



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Christmas time anecdotes

October has come and nearly gone and all schools will now move into the Christmas mode with carol singing from the practice rooms of the music school or the nativity (or alternative Christmas stories) being rehearsed in the hall. If you have an anecdote about Christmas activities whilst you were at Eagle House I would like to hear from you.

Adolf

Simon Hodgson (OEH 1948 – 53) writes:

I have a very vague memory of a person who featured in my early EH life.

My mother thought I should do carpentry as an "extra", much to my delight later in life, as wood working has always been a joy ever since. Our instructor was a mysterious fellow with the then unfortunate name of Adolf. I remember very little of him except for one kindness he gave me as a project to work on. This was a part finished cigarette box, abandoned by a senior boy who had left the school.

This was a rather sophisticated cigarette dispenser with a box-shaped lid containing roughly a dozen cigarettes. The box slid up and down on a pillar and in doing so revealed the next cigarette for the smoker. My mother was a smoker and I imagined the item might appeal to her, so was delighted to be selected as the "finisher" of the project. It did get some use until it found a storage place in our attic and finally disappeared in a later clear-out.

But who was Adolf, and where did he come from? I never heard him referred to after he left. Did any other OEH remember him?

Found in the Yorkshire Moors

I received this email from a David Entwistle about a find when metal detecting.

Out metal detecting on the moors above Askrigg, North Yorkshire, I found a battered metal job watch, together with a gilded medallion bearing the initials CMK and dated 1956 on one side, whilst on the other, your school motto and crest. All probably of no value, but quite intriguing! Will forward freely and gladly, if desired.

When it arrives, I will take a photograph of the medallion and post it in next month's edition.

From our Facebook pages:

Andrew Bally (OEH 1974 - 79) pasted this photograph and then named the pupils:



Found photo of my class back in 1974 sitting by the edge of the old swimming pool by the chapel.

Top: Thompson P, Balgarne, Trant, Hawtree, Gear, Thompson R, Snider

Middle: Andrew Bally, Harvey

Bottom: Crawford, Liley, Underwood, Littlewood, Edwards, Story

Comments about the photograph from other members:

Hossein Fassa (OEH 1976 – 79): *I remember nearly all the names and faces even though I didn't join this class until 76. Flood of memories. THANK YOU!!*

Jeremy Hampson (OEH 1977 – 83): *Likewise I remember a few of those names despite not joining Eagle House until '77*

Do join our Facebook pages (click [here](#)) and add your comments, questions and images.

From the Eagle House website:

What's on our Doorstep?

This has been the theme for this term's Make A Difference week.

Year groups have visited the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, looked around the Duke of Wellington's house at Stratfield Saye, been to visit the Sri Guru Sabha Gurdwara in Reading, walked through Swinley Forest to find the Iron Age hill fort at Caesar's Camp, toured the local churches in Eversley, Finchampstead and Sandhurst, looked around Wellington College - the chapel and the pond, taken the train on a local transport day, visited the COATES centre in Crowthorne and enjoyed a talk from Eagle House old boy Simon Kay (OEH 1955 – 60).

The week has helped us to understand the things that are located so close by and raised an awareness of the area where we live. It has been great fun and every child has experienced a trip out and learnt all sorts of things.

We are lucky to have our school situated in such a diverse and fascinating area of the country.

Eagle House – 20 years ago

Boarding

This year has seen quite a few changes to the boarding side. Perhaps the most important change was in Buzzard Dormitory, where the seniors were given a toaster, a kettle and piles of bread and spreads to satisfy hunger pangs in the evenings. On a few occasions smoke from burnt toast found its way into the smoke detectors to set off the fire alarm but apart from that even the Housemaster thought it was a good idea to provide more food for the seniors.

Bradfield video competition

For this competition we had to create a promotional video for the school, but the real challenge was that it had to be spoken in French! We planned what we would film in the video, and what had to be said. It took over two weeks to get everything organised, but the day before the deadline, the video had been filmed, edited and titled, all by us.

When we went to Bradfield to see the other entries, we were given a questionnaire by the school to do. The only problem was that even the questionnaire was in French!

When we got the results, we found that Eagle House had done very well, considering the equipment that was available. In fact we came second equal. Eugenio Donadoni, “the voice of the video” and myself, the editor went up to collect “la Medaille d’ Argent”.

Casey Harwood Form 6S

By any chance does anybody have a copy of the said video?

The final words

As part of the What’s On Our Doorstep theme I will be doing a presentation on the heritage of Eagle House on Saturday 10 December at 11:00am. All members are welcome to attend.