

PLANE TALKING



A NEWSLETTER FOR OLD ELTHAMIANS

JANUARY 2012 ~ ISSUE 9

A message from the President - December 2011

The New Year is upon us and it is time to reflect on the past year, and in our case the last OEA year. Members of the OEA will shortly be receiving their magazine, edited for the final time by Brian Richardson to whom our warmest thanks are due. In the magazine you will find summaries of the follow-up to 'Time to Restructure', most of them focused on the EGM held at Foxbury on September 12th. I was grateful to everyone who attended and supported the proposed changes. In the New Year the committee will be moving on to the next stage, finding directors and trustees who will continue to work for the benefit of the School and the Association.

At the AGM, held before the Winter Reunion, we put the final touches to the resolutions already passed at the EGM, thus completing the re-structuring process which has been on our minds now for some long time and for which we have principally to thank David Norris and Ian Beith. I believe every OE has had a copy of the resolutions. In any event the next Old Elthamian Magazine will give a detailed summary of the changes we have been planning and approving; future archivists will not find it difficult to track down the small print!

I shall not repeat here the well-deserved votes of thanks I have made in the

magazine to Brian Richardson, Magazine Editor and Membership Secretary, and Roger Scopes, Secretary, except to say that they both have made significant and, in Brian's case, long contributions to the OEA, and both will be greatly missed. In the picture of the AGM Brian and Roger are seated by the front window.

So Happy New Year to you in which I hope we shall find time to share in the celebrations of a hundred years in Mottingham with more than half of those years still fresh in the hyper-active minds of most of my contemporaries!

Chris Bradnock (President)



2001 Reunion Drinks in London

Almost a third of the Class of 2001 and eight staff met up in the shadow of St Paul's for an evening's get-together after work. We were fortunate to pick an evening before Paternoster Square became a tented village. We hope that things will be back to normal before we meet up with the Class of 2002 later this year.

Below, from L to R: Bobby Adams, Rosie Wynne-Simmons, Nick Palmer, Toby Ogden, Amit Khan, Dan Khan, Simon Joyce, Jonathan Whitehead, Bobby Pratap, Meera Kalamathan, John Mundy, Ed Mainwaring-Burton



In this issue >>>

2001 Reunion Drinks in London

You take the High Road

An international Court for the Environment

2007 Graduation Lunch

Gone with the Wind

An Accidental Draftsman

Winter Reunion

All the Ones

On the Right Track

Law Gathering

It's a Marathon not a Sprint

Dates for your Diary

2007 Graduation Lunch

In September, to celebrate the graduation of our leavers from 2007, before many launch themselves into the world of work, we invited them back for an informal lunch and a chance to catch up. All seemed very excited that they were able to stand on the grass in the New Quad! We are going to make this a regular event – we will be inviting the Class of 2008 on 22nd September 2012.

From L to R: Andrew Jameson; Peter Richards; Norman Levy; Carl Hewson; Christine Head-Rapson; Steph Subramaniam; Katie Bollom; Sophie Ann Ireland; Nick Coupe; Leah Patel; Matt Morgan; Seen Wai Lavelle; Anna Simmons; Sethu Mani-Babu; Matt Cassells; Sam Causer; Dave Burnett; Harry Penny; Jordan Phillips; Julian Shaw; Tim Robins; James Gunn; James Nall; Tom Gault.



Winter Reunion

We were pleased to welcome back over 200 OEs in December for the Winter Reunion. This year, in addition to the regular activities normally associated with a reunion, we had the added attraction of Mark Stickings giving a presentation on the first 100 years of the school in Nottingham. There was the choice of a formal lunch in Room 1 or al fresco in Old Quad while being entertained by the Rhythm and Blues Band, before we braved the bracing conditions outside to enjoy what the day had to offer.

Two teams of OEs and the school team played netball and there were two games of rugby. A sixth form

team played against the recent leavers, the other rugby match involving many of the regulars who play at Foxbury against a team featuring players from the 1999 Leavers who had come back (along with Holly Dowlen who played netball) following the tragic death of Stewart Goodwin in August.

