

❖ ECSOGA Newsletter ❖

Issue 16

Registered Charity No. 312623

Winter 2007/8

From the Chair

Dear Members,

I will be standing down at the forthcoming AGM after seven years on the Committee, including four years as Chair. I had an enormous amount of help from the previous chair, Jean Potter, as well as from Harriett Nailon, who is currently joint chair, not to mention Ann Wickert, our long-time Treasurer and all Committee Members, who helped events run smoothly, in spite of unexpected problems. I thank everyone for their hard work and ECSOGA Members for their support.

ECSOGA has helped to organise some of the School Archive and has set up our own Historical Material Working Party to grow and display the items which we have in our collection. Thanks to all who have donated materials and to those who have worked on the collection.

During my time as Chair, ECSOGA has lost a number of long-standing Members and ex Staff, such as Winnie Cowley, Olive Sellick, Miss Doris Cox, Miss Christine Roberts and most recently Miss Hetty Benjamin, but we have also benefitted from great support from Miss Irene Byard and from Ms Pamela Rutherford as well as from their teaching and administrative staff. Many thanks to all, on behalf of ECSOGA

ECSOGA has continued its traditional rôle of providing prizes and donations for a variety of ECS' requirements, such as the refurbishment of the grand piano and the portrait of the retiring Head. We shall be making special efforts for the School Centenary (see pages 3 & 6) and will need your support and co-operation. We also hope that you will join us in person for the celebrations. **Make a note in your diary now for March 14 and September 12 2009.**

I look forward to seeing you all.

Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52)



Diary Dates

Saturday 8 March 2008
AGM & Spring Meeting 2008
Competitive Spirit at ECS
In the mid-20th Century
11.30 am until about 4pm
BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED

Saturday 6 September 2008
Full details and booking form
Late January 2008
Decade Marking for those who
entered ECS in
1941/51/61/71/81/91

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FROM HARRIETT NAILON - JOINT CHAIR

Hello Fellow ECSOGA Members!

I first attended an ECSOGA event in September 1997. Since then I have not missed a meeting, have served on the Committee for five and a half years and helped produce every Newsletter since Spring 2000. I trust my commitment is not in doubt. It may, therefore, seem perverse that in the article entitled *A Bang or a Whimper*, on page 4, I am advocating, on behalf of the Committee, that ECSOGA be wound up. Those Members who know me well or have spoken to me and/or my Committee colleagues in recent months will, I hope, understand our rationale for this radical and potentially upsetting course of action.

For everyone else, I can best explain the plan for resolving a difficult situation with two old proverbs. (Miss Cox taught me to avoid "hackneyed phrases" but, when space is limited, clichés do have a use.) Our case for closing down ECSOGA can be summarised as *If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing well* and *You cannot put new wine into old bottles*. Put another way, we believe that ECSOGA will very soon find it impossible to maintain the standard of service to Members which they deserve and which our association with the School demands. This is because the structure, ethos, organisation and activities of ECSOGA are not attractive to those aged under 55.

PLEASE SIGNAL SUPPORT FOR, OR OPPOSITION TO, OUR PLANS FOR A DIGNIFIED, ORDERLY AND HAPPY ENDING FOR ECSOGA BY RETURNING THE ENCLOSED FORM TO ME ASAP.

Best wishes and thank you,
Harriett Nailon (Lott 1956-63)

2007 REUNION REPORT

32 FROM 4 COHORTS, SPANNING 37 YEARS, CELEBRATE DECADE MARKING

IMPROMPTUE REMINISCENCES PROVE A GREAT SUCCESS

It was an overcast day on 8 September 2007 but there was an abundance of sunny smiles as some 90 plus former ECS pupils and staff gathered for our annual Reunion. Several present were attending their first ever ECSOGA event. The largest cohort present was the 1960-67 group, numbering 22. This leaves the record attendance by 48 of the 1956-63s, in 2003, still comfortably standing but, thanks to the tenacity of **Pam Bagley (Smith)**, the mailing list for the 1960-67s contains the addresses of 91 people - soundly beating the 83 on the 56-63 list. Using this amazing list, which accounts for 70% of their intake, the 1960-67s have established a very impressive track record of informal reunions both large and small. Note: if it is decided to wind up ECSOGA, other cohorts will be encouraged to emulate the 1960-67 year group and Pam Bagley will be asked for hints on compiling lists and tracing folk. There were six members of the 1950-57 cohort present: **Barbara Collier (Lane)**, **Anne (Andy) Grover (Paterson)**, **Hesther Hockley (Jones)**, **Sheila Lawrence**, **Janet Wilson (Kingdom)** and **Eileen Navarette (Eggington)** Swimming Champion and Captain and graduate of Reading University, who also taught Chemistry at ECS in the 1980s but who, inadvertently, was not introduced as a former staff member along with **Mrs Joan Hart**, **Mrs Pat Newby** and **Mrs Heather Leigh**. Belated apologies to Mrs Navarette.

The First Formers of 1940 were represented by **Eileen Booker (Carter)** and **Betty Over (Cotterell)** whose daughter, **Maureen Over**, attended the School from 1967 onwards. Sadly, none of the 1930 intake were able to attend but **Milly Hobbs (Collins)** sent greetings and the message that she had hoped to come but was busy entertaining visitors. This must be judged a marvellous and inspiring apology: Milly is aged 88. Milly's daughter, **Ros Chamings (Hobbs)** is a stalwart of the 1956-63 cohort. As always there was a good showing from the year groups who arrived at Holly Walk in 1937, 1942 and the three Septembers following the end of World War II. From the 1970-77 year group there were just two people: **Barbara Bailey (Moon)** and **Julie Ryan**.

