



THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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News from Eagle House

The Edinburgh Fringe 2016

Our show Burying Your Brother in the Pavement was a great success and we had a reasonable audience each day. The cast was superb and everyone grew as a performer over the week.

We had some great audience response. The most exciting was from Glenn Chandler, writer and creator of the TV detective Taggart, "MUST SEE is Burying Your Brother in The Pavement. Grief, love and gayness all handled by 13 year olds. Astonishing. 5 stars.

We were out on the Royal Mile each day to promote the show and we also managed to see a good number of shows as well. The Edinburgh Fringe is such an experience and becomes addictive! We are already planning 2017.

To get a flavour of our show have a look at this short film by clicking [here](#).

New Eagle House promotional video

Click [here](#) to view it.

From the archives 21 years ago

THE DRAMA BEFORE THE FARCE

A PLAY IN ONE ACT

The day is Friday 9 December 1995, the morning of the first performance of An Evening of Farce – the time 7:45am.

Andrew Barnard, [now headmaster] one of the leading roles, telephones the Director of the production, Douglas Buchanan.

APNB: Sarah and I are off to the Maternity Ward – I am sure everything will be fine and I will see you tonight. Do not worry.

The Director rings up Matthew Edwards, an ex-colleague who now teaches in Hertfordshire. He played one of the roles four years ago.

The answer phone came into operation.

DCB: Good morning, Mr Edwards, as Director of the Evening of Farce I have a special request that you put yourself on standby to partake in this evening's performance if Andrew is unavailable. If you do not have your Gosforth script please let me know.

No messages from APNB or MWPE.

Matthew is rung again. The answer phone comes into action.

DCB: Good afternoon, Mr Edwards. There is now a strong possibility that you will be performing tonight. I am sure you will not mind giving up your seat for a place on our 'illustrious' stage. I will telephone you at 4:00pm to finally confirm the situation.

Five minutes later.

MWPE: Can you explain the two messages on my answer phone – I know it is a wind up.

DCB: I promise you it is not, Matthew, we need your services.

MWPE: I know you, Buchanan, you do like winding people up. Tell me it is a wind up.

DCB: No, I promise you that Andrew will not be available ...

Ten minutes later.

MWPE: Stop messing me about – is this a wind up?

DCB: To confirm that we have a problem let me put you onto the Head.

Matthew kindly agreed to help us out.

4:00pm - a telephone call from MWPE.

MWPE: I presume Andrew will not be coming tonight. I have learned the whole play and I just want one rehearsal.

The rest of the tale is known by all who attended the performances. Matthew played an important role in making the production a success.

All according to 3.142

Sorry, a cheap joke! The response about Sgt Pye was amazing and here are some of the contributions:

“I too remember Sgt Pie with great fondness even if he gave me the nick name Yo Yo presumably because I was always bouncing up and down in PT. He had a pretty wife

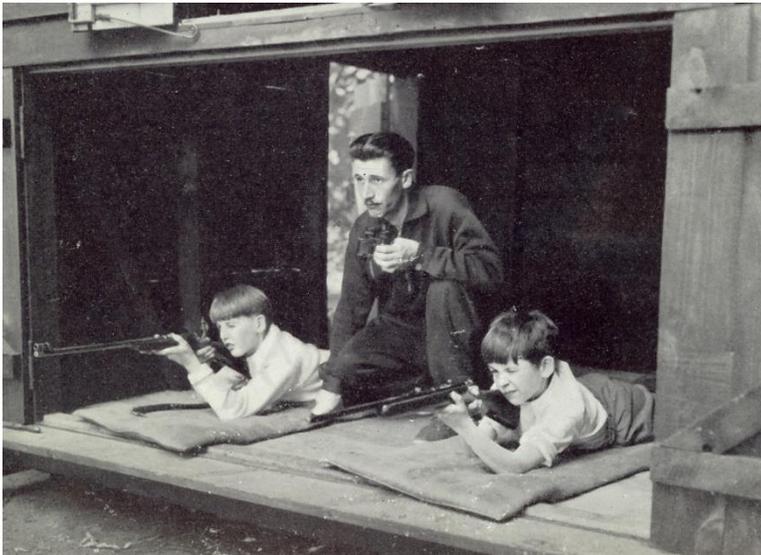
called Valerie who helped in the kitchen and cleaned the dormitories, which involved emptying the jerries, the image of which is seared in my memory.”

Richard Youens (OEH 1951 – 56)

“I too remember Sgt Pye (just “Sergeant” to us all, and in particular the gym – about the only sport where I showed some (miniscule!) talent, and the .22 shooting at which I did fairly well. Looks a bit like me on the right, but probably not, and George ‘Nutty’ Almond on left. Anyone know for sure?” Mike Dudgeon (OEH 1951 – 56)

“Sgt Pye's wife was called Valerie, I think. She was Austrian and worked in the kitchens. She showed welcome kindness to small boys away from home! Almost all the teachers including Sgt Pye were outstanding in the 1950's. I never knew that he was an ambulance driver who was awarded the MM but it doesn't surprise me.” Mark Lloyd Price (OEH 1952 - 57)

“The last I heard, Richard and Valerie Pye were living in Shirley. I don't know if he's still alive. If he is, he must be in his 90s. He was a kind, decent and conscientious man.” Robin Bailey (OEH 1953 – 59)



“Interesting that photo of Sergeant Pye at the shooting range - Graham Huntley on his right and me on his left! He was an inspirational boxing teacher. Valerie, his wife was lovely.” Jeremy Simmonds (OEH 1950 – 55)

“David Gittins and I were exact contemporaries both at Eagle House and Wellington, at both of which he excelled on the games field and in the classroom. I well remember Sargent Pye, as much for his .22 rifle shooting, from its hut near to Juno's grave, as for his PT instruction. To hear of Sergeant Pye war record makes his memory very special as few of us knew of his heroics at the time. Sargent Pye's very kindly wife was I think Polish and called Valerie. She worked as one of the domestic staff. We saw her quite often as they lived in a flat accessed from a door in the old courtyard, right next to the door to the 1948 carpenter's shop.” Simon Hodgson (OEH 1948 – 53)

The final word

I hope our newest members are settling down in their new environs. If you have any wonderful memories of Eagle House do let us share them.