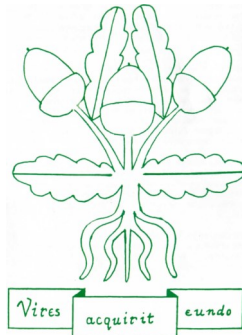




OLD EALONIANS ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2013



Chairman's Report

2013 has certainly been a busy year with a variety of events taking place involving the Old Ealonians through the cold Spring and into the long hot and sunny summer. In March we held the AGM in the Ealonian Room of the Old School building. Despite the attendance being slightly disappointing, we were able to enjoy an excellent buffet lunch provided by the College and a fascinating talk given by Dr Jonathan Oakes, the Borough of Ealing's archivist, on infamous people associated with Ealing.

During the summer we organised four visits for Old Ealonians to the London Wetland Centre at Barnes, Windsor Castle, Wimbledon All England Club and Kensington Palace. Unfortunately, attendance was low for all of these and in fact the visit to Windsor Castle was cancelled as I was the only participant! Of the others, I was only able to visit the London Wetlands Centre due to other commitments but I found it a fascinating place (see report elsewhere in this Newsletter) and I will certainly make a return visit in the future.

On 13th September after much prodding, the College held a celebration reception for the centenary of the foundation of Ealing County Grammar School for Boys. It was a very enjoyable occasion and I was pleased to see so many OEs in attendance despite the short notice given by the invitations. Inevitably it was an event full of nostalgia as people reminisced about their School days and in my case my time as a teacher as well.

I gave a speech about some of the "happens" and individuals I remember from my time at the School. It has been suggested that I should write down these memories so that they can be published in a future edition of the Newsletter. I had not realised until I came to make notes for my "speech" that this year marked the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Old Ealonians Association. Is it too early to begin planning how we will celebrate the centenary in ten years' time?

One event remains for this year and that is the Annual Lunch which will take place on Tuesday 19th November at the College's TASTE Restaurant at the Barons Court campus. We have already fixed the date for next year's AGM (Wednesday 9th April 2014) which will once again take place in the Ealonian Room (A118) of the old School Buildings. A booking form for these two events is included with this Newsletter and we appreciate that the AGM is some time away so we only require an indication that you hope to attend at this stage, not a firm commitment. As yet we have not formalised plans for next year's organised visits etc. but a detailed itinerary will be published in the Spring 2014 Newsletter.

Now that it is October, Autumn is well advanced and, living in the Chilterns, it has been a lovely time of year with the yellows and reds of the leaves on the Beech trees. However, they remind me that Christmas is only two months away and shops are already full of Christmas goods.

So, may I wish you all the best of health for the remainder of this year and may we all look forward to a peaceful and stress-free 2014.

John T Oxley

20th September 2013

Celebration of 100 years of Education in Ealing

Well it took place! Eventually, after much prompting the Ealing, Hammer-smith and West London College organised a reception to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the old School back in September 1913. So on Friday 13th September about fifty Old Ealonians, college staff and guests assembled in the Ealonian Room (A118) of the Ealing campus of the College at 12 noon. We were greeted with the offer of a glass of wine before being introduced to the Principal of the College, Paula Whittle. Despite the short notice provided by the invitation, nearly thirty Old Ealonians were in attendance. A reporter and a photographer from the Ealing Gazette were also present and Bert Longhurst, the most senior OE present, was interviewed and photographed along with other members of the Association. Photographs for the college website were taken and an article has subsequently been posted. The old house competition shield had been rescued from the disastrous fire ten years ago by the caretaker and was included in many

of the photos taken. The shield is now in the safekeeping of Bert Longhurst.

The college had provided a fine buffet lunch which we were invited to enjoy before the speeches began at 1pm. Firstly, the College Principal, Paula Whittle, spoke about the College's rich educational heritage from the days when it was a boys' grammar school to now, when it provides a wide variety of academic and vocational courses. The local MP, Angie Bray, and the Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Ealing, Councillor Tej Ram Bagha, both highlighted the significance of the College's activities in the wider community, The Chairman of the OEA, John Oxley, then reminisced about his time at the School and later as a teacher as he recalled a number of incidents and personnel at the School which brought back fond memories to the Old Ealonians present. John concluded by reading the letter sent to the Queen by the Association and the response which congratulate the Association and the College on the centenary of the foundation of the School.



