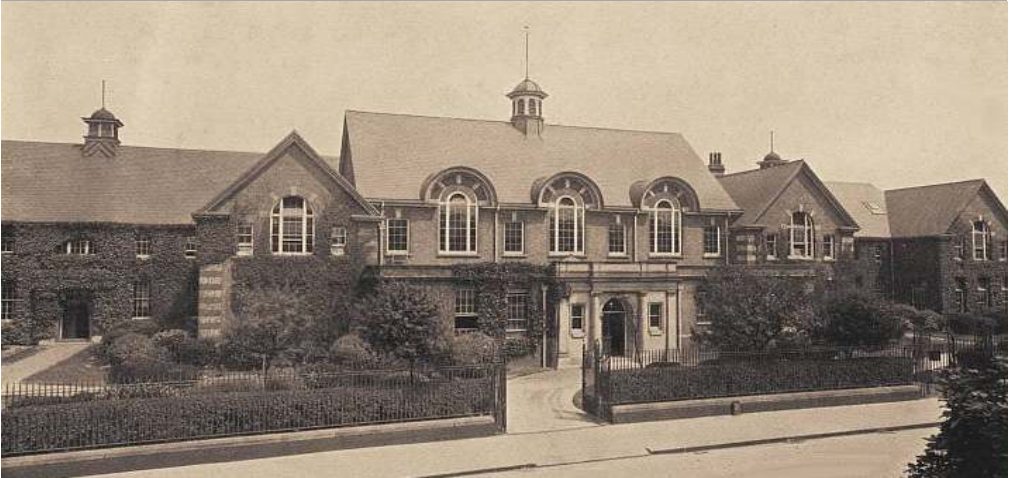


The Old Croydonians

MAGAZINE

April 2005



The official magazine for the association
of ex-pupils of the Selhurst Schools

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Front cover: From top to bottom, left to right

The Boys' School c 1930

Prefects c1970

Class 5y c1946

Girls' school from the air. c1920s



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MAIN FEATURE



Ray Carter's School Days

PAGE **28**

Ray Carter (Alpha, 1925 -1931)
*We sent our roving reporter,
Isabel to meet Ray at his home,
and asked him to reflect on his
school life and beyond...*

STOP PRESS
Further supplies
of school ties could
be in stock at our
next event in July

School Badges...



If you have examples of variations on Selhurst school badges, let us know...!
- Thanks Ed.

Message from the Chairman

It wasn't many years ago that a meeting of the Old Croydonians Association could have been accommodated in a reasonably commodious water closet. How things have changed! The fact that at the Centenary Lunch on 30th October, 2004 we made a creditable attempt at filling the main banqueting hall of the Croydon Hilton indicates the extent of that change – for the better. A more detailed report from Peter Francis and Norman Smail starts on page 9, so I will not elaborate here. However, I must thank all who attended and, secondly, express sincere thanks to every member of the committee, their partners and assistants for their tireless efforts to ensure the event was the undoubted success that it was.



The passing of an event like a Centenary must give rise to a certain feeling of anticlimax – it's far too early to start planning the next one – so what's to do now? Do not despair there is another and perhaps more significant anniversary on the horizon, our anniversary – **the Centenary of the founding of the Old Croydonians Association** – which occurs in November 2011, only six years away. Watch this space!

The events of the Centenary have generated a further increase in Association membership. I would like to take this op-

portunity of welcoming all our new members and hope to see as many of you as possible at our usual annual events, the Reunion in July and the AGM in October.

As many of you may already know, we launched our very own 'Old Croydonians Web site' on the 20th August last year at www.TheOldCroydonians.org.uk to complement articles in the magazine and keep you updated with what's happening at the OCA. May I encourage you to visit the site, where I know you'll find lots of information relating to both schools.

2005 also sees the launch of our 'new look' Old Croydonians' Magazine. Thanks to the large number of contributions from ex pupils of both the boys' and girls' school, our new Editor has been able to produce a magazine that ranks as one of the longest we've ever produced. We hope you enjoy, as I did, reading the variety of articles on the pages that follow..."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Mauri', written in a cursive style.

**DEREK
MAURI**
April, 2005

THE SCHOOL SONG

J. A. WRIGHT

C. W. SCOTT

The musical score is written for piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the fourth system.

1. Felix ubi nemorum saltus arridebat,
Schola nostra condita, genio sit praedita,
Tum qui praesidebat
Io Selhurst, silva felix,
Io Selhurst, cara nutrix,
Viget, vigeat, vigebit
2. Cara nutrix, ardui nihil, te iuvante,
Nobis nec molestia ulla sint proposita,
Te auxiliante.
3. Cum praetextis positis lucta exercemur,
Almae matri debita quae ab illa habita,
Semper recordemur.
4. Laus sit senioribus qui et adspexerunt
Mortem, et qui vulnera, pugnantem pro patria,
Laeti acceperunt.

A warm welcome from the new Editor



Hello, and welcome to 2005's Old Croydonian Magazine. As many of you will know by now, I have taken over from Bernard Woolnough as

Editor. I would like to thank Bernard for his 20 plus years' service to the magazine. I intend to uphold his principles of entertaining, informing and educating Old Croydonians.

One of the things that's *most* important to me is to ensure that the Magazine continues to be YOUR Magazine, filled with *your* ideas. Your stories, anecdotes and observations in all things related to the Boys' and Girls' schools continue to be the lifeblood of this

publication and I'm happy to receive your contributions by post, by fax, by email - whatever suits you. I know we have a wealth of material out there, and I think we've managed to include everything that was waiting 'on-the-shelf' for publication. If not, my apologies, please get in touch and we'll ensure your article makes it to the next Magazine.

History has shown that once in every generation, a technology emerges that challenges the status quo. For me, it is the *personal computer* that has made the biggest difference to my business and social life. In 1968 when I attended

the Boys' school for the very first time, computers hadn't been invented, and like many of us, I became part of the generation who's played 'catch-up' ever since! In 1989, when I started my own business, I found myself learning about PCs at a very rapid pace even though my business isn't *directly* related to computers! I found that they now revolutionise *what* and *how* I do my everyday work. They've given me significant advantages in terms of *speed*, *accuracy* and *productivity* in whatever I'm

working on, compared to more traditional methods of writing and general communication. I've applied everything I've learned to this, your 2005 new-look Magazine. It has allowed us to build on the success of Bernard's previous magazines and now, we're

able to create the magazine in a way that was not possible, nor practical in the past. These results have given us a very cost effective publication, *and*, in a shorter time scale.

I hope you enjoy it - Let me know!

Steve Palmer ('Ed')

1968-75, Gamma

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The A.G.M. Record - Peter Juniper



RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in the Boys' School Dining Room on Saturday 9th October 2004

PRESENT:

Derek J Mauri (Chairman), Bernard E Woolnough (Editor & Treasurer), Peter D Juniper (Secretary), 52 members and guests. Guest Speaker: Joan Pickering, M.A. (Vice-President & Head Teacher).

The meeting opened at 12.05 pm. The Agenda and Audited Accounts had been sent out by mid-September: 54 acceptances and 100 apologies for absence.

Minutes of the last AGM: accepted as a correct record. Proposed: John Gent. Seconded: Peter Francis. Carried without dissent. No matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A few tickets remained for the Centenary Lunch on October 30th. An invitation has been received for Committee representatives to join the Selhurst Boys' School for their Remembrance Service: this is an annual service at which a representative from each form takes part.

85 members and their guests attended an enjoyable Summer Reunion in July.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A record number of Old Croydonians had been in contact and also attended our two main events at the schools. The next event is the celebration of 100 years since the Borough Schools were founded.

The Council has met on four occasions. Much work has been done to strengthen ties with our members and guests at social events. It is anticipated that 240 will attend the Lunch at the Hilton, Croydon.

Links with Selhurst High School for Boys and with the BRIT School have continued. The Boys' School Librarian, Mrs Kathy Gadd, has asked that the continuing need for unwanted books for the Library be mentioned again.

A plaque is being considered for those Girls who served their Country in 1914, 1939 and other conflicts: it may be possible to add one to the Board in the Boys' School Foyer, or in the BRIT School Foyer. The precise wording is still being discussed.

The Secretary thanked everyone for their continuing support and looked forward to seeing many members at future events: offers of assistance would be welcome, in particular, by the ladies who continue to provide the refreshments.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Auditor's Report and Accounts: sale of the Sports' Ground had provided additional funds, and debt repayment. Several new members, particularly Life Members, have been welcomed

Public Liability Insurance: at this event, it is onerous. Many Companies refuse to quote at all: the BRIT School includes this in the hire fee.

Building Society account: incurs tax on the interest payment. This might be avoidable. It was agreed to look into this.

Adoption of all the Reports: Proposed: John Bidgood. Seconded: Eric Austin. No objections or further comments.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2004-2005

The Officers: unopposed and may be re-elected for a further year. An exception was the Treasurer, who had also carried out the onerous task as the Association's Editor for many years, and had now decided to hand over to a volunteer, Steve Palmer. Bernard was thanked for his years of dedication; he would be difficult to follow. Proposed: Ray Carter. Seconded: Keith Whitham. Carried unanimously.

Election of other members of the Council for 2004-5: Ray Carter MBE, Peter Francis, Isabel MacLeod, Pauline Sinclair, Norman Smail, Keith Whitham. Proposed: Tony Witherick. Seconded: Leon Brook. Agreed nem con. They were duly elected.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Brian E Smith was thanked for all his work on the Accounts and his re-election was proposed: all were in favour and this was agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Selhurst High School for Boys: The Chairman introduced our Guest Speaker who, once again, informed members of success in the past year. The School had achieved Specialist Sports' Status: funds were forthcoming from Lord Harris of Peckham, and others, for sports facilities, changing rooms, and flood lighting. This could also benefit the local community.

