

Thank you

This has been the second year that Eltham College has had an Annual Fund, and in 2008/9 over £103,000 was pledged to be collected over the next three years. Of this £10,000 has already been awarded by the Development Committee to capital project grants and a further £60,000 has been donated to the Bursary Fund. The projects supported have been as diverse as a satellite phone to enable pupils on expeditions, such as the forthcoming Biology trip to the jungles of Honduras, to keep in touch and screen printing equipment for the Art Department. Eltham College is deeply grateful to all parents, Friends and Old Elthamians who have contributed to the Fund.

OE weekend 4th & 5th July



The weekend began with the crack of a starting pistol on Senior School Sports Day and ended with the OEs needing six runs to win off the last two balls of the cricket match. In between there was the small matter of an ECCO Pops concert. For the record the sun shone. On sports day, two records fell in the shot putt with James Pearse and Jo Healy (both Livingstone) breaking the boys' and girls' senior records by wide margins. Chalmers eventually emerged as Sports Day champions, pipping Livingstone for the top spot - despite the efforts of Ed Whyte of Carey who managed to win the senior 100m, 200m, Long Jump and the relay.



Eric Gleave (2002)

In the evening the grounds hosted 1500 Pupils, Staff, OEs and Friends for the second outdoor ECCO Pops concert climaxing with a spectacular fireworks display which could be seen from Chislehurst. OEs played their full part whether it was in the orchestra, choir or audience.



The OE 1st XI

On Sunday two OE cricket teams took on the school 1st and 2nd XIs, both matches were very close finishes. The OE 1st XI chased the school's total of 262 and fell 5 runs short and the 2nd XI chasing 171 were 6 runs short.



The OE 2nd XI

By the time the BBQ had finished, teams for next year's rematch were being selected.

Chairman's report

I have had the honour of being elected President of an Association which has the declared objectives of developing corporate feeling amongst the former pupils of S.S.M. and Eltham College and promoting the welfare of the College. I would like to think that most of us receiving this feel supportive of such an Association to which our parents may well have enlisted us for life.

We are not an exclusive sporting and social club although, being fortunate to own our own sports ground at Foxbury, we do have the ability to meet the aspirations of those interested in rugby (Nick Burn – 07824 510405) , cricket (Russ Palumbo – 07905 106158) and squash (Tim Gratwick – 020 8302 5328) at all levels. We also have a golf section which competes in the Grafton Morrish (Adrian Baulf - 01883 722435) and no doubt can look forward to the formation of a hockey section.

I hope to encourage you, and your OE peer group, to support the Sports Club at Foxbury and the Association as it organises events at the College (next OE Day Sunday 13 December) and area reunions in May 2010. I have recorded in the Association's annual magazine , published in the autumn, that I appreciate that an organisation whose members are linked only by their common school heritage will never form a cohesive cohort of men and women with a common purpose. Nevertheless I do hope that our Association is a vehicle by which those who found pleasure in each other's company will take the opportunity to renew and strengthen those relationships and through them the College and the Sports Club. I look forward to a year of progress in that direction.

The AGM of the OEA will be held at 7.30 pm on 7th September at Foxbury, all are welcome.

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The Class of “circa” 1960 Reunion - June 20th 2009

An idea conceived in December 2007, of a potential reunion at Eltham College for those who had left circa 1960, ultimately led to intensive research by Colin Bishop, Rob Carter, and especially Clive Grenyer, establishing who would be available to participate. Last year’s publication of the 1959 School photo on www.elthamians.net played a fundamental part in helping Clive trace old school pals with the happy result that the reunion actually took place on Saturday June 20th 2009.



Over cocktails in Central Hall, and with a backdrop of school photos from 1953 and 1959 together with those of the various sports teams from that era, the Headmaster welcomed some 21 attendees.

Following a group photograph on the front steps, an opening talk by Colin about the day’s events, and a Grace ably delivered by Chris Bradnock, a superb lunch ensued in Room 1 with its resplendent view of today’s “Quad”. During coffee Clive updated the group with news about the many others who had been traced but were not able to attend.

