Message from the President

The Old Elthamians welcome this year’s leavers and by way of an introduction I give below a summary of what we have been doing and some of our plans for the future.

This has been a year of change for the Old Elthamians. The old Association has ended and in its place is Old Elthamians Association Limited, a Company limited by guarantee. All leavers from Eltham become members. The assets of the old Association, including the freehold of Foxbury, the sports ground of the Old Elthamians at Chislehurst, have passed to a new charity The Old Elthamians’ Charitable Trust. The objects of our Charity are to advance the education of persons anywhere in the world with a preference for pupils and former pupils of Eltham College and the advancement of amateur sport.

Old Elthamians’ sport has been played at Foxbury for over sixty years and although membership of all sections of the Sports Club is no longer restricted to Old Elthamians the Association has allowed Foxbury to be used rent free. All sections of the Sports Club have enjoyed considerable success in recent years and that success has demonstrated that the existing facilities may now be inadequate. Although Foxbury is close to the heart of so many members there are on-going discussions with the School to move OE sport to College Meadow to address the needs of the Sports Club especially first team Rugby.

Looking to the future OEAL is working closely with the School Development Office to create a programme of events for Old Elthamians some at the School and some at locations as far away as Sydney, Australia and Hong Kong. The bi-annual reunion in Sydney and the ever popular South East event at the Wildennesses Golf Club in Sevenoaks are good examples of these opportunities to meet old friends and share memories sometimes after many years. These together with several events arranged by individual year groups complement the Summer and Winter reunions at the School. We are mindful of the original objects of the OEA “the welfare of the School and the furtherance of the interests of Old Boys by mutual help and social intercourse”. The wording was changed at some time to “develop corporate feeling amongst the former pupils of SSM and Eltham College and to promote the welfare of Eltham College” and those words do define the purpose and ethos of the OEA today.

Our thanks to Simon McGrahan and his team in the Development Office for their help with the creation of the new website and their willingness to play such an important part in the administration of the OEA.

I felt very honoured to be asked to be the President of the Old Elthamians following in the footsteps of so many eminent past Presidents not least of whom, Chris Bradnock, who served us so well for the past two years. I have been supported throughout by David Norris and Ian Beith and many others who have done so much for us all in recent years and I thank them all for this.

I look forward to seeing many of you at OE events in the future and invite you to offer your own ideas for us to consider and do let me know if you would like to play an active role in the Old Elthamians Association.

Floreat Elthamia!
Adrian Baulf – President OEA

View SE Reunion photos on our Flickr page
Arriving in Sydney last October, I had no idea how much I would come to love Australia and Australians! The warmth I was shown by the staff and kids at the school I joined was overwhelming. The guys who became my team mates at Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club and the friends I made throughout my stay there were amazing. It goes without saying the experiences I had were incredible. During term time, I was working as a GAP student at Newington College Junior School. Working with younger kids was something I thoroughly enjoyed and I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to help out with French lessons and assist children with learning difficulties alongside some less enjoyable admin. I can comfortably say that I am now ‘laminator literate’. I spent the majority of my free time during term playing cricket and discovering Sydney (we even had a weekly staff five a side team!). Every Sunday the other ‘gappies’ and I would visit a new area of the city. I certainly visited the vast majority of New South Wales’ beaches, from down south Cronulla up to Palm Beach where ‘Home and Away’ is filmed. Hot spots such as Manly and the opera house became regular eating and drinking spots. Sydney Harbour never got boring! I was lucky enough to make some friends in the right sporting places too, and they took me to the SCG, the Allianz arena and the Olympic stadium in the members’ areas regularly for the different sporting codes.

Whilst my time at the school was amazing, the eight week summer break over Christmas gave me the perfect opportunity to really explore the country. A few friends and I made an effort to discover some of the big national parks in New South Wales and we had a couple of three days trips. It was the first time I really felt like a traveller with a big rucksack on my back, hitchhiking for lifts and camping out in the wild. These shorter excursions fired me up for my three week tour of the east coast. Fellow 2012 OE Harry Wilson and I flew up to the Whitsunday Islands and travelled using the greyhound coach back down the coast via Fraser Island, Noosa and Byron Bay. We snorkelled on the Great Barrier Reef weaving in and out of the jellies and sting rays whilst taking in the beautiful coral and countless species of fish. The freshwater lakes on Fraser Islands were incredible, we saw a koala in Noosa as we canoed along the everglades and had a BBQ on the beach at Byron Bay which was the perfect way to end the trip along with a visit to Nimbin the hippy capital of Australia.

