

# The Egbertian

NEWS FROM THE OLD EGBERTIAN ASSOCIATION

see our website at [www.oldegbertians.com](http://www.oldegbertians.com)



INAUGURATED 1928

Winter 2010

## Editor's Comment

**W**elcome to the Winter Edition of the Egbertian.

**In this bumper issue there are more images from the archives which will shortly be posted on the website but these will give you a taster. Many date back many years – see whether you can spot yourself or your peers. This extended edition also gives me an opportunity to air my views on how the football club is going. I know many of you gave sterling service to the football side over the years so this might interest you.**

**Membership numbers are lower this year than at the same time last year so if you have not renewed then please do so. If you are one of the non renewals there will be a reminder enclosed.**

**Finally the last social events of the year are the Memorial Mass and Christmas Buffet taking place this Sunday, 12th December.**

**Jeff Thomas**

## Chairman's Piece *by Peter Burke*

I have asked the Editor to reuse the photograph last used back in 2008 to reassure readers that no changes have taken place since the last time I wrote. In many ways this statement is true as I believe the Committee has now achieved what they originally set out to do - that is to promote an Association of Fellowship for past pupils of the college by organising a series of social events and newsletters thus keeping members up to date and informed of matters that they would find of interest.

That said the Committee is anxious not just to sit back passively but to keep the original momentum going. To achieve this aim we have now invested in updating and re-structuring our website so it is more in tune with modern times. More and more archive material is now being posted on the website and this material has proved to be very popular with an audience which is now truly worldwide with members in Ireland, Canada, France, Australia and Spain to name but a few locations. In addition many new members have been attracted by the website which is a sign of the way communication will go in the future. We will always produce the newsletter but the committee sees email as an important part of our communication and to assist

us it would be helpful for us to have your e-mail address if we do not already have it, particularly new members. We have about 25 email addresses but I am sure that there are more out there so I would appreciate it if you would drop an email to the editor ([jeffcthomas@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffcthomas@yahoo.com)).

As an aside we are always looking for matters of interest that could be shared with the rest of the membership and would welcome your participation - all news is good news.

Apart from the social events for those of you who can make it our AGM and Christmas Get Together (combined with the Memorial Mass at Chingford) give an opportunity for those

who prefer personal contact with fellow members to meet with each other, with a warm welcome for partners and a generous buffet as an additional attraction for the gourmets amongst us.

In conclusion, bearing in mind the school has been closed some forty years now it is truly a remarkable feat in itself that the Association is still alive and well, which is really down to the efforts of an enthusiastic Committee and the active participation of you as members to whom I give on behalf of the Committee my grateful thanks.



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

### Tower Bridge Tour on Saturday 10th July 2010

We all met at Tower Hill Tube Station on a very sunny day with the sun shining on the River Thames.

A mobile telephone established the whereabouts of our esteemed Chairman and very shortly afterwards Peter and his wife Vicky duly arrived.

By 11am everybody was accounted for and the tour began.

Tower Bridge was built at the end of the nineteenth century to ease road traffic while maintaining river access to the busy Pool of London Docks.

It took eight years to build and having giant moveable roadways or "bascules" was considered an engineering marvel at the time.

A lift in the North Tower takes you up to the walkway which is 42 metres above the Thames. It was formerly reserved for pedestrians to cross when the bridge opened to let ships through. The walkway was closed when, sadly, a number of suicides were committed by people throwing themselves into the River. The walkways are now enclosed with glass and form part of the history of the Tower Bridge with much information and many interactive information panels. It is a most interesting exhibition giving reasons for the design, i.e. a bridge which

can open and let high masted vessels into the Pool of London when the docks extended to London Bridge. Those of us of a certain age may remember this period.



The view from the walkways are magnificent. From the West Walkway you can see many of London's most famous landmarks such as The Tate Modern, HMS Belfast, The BT Tower, St Paul's Cathedral, The Monument, The Tower of London and the Gherkin. The view from the East Walkway is less impressive but

there are excellent views of Canary Wharf and the Docklands, The Royal Observatory, Butlers Wharf and the Design Museum.

After the exhibition we crossed the bridge to the South Tower and visited the magnificent Victorian Engine Rooms which house the huge and impressive steam engines which used to power the bridge lifts. In an age when steam was king they are a tribute to Victorian engineering. Today electricity powers the mechanics.



