



## THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY

**Douglas Buchanan** (Chairman)  
56 Longdown Road, Little Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8QQ

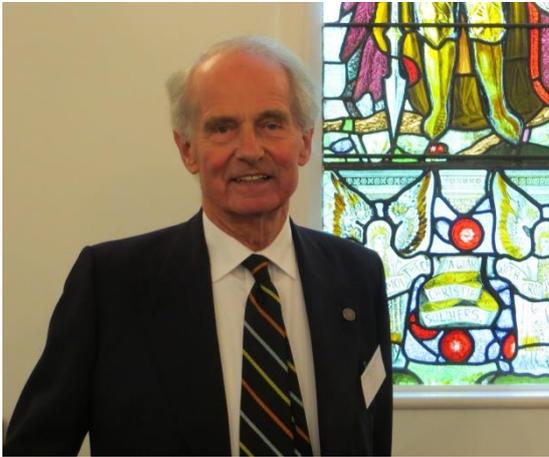
Email: [dcbeagleb@gmail.com](mailto:dcbeagleb@gmail.com)

### APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

The English summer is shy at the moment and it is more like Autumn weather with long evenings. The cricket has not really started.

#### Returning after 75 years

It was a pleasure to welcome Count Nikolai Tolstoy (OEH 1943-44) to the school after an absence of 75 years. Although he was only at Eagle House for a year when he was seven years old he could recall many incidents. Nikolai had a literary career writing about Celtic Mythology and hard hitting political books.



In Barry Johnson's book, "Unwillingly to School" Nikolai reflects on his short stay: "I attended Eagle House during the war. It was my first preparatory school, from which my father removed me after one year, although he did not tell me why,

As to most boys on arrival at the tender age of seven, Eagle House appeared an exciting and even rather frightening place. The tower particularly impressed me. Once I saw some bigger dropping home-made parachutes from the top, a sight which held me enthralled for a summer's afternoon.

Having read *Tom Brown's Schooldays* at a precocious age, I feared the worst. Shortly after my arrival some older boys showed me some marks cut with a penknife on the trunk of a tree. These, they assured me, commemorated the spot where a boy had once been beaten to death by prefects.

I intensely disliked the large slabs of bread and dripping we received at break, and used to climb out of the back window of Miss Lupton's classroom to bury my portion behind the building. I also disliked gym in the freezing Court, until I discovered how warm one's hands can be kept when pushed into one's hair.

All this may convey the impression that I disliked my brief stay at Eagle House, but I don't believe that was so. Bed wetting was, I believe, in those days generally considered a deliberately anti-social act, and I never thought I would tell anyone of the terror aroused by my night-time confinement in that isolated bedroom in the darkened gallery. In particular, I recall vividly my father's unexpected announcement that he was moving me to another school, and my acute distress at the thought of leaving my Eagle House friends."

#### The Roll of Honour

Graham Stephenson (OEH 1947 – 52)) writes: "It was very moving reading through the Roll of Honour for the OEH who gave their all for their country. Such talented people and often so young. Their deeds and their bravery in terrible circumstances are difficult to come to terms with in these days of peace. We who are left owe so much to them that we have been able to enjoy our lives in relative peace. I hope the Memorial Garden will act as a reminder for the youngsters of today to try to understand the horrors of war and the sacrifices that were made for them by previous generations."

## **Lambourn's shed**

Hugh Rose (OEH 1955 - 59 ) writes: "I well remember the shed referred to in the last newsletter - it was called Lambourn's Shed in my day.

I don't remember what machines were kept inside in my time but much more important to me was half way down the side facing the cricket field, there was a hole between two wooden slats in which blue tits nested every year!

Paul Wootton used have a large scale map of the grounds mounted on a fibre board into which we would stick pins every year recording the nest sites of the various different bird species."

## **From our oldest statesman, Ivan Stewart (OEH 1927 - 34)**

It is 91 years since I went to EH and I miss the mention of two things. The mention of the school motto " Sublimiora Petamus under the Eagle and any mention of grace before or after a meal. i.e. " Benedictus Benedicat" & Benedictus Benedicata."

## **Overseas boarder – 1960s**

Guy Jenkins (OEH 1967 - 69) who lives in South Africa writes: "I visited the school again in June 2016 , when I travelled to the UK. It was vey emotional I have to admit. The school looks absolutely magnificent and, the new facilities are jaw-droppingly fabulous. The fact that the school is now co-ed was quite something for me to take in. I would never have imagined, although it does make really great sense from virtually every perspective.

The school is truly very very beautiful and, I'm sure my passion for the school will be echoed by any and all students and parents who have experienced life at the school. So so proud to have been a part of that experience. Many years ago I applied for a teaching position at a prep school in Johannesburg and one of the questions they asked me was, " Why this school"

My response was that it reminded me of Eagle House where I went to boarding school. Particularly, the dining hall and administration building It was then, that I was informed that this school had reciprocal sporting ties with Eagle House and, had just been on cricket tour to play against Eagle House. My sons went to this school ( The Ridge School ). What I small world. My addiction to the sport of hockey and, subsequent development, playing for my secondary school, University and then provincially and Nationally, all stemmed from my introduction to the sport at Eagle House. Many many thanks, you cannot know just how much this has meant in my life."

## **The dreaded General Data Protection Regulation**

All societies, including the Old Eagle House Society, are affected by these regulations and there will be more details in next month's newsletter.

## **Eagle House School – Aiming High**

The school's strap line is appropriate after the inspection last term. They were only given fifty minutes warning before the inspectors arrived. Click [here](#) to locate the ISI report.

## **Final words**

A frequent plea to younger members to send their anecdotes when at Eagle House and / or what they have achieve and are achieving at the moment.