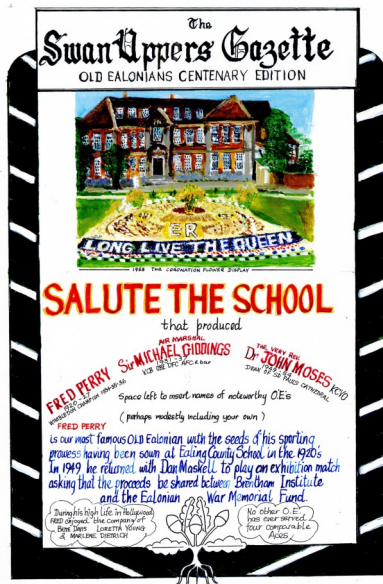
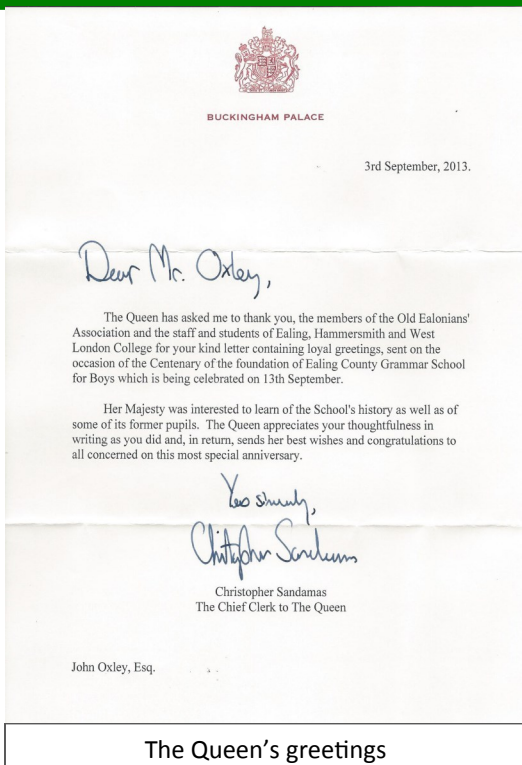
Old Ealonians & others at the reception

Edward Hope, another Old Ealonian, then spoke about the career of perhaps the most famous of ex-pupils of the School, Fred Perry. He recalled not only his tennis triumphs but also his prowess at table-tennis and how he came to settle in America. Bert Longhurst had produced a centenary edition of the Swan Upper's Gazette which saluted the achievements of past pupils of the School. Copies were distributed to Old Ealonians present who admired the quality of the pictorial and written work he had produced.

Eventually, all good things must come to an end and after more than two hours of renewing acquaintances with old school chums it was time to leave. Profuse thanks were offered to the college for organising the celebrations and in particular to the Principal for hosting the occasion and also to Hannah Burrows from the College who had been the main organiser.

John T Oxley

Bert Longhurst has kindly sent me a copy of the 'Swan Uppers Gazette' which he produced in celebration of the occasion. On the page opposite, he lists those celebrated old boys of his acquaintance. (JH Ed)





- LORD RYDER** of Eaton Hastings 1927-32 Chairman BRITISH LAY LAND
- SIR RICHARD GREENBURY** 1947-52 Chairman Marks & Spencer
- ERIC BRAYINGTON** 1952-53 Managing Director Macclesfield Textiles
- VINEY COMMANDER** K.J. LAWSON 1924-30 Dogsbolton
- SIR MICHAEL FIDDLINGS** 1931-37
- BERNARD BROWN** 1921-30 Sheriff THE CITY OF LONDON
- B.T. HARRIS** 1914-23 City Editor Daily & Evening Express
- FRED PERRY** 1920-37 THE GREAT BRITISH TROUSERS & COATS CO. LTD. (REDAUNTED) GREAT BRITAIN
- BERNARD SHARP** 1922-21 Chairman GANLEY'S BAKERY
- DR JOHN MOSES** 1949-53 Dean of St Pauls Cathedral
- THE VERY REV** RICHARD HARRIS 1945-50 AWARDED WINNING PLAY WRITER & FILM MAKER
- BERNARD SUNLEY** 1920-26 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY DEVELOPER
- WINSBLOOM CHAMBERLAIN** 37-355
- ERINGTON (HARRIS) FLYING CROSS** A.L. MALINS 1917-33 J.B. CLESHING 1932-37
- SIR THOMAS BOND** 1925-51 R.A. HOBSON 1928-51
- SIR MICHAEL FIDDLINGS** 1929-35
- WILSON GIBBES** FLYING CROSS W.L. DANSON 1922-38 D.H. HADFIELD 1934-39
- F. AYRES** 1923-29 BAILING EDUCATION OFFICER
- W. BECKERMAN** 1936-41 FELLOW BALLIOL COLLEGE OXFORD
- J.J. WARR** 1938-45 1980/51 MCC TOUR OF AUSTRALIA... BECAME MCC PRESIDENT
- PAT HALCOX** 1941-46 with CHOP BARBAR'S FOR OVER 30 YEARS
- GRAHAM BARLOW** 1963-68 TOURED INDIA WITH 1976 MCC
- R.A. TENKES** 1928-37 SENIOR COACH & CHIEF STRATEGIC WITH BRITISH ATHLETICS
- WILSON GIBBES** FLYING CROSS G.E. WILLIS 1932-37
- R.C. HOLLEY** 1925-30
- R.L. LEONARD** 1942-48 Fabian Society Journalist BROADCASTER
- F.W. BOYNETT** 1914-19 PRESIDENT LONDON SOCIETY OF MEDICINISTS
- L.G. ADAMS** 1930 English TABLE TENNIS INTERNATIONAL
- KENNETH ROBINSON** 1936-39 AUTHOR & PRESENTER
- P. DRISCOLL** 1913-18 WIFE OF WALTER HARRIS ASTON WAREHOUSING 1934
- ROBIN WEBB** BAILING GREENLY ALICE 1977-83 CHIEF EXECUTIVE Y.M.C.A. (CENTRAL)
- O.W. STANDINGFORD** 1923-29 LEO COMPUTER TEAM LEADER
- ASTE CHILTON** 1915-18 MANOR OF EALING
- AL JENSENS** 1913-29 MANAGER OF SAVER COMPANY
- DONALD J. ROBERTSON** 1940-44 Dental Surgeon to the Stars
- UMER RASHID** BAILING TERTIARY COLLEGE 1976 AWARDED MIDDLESSEX COUNTY CRICKET
- ALAN WYLLIE** 1923-29 AUTHOR OF 'THE ANNALES OF THE OLD BALDWINIAN ASSOCIATION'
- B.C. SHARP** 1920-27 GEN. MANAGER BARCLAYS BANK
- G.F. TEMPLE** 1913-17 Professor FELLOW QUEEN'S COLLEGE OXFORD
- R.H. HETHERINGTON** 1915-22
- ALAN WYLLIE** 1923-29
- G.B. BATHO** 1948-47 Professor DURHAM UNIVERSITY
- P. HUTBER** 1939-46 City Editor Sunday TELEGRAPH
- R.V. PALMER** 1919-44 MANAGING DIRECTOR GLAXO
- D.C. JOHNSON** 1947-53 COMMERCIAL BANKS OF ZAMBIA LATER MALAWI CATTLE BRUNCH
- MILITARY CROSS** S.W. SUIJTE 1915-21 LEA CHRISTIAN 1915-19
- A.F.J. RICHES** 1912-21 CHIEF LITIGANT
- A.G. (NOMMY) EDWARDS** 1930-41 AROMATIC EMULSION RESEARCH & SWEET PATENTS
- ALISTAIR JONES** 1917-22 Director of Music BRITISH CATHEDRAL
- LE GIOVANNI DE LUCA** 1924-31 E.T. RUSCOE 1924-31 USA
- L.H. DISMAYE** 1917-23 CHEVALIER RESEARCHER OF HONOURARY CROIX DE GUERRE
- MILITARY MEDAL** R.J. LOCKYER 1931-37
- OLD EATONIAN COYLESS FOUR** OLYMPIC BRONZE-MOSCOW 1980
- J. BEATTIE** IAN M'NUFF MARTIN CROSS DAVID TOWNSEND
- C.B. (GERGIE) WILKINSON** 1922-29 1980/51 MCC TOUR OF AUSTRALIA... BECAME MCC PRESIDENT
- CROIX DE GUERRE** J.F. WIGGINS 1924-30 Black Watch

