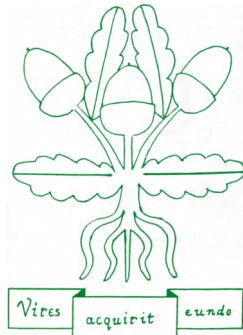




OLD EALONIANS ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2013



Chairman's Report

Since the last Newsletter, the Annual Lunch has taken place at the TASTE Restaurant of the Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College at the Hammersmith Campus. It was a very enjoyable experience with good food and excellent company. So much was the lunch enjoyed that we are planning to repeat it again this year.

A report appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Editor, George Barker, has still not fully recovered from his serious illness last summer so John Holdstock has taken over the task of producing future editions of the Newsletter. Our Secretary, Donald Robertson, was also very seriously ill at the beginning of the year but thankfully he is now on the road to recovery.

On a much more pleasant note, on behalf of the Association, I would like to offer many congratulations to David Tanner CBE on being awarded a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List for his services as performance director for GB Rowing for more than 16 years. He is the person mainly responsible for putting in place the facilities and people necessary to ensure the great rowing successes in recent years in this country.

David was a teacher at Ealing Grammar School in the late 1970s where he formed the "Ealing Four" rowing

team which went on to win three World Championship medals and an Olympic Bronze at Moscow in 1980.

As you will see below, your committee has planned a series of visits for this year for OEA members in which I hope many of you will be able to participate.

Under our new Rules of the Association, the Annual General Meeting has to be held in March or April each year and I am pleased to state that we have been able to book the Ealonian Room (A118) in the Old School on Friday 22nd March 2013.

The AGM will take place at 12.30pm and will be followed by a buffet lunch provided by the College. Then I am pleased to announce that Dr Jonathan Oakes, the Chief Archivist of LB of Ealing Libraries has agreed to give an illustrated talk on infamous people associated with Ealing.

I am also pleased to inform the members that Mr Donald Kincaid, the last Headmaster of Ealing Green High School has agreed to allow his name to go forward for re-election as President of the Association.

As I have to notify the names of people attending a week in advance, would you please telephone (01494 433185) or email me (johnandcarolox@btinternet.com) to inform me if you are coming to the AGM by Friday 15th March. As usual, guests are more than welcome to

attend this event.

With this Newsletter, a booking form is included with details of all the visits organised this year. Please return it to Donald Robertson at your earliest convenience. At this stage we are only looking for provisional commitments, formal intentions will only be required nearer the various dates when I will contact people with final arrangements.

The College is planning an event in September to mark the centenary of the admission of the first pupils to the School in 1913. As yet we have no details but will circulate information as soon as it is known. We are still looking for material regarding the history of the School and if anyone has anything that might be interesting for inclusion in a commemorative book then will you please let either Donald Robertson or me know.

The Committee felt that in future, editions of the Newsletter should include stories about some of the activities of pupils whilst at the School. Some of us well remember the snowball fights with the pupils of Clarks College or playing football in Walpole Park with our blazers as goalposts but still wearing our caps! If you have any stories or reminisces amusing or otherwise you are happy to share then please send them to our Editor, John Holdstock..

Belatedly may I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and look forward hopefully to seeing many of you again at the AGM?

John T Oxley

20th February 2013

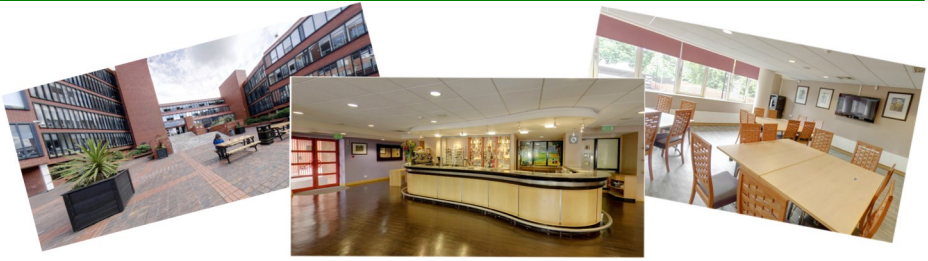


In Memoriam

Sadly, news has been received of the deaths of the following:

- Michael Allan (1943 to 1950), died 12th December 2012
- John Railton, music teacher, died on 19th February 2013
- Henry “Mick” Siederer (1938 to 1943), died on the 17th November 2012

The Association’s commiserations are extended to their families. Obituaries for John Railton & Mick Siederer appear on subsequent pages.



