to create a bridge using just paper, sticky tape and scissors. Using a set amount of paper each team had two hours to build a bridge which had to span at least 30 cm. Bridges were then tested to see which could bear the most weight. Prizes were awarded to the best performing teams and there was also a presentation of general construction principles. As reported elsewhere in this issue, one 2005 leaver from ECS is now studying Construction Engineering. Maybe we shall be bringing our readers news of quite a few more treading the same path (or should that be bridge?) in a few years time?

THE MEMORIAL FUND – TAKING STOCK and LOOKING AHEAD – PART II

by Jean Endean and Harriett Nailon

The Memorial Fund needs to be strengthened, as explained in the Summer 2005 Newsletter. The Committee thanks those Members who responded to our request for ideas on how this might be achieved. After careful analysis and discussion, **four areas have been identified for action.**

By making arrangements for cash to be generated in a variety of ways, it is hoped that everyone wishing to participate in the continuous building-up of the Memorial Fund will be able to do so conveniently and at a time of their own choosing.

The first three areas are relatively straight-forward:

1. **Regular donations from ECSOGA event proceeds:**
2. **Special donations from ECSOGA funds:** in conjunction with particular events and as circumstances allow.
3. **Donations from individuals.**

Plans for donations from ECSOGA:

- Raffle takings from every AGM and Spring Meeting are to be paid into the Memorial Fund account. This information will be clearly stated at the raffle table.
- The Memorial Fund Trustees (i.e. ECSOGA Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), at their annual Trustees' Meeting, usually held in late January, will review the coming year's events. If appropriate and financially feasible, they will then take a proposal to the next Committee meeting concerning special contribution/s which they believe can and should be made to the Memorial Fund in the coming twelve months. The support of at least eight Committee members will be needed for the Trustees' proposal/s to be implemented. The AGM will be notified of the planned contribution/s.

Proposed arrangements for donations from individuals:

- At events, on the Membership Table, there will be special envelopes and a box for cash or cheque donations to the Memorial Fund.
- Some Members may prefer to make a regular donation. Contributions can be made annually, or on monthly basis by standing order. A regular contribution of even £5 a month will, over a few years, add significantly to the fund. A form for this purpose is being designed and a copy will be sent out to everyone with the Summer 2006 Newsletter. Further copies of the form will be available at events and by request from the

Membership Secretary.

- Also with the next Newsletter will be a form for a one-off donation for those who are unable to attend meetings and/or do not wish to commit themselves to a regular payment.

If a significant number of people undertake to make regular donations to the Memorial Fund ECSOGA will be able to reconsider the viability of reclaiming Income Tax. As previously explained, the time and resources necessary to keep the legally required records can be justified only if the annual income to the Memorial Fund from individual tax-payers reaches a level of at least £2000.

In line with ECSOGA's normal practice, the Committee will monitor the effectiveness of the procedures listed above, make adjustments as necessary and report to Members at the AGM and via the Newsletter. There will be a regular Newsletter item recording the growth of the Memorial Fund.

The fourth area for action is bequests – in cash and kind. Some Members, anxious to set their affairs in order, would like guidance or assistance in this matter. For others this may be a sensitive topic. In recognition of this and because of the complexity of a related request from the Historical Material Working Party **there will be a final article in the next Newsletter.**

Meanwhile if there are any questions about this article, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the AGM or write to Harriett – see page 8 for contact details.

OBITUARIES

Miss Olive Noel (1922-29) of Hitchin, died April 2005. An ECSOGA Member of many years' standing, she will be remembered as a wonderful gardener and animal lover, a kind and compassionate person, writes **Grace Ulricks (Elkins 1928-33)**.

Mrs Joan Stuart (Crame 1926-33) died August 2005, peacefully at the age of 90. A former Governor of ECS and a keen supporter of ECSOGA, particularly in the 1960s and 70s, Mrs Stuart is survived by, among others, her daughters **Annette Payne (Warner-Jones 1956-61)** and **Sarah Warner-Jones (1964-71)** scholarship winner to Newnham College, Cambridge and by her granddaughter **Joanna Payne**, who attended ECS in the 1970s. Mrs Stuart last attended an ECSOGA Reunion in 2003 where she was immediately recognised by some of Annette's former class-mates even though they had not met her for well over 35 years.

Mrs Irene Simmons (Shepherd 1922-38) of Grange Park died November 2005. A prefect and member of 1st tennis team at ECS, she became a Civil Servant and was active in U3A in retirement.

LOOKING FORWARD TO ECS'S CENTENARY

Enfield County School for Girls was opened on September 25 1909. On September 24th 2008 the School will commence its 100th year and in 2009 will celebrate its Centenary.

It may seem a long time ahead to start thinking about organising Centenary Celebrations but, by the time this Newsletter appears, it will already be 2006 and special events require time and effort in the preparation.