The Joint Chairs called everyone to order at just after 12.30pm and the formalities were swiftly despatched including the presentation to **Ms Rutherford** of the £1000 cheque, for the renovation of the piano, and a short report and PowerPoint presentation to bring us up-to-date with some of the latest events at the School. There was then a real treat: **Kamilah McGuinness -Neal**, a Year 9 (i.e. Form III) student played Greig's Nocturne Number 4 (Opus 54) to allow us to hear how good the piano now sounds. Kamilah's beautiful playing also showed us that the values of Miss Benjamin are alive and well in the School she loved so much. By 1pm an orderly queue was at the very attractive buffet. As in the last couple of years, the food had been prepared by school

catering staff under the guidance of **Anne Wickert** who also organises the Catering Team members of the Committee (on this occasion **Pat Clarke**, **Janet Naylor**, **Jean Savage**, **Thelma Sutton** and **Nan Whitman**) in setting up the tables and generally ensuring that everything was *comme il faut*. **Wendy Knowles** organised the raffle. The Committee received a big round of applause before lunch and there were many appreciative comments – and clean plates – as the meal drew to a close. Thank you, again, Committee Members, including those unable to be present, for all your hard work.

The Broome Building (still to some 'the Old Building') was refurbished during August and the work had not been completed for the start of term. Health & Safety rules, therefore, prevented the customary tour of the 1908 Building. Instead, at Mary Stevenson's suggestion, there was a semi-spontaneous reminiscence session, before the raffle was drawn. Two pre-primed people came to the microphone to share news of themselves or their friends and some memories of their school-days. Emboldened by these pioneers there was then a steady stream of volunteer speakers. Some of the current items are reported under Members' News. Space forbids recording all the reminiscences but it is hoped what follows will give a flavour of the amusing, informative and touching anecdotes which each drew hearty applause. **Pam Bagley (Smith 1960-67)** recalled her first day at ECS when she and a friend arrived somewhat nervously because Pam's father had over-ruled the instruction in the letter from Miss M C Sharp that bicycles were not to be brought on the first day. Pam reminded us that berets were compulsory in Autumn and Spring Terms in 1960 and told of the difficulty of securing hers with hair grips (kirby grips?) to ensure it would stay on as she cycled. An observant first-former, Pam registered the name of the Head Girl on day one, **Brenda Sledge, now Frisby (1953-61)**, and noticed that Brenda, like almost everyone else, was wearing white ankle socks. To much laughter, Pam hazarded a guess that it is quite some years since a Head Girl at ECS wore short white socks. Life at the school during World War II was recalled by classmates **Eileen Booker (Carter 1940-45)** and **Betty Over (Cotterell)**. They described the effect of the bombs falling on the school and how they could not resume classes for days until the air-raid shelters, sited exactly where the Hall is now, had been repaired. Recollections about Miss Forrest drew affectionate chuckles, especially the tale from **Frances Lower (Griffiths 1945-50)** of how she was spared a real French oral exam, because the examiner took all the time asking after Miss Forrest, but nonetheless Frances gained a credit! **Diki Gleeson (Barbara Turpin 1943-50)** recalled some of the Enfield Grammar School boys of her era who later went on to fame and fortune (e.g. Trevor Peacock) and told of their April Fool's day pranks. **Janet Naylor (Riley 1949-54)** gave evidence that even more bold stunts were performed at ECS on 1 April in the early 1950s!

It was a tremendously enjoyable day. Our thanks to all the volunteer speakers for helping to make it so.

MEMBERS' NEWS

With the usual regret that it was not possible to gather everyone's news at the Reunion, the following includes most of what our reporter was able to write down plus information received by letter, phone and email. A large group of the 1950-57 cohort had a "50 years since leaving" meeting in Bath in summer 2007. Many of this group sent ECSOGA apologies and good wishes. Apologies and snippets of news were also received from **Joyce Hill (Schollick 1929-35)**, **Ena Tucker (Valle 1940-47)**, **Julie Munro-Ashman (Neale 1946-54)** who lives in Canberra, Australia, and **Kay Zantis (1970s)** who is a senior member of the teaching staff at ECS. Holidays prevented **Jennifer Hardisty (Partridge 1950-56)**, **Baroness Anelay (Joyce Clarke 1958-65)** and **Miss Irene Byard** from joining us, whilst **Marina Warner (Brown 1946-51)** was involved in the final match of a bowls tournament and **Helen Dordewic** was in the throes of preparing to move to the West Country later in September. **Barbara Bolam (Williams 1943-4)** Head Girl and Hockey Captain, sent best wishes and also some sad news (See Obituaries Page 6) from New Zealand. Barbara is involved with her local Historical Society which has a Pioneer Village comprising a church from 1860, Parsonage, School House, Post Office, 1930s house, tool shed, Museum and Library. She keeps in regular contact with two other ECS former pupils in New Zealand, **Margaret Murray (Bush)** and **Janet McKenzie (Cormack 1942-50)** who, sadly, is now not in robust health and has moved, for the time being, into a rest home in Wellington. Barbara's sister, **Marjorie Brain (1941-48)**, a graduate of Trinity College Dublin who was a G.P. and has now retired to Ware, has been meeting up annually for the last 10 years with various members of her old form including **Pat Allison**, **Jean Bonnett (Vine)**, **Ruby Hines**, **Irene Tingley** and **Eileen Pulford**. Sometimes they are able to time their get-together so that **Brenda Schettler (Jay)** can attend when she is over from Australia.

