

# ❖ ECSOGA Newsletter ❖

Issue 14

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Winter 2006/7

## From the Chair

**D**ear Members,

I am very sorry to have to convey the sad news that Hetty Benjamin, ECSOGA Vice-President, died suddenly in November 2006. We had been working on the plans for the Spring Meeting, which will now incorporate a tribute to Hetty and her contribution to the School and pupils. We shall miss Hetty's musical talents, which enhanced so many ECSOGA gatherings. (An obituary appears on page 5).

In spite of the reduction in numbers at the September Reunion it was an enjoyable gathering and the change in the buffet menu was widely applauded. Another success was the display of items from the Memorabilia Collection put up by the Historical Materials Working Party.

There have been some major changes in the School since Ms Pamela Rutherford took over as Headteacher at the beginning of 2006, many of them made possible by the extra space and leading edge facilities in the new Byard Building. One of Ms Rutherford's current aims is for the Rosemary Avenue site, which houses years 7-9, to be upgraded and brought up to the standard of the new buildings in Holly Walk.

An impressive and beautifully produced new *Enfield County School Brochure* marks the school's specialist Language College status and clearly sets out, for new students and their families, the values, expectations and standards of behaviour required for academic success. ECSOGA welcomes this initiative.

Another major innovation was in the Prize Giving for year 13 students, which is reported on page 8.

May we all go Onward Ever

Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52)



## Diary Dates

**Saturday 10 March 2007**

AGM & Spring Meeting

**Music at ECS**

**A special tribute to the  
Memory of**

**Hetty Benjamin**

**BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED**

**Saturday 8 September 2007**

Annual Reunion

12 noon until about 4pm

Decade Marking for those who  
entered ECS in  
1940/50/60/70/80/90

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## 2006 REUNION REPORT

### A lovely, warm day – in every sense

The weather for the 2006 Reunion was just right. For various reasons, the Town Show, holidays, community commitments, the number attending was slightly down on recent years, reaching just three score and ten. There were no very large year-groups: the 1945-52s mustered eleven and the 1947-54s totalled seven. More significantly for the noise level and the emotional tension, there were only two people meeting for the first time in many years – Carol Chattaway (Crow) and Lesley Humphrey (Mason), who had not seen each other since 1963. Therefore the event was quieter, and in some ways more relaxed, than has been the norm so far this century. Given the average age of the gathering, it was unsurprising that a few people said that the gentle atmosphere was particularly to their liking. Speeches were concise. Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52) summarised forthcoming events (see enclosed flyer and page 8) and our President, Ms Rutherford, outlined some of the School's latest adventures (see page 5).

After lunch there was a choice of tours: those who went around the Broome Building were led by Committee Member, Janet Naylor (Riley 1949-54), and those visiting the Sharp and Byard Buildings were conducted by the current Head Girl, Charlotte Koureas, and her Deputy, Louise Afaidze-Hayford. Miss Benjamin played a selection of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century standards as people looked at the Memorabilia Collection display or chatted over coffee, before *Jerusalem, the National Anthem* and three cheers for the School. Judging by the clean plates, the number having 'seconds', the many complimentary remarks and, most of all, the serene smiles of Ann Wickert and her team, the catering problems of the last year or so have clearly been solved. So, well done Borough Caterers and congratulations Committee for a most enjoyable and successful Reunion – a lovely, warm day - in every sense!

## GENERAL NEWS i.e ABOUT MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS

At the Reunion we gathered tidings of former ECS students and staff. The fact that not all of these are ECSOGA Members does not prevent us from taking a lively interest in their news! Also, during the year, people kindly contact us with information about themselves and former classmates. Thank you, everyone! Filling up these pages would be very difficult without your help: so, please, do keep the letters, emails and phone calls coming. All are greatly appreciated. Especial thanks to **Dikki Gleeson (Barbara Turpin 1943-50)** and **Carol West (1956-63)** whose communications are printed in their entirety on page 3. (No jokes about 'Page 3 Girls', please!)

A letter was received from **Mrs Margaret Kingston** – known to many as **Miss Ellis** – sending her apologies for being unable to be with us on 9 September. Still an avid sports follower, Mrs Kingston was booked to watch the England v Pakistan one-day cricket match. Her hopes of seeing "England win for a change!" were, happily, fulfilled. Former teaching staff who did attend were **Mrs Dilys Pollard (Thomas)**, **Miss Hetty Benjamin**, **Mrs Joan Hart**, **Mrs Pat Horrex** (also a former pupil, of course), who are all retired and **Mrs Heather Leigh** who continues to run her own language school in Buckhurst Hill. Established over 20 years ago, *Leigh Languages* offers courses in Spanish, French, Italian, Greek, German, Latin, Russian and Mandarin and English as a Foreign Language. The dozens of 1960/70s former ECS students who went on one or more of the 70+ foreign trips organised by Mrs Leigh and her husband will not be surprised to hear that *Leigh Languages* operates for three full terms each year and that Mrs Leigh is as indefatigable – and glamorous – as ever. For a *Leigh Languages* brochure phone 020 8504 3652.

