The Egbertian ASSOCIATION



see our website at www.oldegbertians.com

Winter 2013

Editor's Comment

Welcome to the Winter Edition of EgbertNews.

In this edition we have contributions from Mike Fitzgerald, who recently

completed the Camino Walk; Maurice Suckling, who was one of the first intake of boys at the College, and Brian Moore, who has an interesting take on the well known 80/20 principle.

As you are aware our membership year closes at the end of December. Enclosed you will find an application form to renew for next year. We rely on membership fees to keep the Association financially sound so your prompt renewal would be much appreciated.

My apologies for nagging but I need to keep receiving articles to keep the newsletter going so if you can make a contribution that might interest the membership then please let me know.

Finally, on behalf of the Association's committee I hope you have a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Ninety-Five Years Young

In October of this year our intrepid Chairman Peter Burke donned his journalistic hat and interviewed Maurice Sucking who was one of the original intake of the College. Here are his recollections...

I had the pleasure of meeting up with Maurice recently one afternoon in October and all I can say is that I would be pleased to be only half as fit as Maurice is when I hopefully reach 95.

Maurice was at the school from 1928 – 1935 as a boarder although he thinks the College

were operating in some form or another a few years earlier. Although living in Buckhurst Hill Maurice boarded as in those days the journey back and forth to the College was a bit of a trek especially in winter without the luxury of cars and public transport. There

were getting on for 100 pupils at the school at the time, 30 of whom were boarders.

The boarding accommodation in the Chantry was basic to say the least, likewise the food. The two toasters were deemed to be a luxury as were the home made crystal sets which were wired to the metal bedsteads for aerials – no hi-fi in those days!

The teaching area was a series of long wooden buildings divided into six classrooms heated by small

green coke boilers in winter which took half the day to light and the other half to clear the smoke!

The Headmaster or Director as he was called in those days was Brother. Wulston, who was a rather stern man who gave the impression of remoteness and privacy – Ofsted beware! Bros.

Gabriel, Isador, Aidan, Arthur, Kevin, Leo, Hugh, Cornelius and Steven made up the rest of teaching staff.

The rather aptly named Brother Justice looked after the domestic side of things and administered the bathroom brush as a WOMD to boarders

who were caught smoking. 'A missing eye or a broken leg or two never did us any harm in those days' mused Maurice.

The playground was really quite rough and basic – in it stood an old stable block with the loft converted into rooms for the domestic staff with the lower part serving as the chemistry lab and store.

The 'Places' (toilets in modern parlance) were at the bottom of the



Continued on page 2

playground and were very cold in winter and were adjacent to the hall. At one time a smallholding was constructed behind the hall with vegetables and spuds etc grown for use in the boarding house.

In 1934 /5 a new block, which was to become the main college for later pupils, was constructed to replace the now, to say the least, rustic classroom accommodation.

One of the highlights of the school's history must have been a visit by their sitting MP (for Epping in those days) in his wilderness years – that is the clue, to speak to his Conservative Association.

He was accompanied by his wife Clementine and son Randolph and addressed his captivated audience from an elevated section of the grounds called 'the mound'. He was also guest of honour at a number of post war sports days.

To put you out of your misery we are indeed proud to be able to print a copy of a letter of refusal

written by Sir Winston's Churchill's secretary on his behalf to our invitation for him to join our Association as an Honorary Member. Sadly it might have been the highlight of our association's history to be told to 'go away', to put it politely, by perhaps the greatest Briton that ever lived. However happily he accepted personally some years later and we are even prouder to print a copy of his acceptance – all's well that ends well!

Sport was seen as an important part of school activity and Maurice played for the football team- there were two teams in those days, and the cricket team and was a competent sports all rounder.

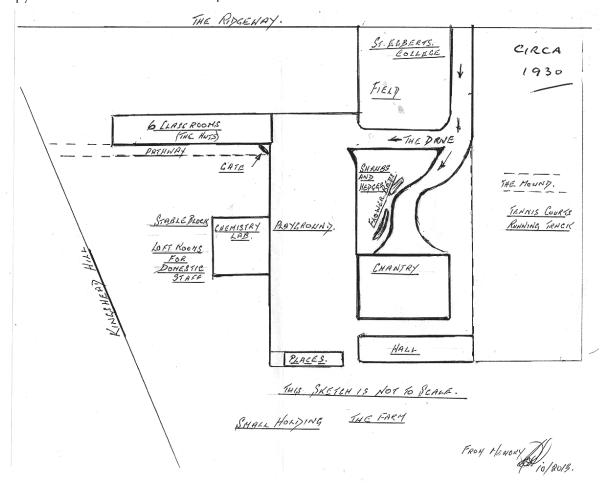
After leaving school Maurice, who is a chartered engineer by profession, served as a student apprentice with London Power from 1936 to 1940. With 7.30am starts and only half hour breaks he soon made his way up the corporate ladder.