Saying goodbye to all the friends that I made in April was extremely difficult and the well wishes I received were touching. I made some lifelong mates and created memories that will stick with me forever. I made some of the big national parks in New South Wales and went on countless excursions including the Everglades and had a BBQ on the beach at Byron Bay which was the perfect way to end the trip along with a visit to Nimbin the hippy capital of Australia. I was lucky enough to make some friends in the right sporting places too, and they took me to the SCG, the Allianz arena and the Olympic stadium in the members’ areas regularly for the different sporting codes.

Taylor Wessing Visit

In February a group of Upper Sixth pupils were invited to spend an afternoon at Taylor Wessing, the international law firm. The legal sector is currently worth around £26billion and employs around 200,000 people. At a time when many of the students are contemplating their future line of work, the group felt it was a great privilege to spend an afternoon at the firm’s London office.

The afternoon began with an informative lecture, by OE Jean-Michel Beeching (1980), which gave everyone a strong understanding about what a career in law would entail; initially explaining the difference between barristers and solicitors, it also touched on the wide range of different routes one can take to become a lawyer, whether they are applying for a training contract directly, or attending a vacation scheme. Hearing different lawyers, including OE Niri Shan (1987), speak about their past career path really gave them an understanding into the wide range of careers available within the legal sector. A tour of the premises allowed the group to really obtain a good understanding of the life of the solicitors there, who all emphasised the varied nature of their job. A speech from a member of the HR department was invaluable as it outlined the best ways to improve an application and what law companies look for, with work experience being paramount. The afternoon concluded with an informal discussion with trainees who were only too pleased to pass on their experiences and advice about how to stand out in such a competitive market.
May and June 2013 represented two big opportunities to race at the highest level of competition in the individual time trial discipline of cycling for OE Jonathan Coulson (2011) and myself in the National 10 and 25 mile event. We would be representing our South Eastern based team PMR@Toachim House having ridden for our university, Loughborough last year. The 10 mile event took place in Norfolk with 150 riders in the men’s event. With riders being set off at one minute intervals Jon was first of the two of us off and battled strong winds and tight technical turns to finish in 23 minutes 21 seconds which represented an average speed of nearly 26 mph, which was quick on this ‘slow’ course. Knowing it wasn’t going to be a quick day I knew I would have to pace my ride well as the course finished into a strong headwind, which turned out to be extremely tough. I finished in 21 minutes 53 seconds, exhausted but happy with my performance. It was an extremely tough event for Jon and myself, both of us recording near 200bpm heart rates. My result was good enough to see me finish 4th in the under 23 category, behind two professional riders with Jon excelling with an age group top 10 finish at his first Nationals.

Buoyed by our performance at the 10 mile event we headed to the 25 mile edition in Lincolnshire in June quietly confident of repeating another good result. The course was very open and exposed but extremely flat, one competitor joking spectators could watch the whole event standing on a chair at the headquarters. Having had a look at the weather much was made of a seven mile straight into a block headwind gale that we knew would be extremely important. It proved completely soul destroying when riding! Again Jon was off first and powered round catching some of his ‘minute men’ in a time of 59 minutes 26 seconds, a minute or so shy of his personal best but considering the wind, a fantastic ride. I set off around half an hour after Jon and quickly settled into a high pace in the tailwind section holding around 30mph along the flat I thought it was going to be a good day, how wrong I was. Turning into the northerly gale my speed quickly dropped to under 25 mph and slogged it out to the finish in 56 minutes 44 seconds, which in my eyes didn’t seem to be fantastic. However, returning to the race headquarters most of the times seemed slower than usual and I was happy with another top five finish in the under 23 category and Jon repeating another top 10 finish.

We now look to competing in regional events this summer before doing it all again next year and trying to improve on the standards set this year.

Ben Wimpory (2011)

Colne Spring & Henekey’s
by Graham Matthews (1949)

The novel is based on the true life story of a Penge doctor (father-in-law of an OE) who volunteered for the army in 1940, around the time of the Battle of Britain. He was taken prisoner in Crete soon after disembarking and spent four years tending the sick and wounded in a number of prison camps, ending his POW days in the infamous Colditz Castle. Historians among you must not expect too much history as the story concerns more to do with human relationship and its extraordinary survival despite the trauma of war. There is, however, an appendix of authentic facsimile letters and a chronology of the true events.