From New Zealand, we learn that **Mrs Gwen Tavener (Miss Crook)**, PE teacher 1948-57, moved house about two years ago to be closer to her daughter. In 2005 Mrs Tavener came to England and had a stroll down Holly Walk for the first time in 48 years. She noticed many changes, especially to the various games pitches: for example, there was no rugby field at ECS in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Someone who was possibly taught by Mrs Tavener is **Joyce Dawe (Bourne 1947-52)** of Buntingford from where she runs one of the most successful and popular online quilt shops: [www.contentedcat.co.uk](http://www.contentedcat.co.uk). Joyce's husband, a former Grammar School boy, is also involved, providing *Rio Designs* quilting software programs. Joyce has won many prizes for her quilts in the UK, Europe and the US, and has written a book, *Patchwork Duet*, published in English and German by Bergton Verlag. Such is Joyce's celebrity in the needlework world that at a recent Festival of Quilts, an inter-national event, held at the NEC in Birmingham, she was able to hold a book-signing session.

An up-and-coming celebrity in the world of pop music is **Keisha White (1997-2002)**, whose return visit to ECS we reported in the Summer 2005 Newsletter. Keisha's 12-track CD, *Out of My Hands*, was released by Warner Music UK in

July. Several songs from this CD and a couple of Keisha's earlier singles have been on the BBC2 Play-list during the autumn. Several ECSOGA Members are known devotees of *Wake Up To Wogan* (they share Sir Terry's odd sense of humour) and so must have heard the Togmeister play Keisha's most successful song to date, *Don't Mistake Me*. Meanwhile, over on TV, **Andrea Maffin (1978-83)** can be seen regularly on *This Morning* on ITV1, where she is the resident designer. ECSOGA Members are too busy to watch much daytime TV, especially between 10am and 12 noon, so none of the Newsletter team has actually seen Andrea. Any readers organised enough to relax mid-morning and so catch Andrea on screen, might like to send us a short TV review for our next issue, please.

We were given the news about Andrea by the two youngest Members to attend the Reunion: **Maria Walker (Constantinou)** and **Alev Cozimoglu (Osman)** both at ECS 1979-84. They still live locally and each has a daughter currently at the School. Alev is very active in the local community and very knowledgeable about what is going on in Enfield as she works in the constituency office of Joan Ryan, MP for Enfield North. In addition, Alev is on the Committee of the PTA, *The Friends of Enfield County School*. The second youngest group at the Reunion were the 1959-66s, who were marking and celebrating the four decades since they left school. Regular event attenders **Carole North (Gray)** and **Cathryn Corns (Patrick)** met up with **Kay Buchanan**, remembered as a leading netball and hockey player; **Karin Churchman (Garrard)**, **Angela Haynes (Collins)** and **Willa Hislop** who had recently moved from Haslemere to Goring-by-Sea. Members of an older vintage will remember Kay's sister, **Jill Buchanan (1954-61)** also in hockey teams and now a JP. Conversation at the 1959-66 table covered many topics including a discussion about the pardoning of First World War deserters, announced a couple of months previously. As the author of a book on deserters, (*Blindfold and Alone* –see Newsletter Winter 2002) Cathryn Corns was pursued by TV and radio in July for her views on the pardons. Cathryn was in France for part of the summer and then made herself diplomatically unavailable, feeling that the subject is too complex to be covered in a three-minute interview which might then be reduced to a six-second soundbite. Another author is **Lucy Coelho (1994-2001)** - featured in a 2002 Newsletter when her class-mates bought a gadget to ensure that Lucy's deafness did not impede her University studies. Among other successes, Lucy has had a short story published in *Womens' Weekly*. Shortly after the Reunion a quartet of the 1956-63s spent a day at Kew Gardens. **Averil Bamber (Jones)**, **Carol Bostock-Smith (Masters)**, **Harriett Nailon (Lott)** and **Lesley Williams** have resolved to try to meet at least annually. At the Reunion, Harriett was keen to show everyone the photos of her 8-weeks-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Clemmie. Do not be surprised to read more about this dog in future Newsletters!

## NEWS OF TWO MID-20TH CENTURY COHORTS

### The 1943-50s in 2006

some notes from Diki Gleeson (Barbara Turpin)  
dated 27 July 2006

“This summer, apart from being hotter than most of the usual holiday destinations, has also been notable for the influx of overseas visitors and none more welcome than **Helen Bush** (as she was at school with us 43-50 lot). She came over from Christchurch, New Zealand with her charming, always laughing husband, Gerry Constable. This was the very first time she has been back in UK since emigrating way back in the early 70’s. It was a chance meeting with her brother Tim (a Grammar School friend of my brother) in the Market Square which led to the fabulous reunions - I managed to see her three times before she went to France to her younger son’s for a family reunion before their first child is born later in the year. As well as pub lunches, walks and hours of chat (for hours and hours including Gerry who in no time at all seemed like a long standing friend). As well as that we had a delicious tea at **Nan’s (Lucas/ now Whitman)**, enjoying her beautiful garden and fountain and a morning at **Jill’s (Stiles)**, who also has a magic garden with a spectacular view (not dissimilar to Tim’s). As gardening is one of Helen’s interests that was a bonus. Not enough time to risk hayfever in my ‘wild’ garden with a large area uncut and waving like a field of corn – butterflies’ delight, not just that I never get enough time to include the whole lot of course.

