

## December 2005 Old Eagle House Society Newsletter

### The new website ([www.oehs.org.uk](http://www.oehs.org.uk))

The website will improve communication among members and the society's committee. We hope you will visit the site frequently to read the news from Eagle House and the information of members. The website will give you the opportunity to make contact with lost colleagues via the secretary.

### The end of an era ...

Barry Johnson had the idea over seventeen years ago to create the OEHS and through his sterling work and enthusiasm he has enrolled over 1300 members. He has organised many events at Eagle House for past pupils as well as compiling the newsletters. His book *Unwilling to School?*\*\* was well received as it is a true anecdotal account of Eagle House in the past. Barry has decided it is time for him to move sideways and hand over the secretarial position to somebody else so he can concentrate on marketing his residence ([www.dannyhouse.org.uk](http://www.dannyhouse.org.uk)) and have more time for himself. This does not mean that Barry wants you to stop writing to him. His email address is on the contacts page and his residential address is on Danny's website.

The school is indebted to Barry's contribution in keeping Eagle House's name alive to all past pupils.

\*\* Copies of the book are still available through the Society's secretary.

### ... and the new chairman

Douglas Buchanan was appointed as a science teacher at Eagle House in September 1981 and has had several internal promotions but still has not left! He is a deputy head overseeing the academic side of the school, head of mathematics and promotes the school and mathematics through his programme of conferences at school and mathematics challenges around southern England. These details can be found on his website, [www.dcbeagle.com](http://www.dcbeagle.com).

### Members' profiles

The time has come to update information about members and we will be grateful if you would fill in the response form on the website. No email addresses or residential addresses will be published or sent to a third party. If you do not have access to the website please will you contact the society's secretary.

### August 2005

#### Top results at Wellington College

Congratulations must go to the following members who excelled in their public examinations:

A Levels:

4 A grades:

Harry Bradwell Teppei Kubo Hormuz Mostofi

3 A grades:

Jason Denhart David Foster Kai Gillam Christopher Gillman Ben Marengo

AS Levels:

5 A grades:

James Coe

4 A grades:

Satoru Nakanishi Peter Whitfield Ashley Grossmann Shayaan Nackvi Felix Prettejohn Jack Timpany

GCSE:

William Turner 10A\* and 2As James Turley 10A\* and an A James Armitage 9A\* and 2As

Rikdeep Lit 9A\* and 2As

**July 2005**

**O.E.H. Family Day 2005**

Although there was a heavy overcast, it never actually rained. The day did not start well for Dave Simpson, who was telephoning all round in desperation to fill the last places in his team. It seemed that we might be starting at a disadvantage in the match this year, as Neil Simpson, Philip Marsh and Gareth Phillips were all unavailable. However, volunteers were eventually found, so the Strolling Optimists went in first, and were all out in 36 overs for 151 runs. After a slow start, the OEH XI got into its stride, and there was some brisk scoring, including a magnificent six from Nick Moore that ended up on the far side of the tennis-courts.

Stumps were drawn when it appeared that the OEH XI had achieved 152 runs with three wickets still in hand. However, a later check of the score-book showed that this figure had been too optimistic, as the final total was, in fact, only 133. After a good deal of discussion, it was decided that the result should go down as a draw.

Our thanks go, as usual, to Barry Ranger for saving us a good pitch, and to the kitchen and dining-room staff, who so ably provide for an ever-varying number of lunches and teas. Among our visitors this year, with their families, were Nigel and Christopher Dean, who had not been back since they left well over thirty years ago.

**EAGLE HOUSE NEWS**

**SEPTEMBER 2005**

**HEADMASTER TO RETIRE**

After eighteen years at the helm as headmaster of Eagle House, Simon Carder has decided to take early retirement and change career whilst he is still "young enough". Simon will be leaving at the end of this academic year.

**AUGUST 2005**

**LYNNE PALMER - EAGLE HOUSE's NEW DEPUTY HEAD**

Lynne Palmer worked at Dunhurst Prep School in Petersfield where she was Head of PE and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and also Director of Admissions and Marketing. Lynne will teach science and she will also be involved in sport, especially with the girls.

**JULY 2005**

**DAVID KINGDON**

It is with regret to inform you that David passed away on Monday 25 July suffering from cancer. David came from Bigshot School (now the Pinewood Centre in Crowthorne) to Eagle House and retired in 1990. He will be remembered for his very large model train set at his home where many pupils visited and tried to run an efficient rail system.

**PAUL CALVEY**

Paul Calvey retired from Eagle House at the end of the summer term having been at the school for 25 years. He will be retiring to Spain.

**WELLINGTON COLLEGE**

It was announced that Wellington College will be going co-educational and the date is September 2006. Hopefully this will encourage more girls to stay for Years 7 and 8 when they are great ambassadors for Eagle House.

