



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 36

November 2016

Reunion/Anniversary Lunch – 8 November 2016

Held in the Blue Room at The Windmill, this "milestone" event was attended by 26 OTs, including Association President Michael Caplan, QC, and guest of honour Mrs Bryony Hill, widow of Jimmy Hill, who as members will know served as our first President from 2006 until his death last year.

The website has a recently added page (click on "10th Anniversary...") on the home page menu, with selected photos, the programme and a note of the Association's main achievements and activities over the ten-year period; a copy of each document is attached for members without internet access. Here are three of the site images:



From the Pages of *The Thorntonian*

Spring 1950

SCHOOL NOTES [Extracts]

Probably the most memorable event of the last year has been the retirement of the Second Master, **Mr. W. R. John**, who is well known to all Old Thorntonians for his ungrudging services to the School for so many years. Presentations from Staff and Boys expressed the deep gratitude of all to him for his loyalty and self-denying work. The Economics of the School owes everything to him, and he was during the war a most efficient Headmaster of the S.W. Emergency School, a post of considerable difficulty and often of danger.

Mr. C.W. Gribble succeeds him, and will bring to the post all the care, accuracy, and devotion that we have already learnt to expect from him.

It will interest Old Boys to know that the refectory table presented to Mr. John, and so much admired by all who have seen it, was designed and executed by **Mr H. G. Rawlings**, whose work with the boys has been a feature of so many exhibitions of fine craftsmanship on Open Days.

Another very pleasant ceremony took place last term when the Boys heard that **Mr. C.E. Jeremy** had been for forty years associated with the School. Quite spontaneously they decided to mark the occasion by presenting him with a clock. One of our most popular masters and equally dear to those who have left the School, Mr. Jeremy for his subtle and amusing speeches will remain in the memories of boys and masters for many years. He has always been a link between the School and Old Thorntonians, and his speech of thanks to the Captain of the School on receiving his memento took us back to his schooldays at the parent school in Battersea, and recalled some of the best of his humorous oratory of past years.

... ..

Mr. H.J. Noah, B.Sc., has joined the Staff to teach Economics and History.

School Captain this year is J.P. Poole, Vice-Captain R.G. Morfee, and the Captain of Games H.A. Pluckrose.

...we have resumed House Fives as far as supplies have allowed, while once again Lacrosse finds favour with many boys. Squash, owing to the enthusiasm of Mr. Rapp, is being played by the Sixth Forms.

The energy of Vc and Mr. Cooper has resulted in the marking out of the playground Tennis Courts.

The School Field is ours again, and is under the plough for re-seeding.

Crossword

Here's the solution to the second (and, sadly, final) cryptic crossword submitted by keen compiler Gordon Holt and included in the last newsletter. Contact the Editor if you'd like a copy of his explanatory notes on the answers.

1	C	L	2	A	P	3	H	A	4	M		5	S	E	6	T	B	7	A	C	8	K
	O		T		U		9	O	N	O		H		L		E						
10	L	O	C	A	T	O	R		U		12	E	A	G	L	E						
	L			L				13	D	O	T		W		A							N
14	I	D	O	L	15	S		E		16	H	A	I	L								L
	E				17	P	O	N	18	D			N		19	T						Y
20	R	O	21	W	E	L			22	O	U	T	D	O	O	R						
	S	O		I									M		O					23	R	
		24	T	O	O	T	I	N	G				25	I	G	L	O	O				
26	C		D		S				27	E	28	V	I	L								S
	O			29	E	T	N	30	A		A		31	L	32	O	D	G	E			
	M		33	S		I		34	B	E	C			V								H
35	M	O	U	N	T			O		36	A	S	37	S	A	38	G	A	I			
	O		E		C			39	I	N	N		P		E							L
40	N	A	R	W	H	A	L			41	T	R	A	M	M	E	L					

Three correct solutions were received by the closing date, all within a few days of one another. Prize winner was once again Alan Kurtz, closely pursued (at least, in postal terms) by Peter Wells and Jeff Green.

