

# ❖ ECSOGA Newsletter ❖

Issue 18

Registered Charity No. 312623

Winter 2008/9

## From the Chairman

**D**ear Fellow Members,

Exactly one hundred years ago bricklayers were hard at work on the imposing structure now named the Broome Building and which for decades was called the Old Building. The foundation stone of Enfield County School was laid on 8 December 1908 by County Councillor Colonel H F Bowles, JP, and the doors officially opened nine months later. An indicator of how life has changed since 1909 came in a recent survey: in Edwardian times there were in Britain about 100 people aged 100 years. In 2008 the number of centenarians is in excess of 9,000 – and rising.

Individuals are 90 times more likely to reach their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday than was the case when the first pupils at ECS said “Bonjour, Mlle. Forrest”. By contrast, it sometimes seems that organisations and institutions have increasingly short life-spans before they change their names, are taken over, or disappear completely. We can all list names which have passed into history: in my own field of interest there was BOAC, J Lyons and Co., Forte Hotels, Grand Metropolitan – and many more. Thanks to Miss Byard, our School managed to resume its original name in 1986, after 20 years as Enfield Chace. As we mark the centenary of its opening we are celebrating the survival of the name but, more importantly, we are proudly recognising the respect for education, pursuit of learning and striving for excellence which have marked the entire history of Enfield County School. In 1909 every school had a motto: nowadays schools have a slogan, or strap-line, as part of their livery. In 2009 the words on the official items of the School are: *Learning: it's at the heart of everything we do.*

We have much to celebrate. Let's do it!

All good wishes

HARRIETT NAILON (Lott 1956-63)



## Diary Dates

**Saturday 14 March 2009**

AGM & Spring Meeting

**Let us Now Praise Enfield  
Women - and a few Men**

11.30 am until about 4pm

**BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED**

**Saturday 12 September 2009**

Final Reunion & Extraordinary

General Meeting

Full details and booking form

Late July 2009

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## Reunion Report

There were various weddings and other important competing attractions on 13 September 2008 so a few of our most regular reunion attenders were missing, but we were delighted to welcome several people whom we had not seen for some years: most notably **Mollie Gafney, (1937-40)** all the way from Canada, looking as elegant as ever. Sadly her sister, **Kitty**, is no longer able to travel, but sends good wishes to all her friends. In addition there was a score of first-timers. These were dubbed “our debutantes” by Chairman Harriett Nailon in her opening address as she drew attention to the Memorabilia Display which featured ECS material from the years ending in 8, plus reminders of happenings in the wider world, including the last debutante presentations at Court, in 1958.

In short, over 90 Members and guests, ranging in age from 36 to 82, enjoyed the customary programme of brief speeches, a leisurely lunch, a big raffle (20 prizes), an optional tour of the Sharp Building – the highlight of which was a visit to the newly refurbished library – and, best of all, almost non-stop conversation and lots of laughter. Former staff members present were **Miss Irene Byard, Mrs Joan Hart, Mrs Brenda Hill, Mrs Heather Leigh, Mrs Susan Pettifer and Ms Kay Zantis** – three of whom are also former students of the School. In time-honoured tradition, **Ms Rutherford** gave a short news up-date and, in anticipation of future developments, included some information about *The Friends of Enfield County*.

**ONLY TWO MORE CHANCES TO  
SHARE IN THE UNIQUE  
EXPERIENCE OF  
AN ECSOGA MEETING!  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING  
AS MANY AS POSSIBLE  
AT ONE OR BOTH OF OUR  
2009 EVENTS!**

## MEMBERS' NEWS — mostly gathered at the Reunion

When two-thirds of a gathering are over the age of statutory retirement, much of the talk is of family, leisure pursuits, holidays and, regretfully, the problems of advancing age. One of the joys of an ECSOGA event, however, despite the age of most participants, is the chance to learn about varied careers and the opportunity to sound-out opinions as efforts are made to bridge decades and catch-up on essentials in just a couple of hours of conversation. One person having such conversations at the 2008 Reunion was **Ruth Whiting (1951-58)** one of the stars of an academically very successful cohort and known to many in other years through her leading roles in several of Miss Cox's school plays, most notably as Romeo in 1956 and two years later as Capt Jack Absolute in *The Rivals*. After graduating from Oxford Ruth went to Nigeria for a spell of voluntary work and discovered, to her amazement, that she really liked teaching and so returned to take her PGCE at the Institute of Education in London. The major part of her career, 37 years, was spent teaching History at Bedales, the famous public school in Petersfield. Ruth still lives at Bedales and continues to do research and consultancy work with and for some of her former students. In her early years at Bedales one of the young men in her class was the nephew of Miss Hetty Benjamin.