OLD EALONIANS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL LUNCH

THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2012

On a bright sunny but windy day, a party of eighteen Old Ealonians and their guests descended on the Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College - Hammersmith Campus for our Annual Lunch in their TASTE Restaurant. The college is close to Barons Court LU Station so most of us travelled by train although parking spaces were made available for four cars belonging to those of us who were prepared to endure driving on the A4 into London.

Most of us had arrived early and we were shown straight through to the restaurant and were seated at a



large rectangular table by 12.30pm. Whilst waiting for the stragglers to arrive (officially it was 12.30 for 1pm lunch), we were able to enjoy chatting to each other and catching up on news.

With most of us present before 1pm, we started ordering from a reasonably extensive menu. There was certainly enough choice to cover everyone's dietary needs. A glass of a very pleasant tasting wine was provided with the meal which consisted of three courses. All of these courses were expertly cooked and well presented on the plates when served. Unfortunately, some of the student waiters and waitresses were inexperienced and it showed as they served the food or collected the dirty dishes.

After the meal we were able to relax with a cup of coffee or tea. At which point, Bert Longhurst distributed

copies of another edition of his Swan Uppers Gazette. Once again it showed a high level of artwork, craftsmanship and humour and delighted everyone present, particularly with its “in” jokes.

Two and a half hours passed very pleasantly and quickly and we all agreed that we had had a very good lunch with the enjoyable company of old friends. Grateful thanks were expressed to the manager of the restaurant and to his staff and reluctantly we took our leave and began our respective journey’s home. I have the strong impression that next year’s Annual Lunch will be at the same venue.

P.S. TASTE stands for To Achieve

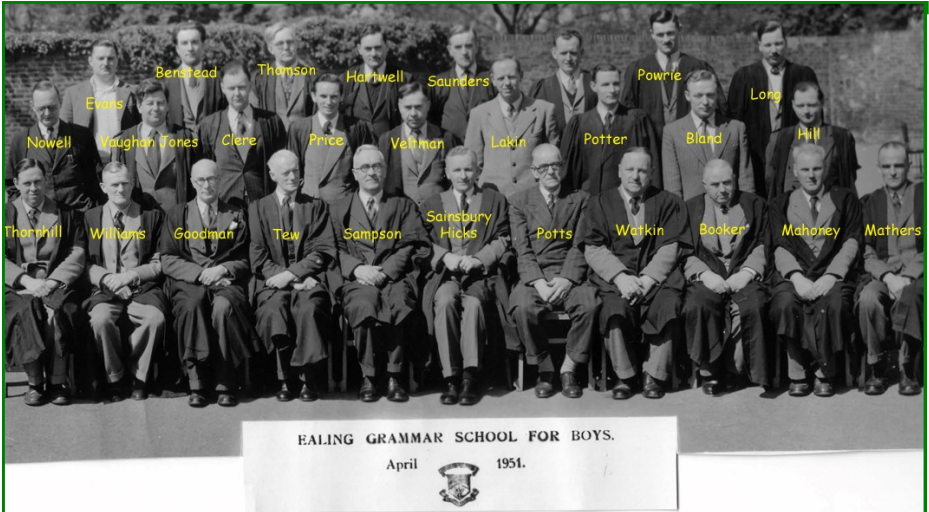
Success Takes Education. The restaurant is open to the public for lunch every weekday. On Mondays it is a carvery buffet lunch whereas on Tuesdays through to Friday there is an a la carte menu with three courses costing only £8.95. More details can be found on the college website or by contacting John Oxley.

Old Ealonians and guests present were: Victor Boulter, Brian and Jacqui Edmondson, Bert and Clive Longhurst, Robin and Angela Marchell, Colin Miell, John and Carol Oxley, Donald and Marjorie Robertson, Alan and Dorothy Rowland, Paul and Jane Waterhouse, Jim and Lesley Wisden.

John G Oxley



- * What’s the story here?
- * Who are these characters?
- * What going on?
- * Does the name RG Mazurkwi ring a bell?



You came back with all the names, bar one—the teacher on the back row

Henry (Mick) Siederer
(1927-2012)

(School years 1938 to 1943)



Mick’s son, Nigel, has written to inform us of his father’s death on 17th November 2012. Mick was 86 years old and looked back fondly on his time at Ealing County School for Boys, which included the evacuation to Aylesbury.

Nigel sent the following tribute to his father:

Mick was an accidental child. His father, originally from Austria, was a hairdresser & was glad to have a son late in life, but sadly he died when Mick was still a young man, one of the very first people to be buried in the local cemetery. Mick’s mother was a little Dutch lady. They lived for many years in Ealing, where Mick grew up.