OE A Golf day

Chislehurst Golf Club was once again the venue for the OEA Golf Day. The Inter House Fives Cup, awarded to the best aggregate score went to Chalmers. Best Scratch Score went to Richard Truelove (1973), runner up Phil Attreed (1996). Best points (18-28) winner was Lester Martin (1967), with Mark Lyons (1987) in the runner up position. Best points (1-17) was a reverse of the Best Scratch Score with Phil Attreed taking the winning cup and Richard Truelove as runner up. The day was organised by OEA President Adrian Baulf and the provisional date of next year’s event is Friday 23 May. View more photos on our Flickr page.

Graham Howie, Kevin Phillips, Lester Martin, Jon Chase, Adrian Baulf, Mark Lyons, Denise Bews, Colin Thomas
All part of the daily Lutine

In June, Lower Sixth Economics students were invited for a visit to Lloyds of London by OE Stephen Hill (1990) who is a Senior Underwriter with Ark Syndicate. They started at the Bank of England Museum looking at the progression of the Bank of England from its foundation in 1694 to its role today as the United Kingdom’s central bank. The tour included the vast collections of the bank of England from old furniture that was around when the bank was first built to gold bars 13 kilograms in weight. The group then visited the Ark Syndicate Management office were Stephen gave them a presentation on insurance, reinsurance and Lloyd’s of London.

After the presentation the Economists were given a tour of the Lloyd’s building and had the opportunity to sit at Ark Syndicate boxes while the transactions between underwriters and brokers took place. During lunch they were able to ask Stephen of questions about his role and working in the City, the opportunities for work experience and entry into the profession.

Who said Tax is Boring?

On Tuesday 23 April the Economics and Business Society was delighted to welcome OE Eamonn Keane (1990), Head of European VAT at Hutchison Whampoa (Europe) Ltd. Eamonn gave an engaging and incredibly informative talk on a range of tax issues facing global firms such as Hutchison Whampoa. His talk covered everything from the relative simplicity of VAT legislation to the profitability of Pringles, as well as offering some sage advice regarding the students’ own careers.

2013 Oxbridge Dinner

This year’s Oxbridge Dinner was held in Christ’s College, Cambridge on Friday 8 February. It was the traditional evening of good fine and good company, and an excellent opportunity to catch up with Old Elthamians, especially those who made the long, arduous journey over from Oxford. Ben Pollard is now one year into his role as the school’s Oxbridge co-ordinator and really appreciates all the help he receives from OEs. Hamish Greer (studying English at Girton) has recently spent the day with next year’s applicants. If there are OEs who would be willing to assist Ben in any way, please do get in touch with him via email bp@eltham-college.org.uk. The date and venue of next year’s dinner in Oxford will be announced soon on the future events page of elthamains.net
Knowledge is everything

Back in March a group of Upper Sixth Business Studies pupils made their way to the London offices of Encyclopaedia Britannica. Their host for the day was OE Ian Grant (1967) Managing Director of the Europe, Middle East, and Africa Division of this vast multinational operation.

Ian began by introducing the group to the rich history of the organisation and how they have sought to fulfil their stated mission – ‘To help all our users to become confident global citizens’ and ‘To be the preferred resource for people seeking and sharing knowledge and understanding.’ throughout the changes and challenges of the last 240 years. They were then introduced to the product itself, no longer the 32-volume behemoth with a three year editing timetable, but a fully interactive learning tool updated on a daily basis. The session concluded with a Q&A on the firm’s organisational culture, followed a tour of the office and the chance to meet with the staff.

It was a hugely enjoyable and enlightening visit and all the pupils were most grateful to Ian and his colleagues for their warm welcome and fascinating insights.

Taking the Bull by the Horns

When I saw the fairly recent news that George Band had died, I realised that there are probably only a few of ‘our year’ still surviving. I was a day boy at Eltham College in Mottingham from 1936 until 1940. Whilst living in Petts Wood until we were ‘bombed out’ when a mine on a parachute dropped in the front garden of the house opposite and took the front of our house off. Luckily our family were in a shelter and even though our house was uninhabitable, the car was still serviceable so we were able to escape and drove down to the West Country. I have not lived in the South East since. After a few months without schooling I eventually went to Taunton School to join the boarders of Eltham College who were evacuated there and formed Eltham House under the supervision of Mr H.G.Occomore.

George’s mother, Mrs Band, rented a house nearby and I remember so well her kindness in inviting many of us, George’s friends, to Sunday afternoon tea. At Mottingham many of us had been in the Scouts and this we continued at Taunton until it was decided that we all had to join one of the Service Training Corps. I joined the Sea Cadets and remember particularly two weeks spent on the two old training sailing ships, the Implacable and the Foudroyant, moored off Portsmouth.