There was now a regular 'Saturday' School, and the Family Day was again a popular feature. A successful Summer Fair had been held. The Librarian was mentioned again, and her dedication to improving the stock of books, over the last four years, was praised.

The A.G.M. Record - Peter Juniper

Subscriptions: there have been numerous transfers from SM to Life Membership which has been helpful.

Membership Lists: 562 members of whom about 25% are ex-Girls' School pupils. Three resignations owing to people moving away. The Addendum of recent new members is regularly updated.

Summer Reunion 2005: proposed for Friday 8th July

Centenary Lunch: from 12 noon at Croydon Hilton, Purley Way. The Selhurst Book (by John Gent and Isabel MacLeod) will be available (£7 on the day, thereafter £7.50 plus p & p). Keith Whitham will handle memorabilia for display and also has CDs of the School Song available.

Finally, the Committee was asked to consider any assistance that might also be given to the BRIT School; this will be discussed shortly. The meeting closed at 12.44 pm. Members then retired to enjoy the usual excellent refreshments ably organised by Pauline Sinclair and Doreen Juniper to whom we are again indebted.

Peter D Juniper



Honorary Secretary

9.10.2004

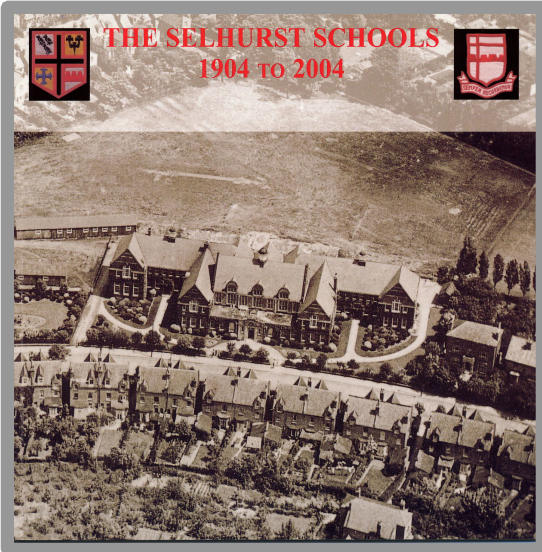
The OCA Committee 2004



From left to right. Front to back. Pauline Sinclair (Member & Catering). Ray Carter MBE (Member), Isabel MacLeod (Membership Secretary), Joan Pickering (Head, Selhurst High School), Bernard Woolnough (Treasurer and Editor), Derek Mauri, Chairman and Peter Juniper (Secretary)

'The Selhurst Schools 1904 - 2004'

Trevor James (1958-1965) has kindly reviewed the book, 'The Selhurst Schools 1904 - 2004' by John Gent and Isabel MacLeod. If you would like a copy, please complete the order form on the next page...



In some senses The Crescent is an unremarkable road, standing near to part of the former Croydon Common which has been labelled 'Selhurst' since Saxon times. However the decision of the Croydon Education Committee in 1904 to locate its new Borough Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls to a site in that newly formed road has given The Crescent a significance of enormous proportions, almost of spiritual dimensions, to the thousands of girls and boys who attended those two Schools until they were closed in 1988.

In presenting their *The Selhurst Schools 1904 to 2004* to celebrate the Centenary of the foundation of these two Schools, Isabel MacLeod and John Gent have strongly reflected the importance of the educational experiences provided by these Schools and the importance of this site. The benefits to our understanding of the history of these two Schools, and the contribution that they made, revealed by this publication will be very helpful to local historians and historians of education alike, as well as to the many past pupils who will now be able to put their experience into a wider chronological context.

Whilst previous histories of the Boys' School have been published, the exploration of the original sources relating to the Girls' School has been a very welcome departure. This is an extremely readable publication and the way that the material has been processed and managed would make it attractive to the wider reader.

It has to be said that full histories of both of these Schools are now required because this work has revealed the depths of archive material, documentary as well as photographic, which is just waiting to be explored and evaluated.

Trevor James

FORMER PUPIL'S ASSOCIATION OF SELHURST HIGH SCHOOLS
formerly Selhurst Grammar Schools and Croydon Borough Schools

President: R.A. Smith, M.A.(Oxon)

***Old
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Association***

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Dear Member

THE SELHURST SCHOOLS 1904 –2004

A 48 page book was published at the end of October 2004. Written jointly by John Gent and Isabel MacLeod, it celebrates the foundation of the Croydon Borough Schools for Boys and Girls in 1904. Renamed Selhurst Grammar Schools in 1922, they became comprehensive schools in 1971 and then closed in 1988. The premises are now used by Selhurst High School for Boys and the BRIT School for Art, Media and Design. The book tells the story of the schools over the last hundred years. It is illustrated with 52 photographs, most never published before.

If you would like to obtain a copy, please detach the slip below and send it with your remittance (£8.50 per copy including postage and packing) made payable to “The Old Croydonians’ Association” to the above address.

Yours sincerely

Isabel MacLeod
Membership Secretary

Block capitals please

Please sendcopies of **THE SELHURST SCHOOLS – 1904 TO 2004**

I enclose a cheque forto cover the cost.

Name

Address

.....

.....

The Centenary Lunch

Peter Francis (1937-1940) and Norman Smail (1936-1939) have written to give us their review of the Centenary Lunch...



These impressions of the Centenary Lunch

came about through two committee members finding that, because of the expertise and hard work of the very efficient Lunch Sub-Committee, there was very little left for them to do to help in organising the event. So, to make amends and to assist in filling the pages of this new-look magazine, here follows a few words in retrospect.

Arriving at the Croydon Hilton, having luckily chosen the right road

off the Purley Way, and in fine sunny but chilly weather, we

collected our appropriate name badges and first-drink tokens and were ushered into a corner of the lounge, where, with kid-glove treatment, the new magazine editor, Steve Palmer wielding his trusty digital camera, quickly performed his for-the-record job.

The response of members to the call for items of memorabilia started as a trickle, albeit a fairly substantial one, soon became a torrent and was duly



Happy faces all round...

The Centenary Lunch

organised into a four or five-table display around the outer walls of the spacious dining room. By now the reception rooms were filling up with people and chat:

"Ah! I see your dates are..." "Now, do you remember..?" "Have you come far?" and "What was the name of that fellow who was such a good rugger player?"

Soon there was nowhere to sit but one could visit the well-stocked bar and exchange those first-drink tokens that had been handed out on entering. And with drinks in mind a well-ordered queue was forming at an inner bar, where wine lists were being perused and minds made up as to which wine, and in what quantity, was needed to go with the forthcoming luncheon.

Then, in stentorian voice, it was announced that we should take our seats because lunch was about to be served. With very efficient labelling both of tables and individual places thereon, the seating of the gallant

three hundred took place with hardly a hiccup anywhere.



Toast-masters come in all shapes and sizes, and the one on this occasion was the right size but where shape was concerned there was something to be desired; his



outfit, one keen-eyed diner observed, needed rather more careful pressing than it had obviously received that morning. However, he did a great job announcing the arrival of

The Centenary Lunch

"The Mayor of Croydon!". It made everyone sit up, or rather, stand up and take notice.

Because of the clever seating plan and the spirit of the occasion, a terribly shy member, or even an utter bore, would soon have found himself or herself comfortable in good company.

The memory of school dinners faded, then completely disappeared when the company was faced with the fine



fare the Hilton offered, and the fact that there was no sound of spoon banging on tables surely meant that the service was exemplary.

The frivolous business of eating and drinking having come to an end it

was time for the more serious business of speech-making to begin. It could be said that the highlight was the address given by the Mayor. What a lively friendly humorous bear-



ing has she! After congratulatory remarks she went on to say that she regretted the fact that her consort was unable to attend and that he, being an old boy of the school, had in the past regaled her with his memories of Smiler King during his time at the school and she passed on to us some of those gems.

One V.I.P. who was unable to be there was the school's present head-teacher, Mrs. Joan Pickering - Understandably, for she was on an anniversary-commemorating holiday in a far-away exotic place.

The Centenary Lunch

Speeches over, toasts proposed and drunk, it was traditionally time for the singing of the school song; with the words printed on the menu there was no excuse for anybody not to join in.



But of course all was not quite over yet. There was all that memorabilia to be savoured and discussed; the school history booklet and the C.D. of the song to be bought and sold; and friends and acquaintances who hadn't had the opportunity to meet beforehand did so back in the lounge.



All three verses and choruses had to be got through and all eyes were concentrating on the Latin words, but not quite all eyes: one pair needed no prompting and the whole was sung by heart. Congratulations, D.M!

The Hilton and the organising Committee did us all extremely well.

For those with access to the world-wide web, you can see more pictures from the Centenary Lunch by clicking on this icon on the home page - Ed.



www.TheOldCroydonians.org.uk

Childhood friendships rekindled...

The Croydon Guardian ran an article on the Centenary Lunch. They reported that over 250 ex-pupils travelled from all over the UK and overseas, giving old class-mates a chance to rekindle old friendships and swap memories..



The Guardian Reporter said Former Girls' School pupil, Anne Johnson (3rd from left, standing) said I had a close friend at school who was in my class, and she came all the way from Plymouth for the event. There were 10 people from our class Vy (the Class of '61) and we sat around chatting. We had a lot of catching up to do! It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and friendships were rekindled that were forged all those years ago...