In his war years Maurice served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1945 in West Africa, Freetown in Sierra Leone and with anti sub destroyers in the South Atlantic convoys.

Ironically he was bombed while on dry land in Portsmouth while attending lectures at the torpedo school there. As luck would have it they were transferred to Roedean College, the famous girl's school, to continue their training but Maurice is rather cagey about how much actual work they did there!

After escorting the troops in the Normandy landings the end of the war saw Maurice back with London Power. From 1946 to his retirement in 1980 he held various positions in power stations and eventually becoming a Senior Control Engineer with the National Grid which later absorbed London Power.

The last recollection of Association activities that Maurice had (before the current resurgence!) was of a



dinner and dance at the Electricity Board showroom in Hoe Street, Walthamstow in 1946. The event does not appear to have been recorded - has anybody a photograph that we could borrow? Maurice has lived in Groombridge Kent since 1955. His wife Kathleen sadly passed away but he still lives in the family home getting out and about to meet up with friends as often as he can. Even on a ferry trip to Ireland he could not get away from Association business as, by coincidence, he met the Priest from the Diocese who negotiated

continued overleaf

SIR WINSTON ACCEPTS AN OFFICE

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL has accepted the honorary vice-presidency of the Old Eghertian Association at Chingford.

In the past Sir Winston had a close association with Old Egbertians, claimed an O.E.A. spokesman. "We think he was once a president of the association—but we can't find it in writing," he said.

The association, which is holding a joint car rally with Chingford Young Tories on May 19th, is non-political.

Special Connections

The association has appointed Chingford's R.A. Mayor, Cllr. Charles Staig, as an honorary president.

He has been given the title for special connections he has with the Association.

The Bishop of Brentwood and the provincial of the Brothers of Our Lady of Mercy, Brother Cornelius Reed, have also been appointed honorary presidents for their special connections.

Appointed as vice-presidents for services rendered are the Rev. Brother Felix and Messrs J. Pracy, F. A. Carnell, T. E. Funnell, S. T. P. Secker, R. Mitchell and K. E. Course.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 7972

28, HYDE PARK GATE, LONDON, S.W. 7.

3 February, 1961

Dear Mr. Steel,

Sir Winston Churchill has asked me to thank you very much for your letter. He is complimented by the Old Egbertian Association's suggestion. He fears, however, that he cannot accept a Vice-Presidency of your Association. As you probably realise, Sir Winston is connected with many organisations, and in his retirement from Office he is reluctant to add to their number save in exceptional cases where he has a close personal connection.

'Sir Winston hopes you will understand his position, and asks me to assure you that this answer in no way diminishes from the pleasure which your Association's thought of him has given him.

Yours sincerely.

Dorcen Pugh

Private Secretary

R.W.J. Steel, Esq.



the sale of the College – a sad day for everybody (a bit late now for a mystery man overboard incident)!

Maurice tells me that his education at St. Egberts gave him a sense of discipline, and together with his love of Mathematics were the two things that enabled him to have an interesting and rewarding career.

I spent an interesting couple of hours with Maurice and I intend to use the Chairman's prerogative to make him a paid up member i.e. no further subs when he reaches 100.

Peter Burke

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 7972.

25th April, 1963.

Sir Winston S.Churchill. 28, Hyde Park Gate, London.S.W.7.

Sir,

On behalf of the Association and in accordance with rule no.5. (C/D/E) it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Governing Body has bestowed upon you the title of Hon. Vice-President due to services rendered to the Association.

28, HYDE PARK GATE, LONDON.S.W.7.

4 May, 1963

Gentlemen,

I am indeed obliged to you for the compliment you pay me. Pray accept my very good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

The Old Egbertian Association

Ramund Loty & Chairman.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY,

Given at St.Egbert's College, Chingford, on the 1st March, one thousand, nine hundred and sixty three.