After leaving school, and following practical farming experience, and a degree course at the University of Wales, I went to Africa with the Cotton Research Corporation. At the time of the Queen’s Coronation I was in Tanzania and during the Public Holiday which was declared, was having a picnic on the shores of Lake Victoria and listening to the Coronation on a short wave radio. This item was followed by the news of the conquest of Everest by Hilary and Tensing. George Band had earlier been considered one of the strongest members of the party. Unfortunately he suffered altitude sickness and didn’t take part in the final assault.

Whilst in Tanzania I had my ‘day of fame’. A party of us were looking at crops on the borders of the Serengeti Plane. Two of us took our shotguns to get some birds for our supper. When passing a water hole an old lone bull buffalo suddenly appeared and charged towards us. He charged me and as I jumped sideways one of his horns caught my shorts and he threw me onto his withers and I landed completely winded. The end of the story can be that a buffalo will turn and then gore one to death. My salvation was a Labrador gun dog that by nipping at his hocks made him decide instead to head for some nearby scrub.

I look back on my days at school with some affection and gratitude. In my dotage I realise what a sound grounding those early years gave me and the confidence they imbued.

Dudley Lawes (1943)
The Year Ahead

On Monday 5 August 2013 I begin a new job. I have been accepted as a volunteer teacher at a secondary school in Dodoma, Tanzania – this is the same city in which Kisasa Secondary School is situated. My contract is for 12 months.

I will be teaching English, as well as RS and I will be the Assistant Chaplain in the school and hope to be part of the preaching team for the English speaking service at the ‘Cathedral of the Holy Spirit’.

Canon Andrea Mwaka School (C.A.M.S.) has, mostly, Tanzanian pupils up to the age of 16 – they are taught in English and they will sit IGCSE’s in their last year at the school. The school is under the authority of the Diocese of Central Tanzania. About ten percent of the pupils are the children of Christian missionaries who are serving full-time in Dodoma; one of the aims of the school is to provide English-medium education so that missionary families can stay together ‘on the mission field’ for longer, thus maximising the long-term effect of their ministries. My new colleagues will, mostly, be long-term missionaries with the Church Missionary Society.

C.A.M.S. is keen that I should maintain the link between Eltham College and Kisasa Secondary School. To that end, I have been given an afternoon free of teaching duties at C.A.M.S. each week and I hope to be able to offer some, appropriate, English language teaching at K.S.S.

These are my plans. The job is waiting; accommodation is arranged; flights have been booked; I’ve had all my injections. At the time of writing I am still waiting for the Tanzanian Government to grant me a license to teach. No license, no job.

‘All being well’ I hope to be a small part of the teaching team in C.A.M.S. which aims to serve Tanzania and to equip future leaders of that society. The first aim of the school is ‘To teach in a way that honours Jesus Christ’. I hope that I can aspire to that aim in the months ahead.

Peter Swaffield (1972)

So 24 years ago in September joined Eltham College. So where has the time gone? In a flash! I am afraid that I am not going to provide you with a string of hilarious anecdotes. They certainly happened but I am getting to be famous for my pathetic long term memory, I almost have the opposite of Alzheimer’s disease, but do remember the case of Cormac Browne and the fake syringe because he reminded me of it a few years ago. I certainly remember being floored by a flying tyre in the house strongest boy competition by Tom Morgan. I will never forget the look of horror on his face when he realised that the tyre had my name on it. I have had an amazing job for the last 24 years. Life at Eltham College has at times, made me angry or frustrated, occasionally it has made me very sad particularly when colleagues and pupils have died but it has never ever made me unhappy. Eltham College is truly a very special place.

So I am retiring at last! What will I do with my new found freedom? Obviously I will be doing the usual stuff that you might expect; grandchildren, travelling, gardening............... and so on. I also hope to attend some of the London reunions now that I will no longer to get up at 5.30 in the morning. Perhaps that will be an opportunity for some of you to remind me of things that I may have conveniently forgotten. I am, however, really, really excited about this new phase in my life. For the past 40 or so years I have either been teaching or raising my four children and it now occurs to me that, for the very first time, it will be possible for me to do anything that I want. So I view my retirement it in the same way that many of you must have viewed your GAP years. I plan to lead a GAP life from now on!

So here’s to you Mrs Donaldson

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Anne Pain has been teaching in the Junior School since 1991. I am sure that there are many OEs who have graduated from The Grange who would like to bid Anne a fond farewell and a well earned rest.

Chocks Away

Lieutenant James Hume (2005) graduated on the 17 May from Basic Flying Training at Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose in Cornwall, to prepare for training on one of the Navy’s maritime helicopters. James joined the Royal Navy in 2010 after graduating from the University of York. James said “I’m really pleased to have passed, it was challenging and hard work, but very rewarding and am now looking forward to the next stage.”

