

100 Years Young

Over 250 OEs enjoyed the winter sunshine, if not the keen wind, to celebrate the centenary of the OEA.

The day started with a thanksgiving service in the chapel and was followed by two lunches. Seventy people attended the formal lunch in King George's Hall, whilst for hardier souls there was a BBQ in Old Quad, with music from the

College's Rhythm and Blues Band to keep spirits high.

On the sports fields there were hockey, netball and rugby matches between the Headmaster's and President's teams.

Honours were even as each side won one match with the netball being a draw.

At the end there was a presentation and, to mark the occasion, three new cups were awarded.



London Life



What is it like to be young and living in London at the beginning of the 21st century? Freddie Botham OE has been selected as one of four regional winners in a

contest to find Britain's best young photographer. The challenge was to submit photos that reflected the life, community and feelings of what it is like to be a young person living in Britain today. Freddie will now compete against the winners from Wales, the North of England and Scotland to be crowned Getty Images' My Britain Young Photographer of the Year.

Freddie is currently studying English at the University of York and hopes to pursue his passion for photography further, but it is far from being his only interest. "When people ask me what I want to do, I say that I want to be a renaissance man! I want to be in a position where I can put photos out there, have a book published, make a film and music as well."

But, for now, it is his photography which impresses the most. One of the judges, Adrian Murrell of Getty Images, said of Freddie's work, "They are beautifully poised between the romantic and gloomy. In one particular photograph, he juxtaposes elements of city life perfectly – the green and tranquil park, with the harsh and concrete city backdrop."

"I'm not sure what winning this competition would mean to me," says Freddie. "I just want to give people the opportunity to see my photos and judge them. I don't mind if they like or dislike them. I like taking the chance that it might affect some people."

- **Harry Penny (2006)** appeared on BBC2's *Classical Star* in the Autumn. Harry is a clarinettist at the Royal College of Music.
- **Jamie Harris (2005)** was again representing Wales in the Sevens tournaments in Dubai and South Africa in November.
- **Lauren Humphrey (2005)** was chosen from the 80,000 who auditioned for *Shipwrecked Battle of the Islands 2008*. Filming lasted 10 weeks and the show is to be televised in late February on Channel 4. Make sure you remember the name and vote for Lauren!

Keep in touch www.elthamians.net

PLANE TALKING



A NEWSLETTER FOR OLD ELTHAMIANS

WINTER 2007 ~ ISSUE 1

Fifty years on

In October 2007 thirty five old boys, who started in the upper school in 1950, gathered in London to celebrate the fifty years or so that have passed since they left school.



They came from far and wide – two from Canada, one each from USA, Thailand, Australia and Portugal, as well as those others from the length and breadth of England. As a prelude to the reunion they obtained autobiographies from most of those who attended, together with some from absent friends. Those autobiographies will be appearing in next year's OE magazine.

From many perspectives, it was quite a year. The 1st XV won every school match failing only to vanquish the OE 1st. XV with whom it drew, 0-0; eleven boys gained places at Oxbridge; three members of that year have been awarded

knighthoods. Five became professors. In all about a half of the year went on to university (a high proportion for those days when the national average was 4 to 5%) and four became active in the church.

That it was a marvellous occasion seems to have been the unanimous opinion. Many had not met since school and wasted no time before catching up. If the size of the wine bill is a reliable criterion everyone enjoyed themselves.

Finally, our thanks are due to Penny Waterson, in the School's Development Office, for getting us off to a fine start in our hunt for contact details.

Nottingham from Mottingham

For many years there has been an Oxbridge dinner for OEs at Oxford and Cambridge colleges; the next one in February will be at St Edmund Hall. However, other universities are just as popular with Old Elthamians.

At the beginning of December a gathering was organised by Lucy Watkins at Ropewalk in Nottingham for students at the universities in Nottingham, Loughborough and Leicester. The location was a real winner, and over 30 students were joined by staff from the school for an informal evening, which was a great success. Lucy, front right in the photo, would like to become an event organiser; this was an excellent start to her career.

Next term we are hoping to organise a similar event in Leeds, where there are 55 OEs studying. If there are others who have graduated from Leeds and would like to pay a return visit, or who live in the area, we would be delighted to see them. There will be more details on the website nearer the time.



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From the President

Welcome to the first of what we hope will be a three times a year publication for OEs about OEs. Its intention is to bring us all closer together by sharing experiences and news. It is hoped that the brave souls who have let us publish their articles will encourage others to follow their lead. The more articles we receive, the bigger the publication will become.

There are now over 1100 members of Elthamians.net, our online community. Those who sign up for this free service can join in the Discussion Groups, search for classmates or other OEs with similar interests or occupations. For younger OEs wanting advice we have over 250 OEs offering their services as mentors in fields as diverse as Equestrian Sports and Media in China.

The school is very conscious that the easiest way of putting on a reunion is to base it around a sporting occasion, where the many can watch the few running around chasing something! They are aware, however, that this is not always everyone's cup of tea and so are open to suggestions or excuses for a get together. If anyone has any ideas for their year, would they please get in touch with Simon McGrahan either by writing to him at the school or by email at sjm@eltham-college.org.uk

We would like to thank Harry Claxton (1991) for giving us permission to use his drawing of the front of school and the inspirational Plane Tree.