We later gathered by City Hall for photos and were very pleased when the bridge was raised, which it does about 1000 times per year, as some of our number had never seen this before. We completed our tour with lunch in the Brasserie at the Tower Hotel looking out over the bridge and the River Thames. Overall it was a very enjoyable day.

Brian Pieri

### London Walk

Malcolm Dick, our intrepid tour guide, suggested a walk this year to quote "without the city walls". For the uninitiated this refers to markets, churches and places of interest outside of the Roman Walls that enclosed the original London.

Our party, which consisted of twelve this time around, set off from our meeting place at Tower Hill Station. Fifty yards later we stopped, having been confronted by a massive Roman wall which had previously run through the Tower of London down to the Thames - the Romans built to last.

When London expanded much of the Roman Walls were demolished. However, parts still survive and are now often hidden by modern buildings that have been designed to show and keep the Roman Heritage for future generations.



After viewing the wall we arrived in Crutched Friars, so named after a Roman Catholic religious order of mendicant friars who came to England in the 13th century from Italy, where they established a monastery on this site. It is marked today by the statues of two Friar monks mounted on the corner of an office building.

Shortly afterwards we crossed Aldgate and passed St Botolphs' Church which was named after St Botolph, who was one of the earliest

and revered East Anglian saints and became known as the patron saint of wayfarers. It is a very handsome building and the fourth Church to have been built on this site having been completed in 1729 to the designs of James Gould, under the supervision of George Dance. An IRA bomb in 1993 rendered the church as a dangerous structure and it took three years of restoration to return the church to its former glory.



Our walk then took us to Houndsditch which connects Aldgate in the South East to Bishopsgate in the North West; these being two gates in the original City Wall. Houndsditch marks the route of the old ditch running outside a part of London Wall. Between Aldgate and Houndsditch lies Bevis Marks Synagogue, which is the oldest synagogue in the World still in use and is a grade one listed building. It was completed and dedicated in 1702 and apart from the roof, which was destroyed by fire in 1738 and repaired in 1749, it is as it was 300 years ago. Unfortunately we could not explore inside as being a Saturday it was the Jewish Sabbath.



Our next stop was Petticoat Lane and Spitalfields, which is the Jewish Quarter of the City.

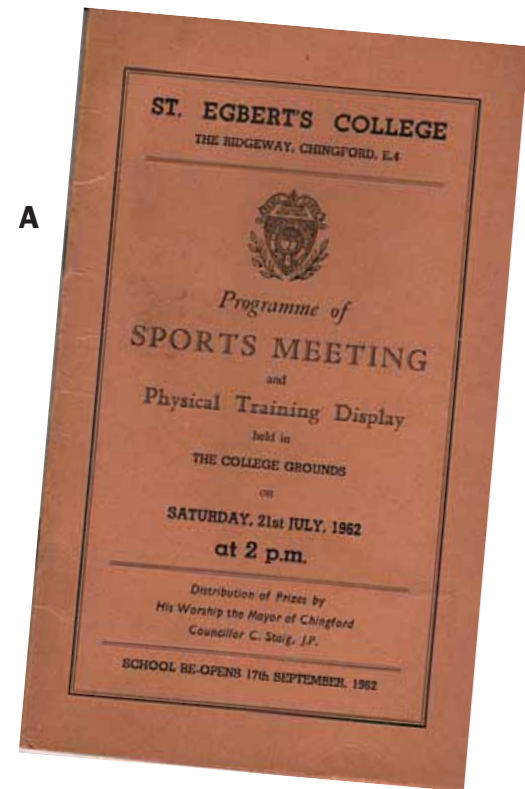
Petticoat Lane is possibly one of the oldest surviving markets in Britain although it was not formally recognised until an Act of Parliament in 1936. The area became known for weaving as many Huguenots who were Protestants, escaped persecution from France and arrived in numbers in the late 17th century and settled there. Spitalfields was formerly London's Fruit and Vegetable Market before it was transferred to Leyton in East London.

Our walk finished with our traditional meal in a local restaurant and we enjoyed fish and chips which seemed very appropriate. We all had a very enjoyable walk and our thanks to Malcolm for making it a very interesting day.

Brian Pieri



A collection of images from the archives



Above A, B, C: Programme of Sports Meeting 1962

SCHOOLS ROLL 1961-62. Table listing names and numbers of students from various schools.