Royal Navy aircrew undergo one of the most intensive selection and training processes in the world, and after 750 Naval Air Squadron they move onto the Merlin anti-submarine helicopter, Sea King Airborne Surveillance or Control or Lynx Maritime Attack helicopters.

James is pictured collecting the award for most likely to succeed, voted for by the instructors during the course.
All I Want is a Tall Ship and a Star to Steer Her By

When my great grandfather was a missionary in Tahiti and the Society Islands in the 1860s to 1880s, they travelled by sailing ship, at a time when navigation was quite hazardous and being shipwrecked a distinct possibility. I never imagined when I left Eltham College in 1954 to join the Merchant Navy that when I retired I would also have the thrill of sailing on tall ships, albeit in a much safer area.

I joined the three masted barque ‘Tenacious’ in Ponta Delgada in the Azores for a voyage to Southampton. The ship is 63 metres overall, a good size for whatever the North Atlantic had in store. I signed on as one of 36 voyage crew members; I was in the starboard aft watch which comprised a barrister, lawyer, vicar, undertaker, architect, nursery teacher, ex-soldier, and a master mariner, so potentially all our needs were well catered for!!

During the first day we were given instruction in the safety procedures to be followed, the ship’s routine, sail handling etc. We were issued with a safety belt to be worn at all times on deck and a full body harness for going out on the yard arms to handle the sails. Actually climbing up the masts we went up the shrouds where it was not possible to clip-on so you climbed free. This was for volunteers only as not everyone has a head for heights! I enjoy going aloft and out on the yards handling the sails, although 40 metres above the deck is definitely a white knuckle climb!

After leaving the Azores we ran into a swell which was uncomfortable and made moving around difficult as well as putting some people off their food!! For most of the passage north we had a cold northerly wind which was certainly noticeable after 4hrs on watch on the open bridge deck despite wearing 6 layers of clothes and an oilskin. We did have a few sightings of dolphins, it was great fun to watch them leaping out of the water or swimming in front of the ship. There were also occasional whale sighting though you had to be quick to see them before they sounded.

As we made a reasonably good passage the Captain made arrangements to call at Waterford in Eire. We berthed right alongside the city and it was very easy to walk all round the old city walls and the city itself. The city had both Church of Ireland and Catholic Cathedrals as well as an extremely interesting museum with many documents dating back to circa 1300 AD, when there were strong links with the English throne. I realised how little I knew about Irish history and Waterford whetted my appetite for a proper visit.

We sailed up the English Channel heading for Cherbourg for an overnight call passing close to the Channel Islands and our watch leader from Alderney could actually see his house – not close enough to swim though! Although we stayed overnight in Cherbourg I only strolled up the quay and back as I did not fancy a late night – I must be getting old if a good night’s sleep is more attractive than a run ashore!!

The following day we sighted the Isle of Wight and the Needles and entered the western Solent. During the morning all the square sails had been set as we crossed the main shipping lanes so that for one day we were under full sail; a fitting finale to the voyage. The run up Southampton Water was interesting, passing Fawley and Netley before reaching the Eastern and Western Docks where I worked in the late 1960s. It was a good voyage with good shipmates, food and the pristine beauty of the North Atlantic Ocean – what more can one ask!

John Green (1954)

Simpson’s-In-The-Strand

Following on from the success of last year’s event, the OE London Drinks was held once again at Simpson’s-in-the-Strand. Almost 50 OEs from a wide age range joined us for drinks. Brian Pickard, who left Eltham College in 1940, travelled up to London for the evening and kept many of us entertained with his wonderful stories. A group of 1975 leavers have already said they will be coming again next year, and each has pledged to bring another two OEs with them! Edmund Cavendish, Simon McGrahan, Mark O’Dwyer and Adrian Thomas, along with Paul Henderson, were at the drinks and caught up with all the OEs. There are photos from the event on our Flickr page.

The date of the 2014 London drinks will be announced on the future events page of elthamians.net
Ships of Stone: The Islands of Mervyn Peake

In recognition of generous benefactor OE Gerald Moore (1940), a second show of his work has now opened to the public to celebrate the Gerald Moore Gallery’s first birthday. In the Beginning... An Exhibition of Early works from the Gerald Moore Collection and recent works on paper is on show in the upstairs gallery until Easter 2014 and serves to highlight the diversity and intensity of Gerald Moore’s artistic practice. The exhibition is made up of some precise urban scenes of 1960s London completed in bold marker pen, some of Moore’s expressive drawings from the early 2000s and some large, early abstract canvases. The private view on Saturday 18 May coincided with the last day of a very well received show of another OE, Mervyn Peake. Ships of Stone: The Islands of Mervyn Peake opened to the public with a special event back in March. The exhibition was a range of art work from the Mervyn Peake Family Estate on public display for the first time, as well as an exciting loan from the National Portrait Gallery.