Another of the 1951-58 group was also surprised to find that she liked teaching: **Jill Mumford (Belcher)**, known for her sporting achievements, went to training college on the advice of Miss M C Sharp but admits that she was not really sure why she was there. During her first teaching practice Jill "fell in love with the work" and came to realise the wisdom of MC's judgement of her potential. With a short break for bearing her three children, Jean enjoyed a happy and successful career which culminated in many years as Head of a popular (and over-subscribed) 130 pupil village school in Hampreston, Dorset. Jean has been a JP since 1975 and now has six grandchildren under six who keep her "very busy". Classmates of Ruth and Jean were the **Syer twins, Christine and Margaret** now **Bushnell** and **Tremlett** respectively. The twins were mobbed by their friends so our reporter was unable to take down any details of their lives since leaving ECS. Maybe next time? Our reporter was able to chat to the **Simmons** sisters, **Dr Margaret Curtis (1951-58)** and **Gwen West (1952-9)**. Margaret met her husband during a netball match against Enfield Grammar School, trained at The Royal Free Hospital, has worked in various branches of medicine and is currently involved in training nurses to carry out procedures previously reserved for physicians. Gwen trained as a teacher and worked with infants in Tottenham before moving to Maidenhead.

**The youngest people at the Reunion entered ECS in 1983** and left after five years. They had been gathered together by **Tracie Wye** and, although some had met in the intervening 20 years in twos or threes, it was the first time that all six had been together since saying farewell to Holly Walk. Tracie has had an unusual range of jobs since leaving school: a qualified bus driver, she spent several years driving on routes 97 and 215. She is now Accounts Manager and Events Organiser for an entertainment company, meeting celebrities great and small on a regular basis. Her favourite among the

The big name stars she has met is Barbara Windsor. Also in the 1983 group, **Linsay Prior** is Branch Manager of a recruitment agency while her classmate **Sara Mendy (Wade)** works as a Customer Relations Manager for the car manufacturer Audi and is based in Canary Wharf. **Kellie Macrowan** is a Teaching Assistant at Chase Side Primary School and was bursting with understandable pride as she told her friends about the preparations the previous week to send her 18 year-old-daughter to start an English degree at Nottingham University. Amid all the excitement it was not possible to catch the full names of the other two 1983-88s (one arrived late, having had to work in the morning). However we can tell readers that one of these two is called **Sarah** and she is a Principal Officer in HM Prison Service and has worked at Holloway and Wormwood Scrubs – four years each. Sadly there was no chance to ask Sarah about the authenticity of TV programmes such as *Porridge* or *Prison Break*. Another case of "Maybe next time?" As always, there was a lot of good news being exchanged and celebrated: grandchildren arrived and expected, engagements announced, houses sold or purchased. Two such items warrant special mention. **Cathryn Corns (Patrick 1959-66)** has been made an Honorary Member of the College of Physicians. Cathryn, a consultant pathologist, is the first non-medical person to be so honoured. **Audrey Purnell (Tarrrier 1945-51)** has become a great-grandmother for the second time. Congratulations to Cathryn and to Audrey and to all of our Members who have had successes and happy events in 2008. Don't forget, we have one more Newsletter to put together and we want to have a really bumper Members' News page as a rousing send-off. Please let us know by the end of May of your latest adventures, achievements and champagne moments.

On a sombre note, it must be recorded that some of the conversations at the Reunion were in a serious vein, none more so than those concerning the care of aged relatives. Ten days later there was a letter in the Daily Telegraph (Monday 22/9/08) from **Val Jones (Bright 1955-62)** supporting Baroness Warnock's controversial call for euthanasia for Alzheimer's patients and based on her own mother's sad plight. Other sober moments at the Reunion came in discussions about the state of the world and the country and, among one group, whether or not, if younger, they would emigrate. Opinion was divided and it was hard to discern any trends except, perhaps, that those living in or near large towns and cities were less optimistic about the UK than those from rural areas. All of which demonstrates that, even as we approach our finale, the intelligence, variety and topicality of talk at an ECSOGA event are second to none.

**If you can, please, do try to come and add your voice, news and views to one or both of our last meetings. See Pages One and Eight for details.**

## HISTORICAL MATERIAL WORKING PARTY PROGRESS REPORT AND PLANS

As explained in the last-but-one Newsletter, the HMWP is to continue after ECSOGA closes down as there will still be material to be sorted, captioned and catalogued for The Memorabilia Collection. It is expected to take two years to complete the work and we plan formally to present the Collection to the School sometime in 2012. We hope to arrange local press coverage of the presentation and a notice on the School's website and in the School newsletter.

We are aiming that the Memorabilia Collection should be capable of fulfilling several functions. Firstly, along with the Memorial Fund, the Collection will be a permanent and tangible memorial to ECSOGA and to the early years of the School. Secondly, as it will contain no confidential material (unlike the official School Archive which has in it registers, official correspondence and other potentially sensitive information) the Memorabilia Collection will be unambiguously in the public domain and therefore open to all who might have an interest in the items it contains. We would like to think that those with such an interest will include current students and staff of ECS curious about the heritage of their school or, possibly, working on projects about life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, past students, local journalists, amateur and professional historians may wish to consult the Collection.