Many had not returned to Eltham since leaving, so lunch was followed by an extensive tour of the entire College and its magnificent facilities. The tour ended suitably with a few quiet contemplative moments in the Chapel.

The reunion was considered a resounding success by all and plans are already in hand for the next one!
Rob Carter (1960)

KS squared

After a combined total of 60 years Keith Schaper and Keith Shipton are retiring.

Keith Schaper began his career at Eltham in 1974 teaching French and Games in both Senior and Junior Schools before switching entirely to the Junior School and subsequently becoming the Deputy Master there. No more will the boys travel to Sayers Croft or France under Keith’s steadying hand, someone else will have to pick up the reins. After 35 years he and Julie have finally succumbed to the bright lights of Broadstairs where he plans to take up bowls and to run along the beach.



Keith Schaper and Keith Shipton

Keith Shipton is a “Johnny come lately” in comparison, serving a mere 25 years in the English Department and most of them as a Middle School tutor. Keith has for many years had the unenviable task of organising the work experience placements for the Year 11 boys - that’s 5th form in old money and Upper Fifth for those who remember silver threepenny bits. He bore this burden with his customary good humour and efficiency. We will all miss his entertaining and educational Chapel addresses which varied from Norse legends to Northamptonshire Churches. Keith plans to catch up on his reading and continue with his walking expeditions.

We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

SE and SW reunions

It is always good fun to meet up with old friends, whether it has been a week or too many years to remember since you last saw them. May is traditionally the month of the regional reunions and the South East and South West are always well attended.

The South East reunion was organised by Adrian Ruffle and Nick Matthews after Robin Foster kindly made the arrangements with Wildernesse Gold Club, Sevenoaks this year. Among many of the more regular attendees we had two



Vivian Auer and Lester Martin

overseas visitors, Vivian Auer (1966) who came over from Hoves in Belgium and Lester Martin (1967) who is visiting from Sydney, Australia.

The South West reunion has been organised for many years by Chris Cutting, the first one was organised at his house! Since then numbers have grown and recently it has been held at Staplegrove Village Hall, just outside Taunton. We are hoping to make next year's reunion, which will be Chris's 30th a bumper event.

Legion d'Honneur

Brian Pickard OE (1940) has been made an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur – one of the highest awards possible in the French system. The award, which was presented to him by the French Ambassador in his official Residence in London in March, was for Brian's work at the French Hospital and Dispensaire Francais in London. Brian was an Ear, Nose and Throat consultant at St George's and other hospitals, but devoted around 10% of his time over a period of forty years – unpaid – to the French charity.



When at Eltham College, Brian was a good all-round sportsman and was swimming champion in 1939 and 1940. A typical result from that era read: 1st Brian Pickard, 2nd Geoff Goemans, 3rd Gordon Teichmann. Brian recalls the swimming sports held indoors – “Mr Thorpe was walking along the side, didn't notice the steps and fell in!” Brian's two sons Anthony (1971) and Bill (1976) also attended Eltham College. Brian now lives in Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Fourth cycle.



During the first cycle, I looked forward to getting “edicated” and a university degree. During the second, I looked forward to getting a job. During the third, to retirement. After 18 years of study and 42 years of central banking (whassat? 28 years of Bank of England and 14 of European Central Bank), two daughters (one an OE) and three grandchildren, I've made it! I have reached the age of most of that celebrated old guard who taught me at Eltham. The recent research efforts of the Archivist at Eltham brought that part of the second cycle into sharp and immediate focus, wiping away the intervening years. Although my links to the UK remain, I am

writing this from a bungalow on the banks of the Danube upstream from Budapest where I now live, and whence my mother's family came. (Am I the only OE here?) The challenges of setting up and running the ECB's accounting function (more politics and philosophy than bookkeeping) have already receded into fond memory, and I can now devote my time to gardening and cataloguing my (father's) library (while reading those books in it for which I never previously had the time). Among many other things.