Gerald Moore is pictured with his wife Ruth and his son Adrian

Remembrance Day Service at Eltham College

All OEs are welcome to attend the Remembrance Day Service in the Chapel on Monday 11 November at 10:30am, tea and coffee will be served after the service. Please do let us know if you would like to attend so we can ensure that there is enough space in the Chapel.

In Memory - January to June 2013

Brian David ADCOCK (1951-58) died 14 February 2013, aged 72
Colin Home BARROW (1935-46) died June 2013, aged 86
Keith Oliver Mackey CHALLIS (1943-53) died 6 March 2013, aged 78
John Morris CROSS (1946-53) died January 2013, aged 78
Gerald Frank ELLIOTT (1940-49) died March 2013, aged 82
Charles FREWING (1995-90) died 5 April 2013, aged 41
Richard Henry HERBERT (1967-74) died 18 January 2013, aged 57
David Allan LATHAM (1963-72) died 15 February 2013, aged 58
Alan Louis MURRAY (1942-45) died 31 January 2013, aged 81
William Gerald PARK (1950-58) died 18 May 2013, aged 73
Maurice Paul (Head of Art 1978-1995) died February 2013
Geoffrey Harold SMITH (1941-51) died 4 March 2013, aged 81
Roy Harry STEEL (1941-48) died 20 January 2013, aged 82

If you would like to inform us of the death of an Old Elthamian or add an obituary to the website, please email Elthamians@eltham-college.org.uk or call 0208 851 9840.

George Band

OE George Band and his fellow 1953 Everest expedition team members were honoured on Wednesday 29 May at an evening to mark the 60th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest. The lecture and reception were hosted at the Royal Geographical Society in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. Sadly the last climbing member of the team passed away recently, however the final remaining member of the expedition Jan Morris, told the fascinating story of the climbers returning back to Base Camp with the news that they had reached the summit. Helen Wilson, Alumni Relations Manager and Rachel Hall, Eltham College Marketing Manager were invited to attend the evening on behalf of the school.
Reunion Weekend

The Reunion weekend started on the Saturday evening with ECCO Goes to Broadway. With ten OEs in the orchestra and many more in the audience, the stage was set for a great evening. Strains of There’s no business like show business, Climb every Mountain and All that Jazz filled the air. Conducted by Alastair Tighe, Director of Music, the orchestra paid tribute to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Richard Rodgers in various medleys from their shows. Tunes from Oliver! My Fair Lady, Chicago, Mamma Mia, Wicked and West Side Story also featured.

Sunday turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year so far and the grounds were in perfect condition to host the OE family day. The school 1st XI welcomed many familiar faces back to the grounds on Sunday as the OEs brought a strong side to defend their winning run against the school. The OEs batted first and once Mike Lawrence had been dropped before scoring, the Old Boys went about scoring freely with Rich Fleming hitting 53 and Lawrence himself getting 71. After Foster had dismissed Fleming, Charlie Speller came to the wicket and also scored freely on his way to 58. The OEs timed their innings well and were able to push things along at 6 an over to score 231. Before the innings was finished Freddie Foster (Lower Sixth) removed Jack Robertson to record his 48th wicket of the term, thus being the second highest wicket-taker in a season in the past 100 years. The total proved to be more than enough as school wickets fell as they strove to keep up with the run-rate. The school evened up the score in the second XI match, chasing down a total of 180 with five over to spare.

At the same time as the cricket, Michael Baulf organised a get together of contemporaries for their Rations in the Tuckshop lunch. After enjoying a leisurely tour of the school, accompanied by current pupils, the party had a drinks reception in Central Hall followed by lunch and a showing of the cine-film shot in the 40s by Arthur Green.

Afterwards they joined the cricketers, spectators to finish off the day with a BBQ.

View more photos on our Flickr page.
Scholarship Boy

I was born shortly after the start of WW2, to parents who were both first-generation grammar school pupils. I remember little of my father, because when he was billeted in Wales during his army service, he decided to remain with his hostess, only returning home to get my mother pregnant. My parents had been far-seeing enough to buy a maisonette in Welling, and my sister and I lived there with my mother. When I took the eleven-plus, my name was entered for Eltham College, and I was accepted on a scholarship, the first from my junior school.