“All three of us couldn’t believe how magic it was that the years rolled back and we so much enjoyed each other’s company. Helen was insistent that we should all be welcome if we could ever come to N.Z. . . and if there is anyone who would like to get back in touch with her I shall bring photos and addresses to the next ECSOGA meeting. She hadn’t really changed at all (we don’t count a few wrinkles and wisps of grey do we ?) When I passed on Helen’s good wishes I mentioned the visit to **Mrs Margaret Kingston (Ellis, Geography)**: she immediately recalled Helen and her lovely bright golden plaits. Could scarcely believe that she no longer draws horses – she always seemed to be doing that – even in Miss F Sharp’s Latin, I remember. She lived a few doors down from **Marion Appleby (now Wood)**, in Ridge Crest, so it was nostalgic to go past those houses and see the changes.

“By and large our lot are fairly well in-touch with each other, but although we did once manage to dig up **Maureen Hopewell (now Newstead)** for a Pearsons Restaurant Reunion (yes we did that quite a few times back in the 60’s - or was it the 70s?) no one knows of her whereabouts any longer. Or does someone have a clue?

“Sad little note: **Barry (Dovey)** has finally had to relinquish the caring for his wife, our old school pal **Marie Grube**, to a home, as Alzheimer’s has progressed too far now. Very sad indeed to think of Marie who was SO elegant and always so well dressed but now unable to find a pair of matching shoes to put on and totally unconcerned about it. In her 60’s she did well in her local marathon (her first) as a self-inflicted

challenge and that was typical. Some of the School Hockey team will remember her long legs racing down the wing.”

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering for some 1956-63s Reporter Carol West

Monday 11 September 2006 marked 50 years since we started at Enfield County School. The actual day we started in 1956 was a Tuesday. The Swan Inn at Felsted in rural Essex was the venue for our meeting, being roughly equidistant from our addresses. The meeting took place on Friday 8 September.

**Shirley Brooks (Bedwell), Alison Cordran (Bullett), Janet Griffiths (Rudd), Carol Reast (Speller)** and my self **Carol West** (still West!) had a most enjoyable and reminiscent lunch on a bright and sunny day. Apologies were received from **Jenny Fisher (Steel)** and **Josie Green (Stiff)** who, due to work commitments, unfortunately could not make the day.

In many ways it did not seem possible that half a century had elapsed since our first day at ECS and we had some fun trying to put names to faces on the official school photos. The teaching staff all looked so young! We all agreed that compared to today’s school children, how neat and tidy everyone looked and wore the uniform with pride. A give-away of the time interval came when everyone dived in handbags for glasses to read the menu – except one of us who confessed to contact lenses!

We enjoyed catching up on everyone’s news, including admiring photos of grandchildren, and generally had a good gossip over a leisurely meal. As we bade each other goodbye we all agreed to meet again next spring.

### ECSOGA MEMBER MARRIES & DELIVERS GRANDDAUGHTER!

The celebration of **Jean Fawbert’s (Appleby 1946-52)** marriage to Enfield Old Grammarian Damond Lock was the occasion of a gathering of a number of ECS Old Girls, as well as ex Grammar School boys. Jean’s sisters, **Marion Wood (1943-49)** and **Laura Luck (1947- 53)**, her new sister-in law **Sheila Lawrence (Lock 1946-52)**, **Brenda Liddiard (1946-53)**, **Shirley Bashem (Hughes 1946-53)**, **Ruth Freeman (Tucker 1946-54)** and **Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52)** were all amongst the guests, prompting the Groom to propose a special toast to Enfield County School and all the girls who went there. Over lunch, Damond’s younger brother, Laurence, wistfully recalled a number of ECS girls, whom he had admired from afar. Damond’s son, in a congratulatory speech, said that not many couples had a combined age of more than 140 on their wedding day and would have 10 grandchildren between them before they had been married for six months. Little did Jean realise that she would finish up as the emergency midwife for her fifth grandchild, a healthy daughter to Stephanie, with neither mother nor baby needing to go to hospital. Well done Jean!

Congratulations to all concerned.

# NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

To give an accurate picture, in a few paragraphs, of a busy and diverse organisation which, counting students, teachers and support staff, involves over 1200 people is rather difficult. Suffice it to say, therefore, that this account must be seen as just a selection of highlights. In her address at the Reunion, Ms Rutherford illustrated recent changes and challenges at ECS by reference to the whole school photograph, taken just days before. Getting everyone (yes, all 1200+) lined up for the camera was, in itself, a logistical feat requiring Years 7,8 and 9 to come from Rosemary Avenue to Holly Walk and arrangements so that students with Special Needs and all the members of staff could be included. Ms Rutherford has kindly said that a copy of the photograph will be donated to ECSOGA's Memorabilia Collection and we look forward to displaying it at the 2007 meetings. From the photo, Members will be able to see for themselves how some details of school life are changing: for example, they will see that black trousers are now a permitted item of the uniform, as an alternative to skirts.

