



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)

No 21

November 2012

Reunions

The eighth reunion was held on 6 October 2012; around 40 OTs attended. For your diaries: no 9 has been arranged for **Saturday 5 October 2013**, same time and venue.

In response to a request from the Management Committee, Mark Silverman, Principal of Lambeth College, has kindly agreed to offer any interested OTs the opportunity of a guided tour of the premises, including sight of the school's replacement war memorial (in the College's Sixth Form Centre, South Side) which was rededicated in October 2009. Those planning to attend will also be asked to indicate, on the usual invitation/confirmation notice, whether they wish to participate in the tour; the timing has not yet been finalised but is likely to be around 2.30/3.00pm.

Centenary Celebrations

As reported in the last newsletter, 2013 is the centenary of the founding of the OT Association. The Management Committee has agreed in principle that this significant event should be celebrated, but wishes to seek members' views on how this might best be done. The attached questionnaire offers more detailed options, including the possibility of linking the celebration with next year's reunion, and the Editor would be grateful if you would complete and return it to him by 31 January 2013.

Annual General Meeting

A reminder: the next AGM will be held at Lambeth Academy, Elms Road, SW4, at 2pm on **Saturday 23 March 2013**. The agenda and supporting papers will be circulated nearer the time.

Subscriptions

The Committee has agreed to recommend to the AGM that a. as there are ample funds in the Association's account to cover projected, routine expenses for the coming year, the annual charge of £10 for Full members and £6 for Associates be levied from 1 January **2014** (please note effective date!); b. joiners in 2013, and any rejoining after a break in that year, would be required to pay the relevant membership fee in the normal way.

Henry Thornton Award

At its last meeting the Committee agreed that the Principals of Lambeth Academy and Lambeth College be advised that the Association was able and willing to extend the initial, three-year scheme (which expires on 31 December 2012) for a further year in the first instance. Members may wish to be reminded that the award is in the form of book tokens, with a total value of £100, presented annually to a nominated student at each institution.

Obituaries

Alexander Donald Cyril Jamieson (1932-9): died 28 March 1945. Following the brief entry in the previous newsletter,, additional information has been provided by his younger brother and fellow OT Ken (1934-9): Alexander's pre-HTS education was at Bonneville road School, Clapham; he gained passes in various subjects in the Midsummer 1938 General School examination, with Matriculation certificate; worked as a draughtsman in the London offices of an engineering company until joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1940; qualified as a navigator (Flight-Sergeant), serving with Transport Command ferrying aircraft from Canada to the UK; reported missing on 28 March 1945 in a Douglas Dakota aircraft approaching Prestwick from Reykjavik; no wreckage was recovered. His name is recorded on the Ottawa Memorial, Canada, dedicated to airmen with no known graves.

Bernard Fowlds (1945-9): died 29 June 2012. The following are extracts, in some cases paraphrased, from a letter he wrote in 2010 to Ray Lampard (1944-9): I left school from 5B with a reasonable School Certificate. I joined an insurance company, the Legal & General, until National Service in the RAF. I was in the Signals group, spending most of my time at RAF Rudloe Manor, near Bath. After the RAF I was back at L & G, gaining experience in Life [insurance] and Pensions. I was eventually given the number two position, in charge of office services (including printing, office machines, maintenance, and furniture). In 1983, with dozens of others, I was made redundant and took early retirement. Later I worked for the Guardian Royal Exchange and followed this with a year or so as a civilian at RAF Henlow. My last real employment was with Bedfordshire County Council on traffic works, advising on road problems and needs in Bedford. [OTs mentioned]: John Snoad was a particular friend, and two others I knew quite well were Roland Pearne and John Simmons. The things that have really excited me in life have been music (singing and violin) and cricket; I have thoroughly enjoyed both without reaching any great heights of performance.

Ray Wakeham (1941-6): died 25 October 2012. Near-contemporary Bill Rouse (1943-8) remembers Ray and offers the following appreciation: I've seen some of his school reports and he was obviously a bright scholar, gaining third or fourth place in most subjects in the "A" form. He matriculated with good results and would undoubtedly have been a university candidate in due course had he stayed on. In the event he left at the end of the 5th year and went into Insurance, where he remained for the rest of his working life, reaching a senior position in Commercial Union. He was a Freeman of the City of London and rose to become Master of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers (1995-6).

At HTS he was best known for his sporting achievements – mainly football; he represented the school at every age level and played with Jimmy Hill in the First Eleven. He wasn't a bad cricketer, either: I have an extract from *The Thorntonian* (probably 1946) showing fantastic figures for him as a Second XI bowler, including 5 for 17 against St Clement's Danes, 7 for 9 (!) against Sloane and 4 for 7 against Sir Walter St Johns. I believe he was Victor Ludorum, probably in 1945 or 1946. He was a very modest and polite character, and always the "perfect gentleman".

