

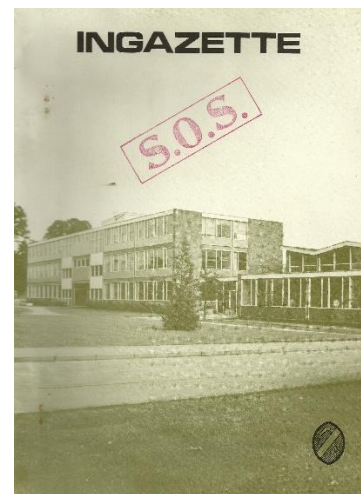


ANGLO EUROPEAN SCHOOL

1973 – 2023

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ingatstone County Secondary School, a product of the post-war baby boom, built with the one main teaching block which is now demolished, was completed by Spring 1959 along with most of the housing in Willow Green. The school initially took a small number of pupils from other local schools that Easter, under the Headteacher Mr L A W Moss². The first full intake was in September 1959. I attended the school from the First Year (Year 7) in Autumn 1964 to the Upper Sixth, leaving in July 1971³. I can vividly remember that in my first school year, by January 1965, I think I knew the names of most of the pupils!



By 1971 the school was at risk of closure, the pupil intake having fallen for several reasons. We in the Upper Sixth were at the barricades in Summer 1971 when printing that year's

¹ Thanks to the school and Jody Gee for permission to use the “Anglo Stars” in local history projects

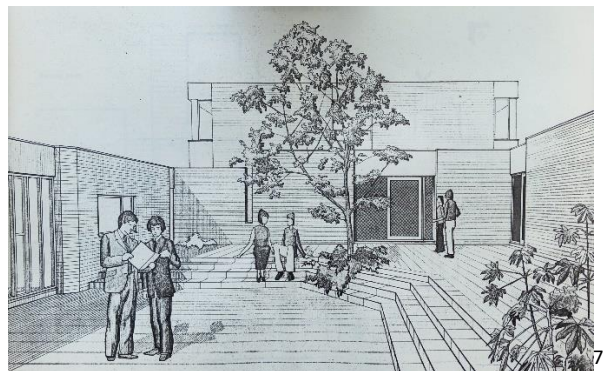
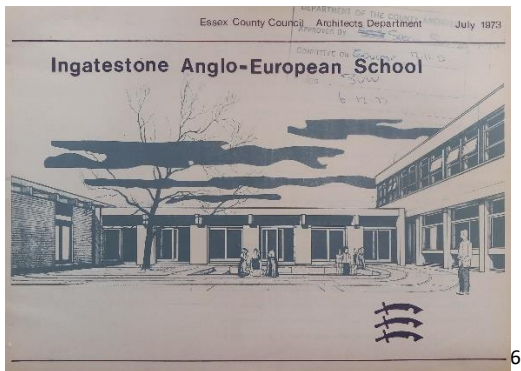
² “Mossy” had previously been the history teacher in Hertfordshire, of a certain Harry Webb (Cliff Richard), who presented our school prizes, including mine, in 1966. He was also my history teacher up to 1969 and O levels

³ My Sixth Form year from 1969 to 1971 consisted of just three pupils. I was the only pupil in the Sixth Form Art and Art History A Level class

⁴ Willow Green, the A12 bypass and the school site, late 1960s or early 1970s (IFHAS Photo Archive)

⁵ Front copy of the school magazine, July 1971 (R W Fletcher collection). The old school badge used an Essex SEAX and a Petre family scallop shell divided by a band to represent the Roman road through Ingatstone. School colours green, grey, and black. Motto: “Gladly Would We Learn” (from Chaucer/The Canterbury Tales)

issue of *Ingazette*, the annual school magazine, stamping “SOS” (Save Our School) on the front cover. The County Education Committee in June 1971, had come to some agreement to try to save the school, under pressure from the Head, Staff, Governors, and Parents. Ironically, bearing in mind the events of 2016 and Brexit, the UK’s entry into the EEC in 1973 saved our local secondary/comprehensive school. We already had a small intake of European children of the employees of Ford of Europe and this may have given the Education Committee the idea that such a new “European School” could be a good idea.



After all that has happened since the 40th anniversary events in 2013, with Brexit, and now the threat of ticket office closures at the station which could impact on the safety of some c500 pupils who come in by train each school day, the school remains as a focus in our village, and something, after all those fraught times in the early 1970s, to be proud of.



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01 August 2023

⁶ ECC Architect’s Dept. plans for the new school admin block, July 1973 (ERO C/DA 1/159) - with permission - 24.05.23). The school opened as the AES Ingatestone from September 1973; Head Teacher Mr Norman Pitt.

⁷ ECC Architect’s Dept. drawing from the plans for the new 6th Form block, September 1977 (ERO LIB/E/INGA 19) - with permission - 24.05.23)

⁸ Aerial photo showing the school site in 1994, from a series taken for Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council (R W Fletcher collection). A time when “The School Buses” was more of an issue than the Station ticket office

⁹ School entrance, Willow Green, Ingatestone 10 July 2023 (R W Fletcher). Same tree at the front, if bigger?

¹⁰ An earlier version of this article, with photos, was included at the Summer Show 15 July 2023 with the IFHAS displays. I was delighted that the adjacent Ingatestone Choral Society 75th anniversary stand included references to my old music teacher at Willow Green 1964-1966, Bruce Pennick, who is now in his 90s