Who has been missed? A ballet dancer, an oil-rig worker, a senior policeman?



London Wetlands Centre

London Wetland Centre Visit **on Tuesday 18th June 2013**

On a sultry but bright June day, three Old Ealonians and their wives braved the M4/A4 traffic to meet at the London Wetland Centre at Barnes. We arrived just in time for the 11.30am guided tour of the Centre. As our guide explained the centre is built on the site of the old redundant Thames Water Barn Elms reservoirs' site. The Wetland Centre was the vision of Sir Peter Scott who wanted to establish the first urban nature reserve. Sadly he died before his dream could be accomplished but work started in 1995 and was the result of a partnership between the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT), Thames Water and Berkeley Homes. The latter helped the project by building luxury homes in the corner of the site which provided a large portion of the financial cost of developing the centre. The creation of the various lakes and walkways on the site was done by using the crushed concrete from the retaining walls of

the original reservoirs. Water taken from the Thames at Hampton in underground tunnels still supplies the site and its flow is controlled by a series of sluice gates through the various lakes and lagoons before returning to the river.

Two routes for visitors have been constructed around half the site and our guide took us on the West Route through the various world wetlands as she identified the various ducks and geese from the different wetland habitats which could be seen. We visited various hides before reaching the "Wildside" which gave a good view over the various lagoons, the grassy marsh and the main lake. Here our very informative guide left us and we slowly made our way back to the main courtyard to the Water Edge Café as it was time for lunch. After satisfying our hunger we made our way to the Otters' Enclosure where we were in time to watch the three young otters being fed. Their keeper gave an interesting commentary on their background and feeding habits.

We then separated and four of our party went back to the Theatre in the main courtyard to watch a short film about the history of the Wetland Centre. Afterwards my wife Carol and I decided to explore the South Route and made our way through the sustainable garden and fritillary garden to the Peacock Tower where we had views across the main lake, the

marshland and the lagoons from a different direction. On our way back we stopped at the sand martin nest bank to see the young chicks being fed in their nest on CCTV. We also passed the specially designed Berkeley bat house but no bats could be seen. By now it was time to go home if we were not to get caught in rush hour traffic. So after the obligatory brief visit to the Centre's shop we set off for home.

Neither my wife nor I had heard of the Wetland Centre before the trip was arranged and it had proved to be a fascinating visit which we had both enjoyed and we promised ourselves we would come again to spend more time touring areas of the centre we had not fully explored on this trip. Despite the weather forecast for the day, it had not rained and had stayed fine and warm throughout our visit which had proved to be very worthwhile. The centre is somewhere we would certainly recommend Old Ealonians to visit in London if they are interested in wildlife and nature.