Ian Ingram (1962)

Around the Globe in 19 Parts



For the past three years, actors from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on London's South Bank have performed internationally on an Elizabethan-inspired stage, just as a small troupe of travelling players would once have done. In this case, the fast, furious and extremely funny play Comedy of Errors, with eight actors reinventing renaissance Theatre by playing 19 parts for audiences up and down the country and other venues further afield. I am fortunate enough to have been cast as Adriana, the wife of Antipholus of Ephesus, whose confusion is central



to the play's plot, confusing her wayward husband with his innocent virginal brother.

We are performing largely at theatre festivals; many venues are outdoors in the grounds of beautiful stately homes and parks. Having toured before, I did have some idea of what to expect, but nothing prepares you for the reputation that comes with the Globe Theatre, even in venues overseas, and the hard work that comes with performing outside. We have been fortunate with the weather, thank goodness, but while the rain was my initial concern, it didn't occur to me how hot it could get in Elizabethan costume when the sun is shining and how welcoming a little bit of drizzle might be!

Sarah Ridgeway (2003)

The Sultan of Snow

A double victory was awaiting Nabil “Nabs” El-Busaidy (1988) when he reached the North Pole and victoriously planted the Omani flag on top of the world on April 29th 2009 at 7.45am Canadian time. Not only was Nabs the first Arab to walk to the North Magnetic Pole, but the Oman North Pole Expedition team also won the last leg of the Polar Race, competing against 4 other very strong teams. It was a close race till the end; what made the marginal difference was sleep – or lack of it! Their nearest rivals stopped to get a few hours’ sleep, but Nabs and his team kept going for 27 hours non-stop, only taking short breaks for food.

On his journey from Resolute Bay to the North Pole, Nabs has walked over 650 km, hauling 50 kg of equipment and with no support from ski-doo or even dogs and sledges. The weather conditions have been harsh with temperatures down to -81°C and wind up to 100 km/h but he conquered every single challenge and is now writing history!

His next challenge in August is likely to be Land’s End to John O’ Groats , a distance of 874 miles, accompanying a friend in a wheel chair.

Life’s an orange

James Desborough (1991) scooped Fleet Street recently by winning one of the major categories at the British Press Awards. James won the 2009 Showbiz Reporter Of The Year award at the ceremony held at London’s Grosvenor House Hotel. He collected his gong from Jon Snow at event -classified as the Oscars of the newspaper industry.



James Desborough and Jon Snow

He won the category for a series of scoops on Amy Winehouse’s drug addiction, Fern Britton’s gastric band and Peaches Geldof’s marriage and heroin overdose. After his award, James was promoted to US editor for the paper, working out of Los Angeles.

James said “It was a huge honour to win the gong; especially as the competition was so tough. I owe a fair bit to Eltham College for my break in the biz, just giving me the confidence to go for the career I wanted. As Dr Waller once told me: Life’s an orange -

there to be squeezed.”

And did those Feet

It is hard to believe 10 years have passed since leaving Eltham College; a fitting time to take stock. I arrived at Eltham from Bullers Wood studying the sciences before moving to Southampton University, graduating in Podiatric Medicine in 2002.

Podiatry is the branch of medicine dealing with the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of foot pathology, differing from Chiropody in terms of training and remit of practice. Podiatrists are involved in: wound care, particularly for diabetics or those with deformity and/or reduced circulation and sensation in their feet; surgery, either minor ops or more complex orthopaedic procedures and sports related problems.

I began my working life with Oxfordshire PCT, being promoted to Community Team Leader in 2003, managing a group of clinics in South East Oxfordshire. In 2005 I moved to Northamptonshire PCT as the Clinical Lead in Podiatry, managing both the acute and community provision throughout the county. During this period, I took a 3 month sabbatical to cover a friend’s maternity leave in Brisbane – a well timed break from the NHS, and great to see the profession in another country...as well as the beaches, sunshine, BBQs...!!

In 2008 I returned to Oxfordshire to set up my own practice. I am now operating out of two private health centres, with a home visiting service too, and on a monthly basis running a service for the MS Trust.

I reflect on my time at Eltham College, and credit the breadth of experiences (both socially and academically) in providing strong foundations and confidence, encouraging me to seek opportunities in my professional life – THANK YOU.

Hannah Rycroft(1999)