Walking the Camino by Mike Fitzgerald

About two years ago my brother Barry was diagnosed with ALS. ALS is a form of Motor Neurones Disease (MND) whose sufferers have a life expectancy of 1-2 years. This news of course came as a bombshell to all of our family as there is no treatment or cure for this illness.

The first few months were hard for all of us especially my brother and it was difficult to continue with everyday life. I spent time finding out as much about MND as I could and I was stunned to discover that there is little research taking place and that the illness seems to be on the increase. Unfortunately MND does not receive the same level of funding and research that other better known diseases enjoy.

It was then that I decided to raise money for research and with the help of my family I arranged a Dinner /Auction and also undertook a 100 mile charity walk across Spain. These events were well supported by friends, family and also members of The Old Egbertian Association. In fact one Old Egg donated £500 which was a great boost.

Unfortunately in July of this year my brother died after losing his brave fight which gave me even more determination to raise more money for much needed research. I thought long and hard about what I could do to capture the interest of sponsors and after much deliberation I decided to walk the ancient Christian pilgrimage route called The Camino. The Camino's, or the Way of St James or St James Way as it is often known, final destination is Santiago in North West Spain which is the legendary burial site of the apostle Saint James the Great. By the 10th century St James had become to be regarded as the protector of

Christian Europe against the Moslem Moors and Santiago increasingly became the Mecca for Christian pilgrims over the next 1000 years.

The Camino de Santiago, to give it its Spanish name, has been one of the most important Christian pilgrimages since medieval times and is considered to be one of the three pilgrimages on which all sins can be forgiven- the others being Via Francigena to Rome and the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It was declared the First European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe in October 1987 and is also one of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

There are several routes that can be taken but my chosen route was the Camino Frances. The Camino Frances starts in St Jean Pied de Port on the French side of the Pyrenees and finishes about 780km (about 500 miles) later in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, North West Spain. The route can be split into three sections: the rolling hills of the Basque country, the hot, flat empty central section of the "Meseta" and the green hills of the Galicia.

Not being 21 anymore I thought that I should spend some time in the gym and after a few months I was ready, with some apprehension, to embark on my journey and I set out on the 8th of September. I flew to Biarritz and caught the little train up to St Jean De Piedport. This is a very pretty hillside town and this was to be my first stop for the night. I visited the pilgrim's office to get my Credencial or Pilgrims passport which is a record of all the stops that you make and is stamped on



arrival at each village or church and allows pilgrims to stay at hostels along the route. Later on I was spend my first night in a hostel for many years. After a sleepless night I awoke to heavy rain and was ready to walk over the 5,300 ft Pyrenees mountains that faced me which proved to be quite tough but exhilarating.

The first days walking was hard and was one of the longest daily distances of my journey and I suddenly realised that my pack was on the heavy side. My first stop was at Roncesvalles which since the middle ages has been the first stopping point for pilgrims walking across Spain.

During my journey I met many people from all over the world and when talking to them it seemed they were all there for one reason or another. Some had failed relationships; others wanted to "find themselves". There were some very sad stories told to me and this did help forge a bond between all of the pilgrims. My reason for walking was just to raise money and having previously set up a website charity page I really hoped that I could do so.

The route was tough and the



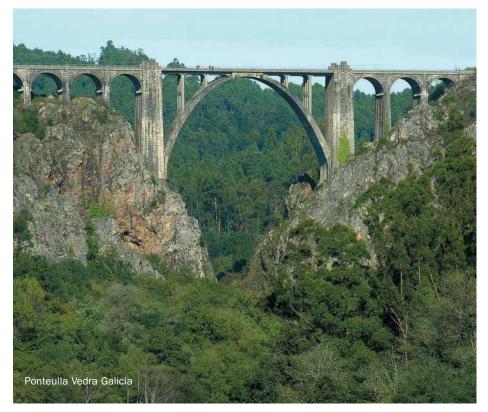
weather was hot, but I slowly made my way across Spain walking through cities such as Pamplona, which was made famous by Ernest Hemingway. Another area which was interesting was the middle section of my journey called the Meseta, which is a large high plateau and is windblown and blistering hot in summer and freezing in winter. To cover this section took three days of hard walking and I looked forward to finishing each day and finding a bed at a hostel. Unfortunately at the first hostel on The Meseta I spent the night on a mattress with 100 other pilgrims and it was like spending the night at the zoo!

