



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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Obituaries

Geoffrey Brian Hainsworth (1945-52): died 13 October 2011. Following an enquiry she made on the website Guest Book page and taken up by the Editor, Carole Hainsworth, Geoffrey's wife, has offered the following obituary for him:

"Geoffrey was born at Bramley, Yorkshire. He attended Henry Thornton School, where he was awarded a State Scholarship to the University of London. He graduated from LSE in 1955, receiving the Allyn Young Honours Prize. A Fulbright Scholars Grant enabled him to obtain his PhD at the University of California at Berkeley, his thesis being Classical Theories of Overseas Development – a subject he pursued throughout his working life and one inspired by the excellent teachers he had at Henry Thornton School.

He taught at Harvard from 1958 to 1961, along with supervising the study program for Foreign Service Fellows under the Harvard Development Advisory Service. While there he also participated in Pakistan's Second Five-Year Plan. He spent 1961-1965 as a Research Fellow and Instructor at the Australian National University in Canberra, along with doing research in Papua New Guinea. Returning to the US in 1965 he taught at Williams College in Massachusetts while supervising specially selected mature Foreign Student Fellows at the Centre for Economic Development.

Geoffrey started his career at the University of British Columbia in 1968 and retired in 2001 as Head of the Centre for Southeast Asia Studies. He was one of a select Canadian Educators Group invited in 1976 to visit China. He organized the First International Conference for Southeast Asian Studies in 1979, twice being elected President of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies. The major thrust of his academic research was in the field of development, where he produced important studies on rural development, environmental challenges and the alleviation of poverty particularly focused on Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia."

Editor's additional notes: the 1950 issues of *The Thorntonian* record the award of his IVC form prize, and that, with Derek Yandell (same attendance years) and others, he was a certificate winner (London University General School Certificates); his 1952 state scholarship was in Modern Studies; and he gained three A-level GCE passes. Mrs Hainsworth has kindly sent me selected items from Geoffrey's school-related papers, including the detention book for part of 1951. Although he must have been a prefect, the circumstances in which he acquired it are not known. However, OTs may be interested to see (but not, it's hoped, to be reminded of!) examples of misdeeds resulting in this form of temporary incarceration on the premises: predictably, "misbehaviour", "insolence" and "disobedience" in their various manifestations are recurring entries. occasionally qualified by, for example, "at South Lodge", "in

corridor", "in hall"; other recorded offences include "talking at line-up", "fighting at dinner", "throwing slippers in detention", "absent from detention" (possibly meriting a repeat appearance in the same room), "failure to do essay", "propelling missiles by means of elastic bands", "attempted kneeing of another boy", and "in school in forbidden time".

Roger Anthony Allen (1951-8): died 6 March 2016.



Awarded Swimming colours in 1956; Prefect (1957); LCC Major County Scholarship, and prize for three or more A-level passes (1958); attended London University, obtaining a BSc degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1961. Peter Tamm (1952-8), who was also best man at Roger's wedding, recalls that "he was pretty good academically at school and he was also a very prominent member of the swimming team, where he was our best backstroke swimmer. He was very successful in competitions without having to train very hard. He spent much of his working life in the paper industry. in his retirement he devoted some of his time to Remap, a charity which designed and made special gadgets for disabled people to help them to live more independent lives."

Roger appears in two photographs in the Pupils (1) gallery on the website: that taken in 1957, and reproduced above, with Mr Hofmann and four other pupils; and the team picture captioned "1950s Swimming" (on the far right end of the middle row, seated immediately in front of Peter).

2016 Reunion/Anniversary Lunch

Members will by now have received Ted Hayward's note about this function, to be held at The Windmill on 8 November. As advised, and if you haven't already done so, please let him know when you can if you plan to attend, as the maximum seating capacity for the Blue Room is 35. (At the time of writing he has 23 firm or provisional acceptances.) Mrs Bryony Hill, Jimmy Hill's widow, has accepted the Chairman's invitation to be the guest of honour at the lunch, and President Michael Caplan also hopes to be present.

Annual General Meeting 2016

The Association's ninth AGM was held at Lambeth Academy, Elms Road, SW4, on Saturday 19 March; 13 members were present. The main items discussed or reported were:

- Michael Caplan QC was elected as President, in succession to Jimmy Hill. The other Committee members elected to serve until 31 March 2017 are:

Chairman: Jeff Green
 Vice-Chairman: (Vacancy)
 Secretary: Ted Hayward
 Treasurer: Terry Lawlor

Entry-year representatives:
 1930s/1940s: Brian Robinson
 1950s: Chris Bishop
 1960s: Peter Greenwood
 (1970s/1980s: Vacancy).