Class Vy - Class of '61

Copyright 2004 - Croydon Guardian



From L to R seated: Kay Kenward, Susan Hayler, Ann Hayler, Lesley Robinson, and Shirley Weightman

From L to R standing: Susan Powell, Anne Johnson, Brenda Kirby (Mayor of Croydon), Marion Henocq and Lyn Mears

The Post Bag

Frances Dorothy Stewart (1945-1950) wrote to us, telling us how the Summer Reunion helped friends get together and celebrate 54 years of fond memories...

As an 'old girl' of Selhurst Grammar School (1945-1950) I joined the Old Croydonians Association in 2003

I attended that year's reunion and entered the boys' school feeling nervous, yet excited. The room was buzzing with lively conversation, predominantly male. Would I find the one girl from my form whose name was in the O.C. magazine?. After a glass of wine and nearly giving up, I was approached by a lady with a similar problem. When I told her the name I was looking for, she was able to point her out to me. We did not recognise each other at first, after all, it had been a very long time! However, we were soon swapping memories and photographs.

We had a delicious meal and found all members very friendly. It was an enjoyable evening and we resolved to finding other class mates. My re-found friend said she would explore the Internet and I later received a phone call from a girl who had seen my name in the O.C. magazine.

We met again at this year's summer reunion and were joined by the third girl who had located some others and they had arranged to meet at the Centenary lunch. Unable to attend myself, as I was to be on holiday, I suggested they invite the others to come to my home at a later date.

The result was that seven "X"-ers gathered at my house on November 6th and we had a GREAT time. On this occasion, the buzz was very feminine as we attempted to catch up with our memories for fifty-four years!

We hope to build on this and have already made some more contacts which should lead to a good contingent attending the next reunion. **Is anybody out there?** We want to hear from you! We only have about another thirty to find.

Many thanks to the "Old Boys" for allowing us to become OLD CROYDONIANS!!!



Frances and friends celebrating over half a century of memories...

The Post Bag

Doug Honer, (1948-1972), 92 years young, has sent us a number of interesting photographs. Below, we have the Masters who were officers in the School ACF and ATC in July 1955. Overleaf, we also have a photograph of the School Staff in the Summer of 1958 at the time of Mr Alfred Barlow's retirement as boy and Master. Then, a photograph of Denis Cowing who taught Chemistry from 1952-1974. Finally, memories of the Boys' school trip to Holland in April 1962...



Lt. F Wells

Flight Lt. H Nixon

Capt. F Mills

Lt. Col. H C Hughes

Lt. D Honer

School Staff 1958



Know!
- Thanks Ed.
We're not 100% sure that we've got all the names correct. Let us

Back row, from L to R Job, Heald , Dowden, Stanswood?, Oakley, English, Cowing, Nebel, Colquo(u)n, Wynyard
Spratt, Holder, Weeks-Pearson, Beunnetto, Honer, Turpin, Parker, Wells, Hawkins, Brownbridge
Hughes, Mills, Nixon, Pritchard, Barlow, Ackland, Wightman, Wedd, Egford, Taylor, Hore



Denis Cowing, Chemistry Teacher
1952 - 1974

Eric Fuller (1933-1938) reflects on two great School heads...

My memories go back to Wally Bentley and Miss Lister (greatly to be revered) as Heads. I respected Wally also. He was a Head "of the old school". When trembling before him as a delinquent first-former I noticed a hair on the end of his nose! He was a wise man, teaching the First Forms both Chemistry, in which he qualified at Oxford, and R. E. When I was school Lab. Assistant I found several of his Chemistry text books in the small Science Library. He used to wear a small Cross in his lapel, and I often wondered whether he was an Anglican Lay Reader.

It is good that some of the ladies (I dare not call them "old girls") are taking a real interest in the Association.

Yours sincerely,

Eric B. Fuller (1933 - 38).

The Post Bag

Tony Hanscomb organised the trip to Holland in April 1962.

The group consisted of 34 boys, and 4 members of the teaching staff - Hanscomb, Wells, Tasker and Honer



Departure



The Hotel



Leaving the Hotel

The Post Bag

The Boys, the Belgian coach driver and Mr. Tasker



Teachers: Hanscomb, Wells, Tasker and Honer



Farewell...



Return to Ostend



Teachers going Dutch!



Maggie Bristow (1966-1971) wrote to us, letting us know of her planned reunion picnic ...



Maggie Bristow's Picnic in the Park

As all of my classmates and I hit the 'big 50' during this year. My school friend Penny Ede (née Swan) and I thought it would be a good idea to hold our own re-union, possibly a picnic on either:-

Saturday, 28th May 2005 or
Monday 30th May 2005
(The Bank Holiday)

Morden Hall Park has been suggested, but we're open to ideas. If anyone from our year including members of staff are interested, please get in touch with me...(Yes, I'm the daft girl who went to a Latin lesson dressed in a toga!!)

68 Arundel Rd
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 2EP

Email: magrat9@hotmail.com

We've already had one successful reunion, five or six years ago, but there were a lot of faces missing. As this is a special year for us, it would be great if we could get everyone together again!

PS Where are all the ex-pupils of my generation? You don't need to be retired to contribute to the OCA magazine!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Bristow". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a white rectangular background that is slightly tilted.

The Post Bag



Julian Hornby (1957-1964) writes an affectionate tribute to Reg Egford and Ray Heald whilst reflecting on teachers' transport of the day...

I was sorry to hear of the deaths of Reg Egford and Ray Heald. I was never taught by Reg Egford, but I remember he was popular with his English students in the sixth form. On one occasion, he gave Michael Allen and myself a lift home to Norbury in his estate car (possibly a Ford Cortina) and then discussed his bee-keeping with us. Ray Heald taught me A level Latin in the sixth form and I was also one of his assistants in the School library. Whenever 'The Fast Lady' film (1962) is re-shown on television, I am reminded of Ray Heald by Eric Barker playing the Driving Examiner, 'Wentworth'. Incidentally, Eric Barker went to Whitgift School and started his career in 1931-33 as a character actor at Birmingham, Oxford and Croydon Repertory Theatres.

Are there any other stories out there of teachers and their transport methods? Let us know - Thanks Ed.

References to Douglas Honer's sixty-six years of driving and Ray Heald's Jaguar reminded me of the interesting cars one used to see in the staff car park.

Mr Taylor - *Black Morris 10*

Mr Honer - *Grey Triumph Mayflower*

Mr Hughes - *Maroon MG Y-type*

Mr Turnbull - *Red and Cream Hillman Minx Californian*

Mr Benson - *Yellow MG Midget*

..and outside the front entrance...

Mr. Ackland's stylish maroon MGZ-Magnette saloon car

In the 1950s and 1960s, car ownership in Britain was not so common as it is nowadays and the 'invasion' of the Japanese and other foreign cars had not really started, although an occasional Volkswagen Beetle was seen!

Not all masters came to school by car. For example, Mr Oakley kept fit, by cycling to school on his green Raleigh Superbe bicycle.

J. J. Hornby

Celia Butcher née Rockliffe B.E.M. (1936-1942) writes about taking over the village post office, marrying a butcher's son called Frank (Frank Butcher!) and being awarded the B.E.M.



I was evacuated with Selhurst Grammar School to Hove in 1939, then went onto Virginia Water and Guildford. Joined the Land Army in 1942 and worked at Camfields Farm, Rudgwick, near Horsham, West Sussex. Married village butcher's son in 1945 and became Mrs Frank Butcher! We took over the village post office, telephone exchange and delivery of post in the village. Got used to getting up at 5.30am for sorting the mail and supervising three postmen. I contracted M.S. In 1964, but despite my disability, I'm still able to enjoy life.

My husband worked as a TV Engineer. and we had two sons. I continued to run the Post Office with help until 1998. I was awarded the B.E.M in 1989 for services to the village. My husband has been an invalid since 1975, with MS and a broken

hip. I was able to nurse him with wonderful help from our Doctors and Nurses. He died before I received the letter telling me I had been awarded the medal.

I had a wonderful retirement party organised by the village and I still live in Woes House, where the Post Office was and take part in the many activities in our village

I went to school with Eileen Rowland and we are still good friends. I'm enjoying my retirement!

Celia Butcher
B.E.M.

You can find out more about the B.E.M. here
http://www.debretts.co.uk/etiquette/british_empire.html
- Ed.

The Post Bag

John Gooding (1925-1933) wrote to us, in response to Eric Austin's (1925-1932) account of George Kynch in our previous Magazine...

I was very interested to read Eric Austin's account of George Kynch in the last "Old Croydonian". May I add a little about Kynch by way of amplification and explanation. Our paths met in 1931/3, and I saw him on occasions into the middle thirties.

We should be pleased that he was a very high quality product of Selhurst. He came to my notice when he joined VI Science in September 1931. There was a two-year syllabus for Higher Schools, which would be taken AB or BA depending on which year you entered sixth form: with small numbers in those days (single figures) it made for best use of teacher time. I soon sensed that he was a bit special... though no slouch myself I realised that he would probably outdo the rest of us in maths (with kind offices of Mr. Katz).

At the end of his first year he sat for Higher Schools and passed with A grades in 4 subjects (Maths, Applied, Physics, Chemistry) by high summer 1932. Then "Shock horror", he was too young for University and was obliged eventually to "waste" an extra year waiting, which he did, at school.

