



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY

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Remembrance Parade 2016

Eagle House was represented at the Civic Service of Remembrance on Sunday 13th November 2016 in Sandhurst Memorial Park, Yorktown Road. Five pupils took part in the ceremony that saw the two-minute silence at 11.00am, followed by the laying of wreaths. The Sandhurst Silver Band, St Michael's Church Choir and the Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums provided musical support. Head Boy, Deuce Vatanatham, led

the school's wreath laying and the ceremony was attended by many people from the community as well as the armed forces.

Responses from last month's newsletter

Fob and medallion found

I was intrigued to read about the mystery fob watch and medallion discovered by David Entwistle. My initials are CMK, I was at Eagle House in 1956 and we did live not far from Askrigg - my father was stationed at Catterick at the time. We would from time to time go to Hardraw Scaur, a spectacular waterfall not far from there. I remember that some of us did affect fob watches and I believe my parents did give me one as a present. Typical of me to lose it, if indeed this one was mine. The gilded medallion rings the faintest of bells; I seem to recall something with a raised lip about the size of a florin, but cannot think what it might have been for; it was a very long time ago.

[The items belong to Chris and they have just been posted to him]

Chris Kerr (OEH 1953 – 58)

Adolf

Simon Hodgson (OEHS 1953 – 58) asked if any other OEH remembers Adolf the carpentry teacher.

“Yes, indeed I do and I much enjoyed and benefitted from his instruction. I can remember making a sailing boat which I launched in a lake at Regent's Park without success as the hull was far too heavy for the modest sail but it kept afloat and made very slow progress across the lake to the mirth of other boys who had far more sophisticated professionally made sailing boats. A rather more practical endeavour was a tray with a handle for six eggs which I painted sky blue and presented to my aunt with whom I spent many of my holidays. She was delighted as eggs were still on ration and it helped ensure they were kept safely.

Oh! such happy days. How very fortunate we were to have had the opportunity to go to such an excellent school. My five years there were certainly the happiest days of my pre-twenties' years. Messers Wootton, Watson, Bean, Avery, Huxtable, Miss Gainer, Mrs Thorpe, Matron, Sgt. Pye and Adolf along with cold showers, chapel, Laurel & Hardy films on Saturday evenings, playing "Convoys" in the woods and Dinky cars by the drive way are just some of the memories which still bring a smile to my face.

I hope those who are attending Eagle House today are left with similarly happy memories.”

David Willis (OEH 1950 – 55)

“I remember him well. I was at Eagle House from 1948 to 1950, a shorter period than usual because my family had come back to England after the war when I was eleven. He taught us woodwork and helped me making a boat. He never said much but that was because his English was probably rudimentary.

From what I know, which was only hearsay, he was a German POW who had got the job at E.H. somehow. I believe that he married one of the domestic staff later on. By training he was a plumber, I was told, and left E.H. later to go back to full-time plumbing, rather than being probably a bit of an odd-job man at the school. He was persuaded to play in a staff vs. school cricket match on one occasion and amazed us with vast throw-ins when fielding from right down by the old scoring-box, (built by Mr Watson) right into the hands of the wicket-keeper in the middle of the square.”

Michael Gittins (OEH 1948 – 50)

“I remember the carpenter because he always has a drip on the end of his nose which was very distracting. We always hoped it would freeze in winter, but disappointingly it never did, well not in my presence. I think he was Polish, which now seems unlikely if his name really was Adolf.”

Richard Youens (OEH 1951 – 56)

Mirth in the chapel – Sam Nelson (OEH 1942 – 48)

In about 1944, I joined the Choir as an Alto and soon after I became a Chapel Clerk. The Choir, at that time, lacked an in-house tenor because John Watson (teacher extraordinaire) was 'away' in the war. The boys singing treble and alto parts, supported by Matron who also sung alto. If there was an Anthem to be sung at Sunday morning Matins, or for special occasions such as the Carol Concert, the tenor part was sung by a visiting Wellington master. The organ was always played by Mrs Wootton, with back-up by Matron when called upon.

In late 1945, John Watson, fluent French speaker; member of the Magic Circle; ex international hockey player; talented wood-worker; musician; returned from the war. He supplied the tenor part in the Choir and he also, on the odd occasion, played the organ.

It was the custom that at the end of each service the organ would be played whilst the boys evacuated the chapel in 'orderly fashion'! One evening John was playing and I noted that members of the staff, as they were also leaving, were 'grinning' and doing their best not to laugh out loud. It was a melody which I had not heard before. Subsequently, I learned of its title, - In a Monastery Garden. It was written just before the 1st World War and was classed as 'light classical music'. A noted 'whistler' called Ronnie Ronalde made it both popular and famous in the 30's. It was the sort of song played on BBC Home Service on a Sunday evening. It had absolutely no ecclesiastical connections whatsoever (other than its title) and was quite definitely not classed as music to be played in church. Hence the mirth of members of the school staff as they left the chapel.

WISHING YOU ALL

A HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON AND A HEALTHY 2017