My next stop was in Burgos which is a very attractive city. It has a wonderful cathedral and a lovely river running through its centre and is a place that I would happily revisit. I also came across a hillside village called Rabanal which has an English hostel which serves tea and biscuits every afternoon which was very quaint. Every evening in Rabanal a community of Bavarian Monks hold a service for pilgrims where they sing Gregorian chants which I found to be a very moving experience.

I travelled across the Spanish regions starting with the fiercely independent Basque country where many signs declare the regions determination to leave Spain. I then walked across Navarra and then Castille/Leon. After 370 miles I walked up a mountain to a village called O'Cebreiro, called the mountain gateway to Galicia which would be my final stretch and would take me to my final destination of Santiago. This lovely village perched high on the mountain has a small church where the Franciscan monks have served pilgrims soup and wine for over 1200 years without a break. During my walk I had met many people and unfortunately many were suffering from serious foot

and ankle injuries. In fact only







25% of people who start the walk from France finish in Santiago. The last 125 miles of my journey were slower than the first and I think that was because I was getting very tired and my pack seemed to be getting heavier. However as I neared the finish I started to quicken my pace and I started to get quite excited about reaching my final destination. Also the charity page fund was building up nicely and I could see that my efforts were being rewarded.

Finally the last day of walking arrived and I walked into the city of Santiago De Compostilo on October 11th. This is an amazing city with lovely churches and museum's with the centre piece being the Cathedral of St James. This is wonderful sight and the large square was filled with thousands of Pilgrims who had walked all or part of the Camino. The emotions that I felt on that day were mixed - I was glad to have finished the walk and I was also grateful to have raised money for research into the illness

that took my brother. However it also signalled the end of a fabulous adventure where I had seen a fantastic part of Spain and met so many wonderful people.

After carrying my pack for 500 miles and spending nights in 33 different hostels I was fed up with roughing it and promptly I booked into the Parador Hotel in the main square, which is the oldest hotel in the world. I spent two hours in a long hot bath after which I felt human again.



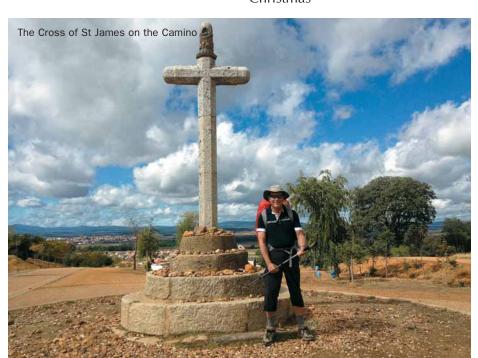


The final part of the whole Camino experience is the pilgrims mass at the cathedral where they light a large Botafumerio which is a huge silver bowl filled with incense which is swung high and along the full length of the church. This is a throw back to bygone days to mask the smell of the pilgrims who had made the pilgrimage from France.

My original target was to raise about £5000 and to date the fund for my walk has reached £8,500 including gift aid. So far we have

raised about £26,000 through various events and this money is going directly into a new research programme. My wish is that a cure can be found for this insidious disease so others do not have to suffer as we have and I do believe that a cure will be found eventually.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Old Egbertian Association for their continued support, donations and encouragement, and to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas





In the City of Santiago when I finished my walk

If you wish to donate to this very worthy cause you can still do so at https://mydonate.bt.com/ fundraisers/michaelfitzgerald1

Thank you Mike Fitzgerald

Has anybody else undertaken a similar trip that other members might be interested in? If so let me know, Ed



What are two numbers that drive our lives in this busy world? Having given it some thought, the answer I have come up with is eighty and twenty. How come?

As a salesman in the 1980's for one of the then two leading confectionery companies we were informed at a sales conference that 80% of the company business came from 20% of its customers. This is a common rule of thumb business principle based on the Pareto Principle. Vilfredo Pareto observed in 1906 that 80% of the land in Italy was owned by 20% of the population. This set the brain ticking and left me wondering, what else follows this analogy?