I, meanwhile, passed Higher Schools after the regulation two years. Having then nothing lined up to do, I was able, by good fortune, to carry on for a third year, ostensibly to sit for a Civil Service examination (a "Micawberish" time, eventually solved by Mr. Pritchard). George and I would look round for empty class-rooms to work. This was a time of negligible supervision. We talked. He played "yo-yo" and we thought about the physics. I left school in May and here-took Higher Schools and passed in all subjects again in 1933 (his actual school leaving date).

We also had a two-season contact in cricket as he acted as travelling umpire for the First XI (of which I had the honour to be captain).

We met on occasions in the mid-thirties when I was in London and at Birkbeck College (evenings) and he in R.C.S. Kensington. I remember him describing a statistical method for evaluating Π (pi) by throwing needles, of suitable length at random on to a parquet floor and finding the percentages that did (or did not) cross a parallel line (see Conte de Buffon 1777).

Then about 193⁴₇, when I was playing some part in an Exhibition of Physics at Birkbeck (permission of Prof. P.M.S. Blackett F.R.S. (later Resident RS)) he came over from Kensington with his mentor and said, "May I introduce you to Dr. Penney", who later became Lord Penney, so-called father of the British atomic bomb.

That was the last time we met, I think. Things happened. I moved, he moved, the war came, and everything changed.

Penney and Kynch wrote a monograph entitled "Mathematics for Chemists". Regrettably my copy has disappeared. The maths were quite 'high-brow' in parts.

Eunice Clement (née Horsley) (1939-1947) talks of playing in haystacks, kissing in railway tunnels and the importance of carrots! This is part one of a two-part story. Part two will feature in the next magazine...

This is going to be a girls piece - because that's how it was in those days. We didn't know what went on in the boys' school, although the Deputy Head, Miss Smith (of the strap shoes with curled up toes) once accused me, wrongly, as it happened, of standing outside the boys' school with my hat off!

I arrived at Selhurst in October 1939, having been evacuated to Moulsecomb in Brighton with my primary school when war broke out. My brother was just down the road though nobody told me that. I had won a scholarship to Croydon High School and was kitted out by my mother in a home made tunic, two cotton blouses and one shantung - one for best! But, when we found out that High School pupils had to pay for their billets, I was transferred to Selhurst, then sharing Hove Grammar School with Hove girls - they had the morning and we had the afternoon. So, I suffered the ignominy of wearing the 'wrong' uniform for two years but in compensation, never had to go through the elocution classes demanded of the scholarship pupils at the

High School. (When we played them at hockey, later on, it was notable that they said 'hoorah' while we said 'hooray!')

Brighton and Hove were exciting because the streets out near the Downs had grass verges and we could get out into the fields and play on the haystacks - not many of those in Thornton Heath! In my billet in Hove there were two boys next door who took us to Devil's Dyke - the older one kissed my friend in the railway tunnel but I wasn't up for that sort of thing yet! As the days grew shorter, we went home from school in the dark in a long crocodile and virtuously ate carrots so we could see in the dark. On Saturdays, the 'big girls' (impressive swelling bosoms encased in their tight tunics) taught the 'little ones' ballroom dancing to keep them out of their 'hostesses' way...

Eunice

Part two next time, when Eunice continues her story. We'll hear about carrying coal in a baby's pram, bombs in back gardens and the length of gym tunics...!
- Ed.

The Post Bag

Poppy Gooday née Rosemary Warren, [also known as Bunny at school] attended Selhurst Girls' School from 1934 –1939

Her book “Sit Down I’ve Got Something to Tell You”, “Monologues and Anecdotes” was published in 2004: some is humorous, some gives a more serious look at life and mortality.

There’s No Point in Getting Up

It’s raining outside wet and cold

I’ll stay in bed and grow very old.

There’s a knock on the door,

*I won’t bother to go,
The sheet’s got a hole
and I’ve caught my toe.*

*So I’ll stay in bed and get fatter and fatter,
I’ve come to the point
when it doesn’t matter.*

*There’s letters to write
and phoning to do,*

*There’s the washing up
and cleaning the loo,*

There’s a jumper to wash and food to cook,

I’ll be happy instead, and read a good book.

Poppy wrote to Bernard about having attended Selhurst, after having been at “Melbourne College in Thornton Heath, run by three sisters “The Bousteds”. She added that “it was a bit posh!!”

Subsequently, she wrote to Isabel:

SIT DOWN I’VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU



POPPY GOODAY
MONOLOGUES & ANECDOTES

“I could tell you many things about my years at Selhurst Grammar School. Miss Lister the Head Mistress – walking briskly, black gown flowing – head down – rush to open the door for her.

I went to school wearing bright red nail polish and was sent to her – “Do you think that looks nice” was her remark. Of course, I said “No Miss Lister” – I wanted to say, “Yes, I think it looks fabulous.

My book is selling well – I have a trading contract with Waterstones – so my book is in Harrods and many other Waterstones branches – pity Miss Lister doesn’t know!!!!”

Walter Currie (1950-1958), writes to tell us of his experiences, practising on the school organ during lunchtime...

In the Old Croydonian of 2002-2003 Mrs. Audrey Dunk wrote about the School organ. I learned to play on this instrument and spent many fulfilling hours practising both during lunch hours and after school. Some of the staff were not so enthusiastic about lunch hour practice as there was a second staff room almost immediately below the organ in the corner of the hall! I particularly remember Mr. Pritchard complaining on more than one occasion, but mostly they were very tolerant. It was my understanding that the organ had been previously in another building elsewhere in the country, but I cannot remember where, and that it was installed in the school by some of the boys under the direction of the handicrafts teachers. At some stage, I think it was when I was in the VI Form, one of my fellow organists, Ron Dicker, and I took it upon ourselves to tune the instrument! I think we asked permission but am not sure! We soon discovered the principles of equal temperament as our first attempts were successful in some keys and disastrous in others! To gain access to some of the pipes in the swell box we had to remove some ranks of pipes and I still remember with a smile the assembly next morning when Mr. Nixon sat on the organ stool to play the hymn and glanced to his left to see organ pipes carefully laid on every available surface. From the expression on his face I think that he had serious doubts as to whether any sound would emerge from the instrument at all!

On the subject of music it was real pleasure to receive recently the re-mastered recording of the Nunc Dimittis and School Song as I had sung in the choir which made that recording. The familiar sound brought back vivid memories of Messrs. Spratt and Scott as well as of the School Hall in which the recording took place. Both Mr. Spratt and Mr. Scott were very talented people from whom I gained much. The other bonus this Christmas was the receipt of a copy of the brief history of the Selhurst Schools by John Gent and Isabel MacLeod. The booklet contained a photograph, which I do not remember seeing before, of the School Speech Day of 1952 in which I was able to identify myself and a number of my contemporaries.



Walter Currie
Formerly Walter Snook

School Days and beyond...



Ray Carter M.B.E. (1925-1931) is one of a select group of Old Croydonians in their 90s. As part of a continuing oral history project, Isabel met Ray at his home, and recorded his reflections on his school life and beyond. She has adapted the full transcript, with Ray's permission and help, whilst retaining the conversational tone of the original document.

“ I was born just off West Side, Clapham Common on 28th July 1914 and moved to Addiscombe on 11th January 1924. A few days later I started at Woodside School. In 1925 I passed the Scholarship to Selhurst Grammar School and I started there in September 1925. I remember the day quite vividly. My mother took me on the first day; thereafter I went on my own and then started cycling.

“Alpha was good at all sports except swimming...”

Because I appeared undernourished and small my parents arranged for me to have lunch at School every day. It cost 1/- a day, or 3s 6d for four days. If you didn't want a cooked lunch, which was excellent all the time I was there, you paid 1d for the use of knife and fork and cutlery and brought your own lunch. I suppose there were just under 100 for lunch every day and probably 50 brought lunch, and the rest went back to their homes because their mothers were there. I thoroughly enjoyed my school days. I had good companions; I was mad keen on sport. I made up in enthusiasm

what I lacked in skill – but I still managed to enjoy myself very much indeed.

[Isabel asks RC about uniforms] Yes. Most definitely. Our uniform identified us as to which House we were in – Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. I was in Alpha. We were required to wear the uniform virtually all the time, even in leisure time, that included the cap, which had the distinctive colour of the House you were in. In those days we

didn't wear long trousers until you were quite old. In fact, I took Matric in short trousers in 1930 when I was just coming up to 16. I can't imagine my grandsons nowadays...Until you were in the 4th Form you had a Junior School tie, which you were expected to wear, then after the 4th Form you wore a Senior School tie.

I was very proud to be in Alpha House. Alpha was good at all sports except swimming. We never came anywhere in the swimming. *[IM: Where did you go?]*

We went to South Norwood Baths at the top of Birchanger Road.

Outstanding points: Attending Assembly in the Hall every morning. We sang hymns which had been chosen, the Head master did a reading. We didn't have an organ in those days. The Rev. P.E. Hughes (nicknamed Snowball) played the piano for our hymns. Of course, I still love those hymns, which are very fresh in my

mind- my favourite being "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform". Morning Assembly

was really something. The whole school attended. The lower forms and 6th Form were down on the level, on ground level. 4th and 5th Forms were on the balcony.

[IM: Number of boys?] About 500. I am still in touch with four or five. This is the Magazine of the first term I was at School. I was in 1A. Mathematics. I was in the Honours List – it was the last time I was in the Honours List, other than for drawing. There were some really clever boys. I don't think I was ever lower than 10th in class, but I never got a prize or got in the Honours List again. I was just fairly good at everything but not outstanding. It's funny that I became an Accountant–

it was not really maths but arithmetic –and that was what I was good at.