John T Oxley

Old Ealonians and guests on the visit were: Brian Edmondson and wife Jacqui, Alan Rowland and wife Dorothy, John Oxley and wife Carol.



JOHN RAILTON

An appreciation

John Railton came to Ealing Grammar School as its music master in January 1958, if my memory serves me correctly, when I was in form 1A. It immediately became apparent that his enthusiasm was infectious and it wasn't long before he was putting together a large choir to perform Handel's Messiah. He insisted that all the boys in the first and second forms should sing the treble part unless they really were tone deaf and he used to attract any not watching him conduct by waving his pocket handkerchief vigorously above his head. The lower voice parts were enhanced by some members of staff and I can still picture Mr Shearn, an English master, giving his all in the choruses on the other side of the church chancel when we came to the performance.

He was nothing if not ambitious and as recalled by John Harman we mounted Orff's Carmina Burana in the Central Hall Westminster with a professional baritone soloist, a New Zealander called John Hauxvell. An LP record was made of the performance which was in about 1960 by which time my voice was break-

ing and I was trying to sing solo – something I did not enjoy, but John encouraged me and forbade me to leave the choir. I still have the LP and not having anything to play it on I had it transferred recently on to a CD.

John Harman mentioned John's illness and the amputation of an arm – his subsequent playing the organ in assembly was wonderful to behold. Somewhere down the line he acquired the nickname "Sid" as a result of a parody in the sixth form's rather scurrilous magazine called "The Nut" where he was portrayed as a pop star with a group – Sid Railton and The Rockets, and the name stuck.

Wonderfully professional and moving services of nine lessons and carols were undertaken at St Mary's Church every Christmas.

Following the success of Carmina Burana John was inspired to put on other works which one would not normally expect a school to produce – Walton's Belshazzar's Feast and, just before I left in 1964, Beethoven's Choral Symphony.

John instilled in me a love of choral singing which I have enjoyed all my life and continue to do so, currently with West Sussex Philharmonic Choir and I shall be always thankful that he made me persevere through the alto line until my voice broke properly and I, and I suspect many others, will remember him with great affection.

Peter Hillman

1957-1962



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Brian Edmondson

Sometimes, it is quite amazing how much the impact of one person's actions, without them ever knowing it, can change the course of another person's life - especially if that person happens to be at an impressionable stage in their development. As a teenage pupil at Ealing County Grammar School for Boys, who travelled in daily by 607 trolleybus from far-off Hayes, I was totally unaware that the School premises were regularly used by another Youth Organisation, during some evenings and at the weekends. Now, more than 60 years later and with hindsight, I realise that my chance attendance at an extra-curricular activity meeting at the School changed the course of my whole life, and its many consequences still remain with me even today.

The main speaker at this unusual meeting was himself a senior pupil at the School - a person unknown to me at the time and unrecognisable as a fellow Ealonian because he was immaculately

dressed in his blue Air Cadet uniform, complete with forage cap. It transpired that in some of his spare time this smart young man, named Moffat, was also a Senior N.C.O. in No. 1413 (Ealing) Squadron, Air Training Corps, and he had been given the Headmaster's permission to arrange a meeting so that he might speak to any pupils who might be interested in hearing about his Squadron's activities. This recruitment initiative formed an important part of the Unit's deliberate attempt to recruit more pupils from the School, and then try to establish a dedicated Grammar School Flight within the Squadron.

My family's only previous connection with the Royal Air Force had been through a cousin of mine, named Harold Edmondson, who had trained as a Navigator towards the end of the Second World War. Coincidentally, also, cousin Harold had been an Ealonian; it was due to this sole family link with the School, and a tradition that I was completely unaware of, that I was placed in 'Nelson House' with Mr. Ben Brooker as my Housemaster.

Although I have always been interested in aeroplanes, like most other young boys who had grown up in Ealing during the Second World War and lived through the London Blitz, slept nightly under the staircase or in an Air Raid Shelter of some kind etc., etc., my early aviation knowledge was mainly limited to the recognition of various types of warplane, assembling balsa wood model aeroplane kits, reading lots of Boys' Annuals and almost every one of the series of Biggles

books by W.E. Johns! Later on, undoubtedly, another positive aviation influence on me at the School was our young English Master: Mr. Vaughan-Jones, who had been an R.A.F. fighter pilot and walked with a slight limp. Sometimes, his charisma would be further enhanced, when admiring pupils caught sight of him driving to School in his magnificent, green, open-top, vintage Bentley. As schoolboys we regarded him as our own local war hero figure. Everyone respected him and he was well-liked as a teacher. Very occasionally we were able to persuade him to tell us about some of his exploits flying Spitfires in the Middle East; then we would all listen to him spellbound and, of course, it was always much more exciting than even his best English lesson!

Exactly what Cadet Flight Sergeant Moffat said to us during that particular meeting in the School has long since faded from my memory, but his enthusiastic A.T.C. sales pitch was sufficiently convincing that several of us - including Jim Wisden and Gerry Hitchens - took up his invitation and were recruited almost immediately. Having first obtained our parents' consent, we attended a Squadron Parade one Sunday morning and were shown around the premises by a Senior N.C.O., given an introductory talk by one of the Officers and then invited to 'sign on the dotted line' - which of course we all did without the slightest hesitation.