Afterwards in King George's Hall everyone was able to thaw out over tea. For the record the school teams won both their matches and Stewart's team narrowly won their match. From the school team, Jack Robertson was awarded the Pinkham Cup.



Left to right Sam Tarjomani, Dan Shering, Olly Murray, Pete Galloway, Richard Russ, Marc Carbasse, Ben White, Ken Rowlands, Andrew Palmer.

Law Gathering

An eloquence of lawyers, a writ of solicitors, whether these are the correct collective nouns who can say, but Stephen Hockman QC volunteered to host our first gathering for OEs involved in the legal profession at his 6 Pump Court Chambers in November. There was a flurry of business cards, lots of chatter and good company. Most came from London but Charles Smith travelled up from the South Coast. We are hoping to make this an annual event and are on the lookout for other groups who might like to meet up with OEs in their field. If anyone would like to host the former or suggest the latter please get in contact with anyone in the Development Office.

L to R: Robin Hay (1958), Charles Smith (1960), Richard Maury (1975), Stephen Hockman (1966), Michael Higginson (1976), David Latham (1972), Stuart Adair (1978), Paul Henderson, Chris Axford (1995), Narind Singh (1996), Rhys Llwelllyn (1994), Nikil Arora (2004), Mark Haftke (1981)



You take the High Road



We have for a number of years been inviting back groups of OEs to offer the benefit of their experience to current pupils as they try and decide on either their A level choices or which universities and courses to apply for; these evenings are very popular with both pupils and their parents.

In a new venture this term we invited back OEs whose careers have taken them in an entrepreneurial direction.

Later in the term we featured Careers in Finance, another popular evening. We are very grateful to all the OEs who have been prepared to give up their time on these evenings.

Entrepreneurs left to right: *Richard Palmer (2002), Managing Director at 1980 Something, Director at The Fine Bean Coffee Company, Trustee at TradeRelief*

Jon Chase (1987), CEO at Velvet Rock Communications, Chairman, MAC (Media Agencies Council) at EACA (European Association of Communications Agencies)

Faizal Khan (2000), who has appeared and was successfully backed on Dragon's Den, owner at Peel Engineering Ltd and FA Licensed Football Agent at Temptation Promotions Ltd

Simon Morris (1983), CMO at LOVEFILM International and Graze
Matt Lewis (1991), Director at Active Group an event company which works with many multinationals.



Tim Prifti (1987), Underwriter at Kiln

Robert Hillman (1989), Fund Manager at BH-DG Systematic Trading

Paul Sennett (1980), MD, Loan Sales at Deutsche Bank
Hugh Wade-Jones (1999), MD at Enness Private Clients

Imran Khan (2007), Associate, Tax Management Consulting at Deloitte

Tom Charlick (2003), Head of Business Planning at Tottenham Hotspur PLC

Gone with the Wind

A team of six Old Elthamians travelled to a very windy Hunstanton expecting to be thrashed by Clifton College in the first round of the Grafton Morrish. Clifton were the Holders and also the winners of the Halford Hewitt this year. The combined handicaps of their team total about 4 whereas ours totalled 35!

Well, we shuffled the pack and put out our high handicap pair, Mike Hills (Chalmers) and Adrian Baulf (Chalmers) against their top pair, two young ex-tour professionals and we took them to the 14th.

Our second pair, Gavin Caldwell (Chalmers) and Francis Paszyk (Livingstone), had an outstanding win against the Clifton thirds, a couple of spotty teenagers new to the delights of scratch foursomes. We think Francis, a Lloyd's Broker, talked them out of the game!

Then our top pair, Jon Wright (Chalmers) and David Adair (Moffatt), came within a couple of holes of beating the seasoned Clifton second pair, having been ahead for most of the match!

Clifton then went on to the semi-finals winning their next three matches by a more comfortable margin. They were beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winners, Birkenhead. We were confident that if we had seen off Clifton our name would have been on the Trophy. However the Eltham College Shield is on the wall of the bar in the Hunstanton Clubhouse.