I am still in touch with John Gooding, Charles Lemon, and Eric Austin. I am just about to make contact with Arthur Sparks. While I was on my last cruise, I tracked him down in Who's Who and found an address. I am going to send him this list and ask him if he knows where any one of the others are. Cecil

Dods and Bill Dods were twins: their father was killed on the morning of 11th November 1918 – terrible. Several boys

had fathers who had been killed.

Ronnie Chapman was in my class, he was next to me on the Register, he got eight distinctions in General Schools – the most anyone had ever got. He took the Civil Service exam and came out near the top, or at the top. He went into the Estate Duty Office as it was (now the Capital Taxes Office). Sadly, he was killed on one of the 1000 Bomber Raids and is buried north of Paris.

School has meant a terrific lot to me – the Old School and the Old Boys. The masters we had were dedicated - at the end of a day they were perfectly happy

"Morning Assembly was really something! - The whole School attended"

School Days and beyond...

to give more of their time, I know they didn't get paid any extra. They would umpire for us, help us with our games and sports, and coach us. *[IM – anyone in particular?]* Mr Parkinson, was my Form Master, he was an excellent master, Mr Wedd taught us French, Mr Barlow taught us Maths, and Mr Vallins taught us English. Mr Sibley was our gym Master (he moved on) and his brother took his place. When you got up to the 4th you took History and Physics (Physics started off as Heat Light and Sound) or Geography and Chemistry. I took History and Physics. Mr. F T B Wheeler was my House Master and the History Master. He was an outstanding character – I think he rowed for Oxford in the Boat Race. He was a real character. I really enjoyed school.

[IM: Contact with SGSG?] We were pretty well segregated. The only contact was in the Senior School, and we went in the playground by Whitehorse Road and would whistle to the girls as they walked up Whitehorse Road to come round into

The Crescent. There was certainly not a lot of contact in school time. I can't remember being particularly friendly with any girl. I was more interested in cricket and sport.

Although cricket was my first love, by the time I left school I had got interested in tennis as well. I was only short but I was quite a good tennis player. Elsie and I

belonged to Wydehurst Tennis Club from about 1937. In '39 I won the Men's Singles, the Men's Doubles and the Men's Handicapped Singles. Then they

dropped a bomb on the club and I've still got all the cups upstairs. They've got some names of boys from Selhurst on them.

I wanted to become a Foreign Correspondent in a Bank when I left school, but in 1930 jobs were few and far between. I couldn't get a job, so I stayed on at School until the next May. One day, Mr Bentley, the Head Master, asked how would I fancy a job in a Chartered Accountant's office? I said, "What's a Chartered Accountant?" One of the Governors, Alderman Peet, who was Mayor

"..Mr F.T.B. Wheeler was my House Master and History Master. He was an outstanding character..."

of Croydon for several years, was a Partner in Brown Peet & Tilly, with offices in Croydon and London.

I went for two interviews and was given the choice of:

Junior Audit Clerk in Croydon or Office Boy in London.

My father gave me the best advice ever which was to start as an office boy in London which I did. I went to 37-38 Mark Lane and stayed there until 1936.

I started work at £1 a week in 1931. *[IM The train from Woodside?]*

Out of interest, think of how inflation has gone. My parents started me off with a suit of clothes and a three months' season ticket to any London station for £3 7s 0d. It remained the same until the outbreak of War. There was no inflation. When I was a Junior Audit clerk going round the countryside we used to get an allowance. We started off with 17s 6d a day; within a couple of years they had cut it down to 15/-. There was deflation. *[IM: Depression?]* Yes, it was the Depression. I don't know whether I actually saved but I used to give my mother half

a crown and later five shillings. Unbeknown to me, she put it aside and by the time we got married she had accumulated £100 which virtually bought most of our furniture. I set aside 5/- a week for fares, about 5/- for lunch, and 5/- a week for holidays. We used to go Holiday Fellowship. It was an organisation set up by the Quakers – they had guest houses all over the country, it was all very prim and proper – for two guineas a week. You could have a fortnight's holiday, pay your train fare and have some spending money - all for £10. Not bad.

“..I started work at £1 a week in 1931...with a three month season ticket to London for £3 7s 0d...”

Most of the staff at Brown Peet & Tilly were recruited from

Selhurst Grammar School or John Ruskin – one senior was George Ratcliffe (well –known in Old Croydonian folklore). He took me under his wing and persuaded me in 1933 to join him, to become Joint Treasurer and Social Secretary. I did, and with the exception of the War Years, I have had some connection with the Old Croydonians ever since. I remained close with him after the War. We got on very well and he even named one of his sons after me.

School Days and beyond...

Then in April 1936 I joined a firm called Herbert Hill & Co. They promised me that they would give me articles instead of paying the usual 250 guineas provided I turned out to be satisfactory and that they would do it within three months.



*Easter 1930.
Ron Harding, Ray
Carter & Ted
Rowland*

Actually they did it within six weeks. I signed my articles in June 1936. I took the Intermediate in 1939, came 17th in England with Honours and within four days I was in the Army. I had joined the Territorial Army in April 1938 and was mobilised three

times – for the Munich Crisis, in the summer of '39 and was de-mobbed, and again in August '39 just before the outbreak of War.

I landed in Normandy, went through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. I was very lucky to come out without any ill effects. I learned a lot about how the

other half of the world lived. I came out of the Army in November 1945. I was very lucky to come through the War unscathed. At the end of the War, I am very pleased to say I was awarded the Military MBE. The citation in the London Gazette read...

“for gallant and distinguished services in North West Europe”.

To go back - in 1937, while I was still a Junior Articled Clerk, but older than most articled clerks, I became involved in the documentary film industry. I met the founder of the industry, a man called John Grierson, who is very well known all over the world. He actually coined the word “documentary”. I acted for the leading documentarians, so when I came out of the Army, I was offered a job with the Film Producers’ Guild doing technical costing and production management. I started with the scripts and a stopwatch and would work out how much a film would cost. It was extremely interesting.

After two years I was persuaded by Herbert Hill to take on a job as Company Secretary and Accountant at an electronics engineering company in difficulties, where I stayed for eighteen months

before going back to the profession. I took my Finals and passed in July 1950,

“..I am still going to the office three times a week at the age of 90..!”

and they made me a partner on 1st October 1950. I stayed there until March 1971, by which time I had become Senior Partner but circumstances had

changed and I left to set up in practice with my son, John. Raymond Carter & Co is still going strong in South Croydon after nearly 34 years.

Leaving London was all for the best. It enabled me to slow down somewhat and as a result I have lasted the course much better. I am still going to the office three times a week at the age of 90. I have been very very fortunate. I always thought of writing a book and I have known the title for a long time—“A Round Peg in a Round Hole”. It’s just what I have been. It was good luck that I became an Accountant and nothing else. It has suited me down to the ground.

Other little things. My mother was French. She had come over to England about 1890 at the age of 18. She had become a governess to begin with and then she was teaching French at Pitmans, where she met my father. I was the youngest of the family, with two much older brothers and one sister. My father died in his 80th year. My mother was a tough nut and carried on and was quite active until just after she was 96.

I was married on 1st June 1940 to Elsie Davies, who I had known since just before her 17th birthday – and we now look after each other. My four children are



1994. Three generations. Neil, Ray and John Carter.

Gillian, John, Pauline and Hilary. We have accumulated ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren plus one adopted. Our two elder daughters, Gillian and Pauline both emigrated to Australia: our grand daughter, Rhiannon, came to our Diamond Wedding celebra-

School Days and beyond...



but also our separate ones. My wife became a Roman Catholic soon after our marriage. In 1945 she became involved in the Union of Catholic Mothers and ended up as the National Treasurer – one of the top three officers in the country and was awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, which is a Papal Award for services to the Church. She also got very much involved in taking handicapped people to Lourdes and that was also recognised.”

-tions in 2000, has stayed here and now lives quite close. Our eldest great granddaughter, aged 15, is much taller than I am and she represented Australian young ladies at gymnastics.

I have been a mad keen supporter of sport, cricket and football ever since I was a little boy. I first went to the Oval in 1922 and have been a regular attender there ever since, apart from the War Years – I am still a member. I have supported the Crystal Palace since we moved to Addiscombe in 1924. I rarely go now, because it's a bit on the cold side in winter.

After giving up cricket and tennis in 1960, I took up golf, getting down to a handicap of 12. I was elected Captain of Purley Downs Golf Club in 1971 and Captain of the Chartered Accountants' Golfing Society in 1982.

We have had a very very good married life. We have had our shared interests,



*1930. RC Group outside No. 1 Tent
T Ryan R A Longhurst, C Lemon,
R Harding, Unknown, R Carter*



*Summer 1951
Charles Lemon, Ray Carter &
John Gooding*

Membership Update - Bernard Woolnough



We now have in excess of 570 members. Thirty-nine former Subscribing Members have switched to Life Membership since the issue of the Subscription Rates letter. Twenty-four new members have joined us since the Centenary celebrations: many as a result of Isabel's efforts in bringing the Selhurst book to the attention of members and non members. This has proved to be a popular publication and repays Isabel's enjoyment researching the material, which outweighed both the typing of the material and the trauma when the printers went into liquidation three days before the Centenary Lunch.

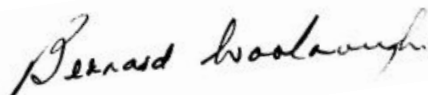
Nine of the Subscribing Members are still paying at the old rate, so I would urge members who pay in this way to check their Standing Orders. Three cash subscriptions are also outstanding. For nine Life Members we do not have any address: they are the same names as last year. Some names have been removed from the Mailing List due to non-payment of subscriptions.

