



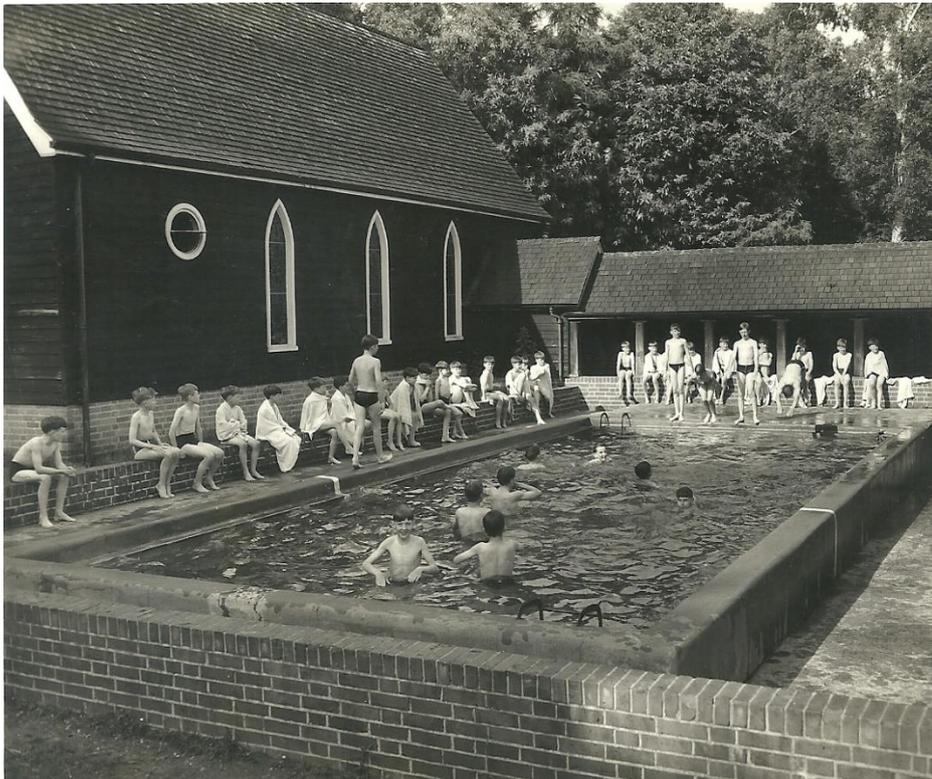
THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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I am actually composing this newsletter on Hayling Island where I have had four restful days after a hectic week in Ireland as part of the Irish Maths Week. Graham Stephenson's photograph of the old swimming pool has raised some interest.



Jeremy Simmonds (OEH 1950 – 55)

"It is Andrew Turnbull (I think) in the pool in the foreground facing the camera. Years later, I was in London Division, Royal Naval Reserve with another OEH, his twin Nigel. I think I am in the picture sitting on the wall just to the right of the right hand chapel window!

Brings back memories. We were taught breast stroke. John Watson was in charge as I recall it. I think his rules were - red(ish) trunks for non-swimmers, blue trunks when you could swim one length or may be two, red stripe down the side of your blue trunks when you could swim four or five lengths and do some sort of a standing dive, twelve lengths and an excellent dive earned a white stripe (I think Jonathan Mitchell had one of those) and then a gold stripe was awarded for a superlative dive, a length underwater and several lengths doing the crawl. Very few had a gold stripe. De Pree was one.

The division between the shallow end and the deep end was marked by the white line on the edge of the pool that you can see in the photo. The maximum depth was probably about 7ft. Sometimes in the summer, instead of cold showers, we used to swim a length first thing in the morning - stark naked of course! I guess that the non-swimmers must have had cold showers on those occasions.

The early morning showers were supervised by Paul Wootton (in his dressing gown) aided by Mrs Illingworth the sub-matron. There were two shower heads over the 'wallow' in the changing room and, when Paul Wootton clapped his hands, the two boys under the showers jumped out and the next two jumped in. Mrs Illingworth used to check that we all had a shower and that we dried ourselves properly afterwards.

There were about 80 boys in the school at the time. Some memories are still very clear, like the French friends that John Watson brought to watch the French play (about 1954), who were astonished that we were not French boys! John Watson had an early recording machine. He may have built it himself. He used to record a very exciting radio play for us called 'Journey into Space'. He wrote the song 'Singing Hi Hi Hi' that won a song contest.

I remember William Desmond ('Billy') Bean (who taught English and music and was organist) particularly well because he joined our family in Devon once or twice when we were on summer holiday. On at least two occasions (1953 and 1954?), he took a party of us to the Albert Hall on Good Friday to listen to the Messiah (all of it). We sat in the front row (blue blazers, short trousers, grey socks with red tops) looking up at Sir Malcolm Sargent on the rostrum."

An observation – Graham Stephenson (OEH 1947 – 52)

I often remember that when I learned to fly at White Waltham in Tigermoths in 1957 it cost £3 per hour to hire the aircraft. You could even buy a tigermoth for £400. Now it costs at least £150 per hour. At the same time I remember that the EH school fees were about £50 a term, late 40s early 50s. Can you confirm that my memory is correct re school fees?

I suppose the average worker's wage then was £200 per year. It would be interesting to review the cost of sending a child to EH in say 1950, a few years after the war. I wonder how much Mr Lambourn's to cost?

We all crowded into his bungalow to watch the test match before lunch

The passing of Nigel Ravenhill (OEH 1953 – 58)

Nigel died on 23rd July 2017, aged 72, died unexpectedly following a brave battle with MND. Nigel was a keen sportsman and represented the school in rugby and hockey and receiving his hockey colours.



I am afraid that although Nigel was on the OEH database there has not been much correspondence for years.

News from the school

Annual Children's Literature Festival – September 2017

An array of talented writers joined us for the biggest festival we have hosted and the buzz around the school was incredible.

Marcus Sedgwick, Andy Cope, Matt Dickinson, Nick Arnold, Kate Maryon, M G Leonard, Tom Palmer and Ben Davis all spoke on Saturday. The Sea Legs Puppet Theatre performed The Ugly Duckling. Jaki Taylor's Creative Tent played host to the Neverland Tea Party and The Once Upon a Story Bus entertained with tales of Peter Pan.

Both days had so many highlights and the best feedback we get is that children have been inspired to pick up a book and read.

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre – Jesus Christ Superstar

Jesus Christ Superstar is a show that has been around for a while but the latest production at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park has to be the best.

Year 8 travelled up to London to see the show on what was a beautiful clear evening. The children loved the production, every aspect of which is simply superb. The set of rusted girders, the urban costumes and brilliant band, the energy and total focus of the ensemble, not to mention the incredible lead actors. There are so many spine-tingling moments it is hard to take your eyes off the stage.

The production won an Olivier Award in March for best Revival of a Musical and it is easy to see why. This was an evening to remember.

More photographs from Graham Stephenson

