



# 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 50**

**April 2022**

---

## From the Editor's Chair

A few reflections on the publication of the fiftieth issue.

Since no 1 was launched in January 2007 (in no particular order):

- Two "mini-reunions" of OT evacuees were held at Chichester High School for Boys (July 2008 and October 2009)
- Service at Lambeth College, South Side, in October 2009 to rededicate the replacement memorial recording the names and years of 54 OTs who lost their lives during the Second World War
- Michael Caplan QC elected Association Vice-President in April 2014, succeeding Jimmy Hill as President from April 2016
- Unveiling, by the Mayor Lambeth, in March 2015, of commemorative plaque at street entrance to Lambeth Academy [*photo below*]



- Pupil honours boards restored and displayed at Lambeth Academy, Elms Road (with names and awards from 1918 to 1950) and Lambeth College (entries for 1951-8, with other selected memorabilia)
- There have been 18 annual reunions, all at The Windmill, since the inaugural get-together in September 2005
- The Management Committee has held 48 meetings (face-to-face and virtual)
- The Association's website, originally set up in 2006, was extensively "refreshed" in 2021
- The tenth anniversary of the re-founding of the Association was celebrated at the Windmill on 8 November 2016; and those present included Bryony Hill, Jimmy's widow (*photographs of the event are posted on the website*)
- Formal opening, in November 2015, of "Henry Thornton Building" at rear of Lambeth College site; seven OTs were present.

## Reunion 2021

Held on **Tuesday 2 November** at the refurbished Windmill, and attended by 16 OTs. This year's event is booked for **Tuesday 8 November** at the same venue. For those planning to be present, a reminder that the pub is now cashless, and that it's no longer possible to pre-order lunch.

## Annual General Meeting 2022

The Association's AGM was held Lambeth Academy, Elms Road, on Saturday 26 March, attended by 10 members. The main items discussed or reported were:

- Management Committee members elected or re-elected to serve until 31 March 2023:

President: Michael Caplan, QC

Vice-President: (Vacancy)

Immediate Past Chairman: Jeff Green

Chairman: (Vacancy)

Vice-Chairman: Ron Davies

Secretary/Acting Chairman: Ted Hayward

Treasurer: Peter Greenwood

Entry-year representatives:

1930s/1940s: (Vacancy)

1950s: Bob Hay

1960s: (Vacancy)

1970s/1980s: (Vacancy).

- Co-opted: Mike Surridge (as local representative)
- The statement of account for the year ended 31 December 2021, prepared by Peter Greenwood and examined by Bob Hay, was adopted. (Copy enclosed)
- Annual subscriptions: after a full discussion AGREED that

*a. for those in membership at 31 December 2021, the annual charge of £10 for full members and £6 for Associates be waived for a further period to 31 March 2023*

*b. the offer, publicised on the website and valid until 28 February 2022, of free first-year membership for joiners/rejoiners would not be extended.*

For your diaries: the **2023** AGM will be held on Saturday **25 March**; venue once again – subject to prior confirmation – is Lambeth Academy.

## Membership

The current total is 85.

## Obituaries

**J W (Stan) Hill (1948-56):** died 15 December 2021. Flight-Sgt, ATC (awarded "ATC prize" in 1955). Contemporary Ron Davies recalls that Stan was a tough disciplinarian on the parade ground. Let the Editor know if other OTs have any reminiscences they wish to share, for publication in the next newsletter.

**Derek James Coleman (?1943-?):** died 19 November 2021. Did you know Derek? If so, Sue Thompson, his daughter, would be glad to hear from you. The Editor has so far been unable to trace any record of his (presumably mainly wartime) attendance at Clapham and/or as a Chichester evacuee.

**Peter Thompson (1943-9):** died 2 September 2021.

**Denis William Huntley (Art master, 1953-9):** died 2 December 2021, aged 93 (a few days short of his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday, from the background information supplied by his daughter). His sculpture, "The Scholar", completed after he had retired, was presented to the school as a gift and installed on a plinth immediately in front of the main entrance to the Head Master's study; a photo, from a local press cutting,

is displayed on the website – select Memorabilia and then Miscellaneous from the dropdown menu. A detailed description and commentary are given in his article which appeared in the August 1960 issue of *The Thorntonian*; it's reproduced in full in newsletter no 29 (February 2015).