I have in my possession one coloured O.C.A. tie. This can be purchased for £10.50 to cover the cost and postage and packing.

GEORGE PUGH (1924-28) HYTHE

George has sent the Treasurer a hard back copy of the Book of Remembrance. It is not in A1 condition but is available if any member would like it. The Treasurer also has two soft covered books passed on to him by a sadly deceased member of the Association. These are also available.

George will be 94 in May and says he is "having a bit of clearing out". He asks to be remembered to anyone who remembers him. He was pleased to read about Ken MacDonald with whom he played rugby for Old Boys A XV. He also mentions a Bob Abel but I have no record of a member with that name and relative initial. If he was of George's vintage it is doubtful if there are any other members who may remember him.



Membership Update - Bernard Woolnough

New Members

Burge, Malcolm	Dr		1956 to 1963
Burrows, Jean	Miss		1945 to 1950
Darnell, Colin	Mr		1959 to 1966
Devenish, Maureen	Mrs	née Gant	1964 to 1971
Fooks, Raymond	Mr		1958 to 1962
Freeman, Margaret	Miss		1954 to 1988
Gould, (Gordon) Clifford	Dr		Not given
Heathorn, Valerie	Miss		1956 to 1962
Hornby, Julian	Mr		1957 to 1964
Jarman, Eric	Mr		1959 to 1966
Kerridge, Ann	Ms	née Jennings	1965 to 1972
Lambourn, David	Dr		1949 to 1955
Langridge, Lorraine	Mrs	née Day (Mascall)	1962 to 1965
Macdonald, Ann	Mrs	née Fuller	1954 to 1960
Manning, Linda	Mrs	née May	1959 to 1965
Nixon, Marion	Dr	née Putnam	1942 to 1948
Short, Stephen	Dr		1966 to 1973
Stockley, Louis	Mr		1937 to 1944
Veasey, Elizabeth	Mrs	née Pinchen	1940 to 1947
Weeden, Margaret	Miss		1956 to 1963
Wilkes, Marion	Mrs	née Henocq	1956 to 1962
Williams, B	Dr		1957 to 1963
Willis, Roy	Mr		1968 to 1975
Willis, Gillian	Mrs	née Davis	1956 to 1961

Membership Update - Bernard Woolnough

Change of Address

Aris, Peter	1934 to 1939
Branton, Ronald	1958 to 1965
Brook, Paul	1941 to 1946
Davies, Ronald	1929 to 1934
Frith, Michael	1953 to 1957
Fuller, Eric	1933 to 1938
Gordon, Iain	1957 to 1963
Horscroft, Dudley	1945 to 1952
Jennings, Ronald	1948 to 1953
Law, Howard	1929 to 1935
Lloyd, Richard	1955 to 1960
Parry, Colin	1942 to 1947
Skinner, Reg	1936 to 1940
Tyler, Ashley	1959 to 1966

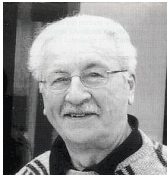
For reasons of privacy, we have not disclosed member's new addresses. If you would like to make contact with anyone in the above list, please contact Isabel Macleod, the Membership Secretary
- Thanks Ed.

Membership Update - Bernard Woolnough

Deceased

Hudson, Charles	1929 to 1933
Oakley, Charles	1946 to 1975
Stiles, John	1931 to 1938
Wheble OBE BA, David	1926 to 1933

Obituary for Tony Moss by John Gent



Tony Moss, pre-eminent cinema building and theatre organ historian, was born in Croydon on 7 August, 1930 and stayed there most of his life. He died on January 31, 2004, aged 74. He was the only child. His father was an ex-army man who worked for the Crown Agents in Westminster. I first met Tony at Cypress Road School in 1937 and we became firm friends, both going on to Selhurst in 1942. His great enthusiasm for public transport vehicles took him to his first job at the Southdown bus company in Brighton in 1947. Tony was a fount of information on all things cinematic. Mention any old cinema and he would reel off who was the architect, the owners that controlled it, who the resident organists were, and the organ installed, when it opened and the date of its demise. Nobody, is ever again, likely to have such a depth of knowledge on the subject.

Tony's other passion was the cinema organ. In 1952 he co-founded the Cinema Organ Society as an enthusiasts' group and became their vice president. He spent most of the decade sitting in the stygian darkness of orchestra pits, where stood the organ console. In recognition of his great knowledge of cinema history, Tony was made patron and president of the Cinema Theatre Association. He lectured frequently to local history societies throughout the South East, and did occasional voice-overs and interviews for cinema heritage programmes.

Tony worked for some years in the electricity industry and later for the BBC. He will be remembered for his unrivalled expertise on a vanishing part of British heritage, his splendid sense of humour and his great charm - used on innumerable occasions to persuade provincial librarians to delve into their dustiest archives.

Selhurst in the News...

Crystal Palace Striker, Andy Johnson joined students from Selhurst High School in November 2004 to celebrate the official opening of the school's new floodlit astro-turf pitch. A Lottery award from the New Opportunities Fund for PE and Sport made this possible.

Senior Editor for Faber & Faber and former Selhurst Grammar School pupil, John Bodley died in November, aged 74. He looked after the literary interests of many renowned writers, including: TS Eliot, PD James and William Golding.

Selhurst High School for Boys has increased its pass rate from a low of 13 per cent in 2001, the year after it came out of special measures, to 33 per cent in 2004.

Marjorie Prior (1932-1939), travelled to France in her gap year aged 17. A few weeks after arriving, Neville Chamberlain declared war and she found herself stranded in France until 1945. Her recent autobiography 'Two Lemons and Five Lumps of Sugar' recounts her five-and-a-half years in wartime France. Please contact Peter Juniper, the Secretary, for more information about purchasing a copy at only £4.99.

February 2005 saw the 25th Anniversary of the BRIT Awards, 20 year old Katie Melua's Jazz influenced debut album 'Call off the Search' has made her the UK's biggest selling solo female singer of 2004. Katie said 'I wouldn't have got there without the BRIT School.

*Seen a Selhurst related story in a newspaper or magazine? Cut it out and send it to us!
- Thanks Ed.*

Food for Thought - Pauline Sinclair



Two volunteers required...

The Summer Reunion is fast approaching on the 8th July 2005 and will now be held at St. George's Hall, Elstan Way, off The Glade, Shirley (for this Summer only) for the above venue.

Current building works at the school are preventing us from being able to hire the usual location.

I have contacted Accolade Caterers who have looked after us for the past two years. They are suggesting a different menu [probably no chicken legs at all!] and which we have now approved. Doreen and I would also like to serve the food from the kitchen, to you, but would welcome another couple of volunteers to help on the night.

Please read the enclosed invitation letter and if you would be willing to help us on the day, put a note on your acceptance slip.

Thanks!

*If you can help Pauline and Doreen, please get in touch.
- Thanks Ed.*

R. A. Smith, our President writes...



Ron Smith was Headmaster at the Boys' School from 1969 until the school closed in 1988



Greetings to all Old Croydonians from your President in rural Wiltshire. I am honoured that you still wish me, as the last headmaster of Selhurst High School for Boys, to remain your President, even though I am rarely able to attend your gatherings.

When I became headmaster in April, 1969, I was appointed with the task of changing Croydon's original state Grammar School (founded under the terms of the 1902 Balfour Education Act) into a comprehensive school for boys aged 14 to 18. When the school was to become multi-cultural, I little realised at the time, of the extra challenges that lay ahead. Working in this environment taught me that the term 'West Indians' was only meaningful if you also consider Germans, French and English as simply 'Europeans'.

When the school became comprehensive in 1971, it received boys from Norbury Boys and Ingram Schools and also from mixed South Norwood High School. The boys from South Norwood found it particularly strange to be in a *male only*

environment and the girls they had sat next to in their former school were at a school next door! As headmaster and the rest of my staff had no experience of teaching pupils who had not passed an 11 plus examination, we had to learn how to meet the needs of less-able children. Within a few weeks, I realised the need to establish a department to teach basic skills, which over time became the 'extra learning' department and finally the 'English as a Second Language' department.

Having worked in the cloistered environment of selective schools, I am very glad to have faced these challenges. I recall my friend, the headmaster of Whitgift School, whose wife worked on my staff, saying she had taught him what the real problems of education were in our modern society.

Ronald A. Smith

Margaret Freeman writes...



As many of the girls will already know, Margaret Freeman was a History and R.E. teacher & Deputy Head at the Girls' School.



Margaret reflects...

The Selhurst Schools were celebrating their 50th anniversary when I joined the staff in 1954. The following memories are of the first few years I spent there teaching History and R.E.

There were two staff rooms, the outer used for staff meetings where I made a timid appearance – late! – on my first morning. Among the senior staff were Miss Jones and Miss Britts – Science, Miss Fryer and Miss Slack – P.E., Miss Postlethwaite – Geography. I stood in awe of her, of Miss Durant (Latin) and of Miss Hannah Bennett (English), with whom I had to converse on the way home to Streatham on the 133 bus. I've been a member of the National Trust for nearly 50 years thanks to Miss Durant's talk on the Trust at News Club and I got out her book on Roman Britain after my visit to Hadrian's Wall two years ago. Mary Hulme and I were both new teachers but

we had, of course, to attend the thanksgiving service in Croydon Parish Church in Sept '54, wearing cap and gown. Miss Isabel Wilson had a First Form in the Music Room (formerly the Gym) and had to train me in form tutor's duties so we could lead the girls into the church. The service was repeated annually for a number of years. Oh, the difficulty of getting girls to wear their hat or beret!

