



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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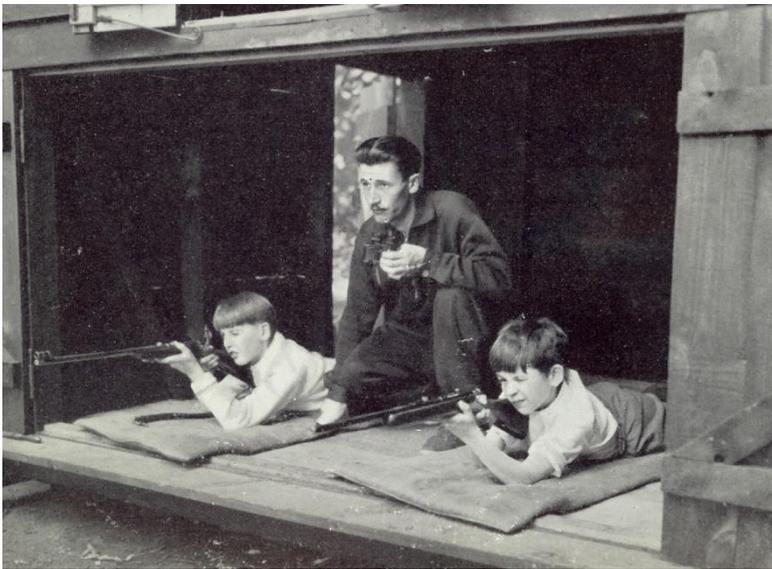
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It is always fascinating receiving correspondence from members telling us about their teaching heroes and David Gittins has shown his appreciation towards Sergeant Pye, a war hero. Whether you are a newish member or mature your stories about your teachers will be most welcome.

Sergeant Pye – inspirational teacher and unsung hero



David Gittins (OEH 1949 – 53) writes:
“Can you tell me if Sergeant Pye is still alive and, if so, how he can be contacted - home address, telephone number, email address, etc? Also, does he have a first name - other than Sergeant? I remember him very well not only from boxing but especially PT which I enjoyed enormously under his instruction and enthusiasm.

I may even tell you a story about what happened at Sports Day 1953 (I think) when there was a PT display (organised by Sargent Pye) in which I took part which had a rather unexpected (but not dangerous) result.”

We are awaiting for the next instalment, David!!

Some research has been done and the following information has been found:

This article was found on the BBC's WW2 People's War (click [here](#)) website and the contribution was submitted by Hugh White.

'Stretcher-bearers': Sicilian Advance - How others fared

Location of story: Sicily, Catenuova, Centuripe, Adrano, Bronte, Randazzo

The wounded were evacuated by Regimental stretcher bearers and transferred to Field Ambulances along the only road that could be used. This was subjected to both shelling and mortaring and ambulance drivers from 11, 217 and 152 Field Ambulances, as well as others, helped to save many lives.

Driver R.F.A. Pye, RASC, then driving an ambulance for 217 Field Ambulance at Centuripe and, later at Bronte, made some 14 journeys along a road that was being shelled and mortared to evacuate the wounded. On one such run his cab was hit by shell splinters. His devotion to duty was marked by the award of a Military Medal. The last sentence in his citation reads, "The speedy evacuation of wounded which resulted from his efforts was undoubtedly a factor in saving many lives."

This correspondence was passed onto committee member, Simon Kay (OEH 1955 – 60)

"We knew Sergeant Pye had been awarded the MM (Military Medal) during WW2, so I imagine that he is the man mentioned in your attached article. As you may know, the MC (Military Cross) was awarded only to officers, whilst NCOs and Privates were given the MM for the same feats of bravery. (Snobbery in action!)

Sergeant Pye was an excellent man as far as I was concerned. Kind to those in trouble and friendly to all. I remember watching him shoot grey squirrels with a 22 rifle where the swimming pool building now is, as the local council classified them as pests and gave five shillings (£6 now) for each tail. There are photos of him and his wife in the archives, one of which is at the beginning of the 1955 magazine."

HERITAGE TOURS OF EAGLE HOUSE

Thursday 8, Friday 9, Saturday 10 September 2016 Tour starts at 2:30pm



We are once again proud to be part of this year's National Trust Open Days in September. This is the opportunity for the public to visit interesting places which are not normally open to all. I will be leading two-hour daily tours at 2:30pm followed by a cup of tea.

The tour takes in the Tudor House, the 1944 aircraft site, the remains of Edgebarrow Manor, the chapel and Great War memorial, the WWII memorial garden and the main house including the cellar where the boys and staff lived during air raids.

Because we are walking over playing fields please bring appropriate footwear. There is no need to book.

The Exit

Is there any evidence, whether it be audio or photographs, that it existed!

This year Eagle House had a band it could be really proud of. With the talent that was kicking around: Will Hanley could howl with the best of them; Conor has music flowing through his fingers; Casey can really beat those skins and George, in the true tradition of bass guitarists, looks good (Ha Ha George!); a band just had to be formed.

The boys had a big interest in The Doors and quickly tied down every lick and nuance of 'Light My Fire' in time for the first big gig, out in the Malan Square on Open Day.

The track went down so well, we played it again! We didn't know anything else. The Doors also influenced the choice of name. Casey's mum thought that after the boys had worked with me they had started to become interested in euthanasia! (joke)

We were able to learn another track, 'House of the Rising Sun' for the Christmas Concert and Will could really let rip in this number. play and made them rehearse constantly, but we had the odd jam and added 'Another Brick in the Wall' to the play list. We did another Open Day gig and then had our final outing at the Summer Concert.

A big thanks to our fans. Stay true.

The Exit: Will Hanley (Vocals Et Guitar); Conor Turley (Keyboards); George Simmons (Bass); Casey Ferguson (Drums); Paul Gillam (Guitar).

FINAL WORDS

The year 2020 is looming and that is the year Eagle House celebrates its 200th birthday. If you have any ideas or ventures to mark this great occasion, please let me know.

By the time the September newsletter is published all our newest members will have begun their secondary schools. We wish you well on your new ventures and if you that way inclined your experiences in the first term will be appreciated.