



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 32

November 2015

Obituary

Brian Bloice (1950-7)



As already announced, Brian died on 29 October 2015, after a short illness. The funeral was held on 18 November; Ted Hayward and Peter Lawson attended on behalf of OTs.

He had been a member since the Association was re-formed in 2006, and joined the Management Committee as Vice-Chairman in 2008 (replacing John Simmons). He also served as Chairman from 2011 to 2013, when Jeff Green stood down in compliance with the constitution after completing his initial term of office.

During Brian's time at the school he was House Captain, Stephen, and a Prefect (1956); he attained the rank of Flight-Sergeant in the , ATC.

For all his working life he was an analytical chemist employed by the Public Health Service of Southwark Council.

In recent years he made major contributions to the study of Lambeth's local history, and was a prolific lecturer on the subject. He was Chairman of the Lambeth Local History Forum, and of the Streatham Society (a charity whose stated purpose and aims are "to raise the awareness and appreciation of the local area and to maintain and improve the quality of life for all who live and work in Streatham"); also, earlier this year, he had been elected President of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society.

A sad loss to the Association, and – to quote the words of one of his Streatham Society fellow-members – he was a gentleman, and a gentle man.

Please let the Editor know if you'd like to offer any reminiscences of Brian for inclusion in the next newsletter.

2015 Reunion

Held in the Blue Room at The Windmill on 10 November and attended by around 28 OTs, plus one guest (the daughter of Peter Thompson, 1943-9). The formal proceedings included a tribute to Brian Bloice by Chairman Jeff Green, and a minute's silence was observed in his memory.

At its next meeting in January the Management committee will discuss arrangements for the 2016 event, which as announced will also be a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the relaunch of the Association in 2006. More information will be circulated once it becomes available.

Lambeth College - New Henry Thornton Building

The new building, which houses a nursery, sports centre and a range of classrooms for teaching specific subjects, was formally opened on Friday 20 November; the ceremony was performed by Chuka Umunna, MP for Streatham. The Association was well represented, with seven OTs present.



The commemorative plaque; and, from left, Mark Silverman, Donatus Anyanwu (Mayor of Lambeth), Chuka Umunna, and Mary McCormack (Chair, Lambeth College Governors)

Mr B J F Dorrington

Members may be interested to know that recent research by the Editor has revealed the following additional information about Mr Dorrington, Head Master from 1956 to 1966, supplied by the archivist at King's College, London:

Bertram John Frederick Dorrington registered at King's as an internal student of the University of London in October 1923, aged 18, and was awarded a BSc (Gen) in June 1926. The general degree, as the name suggests, incorporated various aspects of scientific study rather than just one specific strand. According to the University of London list of graduates, he was also awarded an MSc in Chemistry at King's and what has been abbreviated to 'Cass I' in 1930. I have been unable to ascertain what 'Cass I' means – a key to abbreviated terms is not given in the publication. In addition, he was awarded his teaching qualification at London Day Training Centre in 1927.

His record gives his date of birth as 29 July 1906 and his previous schools as Elizabeth St, North Woolwich; Bloomfield Central; and Brockley Secondary E S.

Mr Dorrington is believed to have died in 1999.

From the Pages of *The Thorntonian*

Autumn 1936

PREFECTS' DETENTION
(With apologies to W. B. Yeats)

*I will arise now, and go now, and go to Prefects' detention,
And my lines do there, while full of apprehension.
One hundred lines will I do there, of a well-known proverb made,
Meanwhile I'm wishing they'd be stung in a bee-loud glade.*

*And I'll have some peace when it's over, for peace will always come,
With my back on detention, and the evening homework done;
But the evening it flies away, the day is nearly dead,
And father comes along and says, "My son, it's time for bed."*

*I will arise, and go now, and go to dread Room E,
And work while I hear the noise of lucky boys who are free;
I'll work very hard, and write very fast, and think it an awful bore.
And the shouts of the lucky boys outside will make my heart quite sore.*

D. Franklin, IIIa

From 1949 HMI Report

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION

German

German is taken as an alternative to Latin from the beginning of the second year by boys in the A and B forms. The method of deciding which of two subjects a boy should take is not easy, and it is not clear that the right solution has been found here.

