



# 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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**No 38**

**July 2017**

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## Membership

The Association currently has 90 registered members, including two former members of the teaching staff: Mr Graeme Allott (1958-86) and Mr Harold Noah (1949-60).

## 2017 Reunion

Attached is the usual reminder of the next gathering on **Monday 9 October**. Also enclosed is the buffet menu being offered by The Windmill. If you wish to order lunch, please let me know by email, or by completing and returning the tear-off slip by the deadline indicated, to enable me to advise my contact of the total number. Your cheque, for £12 (or £17, if you select the soup option), should be made payable to "Old Thorntonians Association" and sent to the Treasurer, Terry Lawlor, at Spring Cottage, 11A Deepdene, Lower Bourne, Farnham, SGU10 3QP.

## Association Tie

The Management Committee has recently discussed the possibility of ordering a further supply of ties (the original stock, purchased in 2007, was exhausted some time ago). Based on a minimum order of 25 from the same nominated supplier, the cost for the polyester version, as previously offered, would be about £15. The Committee has agreed that it would be helpful, before reaching a firm decision, to gauge the extent of members' likely support for this proposal. If you would like to register your interest in purchasing a new or additional tie please let Ted Hayward know; his contact details are given at the foot of the newsletter and also on the enclosed reunion notice.

## School Memorabilia

Members may be interested to know that two large carvings – probably produced in the early 1930s by Mr W S Williamson (Mr H G Rawlings' predecessor) and, under his supervision, pupils with an aptitude for woodwork – are stored at Lambeth College, South Side, Clapham Common, together with the composite set of pupil honours boards for 1951-68. The carvings are:

- The school crest
- A long board displaying three shields: one with the pre-1951 House names and the others depicting cricket and lacrosse, two of the sports offered by the school.

Following an inspection by members of the Committee, and discussions with the College's Head of Estates, it has been agreed that relevant sections of both carvings,

together with the honours boards, should be transferred to the Henry Thornton building, located at the rear of the main College premises and opened in November 2015 (a brief report of the event is given in issue no 32). The Committee consider that the transfer has two clear benefits: in view of its designation the new location is a more fitting, long-term home for the memorabilia, and they will be grouped together and on open display in the entrance lobby.

More information will be given as the scheme progresses.

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

Autumn 1961:

**VALE**

We are also saying farewell to **Mr. A. H. Chatterley**, who has been in charge of the Music in the School for the past four years. Mr. Chatterley maintained good choral singing and a keen school orchestra. With his encouragement many boys took to learning an instrument. He has a fine voice, which we not made fully aware of until he sang the part of \*Daniel in his last musical enterprise at this School.

Besides his skill as a musician, Mr. Chatterley had a good humour and understanding which endeared him to the boys. He is taking up the post of Senior Music Master at Chiswick County School, and we wish him well.

\*Editor's note: *The Play of Daniel*, a church drama of the twelfth century, is reviewed in the same issue of the magazine.

Autumn, 1954:

**OPEN DAY**

Open Day on Saturday, 17th July, marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the present school buildings, and a full programme of events had been planned.

The main event was the opening of the new biology laboratories by Mrs. C.S. Ganley, C.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the Governors. Even this ceremony had to be held indoors [owing to rain] and the Head Master, Mr. D.B. Gaskin, M.A., introduced Mrs. Ganley to a large audience of governors, staff, old boys, pupils and friends in the Hall.

In a speech of welcome the Head Master said there were three reasons why the opening of these well-equipped laboratories by Mrs. Ganley was so significant. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the School's occupying its present buildings, and the new lab. was the first major addition – and in passing special mention should be made of some of the staff: Mr. Gribble, Mr. Jeremy, Mr. Bramble, Mr. Cooper, who had been at the School since the time it was built. Secondly, obtaining a satisfactory site and sufficient money for the laboratories had been difficult, and Mrs. Ganley's efforts had been outstanding in the help the Governors had given in the campaign. Thirdly, it was the twenty-fifth anniversary of Mrs. Ganley's joining the Governors of the School. The new buildings were to be known as the Ganley Laboratories.

Mrs. Ganley recalled the opening of the present School on 28th June, 1929, when it was transferred from Lavender Hill, and some of the difficulties of the early years. The name was associated in the district with service to the community, and it had assumed a real significance in the neighbourhood. Mrs. Ganley said it was a real honour to declare the new laboratory open, for it promised an excellent extension of opportunity. The Head Master then formally presented the key to Mrs. Ganley.

Earlier, the Gymnastic Display, which was to have taken place on the lawn, was held in the Hall and was of the usual very high standard. Particularly impressive were the skill and confidence with which the gymnasts adapted their performance to the confined space.

For the throngs of visitors walking round the School there was plenty of interest to see. On the ground floor were the well-established Handicraft, Geography and United Nations Society displays, and upstairs was the Stamp Club display, and the Chess and Kriegspiel

rooms, with the bold notice: WE CHALLENGE ALL COMERS. The Art display attracted many. This year, besides some extremely skilful monochrome and line drawings by the junior boys, there were some interesting new finger-paintings, mosaics and a promising start made with some salt-carving exhibits. Visitors who tried to avoid crowds at the A.T.C. refreshment hut by joining further crowds for tea at South Lodge were able to visit the Library Exhibition where the main feature was a display of dictionaries from Johnson's onwards, illustrating the various refinements in presenting definitions and information.