It was a real surprise for us when we found out that the Squadron Headquarters was almost next-door to the School,

but completely hidden from Public view because it was situated underground in the Basement of Ealing Public Library. These basement rooms were the only permanent Squadron accommodation and while they safely housed its Administration Offices, Armoury, Stores etc., there was precious little space left for training lectures, etc.; this was the main reason for having to use parts of the Grammar School next-door for some of its activities. The only access to this 'secret' underground H.Q. was down a very narrow flight of stone steps, well-hidden at one end of the old Reference Library. Surely, it was no coincidence that the Officer Commanding No. 1413 Squadron, A.T.C., Squadron Leader Cecil Hope, who was a decorated veteran of the Great War and also the Ealing Borough Librarian, just happened to have his Squadron H.Q. conveniently located beneath his daily workplace?

The Squadron normally paraded for training on Tuesday and Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. There were also free, weekly '22 Rifle Shooting practices, on Wednesday evenings, at the Police Indoor Rifle Range in Bramley Road, near Northfields Station. From the outset my involvement in these cadet activities was mainly limited by three things : (i) School Homework demands, (ii) travelling considerations and (iii) Friday evening employment to supplement my pocket money. At first, I only attended the Squadron's Training sessions on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings, when I could travel by trolleybus, wear my civilian clothes and remain inconspic-

uous. Top priority always had to be given to my fairly lucrative Friday evening paper-round, selling "The Hayes News" door-to-door, because it funded most of my interests and activities. Later on, as my involvement gradually increased, I managed to find ways of spreading the Homework load and, depending on the weather conditions and whether I needed to wear my cadet uniform, I varied my means of transport by making good use of the excellent 'Raleigh Sports' bicycle which my parents had given to me as a reward for passing the 11 plus examination and getting to Ealing Grammar School.

For any young person, there were several important and attractive differences between A.T.C. Training and the learning process in a Secondary School. Obviously the subjects and skills - both academic (e.g. Navigation) and practical (e.g. Rifle shooting) -- were totally different, but in the A.T.C. the time required to complete a Course of Study in a subject was usually measured in weeks or months and not years like those in both Lower and Upper School! Furthermore the A.T.C. Course objectives were clearly defined, easily understood and recognised as being achievable by all of us.

Apart from the appeal of a wide range of the 'new' aviation-related subjects offered by the A.T.C. - all of them so refreshingly different from those at School, I soon discovered that the whole Training Scheme had been thoughtfully structured so that every progression from one level to the next brought with it some form of recognition (i.e. Certifi-

cate or Training Status Badge) and - more importantly, often the entitlement to some sort of 'reward'. These tangible 'rewards' might range from, at least, a passenger flight in an R.A.F. aeroplane or glider to the possible selection for an Overseas Exchange Visit or even a Flying Scholarship - worth more than a thousand pounds in those days. Initially, all new Recruits followed the same pattern of Basic Training, by taking a series of short Courses which included such things as Foot Drill, Map Reading, First Aid, Aircraft Knowledge, Morse Code, Service History and Organisation (including Ranks and Badges, etc.) Different Instructors were responsible for the delivery of these Courses and also conducting the Final Tests at their conclusion; this gave continuity and ensured that help was readily available for every cadet to achieve the required standard. In order to complete their Basic Training, a cadet must have reached the minimum 'Pass' standard in every one of these elementary subjects. Successful cadets were presented with their 'First Class', star-shaped, badge during a special Parade, and the award was certificated in their personal Record of Service Books (RAF Form 3822).

It was a requirement that a Cadet should achieve at least this 'First Class' standard of training, before attending a weeks' Annual Camp with the Squadron at an RAF Station. This practice made very good sense because by this time every cadet would have knowledge, skills, experience and confidence to benefit from seeing, and,

sometimes, assisting serving personnel as they performed their daily tasks. In addition to being a valuable bonding exercise for everyone in the Squadron, these Annual Camps provided a unique opportunity for all the A.T.C. Cadets to make their own individual assessments of everyday life in the R.A.F. Moreover, at a time when National Service was compulsory for all young men at the age of 18 years, this insight was useful in helping cadets to think about their future options, and invaluable for anyone who might be considering a career in the R.A.F. Once 'Basic Training' had been successfully completed, all cadets were expected to develop their own particular field of interest and opt for one of several specialist Courses to study during the 'Proficiency' and 'Advanced' stages of their Training. Related subjects were grouped together under such Course headings as Flying, Signals, Engines & Airframes, etc. and all of these demanding Courses were taught by specialist adult Instructors and periodically examined, externally, by the R.A.F.. Although there were no guaranteed 'rewards' directly linked to passing these higher level examinations, there were many learning incentives because selection for the previously mentioned top awards in the Corps, and / or promotion to Cadet N.C.O. ranks within the Squadron, usually depended upon gaining success in one or more of these different specialised Courses.