They were a talented family - Mick’s arrival had interrupted his older sister’s career as a child star - and it was Mick who introduced us to music. The family was also very argumentative.

This was a talent Mick put to good use in his professional life. He trained as a quantity surveyor, did complex building negotiations, and then re-trained as a chartered arbitrator,

settling arguments rather than making them. He always had an ear for a funny story, and one of his achievements in later life was to publish an absolutely hilarious book of anecdotes revealing the secrets of the building trade.

One of his earliest jokes was to re-name himself Mickey, after Mickey Mouse, in place of Henry, the formal name his parents had given him, after his grandfather.

He was slightly too young for military service in the War, and like many teenagers was caught up in both the fear and the excitement of the time, with tales of being evacuated from London and then escaping back from evacuation. He was intrigued when members of his father's family escaped to London, and shocked when some could not.

From those feelings, he developed a lifelong hatred of racism, and acquired an ability to make friends among members of other faiths. He put this to good use as an elected councillor for many years on Luton Borough Council. He was one of those councillors who were not well known but whose public-spiritedness helps lively communities to function.

He was married to our mother Brenda for just over 60 years, and missed her terribly since her death three

years ago. His last years were punctuated by uncharacteristic ill--health. He was always a physically fit person and we are now trying to reflect on happier times, remembering him as a generous, kind and active man.

We know he was immensely proud of the three of us sons and his four grandchildren. We're going to miss him.

Nigel Siederer

Michael Allan
(1931-2012)

(School years 1943 to 1950)

Mic Allan's daughter has written to say that her father died on 12th December 2012.

After leaving Ealing County School he went to Bristol University and did his National service in the RAF becoming a Flight Lieutenant. Afterwards he joined Glaxo and became Company Secretary.

We hope that a friend of Mic's will provide us with a fuller tribute to his life, which we will publish in a future edition of the magazine.

John Railton



O.Es who attended the school in the 1950's and 1960's will be saddened to hear of the death of John Railton, who taught music.

He was a very popular, dynamic and enthusiastic teacher, and was particularly remarkable for having only one arm following an operation for cancer.

A colleague from that period was John Harman, who writes:

It was a privilege to work with John as a colleague. He had the rare quality of being unassuming and inspiring at the same time. My wife, Margaret, worked alongside his wife, Kathleen at Costons school.

My most abiding memory of John was his courage and virtuosity in playing the organ at Assembly within only a few weeks of losing his arm.

But I remember also the Carmina Burana production in Westminster.

Maurice Hill and Geoff Clear had provided staff with translations of the Latin and German lyrics.

We hoped that our young charges were not entirely aware of quite what medieval bawdy they were singing!

John Harman



MBE Award

Just over a year ago, when he was living in Totnes, John was awarded an MBE for services to music.

He was acknowledged as an acclaimed musician and composer and had retired in 2009 as a musical director and conductor of Dartington Community Choir.

Ealing Youth Opera reported John's death as follows:

We are very sad to report that our founder John Railton passed away on Tuesday 19th February.

John started EYO in 1959 when he was a teacher at Ealing Grammar

School, and remained conductor and musical director for the next twenty years. We all have a great deal to be grateful to him for and send our appreciation and heartfelt condolences to his family. Further details will be forwarded when they become available.

You can see a delightful tribute to John, made following his investiture last year, by going to the following link on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1-h16Kya8U>

Alternatively, type 'John Railton MBE' in the Google search and choose the YouTube item.

Olympic Games in Sydney, four in Athens in 2004 and, at Beijing 2008, topped the rowing medal table with six medals.

At home for London 2012, Great Britain increased this tally to nine medals, four of them gold, to once again earn the accolade of 'best Olympic nation'. Until London, no rowing nation "in the modern era" had won more than six medals at an Olympic Games.

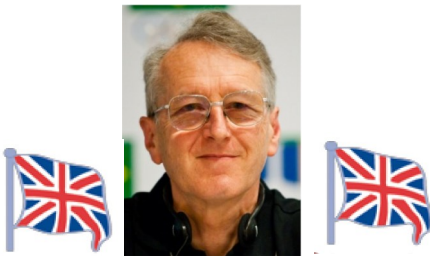
As a teacher at Ealing Grammar School, he coached the 'Ealing Four' in the late 1970s, starting them from scratch as schoolboys and taking them through to win three World Championships medals at Junior and Senior level and an Olympic bronze in Moscow in 1980.