Many changes, however, will not be apparent from the photograph. One innovation at the start of the 2006/7 academic year was the requirement for all staff and post-16 students to wear photo ID. (For the school photograph these were momentarily removed). That there is now such a rule is indicative of the security measures which impinge on us all, and which are particularly necessary on a large site, like ECS, with a gate open to all comers.

Ms Rutherford also gave us an insight into the reality of the now famous School League Tables (some would perhaps call them infamous?) Ms Rutherford explained that the media coverage given to annual public examination results tells only part of the story. To give just one overlooked aspect, there is no mention of how many students in a cohort have health difficulties which affect their exam achievement and, in turn, a school's overall performance. Recently at ECS, in one exam year-group, there have been 12 students with serious health problems. In 2006 at ECS 63% of GCSE candidates gained 5 or more grades A-C. Of these, more students than ever before have achieved grades A or A\* and, for the first time in the school's history, a student scored A\* in all 10 of her GCSEs. Well done, **Meltem Cenktaş!**

The School received more media mentions, locally and nationally plus appearances on breakfast TV, when a group of 14 year-olds, affectionately dubbed Team NARA, won a national science competition. **Natalie Barber, Andrea Adamon, Rebekah Willer, and Aamira Challenger-Mynett** were among 34 British school students who won a 10-day stay at NASA centres in Florida and Texas. The competition, run by an educational charity, named *Edge*, aims to stimulate innovation and problem-solving in science generally and especially in physics. The ECS team came up with an idea to help astronauts keep their teeth clean.

At present, dental hygiene in space is messy, time-consuming and potentially hazardous, partly because of the gravity-free atmosphere. Team NARA designed a ball of special reusable material which can be filled with enzymes and then moulded around the teeth, like a gum shield. This elegant solution to a very real problem won them their prize. During their trip the students were present for the landing of the Space Shuttle in Florida and went through some of the astronaut training routines, using simulators and other technological gadgets. They also tried out some of the machines used by Neil Armstrong in 1969. It is hard to believe that, at that time, the original NASA Control Room in Houston worked with less computer capacity than is contained in an average 2006 mobile phone/camera.

To keep parents informed of special events, such as the success of team NARA, more everyday happenings and notices, the School now issues a twice-yearly Newssheet. The July 2006 edition carried a great variety of items including accounts of a video-conferencing session with ECS's partner school in Besançon, involving students from Year 10, a week's stay with their pen-friends in Courbevoie for Year 9 and a French Activity Day in local primary schools which ECS language students helped to organise and run. Meanwhile, the Mathematics department reported on the lunch-time Ayo club and the Junior Mathematics Challenge. Also recorded were visits to the City Learning Centre in Parsonage Lane for ICT curriculum work which involved making movies, Year 8's participation in a construction workshop and a Year 12 visit to see *Hip Hop Chaucer*.

The back page of the Newssheet carries items about Uniforms and Oyster Cards. Regarding the latter, young people who appear to be 14+ and who do not have an Oyster Card are charged full fare. Therefore the School is advising all students from Year 9 upwards and all Year 7's and 8's who look 14 to apply for an Oyster Card. Yet another example of complicated nature of modern teenage life. There can also be extra administration work for the School as it is required to verify applications if students have no passport or birth certificate. As for uniforms, the official suppliers are J Smith & Sons, Lancaster Road and Penny's School Outfitters, Cheshunt. The Newssheet says there are concerns 'that several students do not seem to possess a uniform PE kit'. No matter how many changes elsewhere, some things remain constant! We are confident that when we display the 2006 Official School Photograph, Members will be able to see two other enduring features of ECS: pride and happiness on the faces of students and staff. These emotions were, of course, much in evidence at the prize presentations held during Autumn Term. There was a new format for the Senior School Speech Day which several ECSOGA Committee Members were privileged to attend. They are pleased to report that with 46 students having gone on to Higher Education and a further 5 currently taking a Gap year, there can be no doubt that ECS is going ONWARD EVER in great style.

# OBITUARIES

**Miss Mary Anderson (1939-46)** of Monks Close, Enfield, died 2006. Mary was well known in education circles having spent her career as an infants school teacher and, latterly, a Deputy Head.

**Mrs Nora Coombs (Stinton 1928-34)** of Halifax Road, Enfield, died 2005. Belated condolences to Nora's daughter, **Sylvia Coombs (1957-64)** who has been a frequent contributor to ECSOGA Newsletter in recent years.

**Mrs Alice Robinson – Teacher at ECS in the 1980s/90s.** Died summer 2006. Born in the Channel Islands, Mrs Robinson studied at a Scottish University and so was very broadly qualified, able to take classes in Maths, French and Latin, in addition to teaching Special Needs students. Paying tribute to her, Miss Byard described Mrs Robinson as "warm and generous spirited." Her daughter, **Janet Robinson**, attended ECS in the 1980s.

