



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY

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MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

1980s reunion – final call

If you are planning to come to the informal reunion on Saturday 20 May do let me know by the end of Wednesday (17 May). The reunion starts from 11:30am with mid-morning refreshments and a tour of the school followed by lunch.

Memorial garden has moved

There has been a complete transformation of the siting of the memorial plinth and sundial. Because the area outside the chapel, where the swimming pool was sited originally, was rather bland with a grassed bank and it was decided to move the memorial garden there. After looking at outside agencies to design the area the school turned to the two groundsmen with Kevin Mannering designing the garden and was ably assisted by Jason Neale in building it.

The whole project cost £6000 and because this is a very important site for OEH members the Society has donated £3000 to cover some of expense. Our plan is now to host a special day to dedicate the area later in the year.



School prizes

In last month's newsletter Hugh Rose (OEH 1955 – 59) asked members if they still have their school prizes.

Chris Cobley (OEH 1957 – 64) writes: "I still have a small pewter beer mug inscribed thus: "Brudenil Bruce Cup for General Efficiency 1960 Christopher Cobley".

By strange coincidence a Brudenil Bruce was the one person I met before he entered the school on the ski slopes of Villars in Switzerland. He was a small boy who I very clearly remembered was publicly humiliated in a general assembly by Mr Wootton. This was for having the audacity to nurture a kiss-curl on his forehead at a

time of strict short back and sides. A kiss-curl was presumably indicative of near fatal effeminacy. Paul Wootton, of course, ceremoniously cut off the offending kiss curl with a pair of scissors, there and then! It was an awful lesson to the rest of us... What "General Efficiency" indicated I never really knew, but in a strange way it has been a touchstone for my behaviour ever since!"

John Trafford (OEH 1935 – 40) writes: "For winners of school athletics events in the late 1930s the prize was a pewter tankard, engraved with the school crest, the winner's name and the date. A welcome gift for the boy and an economical one for the school as the same tankards for the same boy was used in events won the following year – the extra expense only being the engraving. I still use my tankard with pleasure." Graham Stephenson (OEH 1947 – 52) writes: "I have a book, *The Thirty Nine Steps and The Power House* by John Buchan which I won for Form III prize Michaelmas 1951. I also have 2 silver spoons and a silver egg cup which were sports prizes I believe.

Red signatures

James Heroys (OEH 1976 – 81) writes: "I revisited Eagle House last year for the first time since leaving when my son (Aldro School) was playing away against Eagle House. I wore my old boys tie and visited the current headmaster in his study. Many years previously, I was in that room being beaten by Mr Greenish!!

I saw your note about "signatures" which reminded me of the first time they were introduced. Alex (surname withheld) and I decided that as it was a new system would it not be something if we were the first two boys ever to get to the end of the signature line within a couple of days. We both reached the maximum (13?) quite easily.

We were both summoned to see the Headmaster and assuming a beating was in order we were somewhat terrified and started to regret our trail blazing efforts. When we explained that we wanted to be the first boys ever to reach the max and had to go out of our way to cause mischief that warranted signatures the Headmaster decided that it showed form so beatings were not going to be carried out although we both had to sit the "earnt" detention time. I have subsequently met Mr Greenish at a wedding who remembered my year well but never remembered beating me (on 2 occasions, one with the fore mentioned Alex, but that's another story!).

For the record I look back with fond memories and in hindsight I probably deserved both my beatings.

School archive website (click [here](#))

Mike Dudgeon (OEH 1951 – 56) has been looking through the website and found the following: "I noted in the Remembrance Book, George Archdale Palmer (EH 1913-15), lost in ship sunk after fall of Singapore. His Great Grandfather, John Horsley Palmer (owner of Hurlingham House), beside where I live, and benefactor of All Saints Fulham whence Canon Joe Hawes (OEH 1973 – 77) comes is my 4xGt Grandfather – makes us cousins of some sort!"