Whilst still a teacher, he was Great Britain's Senior Team Manager from 1991-1996 which included the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympics. After Atlanta, he was recruited to the full time role of Performance Director with British Rowing.

He is an historian, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Freeman of the City of London. He received an OBE for Services to Rowing in the 2003 Queen's Birthday Honours, a CBE in the New Year's Honours of 2009 and a Knighthood for his services to Rowing in 2013.

(Report details taken from British Rowing press release)

Sir David Tanner CBE



As mentioned in the Chairman's report, David Tanner, teacher at the school in the late 1970's, has been knighted for his services to rowing. He has been British Rowing's Performance Director since 1996, and has led the sport to great success. GB won three medals at the 2000

Twickenham Rugby Stadium

Visit

Wednesday 17th October 2012



A party of nine Old Ealonians and guests assembled at the Twickenham Stadium Rugby Shop on a sunny mid-October afternoon to participate in the 1.30pm tour.

There was only one other person on the tour, a gentleman from Hong Kong, when our guide Chris Woodhead greeted us before conducting us to a lift to take us to the highest point in the South Stand. Here he gave us an abbreviated history of the origin of Twickenham Stadium and rugby internationals in England.

I had not realised that the first international (between England and Scotland) had been played at the Kennington Oval, where the first FA Cup Final had also been played and that “Billy’s Cabbage Patch” had in fact been a market garden out in the countryside beyond London



before being bought by the English Rugby Union. The proximity of Kneller Hall swung the vote in favour of the Stadium being built in Twickenham. Harlequins Rugby Club had originally been tenants of the ground for many years before they got their own ground nearby at “The Stoop”.

Twickenham like Wembley is used for many events apart from rugby matches such as conferences, live concerts and Jehovah Witness’s festivals.

Whilst sitting at the top of the stadium, we were able to observe a hawk being used to scare off pigeons and the system of illuminating the pitch with powerful lights to stimulate grass growth. Amazingly the ground staff cut the grass everyday throughout the year with relatively small lawn mowers in perfectly straight strips across the ground guided by people walking behind them covering a total distance of seven miles!

What surprised me was that by having terracing as in a theatre, one was able to



see people on the pitch much more clearly than at comparable grounds such as the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff or Wembley Stadium.

Eventually we returned to ground level and entered the West Stand by the main stadium entrance and went up to the Council Room where the governing body of Rugby meet and the structure of the RFU was explained to us.

Then we were led out to the Royal Box where we were able to sit in the more comfortable seats used by royalty and other dignities. After having our photographs taken, we descended to pitch level where we could inspect the grass from a short distance. It is grown from seed mixed with plastic rather than using laid turves. As at Wembley we were not allowed onto the actual grass, only the perimeter artificial surrounds!

Slowly we made our way round the pitch along the perimeter track. I was surprised to see that the North end of the

pitch for drainage purposes is a few feet above the perimeter track.

We then proceeded out of the stadium and headed towards the National Rugby Museum which is at the back of the East Stand.

As the tour had already lasted over two hours and as I had another engagement that evening, I regretfully had to miss out on this part of the tour. So I said my goodbyes to the rest of the party and thanked the guide on behalf of the Old Boys for an excellent and enlightening afternoon visit to Twickenham Stadium before joining the pre-rush hour heavy traffic on the M3 and M25 on my way home.

John C Oxley

Participants on the tour: Victor Boulter, John Holdstock, Colin Miell, John Oxley, Alan Rowland, Bert Longhurst, his son Clive and two friends (both Brentford supporters!).

THE ANNALS OF THE OLD EALONIANS' ASSOCIATION

begun by the late ALAN A. WYLIE
(sometime Vice-Chairman of the Association)

[continued by G.E. Barker]

(continued from the Newsletter for Autumn 2011)

CHAPTER 6 : RISE AND DECLINE 1948 - 1963

(continued)

In Autumn 1952, the Badminton Club reported an improved level of play, and the introduction of a second weekly meeting night. Also, ladies were now admitted to membership, and they proved to be enthusiastic players and supporters. Play arrangements were on Mondays and Thursdays in the School hall.

In mid-July the Annual Cricket Match against the School took place at Cayton with 1st and 2nd elevens. The First Eleven drew their match against the School. Drane (43-49) bowled well for the OEs. The Second Eleven scored 76 on an easy-paced wicket, and then, perhaps surprisingly, bowled out the School for 28 runs!