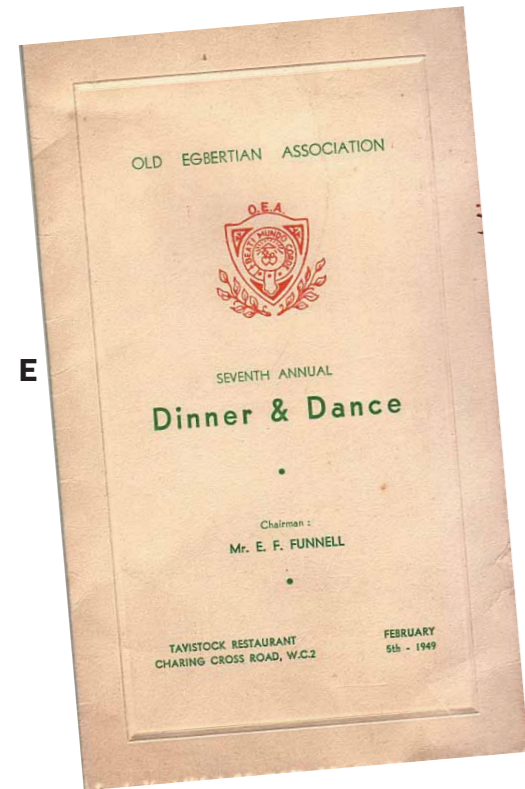
SCHOOLS ROLL 1961-62. Table listing names and numbers of students from various schools.

OLD EGBERTIAN ASSOCIATION. Text detailing the association's activities and membership.

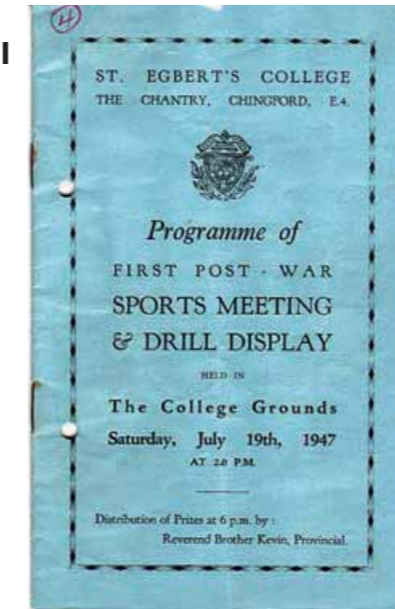


Right D: Old Egbertians gathering 1979

Below E, F: 7th Annual Dinner/Dance, 1949



MENU and TOASTS. Lists of food items and toast speakers for the 1949 dinner and dance.



Left I, J: Sports Meeting Programme, 1947



Above G, H: Concert cover and inside pages, 1942



Below left K: Old Egbertians gathering 1970



Bottom right L: Mass, 1961

## Steggs *Further information on the development and History of the College*

Following the opening of the College in 1920, plans for a lecture hall were submitted to the local council for approval in 1926. Two years later an extension was added. This lecture hall was situated behind the Chantry, and as it had a stage and lighting facilities, dances and plays were produced and the Brothers allowed it to be by the villagers of Chingford.

In 1933 Hallwoods of Clyde, Manchester, moved on site and started work on the 'New Building' that became the College we all knew until it was demolished in the early 1970's. This was necessary because the College was expanding, and more room was required for boarders. The building consisted of eight classrooms on the first two floors, and the second floor was to be used as a storeroom. An assembly hall was to be built from the centre of the building projecting towards the back, but was never built. While the new building was being completed the Chantry was renovated.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the College was evacuated to Stanstead in Suffolk, and on the way the first air raid siren was heard. Later, with the opening of Stainsby Hall in Derbyshire the College moved there together with pupils from St Aloysius College, Highgate, and those not going to Stainsby Hall were catered for at a large house in Crescent Road, Chingford. Whilst the College was evacuated, the building was converted for use by the Civil Defence, in case of a gas attack. The ground floor windows and doors were all sandbagged (see photos in Autumn 2009 Newsletter). The playground was used as a car park for a variety of Civil Defence vehicles and ambulances. Brother Peter who was in Crescent Road at the time was a member of the Civil Defence.