ECSOGA will be liaising with the School and with Mrs Rutherford in particular to make sure that we can support and take part, as appropriate, in any Centenary Celebrations which the School may organise. ECSOGA will also be celebrating the School Centenary and we hope that some of the current students and staff of ECS will join with us in some of our activities.

So far three different types of activity have been envisaged::

- 1 A commemorative publication – possibly including items from early School Magazines up to recent events
- 2 A reunion targeting all generations of ECS students and staff, with opportunities for meeting old friends, to reminisce and learn up to date news. The Reunion may last a whole day, or even longer, with Members and guests giving short talks in various 'seminar rooms' throughout the day.
- 3 A special Centenary gift to the School from ECSOGA.

Individual working parties, from amongst ECSOGA Members or other ex students or staff of ECS, will be set up to participate in the organisation of the special activities.

No definite decisions have been made. We look forward to receiving your suggestions and offers of assistance to make sure that the Centenary Celebrations are successful, memorable and worthy of the School.

Please let us have your ideas for ECS Centenary Celebrations.

Please write to Mary Stevenson (address page 8)

ON THE SUBJECT OF PORTRAITS . . .

In the kind of co-incidence which a fiction writer might hesitate to employ, last July saw ECSOGA Committee representatives finalising the commissioning of the portrait of Miss Byard, which is pictured on page one, in the same week as the 94th birthday of the artist who painted Miss M C Sharp's portrait 43 years previously. This fact came to light a month later when Juliet Pannett's obituary appeared in *The Times*, following her death on 22 August 2005.

Some of our more senior Members may recall that the portrait of MC did not meet with universal approval when it was completed and presented to the School by 'the Old Girls' as ECSOGA was known in the 20th century. The criticisms must have dismayed the then Committee as Juliet Pannett MBE was a most distinguished portrait artist. The comprehensive account of her life and work in *The Times* recalls how she produced '*thousands of rather old fashioned likenesses . . . in a career of more than 75 years*'. Her sitters included HM the Queen, Prince Andrew, Princess Marina, the Duchess of Kent and eight Prime Ministers. For six years in the 1950s and 60s she sketched the proceedings of the House of Commons for *The Illustrated London News* (which, some may recall, was available in the School Library in the late 1950s and early 1960s). Twelve of Juliet Pannett's drawings were on show at the National Portrait Gallery in a special six-month exhibition early in 2005.

The passage of time seems to have mellowed opinions of MC's portrait – at least as far as we know. If Members would like to send us a critique of the portrait and/or a reminiscence of the initial reactions to Juliette Pannett's picture – or of any other of the library stairs portraits – we would be delighted to publish them and then add them to the Reminiscences section of the Memorabilia Collection.

In contrast to the situation in 1962, we are happy to report that the reaction to the portrait of Miss Byard has been universally favourable, glowing even. Members attending future events will be able to judge for themselves: the Committee will, as always, be pleased to hear your views. So, please, don't be shy: on your next visit to ECS, climb up the library stairs to see all the portraits and let us have your verdict on the latest addition – and if you feel the urge to put pen to paper about any or all of the portraits, so much the better.

War Memories

Miss Byard, keen to Commemorate the 40th anniversary of VJ day in June 2005, asked ex-students who were at ECS during the war to send in some of their recollections of what it was like to attend School at that time.

Contributions were received from far and wide and made interesting reading.

Miss Byard generously provided copies for all contributors and for those attending the autumn Reunion, which was greatly appreciated by everyone.

Below we print a review from by Nancy Brobbby, a current year 13 historian who is planning to study history at university

Diary Dates

Saturday 11 March 2006

AGM & Spring Meeting

DRAMA AT ECS

See enclosed booking form
for full details

Also enclosed for Town Members only
Accounts for year ended 31/12/05

Saturday 9 September 2006

ANNUAL REUNION

12 noon until about 4 pm

Decade Marking for those

who entered ECS in

1939/49/59/69/79/89

Full details and booking form late July
2006

Texts of ECSOGA Spring Meetings Available Online

Online Members, many of whom are unable to come to ECSOGA meetings, were able to read some edited contributions of the '*Glass Ceiling*' panel on the private Members' Website where they read the Newsletter.

Most of the '*Feast of Languages*' contributions at the 2004 meeting have now also been added to the website and we hope the coverage will be extended to include future meetings.

Access the texts on:

Freespace.virgin.net/ecs.org

Reflections of the past by Nancy Brobbey

Lessons, exams and homework are things a person might normally associate with a school. However, for students of Enfield County from 1939 to 1945, along with lessons exams and homework, came bombs, rationing and insecurity. When reading the '*War Memories of Enfield County School*', I found that the war experience for many students, was about 'another air raid warning' and hiding out in the 'smelly, musty, dank' shelters, as well as lessons, exams and more homework. It was this blend of the extra-ordinary with the everyday that made the memories so engaging. However, what impressed me most was the student and the staff's determination to continue with school routine as best as they could in the most frightening circumstances.

