



Welcome to the winter edition of the Wellington College Waterloo Society newsletter

Once again, we have been busy delving into the archives from when you were at College and do hope that you enjoy reading and reminiscing. We are also thrilled to share that since the last newsletter, Caroline Jones, the College Archivist, has been putting the finishing touches to the Heritage website and the 'Wellington Through The Decades' project, which you can read more about on the next page of the newsletter.

Alongside this, we recently unveiled the 'Legacy Giving Tree' in the Living Legacy Garden. This is a memorial to Waterloo Society members and in time will have inscribed on each of its golden leaves, the names of those who have so generously left a gift in their Will. Commemorating these individuals in such a special place is a token of our thanks for helping to support the future development of the College.



▲ OW Mr Sam Osmond (HI 51) next to the Legacy Giving Tree

Memories of Wellington College in the 1940s

Wellington College's connections with the military have always been strong and ever since 1882 the CCF (known in the 1940s as the Junior Training Corps (JTC)) has been at the forefront of this tradition. However, the Second World War brought new challenges, resulting in Wellington boys having to take a more active role.

Air Raid Precautions (ARP) started before the War, with the construction of shelters for each dormitory, and soon a functioning ARP unit was established. Teachers, who were qualified as wardens, were supported by a squad of trained senior boys; full training took two terms and was highly detailed. Each night, one warden and a patrol of boys would sleep in the ARP HQ

under the Science Block; more would join them if an 'Alert' was called, and the College's own Fire Service would go into action if necessary. Each house and dormitory had a trained warden, responsible for making sure that the blackout precautions were strictly enforced. Any boy who failed to close his blackout curtains properly would certainly be punished.



▲ ARP Headquarters in Science basement

The fall of France in May 1940 caused real fear that Britain could soon face invasion, and the government responded with the formation of the Home Guard, at first known as Local Defence Volunteers. Wellington very quickly formed its own platoon, which all boys over the age of seventeen could join, and soon well over 100 boys, teachers and College staff were members. Under the command of Majors Mackenzie and then Macdermott, they patrolled the College grounds by night. The *Wellingtonian* of June 1940 commented 'Many of us have not decided whether a mundane, but undisturbed night's rest is not preferable to a night of adventure,' although luckily those involved were attacked by nothing more deadly than the virulent local

Memories of Wellington College in the 1940s

mosquitoes. The dawn patrol were permitted to go to bed on their return at 5am, and to sleep late.

The role of the Home Guard changed during the course of the War, but the platoon remained active until the end of 1944, almost 600 boys serving in total. The 1942 Year Book commented on the great advantage of all Home Guard members also serving in the JTC, meaning that they were already accustomed to military training and drill.

Meanwhile the JTC itself had new priorities: the 1940 Year Book states that it aimed 'to turn out efficient Section Commanders, who will pass on to OCTUs [Officer Cadet Training Units] as quickly as possible.' Training was revised and improved, while Field Days and parades continued but the main difficulty faced was a shortage of rifles and ammunition. Nevertheless, they were keen. One OW recalled a thriving illicit trade in pocket-knives, and how he and his friends were all convinced of their readiness to take on German parachutists in close combat, should the need arise.

After the War, Corps life returned to a more 'normal' footing, but all 1940s OWs will remember participating. Many recall Field Days which took the form of mock military engagements against other schools' Corps. A particular trick, potentially dangerous, was to insert pencil stubs into the rifle barrels, to be fired along with the blank ammunition! Although the War was over, most 1940s OWs felt that the Corps was a useful preparation for the two years compulsory National Service which awaited them on leaving school.



▲ Demonstration of machine-gun mounted in anti-aircraft role, 1942

Our new History and Heritage website

We hope that by now you will have heard about our new Wellington College Heritage website, a place to showcase and explore the College's fascinating history and heritage.

The website address is:
www.wellingtoncollegehistory.co.uk

In particular, this site is the home of our recent 'Wellington Through The Decades' project, to which all those who left Wellington prior to 1962 were invited to contribute. The wealth of material which so many of you provided has enabled us to build a rich and vivid picture of life at Wellington during the 1940s and 1950s. These reminiscences have been compiled into pages on topics such as food, living conditions, study and leisure, and are now available for you to browse. More topics are still to be written up, and we will be adding these over the coming months.

If you were at Wellington during those years and did not contribute to the project, it's not too late! We would love to receive your memories of that time. They will all be added to our archives, and as much content as possible will go onto the website in time.

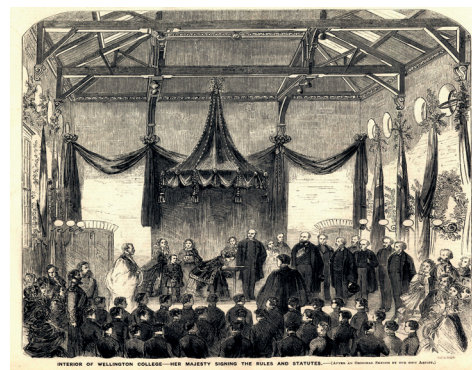
In addition to these pages, the website also contains unique archive films of the College

in past decades, as well as recordings of all our recent online heritage talks and events. You can also listen to podcasts recorded by College Archivist, Caroline Jones, on aspects of Wellington history, and explore content from some of the exhibitions which have been staged at College.

If you need help accessing the site or have any questions, please contact us at community@wellingtoncollege.com.

In the months and years to come, the website will grow, with more content on different topics being added, so don't forget to check back regularly. We do hope that you will enjoy exploring our unique heritage.

▼ Engraving of Queen Victoria at the College's opening, 1859



▲ Original design for the College by John Shaw, c.1855

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 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 children of deceased Army officers at 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 110% 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 is gratefully received.

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