Apart from the basic uniform items of school cap, house tie, and two rugby shirts in house and school colours, my mother thought a school blazer would be too expensive, and being something of a needlewoman, made me a blazer herself. I took this for granted at the time, but am grateful now that I was never bullied or picked on for my home-made blazer. A promising start in 2J under “P.B.” (Pot-Belly) Thompson, with a general standard of A-, led me to take life rather too easily, so that I declined in term 2 to B+, and at the end of the year to B. This took me on, unsurprisingly, to 3B, where we took German (under Malcolm Wilson, known fondly as “Willy Peg-leg” for his clunky artificial leg) rather than Latin, as in the A stream. I did well in French and German, specialising in French. Around this time, about five years after leaving Eltham, I invited Mr Wilson to visit us at our home, and when it was time for him to leave, I asked if I could take him on the pillion of my Lambretta - and the game old boy accepted!

During my second year of junior teaching, I thought I might after all try for a degree, applying to, among others, three Oxford colleges. When I found that the Modern Languages tutor at St Peter’s, Reg Perman, was an OE, I didn’t hesitate, and was duly admitted to read Modern Languages there in 1966. I obtained my degree in 1969, and went to teach in a comprehensive school. After persevering for several years, I returned to my first choice of juniors, where I remained until I was fortunate enough to be offered early retirement, aged only 53.

As an illustration of the changes that have occurred since my retirement, I would mention that while I had responsibility for I.T. in a London primary school, my school was only the second in the whole of Greater London to have a hard-drive computer. That, along with the fact that I was totally self-taught in the subject, says something about the advance of computing in the last twenty years or so! I fully realise how lucky I was in many ways during my career: I didn’t have to pay for my six years of higher education, and received maintenance grants for both courses, as well as moral support and financial assistance from my wife, who worked the whole time.

Since retirement, my wife and I have travelled quite extensively, and joined U3A (University of the Third Age), which keep us mentally active. I have also found pleasure in the time I have devoted to writing, which has led to the publication of a few stories, some prizes in poetry competitions, and an award for Best Original Play at the Gloucester Drama Association festival. You could truthfully say that my achievements are on a modest scale, and this account may not be the kind of aspirational success story that you would normally expect in these pages. I have, however, been very satisfied with my lot overall, and much of the reason for this - apart, of course, from the continued support of my wife - must be the influence of my years at Eltham.

Paul Hansford (1957)

Little Red Launch Party

I was fortunate enough to join OE Matt Lewis (1990) at the press conference and launch party of Virgin Atlantic’s new venture ‘Little Red’ in Edinburgh this April. Having spent the morning preparing the press conference room for the arrival of Sir Richard Branson (and his sizeable entourage), we listened to him answer all sorts of questions from journalists who were at first more interested in his fetching kilt than in the new venture his company has launched. Eventually, however, the topic turned to business and it was a privilege to hear such a distinguished businessman discuss his professional life, both past and present.

After the press conference came to a close, we made our way down to the Caves, which were to be the venue for the night’s official launch party. Inside, the bands carried out their sound checks whilst we set about ‘branding’ each room with Virgin banners, massage chairs and cushions, some of which were apparently so desirable that several party-goers even tried to make off with them come the end of the night! I was then given the task of sifting through piles of Scottish fancy dress on the Royal Mile to stock the photo booth for the evening – bagpipes and all!

As the night approached, it became clear how much work has to be left to the final few minutes. Aside from more cushion-arranging, I helped a stilt-walker get ready for her act and made sure that the Scottish band – The Red Hot Chili Pipers – had everything they needed for their set. Celebrities including comedian and presenter Jonathon Ross and former Scotland International Gavin Hastings began to fill the room and shortly afterwards Sir Richard delivered a speech welcoming his guests and celebrating Virgin Atlantic’s success. That was the cue for the evening’s live music to begin, opened by the pipers. Dewbar’s Whisky drew guests to its open bar throughout the night, a Tarot card reader enlightened some and confused others, and the party closed with a DJ set performed by Goldie. When the last few guests had jumped (or stumbled) into their taxis, I helped to clear up the suddenly very empty Caves.

I am thoroughly grateful to Matt for giving me, as a fellow OE, the chance to be a part of such a successful event. I feel fortunate to have gained a valuable insight into the commercial world whilst I am still carrying out my studies.

Louisa Elliott (2012)
Careers Forums

We are always grateful to OEs who give up their time to come back to school to share their experiences with current pupils. So far this year we have hosted two events, Media and Finance. In both photos the speakers are listed left to right.

