



# THORNTONIAN DAYS

## Newsletter of The Old Thorntonians Association (Clapham)

*"Education is the leading of human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them."*  
John Ruskin (1819-1900)

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No 10

July/August 2009

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### Obituaries

**Clive Young** (1943-8): died 14 April 2009. [*Apart from a reference in one of the wartime magazines to his selection for the Second XI football team I have been unable to trace any school-related information about Clive. If any OTs who knew him would care to drop me a line with their recollections I'd be glad to publish them in the next issue. Ed*]

**John Stanley Grist** (1932-?): died 11 July 2009. [*Again, I have very little information about John's interests/achievements during his time at HTS, including when he left. Ed*]

**Donald W Pashley** (1938-45, including 1939-41 at Chichester); died 16 May 2009. His wife, Glenys, writes: "Don studied Pure Maths, Applied Maths, Physics and Chemistry in the Sixth Form. In 1945 he was awarded a State Scholarship which enabled him to become an undergraduate in the Physics Department at Imperial College, London. He graduated with First Class Honours in 1947 and gained a PhD in 1950, working on electron diffraction. He continued as a Research Fellow in the Physics Department until 1955, when he joined the recently formed Tube Investment Research Laboratories at Hinxton Hall, near Cambridge. Here he started working on electron microscopy, in close collaboration with physicists at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. He co-authored a book with four members of Cambridge University on "Electron Microscopy of Thin Crystals", a book which is still used today and frequently referred to as "The Bible" of electron microscopy.

He was elected a Fellow of The Royal Society in 1968 and in the same year was appointed Director of the T.I. Research Laboratories. This was followed in 1976 by his appointment as Director of Research for the T.I. Group.

In 1979 he returned to Imperial College as Professor of Materials and Head of the then Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science (later to become the Department of Materials), an appointment which he retained for 11 years until 1990. From 1986 to 1989 he was also Dean of The Royal School of Mines. He retired in 1992 and was appointed an Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow. His involvement in research continued and he published his final paper, in collaboration with a colleague in the Physics Department, a few months before he died.

Don was a modest man, never seeking the limelight despite his distinction as a scientist. During the 16 years of Don's retirement, he and Glenys enjoyed a busy life, travelling, visiting their family in America and attending functions at the Societies and Institutions to which Don belonged. The family has many very happy memories of life shared with a patient and caring husband, father and grandfather."

His school years have been confirmed by Nichola Court, Archivist (Modern Records), Library and Information Services, at the Royal Society. Donald has four entries on the school's pupil honours boards: 1947 – "BSc. (Lond.) 1st Class Hons"; 1950 – "Ph.D. Lond."; 1951 – "Senior Research Fellowship, Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research"; and 1968, recording his election to Fellowship – "F.R.S."

Terry Sharp, also 1938-45, recalls that he and Don played in the Second XI football team as goal-keeper and left-back respectively.

### Memorial Plaque

The formal rededication of the plaque (now resting in the Principal's office at Lambeth College) will be held at **2.30pm on Saturday 31 October 2009** in the College's recently opened Sixth Form Centre. The Reverend Deborah Matthews, minister in charge at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, Clapham, has kindly agreed to officiate. Further details have been sent to all OTs who donated towards the appeal fund. If any other OTs also wish to attend, please contact Ted Hayward.

### Membership

Currently 115, including three Associates. The full list is displayed on the website; a copy is attached, primarily for the benefit of those without an e-mail address or access to the internet.

## **Sixth Reunion – 26 September 2009**

The usual advisory notice is attached. Please complete and return the slip, or telephone/e-mail Ted Hayward, if (but only if) you plan to attend.

## **Second OT/OC meeting**

Another "mini-reunion" of OTs evacuated to Chichester will be held, at the High School for Boys, at **10.30am on Thursday 8 October 2009**. Terry Sharp is once again acting as co-ordinator for former HTS pupils wishing to attend, the current line-up being, in addition to himself: Don Appelbe (1938-43); Monty Clarkson (1935-42); Les Garrett (1938-42); Peter Lawson (1936-41); Harry Spence (1940-4); and Doug Ward (1938-45). Contact Terry on 020 7223 5102 or at 10 Wakehurst Road, London, SW11 6BY if you'd like to join the group.