Through incidents of devastation (Enfield County and homes) air raids, evacuation and even death, these young women still wore brave faces and stayed courageous and hopeful throughout. It must have taken great strength to accommodate these changes in every day life; changes which brought uncertainty of where the next bomb was going to drop or when those gas masks carried around in 'decorated cases' would be needed.

Such challenges to face by students even younger than myself but even at times of total blackout we can see an optimistic light shining through the darkness of war!

DEGREE CONGRATULATIONS

Sadly, scarcity of space prevents us from listing the undergraduate course successes notified to the School in the last year. However, for a Masters Degree in Archives and Record Management from University College, London, we must find room. Congratulations to Caroline Venamore (1991-98), daughter of former ECSOGA Secretary, Sue Venamore (Lyus 1964-70). Caroline is now working in the records department of a Dutch banking company, in the City. In preparation for her degree Caroline worked for a year in the archive department of Marks and Spencer and then undertook course-related work experience at the Houses of Parliament, the Post Office and Rothschild's bank. After all of that, advising ECSOGA with our Historical Material Project will be a slight come-down, but we are confident that Caroline will help us - just as soon as we get ourselves sufficiently organised to pluck up the courage to ask . . .

Doreen Haycraft (Bignell 1946-51), former mayor of Hadleigh, gained a II,1 Degree in Creative Embroidery at the age of 70. This Individual Studies Course at Suffolk College was the first to be held in this subject.

Contact details:

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

Copy to: Harriett Nailon, 56 Palmerston Road, London SW19 1PQ

ECSOGA

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SPRING MEETING

(See enclosed booking form for full details)

Saturday 11 March 2006 11.45 for 12.15

The Hall, M C Sharp Building, Enfield County School, Holly Walk, Enfield
(There should be ample parking)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of AGM 12 March 2005 - *will be taken as read - See reverse of this sheet for summary. Full Minutes available at Meeting*
3. Matters arising
4. Report from the Chair, Mrs Mary Stevenson.
5. Report from the Treasurer, Miss Ann Wickert (*Accounts encl. for Town Members + available at meeting*)
6. 2005 Review of The Constitution – Mrs Harriett Nailon

Amendments to the Operating Document section of the Constitution:

Proposed new version:

7.10 Committee Members shall normally serve for a maximum of eight consecutive years. Where circumstances require a Member to serve for more than eight years this fact must be clearly stated at the AGM under the Agenda item 'Election of Committee'. If more than four Members of a Committee have exceeded eight years of service there will be an AGM Agenda item to explore ways of finding new Committee Members. A Committee Member stepping down after eight years may then be re-elected two years later for a further term of four years maximum. A Committee Member serving nine years or more will not be eligible for re-election after stepping down.

Proposed new version:

7.11 Committee Officers shall normally serve a term of four years in the same Office. Where, however, circumstances require that an Officer serves for longer than four years in the same Office, this fact must be clearly stated at the AGM under the Agenda item 'Election of Committee'. No more than two of the Trustees may exceed four years of service at any one time. If two Trustees have reached a combined total of twelve years' service In the same posts or if the three Trustees have combined service as Trustees totalling sixteen years there will be an AGM Agenda item to explore ways of finding new Committee Officers.

7. 2005 Review of Membership fees – Mrs Margaret Meldrum
Proposal:-Postal Member – no changes i.e. Country = £10, Town = £15, plus a special offer of £5 for five years of Town Membership for current year school-leavers. Online Membership to be placed on a decade basis from April 2006 onwards at a fee of £5 for ten years with a special offer of five years at £2 for current year school-leavers.
8. Election of Committee.
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of next AGM

In line with Charity Commission regulations, anyone can attend the AGM at no charge.

Additional booking forms can be down-loaded from the website
Please encourage non-members to print-off a form and come along

DON'T DELAY - SEND YOUR BOOKING FORM TODAY

ECSOGA & Memorial Fund AGM – Summary of Minutes

12.15 pm Saturday 12 March 2005, ECS Upper School

Present: President, Vice President, Chair, 10 Committee Members, 55 Members, 11 non-Members.

1. Apologies received from one Committee Member and 18 Members.

2. Minutes of 2004 AGM taken as read.

3. Matters arising - None.

4. Chair's Report for year ended 31 December 2004.

Membership total: 421 - a net increase of 23. Online Members total: 26. The year's activities reviewed. Appreciation expressed to all who had made 2004 so enjoyable and successful.

5. Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the Accounts were sent in advance to Town Members and were available at the Meeting. Association's net assets at 31/12/04 were £7,226.87 - an increase of £741.16 for the year. This was a 50% increase in operational surplus compared with 2003, reflecting tighter cost control at events and the impact of reducing the number of mail-shots from three to two per year. To simplify future accounts and because they are now selling slowly, the small stock of M C Sharp booklets has been written down to zero. Assets include £436.45 specifically donated for archive and historical material work. Total assets of the Memorial Fund stood at £7,975.36 - an increase of £75.31 over the year. This increase was only possible because of a donation of £100 to the Memorial Fund. As noted last year, interest on the Memorial Fund investments continues to be insufficient to cover the cost of Speech Day prizes. The Treasurer stated that £1000 is to be transferred from ECSOGA's deposit account to the Memorial Fund and that in 2005 the Committee will announce other measures to further boost the Memorial Fund. There were no questions to the Treasurer. The report and accounts were adopted by the meeting.

6. Proposal: Addition to the Constitution – Para 10. Policy on Historical Material

1. ECSOGA will maintain an interest in historical material relating to the School, to former students and staff and to ECSOGA itself. 2. The Committee will arrange for help to be given with maintaining and augmenting the School Archive. 3. For anyone with serious research interests, ECSOGA will try to facilitate access to those parts of the School Archive in the public domain (i.e. not restricted by Data Protection or other confidentiality constraints) 4. A Memorabilia Collection will be created, maintained and renewed at intervals to enable historical material to be displayed at autumn reunions and, if appropriate or requested, at other Meetings. 5. The Committee will encourage Members to (a) Bring historical material to events to be passed around among those present, (b) Donate historical material to ECSOGA either to be passed to the School Archive or included in the Memorabilia Collection, (c) Bring or send historical material for copies to be made and placed in the School Archive and/or Memorabilia Collection, as appropriate, d) Take photographs at events and send some prints to the Committee for display at future meetings and possible inclusion in the Memorabilia Collection, (e) Leave information with their next-of-kin so that any relevant material not wanted by family members is passed to ECSOGA for use or disposal at the Committee's discretion. 6. The points listed in Paragraph 10.5, above, to be included in the standard joining information sent to new Members to ensure that everyone is aware of ECSOGA's on-going commitment gathering useful historical material for the School Archive and for the ECSOGA Memorabilia Collection. 7. The Committee will arrange for a Working Party to be set up to work on historical material as and when necessary. A Working Party Chair will be elected who will keep ECSOGA Chair informed of progress and any problems. 8. The Working Party will also elect a Secretary who will be responsible for documenting the main points of the Working Party discussions and procedures. Where appropriate copies of long-standing procedures and important decisions will be passed to ECSOGA Secretary for storing in the Official Minute Book for reference purposes.

Harriett Nailon explained the reasons for the proposal. It was unanimously adopted.

7. Committee Elections: The resignation of Helen Dordewic and the death of Winifred Cowley caused two vacancies - filled by Jean Savage and Pat Clarke (previously co-opted). All other elected Committee Members stood for re-election. All elected unanimously. See page 8 of Summer 2005 Newsletter for full list of elected Committee Members.

8. AOB – Miss Byard thanked ECSOGA for their collective and individual support and gave notice of her retirement in December 2005.

9. Date of next AGM - 11 March 2006

ECSOGA

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

AGM & SPRING MEETING

Saturday 11 March 2006

From 11.45 until about 4 pm

The Hall, MC Sharp Building, Enfield County School, Holly Walk
(there should be ample parking)

PROGRAMME

- 12.15 Welcoming Address by ECSOGA Chair, Mary Stevenson
- 12.20 AGM - see enclosed Agenda
- 1.pm Buffet Lunch (£7 per head)
- 1.40 Raffle Draw
- 2.00 '*This green plot shall be our stage..*' - Reflections on drama
productions of Miss Flint & Miss Cox 1941-1968
-Produced & directed by Brenda Saunders (1940-45)
- 3.50 Farewell address
- 3.55 Jerusalem

Cut

here.....

BOOKING FORM FOR LUNCH

To book your buffet lunch (Including wine) please complete this slip and send with your cheque to reach us by

Friday 3 March 2006. Lunch will be served at about 1 pm and can be guaranteed only for those who have booked in advance. **Book now** to ensure your place.

Note: extra booking forms can be down-loaded from the website - www.onwardever.org.uk

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

From: Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Years at ECS _____

Please reserve _____ places @ £7 for lunch following AGM on 11 March 2006

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR £_____ made payable to ECSOGA

If not an ECSOGA Member please put address on back of this slip

Entrance to AGM and '*This green plot shall be our stage..*' is free of charge. There is no need to return the booking form if attending only the afternoon session: please arrive by 1.50 pm