



## THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY

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### FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

As I am writing this newsletter Doris is howling outside – heavy winds and a smattering of showers. Winter is still with us. The good news is that the 1980s reunion on Saturday 20 May is definitely on! Do put that in your calendar. Further information later.

#### **William D Bean**

Simon Hodgson's (OEH 1948 – 53) thoughts on one of his teachers: "William D Bean must have come to Eagle House around 1950, as I do not remember him when I started at Eagle House in September 1948. He came to Eagle House from Ely Cathedral where he had been I think Assistant Choir master for a number of years.

At Eagle House his task was to teach English, mostly I think to the middle school, to whom he introduced the intricacies of English Grammar. Oh! that he was still around to explain the correct use of the apostrophe, crack down on split infinitives, and ending sentences with prepositions. He would be appalled at the current English usage in such as sentences like "I was sat" instead of "I was sitting". Transitive and intransitive verbs (if ever referred to these days!) bring back memories of WDB.

Inevitably he was referred to as Billy Bean by the boys, and in addition to his classroom duties he often took afternoon runs when these replaced "games" when pitches could not be used because of bad weather. He was a very quick sprinter perhaps because of his small though well-built stature. There were in the school at the time two boys who also ran very fast, one boy called Reeves a senior, and Robin De Pree a junior at the time. A run off was arranged over 100 yards on the main cricket field. All I now remember of the race was that it was very close, and surprised many of us watching.

However his key role in the school was music. I must have been a frustration for him as I never progressed beyond grade three, but his work with the choir showed how he could conjure up some very fine performances, notably at the Christmas Carols each year. Just as John Watson sparked in me a life-long interest in French, so Billy Bean did with choral and other classical music.

How lucky my generation at Eagle House were to have such a fine body of teachers, and what a debt we owe to them all, in particular to the Woottons for their skill in recruiting them all."

## School Archives news

### Barry's book: "Unwillingly to School"

The book is being digitised and indexed which will make a great resource giving a thorough insight into the history of the school. Barry Johnson was head of French for 25 years and continued to run the Old Eagle House Society for a further 15 years. The book was written to commemorate 100 years in Sandhurst.

### Members' publications

If you are an author of any material and would like other members to know about it please let me know.

### News from Clare Symons (OEH 2001 – 06)

"2016-17 is turning out to be a rather large year for me. I am currently studying in Rennes (Brittany), for a French masters in European Law having completed the 3 years of law and French law at Exeter University. I am thoroughly enjoying living in Rennes, but the French masters is proving a bit of a challenge.

I also got engaged June 2016 and am due to get married in August this year and will then move to Bristol with my husband. The future is still uncertain career-wise, but I am currently applying for a training contract with any Bristol law firms that will take me, so fingers crossed there!"

**Where is this?** Image taken from the 1928 school magazine



## **John Gardner's (OEH 1925 – 30) concert**

The family has organised a concert in London on Wednesday 1 March to celebrate 100 years since his birth. Ten years ago the Society had the honour of hosting John's official 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a dinner and a concert. He passed away a few years ago.

### **John Gardner Centenary Celebration = English Chamber Orchestra**

Venue: Cadogan Hall

Gardner - Sinfonia Piccola

Gardner - Concerto for Oboe and Strings

Gardner - Petite Suite for Recorder and Strings

Holst - St Paul's Suite

Howells - Elegy for Viola, String Quartet and String Orchestra

Vaughan Williams - Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis

Click [here](#) to book is

## **News from the School**

### **Charity begins at home**

robbiesrally is a charity dedicated to providing specialist medical professionals to help children with brain tumours. robbiesrehab is run from Southampton Hospital for children from around the UK who need specialist rehabilitation during and following their treatment for cancer. The charity was set up by Robbie Keville who died of a brain tumour in February 2016 aged 10. He was a pupil at Edgeborough School and was a wonderful, brave and inspirational young person.

Eagle House wanted to support this charity and a Christmas Jumper Day last term raised a significant amount coupled with donations from parents after the end of term Carol Service. The total amount raised was £1500. Mark Keville, Robbie's dad, was able to come into school and accept a cheque presented by the school council. He also spoke about the charity and all the good work that it is able to do with donations like ours.

### **Girls are playing football matches**

Our U11 girls had a great game against The Dolphin in a great game where they came out 8 - 0 winners. But it was not really about the score line but about seeing the girls play one of the first football games at Eagle House for this age group.

The match was played with great energy from both teams and all enjoyed the afternoon. We hope that this is the first of many games to come. The girls certainly enjoyed the experience.

## **Keep safe**