## **Where Are They Now?**

Stan Hill (1948-56)) would like to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of his contemporary **Stuart Hughes**. Stuart was School Captain in 1955-6 and went on to study at Nottingham University, graduating in 1959 with a BPharm degree. Stan adds that they were both Flight-Sergeants in the ATC and did much together, but their most memorable experience was when the Squadron visited the First World War battlefields in Belgium. The visit concluded with a parade at the Menin Gate where Stan as senior Flight-Sergeant laid a wreath, and Stuart, as School Captain, laid another on behalf of the school.

## **Reminiscences**

An aviation theme from **Don Paterson** (1955-62): At the age of 17 I was nominated by the ATC Squadron Leader, D C Williams, to attend a selection board at RAF White Waltham as the 1351 Squadron representative for the year, competing with other representatives countrywide for a month's trip to the USAF in America.

I did not get the major prize but was given the opportunity of an overseas flight to Singapore with 511 Squadron RAF Transport Command. Departure was on 24 March 1962, and I was given leave by the school to attend.

On 23 March I made my way to RAF White Waltham to be kitted out with tropical uniform and other equipment. I was then taken to RAF Lyneham and boarded a 511 Squadron Bristol 175 Britannia C1. I joined a crew of six – Captain, Co-pilot, Navigator, Engineer, Signaller and Air Quartermaster – for the flight, which would take SAS troops to Singapore en route for action in Malaya. My role was to assist the Quartermaster with looking after and feeding the soldiers, and for long periods when not busy I was allowed on the flight deck with the pilots.

Leaving Lyneham we flew to and refuelled at RAF El Aden (Libya), RAF Aden (now Yemen) and RAF Gan (Indian Ocean island), finally touching down at RAF Changi (Singapore) two days later. While in the cockpit at 21,000 feet I had fantastic views of the Alps. Total flying time was nearly 24 hours, at about 350 mph.

I spent two days in Singapore and the crew showed me round (including the red light district!). In those days, with open sewers in some streets, it wasn't the clean city of today.

My return flight, on a different aircraft, was uneventful to RAF Adam, but during take-off on the last leg and while I was on the flight deck one of the four engines failed, and the pilot feathered it. As the plane could easily fly on three engines, the pilot returned to El Adam and, before landing, tried to dump most of the fuel. However, the dump system didn't work, so we flew around the Mediterranean for five hours before returning to El Adam.

I then had an extra two days at the base while a new engine was flown out from Lyneham and fitted. During this time the RAF kindly took me to visit the war graves at Tobruk. While watching the engine change I saw an American fighter jet make an emergency landing after the canopy had been shattered by a bird strike.

On 1 April 1962 I returned to Lyneham following my brilliant experience and some nine days away from school.

Another contribution from **John Jones** (1963-70): I'd be interested to know whether the school choir was very active in other members' time. It certainly was under Mr [F L] Taylor in my day. Most boys hated music., of course, but I was one of the few boys who liked it. I did O level Music and

followed the syllabus up to Advanced level, but stupidly I didn't take the exam as I was already doing three other subjects.

At Christmas the choir and a number of teachers would go to four London hospitals and sing carols to patients, either on the wards or standing in the stairways. We were given tea and sandwiches at each hospital, so by the end of the day we had had quite a feast!

## **From the Pages of *The Thorntonian***

Summer 1951:

### **THE HEADMASTER**

As foreshadowed in our last issue, our Headmaster has decided to retire. Mr. W. D. Evans, M.A., was educated at Kelly College, Tavistock, Devon, and at King's College, Cambridge, where he was a Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos of 1908. After lecturing for some years at University College, Southampton, and at Manchester University, he became successively Senior Mathematics Master at Aske's School, Hatcham, and Headmaster of Hanley High School, Stoke-on-Trent.