With the closing of ECSOGA the material in the Collection will no longer need to be designed primarily for display at meetings. Part of the Working Party's task in the next few years, therefore, will be to ensure that the Collection is an easy-to-store, simple-to-access reference resource, rather than the slightly casual assemblage of items for the forthcoming meeting which has been its hallmark up to now. However, those items which are in display format will, as far as possible, be kept as they are so that should the History Department or the School or *The Friends of Enfield County* wish to exhibit some of the Collection it will be a fairly straight-forward task. Similarly, should groups of former students be planning a get-together and wanting to have a display of material, we are hoping to be able to set-up a system by which some of the laminated items could be loaned out. This hope is only at the embryo stage at the moment and needs to be thought-through in detail: watch out for developments in the next Newsletter or in the final Farewell News-sheet to be sent out in October 2009.

After much thought and discussion, the Working Party has decided that the Memorabilia Collection cannot cover the complete first century of the School's life. When the Working Party was set up, in 2003, the hope was to collect items from 1909 to the present day. Time and experience – or, more correctly, lack of experience of the School in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – have brought us, regretfully, to the conclusion that we do not have, and will not be able to have, sufficient material, knowledge or insight to adequately reflect ECS in the years after 1967. Therefore The ECSOGA

Memorabilia Collection will cover Enfield County School from September 1909 until July 1967 and the Old Girls' Association and activities of former pupils of the School from 1910 to 2009. With one or two small exceptions, material currently in our possession relating to the School from September 1967 onwards will be returned to Ms Rutherford for inclusion in the official School Archive. The exceptional items will be from the Doris Cox Bequest e.g. the photographs of the 1968 School Play, but there are duplicates of these in the School Archive already. We believe that Miss Cox's Bequest should not be divided and that the Working Party does, in this case, have sufficient information to deal appropriately with the material.

The Working Party is aware, collectively and individually, that our decision to limit the Memorabilia Collection in the way just described may seem to some to be divisive, elitist or in other ways regrettable. We can understand and, to a degree, sympathise with such views. At this stage of ECSOGA's existence, however, we believe that pragmatism must take precedence. We prefer to try to create a limited collection, which we can be confident of completing to an acceptable standard in a reasonable time-frame, rather than attempt something more ambitious which will, inevitably, be patchy in content, lacking in detail and which we know we could not complete in a way which would do ECS or ECSOGA justice. For some our decision may appear to highlight some particular features of the topography of English education and the history of ECS. Interpretations of the size and significance of the features will vary: so be it. To paraphrase an old saying: one woman's hairline crack is another's major fault-line. We trust that Members and all other interested parties will accept that we are not making any statement or judgement with our decision. To use another old phrase, we are just cutting our coat according to the cloth at the Working Party's disposal. Historians will, in time perhaps, have some theories on why the supply of cloth seemed to alter as a result of the educational policies of 1967. Our hope is that someone will one day produce another memorabilia collection, suitable for the public domain, covering ECS in the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century. This will complete the picture – probably be in some high-tech format, capable of being beamed around the globe electronically.

There will be at least one more bulletin on the progress of the Memorabilia Collection. Meanwhile we are keen to receive small items relating to ECS from 1909-67, reminiscences (long or short), photographs, drawings and information about careers and achievements after leaving ECS. We realise that we may have some duplicated items and propose to dispose of those surplus to our needs at the final Reunion in exchange for a contribution of not less than 20p per item to the Centenary Fund.

**Please bring donations of memorabilia on 14/3/09 and 12/9/09 or send to Harriett Nailon  
address on page 8.**

## CONSIDERING COHORTS AND/OR GATHERING (YEAR?) GROUPS

Members will recall that in the Summer Newsletter and at the 2008 Reunion the Committee was trying to persuade energetic people to step forward to act as (in our possibly rather bureaucratic term) COHORT KEY PEOPLE. We have not met with much success. At the time of going to press, only two volunteers have made themselves known to us – and one is a Committee member, so does not really count.

As acknowledged in the original call for volunteers, there are already several people who, over many years, have organised regular gatherings of groups varying in size from half a dozen to three score or more. These people and their respective circles know who they are and have no need – and possibly no wish – for publicity or assistance from ECSOGA at this time. As far as we know, these long-established networks will continue to operate well into the foreseeable future and none is actively looking for new recruits. Should this *not* be the case, we trust organisers will let us know before the last Newsletter is put to bed, in June, so that we can give any such publicity as they would care to request. It was the undoubted success of these naturally occurring networks (for example the 1957-64 Arts and Maths group and the 1960-67s organised by Pam Bagley, both thriving happily) which inspired the Committee to try to encourage more such groups as ECSOGA moves towards its close-down. The paucity of response to our suggestion has prompted some questions:

1. Maybe these naturally occurring networks (and resulting gatherings) cannot be encouraged and promoted? Possibly these networks are truly spontaneous? Maybe they “just happen” and grow Topsy-like – so no exhortation can bring them into being. If this is the case, then all the potential networks have already formed – the existence of ECSOGA having been neither help, nor impediment, nor substitute. Equally, at some future date, some further groups may naturally come together and start meeting-up, as circumstances dictate or allow. From this it follows that ECSOGA could be wasting energy and time with our hopes for Cohort Key People?