We relaxed in the bar for the rest of the first day and most of the night and played

in the Plate the following day. We did not win the Plate but we all had a great time on two lovely golf courses, Hunstanton and Brancaster (Royal West Norfolk).

Dates for the diaries of our low handicap golfers: Qualifier – Royal Wimbledon – Sunday 29th April 2012, Finals – October 5th to 7th 2012

And for all OE Golfers: OEGS Golf Day – Chislehurst – Friday 4th May 2012



L to R: Mike Hills (1977), Gavin Caldwell (1994), Adrian Baulf (1963), Jon Wright (1972), Francis Paszyk (1983), David Adair (1981)

All the Ones

The leavers from 1991, 1981 and all the way back to 1951 held a reunion at Eltham College in the Old Library in November. Some had not seen the Jubilee Block and were bemused at the younger ones complaining about the lack of willows in Old Quad as there had been a hard surface there in their day. The Library extension and expanded King George's Hall were new to

most but all agreed that school dinners had improved. Pictured below are some of the 1991 leavers:

L to R: Michael Hillman, Rob Carey, Nikki Ingram, Harry Claxton, Neil Fowler-Wright, Kevin Morrell, Mark Bosshard, Rosalie Pinkney, Jo Ficquet (Marsden-Williams), James Hodgson



It's a Marathon not a Sprint

In May 2011 and in my 74th year, I was awarded a PhD for my research into the Social History of Medicine during the late Georgian period. This may surprise those who knew me from my school days. Although my years at Eltham College were happy and fulfilling, invariably relating to scouting, sport, and out-of-classroom activities, I was scholastically very poor; I have the school reports to prove it!



Following my National Service I trained as a Chartered Accountant in the City and after eight years, moved into industry where I remained for the next thirty years. I had a very fulfilling career with increasing responsibilities in a global enterprise, travelling widely. As retirement drew near I was determined to plan for a change in occupation rather than establishing a closer acquaintance with my slippers.

I concluded that, apart from caring for one's health and helping those less fortunate than oneself, one should keep one's mind going. I decided to follow a childhood love of history and therefore joined the Open University, where six years of part-time study earned me a BA (Hons) in Cultural Studies. From there I joined

Oxford Brookes University to study part time for an MA. My interest was drawn towards the early modern period and the Social History of Medicine, researching the personal records of individuals, diaries and correspondence to discover new insights and gain understanding of healthcare in our communal past.

Having obtained an MA, with distinction, I was persuaded by my tutor to take up the arduous task, at my age anyway, of researching for a PhD, for which I registered in January 2005. The sources for my research were such that my supervisor encouraged me to seek publication, even at that early stage of research. I was first published in November 2006 and subsequently in 2008 which included two articles which I co-authored with a paediatric consultant who also has a PhD in the History of Medicine.

Who would have thought that an Eleven Plus failure would, after a successful career in global financial management, have become a published historian? I wonder how many of today's straight As will be as fortunate as I have been. Although a failure in one sense, I was nonetheless given the confidence by those at Eltham College to find the latent talents that each of us possesses. In today's laudable search for academic excellence, never forget the C grade student who may, with due encouragement, come out well beyond expectations in the end.

R M James, BA, MA, PhD, FCA, CTA. (1956)

An International Court for the Environment

About three years ago, following an item on the Today programme, I made my way to the British Library for the launch of a campaign for an International Court for the Environment (ICE) and to my great pleasure found that the meeting was chaired by Stephen Hockman QC, who not only inspired the concept of an ICE, but will be known to many of you as an OE. I had not seen Stephen for over 40 years and was pleased and not a little impressed that he recognised me after all that time.



Stephen, of course, is a distinguished environmental barrister and a former Chair of the Bar Council. My link with environmental issues had come from organising a high level dialogue on climate change between the European Union and India. Like Stephen, I believe that tackling critical environmental issues, including climate change, but also focusing on environmental degradation and preserving biodiversity, requires a legal institution capable of interpreting, clarifying and enforcing existing international treaties and hearing actions brought not just by states, which is, to some extent, already available through the International Court of Justice, but by communities and civil society organisations and, perhaps, individuals.