- Co-opted: Mike Surridge (as local representative)
- The statement of account for the year ended 31 December 2015, prepared by Terry Lawlor and examined by Bob Hay, was adopted.
- In his will senior OT Wilf Finbow (1931-6), whose death last year was reported in newsletter no 31 (August 2015), left the Association a generous cash legacy of £2,000. Members decided that the most practical means of using at least part of the donation was to invite the Old Thorntonians Football Club to institute a "Wilf Finbow Memorial Trophy" (eg, cup, vase or shield), to be purchased by the Association, which would also meet the cost of initial engraving. Committee member Mike Surridge is pursuing this proposal with Club officials, and members will be advised of the outcome of his discussions in due course. (Let Jeff Green or Ted Hayward know if you wish to submit any further suggestions for consideration by the Management Committee.)
- The following recommendations from the Committee meeting held on 20 January 2016 were as accepted: :

That i. Michael Caplan QC, Vice-President, be formally elected as President of the Association from 1 April 2016, in succession to Jimmy Hill OBE; and ii. nominations be invited for the election in due course of a successor Vice-President

That i. as there were ample funds in the Association's account to cover known or probable expenditure in the coming year, the annual charge of £10 for Full members and £6 for Associates be waived for 2016; ii. joiners in 2016, and any rejoining after a break in that year, be required to pay the relevant membership fee in the normal way.

As noted, there are three vacancies: for Vice-President, and (on the Committee) for Vice-Chairman and a representative of pupils who were admitted in the 1970s or 1980s. If you're interested in any of these roles, or would like to nominate an OT for them, please contact Ted.

Reminiscences

From **Brian Harris** (1943-9): My much-loved headmaster at Henry Thornton was William David Evans. At Cambridge he had achieved a First in Part I of the mathematics exam, but his father, a Plymouth Brother and harsh naval schoolmaster, made his displeasure felt when his boy failed to achieve the status of Wrangler (an old term for a Cambridge mathematician who gained first-class honours in the third year). God knows what effect that must have had on the lad.

A genuine polymath, the young Evans is said to have enjoyed the friendship of James Elroy Flecker, author of the once-popular verse drama *Hassan, or The Golden Journey to Samarkand*, a short extract from which is inscribed on the clock tower of the SAS barracks in Hereford:

*We are the Pilgrims, master; we shall go
Always a little further; it may be
Beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow
Across that angry or that glimmering sea.'*

After a period in industry Evans found his metier in teaching. As headmaster it was his practice to bring three or four fifth-formers into his study for weekly readings of the Platonic dialogues accompanied by discussions of the type he had been familiar with at Cambridge. They left an indelible mark on me.

Editor's note: see also the obituary for Mr Evans which appeared in newsletter no 28 (November 2014).

Magazine Advertisements

This offering appeared in the July 1946 issue of *The Thorntonian*:

The advertisement is a rectangular layout with a central illustration of a pump and mudguards. On the left and right sides are two vertical pumps. The top left section describes the 'APEX SUPERLITE CELLULOID PUMP' with specifications: 15 x 1/4" BLACK, Thick Celluloid, Beautifully Polished, Light of weight, but of robust construction. It lists two models: 'SUPERLITE' 15in. CELLULOID (with solid drawn brass plunger tube) each 4/3, and 'LASTWEL' CELLULOID (with steel split plunger tube) 15in. each 4/-. The top right section describes 'The World Famous BAILEY'S SUPER PUMP' with specifications: 15 x 1/4" BLACK, Steel Lined Celluloid Covered, Lining is Solid drawn cartridge fashion, the end being solid with the barrel. It lists two models: 'BAILEY'S SUPER' (Steel lined and Celluloid covered) 15in. each 5/-, and 'BRASS PUMP, Nickel Plated or Black enamelled (with steel split plunger tube) each 3/3. The bottom section shows 'BAILEY'S SUPER CELLULOID MUDGUARDS' with specifications: THICK CELLULOID (white only), DETACHABLE AND ADJUSTABLE STAYS, Wide Section. At the bottom, it states 'MADE BY APEX INFLATOR CO. LTD. ALDRIDGE ROAD, PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM 20'. A small note at the bottom left says: 'Owing to having to change our plant back from war conditions to normal production supplies will still be restricted for a few months but please bear the name in mind; when purchasing look for the "THAPEX" Trademark.'

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