

The Egbertian

NEWS FROM THE OLD EGBERTIAN ASSOCIATION

see our website at www.oldegbertians.com



Winter 2008

Editor's Comment

Welcome to the Winter Edition of Egberts News.

This edition has been published a little later than usual as we wanted to include articles about the recent social events, namely: the Houses of Parliament Trip, The Theatre Visit and the London Walk. Our next event is the Christmas Get Together on Sunday December 14th. The Memorial Mass is being held in the morning on the same day, which has proved popular with our members in the past.

Finally, the revised *History of The Congregation of the Brothers of Our lady of Mercy*, which was originally produced several years ago by then Chairman Andrew McGovern, has been revised and will shortly be republished. Details on the back page.

A Visit to the Houses of Parliament

by Bill Crisp

Another memorable Old Egbertian social event took place on Friday, 27th June 2008 - a tour of the Houses of Parliament! A feature of most OEA events is the meal which precedes or follows the main attraction and this event was no exception. Thus twenty members and partners gathered at noon in St. Stephen's Tavern for an excellent lunch and the usual convivial conversation. After lunch we took the short walk to the main entrance to Parliament and presented

brief introduction to the tour before leading us to the centre of the Hall to show us the areas where many famous people associated with Parliament are entombed.

We were then taken through the ancient corridors of power to the furthest point in the parliamentary buildings to see the entrance the Queen uses when she conducts the opening of Parliament, also where she dons the robes. From here it was a



ourselves promptly at 2.30 p.m - the appointed time for our security check. The screening was at least as diligent as any airport, not surprising as Parliament must still be a major target for terrorists.

Having completed the security check we were directed to Westminster Hall from where all tours start and after a few minutes we were met by our tour guide. He gave us a

short distance to the House of Lords, a magnificent chamber with so many old relics (not the Lords, the thrones and other furniture!). It was here we nearly had a major calamity for one of the ladies in our group was feeling in need of a sit down whilst our excellent guide gave a very detailed account of the workings of the House. Unfortunately

Continued on page two

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008

Continued from page 1

the nearest "seat" at the time turned out to be the woolsack upon which only the Lord Chancellor is allowed to sit. As she sat down there was an immediate rush of security guards and we thought she was bound for the dungeons, however good sense prevailed and she was let off with a caution!

We were then led down the main corridor leading directly to the House of Commons pausing on the way to view the marvellous works of art - paintings, sculptures and busts of inestimable value. On the floor of the Commons we again received an excellent account of the history and the

layout of the chamber; it seemed a pity that the ancient architecture of the House had to be marred by a huge glass screen across the front of the Visitors Gallery to prevent missiles being thrown onto the MP's sitting below; a sign of the troubled times in which we live.

Finally we were shown the area where MP's meet their constituents before returning to Westminster Hall for a final summary from our guide. The tour had lasted nearly two hours but it was so interesting it seemed much shorter. One problem with such tours is that one is given so much

information it is difficult to remember all the details and many of our group intend to return at some time in the future for a second visit.

Having said our goodbyes to our guide the group then sampled the various delights offered by the Parliament Tea Room and purchased souvenirs before departing for home.

Many thanks to Malcolm Potter firstly for proposing this tour for the OEA social programme and secondly for using his contacts to make all the arrangements including the lunch; also thanks to Brian Pieri for his role as link man.

The London Walk in Greenwich, on Saturday 4th October 2008 *by Brian Pieri*

Eighteen old Egbertians including their wives and friends, and of course not forgetting our faithful and intrepid guide Malcolm Dick, duly met at the DLR station Island Garden at 11am.

Tony Butler, due to a problem with the trains from Chelmsford spent two hours endeavouring to meet the party but had to retire from the fray and return home. Full marks to Tony for his efforts.

We started with a walk under the River Thames by way of the Greenwich foot tunnel which was constructed in 1902 to allow the workers in Greenwich to reach the docks without crossing the Thames. Fortunately there were lifts to avoid having to traverse the 88 and 100 steps at each end. From the other side of the Thames, in the shadow of the Restoration of the Cutty Sark, Malcolm gave a short history of the area known in the past for its shipbuilding.

A short walk by the river bought us to what was formerly called the Royal Naval College, which was designed by Christopher Wren who was commissioned in 1692 by King William and Queen Mary to design a building for wounded navel veterans. The buildings are most impressive and very elegant. We were escorted into the painted hall in the King William building where the painted columns gave a 3D effect. The ceilings are covered in decorative "allegorical Baroque" murals painted by artist James Thornhill, who incidentally painted the cupola in St Paul's Cathedral, in the eighteenth century in a very flamboyant style which gave the room a very visually stunning effect. Following our visit to the hall we visited the chapel in the Queen Mary building which is decorated in a lighter rococo style. In there we saw a most exquisitely

decorated ceiling which the church complimented very well.