For six of the 1960-67s the Reunion was their second get-together of the year. **Gillian Powell (Harris)**, who recalled going with hundreds of people on a march through Enfield in early 1967 trying to stop ECS and EGS being made into comprehensive schools, is Head of a 300+ pupil infant school in Leicestershire, and **Diana Seller (Hudson)** who trained at the Middlesex Hospital School of Physiotherapy and now has her own practice, meet **Penny Curl (Collier)**, **Pat Cooper (Palmer)**, **Mary Peskett (Newman)** and **Rosalind Walker (Adams)** every year for a meal in London. Apparently the group makes so much noise that they feel obliged to go to a different restaurant each time! Also from the 1960 intake, **Valerie Ellicott (Walker)**, St Catherine's House Captain, now runs her own Kumon Maths business in Cornwall. Originally a PE teacher, but always good at and interested in Maths, Valerie was inspired to take up her first career by ECS teacher **Miss Margaret McDonald** and went to Bedford PE College (like quite a few ECS people). At College Valerie met up with **Sheila Cadge**, a couple of years her senior, and spent most of her teaching career at North London College. Val corresponded for many years with **Miss Bowen** and **Miss Rhodes**.

Christina Blizzard (Smales 1960-67) who travelled from Toronto where she is a political journalist, recalled taking part in a 24-hour fast at ECS to raise funds for Oxfam, and the long journey that she had from her home in Enfield Lock which was "more than just geography". Christina paid tribute to the encouragement of **Mrs Joan Effendovicz (now Williams)** who taught English at ECS 1963-67. Another of the 1960-67s currently living abroad is **Angela Clay**, who works in Afghanistan. From her mother we learn that **Maureen Over (now Sibley, 1967-74)** has enjoyed a very successful career as a teacher and County Advisor in Thameside and has recently been made a National Advisor. Maureen lives in Berkshire: her husband is Professor of Child Health at Reading University. **Ann Reynard (Shearman)** is what is known, she says, as a "sandwich carer" with her 85 year-old father on one side and two grandchildren on the other. (Editor's note: this is a useful label which we feel applies to quite a few of our readers). In 2000 Ann was made redundant from the University of North London but is now a self-employed consultant to mainly London-based organisations which work in community regeneration, entrepreneurship and women's development. Ann finds the work satisfying even though it often involves whistle-stop travel: she had separate trips of no more than two days each to Brussels, Portugal, Estonia and France booked in her diary for the period September to Christmas 2007. In addition, Ann does voluntary work with the Global Women Inventors and Innovators Network (GWIIN) and is chair of a local housing association operating in four London boroughs. "No time to retire," says Ann, "but I understand that is even more hectic!"

Well done to **Diki Gleeson (Barbara Turpin 1943-50)** on winning the Enfield Gazette competition for war-time memories. Diki won two tickets to see the Principal Theatre Company production of *Twelfth Night*, which was set at the end of World War II (an interesting idea?) Photographs of Diki now and with her brother in the 1940s were published in the Gazette of 12 July 2007. Congratulations to **Nicola Barker (1977-84)** whose novel, *Darkmans*, described by one newspaper as "an 838-page story of love and jealousy set in Ashford, Kent", was short-listed for the Booker Prize. Finally two sightings, or should that be "hearings", of ECSOGA Members on BBC Radio 4: **Geraldine McCaughrean (Jones 1962-69)** on *Open Book* in September and **Sylvia Coombs (1957-64)** on *Today* in August, on the perils of being a missionary, in the context of the Korean Christian workers abducted in Afghanistan. **THANK YOU FOR SENDING YOUR NEWS, KEEP IT COMING.**

ECSOGA CENTENARY PUBLICATION

Mary Stevenson is planning a publication for the ECS Centenary to contain news and views of events and people connected with ECS 1909-2009 as well as your reflections and reminiscences.

Please start planning your contributions now or send them direct to Mary Stevenson (Address p8).

A BANG OR A WHIMPER?

by Harriett Nailon – Joint Chair (with Mary Stevenson)

This is the third article about what ECSOGA can, should or could do after September 2009 given the gaps in our Membership structure which are making the association difficult to sustain. We trust Members have read the previous pieces and so will not describe the situation again here. The Committee has considered comments received in response to the Summer Newsletter, spoken to people at the Reunion and by phone to some unable to be present. We have thought hard individually and debated long as a group. It is the Committee's collective opinion that ECSOGA, in its present form, is in terminal decline with only a tiny chance of being made into an easy-to-run, viable body appropriate to the 21st century. The Committee believes that the end is inevitable. It is just a matter of time and the only real question is *How will ECSOGA end - with a bang or a whimper?*