2. Maybe there are Members reading this who might volunteer but are daunted by the word “cohort”? The word cohort has tended to cause ECSOGA some difficulties but we chose to start using it (from 1999 onwards) for good reasons. It is a well-recognised term used in schools and other educational establishments. More importantly, using the word solved the assorted problems arising from different leaving dates (after Forms V, VIB and VIA) and inconsistency over the use of the (rather American) phrase “Year of” – which some people were applying to starting year and some to leaving year. However, in the context of finding KEY PEOPLE, it may be that using the word cohort is positively unhelpful. So let us try to clarify matters. Anyone answering our request will become a Key Person OF their cohort, not FOR their cohort. In other words, the volunteer will not necessarily be offering, and should not feel obliged, to contact, organise and gather their entire cohort – unless, of course, she wishes to! There are two issues here: numbers and compatibility.

**Numbers:** To gather a whole cohort which entered ECS in or before 1954 involves some 90+ people. A cohort which arrived in 1955-67 will number 130/140. A post-1967 cohort is of the order of 160+. For one volunteer, or a small team of like-minded people, to arrange a get-together for dozens of people, many travelling considerable distances, is not a small task. If it is the scale of the work involved which is holding you back from volunteering, RELAX: you can set yourself a target number of people and keep to it. You will be your own boss: if, for you, 20 is company but 25 is a too-big-a-crowd, that's fine: limit your gathering to 20 and have a great time!

**Compatibility:** Although emails, texts etc. make contacting people much easier than ever before, the fact that a volunteer can reach her whole cohort does not mean that she, and her closest friends, necessarily want to meet everyone who might be eligible. Committee members, past and present, will – if pressed – admit that working with ECSOGA has, on occasion, revealed tensions within the Membership: personality clashes that were on the surface in Form III may be better disguised in middle-age, but they are still present. The passage of time and varied experiences of careers may, in happy cases, uncover affinities that went unrealised at school but the same factors can and do entrench divisions between peers whose interests were never much in tune: e.g. the sporty chemist and the theatre-loving historian. As anyone who has ever held a dinner party knows, the mix of people is vital to the success of the event. So, if worries about the composition of the your potential gathering are holding you back from volunteering, we say again, RELAX! If you answer the call to be listed as a KEY PERSON you can specify the interest-group you wish to organise – be it by Form, subject at O or A Level, bus route travelled, sport played – or any combination of these – or it might just be your own particular ‘A List’. Being an ‘official’ body, ECSOGA has had to be, quite correctly, all-embracing and inclusive. Any informal networks coming after us can be as specialised/ niche/targeted/ exclusive – or whatever – as the organiser/s wish.

We hope this article has clarified matters and that it will encourage people to give their names (and group criteria) to us for inclusion in our final News-sheet and we suggest that anyone who is not in an informal ECS network by Sept 2009 reads page 7 for information on how, instead, to become involved with *The Friends of Enfield County*.

### IT'S A SMALL WORLD I

Tales continue to reach us of ECSOGA Members bumping into each other unexpectedly. Holidaying in Austria early in 2008 **Brenda Liddiard (1946-53)** and **Marion Wiley (1951-58)** came face to face, albeit briefly. In June, **Mary Stevenson (Bruno 1946-52)** and **Harriett Nailon (Lott 1956-63)**, drinking coffee in the Friends' Room at The Royal Academy and discussing our Centenary celebrations, were delighted to be hailed by **Ros Edwards (Fletcher 1957-64)**. A month later, Harriett was again having coffee in Piccadilly (but in a less elevated venue than Burlington House – Ponti's cafe) when she met **Sue Belstead (Goord 1961-3)**.

## LEARNING FROM THE BOYS?

*In our Summer Newsletter, we gave some information about the Grammar School's 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One feature of the celebrations was an exhibition of historical material. The staff in the office at ECS – whom we must thank for their unfailing help and kindness to ECSOGA -- suggested that some of the Historical Material Working Party might find it to their advantage to see what the Grammar School had on display.*

**Thelma Sutton (1945-50) Committee Member and HMWP Member, writes:**

Fellow Committee and HMWP Member, **Jean Savage (1947-53)** and I met in The Town on Wednesday 9 July to visit the Grammar School exhibition marking the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the school. We must say, in passing, that all the boys that we met as we went around the building were very courteous and polite. The exhibition was held in the Tudor Hall which was very pleasing as neither of us had ever been there before. It is quite small, for a hall, but, obviously, when it was built it must have been large enough to house the boys who were probably all taught together, regardless of age or ability. We wondered who got to sit nearest the fireplace in winter: probably the Master?