During the rest of the walk to a local hostelry for lunch Malcolm pointed out various features including the world famous Greenwich Observatory which gives it name to the Greenwich Meridian, which is the line of zero longitude, which is no doubt fondly remembered by those who attended Brother Fergus' geography lessons.

We arrived for lunch at *The Yacht* which is a very pleasant pub overlooking the Thames. A long table by the window had been reserved for us and we proceeded to have a very enjoyable lunch and conversation and excellent views of the River, which was the end of a perfect walk. Our thanks once again to Malcolm Potter for acting as our guide and for those who attended.

The City from the Observatory



The Naval College and Queen's House from the Observatory



Theatre Outing

hay fever

Saturday 11th October 2008

Our Social Programme Theatre Visit for 2008 was when our group of 18 members and partners went to see "Hay Fever" by Noel Coward at the Queens Theatre in Hornchurch. Not on a day you would really choose, as it so happened to be one of the fairly rare warm sunny afternoons. However, a good performance was enjoyed by all.

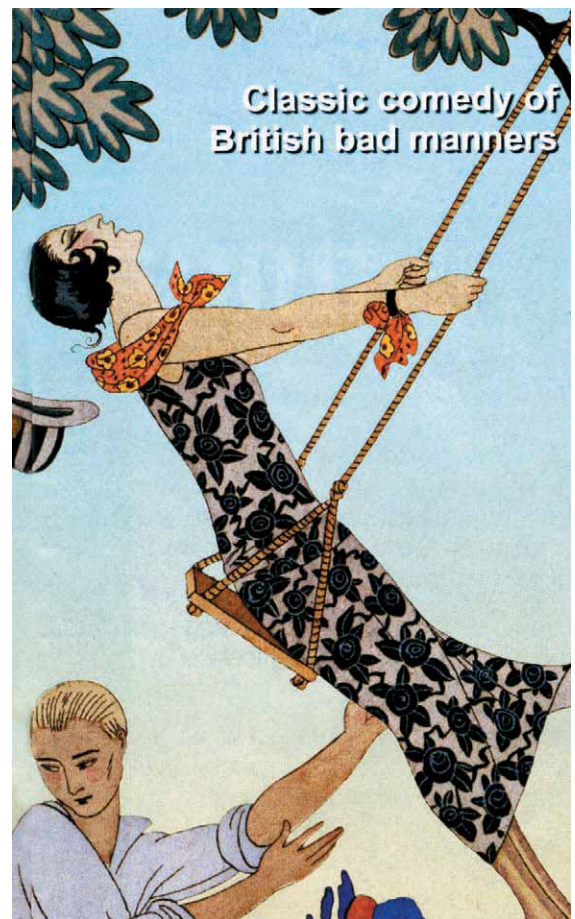
Just a few of our party arrived late, apparently due to traffic, and our President Gerry and Mike Tierman found themselves by mistake (not by Sat Nav) into a Tesco's Supermarket Car Park and apparently took a little time to get out, being held up by the true customers.

As regards the Theatre, as probably a number of you will know, it is certainly very nice for an out of town theatre.

After the show it was pleasing that all of the party found their way to the Dick Turpin for our meal.

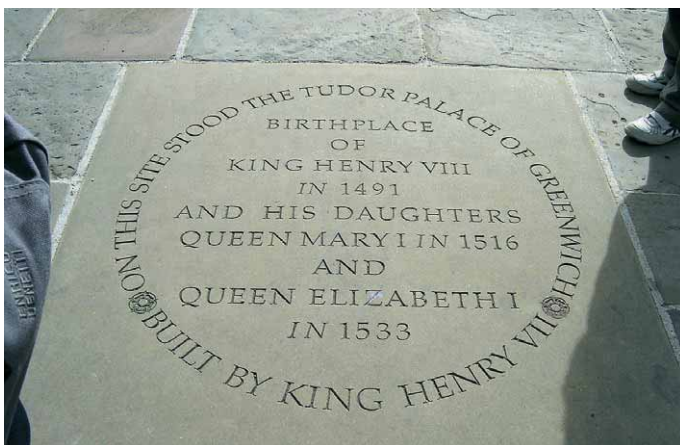
A very good meal was enjoyed by all. There was the usual lively chat about the old school days and other matters. If anybody could not recall any particular name or facts then we were lucky to have Vic Mould in our party who is certainly a mine of information and was able to supply the missing facts.