Annual General Meeting

A reminder that the next AGM will be held at Lambeth Academy, Elms Road, SW4 on **Saturday 25 March 2017**.

Reunion 2017

The Management Committee has agreed that next year's reunion will be on **Wednesday 11 October**, subject to confirmation that the Blue Room at The Windmill will once again be available for our use. More information to follow if (as is hoped) the booking is formally agreed.

1939 Clapham Exhibition

As promised in issue no 35, the following is a further extract from the programme for this significant local event, held at the school on Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April that year:

Science Laboratories

Demonstrations of experimental work will be given by pupils of the Henry Thornton School. Subjects to be illustrated include the transmission of heat and the softening of water. The experiments show the application of school science to everyday life.

Choral Singing

FRIDAY, 3.30pm

In the Main Hall

Choral singing by WANDSWORTH SCHOOLS' MUSIC ASSOCIATION.

Conductor: Miss A. R. Williams (Stonhouse Junior Mixed School).

SATURDAY, 3.30pm

In the Main Hall

Choral Singing by HENRY THORNTON SCHOOL CHOIR.

Conductor: Mr. H. Wigley, B.Sc.

Geography & Modern Studies

In Room L

Charts illustrating Economics work in Henry Thornton School. Maps and Charts illustrating the influence of Geography on the development of Clapham.

Regions: Population.

Geology: Roman London.

Subsoil : Clapham in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.

Cinema

In Rooms B & C

Films will be shown to illustrate the use of Silent and Sound films in the teaching of Science, Geography and History.

FRIDAY 5.30-6.30
9.45-10.15

SATURDAY 5.30-6.30
9.45-10.15

Reflections of A Bibliophile

Brian Harris (1943-9) offers a few thoughts on his retirement interests:

As some of the older readers will be aware, retirement presents its own unique problems. One moment you are faced with a busy day full of challenges, the next you wonder if the roses need dead heading. Writing of one sort or another has always been part of my life, so I picked up my mouse and began writing books. At first, I took the easy route for a lawyer and amused myself by examining a few of the more egregious legal injustices, including the mysterious death of Sir Thomas Overbury in the Tower of London. (I managed to convince myself that I had solved the problem). Eventually I tired of that so I brought out a couple of volumes on the life and works of Rudyard Kipling, my literary hero since my teens.

All this sounds as if my efforts have been wildly successful; in truth the books sold few copies, but they kept me out of the bridge club so I continued with them.

It was while reading Anne Fadiman's excellent book, *Ex Libris* that I got the inspiration for my latest work. Jan and I had recently downsized our house and the idea of a book based around my library and the books I had had to get rid of attracted me. The result is a slim volume entitled, "*Missing Books. A Wander Through One Man's Library*", which uses my own life, including my school days, as a string on which to hang my thoughts. It came out recently and begins,

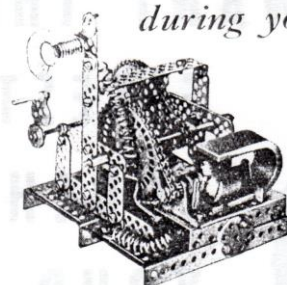
'... great and wondrous things can happen around books. Boswell met Johnson at Tom Davies's bookshop in Covent Garden. Karl Marx planned to remodel the world in the Reading Room of the British Museum. Jorge Luis Borges conceived a universe in the form of a vast library. And as a child I spent my Sunday mornings in the Battersea Reference Library awaiting my mother's Sunday roast.'

Writing is time consuming (part of its attraction), and not particularly rewarding in cash terms. Nevertheless, it works for me. Why not try it?

Magazine Advertisements

From the Autumn 1935 issue of *Thorntonian*:

BUILD THIS DYNAMO *during your Holidays*



Look at the gears, lighting units, Trix Motor and other thrilling details in this Dynamo Lighting Plant. Trix builds better models at far less cost. There are no extras, no expensive accessories. Get busy with Trix and show the other fellows what you can do. Have you heard about "ELEMENTRIX" with Book of 150 Models all for One Shilling?

TRIX

The Editor welcomes contributions for future issues. Please post or email them to:
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