In January 1945 a V2 flying bomb fell at the junction of Pole Hill Road and Kings Head Hill and the Venturi, weighing about 5 cwt, came through the roof of the lecture hall behind the Chantry, and although the hall was badly damaged there were no casualties. It was also about this time that the evacuees from Stainsby Hall and Crescent Road returned to the College. The damage to the hall was never made good and it was used subsequently as a store and a bicycle shed for the many pupils who cycled in from various surrounding towns. In my time, during the summer months, a group of us used to meet up at Gants Hill in Ilford every morning and cycle in via Gates Corner, Woodford Green and Friday Hill, trying to beat the 145 bus to the Bull and Crown.

In 1950 the long serving chef, Joseph Mason, came to Chingford to cook for the Brothers and he was there until the College closed in 1970 whereupon he moved to 'Cleaves' the Brothers Novitiate in East Moseley.

In 1959 plans for changing rooms on the football ground at Sopers field were submitted to the council but such plans never came to fruition due to a number of reasons but mainly finance.

In 1965 work began on a new gymnasium following a big drive to raise the funds by both the Headmaster, Brother Fergus, and the Parents Association.

Sadly in 1970 the College closed, the site sold and both the College and the Chantry were demolished in preparation for redevelopment.

*This article has been culled from various sources including articles from old Newsletters and College magazines.*

My thanks to all "contributors"  
**Andrew McGovern - Archivist**

## Snippets

**My thanks to Keith Morgan** from Sawbridgeworth, who attended the College from 1949-1953, who has supplied a superb DVD, converted from a 16mm Kodak B/W and Kodachrome film taken by Albert Morgan, of the St Egbert's College Sports Day in the early 1950's. I would suggest that it was shot at the same time as many of the still photographs that we have. If anybody can confirm a date it would be good. The film is three minutes long, slightly grainy which all add to its charm. This will be posted on the website by the end of December.

**Many thanks** to Chris Eastgate our Treasurer and Mike Fitzgerald, our Membership Secretary who both indicated at the last AGM that they wished to stand down from the committee this year but agreed to stay in post until replacements could be found. Happily Hector Watts has come forward and will take both positions as there is a certain amount of overlap between the two roles. Both Chris and Mike have both given sterling service on the committee since its inception in 1999/00 and have made valuable contributions in making the Association what it is today and they will be sorely missed. Chris has left to spend more time on family matters while Mike wants to spend more time on his growing business. Hopefully we will see them on the committee again some time in the future. With this in mind please now send your membership cheque payable to The Egbertian Association to Hector Watts, 38 Fullwell Avenue, Ilford, Essex IG6 2HF

**As you are aware** the committee sees the website as a major source of communication and one that will attract any possible members who are out there. We constantly get former pupils who type in "St Egbert's" in Google just to see what is on the internet who are then subsequently amazed when our website pops up. Recent contacts have been Peter Bick from Bexhill on Sea who attended between 1960-1970, Anthony Firth from East Snettisham (1935-1940) and a former teacher, Vinod Sharma who I understand taught at the latter end of the school's existence.

## Football Thoughts *by Jeff Thomas*

It is rare that I get the opportunity to write as much about the football club as I can in this issue and it is a chance to let you know how things are going this season. In short not very well and this season will go down as another crisis season which unfortunately we have suffered more than our fair share over recent times.

I believe that any football club or sporting organisation is only as good as the players who play for it and the captains who run the teams. If every captain does a good job and every player acts responsibly then running a club is actually fairly easy. Experience has shown that the majority of time is spent dealing with a few errant individuals. There are always issues to contend with but by and large the committee can concentrate on taking the club forward rather than firefighting. The same applies to captains and my ideal is to have captains who are responsible, enthusiastic and conscientious.

The season started positively. We had a captains meeting pre-season and all those present were very enthusiastic and looking forward to a successful season. We had embarked on a major recruitment drive over the summer which saw 10-15 new players join us which was very welcome.

The season kicked off and whilst the first set of results were not good we were very hopeful for the future. Match weekend number two came and went with many of our teams picking up their first points and then after the third game.. our second team captain resigned because he was finding the pressure of fielding a team too much!

As you can imagine the committee were rather bemused by all this as all captains were made well aware of their responsibilities pre-season and the need for a squad of at least 18 players was made very clear. It would appear that the second team only had 13 players of which two were long term injured so it was always going to be a struggle for players. They had to pull in a few last minute players which affected the early results and the captain decided it was not for him. We have had captains stand

down during the season before but never after so few games.