Again, thanks to our Social Secretary Brian Pieri for making the arrangements on what was a very enjoyable day, which was enjoyed by one and all.



More London Walk pictures...

The Tudor Palace Commemoration Stone



The Queen's House with the Observatory in the background



The Naval Hospital Chapel



Lunch at The Yacht Restaurant



Snippets

Membership numbers have now risen to 90 including Honourary members. We would like to reach 100 this year, so if you have not rejoined or let your membership lapse during the last two years we would welcome your renewal.

Donations to the Association have reached £467.00 with an additional £200.00 for the football club, which has been the highest figure for several years. As Secretary of the football club I would like to say a big thank you to you all as your support has always been welcome. It is difficult in modern times running any sporting organisation and knowing that the Association is there for us is a comfort.

We still have some **Ties** available at a cost of £10.00. If you want one please contact Chris Eastgate.

Your committee will shortly be putting together a suggested **Social Programme** for next year and we welcome any suggestions from the membership. One idea is a series of **Regional Meetings**, perhaps in the form of a meal where the Association will make a financial contribution of £10 per person or £15 per couple. If you are interested in putting something together, and we can tell you who is a member in your area, then let us know.

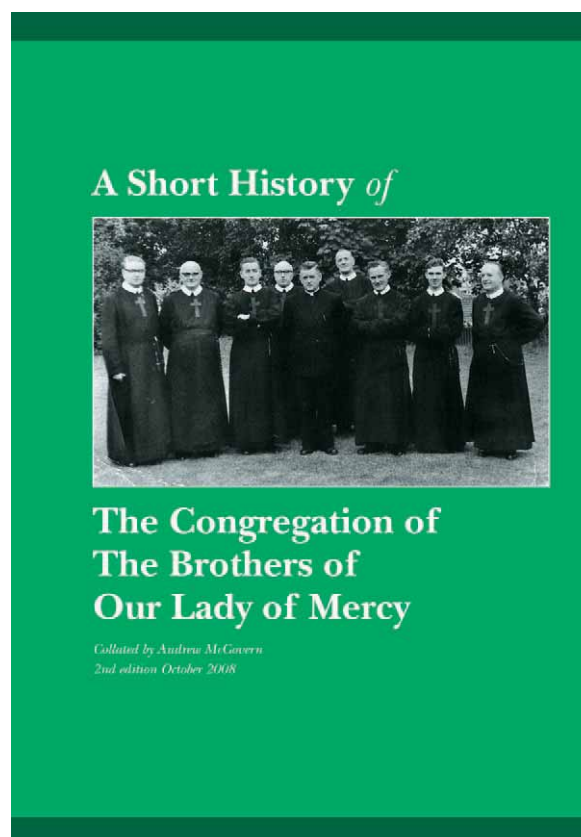
We are still looking for somebody to administer the **Website** as our current webmaster, Patrick Flood, will be standing down at the AGM. The time involved is minimal so if you can help out then we would be most grateful.

The History of the Congregation of the Brothers of Our Lady of Mercy

This 16pp booklet is an updated edition which was first published several years ago by Andrew McGovern. Andrew has spent a considerable amount of time researching the document and has been in contact with many reliable sources of information, which has made the publication very informative.

It charts the history of the Congregation since its formation in 1839 and touches upon its involvement in establishing St Aloysius and St Egberts College and Stainsby Hall. There are many photographs throughout including several sports day and of the football club. Our sincere thanks goes to Andrew for his contribution in what is an excellent publication.

The publication will be free of charge to existing members. If you are not a member, and you will have received an orange envelope in your newsletter advising you if you are not, and you wish to receive a copy then we urge you to rejoin.



The Old Egbertian Association

Editor

Jeff Thomas

21 Oakwood Hill
Loughton, Essex
IG10 3EW
Tel: 020 8508 1376
jeffctomas@yahoo.com

Committee

President

Gerry Abbott

Tel: 020 8529 3864

Chairman

Peter Burke

Tel: 01580 752858

Secretary

Jeff Thomas

Tel: 020 8508 1376

Membership Secretary

Mike Fitzgerald

Tel: 01277 823309

Treasurer

Chris Eastgate

Tel: 020 8527 3597

Social Secretary

Brian Pieri

Tel: 020 8524 0258

Committee members

Andrew McGovern

Tel: 01284 850915

Patrick Flood

Tel: 01689 825750

Bill Crisp

Tel: 01277 227191

Ron Fellowes

Tel: 020 8508 4724

Mike Jaselsky

Tel: 01992 635943

Football Club Secretary

Jeff Thomas

Tel: 020 8508 1376

Published by Disc To Print
25 Liddell Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EW
Tel 020 7625 5225