Charles John Allwright

Dr Jack Allwright, nephew of OT Charles (1927-31), has recently contacted the Editor in response to the appeal, on the memorial page of the website, for information from surviving relatives of former pupils who lost their lives during the Second World War. Regrettably Charles's name was not included on the original (1950s) memorial – the reason for the omission has not been ascertained – and therefore did not appear on the replacement tablet rededicated in October 2009 and displayed in the Sixth Form Centre at Lambeth College, South Side, Clapham, SW4. The relevant section of the website page has now been updated with this reference to Charles, who would have been the 55th entry, and two relevant documents from the family records, supplied by Dr Allwright, have been added to the Pupils (2) gallery.

Reminiscences

The indefatigable **Derek Yandell** (1945-52) offers a few reflections on Mr Gaskin (see also issues 19 – Mr Noah's own reminiscences – and 20, which included the valet item in the Autumn 1950 copy of *The Thorntonian*):

As can be seen from my dates, my connection with Mr Gaskin was for one year only. However, as I was School Captain for that year my contact with him was quite close.

I felt that we were both finding our way and, perhaps, supporting each other to some extent.

The most valuable aspect of his personality for me was his obvious sense of humour, and I certainly felt that this helped our relationship. I was aware that he was very talented, but the recent newsletter article [*ie, no 20*] indicated that he was incredibly versatile as well.

On the downside, I was disappointed that he changed the House system, both in some names and in the number of Houses. Worst of all, he introduced caps for prefects, which were designed by Mr Langford [*Art, 1951-3: Mr G W Dix's predecessor and succeeded by Mr D W Huntley*] and were very unpopular with the prefects themselves.

Editor's note The six new Houses adopted with the 1929 move to Clapham were Cavendish, Cook, Macaulay, Pepys, Stephen and Wilberforce; further details are given in the extract, below, from that year's copy of *The Thorntonian*. In the early 1950s they were reduced to four – Clarkson, Macaulay, Stephen and Wilberforce – as, according to the Autumn 1952 issue of the magazine, "The old House system was not capable of easy working... [With the new system] greater selection for House teams was afforded, leading to a higher standard of play in general and to keener competition all round".

From the Pages of *The Thorntonian*

Spring 1929:

House Notes

With the changing of the abode and of the name of our School, a change of House names was necessary, for it was felt desirable that there should be six Houses instead of five, so that every House could be playing at once, which was not possible when there were only five. [*The five Houses in question were those at the former Battersea County School: Eagles (violet), Falcons (green), Hawks (orange), Hornets (blue) and Swifts (cerise). Ed*] The names chosen for these Houses are the names of famous men, four of whom lived in Clapham, so that our associations with Clapham are now complete. Short biographies, written by the respective House prefects, appear below.

Also Spring 1929:

SAMUEL PEPYS

Pepys was born in 1633 of a family which had gradually risen to the position of gentry. He went to school in Huntingdon, and afterwards to St. Paul's School, London, and Magdalene College, Cambridge.

In 1655 he married the daughter of a French Huguenot exile, depending on his relatives, the Montagues, for his livelihood. In 1660, however, by their interest he obtained a position in the navy office equivalent to that of the modern Permanent Under Secretary.

On the 1st. of January, 1660, he began his second and hidden life as a diarist. Outside this diary, however, he would have been notable as an able official, the author of valuable "Memoirs of the Navy", an amateur musician and protector of musicians, a gentleman who took an enlightened interest in science, and was elected President of the Royal Society. To John Evelyn, a contemporary diarist, he appeared as "a worthy, industrious and curious person".

During the naval war with Holland he showed himself an indefatigable worker. When the Plague occurred in 1666, he remained at his post and gained the confidence of the Duke of York, afterwards James II, who was Lord High Admiral. At the end of the war the navy office was attacked and Pepys defended and vindicated it.

In 1678 Pepys became Secretary to the Admiralty. In 1679 he became M.P. for Harwich, and was accused, unsuccessfully, of betraying naval secrets to the French. In 1684 he became President of the Royal Society.

In 1689 he was dismissed and he retired from life [sic] and died at Clapham in 1703.

Such was his outward life. In 1825 part of his diary was published and revealed his inner life. The book is unique in the literature of the world. It was obviously meant for his eye alone. It is a thing apart by virtue of three qualities: it was secret, it was full, it was honest. Relying on his cipher, he noted everything in it and the man thus displayed is often odious, greedy, cowardly, casuistical, brutal. His position enabled him to see much. To his credit, we must note, however, that he knew the animalism and vulgarity of the Reformation to be what they were; that he really loved music and helped musicians; that though he made money out of his places he never allowed bad work to be done for the navy if he could help it; that he was a hard worker; and that he had a capacity for such acts of kindness and generosity as are compatible with a gross temperament and a pedestrian ambition.

