

The Egbertian

NEWS FROM THE OLD EGBERTIAN ASSOCIATION

see our website at www.oldegbertians.com



INAUGURATED 1928

Summer 2009

Editor's Comment

Welcome to the Summer edition of *Egbertian News*.

By the time you receive this newsletter the website will have been updated and now has several new sections. Some including OEA Archives and In Memoriam are work in progress as we need to think how best to approach these. We want the website to be the focal point of the Association and for the first time you can register online which will greatly aid our administration.

There is now a members only restricted area containing our contact list. This area is password protected, which should have been enclosed with this newsletter (email Editor if not).

If you have any good suggestions or ideas for the website then do let us know so we can incorporate them for next time.

Thanks for reading

Jeff Thomas

It's all in the Past *by Andrew McGovern*

Each year I bring along to the AGM various items from the archives for member's perusal and these create quite a bit of interest and discussion at the time. Your committee appreciate that not all members are in a position, for one reason or another, to attend the AGM, therefore to give more members an opportunity to see what is available in the archives, it has been decided to put a selection of the archive material on our website, this I will be doing over the next few months.

If any of you have old photographs or mementos of your days at the College I would appreciate receiving them for the archives, I am quite happy to copy and return original items as requested. If you send in photos, the names of the people in them would be appreciated. Also of interest are letters from members with their memories of their days at the College, such as the following:-

"Some thoughts on the wartime period 1939 to 1945 after reading Andrew McGovern's History booklet.

Bro. Paul left the order in 1947, and having taught me at Chingford he was my chemistry teacher at St Ignatius College, Stamford Hill as Patrick (Paddy) Sexton from 1947 to 1951. He was immensely popular and later I joined his department as a teacher from 1958 to 1962. On his retirement he was awarded the Papal Medal 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' for his contribution to Catholic education.

The photo on page nine of the booklet shows Fr (later Mgr) J. Howell, 4th from left front row, Parish Priest of Chingford with his dog. Corpus Christi processions were an important annual event starting from the church on the corner of Kings Road and continuing to the Chantry via the Ridgeway. Hymns were sung en-route with the head of the procession being somewhat out of phase with those 300 yards away at the back. Then followed a spirited sermon from a Fr Fox, and

Benediction to the gathering, (page 13 of the booklet, lower photo), many more than could be mustered today for such an event.

Following the requisition at the beginning of the war in 1939 some of the Brethren moved to Crescent Road to teach the younger pupils.

During the night of Monday 9th September 1940, a high explosive HE1400kg bomb landed near the junction of Rangers Road and Crescent Road, where the college and Brothers were at the time. The bomb failed to explode and there followed a few weeks holiday until the bomb was detonated. Brothers teaching there and living in the house next door included Peter, Hugh, Thomas, Aloysius, and Isidore (the terror of my life). I remember that the "Places" (toilets) stank.

There was a period, probably about this time, when the teaching moved to a very cold Friday Hill House. My only memory of the months there is



Andrew McGovern

Continued on page 2

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009

Continued from page 1

that the 'Places' stank even more than at Crescent Road.

At some stage, possibly 1943, when we were moved back to the Chantry, the Brethren included Aidan, Oswald, Raphael, Celsus, Felix and Paul. No sign of Isidore, which was good for me.

On Monday 15th January 1945, just after 9 o'clock in the morning, a long range V2 rocket fell at the junction of Pole Hill Road and Kings Head Hill. It had exploded in the air and the Venturi, weighing about 5cwt came through the roof of the corrugated iron building behind the Chantry that housed three classrooms, including mine. Luckily we were still on Christmas holiday, but I remember the following day looking at the hole in the ground and my twisted desk, I was eleven years old at the time. Another piece of the rocket demolished one of the Civil Defence cars parked in the playground.

These cars and ambulances were a permanent feature in the playground.

After seven years I left St Egberts at the age of 14 and am grateful for the interesting time I had there, well able to cope with the move to the Jesuits at St Ignatius."

Arthur Catterall
St Egberts College 1940-47

I found Arthur's letter very interesting, if for no other reason it clarifies the history of the 'bicycle shed' (see page 12 of the history booklet) and I was also amused by his vivid memories of 'The Places', also mentioned on page 11 of the history booklet. I wonder how this 'name' came about, any ideas??

Why not put pen to paper and let me have your memories.

Andrew McGovern
OEA Archivist

OEA History booklet amendments

As a result of feedback from members, upon receipt of their copy of the booklet, one or two discrepancies have come to light which I list herewith so that you can amend your copies accordingly:-

Page 15 – Re list of Brothers between Bro Gerome and Bro Alfred insert:-
Bro Basil – Left the Congregation in the late 1940's
4th line from bottom:- delete Bro Basil and insert Bro Abdan

Page 17 – Top photo
This photo is of the Old Aloysians, the player with the ball is George Gordon-Cumming who was responsible for fielding OA's teams during the War.
Next to Bro Hugh is Bro Basil and then Bro Francis (who left the order about this time to join the RAF). The Old Egbertians did not field any teams during the War.

Andrew McGovern

Social events for the year

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 8th May and was very well attended. For further details see the minutes in the Committee section of the website. The first social event of the year was the **Mansion House trip** which took place on Friday 24th July. A report will appear in the next edition of *The Egbertian*. The ever popular **London Walk** led by Malcolm Potter will take place on Saturday 12th September. Further details to follow in due course.

At the time of writing the programme for the October **Queens Theatre Trip** in Hornchurch was unavailable. Full details will be provided for those who have expressed an interest closer to the time.

The **Memorial Mass** and **Christmas Social** will both be held on the same day Sunday 13th December so those traveling can attend both events.

If you wish to attend any of the above and have not expressed an interest in doing so then please contact Brian Pieri on 020 8524 0258.

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

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