- We pay income tax at a rate of 20%, retaining 80%.
- We pay VAT at a rate of 20%, without it goods would be only 80% of the price we pay.
- Fill your car with fuel, 80% of the price is tax, therefore you only pay 20% of the price for the actual fuel.
- On average Supermarkets discount 20% of their goods, very often increasing the price of the other 80%.
- Airlines and Train companies offer 20% of their tickets for discount, 80% of travellers will pay full price.
- In large corporations and companies 20% of the staff get meaningful rewards for success, the 80% whose efforts made the success get little reward.

- 80% of the British population receive some sort of payment from the government, be it benefits or pension, 20% of the population pay for it.
- As a fit male over 65, 80% of you are liable to be told that you have a 20% chance of having a heart attack in the next 10 years and need to take statins. This means that there is an 80% chance that you will not have a heart attack and don't need to take statins. The other 20% have either had a heart attack or are dead.
- The average age when your children stop being looked after by you is 20, they start looking after you when you are 80.
- There is a 20% chance that I will attend the OEA AGM next year or it might be 80%, time will tell.

Profile:

1956 to 1961 - St Egberts College

1961 to 1963 - Thurrock Technical College

1963 to 1966 – Princes Foods, London, Clerk and Salesman

1966 to 1989 - Rowntree Mackintosh (Nestle) – Salesman to National Account Manager

1967 - Married Jean Treadwell (three children – 12 Grandchildren)

1987 - Moved from Chelmsford to Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

1989 to 2001 – Ravenhead Glass – Field Sales Manager (company closed)

2001 to 2001 – Dema Glass, Commercial Sales Manager (company closed)

2001 to 2003 – Self employed importer of Polish Glass

2003 to 2005 – J Sainsbury – Home Delivery Supervisor

2005 to present – Executive Officer of Caterbar (part time since 2008) Caterbar is a National network of Independent companies supplying the Catering industry with light equipment.

Interests over the years

Advanced Swimming Teacher

Trampoline Coach

Squash Player and Coach

Group Scout Leader

Owned a caravan for ten years touring the United Kingdom and France

Walking

Three Golden Retrievers (now sadly dead)

These days Jean and I try to take two holidays a year (at least two weeks in France), the occasional theatre show and spending time in our garden. Eighty percent of our time is taken up helping out with our twelve grandchildren.

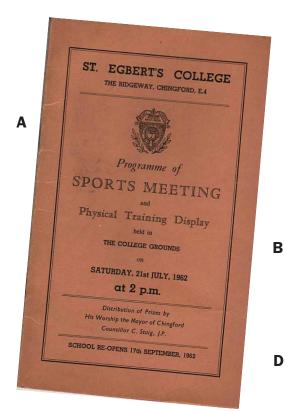
Footnote: 80% of OEA members will probably read this, the other 20% will put it in the bin.

Have a good 2014.

Written, 80% tongue in cheek by Brian Moore.

Winter 2013 The Egbertian

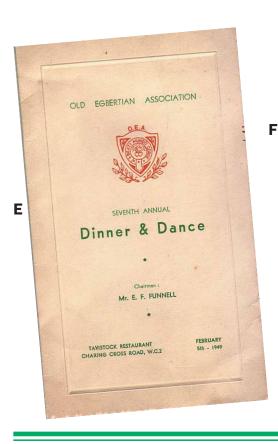
A collection of images from the archives

