



Welcome to the summer edition of the Wellington College Waterloo Society newsletter.

We had such a positive response from the first edition as you will see by the quote shown, and loved receiving your feedback and memoirs so we have decided to make them a bi-annual publication and once again have been delving into the archives for some nostalgic memories of your time here.

We have included some information at the end of the newsletter on our legacy programme if this is something that might be of interest. Either way, we hope that you enjoy the memories and photos and please do get in touch if you have suggestions for what you would like to see in the next edition!

“It was interesting to receive your newsletter, which brought back interesting memories...As I was hopeless at all games, I was very happy to join the Estate Club. Membership gave one the right to have a bicycle, so it was possible to explore the surrounding country at weekends.”

Henry Best (Hg 47)

Memories of Wellington College in the 1940s

Mr Tancock and the Observatory

Those at College in the earlier 1940s may well remember science teacher Ernest Tancock. In all he taught at Wellington for 28 years, being Tutor of the Wellesley for 13 of them and thereafter Under-Tutor of the Lynedoch. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, author of a

number of textbooks on astronomy, and editor of the original Philips Star Chart.

At Wellington he took charge of the high quality Victorian telescope which had belonged to his predecessor Mr Saunder, and introduced generations of boys to the wonders of the night sky. In the archives are

his notebooks, with detailed hand-written accounts of the observations made every night. The blackout necessitated by the War provided ideal conditions for stargazing, even with the naked eye; one OW recalled seeing the dark hole in the Milky Way and learning that it was called ‘the coal sack’. Through the telescope, boys were able to observe Saturn’s rings, Jupiter and its moons, Comet Whipple, the Orion nebula, and many other stars and star clusters. Tancock diligently recorded who was there on each occasion, as for example in November 1944 when members of the Newtonian Society observed several stars and ‘appeared interested and keen.’

In those days the telescope was housed in a wooden building, the present brick Observatory not being built until 1956. The area around the Observatory has recently been improved, and we hope soon to have the telescope overhauled so that present-day Wellington students can discover the fascination of stargazing for themselves.

Were you one of the boys who accompanied Mr Tancock on these nightly observations? If so, the Community Office would love to hear from you.



▲ Science Teacher Ernest Tancock



▲ Photograph of the moon taken with the 1 inch refractor at Wellington College by P.M.R, 20th Feb 1937

Memories of Wellington College in the 1940s

Opening of Great School

One of the most significant events of the immediate post-War period at Wellington was the opening of the re-modelled Great School in 1949. The inspiration for this may be traced back to the bombing of the College in 1940.

Originally a teaching space, for many years Great School had been partitioned into two, one portion serving as a lending library while the larger part was a Museum for the variety of archaeological and natural history specimens donated to College over the years. Shrouded by blinds and open only for a few hours on Sundays, this central room had become dusty and dead, unvisited by most of the school.

The bombs which fell on 8th October 1940 damaged most spaces then available for Wellingtonians to assemble, including Old Hall, Chapel and the Library. In response, the museum cases were immediately cleared from Great School and the room was thrown open as a makeshift reading room. Soon, the benefits were felt: students, hitherto not allowed to visit those in other dormitories without a good reason, now for the first time had an informal space in which to meet and socialise.

The aftermath of the bombing also saw the launch of an appeal for a fund to commemorate those Wellingtonians who had lost their lives in the war. By the later 1940s over £40,000 had been collected.

▼ Opening of Great School 13th October 1949

Three-quarters of this was invested in a War Exhibition Fund, to provide, over and above the original Foundation, school places for the sons of those killed in the war. The remainder was earmarked for a physical memorial, and rather than a plaque or monument, the Governors chose to beautify and make permanent the much-appreciated reading room.

The room was intended to be cheerful and comfortable. New lighting and heating were installed, and a colour scheme of rust-coloured carpets and curtains and gentle green panelling was chosen. The names of OWs who died serving in both World Wars were inscribed on parchment panels on the

walls, but covered by doors so that they did not give the room an air of melancholy, or worse, lose their importance through over-familiarity.

