



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Popular governor passed away

Hugh Eddleston (Chairman of Governors from 2007-12) was instrumental for ensuring that the new Golden Eagle Centre was built and, of course, the performing arts studio and the Edleston project (done by years 7 and 8) carry his name. The Centre holds the sports hall (four badminton sized location), the arts studio and the pupils' changing rooms.

He made a massive contribution to the school during a period of real growth and we are hugely indebted to him. He will be greatly missed.

Old Eagle House hero

Hugh Sayers (OEH 1955 – 59) was tragically killed in Bermuda at the age of 26 – he would have been 70 this year.



Hugh Sayers was born in 1946 and attended Eagle House between 1955-1959. He became a prefect in his last year and played cricket for the First XI before going on to Wellington College where he rowed in the VIII. He qualified for his parachute wings with the Territorial Army before entering the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. On commissioning in 1966, he joined the Welsh Guards.

He was serving in Bermuda as ADC to Sir Richard Sharples, the Governor, when on 10 March 1973 both were assassinated in the grounds of Government House as they walked the Governor's dog after dinner. They are both buried in Saint Peters Church Graveyard, Saint George's Parish, Bermuda.

James Chalmers (OEH 1982 – 88) performs again

I have just seen James' new project that being a film, Choke, for a forthcoming film festival, 48hourfilm. The **48 Hour Film Project** is a contest in which teams of filmmakers are assigned a genre, a character, a prop, and a line of dialogue, and have **48 hours** to create a short **film** containing those elements.

<http://www.48hourfilm.com/london-gb>

A word of warning, the content is very dramatic:

<https://www.48filmproject.com/screening-room/2016/drama/choke>

Boxing in 1955

Boxing has been carried out on the same lines as last year, with everyone receiving one lesson each week, with the addition of periodic "domestic" tournaments, often on a section basis. After protracted negotiations we contrived to arrange a series of bouts with Papplewick again, though these bouts were not representative and our boxers failed to produce the form of which they had previously shown themselves capable. Though Fortin was not here in the Lent term to defend his title, he did the next best thing by winning the new men's Boxing Cup at Wellington in his weight and by boxing for the College. Nicholson, a less polished boxer, but perhaps more formidable opponent, having been awarded the Senior Boxing Cup, would appear to have a good chance of emulating Fortin next year.

Other Seniors who were awarded their colours were Lloyd-Price, J., and Simmonds, J. The cup for the Juniors, who showed more promise than the Seniors, was awarded to Murray, for the second year running. Others to show up well were Maby, M., Whittall, M. A., Lister, Maby, T., Lyster-Todd, Lang and Maby, K.

Some similarities and differences in my 16 years at Eagle House

2003 – 2004 school magazine: Matthew Philips (OEH 1988 – 2004), former pupil and for the last two years member of staff, recalls how much the school has changed in just sixteen years.



Top five differences

Girls - these strange specimens were completely unknown to us at Eagle House, as in many prep schools, in the Eighties and early Nineties. The closest we got to girls was perhaps the matrons and other female staff.

Malan Building - the good old classroom quad was considered 'state-of-the-art' back then! We had all our lessons (except science, art, design and music) in the quad. Leaking roofs, holes in walls, windows and doors that didn't shut properly - great fun during winter!

Pre-Prep - the Pre-Prep began during my last year here. It was not a separate entity then, rather an extension of the Main School by one class. The Pre-Prep has now taken over what used to be the changing rooms, the music school, the day-boy pick-up area, toilets (then called 'tectum'), early design studio and The Ark' (the room immediately at the end of the chapel corridor, then used for RS lessons and other chapel-related events).

Activities - there was no such thing as Golden Eagle, nor such a wide-ranging activities programme. I remember that one of my favourite activities was Cross Country (I think that says something about the exciting things on offer today!).

ICT - this was just called Computing. We had about six BBC computers when the Wootton building opened; Microsoft and Windows were unheard of! There was neither email nor internet. Computers have literally taken over everything in school life, from reports to notices to go up on boards.

Top five similarities

Headmaster and other staff - Mr Carder, Mr Calvey (Senior), Mr and Mrs Buchanan, Mr Grafton and even Mr Edwards (on a number of occasions) were all here during my time. Mr Carder arrived the same term as me, Michaelmas 1988. Mr Calvey was my Housemaster for my last year here, while Mr Buchanan was my form teacher in 6S (the equivalent of today's 8S).

Wootton Building - I was the first class in what is now 3W's classroom, but was then called Lower 1.1 remember having to walk over wooden planks to get to the classroom for the first time (the path hadn't yet been finished), then Mrs Wootton came to open the building officially and the visit by the Duke of Kent a couple of years later (see relevant plaques in Wootton building).

M+B - this is still called the same today except fifteen years ago it was literally milk and a biscuit. Milk (today's orange squash!) used to be good old-fashioned cow's milk - in glass bottles! Biscuits were small chocolate chip cookies; we got excited if they were chocolate orange! Now chocolate bourbons are the order of the day!

Chapel - nothing ever changes there! We still follow the same order of service in the weekdays! We did however have a school chaplain to take the services and teach Divinity (or 'Div') - the old-fashioned equivalent of R.S. There were also Sunday services, week in week out, at which the choir (fully robed) sang and parents were invited to attend.

Lessons and Prep - we still had lessons (roughly the same number in a day) and the same amount of prep, though there were no such things as 'Ds' for bad behaviour - you were just punished immediately. Also, it is worth bearing in mind that punishments in those days were far more serious than today - I was once caught talking after lights out (naughty, naughty!) and my dorm captain had the authority to throw us in the then uncovered swimming pool at Games the next morning (it was January, so not a pleasant place to be at that time of day!).

Despite all this I still look back on my (first!) time at Eagle House with very fond memories - after all, I came back, didn't I?! All of the above was only about ten to fifteen years ago but, almost more than anything else, schools (and private ones in particular) have had to modernise and update themselves. I know it's a cliché, but today's children really don't know how lucky they are!

End of another academic year

Just ten days to go before we have a new influx of members and the school closes for another academic year. In the next newsletter I hope to have extracts from the head's report for the year.