



## THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY

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### JANUARY 2018

A belated new year greeting to you. Winter is still with us in the UK but the days are getting longer.

#### **The Committee Meeting**

In our meeting this last week our aim is to begin to plan future events with 2020 (our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday) in mind. We are also hoping to undertake a huge project – all the information will be in next month's newsletter. If you have some ideas for the 2020 celebrations please let me know. Because you suggest it does not mean you have to organise it!

#### **Annual cricket match**

We are trying to resurrect this annual event and working with Chris Woodcock (OEH teacher 1981 – 92) and his Pedagogue team we are hoping to have a match on a June Sunday. If you are interested in taking part please do contact me.

#### **Roll of Honour publication goes “global”**

The Society has produced this e-publication to highlight our Great War heroes and it can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Simon Kay (OEH 1955 – 1960), who was helping with the research, contacted an American company with regards to maps:

Simon: “The headmaster of the school thinks that it would be a good idea if the document contained two maps – one of the Western Front 1914 – 1918 and one on the Gallipoli campaign 1915 – so that the current pupils, who may not know where their great-grandfathers were killed, can find out more. The clearest map I can find of the Western Front has two copyright marks – GeoNova and eMapshop. After a number of enquiries, I found Mr. Eberhard who told me that the person to speak to about the use of this map is you. So may I ask – can we please use this Western Front 1914 – 1918 in the school document I am working on? We will, of course, give full attribution to the copyright owner of the map.”

Ian Turner (Globe Turner [website](#)): “I am greatly honored to have a map appear in such a wonderful publication. I thank you very much for sending the link. It was truly a privilege to read so many wonderful stories of heroism, bravery, and self-sacrifice that all of these men demonstrated in service to their country. I would like to have the honor of creating the Gallipoli map in the same style as the map of the Western Front, as well as making some minor adjustments to the Western Front map to add additional place names. There would not be a cost associated with any of these changes and additions, it would be my pleasure to do them for such an important remembrance for the school.”

## **Cultural trips to France in the 1950s**

Michael Kirwan (OEH 1949 – 54) writes:

I have enjoyed reading the enthusiastic memories of John Watson in recent Newsletters. I was fortunate in benefitting from 5 years of his French teaching, aided by pioneering initiatives such as the tape recorder (early 1950's - I hadn't seen one before) to help with pronunciation, and the inter-school French crossword puzzle competition that he set up. I didn't fully appreciate the quality of his teaching until, arriving at Cheltenham I won the first year French prize (out of 100). I fear my French went downhill thereafter and I soon gave it up.

One of his many initiatives that hasn't been mentioned was the Easter holiday trip to Paris. I think he did this every other year, and I was lucky enough to go in 1952 or 1953. Six of us drove over in his Standard Vanguard (no seat belt restrictions then) and stayed in an empty school at Le Raincy in the Paris suburbs. We visited all the standard Paris sights but what seems to have appealed to me most, based on my brownie box photos, was the zoo. Foreign travel was rare or non-existent for most of us in those days so overall it was an exciting experience, we learned a lot about France and probably had to speak a bit of the language. I don't remember who the other boys were except for Lockie, who stands out in my memory because he bought a sophisticated glass ornament to take back home whilst the rest of us merely bought tatty Eiffel Towers.

Looking back now this trip seems very low-key compared with the holiday activities of current pupils, but it still remains a highlight of my Eagle House time.

## **The Wootton's Rolls Royce**

Chris Coble (OEH 1957 – 63) recalls the Rolls Royce "possibly the lovely old, black car (or charabanc) which could just be glimpsed through the cracks in the doors of the old wooden shed down at the bottom of the grounds, when I was there in the 1950s?" Does anybody have any tales about this vehicle?

## **School prefects host a governor's dinner last week**

Once a year the Heads of School, Section Leaders and Heads of Boarding and Music welcome the school's Governors to a dinner. The purpose is to share all that goes on at Eagle House with the Governing Body and report on different areas of the school. It is always a great evening and the children very much enjoy meeting the adults and chatting about their life at Eagle House.

Academic, Sporting, Artistic and Boarding life are all presented in short speeches written by the children and we get to hear about some of the recent highlights in these areas. All of this between lovely food and good company. We would like to thank all the Governors who attended and also thank the School Leaders for being such excellent hosts.

## **Final words**

Once again I thank all contributors to the newsletter and do remember there is never too much material especially from recent years. Have an enjoyable and healthy year.