### **Overseas OTs**

Since the last issue "liaison OT" Jim Humphrey (1950-7) has received biogs from Ray Lampard (1944-9), based in Paris, and John Jones (1963-70), who lives in Belgium. If you'd like to have a copy of each contribution, please let the Editor know. Jim has received no further responses at the time of writing.

### **Aristotle School**

At the request of Allan Stuart, an Old Stotalian, a brief history of his school, which merged with HTS in around 1968, has been added to the Association website. If you'd like to view this item, click on History on the main menu and scroll down to the end of the page.

### **1958 School Inspection**

Here are further extracts from the HMI report. This next tranche focuses on "subjects of teaching".

#### **English**

English is taught by five masters, of whom two are also concerned with other subjects. The head of the department [*Mr J I Morris*], an Honours graduate, ... is about to transfer to another post, after six years of service here.

The syllabus is mostly fully thought out and contains many valuable suggestions; those concerned with the cultivation of good reading are particularly valuable. The teaching throughout is careful and sincere. If in practice the results as at present obtained are a little disappointing, that is perhaps a consequence of the disproportionate emphasis laid in practice upon certain aspects of language study. The boys speak rather indistinctly and their written work is often poor, both in English and in other subjects. It is not suggested that grammar should be neglected; but subject matter and quality of expression should receive more attention in all that is said and written. Literature deserves a more central place throughout. Such an approach in English should make possible a higher standard of achievement in work leading to the examinations at Ordinary level; it might also encourage more boys to regard this as a suitable subject for special study later on.

There is a good school magazine; it is particularly pleasant to observe the co-operation between the English department and the art department in the activities of a most vigorous dramatic society; the work of the admirably run library is considered elsewhere in this report. [*See newsletter 49 for the latter extract.*]

To sum up, the best features of the school's work in English are at present the most informal; it is where the boys are most interested that most can be expected of them. With a rather more unified approach to the work as a whole it should be possible for the English department to achieve the success which effort and good will invite.

## Technical Drawing

Technical drawing, introduced in the Fourth Forms, is an optional subject and is taken on an average by sixteen boys each year. The boys supply themselves with good quality drawing instruments and work keenly and ably along well-defined lines. One Sixth Form boy is continuing with engineering drawing.

The teaching, unfortunately, is hampered by conditions; some of the work is done in the workshop and at other times in the library or in the dining hall. The master [Mr L H C Searle] sometimes discusses problems with the Sixth Form pupil in the wood-store. There is much need for a properly equipped drawing room.

## Magazine Advertisements

From the Summer 1946 issue of *The Thorntonian*:



**Dunlop BLUE FLASH**

Has the 'Life' that gives Speed

More forceful drive—deadlier accuracy—more speed in every shot, outcomes of the 'live' resilience resulting from the Dunlop process of manufacture which avoids the deadness common to so many modern ply rackets. No flabby flexibility this, but the live strength that brings the lightning response that counts.

Every Dunlop Racket is strung by machine—a process first introduced by Dunlop, giving greater strength and accuracy.

**BLUE FLASH**

Tournament Model, 47/6\*      Standard Model, 42/-\*  
Junior (for Juveniles), 12/6      \*Prices starred include grip.

THE DUNLOP RANGE  
includes Rackets at prices from 75/- to 12/6  
FROM ALL SPORTS DEALERS  
DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD., (Sports Division),  
St. James's House, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1

Including Grip

**DUNLOP PRODUCT**

C. F. H.

The advertisement features a detailed illustration of a Dunlop Blue Flash tennis racket on the right side. The racket has a dark frame and a light-colored headband with the number '42' and the word 'STANDARD MODEL' printed on it. The strings are visible across the head of the racket. The background of the advertisement is light-colored with some faint, large letters like 'BREAK UP' and 'DUNLOP' visible.

---

The Editor welcomes contributions for future issues. Please post or email them to:  
Ted Hayward, 31 Linfields, Little Chalfont, Amersham, HP7 9QH; ted.hayward@btinternet.com  
President: Michael Caplan QC      Website: [www.oldthorntoniansclapham.org.uk](http://www.oldthorntoniansclapham.org.uk)