Our sad, considered judgement is that the best way to face the end of ECSOGA's life is in an orderly way - and with a flourish! Unsurprisingly, the Constitution details no rules for closing down the association. Common sense suggests the most appropriate section is Paragraph 7.5 of the Operating Document: *A two-thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote at the AGM shall be required to make any change to the Constitution.* Under this Paragraph, therefore, at the AGM on 8 March 2008, the Committee will be proposing that ECSOGA be wound-up on or before 31 October 2009 - i.e. after celebrating the 100th anniversary of the official opening of Enfield County School. Please see enclosed AGM Agenda for exact wording of this proposal. We know that not everyone will be able to attend the AGM. We trust Members will appreciate that we cannot organise a valid postal vote. Nonetheless, we would like to consult the whole Membership so as to ensure we have canvassed all possible potential Committee Members. The difficulty of finding people to run ECSOGA has been the biggest problem in our existence, not just in recent years, but as long ago as the 1960s.

Enclosed is a form headed ECSOGA'S FUTURE: A SURVEY OF SUPPORT. Please complete this form and return it to me at 56 Palmerston Road, London SW19 1PQ, by Friday 7 March 2008. Thank you for your time and consideration.

We appreciate that, for some, this proposal to wind-up ECSOGA will cause shock and/or sadness. For the Committee it is not a shock: running the association has been an uphill struggle for much of the past 40 years - enjoyable and rewarding - but a struggle all the same. Even so, Committee Members are experiencing more than a little sorrow at having to suggest this course of action. We console ourselves that ECSOGA has lasted much, much longer than many similar associations. Most grammar school former pupils' organisations folded within 20 years of the school becoming comprehensive. Also we know of places where the old pupils' associations disbanded in the 1980s but which now, via the internet, and affiliated with relevant PTA or 'Friends' groups, have new bodies giving net-working opportunities, appealing to current school-leavers and reflecting the schools as they are today.

ECSOGA, as most Members know and love it, has many aspects that those aged under 55 cannot share or appreciate. Memories of Houses, a spirit of (sometimes fierce) competitiveness, the annual Carol Service in St Andrew's church, echoes of World War II and the Cold War, impassioned debates about CND, listening to Radio Luxembourg, hitch-hiking, the terror of unmarried motherhood, how difficult it was for some of us to keep our stocking seams straight, the motto - ONWARD EVER - so (frankly) Victorian and confident - our taste for formality and decorum learned at a school where hats or berets were compulsory for two terms of the year, where some pupils (not students) chose to wear white gloves with their blazers in summer, where rules included walking along corridors in single file and silence, where pupils stood up when a mistress entered the room, where each and every day started with the whole school assembling for prayers, a hymn and a reading of a religious (generally Biblical), philosophical or moral nature, and where *Jerusalem* and *The National Anthem* were known by heart and proudly sung at regular intervals. On the other hand, for those who attended ECS from 1967 onwards, there are, no doubt, (there must be, surely?) nuances to their memories and shadings to their attitudes (e.g. tensions between Rosemary Avenue and Holly Walk?) which the current Committee cannot understand or honour.

A clear decision, **now**, will allow time to carry out all the necessary legal and financial procedures. Also there will be adequate notice so that everyone can, if they so wish, make sure that they attend one - or more - of our last four events and obtain the contact details they need to continue to meet old friends be it at Starbucks or the Ivy.

The Committee sincerely hopes that all Members will understand and support our plans to make sure that ECSOGA's last 18 months are dignified, organised and joyful - and that they will approve and participate in the rousing finale: a Centenary Reunion, celebrating 100 years since the official opening of Enfield County School.

Finally, may we reiterate the added benefit to our plan: it will leave space where, in due time, a new organisation may, perhaps, be formed for former ECS students of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. If such a body does come into being, current ECSOGA Members will, no doubt, be welcome to join. The retiring Committee will be happy to assist with liaison and give any help in our power to launch a new enterprise. So, this may not be THE END - there may yet be another Enfield County School Old Girls' Association - but not as we know it . . .

PLEASE FILL IN THE SURVEY OF SUPPORT FORM - I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

THE HISTORICAL MATERIAL PROJECT

by Harriett Nailon, Chair of the Historical Material Working Party

Our Future:

Given the uncertainty hanging over ECSOGA, Historical Material Working Party Members have felt it necessary to consider where the Project would stand if, less than two years from now, our parent body should cease to exist. Heartening as it will be to some, surprising, perhaps, to others, we came instantly to a unanimous decision: we shall carry on past 2009! Yes, the HMWP will go onward, not for ever, but we plan to continue to meet and work until we have catalogued and mounted (or prepared in whatever way is appropriate) all the material that we currently have and any that we shall be given or acquire in the next three or four years. Why, you will be asking, is it possible for the HMWP to be so positive and so different from ECSOGA itself? Quite simply, the Historical Material Project is not a struggle to run – in fact, it is a delight. We have a clearly defined, tangible purpose i.e. producing a Memorabilia Collection and we are a small-group of like-minded people who get fun and satisfaction from our task, and feel quite un-stressed about it all. (Running ECSOGA is considerably more difficult.)