## HETTY BENJAMIN

[3/3/1919 — 4/11/2006]

Hetty Benjamin, Head of Music at Enfield County School from 1950 to 1980 (and then part time to 1986), died in November 2006, at the age of 87. She had been active until the very last moment: her life ended even as she was chatting to a close friend on the telephone.

For 30 years, Miss Benjamin lit the life of the school with the flame that only music can kindle: a power and an energy which, as current research continues to demonstrate, strengthens the powers of concentration, imagination and judgment in the study of every other subject. Yet, even in the 1960s, music was pushed aside into spare corners on the periphery -- next to the kitchen, or next to the gym. In spite of physically adverse conditions, Miss Benjamin, who taught with a flair and panache equal to that of her always eye-catching attire, provided music throughout the school. But it was in her rigorous and stimulating O and A level classes (more like university seminars), and in study for GCSE, that her musical prowess and warm, witty communication skills, came into their own.

Born into a close-knit family in the lively intellectual Jewish community of Llanelli, Hetty Benjamin went on to achieve First Class Honours in Music, English and French at the University of Wales in Cardiff. Her first teaching post was at a boys' school in St Helen's, Lancashire; her second as Head of Music at Llanelli Girls' Grammar. In a never-to-be-forgotten period of leave-of-absence, Miss Benjamin visited relatives in South Africa -- and within two weeks found herself playing Grieg's Piano Concerto on air with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra.

There was always more than a whiff of the greasypaint in Miss Benjamin's approach to music. Behind the obligatory dry harmony and counterpoint study of the period, lurked a true and extrovert performer: a musician as happy in Irving Berlin as in Ludwig van Beethoven, in Cole Porter as in Purcell. Throughout her life, composition, performance, choral conducting and sheer entertainment ruled supreme: whether at the annual Speech Day (where she would play the final hymn, 'Jerusalem', even after retirement); at social clubs and gatherings, or simply at home in Palmers Green. Miss Benjamin's sitting-room often rang to the strains of music she had written for performers such as Harry Secombe -- or to the recital of her own wittily comic verse.

"When music sounds, gone is the earth I know, And all her lovely things even lovelier grow..." Miss Benjamin's beautiful choral setting of these words still rings in my ears -- and is lasting testimony to her power to enrich and transform lives through music -- and through her own inimitably joyous, mischievous and always generously warm-hearted human presence.

## Hilary Finch (1962-69)

### IT'S A SMALL WORLD

**An occasional Newsletter item showing how ECS people are to be found everywhere\***

**Ros Chammings (Hobbs 1956-63)** who lives in Barnstaple, Devon writes: (letter dated February 2006)

"I sat next to a young Mum at church on Sunday whom I didn't recognise and we got talking. She had been brought up in Enfield and had gone to Chace Girls but, guess what, her Mum was an old ECS pupil! She's 64 now so I guess she was in the third or fourth year when we started. Her name was Beryl Barber and she lives in Norfolk."

**\* Do you have an example of the smallness of the world that you can share with us?**

**See page 8 for where to send your anecdote.**

## **MIND THE GAPS! and the vicious circle . . .**

by Harriett Nailon – Secretary to the Historical Material  
Working Party

ECSOGA is currently trying to bridge two gaps:

### 1. The age gap in our membership:

By now we should have attracted a substantial number of Members from the cohorts who were at ECS in the late 1960s and the early-mid 1970s and who are aged 45 - 55. Experience has shown that it is when the half-century birthdays loom that people start to have an interest in looking back, returning to their roots and becoming involved with the Association. Sadly, despite our best efforts, we have not managed, yet, to recruit a significant number from these age-groups. This has serious implications for the long-term health of ECSOGA. More than half our Members are over 60 and we have more Members aged over 75 than under 50. As could be seen at the 2006 Reunion, most of our active supporters are in the 60+ age range.

### 2. The gap in material in the Memorabilia Collection:

The period for which we have very few items is 1966-80.

## **The coincidence of these two gaps is no accident**

The lack of Members from the years of transition from a grammar school to a comprehensive school is the main reason why we have so little historical material from 1966-80. (Thanks to Miss Byard and Ms Rutherford we already have interesting and useful press cuttings and other items from the past 25 years).

The fact that we have no memorabilia, and very little information of any sort, covering what was arguably the most important, difficult and hectic phase in the development of ECS makes it hard for us to reach out and attract the people who, before too long, will be vital to ECSOGA's future survival. In short, the two gaps are powering a downward spiral which, if not checked soon, will lead to the demise of the association.

**So, amid all our usual requests for memories and material for the Historical Material Project,**

***THIS PLEA IS SPECIFIC AND  
INCREASINGLY URGENT***

**WE NEED HELP, PLEASE,  
IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

- a) in recruiting people who left ECS in the years 1966 – 80.
- b) in collecting memorabilia and reminiscences relating to 1966 – 80.
- c) in strengthening our understanding of how we can reach out and interest former ECS students born in the 1950s and early 1960s.