School assembly had them sitting on the hall floor to listen without benefit of any amplification. They assembled there, too, to process into the dining rooms at lunch time and getting them quiet for grace was another daunting task. Speech Day, too, called for practices – in the old Civic Hall down Crown Hill it was a matter of standing and sitting quietly without letting the cinema type seats go bang. It was there we listened to Cuthbert Bardsley, Bishop of Croydon and on another evening to Viscountess Reading, smart in her WRVS uniform.

The other events of '54-'55 were the Fair which raised enough money to buy the grand piano. When Selhurst closed we... entrusted it to Dr Dibbs at Riddlesdown High and it is still put to good use, especially at their annual carol service. There was a staff lunch at the Café Royal, Paris in Croydon and I believe it was in '55 that Miss Wilson, Miss Salkeld and Miss Short produced 'Patience' – another introduction for me – to Gilbert & Sullivan.

The First Year was looked after by Miss Brockwell. Each form, as First Years and after, had a Good Cause. I went with Miss Brockwell's form

to a home for horses – *where??* First Years also had minute garden plots around the edge of the field. One mystery I never solved was where the invisible line ran demarcating the girls' part of the field from the – much smaller – part allotted to the boys. All were supposed to go out in the dinner hour – another taxing duty convincing the reluctant that they needed fresh air! I expect they raised it in School Council – an institution of which Miss Lister was very proud. My cherished memory is of Miss Lister as the Fairy in the staff pantomime.

"My cherished memory is of Miss Lister as the Fairy in the staff pantomime.."

I can still 'see' the green folders that held reports – which we wrote twice so that the left hand side could be retained in school – it was FORBIDDEN to remove those folders from the staff rooms! Parents' evenings were held regularly. I felt I learned more than the parents did – it was good to meet them. Another benefit of those years were that I taught the same class for the first 3 years and one really got to know the girls. Then they chose the subjects they would take for 'O' level and

teaching groups were re-assembled. My happiest memory is of a group taking 'O' R.E. – 36 wanted to do it, they squashed in and we really enjoyed ourselves and I believe they

ALL passed – that might be wishful thinking. The School Library was on the top floor, over the cloakrooms, I think, and a Junior Library led off it with 2 music practice rooms. The corridor alongside the Library led to the Cookery Room, presided over by Miss Martin. She and I enjoyed two weekends, one at Oxford, one at Canterbury with the Monumental Brass Society – staff interests were much wider than their subject area. I'm sure the atmosphere and the success of a school to-day still depends first and foremost on the head teacher, just as it did in Miss Lister's day.

Margaret Freeman

We think the home for horses is at 'Cherry Tree Farm' in Lingfield, Surrey
- Ed.



John Gant

In each Old Croydonian Magazine, we'll bring you photographs from the archives. This is sure to bring back fond memories of times spent at both Schools...



Isabel MacLeod

Army Cadet Force



Does anyone recognise themselves in the photograph? What year was it taken?
Let us know - Thanks Ed.

School Play: Henry IV, November 1949



Left to Right:

Polock (Tickets), Edmonds (Tickets), Pettet (Callboy), Macleod (Lights), Bott (Lights - Manager), Mr Egford (Producer), O'Keefe (Properties), Gent (Stage Manager), Hanson (Lights), Black (Callboy)

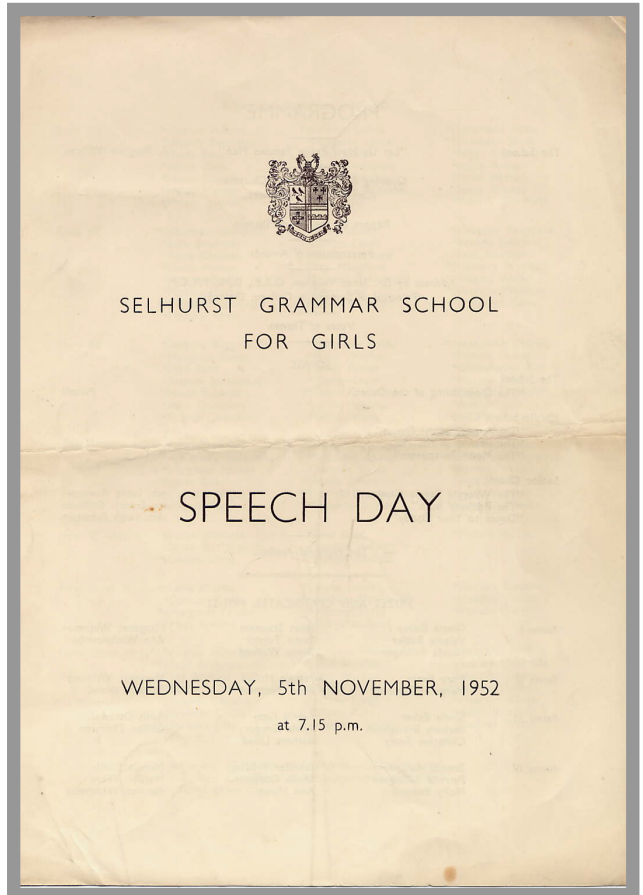
*If you have anything relating to Selhurst that you would like to donate to our archives, please contact John or Isabel.....
- Thanks Ed.*

Selhurst Archives



As many of our members know by now, I am quite determined to produce a magnum opus (or perhaps something smaller and less grand) about the Girls' School, which will complement the work I began on our recently published booklet. The more research I do, however, the more I become aware of not only the quantity of material that is available, but also the quantity that is being lost. To this end, I have suggested to the Old Croydonians' Committee that it would be a good idea to establish a proper Selhurst archive to which items can be donated or loaned. If anyone has any material, or is aware of any that might otherwise be lost, I should be pleased to discuss it. I include examples of items that have come my way recently.

Gabel



If you were there in 1952, write in and tell us about the day...

- Thanks Ed.



Recognise anyone?
Let us know...
- Thanks Ed.



Our thanks to Marguerite 'Meg' Rathbone, widow of Geoff Rathbone, (1924-1928) who donated copies of The Old Croydonian magazines dating from 1950 until 1991. Thank you Meg! In this issue and continuing in future magazines, we'll be turning back the clock and publishing extracts from those magazines...

Turning Back the Clock to 1950

Extracts from the Magazine, published in 1950, Volume 1, Number 1, contained eighteen pages, and was edited by H E Cornell of West Wickham, Kent. Topics covered showed that there was plenty of discussion about how to increase membership and how to improve support for social functions. It's interesting to note that these issues are as relevant today as they were over fifty years ago...

*

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL.

We offer our most sincere congratulations to Mr. A. J. BARLOW, who was a pupil at the School from 1906 to 1912 and joined the Staff in 1919, upon his appointment as ACTING HEAD MASTER of the School, until the new Head takes up his duties in January next.

The new Head Master, in succession to Mr Wheeler, will be Mr. C. F. R. Ackland, at present Head master of Alcester Grammar School, Warwickshire. According to a local Croydon paper, he was appointed from 99 applicants.

We are delighted to hear the excellent results of the recent examinations :-

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. 53 attained the certificate. The School gained 2 State Scholarships, with 1 reserve place for a State Schol., and 19 Major awards.

GENERAL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. The School gained 62 certificates, of which 35 carried Matriculation exemption.

Turning Back the Clock to 1950



Below is the OCA Committee Members' list for 1949-1950...

OLD CROYDONIANS' ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

1949-1950

-

President Mr.F.T.B.Wheeler, M.A.

Deputy President. Mr.G.W.Bosustow,M.A.

Vice Presidents: Mr.V.H.Bentley, M.A.
 Mr.C.A.Case, O.B.E.
 Mr.A.H.Harding, J.P.
 Mr. F.Hollinrake, B.Sc.
 Mr. G.W.Miller
 Mr.H.A.Treble, M.A.
 Mr.A.J.Raynham,
 Mr.F.Turner-Smith, A.I.B.
 Chairman of the School Governors.

Chairman. G.R.Toogood, 64,Addiscombe Rd, Croydon (ADD 1883)

Vice Chairman G.Ratcliffe, 18, Hillside, Banstead, Surrey (Burgh Heath 187)

Secretary W.G.Perkins,"Denwood" Forest Drive, Keston,Kent.

Treasurer C.V.Hyland, 17 The Lees, Shirley, Croydon (Springpk 4238)

School Liaison A.K.Walker, at The School or
 "Far End" Caterham Drive, Old Coulsdon.

Registrar R.E.Bedford,57,Richmond Rd Thornton Heath (THO 1526)

Social Sec. D.A.Spice, 230 Davidson Rd, Addiscombe (ADD 4470)

Editor H.E.Cornell, 41,Hawkhurst Way, West Wickham, Kent
 (Springpark 3991)

Ass't Editor C.W.Morris,11,Devonshire Way,Shirley (Springpk 2528)

Members of the Council { A.T. IRVEN,3,Fountain Rd Thornton Heath
 { J.G.Elkin 595,Davidson Rd Croydon
 { G.B.Rathbone, 20 Kingsway Ave, Selsdon (Sanderstead 1781)
 { V.M.Holland, 29,Earlspod Ave, Thornton Heath
 { M.F.A.Wilson,29,Cavendish Way,W Wickham (Springpk 3559)

RUGBY Sec K.M.Brown 1,Shirley Ave Old Coulsdon.

HARRIERS Sec F.Woolford 52 Bracken Ave; Shirley Croydon.

