

The Egbertian

NEWS FROM THE OLD EGBERTIAN ASSOCIATION

see our website at www.oldegbertians.com



Summer 2010

Editor's Comment

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Egbertian

Since the last newsletter the website has been updated with many of the suggested changes from the membership incorporated. The committee sees the website as an important part of our communication armoury and feel that the investment is worthwhile as most of our new members come via the website.

We have made certain areas such as the contact list, newsletters and archives password protected so only members have access. If you are an existing member you should have had a reminder of the Associations user name and password enclosed. Let me know if otherwise.

Finally, the committee is very keen to communicate with its members via email. If you have an email address please send an email to jeffcthomas@yahoo.com.

Thanks for reading.

Travelling Tales *by Hector Watts*

I am a very new member of the Old Egbertians Association, having joined last Autumn after a gap of some sixty years since I left the school in June of 1949.

My initial introduction to the OEA came via Victor Mould whom I've known some years through the Bank Pensioners Assn. I didn't know of the existence of The OEA until Victor mentioned it in conversation, over the death of a great friend Michael Barry, who died last summer. Mike was at St. Egbert's during the early fifties along with Gerry Abbott. Victor invited me to the Memorial Mass in December 2009 and since then I became a member of the committee at the recent A.G.M.

I offered to write an article about my wife's and my trip to Australia last autumn. I hope you find it of some interest. We had promised ourselves a return visit to Australia and thought this might be the right time to catch up, there having been various hindrances since our last visit.

We set off at the beginning of October, flying to Singapore for a stop over of three days, during which time we met up with some friends and visited a number of interesting sights. We had Afternoon Tea at Raffles Hotel, a must for an English couple visiting Singapore! We were there the week following the Formula One Grand Prix. As part of the continual building work that is Singapore, there are three buildings (triplets), each fifty five stories high that will be joined together at the top by a seventy thousand ton platform, which will become a pleasure garden with

pool and other attractions. It will be a massive vantage point for this years Grand Prix in September. It will be ready in time as is everything in Singapore. The harbour approaches had miles and miles of ships waiting to dock for loading and mostly unloading. It was a hive of activity even on a Sunday afternoon.

We left Singapore and made for Sydney and our reunion with our Australian friends, for a couple of

weeks. Whilst there we were fortunate enough to see a production of The Mikado at The Royal Opera House. We also met up with our Ilford friends, who were now in Australia having emigrated to New Zealand many years ago. What a small world! The main highlight of our holiday, which was full of

highlights, was meeting up with our friends from Vancouver. They had flown to Hawaii and joined a cruise to Sydney! Our plan was to join their cruise from Sydney to Perth on the West Coast, over the top of Australia. We had always wanted to visit the Northern part of Australia after visiting the south and middle some eight years earlier.

The first stop was a day in Brisbane where we had stayed before. A sprawling vibrant city, especially tuned to the young people. Our next port of call should have been Cairns but the ship was not able to get her tenders alongside because of the swell. Nothing for it but to laze on deck in the sunshine! Next port was Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. What an experience. Years behind and most of it wilderness and unexplored.

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Our welcoming party were very colourful, they entertained us with their singing and dancing and arrived before us at every stop on the day singing and dancing all the time. The feathers in their head dresses had to be seen to be believed. I'm sure David Attenborough would love to visit P.N.G. Our lovely young lady guide was convent educated and this was her way of perfecting her English. Next stop was Darwin where we visited a Crocodile Sanctuary. We were allowed to handle the two year olds though their mouths were taped up. Darwin was severely bombed and mostly destroyed by the Japanese during WW2. So much is rebuilt but certainly a place to thoroughly enjoy. Darwin is now connected by rail and road to South Australia, running through

Alice Springs to Adelaide in the South. This was not so on our previous visit. Then on to Broome a small town on the west coast. It had a grass airstrip and small planes flew in and out all the time. Distance is a huge issue in the out back. Our last port of call was Exmouth, where the Australians and Americans have a Satellite Monitoring Station. The end of the cruise was Freemantle, where we boarded a coach that took us into Perth, where we stayed for a week before our trip home. That could be the subject for another article!!!!

I hope you have enjoyed this story, you can never tell how long it is going to be until you start, then you start at the beginning and go on until you come to the end.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Friday 23rd April once again at the Woodford Wells Club, Woodford Green, which has looked after us well over recent years

Attendance was slightly down on last year but all those who attended seemingly enjoyed themselves. Chairman Peter Burke presided over the proceedings and once again offered his traditional drink to the person who has attended the AGM from furthest away, who was Andrew Carslake from Brighton. Please advise the Secretary if you wish to receive a copy of the AGM minutes although they will be posted on the website (committee section) in due course.

Membership

We are only three months into the year and membership figures have reached 64 including Honourary members. Last year we reached 95 members and was agonisingly close to the elusive 100 mark, which we first achieved in the early years of the Association. The Association relies on its membership so if you have forgotten to rejoin then it would be appreciated if you can do so now.

A reminder letter (if applicable) should be enclosed. If you have paid and have received a reminder letter then please advise the Secretary so we can amend our records.

Social Events for the Year

By the time you read this the first social event of the year which was the **Tower Bridge Tour** on July 10th would have just taken place. A report will appear in the next edition of The Egbertian. The ever popular **London Walk** will take on September 11th. **The BBC Studios Tour** in Shepherds Bush in October has been well received with over 50 people expressing interest. The tour will be followed by Dinner locally. **The Memorial Mass** will be in Chingford on Sunday 12th December followed by the **Christmas Social**.

If you wish to attend any of the above and have not already expressed an interest on the Social Questionnaire then please contact Brian Pieri on 020 8524 0258

The Old Egbertian Association

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