The exhibition consisted mainly of documents and we found the Punishment Book particularly interesting detailing as it did the number of strokes each boy received. This form of punishment apparently went on until quite recently. Caps and blazers were also on display. One particular thing caught our attention, and which we thought might be worth copying, concerned the photograph albums. These were arranged separately for sport, drama, etc. It seemed a good idea and made them more interesting. We were also impressed by the television screen and half-a-dozen comfortable armchairs casually arranged round it, at one end of the Hall, for viewers to watch a DVD of the school's history. Our only criticism of the exhibition was the lighting which seemed poor especially as it was an exceptionally rainy and overcast day. Thinking about it later, however, we wondered if maybe the age of some of the documents meant that stronger lighting could not be used. Such are the problems when celebrating almost half a millennium of existence. Nevertheless we thoroughly enjoyed our visit and came away laden with booklets, DVDs, commemorative mugs – and renewed enthusiasm and a few new ideas for our tasks on the ECSOGA Historical Material Project. We are very grateful to Julie Martin, of the ECS office at Holly Walk, for prompting us to go. Julie's husband went to the Grammar School!

## A BELATED NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR ALL MEMBERS

Please hold up your right hand and repeat as follows:

*Before 1 September 2009 I resolve to send ECSOGA a REMINISCENCE or A POTTED BIOGRAPHY or MY PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT*

-to be filed in the Memorabilia Collection.

Yes, we are **SERIOUS!** We would like to have something, half a page of A4 or more, from each and every one of you.

**Please see what you can do!**

TO ENCOURAGE YOU, we print below extracts from an inspiring piece by **Frances Lower (Griffiths 1945-50)** about her work setting up the **National Association of Child Contact Centres** which **NOW** has over **356** centres throughout the country providing “comfortable, safe and neutral venues where the children of broken families can meet with a parent who no longer shares their home, (and sometimes other family members).”

*My husband's father disappeared when my husband was about four years old. When we married in 1956 I was curious as to how Tony felt about that. He was quite sure that his father had gone because he, Tony, had been so naughty that his father could cope no longer. He said that if only his father had sent Christmas or birthday cards he would have felt better. Knowing this story you can imagine how I felt when, in 1984 (by now living in Nottingham) I was sitting as a magistrate on a family case and we heard that a little boy wanted to see his father. The parents agreed that this should happen, but mother wouldn't have father in the home because he and her new partner were somewhat of an explosive mix, and father agreed that his bed sit wasn't really the right place to entertain a lively youngster. The Bench retired while the Probation Service tried to find a neutral place available at the weekend for this family. While we waited one of the other magistrates said he thought that the Churches could do something about this. I made the mistake of repeating this remark to my then Minister, Rev. Hamish Baillie at St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church, who never missed any suggestion for ways to express our Christian witness by service to the community. After selling the idea to the Church Elders, Hamish gave me and my small team of volunteers less than two months to get organised. For the first six weeks nobody came but within eight months we had taken over the whole case load of the local Probation Service. . . .*

**The story of the growth of this amazing organisation is lodged in the ECSOGA Memorabilia Collection.**

Frances kindly wrote for us at our specific request after we learned, by chance, that she was made an MBE in the 1995 Birthday Honours list. (Belated Congratulations, Frances!) MEMBERS HAVE LOTS OF STORIES – NOT ALL LEADING TO BUCK HOUSE – BUT ALL INTERESTING IN THEIR OWN WAY AND THEIR OWN RIGHT. TIME IS RUNNING OUT: WE AIM TO LEAVE AS MANY ACCOUNTS AS POSSIBLE OF OUR/YOUR MEMORIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, REFLECTIONS AND THOUGHTS. **PLEASE WRITE TO US!**

*\* For more about NACCC contact Frances Lower, 14 Twyford Gdns, Clifton Grove, Nottingham NG118PB*

## THE FUTURE OF THE MEMORIAL FUND

Net assets 31 December 2007 - £12,281

Members will recall that, in law, The Memorial Fund has an existence separate from ECSOGA and is a Registered Charity (No. 312623). In theory, the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of ECSOGA, who are The Memorial Fund Trustees, could seek approval from the Charity Commission to wind-up the Memorial Fund at the same time as ECSOGA is closed down. Winding-up would involve spending the capital of the Fund in such a way as to fulfil the aims of the charity. So, for example, we could give 10 prizes of £1,000 each at the end of the academic year 2008/09 and use the balance to buy the School some equipment so that there was nothing left in the Fund, at which point the charity would go out of existence. The Committee believes that this would be unhelpful to the School and contrary to the whole spirit of the Memorial Fund. What is needed instead, therefore, is an appropriate body which will take-over the Fund and continue to award prizes and assist the School in other ways. As announced at the AGM in March 2008, our initial approaches to the most obvious candidate to fill this role, *The Friends of Enfield County* were promising. *The Friends* have charitable status already which should make matters go quite smoothly.