In the Old Boys' League, the Football 1st Eleven were the most successful team, and finished third in Division I. The 2nd and 3rd Elevens both finished sixth in their respective divisions. Apart from football, nearly 40 members and friends enjoyed two social activities - a Ladies Night and an outing to Littlehampton.

As for School Rowing, the OEs started the year with four members of the previous year's First VIII, in addition to

the cox, but even after completing the eight we had enough oarsmen left to produce a second eight for the first time in the Club's history. Unfortunately, it was placed in a league higher than its performances justified, and it came as something of a relief when a season of unbroken defeat (not quite: one of our opponents scratched!) ended with relegation. Better things were hoped for in 1953.

The First Eight were coached by the captain of Twickenham Rowing Club, and had a successful season, finishing second in League Four of the Schools' Competition.

An Old Ealonian at Helsinki:

Raymond Parker (31-37) was selected for the 10.000 metres kayak pairs race at the Olympic Games held in Helsinki in 1952. Before the teams left this country, they attended a reception at Buckingham Palace, where they met the Royal Family, and, of course, they saw the Duke of Edinburgh again when he went to Helsinki. Raymond was impressed most at Helsinki by the fact that other teams had been engaged in full-time training for several months, whereas the British team's preparation had been relatively scanty.

OE Swimming had, in the summer season of 1952, its most successful period since the Club was reformed in 1945. Amongst other activities, a river handicap and outing was held over a new course at Bourne End. The old course at Henley had been abandoned because of the growing opposition of

fishermen to our frolics! The previous year's visit to Hayling Island was repeated in June 1952.

Table Tennis continued but without the hoped-for better table, and play was not possible in the West London TT League, which OEA had entered in the previous season. Hence, only friendly matches were played

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in October to consider alterations to the Association's rules.

A lengthy list of academic honours was given in Autumn of 1952, including those of B.G. Andrews (42-49), K.L. Brown (41-48), H.I. Connick (38-45), K.A. Duke (42-49), G.A. Goodhew (40-47), A.J. Mansfield (40-47), I.C. Percival (42-49), J.J. Smith (39-46), and A.J. Wenham (42-49).

Other brevities recorded by the *Acorn* in Autumn 1952 included the appointment of Mr G.H. Bantock (on the staff 1937-1943) as Lecturer in Education at UC Leicester; Dr Colin Burns (39-46) as Lecturer in French at University of Nottingham; A.J. Trott (37-44) appointed Senior English Master at King Edward's School, Birmingham at the early age of 26; and W.S.J. Wilkinson (18-22) elected Junior Vice-President of the National Association of Furniture Warehousemen and Removers Ltd.

In February 1953, an Old Boys' Dinner was held at Oddeninos Restaurant in London, and the Headmaster, A. Sainsbury Hicks writing in March of the year described it as one of the most enjoya-

ble OEA Dinners that he had attended. However, he commented on the relatively small attendance and the age of those present with very few young OEs. [Ed. - little changes !].

Events in the period late-52 and early-53 included a concert by the London Society of Magicians (Oct 52), the Extraordinary GM (Oct 52), the School Speech day in the Town hall (Nov 52), the Annual dance (Nov 52), the School Play [The Tempest] (Dec 52), the Carol Service in the Parish Church, Ealing (Dec 52), the Christmas Supper (Dec 52) and the Annual Dinner (Feb 53) referred to above.

The *Acorn* for Spring 53 included interesting article on Farming by G.E. Wickens (42-45) [who had taken up farming after a degree course in Agriculture] and a lengthy article, full of interest, on Swiss Holidays 1924-1952 by R.F. Stubbs (20-25).

Clubs were still very active in early 1953, and reports came from the Badminton Club, the Football Club (with two Elevens in action), the Table Tennis Club and the very active Swimming Club. Brevities included the detail that J. Chapman (45-50) had just departed for service "in Persian waters" with the Royal Navy; Peter Cook (44-49) was training with the RAF in Canada; and Sgt Brian Edmondson (46-51) had just gained his pilot's licence at the age of 17, and was making his career with the RAF.