The Working Party's plan is this: we shall set an end date, probably the end of 2012, by which time we hope to have an amount of material which can justifiably be called **The ECSOGA Memorabilia Collection**. We may put a sub-title e.g. *1909 – some date yet to be de*

ECS Canines – more information, as we requested:



There was an item in the last Newsletter asking if, amongst other things, people could remember Rex Wooldridge. In response we have received the following delightful account from **Mrs Margaret Kingston (Miss Ellis)**:

"Rex, **Steve Wooldridge's** dog, sometimes came to my geography classes. (I don't know where Steve had gone!) He chose to sit on my chair behind me, rather a tight fit. But mainly I know about **Gwyneth Morley's** dogs. When she first came to ECS in 1946, Gwyn and I shared a house – and after a couple of years a dog, too – though legally they were hers. In 1948, Gwyn's sister's Scottie bitch had five puppies, and I went to Macclesfield, the Morley's home, to help choose the one we had. This was Jenny, a little puppy who travelled back to Enfield to live with us. At first one or other of us had to go home to lunch to look after her and love her, but soon she knew the routine. Sometimes she came to school. Jenny loved the country and especially the sea where I lived.

decided. It will depend largely on how much material we can obtain from the period 1967 onwards. We aim to ensure that all the material in the Collection is as clearly and fully labelled as possible and presented to the best of our ability. The emphasis in the next few years is likely to shift from preparing material for display to presenting it for ease of reference. But as much as possible of the material will be suitable for display, so as to maximise its usefulness. At an appropriate time, the completed Memorabilia Collection will be given to the School as a concrete memorial of former pupils, staff and the Association itself. We hope the Collection will be both a reminder of past times and people long gone, a useful resource for anyone with a particular historical or social interest and, possibly, for those with merely a vague interest, an accessible starting point which will motivate further study. Ms Rutherford has kindly signalled that there is ample space in the School Archive to house our Memorabilia Collection and that it will be warmly welcomed.

So, despite all the question marks currently in the air, please remember that for the next four years your reminiscences, copies of photographs, small artefacts and other relevant ephemera are still needed. We are waiting for items from some of the kind people who offered us material in response to our initial questionnaire in 2004 – so we know there are still treasures out there! If you are in any doubt about sending things, it is quite simple – don't hesitate: see my address on Page 8. Anything surplus to Historical Material Project needs will be auctioned at the Centenary Reunion in September 2009 – proceeds to the Memorial Fund

When I left ECS to go to my school in the North Riding of Yorkshire, Gwyn used to bring Jenny up to see me: all the way to Darlington by train!

"When Jenny died, Gwyn had Susie, Meg and Katy in succession, all Scottie bitches. After Gwyn died, in 1976, Katy continued to live with **Jane Bowen**, in Wales. The Morleys were an amazing family – Gwyn's elder brother, elder sister and Gwyn were all at Oxford at the same time, all reading Maths. Her brother was a wrangler at, I think, Balliol."

Thank you very much indeed, Mrs Kingston!

Editor's Notes:

1. We are particularly grateful to Mrs Kingston for taking the trouble to respond immediately after receiving the Summer Newsletter as she was recuperating from double cataract surgery, had been eight weeks without spectacles and had received her new pair the day before she wrote to us. We trust the new glasses are now properly 'run in'.

2. More reminiscences of staff, their pets or any aspect of ECS life (always provided it is honest, legal, decent etc!) are urgently required. Please see page 8 for contact details

ECS CENTENARY 1909-2009

ECSOGA will be launching a dedicated appeal to fund the purchase of some permanent and appropriate gifts to commemorate the Centenary of the School.

A limited edition publication is planned (see page 3), which will also be available online

The Spring Meeting on 14 March 2009 will be dedicated to the memory of all teaching and support staff from 1909-2009, with special tributes to, amongst others, Miss F Sharp, Miss Tomlinson, Miss Rhodes, Mrs Martin, Mrs Woodridge and Miss Russell.

A special Reunion on 12 September 2009 to celebrate the ECS Centenary

WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

OBITUARIES

Lady Ethel Millis [1910-2007] (Willmott, at ECS from 1921 onwards), died May 2007, aged 96.

Her daughter Dr Elizabeth Millis (married name Wilkins, at ECS 1949-56) writes:

Ethel attended The County High School, as it was then, from the age of eleven. From the beginning she was encouraged to join the choir and enter the local musical festivals as she was considered to have a good voice, an encouragement that eventually led to a career. Her teachers included Miss Hodgson for PE, Miss F Sharp for Latin and Miss Rudkin and Miss Barker for History, all teachers who, a generation later, taught her daughters.

On leaving school Ethel worked in an actuaries office then owned a local shop that sold everything from 'bacon to bloomers'. She married aged 21 and had two daughters, my sister Jocelyn and me, and it was after this, at the beginning of WWII that she started training at the Guildhall School of Music. One day she was asked to sing at a Home Guard concert in South London. It was here a man came to her dressing room after the show and said he'd 'Book you for Monday'. 'For what?' she asked. 'ENSA' he said and so mother's war effort became singing for the troops, often in the North of England, and also the bomber stations in Kent. She also sang at East Grinstead where badly injured and burned airman were undergoing plastic surgery. She came home at weekends, often with goodies such as Swiss rolls and dried bananas for us from the Canadian's food parcels.

With the war ended there was a short period of singing in the parks and then, in 1946, Ethel did her first summer season at Broadstairs where she teamed up with Dennis Catlin to form the very successful *Romance in Music* and there were radio and TV appearances. In the winter there were dinners and cabaret at the big London hotels and Sunday concerts. At Christmas we had our presents early and then she and Dennis left for the South Coast to provide entertainment in the hotels there.