Since the spring there have been further discussions with the Committee of *The Friends* who have taken advice from the Charity Commission. There are three ways that a transfer can be effected. The most simple possibility would be for ECSOGA to make a gift of The Memorial Fund to *The Friends*. In this case ECSOGA would not be able to put any conditions on how the Memorial Fund assets and interest can be used. We felt that this lack of conditions would not sufficiently safeguard the memorial aspect of the Fund and, given that *The Friends* committee personnel usually serve for just a few years, it would be wisest to avoid confusion in the future by spelling out some binding details at the time of transfer.

The other two possible methods of transferring assets between charities are distinguished from each other by the number and specificity of the conditions that are attached to the transaction. It has been decided that it would not be fair to the committee of *The Friends* or practical for ECSOGA to require very many or very detailed conditions, especially as the aims of the Fund and *The Friends* run along the same lines. Therefore, with the agreement of Ms Rutherford, discussions are in process based around three conditions. In outline the conditions are as follows:

1. That the constitution of *The Friends of Enfield County* be amended to contain an annexe acknowledging that The Memorial Fund has a quasi-independent existence with a capital sum of £5000 which must be shown in each end-of-year account and that, if *The Friends* (or some similar body which might succeed it) ceases to exist, this sum will be passed to a team of three or more trustees, chosen from former students of ECS by the Head, who will be charged with ensuring that the original objectives of The Fund continue to be fulfilled.

2. That the interest of the Fund be used

- a) to award the 12 named prizes in accordance with the rec-

- ommendations of the Head of ECS but with the Old Girls' Association Prize being renamed The Friends of Enfield County Prize

- b) to provide the School with items needed or wanted for which there is no statutory or other provision.

3. That, in the event of *The Friends* finding the administration of The Memorial Fund causes them problems, the Head will be asked to find two or more former ECS students to assist *The Friends* as appropriate.

At the time of writing ECSOGA is still at the negotiation stage on all these matters. There is ample time for making all the necessary arrangements and the two Treasurers, Ann Wickert for ECSOGA and Louise McNamara for *The Friends*, can not really have detailed discussions until ECSOGA's accounts for the year ending 31 December 2008 have been finalised by the Trustees in January.

We shall, of course, be giving Members more information at the AGM and in the Summer Newsletter. We are aware that those Members who have Standing Orders for donations to the Memorial Fund will need confirmation of any changes to the Fund account details. These will be communicated to those concerned, in writing, by the Treasurer by the end of August 2009. We hope that Members and other former ECS students will continue to make donations or arrange for bequests to The Memorial Fund in the future. With this in mind, it is our intention to ensure that all Members are circulated with the appropriate details in our Farewell News-sheet, due to be sent out in late September 2009. In addition, information about how to make donations to The Memorial Fund will be available on *The Friends* pages of the School website. In short: ECSOGA will cease to exist but The Memorial Fund will go onward and - inflation being a constant of modern life - will for ever need donations to ensure that prizes and other help to ECS will be significant enough to be useful rather than just symbolic. We are confident that Members will do what they can to assist *The Friends* in this. Any money remaining in ECSOGA's own account after the bills for the 2009 Reunion have been met, plus any surplus from the Centenary Appeal will go to The Memorial Fund, as will any unclaimed membership fee refunds. In our final News-sheet, mentioned above, we will give a summary of the assets being transferred to *The Friends* and any other relevant information. Meanwhile, if Members have concerns, questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Harriett Nailon - see page 8.

### IT'S A SMALL WORLD !!

Sometimes, however, a planned meeting can demonstrate the smallness of the world - in a more literal way. An email from **Barbara Bolam (Williams 1940s)**, who lives in New Zealand, gives the following news "Had a couple of weeks in Australia in July. **Brenda Schettler (Jay)** came over and spent a couple of days with us. She and Alan (Barbara's husband) both went to Raglan School as well - so we have quite a lot in common!"

## CLOSING DOWN ECSOGA

### Some administrative matters

#### 1. REFUNDS

Members who are entitled to a refund of part of their membership fees are reminded to consult the table on page 7 of the Summer 2008 Newsletter and send a stamped addressed envelope and a note of how much they are owed to the Treasurer (address on page 8) by 30 June 2009, if they wish to claim. Cheques will be sent out by 31 August 2009. Unclaimed refunds will be put into The Memorial Fund.