(To be continued)



Class of 1952/59 Reunion in Summer of 2011

1 Robin Belcher; 2 Michael Richards; 3 Mike Steed; 4 Peter Nurse; 5 John Wood; 6 Tom Chapman; 7 David Bradshaw; 8 Fred Batten; 9 Brian Jales; 10 Alan Stubbs; 11 David Williams; 12 Alan Chapman; 13 John Hilling; 14 Roger Harmer; 15 Harry Hine; 16 Rodney Girdlestone; 17 Peter Roberts; 18 Brian Gorringer; 19 Richard Powell; 20 Colin Harrison; 21 Mike Sargeant; 22 Max Tyro; 23 John Marks; 24 Guy Rundle; 25 David Howe; 26 Richard Walmesley; 27 Nelson Stephens; 28 Peter Chapman; 29 David Crowhurst; 30 Patrick Largey; 31 Rodney Girdlestone; 32 John Holdstock.

THE LAST WORD

My thanks to those of you who have contacted me. If you would like to contribute to future editions, please drop me a line by post or email. My contact details are given on the back page.

Finally, we extend our sincere best wishes to Donald Robertson for a speedy return to full health. The same goes to any of you who are facing challenges right now.

Keep well and best wishes.

John Holdstock



**OLD EALONIANS ASSOCIATION
BOOKING FORM**

PLEASE COMPLETE PERSONAL DETAILS AND EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME: YEARS AT SCHOOL

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Annual General Meeting, Friday 22nd March 2013

I will/will not be attending the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 22nd March 2013 in the Ealonian Room (room 118) of the former Ealing Grammar School for Boys commencing at 12.30pm which will be followed by refreshments in the form of a buffet lunch. [Please delete as appropriate]

I will be bringing guest(s) for the meeting. Name(s) of guest(s)

The London Wetland Centre at Barnes, Tuesday 18th June 2013

The group will need to meet at the centre at 11.15am in order to participate in the guided tour at 11.30pm which lasts about an hour and a half. Lunch can be taken in the Water's Edge Café. Afterwards you can watch the otters (2pm) and the birds being fed (3pm). The cost is £8.70 for Seniors and £11.65 for other adults. There is ample free car parking at the centre in Queen Elizabeth Walk, Barnes, SW13 9WT.

If you are interested then please indicate below and John Oxley will provide more information nearer the dates.

I wish/do not wish to participate in the London Wetland Centre on Tuesday 18th June and will be bringing Guest(s).
[Please delete as appropriate]

Name(s) of Guest(s)

Windsor Castle Visit, Wednesday 10th July 2013

The group will meet outside the booking office in front of the main entrance to the Castle at 2pm. Entry to the Castle's State Apartments and St Georges' Chapel costs £16.15 for Seniors and £17.75 for other adults. There is adequate car parking in the town – the nearest is probably the Shopping Centre car park.

If you are interested then please indicate below and John Oxley will provide more information nearer the date.

I wish/do not wish to participate in the Windsor Castle Visit on Wednesday 10th July and will be bringing Guest(s).
[Please delete as appropriate]

Name(s) of guest(s)

Wimbledon Tour, Thursday 29th August 2013

The guided tour includes visits to the two main courts and other important buildings as well as the museum. It last about two and a half hours and costs £18.75 for Seniors and £21.50 for other adults. It has to be booked in advance and I suggest we participate in the 2.30pm tour which means checking in at 2pm. There are car parks in the area although you are encouraged to use public transport.

If you are interested then please sign below and John Oxley will provide more information nearer the dates.

I wish/do not wish to participate in the Wimbledon Tour on Wednesday 29th August and will be bringing Guest(s).
[Please delete as appropriate]

Name(s) of Guest(s)

Kensington Palace Visit, Saturday 21st September 2013 (Open House London Weekend)

Last year, entrance was free this weekend as Kensington Palace was part of the London Open House Weekend. Hopefully, this will be true again this year but we will not know until August. Otherwise the cost will be £12.40 for Seniors who have to show ID and £15.00 for other adults. [One pound each can be saved if we are able to book one week in advance online]

The party will meet outside the booking office in Kensington Gardens next to the Palace at 2pm.

If you are interested then please indicate below and John Oxley will provide more information nearer the date.

I wish/do not wish to participate in the Kensington Palace Visit on Saturday 21st September and will be bringing Guest(s).
[Please delete as appropriate]

Name(s) of guest(s)

**Please return the whole of the form, even if you only wish to attend one of the events by 15th March 2013, to:
Donald Robertson, 3 North Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 8JS ; tel: 01753-883436; donrobby@fiscali.co.uk**

If you intend to be present at the AGM on 22nd March please notify John Oxley as well at johnandcarolox@btinternet.com or by phone on 01494 433185



OFFICERS' CONTACT DETAILS

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Bucks SL9 8JS; 01753 883436

donrobby@tiscali.co.uk

EDITORIAL

If you would like to contribute articles or photos

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