In addition to all of this formal train-

ing, all cadets were encouraged to take an interest and compete in many other Squadron activities: ranging from Aircraft Recognition to Swimming and most Sports. The Squadron regularly entered individual cadets and teams for both Local and Area competitions. From time to time, special weekend Courses were arranged within the Squadron to train promising Senior Cadets in leadership skills, and teach them instructional techniques before they became Junior N.C.O.'s.

For most cadets, with experience came a willingness to volunteer for various tasks and accept increasing amounts of responsibility. Almost without realising it, as their commitment to the Squadron gradually increased so did their self-confidence. Most cadets found the thought of Parading before the General Public

a somewhat daunting prospect, but their involvement often resulted in an unexpected boost to their self-confidence from having taken part in such ceremonial occasions as the special Sunday Parades which were held to commemorate Battle of Britain Day and Remembrance Day. On these moving, Annual, Ceremonial occasions the whole Squadron would march behind a Military Band, in a long procession with other Service Units and local Organisations, from Ealing Common, along The Mall, through Ealing Broadway and down the High Street for a Service at the War Memorial, close to our School. The preparations for and the participation in these Ceremonial

Events gave an added sense of purpose and pride in the Squadron - especially for those cadets who formed the Guard of Honour in front of the War Memorial because their personal appearance and standard of rifle drill came under the closest scrutiny of various Civic Dignitaries, Veterans and other onlookers.

Unfortunately No. 1413 Squadron, A.T.C., never did get the chance to form its intended Grammar School Flight because, in about 1950, the Squadron was amalgamated with the other Ealing A.T.C. Unit: No. 342 Squadron which was based in Drayton Manor School, Hanwell. Despite our existing Commanding Officer, Squadron Leader Hope, remaining in charge of the new formation, with the other C.O., Flight Lieutenant J. Dicks, D.F.C., as his Second-in-Command, sadly our previous Squadron identity was lost in the merger, since the Unit adopted the lower and hence more senior Squadron number : '342'.

Although at first there were some mixed feelings about this new forced arrangement, because both Squadrons had previously existed as 'lodgers' on two different School Sites, the huge advantages of being based in a spacious, purpose-built Headquarters, set in its own secure grounds, far outweighed all other considerations.

The Squadron's new location in Milton Road was conveniently situated near Hanwell Railway Station and close to several Bus Routes. It was less than 2 miles West of our previous

Headquarters beneath Ealing Library - and fortunately for me this meant that it was 2 miles nearer my home! This brand-new Headquarters consisted of 3 large, prefabricated buildings built parallel to one another and sensibly subdivided internally to give adequate designated space for almost everything one could possibly want including an Assembly Hall, Classrooms, Offices, Armoury, Stores, Canteen and a special room already equipped with a Link Trainer (aeroplane simulator).

Amalgamating the two Squadrons proved to be a great success, once the personnel from both Units had been allowed a short time to integrate and settle into these wonderful new facilities. Soon, the introduction of a range of additional and different activities on Site, including our own Squadron Band, Radio Station, Motor Vehicles and Assault Course, together with the Squadron's involvement in a wide variety of local events including the Hanwell Carnival, all helped to bring us favourable publicity and many new recruits joined the Squadron. With this fairly rapid expansion came new opportunities for established cadets like myself and, for once, I found that I was in the right place at the right time!

Within a Year or so, success in a series of Air Cadet Proficiency Examinations - doubtlessly to the unintentional but serious detriment of some of his studies at the Grammar School - brought promotions to the rank of Sergeant and then this small, and

once rather timid, Ealonian was delighted to be informed that he had been awarded a Flying Scholarship. Successful completion of this residential training course, flying Tiger Moths at Cambridge Aero Club, resulted in the award of a Private Pilots' Licence, followed almost immediately by acceptance for Pilot Training in the Royal Air Force, with a very public announcement of these achievements - complete with a photograph, in cadet uniform - on the front page of "The Middlesex County Times"!

As I bade farewell to my cadet friends and thanked the Staff of 342 Squadron for their efforts on my behalf, I never dreamed that Fate would have me return to the Unit in later years and play a leading part in the Squadron's development. For, following my National Service and three years study at a College of Education, I returned to 342 Squadron and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in the R.A.F.V.R. (T). It was whilst serving in that capacity that I became involved in another successful amalgamation; this time with No. 2036 (Brentford) Squadron, A.T.C., and a forced move of Headquarters from Milton Road to part of a Territorial Army Site in Windmill Road, Ealing; the same Site, but not the same premises, which it still occupies today!

After this amalgamation, the Squadron retained its previous identification number and Flight Lieutenant 1. Dicks, D.F.C., was appointed Commanding Officer with me as and his Second-in-Command. At that time,

I was also serving as a Supplementary Officer and Instructor at No. 613 Gliding School at R.A.F. Halton and teaching Technical Studies at Hayes County Grammar School.