#### 2. CONTINUATION OF FORWARDING SERVICE UNTIL THE END OF 2010

As a service to Members, Margaret Meldrum, Membership Secretary, has kindly volunteered to forward letters between Members for 15 months after the close-down i.e. until 31 December 2010. If, in those 15 months, you find that you have lost someone's address or unexpectedly find that you wish to contact an old friend who was an ECSOGA Member but whose address you do not have, this is what you can do:

- a) Write to your friend c/o Margaret – see page 8 for her address – and she will forward it for you.
- b) VERY IMPORTANT: make sure you put your own return address on the back of the envelope. This is necessary in case your friend has moved in the intervening months which might result in Royal Mail having to return your letter.

Of course, to avoid the necessity of using Margaret's forwarding service, we suggest that if at all possible you come to our final (Centenary) Reunion on 12 September, armed with your address book. You will then be able to collect as many contact details as you need. (Time-saving idea: the last Reunion will be very hectic and emotional so why not bring some labels with your own address/phone number/email already written out so that you can just give one to each person with whom you wish to stay in contact?) On behalf of Members, THANK YOU, MARGARET!

#### 3. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PUT ONTO THE MAILING LIST OF THE FRIENDS OF ENFIELD COUNTY?

Once ECSOGA has closed down, Margaret Meldrum will keep her index cards of addresses until the end of 2010, for use as described above, and will then shred them. The Secretary, Beryl Muffett, also has a list of Members' addresses, held on her computer. It seems a waste just to destroy this list without considering whether it might be useful to the School. As is explained on page 6 *The Friends of Enfield County* are going to be taking over The Memorial Fund, and, as Ms Rutherford explained at the Reunion and we indicated in an item in the last Newsletter, *The Friends* are keen to have the support of as many ECS former students, of all ages, as they can. Not surprisingly, therefore, the committee of *The Friends* has indicated that they would like to be able to promote their activities to of our Members as is feasible, particularly to those who live within easy access of Enfield. In addition, there are hopes that one *Friends* event each year will

have the characteristics of a reunion for former students. It is early days yet but it is ECSOGA's aim in our on-going discussions with *The Friends* to pursue this idea and we hope to publish more details in the Summer Newsletter.

Accordingly, ECSOGA Committee would like, if possible, to pass a substantial number of Members' addresses to the committee of *The Friends* in October 2009. Therefore, we ask, please, for Members who live in the UK who DO NOT WISH TO HAVE THEIR CONTACT DETAILS PASSED TO THE FRIENDS OF ENFIELD COUNTY to let us know at or before the final Reunion on 12 September 2009. There will be a list to sign at the Reunion or you can email via the website [www.onwardever.org](http://www.onwardever.org) or you can write to or telephone Margaret Meldrum, see details on page 8. Those who contact us in any of these ways can be assured that their details will be removed from the Secretary's data base before it is passed to our friends at *The Friends*.

To those who elect to let their addresses etc. go to *The Friends* we have to say two things. First and foremost, thank you! Secondly, we hope you will not feel hurt if you are not contacted by *The Friends*. Common sense will tell you that a) the resources of *The Friends* are not infinite and so b) if you are on email you are more likely to be contacted than if you are not and c) the possibility that you will receive news of *Friends*' events etc. is in direct ratio to the distance that you live from Holly Walk. However, even if you are not sent a communication by *The Friends*, we – at ECSOGA – will be very grateful for your implied consent to pass-on your details, as it will be a vote of confidence in your own Committee and will be a morale booster to the committee of *The Friends* to have the goodwill of hundreds of former students. As many of our Members will know from their own service on committees such as the WI, the Townswomen's Guild, NADFAS, local Flower Clubs, Scout and Guide Support Groups, PTAs and many more (which we know from your letters are, or have been, part of Members' lives over the years), being on a voluntary committee is a not always a bed of roses! We are confident that *The Friends of Enfield County* will be heartened to have your name and know that they have your interest and best wishes as they work for our beloved old school.

If anyone has any concerns, questions or suggestions about the above arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact Harriett Nailon – details page 8.

## OBITUARY

**Dr Lorna Flint [1918-2008]** Youngest sister of Miss Kate Flint, much loved and admired teacher of English and Drama at ECS in the 1940s, Dr Flint became known to many ECS pupils. She sometimes helped with play productions and appeared in the Staff Plays of 1947. Dr Flint was the youngest of six children, one boy and five girls. She lived latterly in the small town of Scothern, northeast of Lincoln, next door to her niece, Mrs Julia Hart, the daughter of her brother. Dr Flint died on 28 May 2008, seven months short of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## CENTENARY ACTIVITIES

### GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL

#### AND APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO PAY FOR THEM

To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ECS we shall be presenting gifts to the School.

One of these will be a **long-lasting item**, as follows:

#### **A mahogany board recording the names and dates of the Head Teachers of ECS.**

The plan is to place this board at the top of the library stairs, close to the portraits of the Head Teachers. To complement this board we shall also be providing name plaques for those portraits currently uncaptioned. The board will be unveiled at our Centenary Reunion on 12 September 2009. (Members will recall that there are boards on the library stairs listing Head Girls of ECS. It is hoped to provide a board to match these existing ones.)

