



# 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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## 2017 Reunion

Twenty-seven OTs attended the reunion held in the Blue Room at The Windmill on 9 October and were welcomed by President Michael Caplan. Selected photos are reproduced below.



For your diaries: next year's event (no 14 in the series) will be held at The Windmill on **Tuesday 9 October**. A buffet lunch will again be available, and the Management Committee has agreed that on this occasion the cost (excluding the soup option) will be met from Association funds. OTs would, as hitherto, pay for their own drinks, and also for soup, if they wished to select it.

## 2018 AGM

As previously advised, to be held at 2pm on **Saturday 24 March** at Lambeth Academy, Elms Road. The agenda and supporting papers will be circulated nearer the time.

## Obituary

**Hywel Thomas Bennett** (1955-62): died 25 July 2017. Appended is a detailed note of his school-related achievements, extracted from relevant issues of *The Thorntonian*. See also the poem, below, which he contributed, as a fourth-former, to the magazine in 1959.

The Editor would like to record his thanks to three of Hywel's contemporaries – Roger Govus, Keith Seccombe and Colin Corbey – for sharing their own recollections of his considerable acting and sporting abilities. Please let him know if you'd like to offer any further reminiscences.

## Association Tie

At its recent meeting the Committee agreed to order a fresh stock of 25 ties (woven polyester) from the original supplier. Delivery is expected before Christmas, and the price, including postage, is £15. Several members had already expressed interest in

making a purchase, and Ted Hayward would be pleased to hear from any others who would also like to place an advance order.

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

Autumn 1959:

### **The Story of My Life**

*My mother said, "You must not go  
Playing with gipsies in the wood."  
My father said, "Go out and play,  
Enjoy the country wild and good."*

*My teacher said, "Stay in and swot  
Or you with a hundred lines will pay."  
My preacher said, "Come ye to church  
To worship God throughout the day."*

*My trainer said, "Get set, and off.  
Prolong your life by active means.  
Keep fit, and with a healthy mind  
Enjoy your life while in your teens."*

*Myself I say, "What must I do  
To heed the words so nobly said?"  
But this I know I know: you can't put  
On young shoulders an old head."*

HYWEL BENNETT (IVD)

## **1949 School Inspection**

### **SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION**

#### **Physical Education**

The total indoor facilities are provided by one gymnasium-hall and a small changing room. The shower space has in the past been used only for teams using the playing-field.

The playground might well be used more frequently for minor team games. The playing-field belonging to the School is still used for allotments and the School has to travel to the L.C.C. playing fields at Rose Hill for its games. Good use is made of the Latchmere baths in the summer term when the L.C.C. provide the use of a swimming instructor. School and inter-school sports are held which it is understood are of considerable interest to the School and do much to encourage interest in swimming.

The class lessons are in the hands of a specialist with many years' experience who does not spare himself, despite the handicap of war injuries. Lessons are well planned for the needs of the boys; they ensure a sound foundation on which to develop physical ability, mental alertness and enjoyment. Before the war all classes received two gymnastic lessons a week; now a number receive only one. An added disadvantage is the fact that several classes receive this lesson during the morning of the day on which they also have organised games. The handling of apparatus shows the effect of good teaching and there is no question about the enthusiasm and response of the classes to the Master in charge of the subject.

Organised games are at a distance necessitating three-quarters of-an-hour's travel either way. This is a great handicap and doubtless complicates the task of organisation for the staff concerned with it. At the present time four members of the staff help in the games, but only

one member is available on the playing-field. As the average number of boys may be between 70 to 100 this is clearly an unsatisfactory arrangement; it is clearly impossible for one Master to coach, encourage and to act as referee for so many boys at the same time.

Other activities include the traditional school game of lacrosse, boxing and gymnasium competitions. The former is seriously handicapped by the lack of the school playing-field. Nevertheless the Master in charge and the boys who participate make the most of such opportunities as outside clubs offer during the weekends.

Such recommendations as follow have been confined to those that appear possible of fulfilment in the near future. Undoubtedly, the most important item is the return of the School playing-field to its proper purpose as an immediate contribution to the encouragement of school activities.

If the needs of the boys are to be met in Physical Education, it is essential that they receive an adequate number of lessons in the gymnasium. The number of lessons will have to be limited to the time-table requirements of the hall, but they would allow of at least two periods throughout the School, which would make a valuable contribution to the work now being done in the subject. To implement this suggestion it will be necessary to have an additional member of the staff carrying out a portion of the work.

The hygienic conclusion to a vigorous lesson will, for the time being, best be covered by encouraging the use of towels and the provision of the boys' own shorts and shoes.

The commanding officer and officers of the Air Training Corps are to be congratulated on the maintenance of an enthusiastic and interested corps despite handicaps imposed by the dual use of the premises. To overcome these, and to ensure continued interest and to avoid overtaxing the enthusiasm of the staff, the erection of an A.T.C. hut is a matter of the utmost importance. It is understood that the L.C.C. have approved the site and erection and that the decision now lies in the hands of the Ministry of Town and country Planning.

An excellent opportunity has been taken to send boys on interesting flights during the week-ends and holiday periods. A number of visits have, however, been missed and it is hoped that some means may be found of avoiding this in future.

### **Corporate Life**

The School day opens with a brief service at which one of the prefects reads the lesson each morning.

A House system, chiefly designed to encourage out-of-school activities which yet become an integral part of the life of the School, is used to encourage sport and a varied group of more cultural activities. Each House, under the general supervision of its House Masters, is governed by the House captain and two prefects, all members of the Sixth Form. In the fortnightly House meetings the House captain comments on the achievements or shortcomings of the House effort in such of the activities as are organised in a House league competition.

The School Parliament meets fortnightly and is open to the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms. Arrangement of business is left to the boys, who form governments, ask questions and debate policy. Other societies – the Literary and Debating Society, the Sketch Club, the Philatelic Society, the Chess Club, the Science Society and the Inter-Sixth Society – are well supported.

Last year a School journey to Paris was organised and it is proposed to take twelve boys to Paris during the Easter holidays this year.

Perhaps the most popular of all the out-of-school activities is the School Flight. In September 1948 the number of cadets enrolled passed the one hundred mark. Cadets have many opportunities for flying. A few of the senior cadets have had air-trips to Germany, Egypt, Iraq and Malta.

In each of the six Houses there are three prefects. One prefect is Captain of the School, one is Vice-Captain, and one is Captain of Games.

Editor's note: future issues will include the remaining extracts (French; English; Latin; Science; Organisation, Curriculum and Standard of Work; and General Conclusions. Others have appeared in nos 25, 27-9, 32 and 37-8.

He has recently obtained a copy of the report on the inspection carried out on **3-6 June 1958**. Relevant sections will be reproduced in the same manner on completion of publication of the corresponding texts from 1949.

### **And finally...**

A few lines, so to speak, culled from the 1951 detention book:

"Disgusting behaviour" (frustratingly, no further details given by the reporting prefect)

"Disrespect of school property" (ditto)

"Insolence and disobedience"

"Failing to do homework"

"Rank impertinence"

"Dangerous conduct in P room"

"Noisy behaviour in South Lodge".

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