The original diary is preserved in Magdalene College, Cambridge.

R. Gosden,
T. Nag

A fuller biography of Pepys, written by Mr J Hart-Smith, appeared in the Spring 1939 issue of The Thorntonian. Ed

Autumn Term 1950:

HIDDEN MASTERS

1. What! A blackberry in the gym?
2. A refusal here is followed by an exclamation.
3. My first is often ascended by my second.
4. We are between nothing and a compass point.
5. A little company has a small operation with some hesitation
6. I am seriously plural after the testament.
7. Half a horse heads a river in Lancs.
8. The tenth precedes a Kent cricketer.
9. I, being French, take father's place at Joan of Arc's birthplace.
10. A lettuce errs, or a steamer in the money.
11. The District Attorney competes.
12. He has lost his Tales.
13. This is when a swarm is worth a load of hay.
14. A little sheep hesitates before tea, or cane little Herbert.
15. This is in reference to your advertisement.
16. A Scottish river, good gracious!

17. Artist, very soft.
18. I am well known in Berlin for my shade.
19. I end wrong but begin with five hundred.
20. My head is Greek, my middle fifty, and I end on my face.

No prizes on offer, but readers who were pupils during the late 1940s and the following decade are invited to attempt this quiz. They may be reassured – or dismayed – to learn that two members of the Management Committee, who nobly acted as the "trial group" for this purpose, achieved a creditable pass rate of 85 per cent. The correct answers will be given in the next newsletter. (The following extract may offer at least one clue...) Ed

Autumn 1960:

SCHOOL NOTES

We are unfortunately saying goodbye, this year, to Mr. H.J. Noah, who came to Henry Thornton first of all in 1948 as a student and then as a member of staff in the following year. He is now going to teach in America at Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey. Mr. Noah was respected not only as a lucid teacher of Economics but also as a man with a wide range of interests, including languages. His guidance will be missed on the School Council and during School elections. We extend to Mr. Noah our best wishes for his success and happiness in his new post and in his life in the United States.

Autumn Term 1937:

OPEN DAY, 16th JULY, 1937

Open Day this year began, as usual, with a gymnastic display on the School lawn which, under the direction of Mr. Bramble, was as impressive and refreshing as ever. Afterwards the audience, according to their particular inclination, either watched the activities in the grounds – baseball, fives and tennis – or walked round the School, inspecting the various exhibits.

Both the history and the art exhibitions had come under the all-pervading influence of the Coronation, and we saw a small model of the Coronation chair and several paintings of the Royal coach and the procession through London.

On of the most popular exhibitions was that of the School Cinema Club. During the course of the evening, several shows were held and each time the Lecture Room was crowded; indeed, towards the end of the evening the atmosphere there was hot and oppressive. The films included some of the Coronation procession, the visit of Queen Mary to Wandsworth, showing the scenes outside the School as she passed, and the activities of the School. All were taken by members of the Club. Some of the films were not very clear, but the showmanship of the exhibitors was worthy of professionals. [*One has to assume that, regrettably, none of the films has survived to the present day. Ed*]

Mr. Howell gave another glass-blowing display in one of the laboratories, and this was undoubtedly the most popular feature of a science exhibition which offered many other attractions.

But in the minds of many visitors the handicraft exhibition was the most impressive display of all. It was the first for which Mr. Rawlings, as instructor, was solely responsible, and many Old Boys of the School, as well as parents, were astonished by the substantial pieces of furniture which the boys had made. For the first years in their School life, Mr. Rawlings sets the boys three exercises – the making of a frame, a stool, and a small cabinet. Once a boy has made these, he is allowed to make anything he likes, from a wardrobe to a desk, for if he has made a frame, a stool and a cabinet he can make a door, a table and a cupboard; and from a combination of these three many pieces of furniture can be created.

At eight o'clock visitors assembled in the main hall for the distribution of sports and swimming prizes. This was followed by a selection played by the School orchestra, and then members of the Fifth and Sixth forms gave a performance of the one-act thriller, "The Ghost of Jerry Bundler", by W.W. Jacobs and C. Rock. Once more Mr. Morgan has to be congratulated on his choice of a play, and the players on their performance – especially Hazard, who acted a difficult part brilliantly.

The evening ended with refreshments at South Lodge, and dancing on a moonlit lawn.

H.

The Editor welcomes contributions for future issues. Please post or e-mail them to:
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