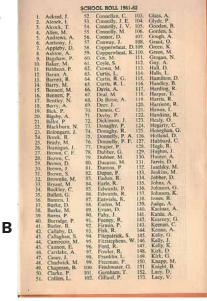


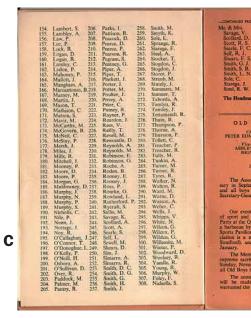


Right D: Old Egbertians gathering 1979

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

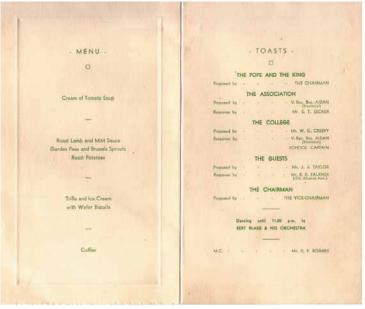






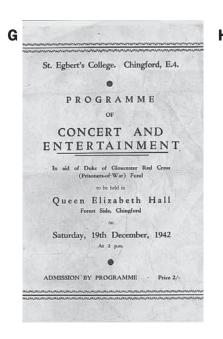


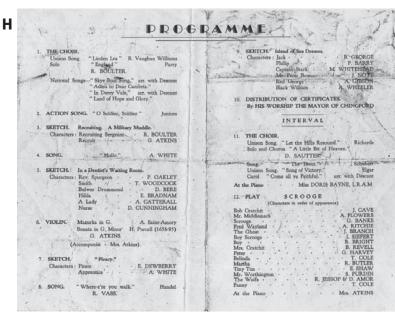




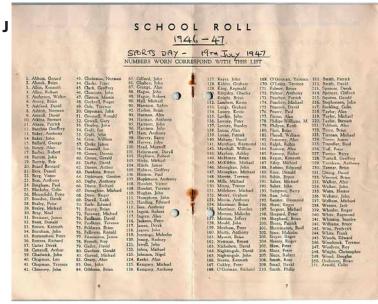












Above G, H: Concert cover and inside pages, 1942

Left I, J: Sports Meeting Programme, 1947

Below left K: Old Egbertians gathering 1970

Bottom right L: Mass, 1961





Football Thoughts by Jeff Thomas

You may recall in the last newsletter that the football club had gained a whole new team from Old Parmitarians which meant that we maintained four league teams plus two Veteran teams for this season. The original plan was to make them our first team as on paper this was the logical route as they had previously played to a higher standard than our current first team. As it turned out we decided to make them our second team as it was felt that as they were an unknown quantity to us that this would be the safest choice. They started slowly losing their first three games but since then their results have improved and a good season beckons.

This coupled with the first teams successful start means that we now have two teams that are competitive. The only fragile team this season is our third team who have started badly but we expect results to improve. Our fourth team, who have traditionally been our weakest team have also made a good start. The Vets A team continue in their merry way although age now seems to be catching up with them as many of their opposition are younger than they are. The unexpected success story has been our Vets B team who seem to now have built up a squad of players who can compete at a Veteran level. All in all a very pleasing start to the season.

Membership

We are getting towards the end of the membership year and we are agonisingly close to our goal of 100 members. At the time of writing we have 85 paid members, five Honourary members and three life members and with three more memberships on their way that I know about this makes 96. For an organisation with a dwindling pool of existing and potential members we feel that 100 members is very respectable and we are so close!

Many members have asked why we do not include a membership renewal form in the winter newsletter which usually comes out in December so for this issue we have. If you did not renew last year and you are feeling generous enough to pay next years membership fee and last years at the same time then we might make that magic 100 number. If you do wish to pay both please make it clear on the membership form which years you have paid so your payment does not get confused with any donations.

The Association relies on its membership fees (and donations) as it is our only significant source of income. Our costs are ever rising and the membership fees pays for publications such as this, the History of the Order booklet and the website so your prompt payment would be very welcome.

Social stuff

For one reason or another the trip to the **Cutty Sark** did not take place this year but will be included in next years social programme.

The annual **Memorial Mass** took place on Sunday 8th December at the Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Tera of Avila, Kings Road, Chingford. The **Christmas Social** was on the same day at the Queen Elizabeth Pub in Chingford and both events were deemed a success. The visit to the Chatham Dockyard to see the "**Call the Midwives**" TV set will take place on 11th April 2014. The cost will be advised subject to attendance and you will need to make your own travel arrangements.

Those who have intimated on their social form that they wish to partake in the Chatham Dock Tour event will be contacted in due course. However, it is not too late to attend by contacting Brian Pieri on 020 8524 0258.

The Old Egbertian Association

Editor **Jeff Thomas**

21 Oakwood Hill Loughton Essex IG10 3EW Tel: 020 8508 1376 jeffcthomas@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 **Hector J. Watts**

Tel: 020 8550 8231

Treasurer
Hector J. Watts

Tel: 020 8550 8231

Social Secretary Brian Pieri

Tel: 020 8524 0258

Committee members **Andrew McGovern** Tel: 01284 850915

Bill Crisp

Tel: 01277 2271918

Ron Fellowes

Tel: 020 8508 4724

Mike Fitzgerald

Tel: 01277 823309

Mike Tiernan

Tel: 020 8529 8130

Football Club Secretary **Jeff Thomas**

Tel: 020 8508 1376

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