For these people the experience of ECS was in many ways **very, very different from that enjoyed by the Committee and the vast majority of current ECSOGA Members.** To attract and retain these people as active participants in our

activities, ECSOGA may have to change. For now, though, the need is simple – but not easy: we must recruit a core group of people in their 50s willing to be involved in running events and producing a Newsletter. They need to be able, where appropriate, to make the most of modern communication methods and to work with others whom they may, at the beginning, hardly know. Keeping ECSOGA on the road takes quite a lot of time, talent and, it must be said, sometimes some trouble.

Failure to find these people in the next few years will result in the terminal decline of the former students' association of ECS in its present form. . .

If you can advise and/or assist us with these challenges please contact: Mary Stevenson, Margaret Meldrum or me, Harriett Nailon – **addresses page 8**

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## **TECHNOLOGY NOTES**

When we introduced the category of Online Membership of ECSOGA a private website was set up where Online Members could read the Newsletter. For various reasons this has not proved 100% satisfactory. Matters were further complicated when our Webmaster, Jennifer Caddy, moved in the middle of last year and was unable to access her computer. The last Newsletter, Summer 2006, was emailed as a PDF file attachment to Online Members. This proved to be both uncomplicated and popular. It has been decided therefore that this will be standard practice for future Newsletters. Of course, there is still one potential glitch: when people change their email address but do not inform us . . . But we have a procedure for coping with this, thanks to good old snail-mail. We hope in the future to be able to reinstate the private website for backfile copies of Newsletters and for the special files covering Spring Meetings.

When membership subscriptions become due for renewal – for many people this will happen in late 2009 – we expect that a substantial number who are currently classified as Postal Members (either Town or Country) will consider switching to the cheaper (both for the individual and for ECSOGA) and more environmentally friendly Online category. The fact that Newsletters will, from now on, be emailed directly to Online Members will, we hope and believe, make this option particularly attractive – hence the inclusion of this item, here and now.

ECSOGA's main website [www.onwardever.org.uk](http://www.onwardever.org.uk) has also had some problems and is due for an overhaul. Apologies to anyone who has experienced difficulties in trying to access it in the last few months. The website has been in existence for over five years and has worked well but we have not been able to monitor its use as much as we would wish and it has been rather labour intensive to maintain – and labour is ECSOGA's biggest constraint, in all areas. Therefore we hope to be updating and re-launching the main website in the first half of the year. **Read all about it in the Summer 2007 Newsletter, due out late June/early July.**

*Continuing our Occasional Feature on Members' Careers*  
*Diane Crowder (1956-64) describes work with Shell UK*

### OIL, COMPUTERS AND CUSTOMERS

At school, having taken the usual O levels and A levels, I stayed on for a term to take the Oxford and Cambridge entrance exams. Just as I finished this, one of the Maths teachers died, and it was impossible to find someone for the rest of the year. So I ended up teaching the first three years Maths classes, with no training, but everyone was very kind, and at least there were no disasters in the exams. It was also useful as it confirmed that I did not want to teach.

I did make it into Cambridge to read Maths, and it certainly turned out to be a tough degree. Cambridge were very good about letting you change subjects during the first year, but no one was allowed to switch to Maths, only away. Though we worked hard we also had fun, and were able to apply our maths to punting and how to steer a punt without falling in.

Fortunately, in those days, being a graduate gave you good career openings, and I decided to take up an offer from Shell to work at their refinery in Cheshire in the Operational Research department. Firstly I had to survive the graduate induction programme, training was all the rage at the time and you had to fight to get out of that in under a year and get on with a real job.

Operational Research techniques are used to solve real problems and are basically mathematical. So I used calculating techniques, but also computers, to solve problems such as how many people did you need to run a processing plant on the refinery. Hard though it is to believe it now, but then there were very few computers, and none on people's desks. They installed the very first on line terminals in 1973, and they were pretty big objects, where you typed in a line, which appeared in print and the reply was also printed on the terminal. I developed a program to schedule the intake of crude oil, and move it through the tanks to the processing units, to meet the current demand for products. This was on line, so I also had to train the people using it, as none of them had ever used a computer before.

In the early seventies Shell were building a deep water tanker terminal at Anglesey, seventy miles away, and needed to determine the optimum way of operating it and how many storage tanks to build. In order to do these calculations I built a simulation model, which allowed us to run the terminal in the computer and try out alternatives.

During my time at Stanlow, I was promoted to run the Operational Research unit, and then I was transferred to the main computing centre near Manchester to develop the new ideas in data base. We worked with customers on the best way to analyse and organise the data as well as deciding on the best software.

Then I moved to London to the computing centre for London customers, who were mainly running commercial systems like payroll, quarterly accounts and personnel. This was a more management role, with 99 staff, and I was then part of the management team for the computing division of Shell in the UK. After three years I went back to more technical areas supporting customers in new technology areas, personal computers were just starting to appear on desks with the first spreadsheet package called Visicalc. We also worked with customers on their information needs, so that they could be sure that the information systems built would really support their business.