He was appointed Headmaster of Battersea County School in 1927 and in January 1929 the school occupied its present premises, with the name Henry Thornton School. Of the original school, then in Latchmere Road, the only survivors on the Staff are Messrs. Gribble, Jeremy, Bramble and Cooper. The last-named was the first of Mr. Evans' many appointments in his task of reinforcing the old school to fit a new building to serve an area poorly endowed with Grammar Schools. Soon, under Mr. Evans' guidance, the new Henry Thornton School won a high reputation for examination results, which have been extraordinarily good, standing out well above those of the average Grammar School.

The multitude of decisions that he had to take in the early stages is mentioned elsewhere, and the sight of a morning parade of the school is self-evident testimony to his success in them. As a Headmaster he is noteworthy for the happiness of his school and staff, his clear-cut and quiet decision, and the very smooth working of the organisation.

Though primarily a mathematician, he has proved to us to have a deep sympathy with, and a profound knowledge of, Arts subjects. He lectures to our VIth on Comparative Religion and readily takes classes at any school level in Latin, German, French, English, or Economics, sometimes much to the surprise of older boys who find his range disconcerting.

Scholarships to London and the older Universities have been regularly won by all three Advanced Courses, two of which, those in Arts and in Science, he himself inaugurated. Many and varied School Societies were begun during his time, and on the games side he appointed the first master with a Half-Blue to run Lacrosse, began, and played, the game of Fives, while a feature of Sports Day has always been his judging of the Tug-o'-war.

Some more personal and detailed reminiscences will be found on another page, and there only remains for us to express the great sense of loss which we shall all feel, to tender our thanks, and to wish him a long and pleasant retirement. [*The author of this piece is not identified, but would probably have been either Mr Jeremy or Mr Cooper. The "reminiscences" mentioned in the last paragraph will appear in a future newsletter. Ed*]

Autumn 1959:

### **Commemoration Service**

The annual service, which the whole School attended, to honour the memory of Henry Thornton was held at Clapham Parish Church [*ie, Holy Trinity, North Side*] on Tuesday 10th March, Thornton's birthday. The Rector, Canon A. C. Raby, preached the sermon. After welcoming us to the church, he drew our attention to the east window, which depicts William Wilberforce standing; John Venn, the rector in Thornton's time, kneeling; a slave, and in the background slave-drivers. Some of the history of Clapham, he said, was revealed there, in this reminder of the anti-slavery cause for which Thornton and Wilberforce had worked. Canon Raby described its beginnings in the agitation against the slave trade carried on by the converted naval officer and slave trader, John Newton, whom John Thornton, Henry's father, supported in his work. Newton, becoming friendly with Wilberforce, had advised the latter to go to the Thorntons at Clapham. So it was that Wilberforce and Henry Thornton joined the Clapham Sect in the long struggle to outlaw the slave-trade; it was in the fine oval library of the Thornton House in Battersea Rise that the leaders of this movement met. They crossed the Common to sit, like the boys, in that very church, where they were said to listen with rapt attention to Venn's sermons, delivered from that very pulpit. On 19th January, 1799, during the time when England was constantly expecting to be invaded by Napoleon's mighty army, Colonel Henry Thornton of the Home-guard

of those days carried into the church the regiment's colours at the head of a solemn procession, and parading to the altar, where the colours were blessed by John Venn, dedicated himself and his men to fight the forces of Napoleon, on Clapham Common if necessary. Canon Raby, reminding us that the past is still with us, praised the zeal for justice which inspired Henry Thornton, who saw behind the appearance of things in his own life-time, made his vision of truth, and worked that it should be fulfilled: he was willing to die for what he believed in. The rector closed his sermon by asking us to try, in our own lives, to emulate Henry Thornton and his friends.

March 1929:

### **WILLIAM WILBERFORCE**

William Wilberforce was born at Hull on August 24th, 1759. He was not a diligent scholar, although he went to St. John's College, Cambridge. At the University, left by the death of his grandfather and uncle the possessor of an independent fortune under his mother's sole guardianship, he was somewhat idle, though he acquitted himself in the examinations with credit.