With Stephen as Chair, a small Steering Committee was created and very quickly a number of national and international supporters have been recruited and plans are being drawn up to present our proposals at the Rio+20 Conference 2012 and at other international fora. Slowly, and with a few dedicated colleagues, we are building an international campaign which we hope will achieve results quickly. The International Criminal Court took a decade to come into force - we hope that the ICE may beat that target.

I suspect that many of you are already committed to environmental action. If you would like to join us, you would be extremely welcome and if some of you have amassed a fortune since leaving school and are wondering what on earth you could do with it usefully, then do get in touch and we'd be delighted to meet you as soon as possible. You might also like to check out www.icecoalition.com

Peter Luff (1964)

An Accidental Draftsman

After a decade in Durham, I moved to London, prosecuting fraud for DHSS. One case involved a fraudster extracting money from two Government departments while simultaneously deceiving a regulator with three wholly different stories! Drafting that indictment was rather good fun. I would have stayed prosecuting but broke my leg rather badly in '89. Lengthy recuperation was envisaged and travelling was going to be difficult. A desk job was the



outcome, instructing Parliamentary Counsel on what became the Children Act 1989 was the result. The branch had a rather diverse practice (from abortion through adoption to cremation) but a chance period of leave by my boss led to my becoming the lead lawyer in the Department of Health on the Food Safety Act 1990. My drafting career began in earnest.

After ten years in DHSS, I became a Parliamentary Drafter with the Revenue, working on what became the Income Tax Earnings and Pensions Bill 2003, dealing with the taxation of employee benefits. I

stayed with the Revenue in a variety of roles including coordinating legal input to the annual Finance Bill until 2008.

In 2007 discussion about the UK/Isle of Man Customs agreement reminded me drafting legislation occurred elsewhere than London. In April 2008 I joined the Attorney General's Chambers in Douglas. My work now involves drafting law on everything from planning, housing, social security and taxation to elections and the constitution. Hearing one's labours promulgated in English and Manx at the Tynwald Day ceremony is a joy!

Howard Connell (1975)

On the Right Track

Some of my friends at Eltham College and I, sharing an interest in transport, formed the Omnibusologists' Society (with a fine disregard for etymology). This was changed to The Wheel in deference to those with railway interests and to avoid the derision of our classical friends. I was also chairman of the Model Railway Club.

On leaving school I joined the schedules office of London Transport and was put, quite by chance, to learn the technicalities with another OE. After four years with LT in various departments I decided that I was too interested in transport to be able to stand the ponderous nature of the organisation, and went to a teacher training college.

Very soon after I began teaching I was invited by a group of councillors at Orpington to set up what would nowadays be called a community bus service, but in those days neither the term nor the concept was recognised. This was done in their personal capacity as representatives of rural wards, not on behalf of the council. The Orpington Urban District, now part of the London Borough of Bromley, was sharply divided between the developed northern part and the still rural southern part around Downe and Biggin Hill, though the latter has been

developed since. We had no idea that we were starting something which would become commonplace in rural areas in later years.

This led to a similarly pioneering project using minibuses on normal bus routes, one between Orpington and Croydon and others in Surrey and West Sussex, which was almost unheard-of at the time, though it also became standard practice in some situations later. When our small group (not the same as the councillors mentioned above) did this at our own personal risk, my friends in London Transport and the National Bus Company laughed themselves silly, but a few years later were doing the same thing themselves – with other people's money!

As a result of my experience in the provision of rural transport I became the Transport Co-ordinating Officer of Leicestershire County Council, and subsequently Public Transport Officer in Northumberland. Again, I found I was not suited to working for a large organisation and set up another unconventional pioneering venture on the border of Scotland.

Almost all of the services which I started are still operating under other auspices, providing rural people with travel

opportunities which otherwise they would not have had.