Since then the team has been run by our Chairman Dave Cross, but he is finding it a struggle to field a team to the required standard with so few quality players at his disposal, as many had left following the captain's departure. The fixtures are being played but with substandard players and the subsequent defeats have been heavy, which in turn results in a lack of players for the next game etc, and so it goes on until you eventually run out of players who want to play.

Whether we will be able to fulfill our second team fixtures this season is doubtful and it is going to be a long hard winter. The worst case scenario is that we will have to drop our second team whose place under league rules will need to be taken by our third team. This is not ideal as they are going well one division below the second team. Our fourth team, who are also struggling for players and results, will then need to move up as our third team. This will be a big jump in standard and they too are suffering some heavy defeats at the moment and whether they will last the season is highly debatable. Players don't like to play for unsuccessful sides and are often unavailable or drop out after a run of heavy defeats.

It all seems such a long time ago since the heady days of the 2006/07 season when we had our first ever cup win when we won the London Old Boys Intermediate Cup with our first team, who also achieved promotion into Senior Division Three. They were a very good team and we had high hopes for them for the future. However, our hopes were dashed the following pre-season when the whole team left en masse to higher clubs in the football league pyramid. This meant dropping our sixth team as all teams moved up a position. It proved too much for what was our second team and they were duly relegated back into Intermediate North. The following season saw a new look first team, as several older players had left to join the Vets team, struggle in Intermediate North and

they were relegated last season into Division One, which is the lowest position that our first team have occupied in my 20 years with the club. I believe that a club is always judged on the success of its first team and this is why the committee puts the work in so the current position of our first team is a huge disappointment.

While all this was going on our other teams battle on, nobody has gained a promotion in recent seasons and there has been several relegation scares. The problem we face is that we have lost many quality players over the last few seasons without adequately replacing them which has affected the clubs performance.

Where the club will end up in the future I really don't know. We will certainly lose one team either this season or next and possibly another team if our plans for a second Vet team comes to fruition next season, as many players of Vet age play for the fourth team.

Off the pitch money is always a struggle and by dropping teams it puts a big hole in our finances as the pitches are block booked and still need to be paid for. Currently, on a "normal season" we are running at a small loss which will worsen by the time the second teams problems filter through.

With this in mind I would like to thank the Association for their generous donations that you have made this season and in previous seasons. It is really good to know that you are out there for us.

On a positive note (and I am trying to write something positive!) we have a very strong committee who are working hard to get the club back on track.

Success tends to be cyclical so I am sure that our time will come again.

*Jeff Thomas, OEA and EFC Secretary*





**The Old Egbertian Association**  
Presents a

**CHRISTMAS BUFFET**

**On Sunday 12th December**  
**at the Queen Elizabeth**  
**Public House, Forest Side,**  
**Chingford, London E4**  
**From 12 noon - 3pm**

**£5.00 per person**

**Call Brian Pieri on 020 8524 0258** for further details



## Membership

We are still some way off last years membership figure of 95 which is disappointing. The Association relies on its membership so if you have forgotten to rejoin then it would be appreciated if you can do so now. Our costs are ever rising and your membership is vital to pay for publications such as this newsletter and the History of the Order booklet.

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

## Social events

The last social events of 2010 will be the **Memorial Mass** this Sunday December 12th at the 10.30am Mass at The Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Teresa of Avila, Kings Road, Chingford (opposite Old Bull & Crown Pub). The **Christmas Buffet** then follows on the same day at The Queen Elizabeth Public House in Chingford (see above for full details). It would be good to see you there.

Due to very high interest the **BBC Studios Tour** in Shepherds Bush has been rescheduled for Saturday February 5th. This event has received over 40 people expressing interest so there will be two tours at 10am and 10.15am. The Tour will give you an opportunity to immerse yourself in the fascination world of Television and because it is a working building no two tours are the same. Tickets are £9.25 each.

To book your place please contact Brian Pieri on 020 8524 0258 by the end of December.

## Website

As you have seen the middle pages of this newsletter has various items from the Association archives. Some images may be hard to read but if we made them any bigger we would only be able to display a limited number. Hopefully they will give you an insight into the kind of material that we will be adding to the website as it becomes available. All being well these and more should be posted on the website by the end of December.

Generally the committee are happy with the website layout and apart from annual updates and the addition of archive material there should now be only limited changes. However, if there are any suggestions that you would like to make to improve it then do let us know.

## The Old Egbertian Association

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