I finished my career by setting up the first computer help desk within Shell in the UK which was not just technical, it aimed to manage the problem across the organisation. Shell then decided to amalgamate the computing organisations in the UK and the Netherlands, and locate it in the Netherlands. This would have meant moving to the Hague, and I did not want to do this, so I helped to set up the new organisation and took early retirement.

**Diane Crowder**

### THE MEMORIAL FUND – DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

In response to the three articles by Jean Endean and Harriett Nailon in recent Newsletters, we are pleased to say that donations to the Memorial Fund have started to roll in. Thank you to those who have pledged to make regular donations by returning the Standing Order Form sent out in the summer. Several Members have said that they would find it helpful to have a form for arranging a bequest to the Fund. **Enclosed therefore is a 'Suggested Form of Words for a Codicil'.**

Copies of both the Standing Order Mandate and the Codicil Form will always be available at ECSOGA events, on the Membership table, for those who may wish to make arrangements to contribute to the Memorial Fund at a future date. In addition special Memorial Fund donation envelopes will always be available for one-off contributions (either cash or cheque). Thank you, everyone, for your continuing interest and generous support.

Marjorie Read, ECSOGA Secretary and Treasurer — and her sisters, Background required for PRIZE INFORMATION SHEETS.

CONTACT MARY STEVENSON - see page 8



## NO GOWNS NO GRAVITAS A 21ST CENTURY PRIZEGIVING

A small party of ECSOGA Members were invited to *Year 13 Leavers' Celebration*, which was held on 18 December to give those students who had already gone on to University or College the opportunity to attend.

ECSOGA had prepared sheets to accompany eleven of the prizes, giving the background of those for whom the prizes were named. There was also a display of the information sheets in the entrance hall.

It was a complete change from any previous ECS Prizegiving. Everyone sat at tables and drinks and nibbles were provided.

The evening opened with the presentation of 'A' Level Certificates, followed by the presentation of prizes. The individual prizes were presented by the member of staff responsible for teaching the prize-winner, with an appropriate citation for the award. Although the recipients were allowed to respond, few did so and it was obvious that it was something new and for which they were unprepared.

The presentations were interspersed with subtle but lively performances by a Jazz Quartet with Daisha Ferdinand and Lauren Gorman singing some of the numbers.

There was an address by Miss Irene Byard congratulating her erstwhile students and this was followed by a closing address by Ms Pamela Rutherford, Headteacher.

A professional photographer took photos of the prize-winners receiving their prizes and afterwards there was an opportunity for groups of friends and family to have photos taken by the photographer.

It was a very happy and enjoyable event. Somewhat startling to some of us 'oldies' was the hugging of staff and the use of their given names, which would have been inappropriate in the mid 20th Century. Enthusiasm and exuberance replaced the gowns and gravitas of an earlier era.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturday 10 March 2007**  
**AGM 12 noon**  
**Spring Meeting 2pm**  
*She shall have music wherever she goes*  
**Music at ECS—with a special tribute to the late Hetty Benjamin**

See enclosed sheets for Agenda and Summary Minutes, Meeting Details and Booking Form

**Don't delay send your booking today!**

**Saturday 8 September 2007**  
**ANNUAL REUNION**  
**12 noon until about 4pm**  
**Decade Marking for those who entered the First Form (or Year 7) in 1940/50/60/70/80/90**  
**Full details and booking form available in late June**

## IN CASE I FORGET

Letters to my goddaughter

JOAN CHERRY

Joan Hart's story of an only child growing up in a religious and old-fashioned family in the social and economic context of Liverpool during the pre-war depression years. Joan hopes to have copies, or an advance copy, at the AGM in March. Price ca. £10. Contact her on 020 8363 7626 or at 23 Curthwaite Gdns, Enfield, EN2 7LW

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Missing:** The Summer Newsletters for **Pat Barr (Blake 1956-60)** address near Dunstable, and **Edith Kingsbury (Webster 1921-26)** address in Potters Bar, were returned marked 'Gone Away'.

**Trying to Trace:** Diki Gleeson (Barbara Turpin 1943-50) would like to get back in-touch with **Maureen Newstead (Hopewell 1943-50)**.

INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PEOPLE TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, MARGARET MELDRUM, PLEASE—CONTACT DETAILS BELOW

## AND FINALLY

Unless they have been out of Britain for the past four months, there cannot be any readers who have not read about, seen on TV (BBC2's Newsnight Review) or heard on Radio 4 our most famous Member, **Geraldine McCaughrean (Jones 1962-69)**, whose book *Peter Pan in Scarlet* was published to great acclaim in October.

John McCaughrean (Geraldine's husband) writes: 'Yesterday, we spent a most wonderful morning in Canterbury Cathedral, where Geraldine was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by her alma mater, Christ Church University, at a Graduation ceremony. She is only the second member of the alumni to be so honoured, the other recipient being the Anglican Bishop of South America'.

Congratulations, Geraldine!