CRICKET Sec L.H.Burge,45, Pagehurst Rd Addiscombe (ADD 2975)

BADMINTON Sec D.F.Taylor, 199 Devonshire Way, Shirley.

DRAMATIC Sec D.M.Burley, 60,Tunstall Rd Addiscombe (ADD 4638)

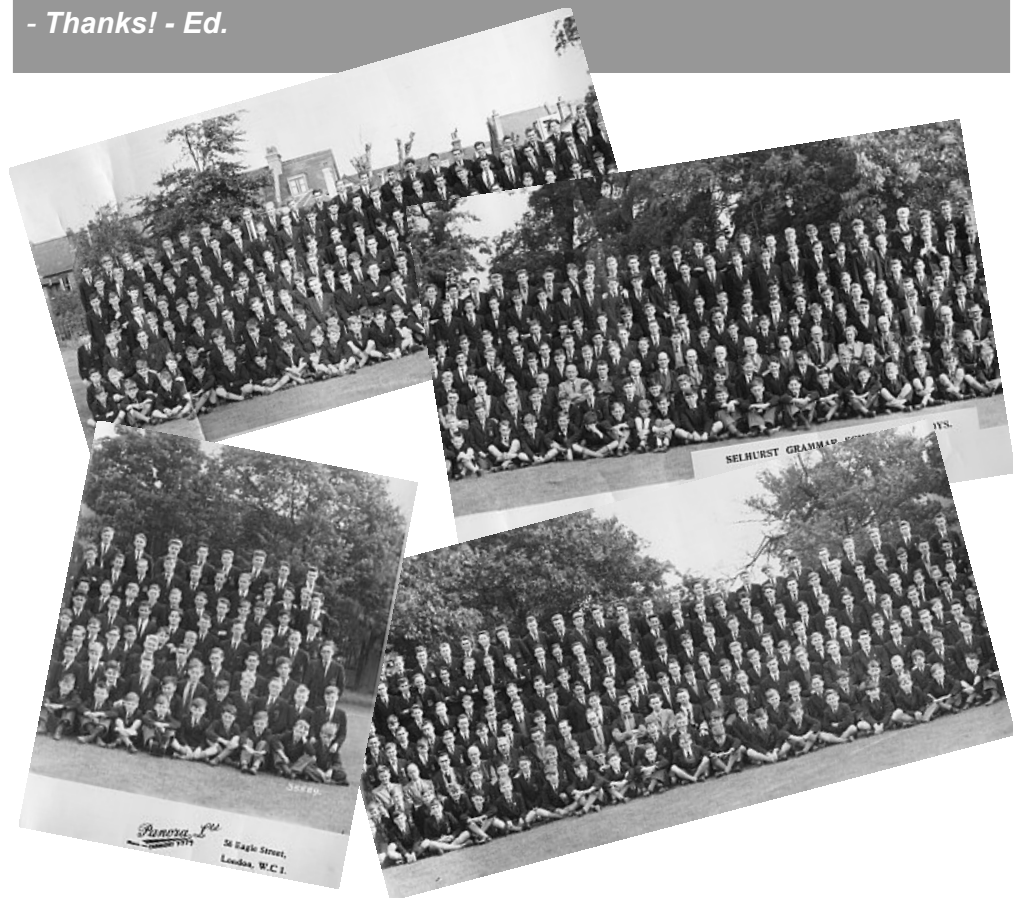
Duplicated and produced for the OLD CROYDONIANS' ASSOCIATION
 by the Editor, H.E.Cornell, 41 Hawkhurst Way, West Wickham, Kent.

A Technological Challenge...

The photograph below is of the Boys' School in September 1954. Courtesy of Doug Honer (1948-1972)

If anyone knows how we can SCAN the large collection of official School photographs we have, please get in touch. Most scanners these days, will only scan A4 or A3 sized sheets - and , as you know, the school photos are much bigger than this. This results in us having to re-join the separate scans afterwards and the 'joins' are very noticeable. - especially if you're the one boy in the photo who has been 'sliced down the middle'.

- Thanks! - Ed.



Word Search

M R X M F R E E M A N Q I
 B S T H M C L Z J Q W S A
 N T A B L B T B H C N R R
 L P H H T I M S A R E E W
 I I M M C E S L R Y L N T
 C V W H B E N T L E Y R B
 K O W N A M L L E W E U E
 I Z E D A E I H Y R S T G
 R Z N P E H W C M E B W R
 W O L R A B J H A Z B F E
 J B A F T Z H X S W I V E
 B G Z F O J E H O L D E N
 N C R A C K L A N D D W G

Can you find the names of the Heads of the Boys' School? ..and the Girls' School?

A Hillyer
 W H Bentley
 F W Turner
 F T B Wheeler
 A H J Barlow
 C F R Ackland
 R A Smith

J E Holden
 E Wellman
 H Lister
 Miss M J Harley-Mason
 Mrs B E Green
 M Freeman
 D Dibbs

Answers to the Word Search and the
 Anagrams are on the OCA website at
www.TheOldCroydonians.org.uk/quiz
 or drop me a line and I'll post the
 answers to you
 - Ed.

Anagrams

Anagrams...

“Fortress scholarly groom ambush”



Clue...

(The best days of a schoolboys' life?)

“Charmers! Fourth grill glass rooms”



(..and school girls'?)

“Ha! Symbol closes”



(The first and maybe most important event of the school day?)

“Tech's. Centre”



(Moon shaped address)

“Yo-ho-ho! Not nicest world-cup”



(The first home of the Girls' school in 1904)

“Rip-roaring antics”



(Established with wings in 1941 at the Boys' School)

“Joy! Tidier bouncing east”



(Introduced in 1933/34 in the Girls' School - no arguing!)



Hello again! This is me with my other hat on - as 'WebMaster' for the OCA's Web site.

On **August 20th 2004**, we launched the Old Croydonians' Web Site. I designed it to celebrate the proud history of the two schools, and already, we have received a lot of pictures sent in by ex-pupils to feature on the site.

If you have not had an opportunity to visit it yet, please do! The more visitors we get, the more popular the site becomes and the easier it is for other ex-pupils to find us on the Internet. If you don't have a PC at home, many libraries these days offer free access.

The site is split into various sections including:

News & Events; You can catch up with the latest news about the Old Croydonians

School History: Showing a complete list of Heads from both Schools

Documents Including some old 'O' Level papers for those of you that want to test their mathematical skills!

Stories: from both Schools

Music: where you can order the Boys' School song on CD as well as Nunc Dimittis' - and much more.

Just like this magazine, the web-site relies on contributions from ex-pupils. Some sections of the web site are already well populated (the photo section

especially), whilst others could do with a little help! Feel free to send me your stories, and we'll publish them on the web site as well as in the next Magazine.

"..the web site relies on contributions from ex-pupils..."

We have a proud history, and I am attempting to reflect this in the web site. Think of it as a type of history book where ANYONE with a computer can access a wide range of Selhurst Boys' and Girls' memorabilia - be it stories, pictures, exams papers, anything really, that reminds us of our school days.

www.TheOldCroydonians.org.uk

Next issue will be published in April 2006

If you have anything that you would like to see in the magazine, let us know...

We're especially interested in your *photographs* and *stories* relating to days at the Boys' and Girls' School as well as *sports photographs* and *teachers and/or pupils*.

In the next issue...

- Part 2 of **Eunice Clement's** story
- **Norman Smail's** article about the Boys' School Song
- More photographs from **Douglas Honer**
- **Anne Johnson's** exchange trip to France from Lydd Airport in a Dakota

**DEADLINE FOR YOUR
ARTICLES
IS
28th February 2006**

Your Feedback

*We're interested in your comments about the New-look magazine
Please let us know - Thanks Ed.*

Overall, how would you rate the magazine?

Poor

Satisfactory

Very Good

Excellent

What would you like to see MORE of?



What would you like to see LESS of?



As you know, currently, the magazine is published ONCE a year. Assuming that we had enough material, and that it would be financially viable, would you like to see the Magazine published

Twice a year?

Three times a year?

Remain at 'once a year'?

Any other comments that would be helpful?



Thank you! Please post your replies to Isabel

Affix
Stamp

Isabel MacLeod
Membership Secretary

22 Bowes Wood
New Ash Green
Longfield
DA3 8QJ

2005

April

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May Day Holiday = Monday, May 2

Spring Bank Holiday = Monday, May 30

Summer Reunion = Friday, July 8

The AGM = Saturday, October 15 (provisional)

Clocks back = Saturday, October 29

Dates for your diary...
- Ed.

2006

January

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August

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September

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November

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December

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Clocks forward = Saturday, March 25

Good Friday = Friday, April 14

Easter Monday = Monday, April 17

May Day Holiday = Monday, May 1

Spring Bank Holiday = Monday, May 29

Clocks back = Saturday, October 28



This illustration is from an original woodcut made in about 1939 at the school. It appeared on School Magazines in the 1940s, but the artist is not known.

Thank you...!

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the latest magazine possible. Without their dedication and determination, the magazine would have never made it through your letter box.

My thanks to everyone who contributed an article!

Anne Johnson - For proof-reading.

Peter & Doreen Juniper - For ideas, support and filling in the gaps.

Isabel MacLeod - For her roving reporting and eye for detail.

Bernard Woolnough - For setting the standard for the magazine.

Last Words...

Taken from a School Calendar

"The tradition of your school is handed on to you by others who were members before you. Play your part as a worthy member, so that you may pass on to others who will follow you, a tradition, that is better for your association..."

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The Magazine can also be downloaded from the OCA Website
<http://www.theoldcroydonians.org.uk/docs/mag.html>

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