Eventually Ethel retired from singing but it was not long before she opened a shop in Cockfosters selling china, glass and craft materials. *The Galleries* became a great success but in the end was sold to let Ethel accompany her husband to a wide variety of international meetings, where she made some good friends. She was very proud of her husband's achievements in the water industry that led to his knighthood. Later she took to looking after her grandchildren, my children, while I completed my studies: both families living in adjacent roads in Hadley Wood. Ethel continued to live in Hadley Wood after her husband's death but later moved, first to Cornwall and then to Lyme Regis to live with Jocelyn. It was here that she died in May of 2007 at the age of 96. Ethel had lived a full and interesting life with many happy memories of Enfield.

Mrs Rosina Smith (Williams 1943-50) of York, died suddenly, September 2007.

Rosina was a very talented artist who won a scholarship to Hornsey College of Art and went on to teach. She lived for many years in Newcastle where her husband was Harbourmaster of the Tyne. In retirement she was very involved with York Art Society and continued to paint throughout her life. Rosina's two elder sisters, Barbara (now Bolam) and Marjorie (Brain) also attended ECS in the 1940s.

Mrs Vilma Ward (Head 1948-54) died in her sleep 29 July 2007

Vilma completed a year in the secretarial VIth and went to work as a bi-lingual secretary at the British Council, where she met her husband to be, Bryan. Vilma then went on to work for BEA and Bryan followed her there. They were married in 1961. They had two sons, Peter and Christopher and a daughter, Elizabeth. Vilma was a dedicated gardener and a keen sports-woman. She was an active member of her local golf club and, on one occasion, while playing abroad, actually achieved the distinction of getting a *hole in one*! Over 200 friends and family attended Vilma's funeral at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Enfield. Vilma's elder sister, Lorna (now Bates at ECS 1946-53) flew over from Toronto for the funeral.

THE MEMORIAL FUND

*Net assets 31 December 2006 - £10,800
(subject to audit)*

In 2005/6 ECSOGA gave quite a lot of attention to *The Memorial Fund*, as it is colloquially known: full official title being The Enfield County School Old Girls' Association Fund, Charity Commission Registration Number 312623. Members will recall that forms were included with Newsletters to help encourage donations and bequests.

For the period June 2006 to December 2007, the result of this encouragement was a one-off donation of £50 and completed standing order mandates which together total £480. We have yet to be informed of any planned bequests. The Committee, and especially the Trustees (Mary Stevenson, Beryl Muffett and Ann Wickert), are most grateful to all who have given or pledged future amounts to the Fund. Naturally, we are hoping that, in the coming months, more people will fill out Standing Order Mandate forms or one of our Suggested Form of Words for a Codicil. These Forms are always available on the Membership Table at our events or can be requested from the Treasurer or Membership Secretary.

It must be said, however, that despite the generosity shown by Members to date, some of the Committee, who had entertained hopes that by the Centenary the Fund would be up to £20,000, are feeling some disappointment. This is now compounded by anxiety, given that ECSOGA's continued existence is in doubt. No doubt, Members in general, will by now be asking, quite properly, **What about the Memorial Fund, if ECSOGA ceases to exist?**

Please be assured: the Memorial Fund will continue, whatever becomes of the Association. Under Charity Commission regulations the administration of the Memorial Fund will have to be passed to another, relevant charity. Until the forthcoming AGM has come to a decision on the proposal to be put before it by the Committee (See enclosed Agenda for details) it will not be possible to formally approach a suitable charitable body to discuss matters. In the meanwhile, however, the Committee wishes to reassure Members, and in particular donors who have made long-term commitments to the Fund, that their generosity is much appreciated and will still be needed. The Memorial Fund will continue, albeit under a new administration, and so will perpetuate the names associated with the various prizes and will inspire, encourage and make awards to ECS students of the 21st century in just the same ways as it has done since 1940 (when the appeal for a memorial for Miss Florence raised £788 – equivalent to more than £15,000, at least, today.) We shall, of course, keep Members fully informed about all discussions and arrangements which may be necessary regarding the Fund. In addition we shall be having one last money-raising drive to give the Fund a rousing send-off in Centenary Year. Also we aim to leave procedures in place and information in the public domain to ensure that, in years to come, donations and bequests can still be easily made to the Memorial Fund. We hope and plan that one aspect of **ECSOGA will go ONWARD EVER.**

Emma Radford

Working as a Volunteer in Zambia

As a former student of Enfield County School from 1998-2005, I was delighted to be approached to write this article and to share with you a fantastic opportunity that I had during the summer holiday.

This summer, I spent a month in Zambia with a charity called Students for Kids International Projects (or SKIP.) The project was started around five years ago when a group of students from the medical school I attend in Birmingham visited a rural re-settlement area in Zambia called Kanakantapa. Here, they identified hundreds of children who didn't go to school because they lived too far away or their families could not afford to send them. As a result, 2 schools were founded in the local area and the project has grown from there. Throughout the year, SKIP raises money to cover the costs of the project including a feeding programme, training for the members of the community who volunteer as teachers, educational supplies and completing the building work at the schools. During the summer months, groups of health care students travel to Zambia to help out with the project and identify ways to move the project forward.