Standing my career on its head, I obtained my higher degree (MSc in Transport Planning) at the conventional retirement age, and this, together with my career path, led to election as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (FCILT). I have since written a book about my work in rural transport, *Experiments in Rural Transport Operation*, and a potted history of transport development through the twentieth century, *Integrated Transport – a Will-o'-the-wisp?* I also give illustrated talks to professional and special-interest groups. You can look me up at www.john-wylde.co.uk

John Wylde (1952)



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Dates for your diary

including those celebrating our 100 Years in Mottingham

Friday 20th January	ECPTA Big Band Evening - ABH 7.30pm, the PTA launch their 2012 celebrations.
Monday 30th January	Centenary Dinner for former Head Prefects, Presidents of the OEA, Chairs of the PTA and Benefactors with Guest of Honour Lord Puttnam - Eltham College 7.00pm
Friday 3rd February	Oxford and Cambridge Dinner for Current Oxbridge Students - Magdalen College, Oxford 7pm
Thursday 8th March	London Drinks Reception - Simpson's-in-the-Strand 6.30pm
Friday 9th March	A Centenary Fireside - Eltham College, Central Hall 7.30pm. This celebrates the year 1912 with plays, poems and readings from such historic events as the Titanic and famous people such as code-breaker Alan Turing.
Thursday 15 March	Jubilee! A Concert to Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM the Queen in the stunning setting of the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich 7.30pm
Sunday 25th March	The Big Run – Blackheath 10.00am, Sport Relief Mile – Eltham College 10.15am. Recreating the 4½ mile move from Blackheath to Mottingham in 1912; alternately the 1 mile run can be completed within the school grounds.
Tuesday 24th April	Centenary Concert - Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre 7.30pm. A Festival Concert involving the College Choir, Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Concert Band, Choral Society and Jazz Orchestra.
Friday 27th April	OE Girls' Reunion Dinner - Eltham College 7pm
Friday 4th May	OE Golf Day - Chislehurst Golf Club
Saturday 5th May	South East Reunion Lunch - Eltham College 12.00 noon
Saturday 12th May	South West Reunion Lunch - Taunton, Somerset 12.00 noon
Saturday 19th May	1960 Leavers' Lunch - Eltham College 12.00 noon
Saturday 26th May	1952 / 62 / 72 / 82 & 92 Leavers' Dinner - Eltham College 7pm
Saturday 23rd June	PTA Centenary Ball - Eltham College, Marquee 6.30pm. Fabulous evening of entertainment; a four course dinner followed by dancing to the big band sound of The Pete Long Orchestra.
Saturday 30th June	Sports Day with Guest of Honour Patricia Liddell Russell 10.00am ECCO Pops Open Air Centenary Concert - School Fields 8.00pm ECCO showcases a hundred years of music from the silver screen - culminating in the traditional 'Last Night of the Proms' favourites and a Firework Spectacular.
Sunday 1st July	Cricket - Eltham College First XI v OE XI School Fields 12.00 noon
Tuesday 28th August to Saturday 1st September	1st Pre-season Rugby Tour to Taunton School and the West Country.
Thursday 20th September	2002 Leavers' Drinks Reception - London 6.30pm
Saturday 22nd September	2008 Leavers' Graduation Lunch - Eltham College 12.30pm
Saturday 29th September	1957 / 67 / 77 / 87 & 97 Leavers' Dinner - Eltham College 7pm
Friday 19th to Monday 22nd October	U14 Rugby Tour to Taunton School In honour of the boarders who were evacuated there in the Second World War.
Sunday 16th December	OEA Winter Reunion - Eltham College 12.00 noon OE Art Exhibition - Gerald Moore Gallery 12.00 noon
Wednesday 19th December	Centenary Carol Services - Southwark Cathedral 7.00pm. Join the College Choir in the beautiful setting of Southwark Cathedral for a traditional service of carols and readings to celebrate Christmas and the culmination of Eltham College's Centenary year.

Do you work in any of the following areas and would you be prepared to contribute to a Careers Forum?

Tuesday 28th February	Languages at Work
Tuesday 8th May	Medical
Tuesday 2nd October	Law
Tuesday 27th November	Engineering

If so please contact Helen Wilson on 020 8851 9840 or by email htw@eltham-college.org.uk