



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY

Douglas Buchanan (Chairman)

56 Longdown Road, Little Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8QQ

Email: douglas@oehs.org.uk Telephone: 01344 775680 or 0794 1951 093

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Yesterday I attended the annual school production and this year it was “Godspell”. What was remarkable about the performance in The Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, was the energy of the cast of 126 and the professionalism they portrayed.

These school ‘plays’ are a far cry from the simple staging in the school hall or in The Hall (the Old Library). Congratulations to the 2017 cast.

School archives website moves forward

As you may be aware the OEHS’ focus has been in creating and expanding a comprehensive, digitised archive of the schools past and we are now on the second stage. Just recently we have uploaded more photographs and material including Barry John’s book, “Unwillingly to School”. We have also invested in software to upload material without involving the host company.

We now need you! We need photographs and other materials from you to enhance our collection and also for you to name pupils in the photographs. Any material received will be handled with utmost care and returned to you.

What we require:

Missing school magazines:

1936 – 39

1946

1956

1961

1963

1966 to 1969

All the 1970s, except 1979

Were there any magazines published in the 1970s?

Magazine publications ended in 2004.

Can you name them:

1935 school photograph – click [here](#).

1980s renunion lunch – Saturday 20 May 2017

A plea from Ross MacLagan. He writes:

“In 2017 it will be 30 years since my peers and I left Eagle House! For some of the 1980s contingent you will be in closer to 40 years since you left!

If you would like to pop back to the school to reminisce about the Court, bases in the woods, going OOB, watching the A team in the TV room, BWJ managing the tuck shop, M & B, games of Donkey Kong, stone picking on Manor, washing in sinks, talking after lights out, inter dormitory pillow fights between Dove and Emu this is your chance!

Please confirm your attendance to: dcbeagleb@gmail.com and pass on the date to as many of your peers as possible.

It would be great to see you there.”

Mr Bean – more accolades:

Robert Scott (OEH 1953 – 57):

“I was delighted to read the letter from Simon Hodgson about Billy Bean. How totally I agree with him about the quality of the staff and how blessed we were with teachers like John Watson, Oliver Lough, Peter Huxtable and Billy Bean. I am convinced that the best teaching I ever experienced was at Eagle House. However, I confess I had forgotten about Billy Bean's English teaching. And I certainly do not remember his running qualities. Simon was 4 years ahead of me. (I hardly dare refer to him as Simon - he was so grand.) But those four years may explain why I remember the Bean rotundity rather than his rapidity.

I associate him entirely with music, chapel, musical appreciation and the annual Carol Concert in Hall and I time my early passion for music and singing from that time and from the man himself. The build-up to Christmas was magical. My problem was that my voice broke when I was 11 and I was downgraded to the 'growlers' horribly early. I longed to be a chorister in white ruff and red cassock. In truth, I was extremely large for my age and this was confirmed by a tale my grand-mother used to tell of my arrival at the school at the advanced age of 9 in September 1953. Incidentally, my terrific Gran, who took me from her home in Crowthorne to the school that fateful day, was Barbara Scott who was the wife of Sumner Scott.

After retirement from many years house-mastering (Combermere and Benson) at Wellington, he taught Latin and Greek part-time at Eagle House. He and Mr Thorpe must have made an elderly pair of classicists. Anyway she always said that the first

person we met at the school that afternoon was Mr Bean, who greeted me cheerfully with the words "My goodness, Scott, you're a big chap!" Quick as a shot, apparently, I came back with "Well, you're not so slim yourself, are you, Sir?" Shyness was never my problem, I admit. My Gran was mortified and speechless, she said - not an easy thing to imagine. However, my point in writing is to remember what a splendid school Eagle House was and what a marvellous team of inspirational teachers Billy Bean joined."

Robert was the chairman of the Manchester Olympic Committee which successfully organised the 2002 Commonwealth Games

Mike Dudgeon (OEH 1951 – 56)

"I too remember Billy Bean – or Gunner Runner Bean as we sometimes irreverently referred to him in view of his military service as well as his speed. A very kind man, who though knowing which group of 3 had crawled behind the organ to reach the back wall of the Chapel (cannot think why) damaging the pipes in the process, never gave us away."

Simon Kay (OEH 1955 – 60)

"I thought that Mr Bean was an excellent man, professional and kind. (He taught me how to tie my tie properly during my first term, because I didn't know how to do it). He taught me the basics in English and I was in his choir for a few years. (It was him who said during a choir practice that I joined after one of my four beatings "The rest of the choir practice will be held standing up.") I also remember his sprinting capabilities and I entirely agree with Simon Hodgson's letter."

Eagle House news

The Greenish Music Competition showcases the very best instrumental talent that we have at Eagle House. The programme requires that each musician plays three pieces that best showcase their talent. The evening was adjudicated by Alison Walker, a distinguished musician, and she gave the cup to Emilie Harper. The competition proved that music is at the heart of Eagle House.

Eagle House was chosen as Best Prep School for Extra-Curricular in the Guide To Prep Schools. This is a great achievement for Eagle House and we are proud that all the wonderful opportunities we offer are recognised. The variety of activities / opportunities is something we strive to make as rich as possible for the benefit of all our children and it is at the heart of the school's special atmosphere.

The Week wrote: *Wellington College's Prep School take extra-curricular activities very seriously. The Golden Eagle programme of 60-plus clubs and activities (from ballet to Minecraft) starts in the Pre-Prep. Golden Eagle Saturdays focus on service, community, action and teamwork - pupils take part in litter clearing and take part in lifesaving and sign language. Year 3 build shelters in the school grounds and by Years 7 & 8 pupils are abseiling Wales and kayaking in the Ardeche.*