Foremost, our responsibility as volunteers was to teach the children in the schools. This involved getting up at 6.00am, jumping on the back of a truck and making the 2 hour journey to the schools from the capital city, Lusaka. There were 17 volunteers in my group and we were split between the 2 schools to teach. I taught a class of 9 students aged between 9 and 14 years. We were also involved in a number of health interventions including giving health talks to the local community about issues such as HIV and AIDS and giving out vitamin supplements, de-worming tablets and measles vaccinations.

Before I went to Zambia, I was quite apprehensive. I had never done anything like this before and I had no idea what to expect. But from the moment that our truck arrived at the school on the first day, I knew I had made the right choice. The children flooded out of the classrooms with huge smiles on their faces; they were delighted to see us and I immediately felt so welcomed and accepted. I was initially worried that language would be a barrier, but the students in my class spoke fantastic English (which was fortunate as they laughed at all of my attempts to speak Nyanja!) I thoroughly enjoyed the teaching; my class were so keen to learn and seemed to absorb everything I told them. I almost had to force them to come out at break times!

Although our main responsibility was teaching, it became apparent that the most important thing we could do was give the children the love and attention they are so deserving of but often do not receive. They relished our attention and the other volunteers and I had so much fun playing games and sports with them, singing with them, putting on plays and doing lots of arts and crafts using materials I had taken with me. One of my favourite moments was when a 14 year old boy from my class was still wearing his sequin-covered crown to school, days after we had made them!

Continued over

Continued from p.7 Emma Radford: Volunteer in Zambia



During the weekends when we were not teaching, we had the opportunity to see more of Zambia, including a safari in the Kafue National Park and a visit to Victoria Falls. A helicopter ride over the Falls and seeing wild elephants less than 10 metres away were moments not to be forgotten!

In all, it was a fantastic experience that I will certainly remember for life. I learnt a lot about myself and it helped me to put things into perspective. Priorities in Zambia are so different to the UK, and I found it incredibly refreshing how happy the children were made by the simplest of things, like sequins and pritt-stick. In addition, it gave me a real insight into world health issues which is valuable for my future career as a doctor. But above all, I had the best time and it was very difficult to say good bye.

I am so grateful for the fantastic education I was lucky enough to receive at Enfield County, and my experience has helped me to remember that there are those in the world who are not as fortunate as I am.

I would like to thank to Old Girls' Association so much for the incredibly generous contribution towards the costs of my trip. I am very grateful for your support.



LOOKING AHEAD Saturday 8 March 2008 AGM and SPRING MEETING

**ON YOUR MARKS: GET SET: GO ----
and find a pen NOW to complete the enclosed
Booking Form for our next event!**

The Competitive Spirit at ECS promises to be an occasion unlike any other you have ever experienced: a series of inter-house competitions punctuating a potentially controversial running debate (please excuse the pun, but take it as an indication of the light-hearted nature of the event). Speakers will include Dr Jennifer Caddy (1961-68 all-round sporting wizard, Mrs Joan Hart (sometime lacrosse player but more noted at ECS for her mental agility), Mrs Pat Horrex, (Newby - known to her contemporaries as a sports champion and to hundreds of pupils in the late 1950s/early 60s as an inspirational PE teacher), Brenda Liddiard (1946-53 House Captain and Captain of the Tennis Team) to name just four. We envisage that you will hear some stimulating ideas and have a chance to exercise your ingenuity. There will be a prize for the winning House and laughter for everyone.

PLEASE COME WEARING A GARMENT OR A RIBBON IN YOUR HOUSE COLOUR.

For those who cannot remember their House colour, please see the Aide Memoir on the Booking Form. Those at ECS after the House system was discontinued (i.e. 1970s onwards) will be able to choose which House to belong to for the day. Likewise anyone who has forgotten which House they were in. House colour ribbons (price 20p) will be on sale for these two groups and for anyone arriving without distinguishing livery. Our aim on 8 March is to recapture some of the fun, excitement and noise of inter-house rivalry but please remember that unseemly or un-ladylike behaviour will result in the House concerned losing marks or being otherwise penalised. Also please note that football rattles, klaxons and the like are not allowed and will be confiscated on arrival..

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

PATRICIA FINCHAM (JONES 1944-49) LAST KNOWN ADDRESS TEMPLE EWELL, DOVER. POST HAS BEEN RETURNED. PLEASE LET US HAVE CURRENT ADDRESS.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

SOME ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOT GETTING THROUGH AND NEWSLETTERS ARE BEING POSTED. MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE YOUR LATEST EMAIL ADDRESS TO ENSURE THAT YOU GET YOUR ONLINE COPIES AND REMIND YOUR FRIENDS TO KEEP US UP TO DATE WITH ANY CHANGES.