It was whilst gliding from R.A.F. Halton that I met and took a very attractive Nursing Officer from the Princess Mary's RAF Hospital on a passenger flight. Later this same young Lady, named Jacqueline, became my wife and mother of our two sons: David and Martin. Our two boys have both served in different local A.T.C. Squadrons, become Senior Cadet N.C.O.'s and trained as pilots whilst serving in the Air Cadets. David flew Motor Gliders and has two medals for successfully completing two Nijmegen Endurance Marches and Martin, our youngest son, achieved the distinction of gaining both a Flying Scholarship and a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

At home on the wall above my desk,

the presentation inscription on a small Middlesex Wing Heraldic Shield is a reminder that I left No. 342 Squadron, A.T.C., in April 1976, after sixteen years service, to take up an appointment as Chief Flying Instructor of No. 613 Gliding School's Detached Flight at R.A.F. White Waltham. Sometimes, this small plaque and during my occasional visits, as an Old Ealonian Committee Member, to the old School premises - now 'The Ealing, Hammer-smith and West London College Campus' -

I reflect on the huge and lifelong debt of gratitude which I owe to both Ealing Grammar School for Boys and the Air Cadet Organisation for really MAKING A DIFFERENCE to my life!

Brian Edmondson

(1946-51)



In Memoriam

Sadly, news has been received of the death of Peter Middleton (1937-44)

The Association's commiserations are extended to his family and, in particular, to his daughter, Kate Bromfield, who informed us of the news. Kate says that he took pleasure in reading the newsletters and kept in touch with former school friends, including Tony Trott. She has kindly provided the following tribute to her father's life.

Appreciation of Peter F Middleton

1926—2013 (School Years 1937-44)

Late of King Edward Road, Minehead

Peter was born at Ealing, the only child of Frederick and Violet, known as Vi. His parent had met at work, in the offices of the Great Western Railway and Vi continued to work there until retirement.

Peter's father died in 1937, when he was 11 and in the first year at Ealing County Grammar School for Boys. When war broke out, Peter's school was evacuated to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire and shared the local Grammar School. The boys lived in billets around the town, just going home occasionally at weekends. Not very wisely, the school returned to Ealing in 1942. Peter entered the sixth form studying for his Higher Schools Certificate, while Flying Bombs were dropping. In spite of all this disruption, Peter said he enjoyed school but said he had to grow up fast.

At 18, Peter was selected to train for a commission in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, starting with the University Naval Division at Cardiff University. There, his love life blossomed, when he met Nadine, a local girl from Mountain Ash, who was two months older and an undergraduate. However, his training continued at sea and on shore, until passing out as a sub lieutenant. He served on minesweepers in the North Sea to the Far East, before ending up with the Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan, at a naval base 10 miles from Hiroshima.

After demob in 1947, he returned to Cardiff and to Nadine, bearing a sapphire for an engagement ring. He was so nervous when he proposed, that he dropped the stone and the romantic moment was ruined by them both crawling around, trying to find it! They married at 22, Peter as a student completing his degree and Nadine as the breadwinner, having trained as a teacher. Their daughter, Kate, was born the week of his finals—and he even managed to knit her a vest! Nineteen months later came a second daughter, Diane.

Peter joined Anglo Iranian Oil Company (later BP) as a graduate trainee and studied for an accountancy qualification. In spite of this, he hated accountancy and most of his 35 years with the company were spent in broader managerial roles. He travelled extensively, in Europe and in the Middle East, and he enjoyed his job until retirement at 58.

Although Peter's leisure time always included reading the Guardian from cover to cover, he loved gardening, playing squash and tennis, and was an avid supporter of Welsh Rugby. Since boyhood, he had a passionate interest in classical

music and jazz and introduced his daughters and grandchildren to his music tastes from an early age. This was not always appreciated at the time! Kate has never recovered from the trauma of receiving Kenny Ball's Greatest Hits for Christmas, when she and her friends were expecting the Beatles! He loved crosswords, completing the Guardian crossword daily and occasionally phoning his daughters for help with the odd clue. Love of steam engines and the Great Western Railway was in his blood and he shared the interest with his son-in-law, Andrew. Peter was always an active member of the Liberal Party. He took a keen interest in Party developments, not always agreeing with them.

Peter and Nadine spent many happy hours walking and exploring the British countryside—in particular, Suffolk, the Cotswolds, Wales (naturally!), Cornwall and, of course, Somerset. Much to their daughters' amusement, they would sometimes collide when walking, because he was looking up at the birds (feathered variety!), whilst she was looking down at the flowers! They became particularly attached to the Exmoor area and Minehead was chosen, first for a holiday home and then as their place of retirement. Over the years, they involved themselves in a variety of local activities and made many friends. They were a very close couple, who achieved their diamond wedding anniversary in 2008.

Amazingly, after Nadine's death later that year, Peter established a fulfilling, busy life for himself. He taught himself to cook and often discussed recipes with his daughters. He returned to the church and was a regular at St Andrews. He took advantage of the many social activities the area offers, such as the National Trust, the Exmoor Extroverts, the Arts and Film Societies and the U23A—so much so that family visits had to be booked far ahead!

Peter was close to his family, despite the distance. He maintained contact with Nadine's sister, Sonia, and family and spoke frequently to his daughters and his grand children and enjoyed visits and holidays with them all.

Sonia remembers Peter bouncing into her life nearly 70 years ago, when he first met her sister, Nadine. Despite the devastating consequences of Nadine's illness and the frustrations of his increasing frailty, Peter managed to keep his bounce. He is loved and admired for his warmth, his wit, his energy, his phenomenal memory and the intellectual and emotional commitment to life, nature, the arts, history and politics—and to good food and wine, in the company of family and friends. He will always be an inspiration to those who knew him.