We are still in discussion about other gifts. Our original idea was to present the School with three decorative plaques of the badges that ECS has used in its first one hundred years. One badge to be placed on each of the three main blocks of the School: the Broome, Sharp and Byard Buildings. However, given that the general financial situation is increasingly uncertain, the Committee has come to the opinion that the School might find it more appropriate at this time to receive more practical items and we shall be finalising our plans after detailed consultation with Ms Rutherford. We hope to announce the full list of gifts at the AGM on 14 March.

#### **To purchase these gifts ECSOGA is running a special CENTENARY APPEAL with a target of £2,000.**

At the time of going to press the Appeal Total stood at £551.00

#### **YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION TO THE APPEAL IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

- 1. By post to the Treasurer.** See address below. Please make cheques payable to ECSOGA and write Centenary Appeal on the reverse.
- 2. In person at the Spring Meeting – in cash or by cheque.** Special donation envelopes will be available.

We appreciate that the recent financial turmoil has already affected everyone, but we know Members will give whatever they can for ECSOGA's last opportunity to officially demonstrate our gratitude to our beloved School. Your generosity and support are much appreciated by the Committee and by the staff and students of ECS. Any money left-over from the Appeal after the gifts are purchased will be put into the Memorial Fund.

## CENTENARY EVENTS

### *AGM and SPRING MEETING*

**Sat 14 March 2009**

**Please see enclosed Booking Form for full details.**

#### **CELEBRATORY REUNION and FAREWELL TO ECSOGA – Saturday 12 September 2009**

It will be happy, emotional, congratulatory, sad – but it will also be familiar (traditional format, with the emphasis on time for people to talk) with some added extras: a cake, the unveiling of our gifts to the School, possibly some special background music, a Centenary Raffle, a bravura display of memorabilia. We hope it will be jam-packed – be sure to book your place early: the Hall can accommodate 198 people max.

**More details and Booking Form with the next/final Newsletter – due to be sent out early July 2009.**

### **ECS CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION**

A collection of articles and extracts from School magazines and contributions from Enfield County School Old Girls and Staff – covering milestones in the history of the School, souvenirs of important events, personal reminiscences of schooldays throughout the Century of ECS' existence.

Printed copies should be available at the 2009 Spring Meeting Price ca. £2.50

An extended version will be available on the ECSOGA Members' website

#### **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)

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

## AGM and Spring Meeting

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

**Saturday 14 March 2009**

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

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

### PROGRAMME

12.00 Opening Address - the Chairman

12.05 AGM - see enclosed Agenda

1 pm Buffet Lunch served

2 pm Raffle Draw – proceeds to the Centenary Appeal

2.15 *Let Us Now Praise Enfield Women – and a few Men*

3.45 Farewell and Jerusalem

Reminiscences and reflections on life at ECS in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, highlighting some of the most outstanding teachers – including Miss F Sharp, Mrs Martin, Miss Morley, Miss Tomlinson, Miss Hodgson – as a tribute to all the staff of the past 100 years. With musical interludes and much affection

This event is the start of our celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official opening of Enfield County School in September 1909. It will also be the last AGM and Spring Meeting of ECSOGA. We shall have one more event, the Centenary Reunion on Saturday 12 September 2009, which will conclude with an Extraordinary General Meeting to close down the Association. We hope to see as many Members as possible at one or both of these events.

Capacity of the Hall is limited. To reserve your place please complete the slip below and send with your cheque to the Treasurer a.s.a.p. CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS: FRI 6 MARCH 2009

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

In accordance with Charity Commission rules, the AGM is open to anyone, at no charge

**Any questions about this event please contact the Treasurer, Ann Wickert on 020 8360 5573**

or VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [www.onwardever.org.uk](http://www.onwardever.org.uk)



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

FROM: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years at ECS \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places @ £8 for the Spring Meeting on 14 March 2009

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

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

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

# ECSOGA

(Registered Charity No. 312623)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and

## SPRING MEETING

***Let Us Now Praise Enfield Women – and a few Men***

*See enclosed sheet/booking form for full details*

**Saturday 14 March 2009 11.30 for 12 noon**

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

## AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of AGM 8 March 2008 - *will be taken as read.*  
*See reverse of this sheet for summary. Full Minutes available for inspection at meeting.*
3. Matters arising
4. Report from the Chairman, Mrs Harriett Nailon.
5. Report from the Treasurer, Miss Ann Wickert  
*Accounts enclosed for Town Members + copies available at meeting*
6. Election of Committee.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting: Saturday 12 September 2009 at 3.40 pm, approximately, for confirmation of the 2008 AGM decision to close-down ECSOGA.

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](http://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.

We are particularly keen to have photographs of members of staff to display at this meeting.  
If you have any such photos, particularly informal ones, please bring them with you.

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