Contact details:

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

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

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

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

EC SOGA

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SPRING MEETING

The Competitive Spirit at ECS in the mid-20th Century

See enclosed sheet/booking form for full details

Saturday 8 March 2008 11.30 for 12 noon

*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 10 March 2007 - *will be taken as read.*
...See reverse of this sheet for summary. Full Minutes available at Meeting.
3. Matters arising
4. Report from the Joint Chair, Mrs Mary Stevenson.
5. Report from the Treasurer, Miss Ann Wickert (*Accounts enclosed for Town Members + available at meeting*)
6. Proposal to be put to the Meeting on behalf of the Committee by a member of the Committee:
Given the situation concerning recruitment to the Committee and other difficulties in running ECSOGA, described in recent Newsletters, it is proposed
 - a) **that the Committee is empowered to take the necessary steps to close down ECSOGA by 31 October 2009.**
 - b) **that the Committee is required to report on the progress of the closing down measures at the March 2009 AGM**
 - c) **that an Extra-ordinary General Meeting is held at the close of the September 2009 Reunion for a Final Report and a vote ratifying the closure of ECSOGA and specifying a date by which all financial affairs are to be completed and all accounts closed.**
7. Election of Committee
8. Any Other Business.
9. Date of next AGM

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

To learn more about ECSOGA please visit www.onwardever.org.uk

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

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SPRING MEETING

Saturday 8 March 2008 11.30 for 12 noon

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

PROGRAMME

12 noon Welcoming Address by ECSOGA Joint-Chair,
Mary Stevenson

12.05 AGM - see Agenda on separate sheet

1 pm Buffet Lunch (£8 per head)

1.40 Raffle Draw

2.00 The Competitive Spirit at ECS in the mid 20th Century*

3.50 Farewell address and Jerusalem

* A participative event including a debate, House competitions and a chance for everyone to re-visit their school-days – whether you loved sport or hated it, enjoyed heated discussion or avoided it: there will be something for all tastes

NB Remember to wear something in your ECS house colour

St Catherine's Purple St Cecilia's Red St Margaret's Light Blue
St Ursula's Dark Green St Winifred's Yellow



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 29 February 2008. 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 8 March 2008

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR £_____ made payable to ECSOGA

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

Entrance to AGM and *The Competitive Spirit at ECS* 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'S FUTURE – A SURVEY OF SUPPORT

Please tick as appropriate and add extra comments where necessary.

Return to Harriett Nailon 56 Palmerston Road London SW19 1PQ to arrive by Friday 7 March 2008 at the latest.

NAME _____ Years at ECS _____

1. I agree with the Committee that ECSOGA should be wound up by 31 October 2009 []

2. I wish to discuss the proposed winding up and will be at the AGM on 8 March 2008 []

3. I cannot be at the AGM but wish to discuss the proposed winding up. Please phone me
on the following number _____ at _____ preferred day of week /time

4. I am not happy with the prospect of ECSOGA being wound up and believe it should continue to run two events a year. I will help to keep it running in its present form as follows:

a) I will stand for election or co-option to the Committee at the forthcoming AGM i.e. 8/3/08 []

b) I will stand for election or co-option to the Committee at next year's AGM i.e. in March 2009 []

5. If ECSOGA cuts back its events to one a year and issues one Newsletter a year I will stand for election or co-option to the Committee

at the forthcoming AGM i.e. on 8 March 2008 []

at next year's AGM i.e. in March 2009 []

d) I cannot stand for election or co-option to the Committee but I have contacted _____
(name)

whose phone number is _____ and who will be happy to stand

at the forthcoming AGM i.e. 8/3/08 []

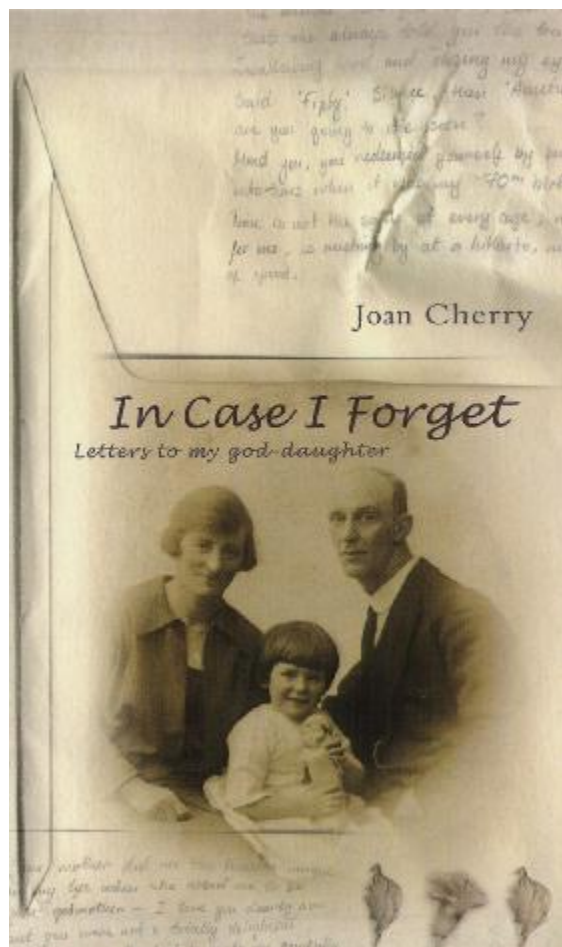
at next year's AGM i.e. March 2009 []

6. Despite my unhappiness with the Committee's proposal to wind up ECSOGA, I regret that I cannot see myself being able to give practical help in the near future.

The earliest date when I might be available to serve on the Committee is _____ please put month and year

7. I regret that I cannot see myself ever being able to serve on ECSOGA Committee. []

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:



IN CASE I FORGET

LETTERS TO MY GODDAUGHTER

Joan Cherry
Alias Mrs Hart

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Or phone: 020 8363 7626 to arrange collection in March 2008