Careers in the Media:
Joseph Stashko (2008) is a freelance journalist, Blogger and social media enthusiast. He is joining the Times and Sunday Times as Digital News Development Editor.

Jerry Wright (1978) is President of The International Federation of Audit Bureaux of Circulations (IFABC). IFABC members have a common commitment to the accurate and transparent reporting of comparable print and new media performance data.

Tom Willis (1993) is a London based television producer, director and writer. He has travelled all over the world making hard hitting, intelligent documentaries for terrestrial and international broadcasters. Tom is currently a Series Producer at Wall to Wall Media.

Mark Lyons (1987) having spent his early career in journalism, both in print and in front of the camera, Mark is now the Corporate Managing Director at PR firm Red Consultancy.

Richard Andrews (2004) having begun life in student radio Richard is now an Assistant Senior Studio Manager at BBC.

Emma Wrafter (1998) is the Director at The Deborah Hutton Campaign, a peer to peer smoking prevention charity.

Careers in Finance
Duncan Sloan (2000) works for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) he is a Lead Associate currently supervising an Investment Bank.

Daniel Weston (2001) is a patent attorney with Boult Wade Tennant, nothing to do with Finance at all! He was however in the area and it was too good an opportunity to not let him explain his career to the pupils.

Andrew Ring is a Vice President at Barclays Corporate. Currently he is responsible for the Corporate Bank’s planning and forecasting as well as external reporting including IR briefing.

Sinead Mandlik (2002) works at BDO as a Tax Assistant Manager specialising in the Not For Profit sector.

David Christie (2007) was an analyst with Goldman Sachs before moving to Lloyds Banking Group where he is in the Credit Trading section.

Hamilton Matthews (1990) is the Chief Executive Officer at Mergermarket and sits on the board of the FT. Hamilton joined Mergermarket in 2001 and has 18 years’ experience in financial information, including five years at Thomson Financial.

Louise O’Shiel (2004) joined Marketform in 2008 as an Underwriting Assistant for the Marine team, joining from another Lloyd’s syndicate where she had a position of a compliance assistant.

Forum Speakers Needed

This year we will be hosting two new career forums and are looking for OEs to speak at these events. The forum on Tuesday 1 October is for those interested in careers in Environment and Sustainability. Tuesday 26 November will be a forum for pupils looking at working in the Civil Service, Government and Administration. A speakers’ supper will be hosted in Room 1 at 6.30pm on both evenings, prior to the forums at 7.30pm in the ABH theatre. If you are interested in speaking at either event, please contact Simon or Helen.
Keeping In Touch

There are many ways to keep in touch with the Elthamian community. We have a Facebook page as well as a group on LinkedIn. The photograph archive can be found on Flickr and the newly refreshed Elthamians website has information on organising reunions, getting in touch with former classmates and visiting the school. We can also be contacted via email or on the phone and always enjoy hearing from you.

www.facebook.com/oldelthamians
www.flickr.com/photos/oe-reunions/sets
www.linkedin.com/groups/Old-Elthamians-2056669
W: www.elthamians.net
E: Elthamians@eltham-college.org.uk
T: 0208 851 9840
A: Development Office, Eltham College, Grove Park Road, Mottingham SE9 4QF

Future Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 12 September</td>
<td>6:30pm – 9:30pm</td>
<td>2003 Leavers’ Drinks Reception</td>
<td>Corney and Barrow, Paternoster Square, EC4M 7DY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 14 September</td>
<td>Midday - 3pm</td>
<td>2009 Leavers’ Lunch</td>
<td>Eltham College, Old Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 1 October</td>
<td>7.30pm - 9pm</td>
<td>‘Environment and Sustainability’ Careers Forum</td>
<td>Eltham College, ABH Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 5 October</td>
<td>6:30pm – 10:30pm</td>
<td>‘All the 3s and All the 8s’ Reunion Dinner *</td>
<td>Eltham College, King George’s Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 10 October</td>
<td>6pm – 9pm</td>
<td>Blomfield Group Drinks</td>
<td>Corney and Barrow, Fleet Place, EC4M 7RD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 November</td>
<td>10:30 – 11:15</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Service</td>
<td>Eltham College, Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 26 November</td>
<td>7.30pm to 9pm</td>
<td>‘Civil Service, Government and Administration’ Careers Forum</td>
<td>Eltham College, ABH Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 15 December</td>
<td>Midday to 5pm</td>
<td>OE 2013 Winter Reunion</td>
<td>Eltham College</td>
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* Please note that a separate 1968 Leavers’ Reunion has been arranged for September 2013. Any 1968 leavers wishing to attend should contact Adrian Baulf by email adrian@baulf.com