



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY

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APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

1980s Reunion lunch – please sign up

This is a reminder that Saturday 20 May 2017 is the day for the informal 1980s get together at the school. This is open to all who were attended Eagle House in the 1980s including their families and parents.

11:30am arrival for coffee and a tour of the school

1:00pm lunch – “lift your finger for a small portion!”

It will be good to see you again and we can talk about the past including prep times, picking up stones, activities in the cellar and “red signatures” which of course I never issued!!

Do use the [response form](#) to enter your details. Deadline 15 May.

Do you still have your school prizes or school gifts?

Hugh Rose (OEH 1955 – 59) writes, “Do other 'old boys' still have any of the prizes and presents which were given to us during our school days? A copy of 'Blackie's Pocket Dictionary' was given to each of us as a Christmas present from the Woottons at the end of the winter term in 1955. I have carried my copy round the world with me ever since - it looks well used, perhaps a sign of my dreadful spelling! My copy of 'Jock of the Bushveld' was a prize won at the end of my first term - for crafts which was never my strongest suit!

What was interesting was how quickly Paul Wootton got to know his pupils and selected appropriate books to match our interests.”

School's LP recording

Mark Chetwynd-Talbot (OEH 1949 – 54) still has a vinyl record of music record at school.

He writes, “I am contacting you because I wonder if, in the archives, there is a 78 vinyl record which is a recording made by Billy Bean shortly before the Christmas carol service, probably in 1953. If there is not, then I have one here. It is extremely scratched but a few years ago my son had it 'cleaned up' and I now have that version as two MP3 files. I remember how Billy Bean set up his tape recorder, positioned me as the soloist beside him, turned towards the choir which was assembled just behind us near the stairs in the hall [now known as the Old Library] and started playing and conducting at the same time. The result is a rather laboured rendition of two carols which would never win 'Choir of the Year' but does show what could be done with a very limited number of children. The excitement of that build up to the Christmas holidays was so special - and privately I sometimes play that record to myself in December and it does still stir that feeling in me after all these years.

Memories at the end of the 40s

Graham Stephenson sent in his reminiscences: "I do enjoy reading your Newsletters and the many memories that are recalled especially with regard to my admiration for John Watson, Billy Bean, Oliver Lough, dear Mr Thorpe and of course Anne and Paul Wootton. There was also Mr Rennick and Mr Lamborn. Mr Lamborn had a television and we used to be allowed to watch the test match before lunch. I think it encouraged us to play Dab Cricket which involved paper and pencil a score sheet and a chart with all the possible outcomes of each ball and it depended where the pencil point landed with eyes shut!

We had a very good cricket team and cricket was my best sport. I am sure that we owed our success to Oliver Lough who kept us occupied during our free time with fielding practice and especially catching practice, with sets of catches from 1, a simple catch to a six, a very high catch. you won a set when you had caught every catch from 1 to 6. If you dropped a catch you had to return to a 1. I believe that the people who attended most and got the most "sets" were the ones who were offered the opportunity to visit Lords for a day of the test match. Paul Wootton was also active teaching us to bat in the nets. I think he might have been a left arm bowler?

I have not noticed anyone remembering one of the slightly frightening games we used to play in the court when the weather was too bad to go out. A tennis ball was thrown at all of us running around and the person if struck (possibly after three strikes?) was required to kneel on the wooden "horse" with backside pointing towards a queue of throwers, at a safe distance, who aimed to hit the "target"

Of course cold showers every morning was the norm and that was quite a shock to the system but it was only for a second or two before the clap of the hands signified out and the next person went in. Two other people I remember were Miss Newberry who was the bottom form teacher and Mrs Illingworth who was a kindly assistant Matron.

Working in Aviation in different countries and using my languages was very important to me and now living in France for ten years I regularly think of Mr Watson and how lucky I was to have been taught French by him. He fired my interest in languages and I am often complimented on my French accent, all due to his method of teaching and his French plays.

How nice it is to have the opportunity to think back and reminisce about those golden days just after the war. I also remember the Comet keeping us awake at night in the summer while doing crew training at Blackbushe.

Billy Bean

From March Hancock (OEH 1952 - 57): Billy Bean and his strict teaching of English grammar. Standing at the top of the drive probably on a Saturday afternoon I asked him, as the Master on duty. "Please sir CAN I go into the woods? You can boy but you MAY not!

News from the School

Eagle House golfers won a great victory against Cranleigh and Cranmore in a hard fought competition. Playing their first big inter-schools match of the term, the team comprising golfers from Years 5, 6 and 8 played some great shots to give them a well-deserved victory. The team was missing our Year 7 golfers as they were on a theatre trip, so extra praise indeed to the younger members of the team.

Year 7 travelled, as many Eagle House pupils have done in the past, to the Fortune Theatre in London's West End to see *The Woman in Black*. The stage adaptation of Susan Hill's novel is still frightening audiences 27 years after it opened. The eerie story certainly had Year 7 shaking in their seats and there were some hiding behind jumper moments for most of the audience! The show is brilliantly staged and always manages to keep you gripped to your seat throughout. Some of the pupils have been studying the novel and so this was a chance to see the show in it's theatrical guise and no one was disappointed.

Michael Bertam Sanders (OEH 1931-37)

Michael passed away last December. He visited the school just a few years ago and pointed out that on the Honours Board his name was misspelled and the extra letter was crossed out. Best wishes to his wife, Barbara, who sent me the sad news.

Archives – thank you

It is much appreciated that Michael Kirwan (OEH 1949 – 54) has sent me three school magazines from the 1960s which are missing from the digitised archives. They will be sent to the company for scanning and indexing in the near future.

Final words

Thank you for the correspondence I have receiving. There are still a few more letters which have not been published yet and are being held for next month's newsletter.

In the near future the Second World War memorial will be relocated to the area outside the chapel where the swimming pool / sandpit was located. This is a more appropriate place for it and it allows for the expansion of the catering facilities with an extended dining room. Feeding 400 young people a day needs room!