The language is taught by an *Austrian (by birth) with high academic qualifications gained in the first place in the University of Vienna, who joined the staff in September 1948, after considerable teaching experience. The teaching is clear and methodical, being given in German, with careful explanation and if necessary translation to ensure that all boys understand without unduly slowing down the tempo of the lesson; it might be even more effective if the boys spoke more German in sentences or continuous form. Excellent progress had been made by the boys who started the subject in September. The Sixth Form was presenting something of a problem: all the boys had completed the Main School course in French and some in Latin as well; but some had done no German (these were being helped by the Head Master) and others had done the full course; there was therefore considerable variation in the amount of German with which the advanced course was started. Added to this was the fact that only six periods were available altogether for both the Upper and Lower Sixth. The result was that a good deal of recapitulation was necessary, and a narrowing of the course to bare essentials. In spite of that, however, critical and thoughtful work was being done, and an interesting technique had been devised to give scope to the boys at their restrictive levels of knowledge of the language, whilst keeping the literary study stimulating.

*Dr E Aufricht, who retired in 1958; see Valete, issue no 16, April 2011. Ed

Geography

The subject is shared by two graduate Masters both of whom have had some years teaching experience. One was appointed to the staff in 1946 and has had charge of the subject since September 1948. He teaches the Second, Fourth and Fifth Forms and shares the work of the Sixth forms. The other was appointed at the beginning of the year. [The masters are believed to be Mr S May, who retired in 1973, and possibly Mr W R Baggalay, for whom I have no confirmed dates of tenure. Any additional information on either or both gratefully received! Ed]

There is a Geography room, but the present arrangement of the furniture severely handicaps the work. In addition to an unusually large demonstration bench, there are 15 large tables, set out in five rows. Space is thus extremely limited and movement is most difficult. Ways of re-arranging the room were discussed with the Masters concerned.

The syllabus provides for a four-year course, with a fifth year for those boyus who choose to take the subject in the School Certificate Examination. The first year is devoted to local work and the general principles of geography, but thereafter the work is on a regional basis. There is no difference in the scheme for A and C Forms, either in the content of the syllabus or in the methods of teaching.

There is evidence, at all stages, of conscientious and methodical teaching. The boys have a good factual knowledge, which ensures a satisfactory examination standard by the end of

the fifth year. This standard is maintained, and in some cases raised, in the work of the Sixth form, but insufficient time is left for individual research, calculated to stimulate independent thought. In this connection it is clearly undesirable to treat the two years of the Sixth Form as a single teaching unit. Both Masters appear to rely very largely on the oral lesson in their teaching of all Forms, and it is here that the limitations of the Geography room are most severely felt. No evidence was seen, in the lessons observed, of any pictorial aids to teaching except the wall-map, and the black-board sketch-map. There is an epidiascope in the Geography room, but at the time of the Inspection there were no black-out curtains. The question of visual aids should receive careful attention. Methods of using illustrations most effectively were discussed.

In conclusion, it is clear that, while the subject reaches a satisfactory level on the theoretical side, it is weak on the practical side. The Masters should, therefore, give consideration to the development of outdoor work throughout the course. Much of this would be of an observational nature, and could be done by the incidental recording of natural phenomena. At the same time class work should include much more group and individual work.

Religious Instruction

One period a week is given to Religious Instruction in the first, Second and Third Forms: after the Thirds no Religious Instruction is given. It was possible to see only two lessons with the younger boys.

A strong recommendation is made that Religious Instruction be carried up the School.

A Reminder

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at Lambeth Academy on Saturday **26 March 2016**, starting at 2pm. The agenda and supporting papers will be issued nearer the date.

Association Expenditure

Treasurer Terry Lawlor has prepared the following summary of projects and activities funded by the Association to date at a total cost of just under £6000 since it was re-formed in 2006. At his suggestion this information is circulated for members' interest.

	£
Professional restoration of pupil honours boards funded by donations from OTs (1918-50 set displayed at Lambeth Academy, 1951-68 at Lambeth College)	1219
World War Two memorial plaque (housed at Lambeth College) recording the names of 54 OTs who lost their lives during the conflict	1590
Henry Thornton Award (presented annually to a nominated student at Lambeth College and Lambeth Academy in the form of book tokens valued at £100 per student)	600
Commemorative plaque, Elms Road (unveiled on 21 March 2015)	424
Purchase of Association ties for resale to members	714
Donations in support of Old Thorntonians Football Club:	
• purchase and installation of identification sign for clubhouse	200
• purchase and engraving of new team honours board	132
• purchase of trophy	103
Miscellaneous expenses, including creation/maintenance of website	973

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