The room was officially opened by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck OW on 13th October 1949, in an impressive ceremony attended by students, governors, and relatives of the fallen. It was used thereafter by generations of Wellingtonians to meet, relax, and pore over the school's complete set of *The Illustrated London News*. The Community Office would love to hear from anyone who remembers the opening ceremony, the room before its remodelling, or its impact once opened.

▼ Great School 1949



Leaving a gift in your Will

Supporting Wellington College with a gift or donation in your Will is a highly personal way of giving that has a lasting impact on future generations.



'In my long and wide experience of philanthropic fundraising it has been clear to me that Legacies are perhaps the most valuable sources of financial support for any cause with charitable status. This applies as much to Wellington as any and so I had no hesitation in bequeathing to Wellington as much as my estate can reasonably bear.'

Sir David Scholey, CBE (Bn 53)

Leaving a gift in your will, however small or large is an important part of our fundraising programme.

Unlike many similar schools which benefit from an endowment, Wellington College is dependent on philanthropic support, without which we would be unable to deliver the dynamic and inspirational educational environment necessary in today's ever-changing world. In recent years we have been incredibly fortunate to have had the generous support of parents, past and present, Old Wellingtonians and friends of the College to help provide the extra funds required to enable us to go from strength to strength.

During the next phase of development, we want to play our part in supporting the aspirations and ambitions of more young people who without the financial means would not be able to benefit from a Wellington education.

The Prince Albert scholarship programme

Wellington College was established to educate the sons of soldiers killed in action at a minimal financial cost. While the need for this has, thankfully, diminished over the years, our ambition to ensure that children of talent and promise are able to reach their full potential is stronger than ever. Central to the educational philosophy at Wellington is the need to widen access and open our doors to boys and girls of promise, ambition and talent but with limited financial means and we do this through our Prince Albert scholarship programme. By 2025 we aim to have at least 40 Prince Albert Scholars at Wellington at any one time, each year receiving 100% means tested fee support, ensuring that the make-up of our student body is much more reflective of today's society.

We understand that leaving a legacy is a very personal decision and that you may wish to direct your bequest to an area of College which is close to your heart, however, we also welcome legacies directed towards the unrestricted fund as this gives us the flexibility to direct to the area most needed at the time. If you would like to discuss further please contact Murray Lindo, Head of the Wellington Community, who would be delighted to talk through your ideas.

If you decide to leave a gift in your will to Wellington College, here are some FAQs:

What type of gift can I leave in my will?

There are different ways in which you choose to support Wellington in your will.

- **Residuary gift** – the gift of all or part of the value of your estate once gifts and payments have been made.
- **Pecuniary gift** – a fixed sum of money.
- **Specific gift** – a named item.
- **Reversionary gift** – allowing assets to be left for the care of loved one for the duration of their life, and upon their death, your gift will be passed on to your chosen recipient.

What wording should I use in my will?

We can provide suggested wording for your will and can work with you to find a way to ensure your gift is used in accordance with your wishes if there is a particular area of College you would like to support.

Does Wellington College have charitable status?

Wellington College has charitable status for all UK tax purposes and the registered charity number is: 309093.

How can a gift in my will to Wellington College benefit my inheritance tax status?

If you leave a gift to charity in your will, the gift's value won't be counted towards inheritance tax. This could reduce what your beneficiaries have to pay, or remove your inheritance tax liability altogether. Also in some situations, anyone leaving 10% or more of their taxable estate to a charity may qualify for a reduced rate of inheritance tax – 36% rather than 40%. Please see www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax for further information.

Will my gift be affected by capital gains tax?

When someone dies, the value of their assets is re-established and any gains that arise during the administration of the estate (i.e. between death and sale) may be liable to capital gains tax. Charities are exempt from capital gains tax, so where a charity is a beneficiary in a will, it may be possible to use this exemption to benefit the whole estate.

Does Wellington take part in a free wills scheme?

Yes we offer you a free will writing service and if this would be of interest, please contact us at community@wellingtoncollege.org.uk

Wellington College is enormously grateful to those who choose to make a gift in their will and to recognise this generous contribution all become members of the Waterloo Society and, as thanks, invited to an annual drinks party with the Master. Wellington College was built on the vision and generosity of philanthropic support and every gift no matter what the size is gratefully received.

Murray Lindo

Head of the Wellington Community and Director of Development
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