**SCHOOL ARCHIVES**

The school has a very good relationship with the Sandhurst Historical Association and we have done three presentations for them, the last one being the scholars giving detailed accounts of their trip to the Somme. One of the SHA members is a retired archivist and he has volunteered to archive all the material we have in boxes and cupboards. We are hoping to display it in a spare classroom during the next academic year.

### **The Life of Doctor James Russell**

James Russell was a prominent citizen in Sandhurst and he was responsible for building the house which is the focal point of the school. The school building was the first medical centre for Sandhurst. The following is a chronological list of events in James Russell's life

Born 16<sup>th</sup> December 1851 at Iden in Sussex, the son of a John and Henrietta Russell. A medical student at Aberdeen by 1873, he had M.B. and C.D. behind his name. By 1876 he also had an M.D. from Aberdeen College. We believe he met his wife, one Ellen Elizabeth Wardrope in Scotland as her initials are on a background of Scottish thistles on the crest around the front door at Eagle House School.

1878 He must have been appointed as medical officer to Easthampstead R. D. C. In that year his wife was down as paying 10 shillings voluntary rate to the church in the Sandhurst Churchwarden's accounts. The following year Dr Russell was down as paying the same amount.

1880 On the electoral register the Russell's were listed as living at Martin's Villa, High St. Sandhurst. In the same year his Uncle James, a coal merchant in Croydon, died leaving £8000 in his will to his nephew – James Russell of Sandhurst.

1881 In the census returns of that year they were listed at Martin's Hall/Villa, four houses from the "Rose and Crown" public house. An Annie Draper was listed as a servant in the house.

1883 An advertisement in the "Reading Mercury" offered for sale the stables and cowsheds plus surplus furniture from Martin's Villa.

1884 An advertisement for the sale of Martin's Villa with six acres of meadow land appeared in the "Reading Mercury in March.

1885 The Russell's moved into "Edgebarrow Hill". We think this could be the original name of Eagle House School as a newly built house and surgery was leased to Eagle House School of Wimbledon by Dr Russell in 1886.

1888 The Russell's now living at Longdown Cottage, Crowthorne Road. We have been told that the Russell's did not stay long in what is now Eagle House, the house which he had obviously put an enormous amount of money and thought into, because he bankrupted himself completing it! He was however determined to stay close by so he could admire the house from afar. We have still to find any documentary evidence to support this although it seems to be a logical explanation.

1889 The January edition of "The Building News" shows plans and an article detailing Eagle House, described simply as "A House in Sandhurst".

1891 In a Trade Directory he was listed as Dr James Russell M.C., C.S. England, Surgeon and Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for Sandhurst District Easthampstead R.D.C.

1894 The first Sandhurst Parish Council formed with Dr Russell elected chairman.

1895 By this time the Russell Hall had been built in Scotland Hill. The "Reading Mercury" on the 14<sup>th</sup> September carried a report on the big opening ceremony. All those involved in the building of the hall were entertained to a supper. The hall was for the use of parish events. 1897 Listed as the owner of Hansford Cottage, Scotland Hill. John Bowles, a gardener listed as the occupier.

1897-98 The rateable value of Eagle House, was £1 3s 4p per annum.

1898 Living in Russell Hall. Paid rates of £1 4s. He still owned Eagle House and Longdown Cottage. 1901 Listed on the census as living at "The Cedars". ( McKernan Court now built on the site of where this house used to be). He lived there until 1922 when it was sold to the Mason family.

1905 He offered a piece of land to the Methodists so that they could build a chapel. During the building work he was treasurer of the fund. He laid the foundation stone on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1905 and the chapel

## THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE NEWLETTER – December 2005

was completed on the 2 nd May 1906. Dr Russell was described as a very generous friend of the Methodists. He had loaned the Russell Hall for services whilst the chapel was being built. At the Methodist school, Dr Russell generously presented a silver medal to each scholar who had not missed a day at school that year. During his time as a doctor he travelled his rounds in a pony and trap but his colleague, Dr Metcalfe rode a bicycle.

1922 He sold “The Cedars” and moved to “The Oaks”, Handford Lane, Yateley where he lived with his wife until his death on February 11th.

1931. He was buried in the family vault at St Peters, Croydon. His wife died at Tonbridge in Kent in 1936 and is not buried in the same grave as her husband.

1931 He made a will which paid out money to the Public Trustees, Reading General Hospital, Frimley Cottage Hospital and Edwyn Close of Camberley, his solicitor, the effects being worth £12000.

In St Peter’s Churchyard are inscriptions on monuments to Dr James Russell and John Russell – his father, but no mention is made of either of their wives.

In his life he was a member of the Odd Fellows Society and a member of the Border Lodge of Foresters. Mrs Russell was the first member of the Women’s Lodge of Foresters of Crowthorne.

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