### Contact details:

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

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

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 10 March 2007 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 11 March 2006 - *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 Election of Committee
- 7 Any Other Business
8. Date of next AGM

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

### **DON'T DELAY - SEND YOUR BOOKING FORM TODAY**

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

### **PROGRAMME**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 12.15 | Welcoming Address by ECSOGA Chair,<br>Mary Stevenson  |
| 12.20 | AGM - see Agenda above  |
| 1.pm  | Buffet Lunch (£8 per head)  |
| 1.40  | Raffle Draw   |
| 2.00  | <b><i>She shall have Music wherever she goes</i></b><br>Music at ECS — a Memorial to Hetty Benjamin |
| 3.50  | Farewell address  |
| 3.55  | Jerusalem   |

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Music at ECS— a Memorial to Hetty Benjamin
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- 3.55 Jerusalem



# ECSOGA

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

### 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 2 March 2007. 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 may be photocopied if required

To: ECSOGA Treasurer, 84 Hoodcote Gardens, London N21 2NE Tel: 020 8360 5573

From: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Years at ECS \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places @ £8 for lunch following AGM on 10 March 2007

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to ECSOGA

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

Entrance to AGM and '*she shall have music wherever she goes*' 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

# ECSOGA & Memorial Fund 2006 AGM – Summary of Minutes

12.15 pm Saturday 11 March 2006, ECS Upper School

Present: President, Vice President, Chair, 10 Committee Members, 95 Members, 6 Non-Members.

1. Apologies received from one Committee Member and 9 Members. Letter from Miss Ivy Butler read out.

2. Minutes of 2005 AGM taken as read. 3. Matters arising - None.

4. Chair's Report for year ended 31 December 2005.

Welcome to new President, Ms Pamela Rutherford. Membership total: 430 – 12 new Members. The year's activities reviewed. Appreciation expressed to all who had made 2005 so enjoyable and successful. No questions. Report adopted unanimously.

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 31/12/05 were £5,274.33 - a decrease of £1,952.54 over the year. It was explained that this difference reflects the donations to the Memorial Fund and to the School, in support of the Language College bid (£1,000 each) and the cost of Miss Byard's retirement portrait. Without these large and exceptional items the account would have shown a substantial operating surplus. Assets include £315.57 specifically donated for archive and historical material work. Total assets of the Memorial Fund stood at £9,275.22 - an increase of £1,299.86 over the year. This increase was composed mainly of the donation of £1,000 from ECSOGA's own funds, which had been announced at the previous AGM. The Committee is continuing to look at measures which can be used to further boost the Memorial Fund. One such measure will be regular practice of donating all Spring Meeting Raffle proceeds to the Fund. In 2005 the Fund provided thirteen Speech Day prizes at a total cost of £325. No questions to the Treasurer. Report and accounts unanimously adopted.

6. Proposal arising from Review of Consitution: that the Operating Document be amended as follows:

**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 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.

**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.

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

7. Proposal arising from Review of Membership Fees: Membership Secretary explained the proposal that Online Membership be placed on a decade basis from April 2006 onwards at £5 for ten years + school leavers offer of £2 for five years. Adopted unanimously.

8. Committee Elections: All Committee Members stood for re-election. All elected unanimously. See page 8 Summer 2006 Newsletter for list and details of length of service on Committee.

9. AOB: Ms Rutherford gave a short address detailing the recent Ofsted visit to the School and other news items particularly relating to ECS's status as a Specialist Language College. Mrs Diki Glesson asked for signatures on a card for Mrs Margaret Kingston (Miss Ellis).

10. Date of next AGM - Saturday 10 March 2007

## SUGGESTED FORM OF WORDS FOR CODICIL

If you wish to use this form, please ensure that you sign it in the presence of two witnesses. They should not themselves, or through their spouses, receive any benefit from your will or the Codicil. Independent witnesses such as neighbours are best. Both witnesses must sign the form at the same time as you do. If you have any questions as to how a Codicil relates to your will, you should consult your solicitor. Once completed, a Codicil must be kept with your will but it would help if you informed ECSOGA of your intentions.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CODICIL

#### TO BE COMPLETED BY YOU TO SUIT YOUR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

By this (first) (or other relevant number) Codicil to the Will dated .....of me:

{Name} ..... of

{Address} , .....{Postcode} .....

I give to the Enfield County School Old Girls' Association (Registered Charity Number 312623) the sum of £..... /  
(now give the description of the item / name of property e.g. *all my personal memorabilia relating to Enfield County School*  
**including.....then list all the relevant items being donated**):

.....  
.....  
for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the receipt of any duly authorised officer of the said Association shall be sufficient discharge to my executors / trustees. In all other respects I confirm my said Will (and my previous Codicils dated ..... )

Signed : ..... Date.....

#### TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR WITNESSES

Signed by the above named in our joint presence and then by us in his/her presence.

##### FIRST WITNESS

Name} ..... of

{Address} , .....{Postcode} .....

{Occupation} ..... {Signature} .....

Date.....

##### SECOND WITNESS

{Name} ..... of

{Address} , .....{Postcode} .....

{Occupation} ..... {Signature} .....

Date.....