In 1780 he was elected to the House of Commons for his native town, his success being due to his personal popularity and his lavish expenditure; there he renewed his acquaintance with Pitt which was begun at Cambridge, and which now ripened into a friendship of the closest kind.

In 1784 he made a journey to Nice with his friend Dr. Milner, and this changed his outlook on life a great deal. In 1787, after his return, he formed a society for the Reformation of Manners.

It was about the same time when he met Clarkson, and began the agitation against the slave trade, Pitt entering heartily into their plans and recommending Wilberforce to undertake the guidance of the project, and thus, while Clarkson conducted the agitation throughout the country, Wilberforce too every opportunity in Parliament of exposing the evils and horrors of the trade. In 1786, however, a serious illness compelled him to retire for some months from public life, and the introduction of the subject in Parliament therefore fell upon Pitt.

A few relatively important motions were carried between 1788 and 1791, but it was not until 1807 that the efforts were crowned with success, the slave trade being abolished that year.

Wilberforce, however, was still not satisfied and sought to secure the abolition of the slave trade abroad, and the total abolition of slavery itself. Unfortunately his health began to fail in 1825 and he was forced to retire from Parliament.

In 1833, the year of Wilberforce's death, slavery was abolished, the slave owners receiving £20,000,000 as compensation, Wilberforce saying just before he died: "Thank God I have lived to witness the day in which England is willing to give £20,000,000 for the abolition of slavery".

J.Dodwell  
F. Archer

### Teaching Staff

As promised in issue no 9, here's the first list, with the names, etc – as far as this information is still readily available – of staff who held substantive appointments in the 1920s, including those, presumably the majority, who transferred directly from the predecessor school, Battersea County, in 1929. The next newsletter will attempt to identify those who served in the 1930s and 1940s, including the wartime HTS masters based at Chichester High School for Boys as well as teachers from other local schools who temporarily joined the staff of the Emergency School at Clapham.

### "The Grammar Schools and The Future"

The Editor has traced a copy of the above article, written in 1959 by Mr D B Gaskin (Head Master, 1951-6), who had by then moved to a similar post at Moseley Grammar School, Birmingham. Contact Ted Hayward if you'd like to see it.



### \*TEACHING STAFF: 1920s (excluding temporary appointments)

Arnold W Smith	Head Master (1918-1927)
W D Evans	Head Master (1927-51)
W R Baggallay	Geography (1920-?)
R S Bramble	Physical Education (1925-58; succeeded Harlow)
W J Cooper	English, Latin (1928-62, and subsequently part-time)

L B Cundall	Geography (1921-?)
G W Dix	Art (1921-24; re-appointed from 1925)
Mrs M A J Earp	Mathematics (1919-?late 1930s)
C W Gribble	French (1920-54)
R Harlow (Sgt-Maj)	Gymnastics (Retired 1925)
J Hart-Smith	Chemistry; Senior Assistant Master from 1912 (1902-1937; died April 1946)
Mrs Hart-Smith	? (1911-14; 1915-19)
C E G Jeremy	History; and Asst Master and Deputy Head Master (1919-59; also pupil, 1909-13, at the original Battersea Polytechnic Secondary School; died 5.9.62)
W R John	History, Economics (1918-49; succeeded Hart-Smith as Senior Master in 1937)
W Morgan	English (1921-?)
G S Purkis	French
G F Quarmby	Art (1918-25; succeeded by Dix)
G F van Raalte	Latin (1925-8)
P S Richards	French, English (1924-5)
F G Small	Physics (1920-37)
H A Smith	?
J A H Spofforth	English, History (1905-36)
W M Taylor	Mathematics (1909-32)
W S Williamson	Handicraft (1916-36; succeeded by Rawlings)
<i>M McQ Bennetton</i>	<i>School Secretary (1925-61)</i>

\*Including those at the pre-1929 County Secondary School, Battersea, and subsequently renamed Battersea County School; and as far as their names and subjects can be identified/confirmed

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The Editor welcomes contributions for future issues. Please post or e-mail them to Ted Hayward, 31 Linfields, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9QH; [ted.hayward@btinternet.com](mailto:ted.hayward@btinternet.com)  
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