Kate Bromfield

(Peter's daughter)

ROLL OF HONOUR IN MEMORY OF EALONIANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE TWO WORLD WARS

1914-1918

C.Craven H.E.Martin R.S.Harris J.C.F.Tunstall N.D.Williams

1939-1945

G.R.N. Adams (30-30)	H.W. Braushaw (28-35)	W.J. Cook (34-35)	E.L. Germain (31-32)	S.W. Jeffrey (29-35)	W.W. Moss (18-25)	R. Taylor (36-40)
J.W. Adey (33-38)	D. Brown (32-37)	A.R. Cowderoy (32-37)	R.W. Gould (30-38)	F.E.W. Jowling (32-37)	G.J. Mugford (24-41)	R.W. Taylor (32-36)
E.K. Allwright (24-29)	K.G.V. Brown (32-36)	A.D. Craag (33-38)	J.G. Gray (21-26)	E.W. Judd (30-35)	G.S.C. Palmer (31-36)	W.R. Taylor (33-37)
L.E. Amos (36-41)	W.E. Buckee (29-34)	R. Cubitt (19-24)	F.E. Greenfield (19-24)	J.F. King (34-39)	K.C. Peek (30-35)	F.R. Thrush (27-32)
D. Angell (31-36)	D.F. Bunker (35-39)	D.W. Davis (32-37)	E.E. Hall (26-36)	P.C. LaNauge (37-41)	I.L. Pickett (24-29)	A.R. Tipple (32-37)
W.E.D. Barrett (34-39)	J.Y. Burke (33-38)	J. Dear (32-37)	H.F. Hancock (30-35)	H.G. Lancaster (26-36)	J.E. Price (29-34)	J.S. Todd (32-37)
FB Bennett (34-39)	A.R. Burn (32-37)	J.W.G. Dell (31-36)	W.J. Havies (34-39)	K.J. Lawson (30-35)	E.W. Reynolds (29-34)	F.P. Turner (31-36)
B.G. Bensted (31-36)	S. Carpenter (34-39)	W.J. Dudman (31-36)	F.W. Hicks (19-24)	E.C. Maul (30-35)	M.F. Robinson (29-34)	F.E. Ward (35-39)
J.E. Bird (20-23)	D.F. Carter (34-39)	G.D.H. Dutton (31-36)	S.J. Holmes (27-31)	R.L. Miller (33-37)	J.A. Rodd (24-30)	R. Watson (32-37)
ASE Blackshire (33-38)	J.E. Chilton (34-39)	R.F. Floyd (30-36)	A.C. Hogbin (27-31)	D. Monahan (31-38)	D.C.T. Smith (30-35)	A.P. Weaver (32-37)
S. Blagrove (32-37)	A.J. Clark (35-39)	T.H. Follett (31-36)	A.F.R. Hunter (27-31)	W.L. Morris (27-31)	P.G. Smith (35-37)	R.C.M. White (29-34)
N.J.G. Bowring (27-31)	D.W. Cobbett (30-35)	J.S. Frost (27-32)	A.H. Iles (27-32)	H.E. Moser (30-35)	E.G.H. Stevenson (30-35)	G.B. Wilkinson (31-36)
					R.C.M. White (34-39)	G.C. Williams (31-36)
						R.V.S. Wilson (36-41)

Service where known
 ● RAF
 ● ARMY

THE LAST WORD

At this time of year, we have the opportunity to give thanks to those who 'gave their today for our tomorrows'. Those names shown above appear on the Remembrance Plaque in the Ealonian Room. Like us, each of them were boys at the school. My thanks to Bert Longhurst for producing the illustration.

My thanks too to those of you who have contacted me. If you would like to contribute to future editions, perhaps telling us of your life story, please drop me a line by post or email. My contact details are on the next page.

Keep well and best wishes.

John Holdstock





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EDITORIAL

If you would like to contribute articles or photos
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OLD EALONIANS ASSOCIATION
BOOKING FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE PERSONAL DETAILS AND EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME: **YEARS AT SCHOOL**

ADDRESS:
.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Annual Lunch, Tuesday 19th November 2013

I will/will not be attending the Annual Lunch to be held on Tuesday 19th November 2013 in the TASTE Restaurant of the Hammersmith Campus (Barons Court) of Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College in Gliddon Road, Barons Court W14 9BL, commencing at 1pm.
[Please delete as appropriate]

I will be bringing guest(s) for lunch.

Name(s) of guest(s)

I will/will not require directions to the Hammersmith campus.

I will/will not require car parking space at the Hammersmith Campus

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 9th April 2014

I hope to be/will not be attending the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 9th April 2014 in the Ealonian Room (room A118) 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 intend to bring guest(s) to the meeting.

Name(s) of guest(s)

Signature:

Please return the form to:

Donald Robertson, Hon Secretary

3 North Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 8JS

(Phone no. 01753 883436 or email at donrobby@tiscali.co.uk by Wednesday 13th November 2013)