The Concert, organised by Mr. H. Smethurst, took place in the evening. The Junior Choir enjoyed themselves and pleased the audience with Martin Shaw's "I know a bank" and German's "Shepherds' Dance". Then came the evening thunder, Sullivan's "Cox and Box", with M.J.Crombie as the Hatter, R.G.J. Wood as the journalist and E.J. Softley as Sergeant Bouncer. The comedy came over admirably and the performance with its zest and pace delighted the packed Hall.

The crowd began to thin: away behind the School the Lacrosse team was gallantly losing 7-10 to an Old Boys' team, the game watched by a few loyal spectators in the unfriendly rain. Finally, the last performers walked along to south Lodge feeling satisfied and tired in yet another heavy shower.

## **1949 School Inspection**

### **SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION**

#### **Music**

Although the time-table provision for Music is slender, being no more than a single period weekly in the first and second years, the standard of work is creditable as far as it goes. The Master in charge of the subject [Mr A E Taylor, early 1940s-1951] is a keen musician whose ability as a violinist and resource as a teacher compensate, to a large extent, for his inability to play the piano. Sight-reading and appreciation are handicapped, not by lack of a pianist, but by lack of time. In singing, however, the absence of piano accompaniment is sometimes felt, although in many ways admirable results are achieved and the boys are acquiring a well-varied repertoire of good songs. In one class, which devotes its music lesson to recorder playing, the Music Master provides a supporting accompaniment by playing a bass part on the 'cello, and appropriate and traditional device.

The voluntary musical activities of the School are centred on instrumental work, two string classes and a wind class, leading on to the school orchestra; the orchestra is at present about twenty strong, consisting mainly of violins but including a 'cello, a double bass, and three or four woodwind and brass. The orchestra plays at morning assembly once a week and has achieved a standard that reflects credit on all concerned. Since he already gives much of his time to this work, the Music Master himself can hardly be expected to undertake anything further.. Nevertheless there is also room for a club or society to stimulate interest in listening to music and for a School Choir to cater for those whose abilities are vocal rather than instrumental. In this connection, the provision of some four-part hymn-books might be an encouragement to part-singing and an occasional school sing-song might enable the Music Master to obtain more finished singing from the school as a whole.

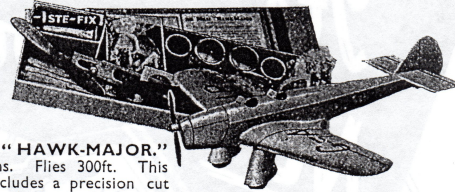
The School is fortunate in possessing an excellent grand piano, and two good upright pianos, one of which is wisely kept in the hall although the other is kept in the Art room, where it does not appear to be put to good use. An alternative might be to put it in a room especially assigned to Music, where equipment, including a good gramophone, records, books and scores, might be accumulated and centralised, where the subject might be taught more conveniently than in the hall, and where, informally, boys might be encouraged to develop their musical interests.

#### **Magazine Advertisement**

From the Spring 1936 issue:

## CONSTRUCT YOUR OWN AEROPLANE.

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DEPARTMENT  
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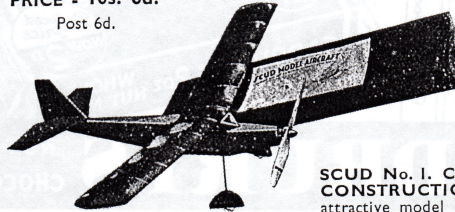


### THE MILES "HAWK-MAJOR."

Wing span 16½ins. Flies 300ft. This wonderful kit includes a precision cut gear box, completely finished airscrew, all parts cut ready for use, coloured dopes, cement, full instruction sheet and working plan.

PRICE - 10s. 6d.

Post 6d.



Write for our fully illustrated general catalogue post free on request.

### SCUD No. 1. CABIN CRUISER CONSTRUCTION KIT.

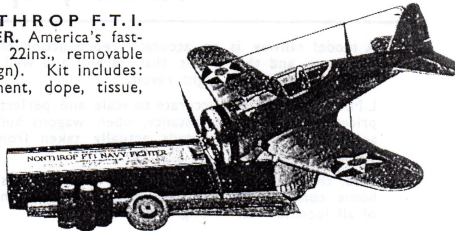
This attractive model has an astonishing flying performance. Difficult parts ready formed. The Kit includes ample supplies of selected hard balsa, cement, dope, tissue, rubber for motor, and everything you need including finished airscrew and light-weight aluminium wheels. Full size drawing and new method of construction makes this Kit the easiest and most interesting to build. Span 23in. Length 16½ins.

PRICE - 5s. 6d. Post 6d.

**NEW NORTHROP F.T.I. NAVY FIGHTER.** America's fastest plane. Span 22ins., removable motor box (foreign). Kit includes: Balsa wood, cement, dope, tissue, insignias, and full working plan.

PRICE - 15s.

Post 6d.



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