



## 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!

**“Thank you for your Waterloo Society paper. The picture of Arnold Potter in his Rolls reminded me of the time he took a group of Lynedoch boys (me included) to the Discovery Exhibition in London in 1952 where we saw the Dome of Discovery, the Skylon and so on, a great and memorable day out.”**

*Alastair Stirling (L 52)*

## Memories of Wellington College in the 1950s

### All that Jazz

Jazz music first became popular at Wellington during the 1930s, but enjoyed another wave of popularity during the 1950s. Many of the responses to our current ‘Wellington Through The Decades’ project have mentioned this phenomenon. Some traced its introduction to boys in their dormitory who attended London jazz clubs and heard Humphrey Lyttelton play, while another mentioned a group of Irish boys who played Jazz records on the Hill gramophone. However it arrived, jazz was soon to be heard through many of the dormitories whenever boys had spare time,



▲ Jazz ensemble formed by Charles Bovill (M 58) and friends

arousing equal measures of love and hate! A letter to the Wellingtonian in 1955 pleaded for the formation of a Jazz Club, on the grounds that ‘those of us who are less fond of it would be relieved from the grievous torture frequently inflicted by it in our dormitories.’ The signatory, Roger Ryall (Picton 1951-56) has no memory of writing the letter, and thinks he may have submitted it on behalf of someone else!

The next year, a Traditional Jazz Club was indeed formed. It was limited to a membership of fifteen and met fortnightly in the Chaplain’s classroom, where the members listened to records and sometimes talks. For the next few years it was very popular, although whether this resulted in any less exposure to jazz in the rest of the College is debatable!

Of course, many students were inspired to play jazz themselves. Our photograph shows an ensemble formed by Charles Bovill (Murray 1954-58) and his friends, inspired in particular by listening to Sidney Bechet’s *Petite Fleur*. Others will remember the Crowthorne barber, Denis Strudwick, who played in a dance band and was always happy to chat about music and even host

boys for impromptu ‘jam’ sessions. Several ‘Decades’ respondents mentioned David ‘Dig’ Scholey (Benson 1948-53), later Sir David, President of the Waterloo Society and a College Governor, a talented trumpeter, remembering his inspirational trad jazz sessions and crediting him for their introduction to a lifelong love of the genre.

This passion was by no means universal. One OW responded to the ‘Decades’ questionnaire with the words ‘I hated jazz and still do.’ Many Wellingtonians of the time preferred classical music, while others enjoyed the popular ‘crooners’ of the day, music from stage musicals such as *Oklahoma* and *South Pacific*, and even Harry Belafonte’s calypso. Rock’n’roll seems never to have been popular, although one OW recalls Elvis Presley’s *Hound Dog* being played until it wore out in the Talbot in the mid-1950s.

What popular music do you remember from your time at Wellington? We’d love to hear more!

## Memories of Wellington College in the 1950s

### The Sanatorium

Almost all Wellingtonians of the 1950s will have some memories of a visit to the Sanatorium, for treatment of illness or injury. Our 'Wellington Through The Decades' questionnaire has brought in many recollections of the 'Sanny' and its staff.

Presiding over College medical care throughout the 1950s was Dr Hawkins, who lived in Heatherways with his family. He is remembered as calm to the point of laid-back, never fazed by even the most serious injury and giving the impression of suspecting everyone to be a malingerer unless proved otherwise. Nevertheless, those who had cause to receive treatment from him found it to be universally excellent.

Dr Hawkins was supported by the Matron in charge of the 'Sanny': until 1957 Miss Hall, after her Miss Attenborough. Miss Hall is remembered as 'a rather grand lady... formidable, whom it was not advisable to cross', but all who stayed in her Sanatorium described the experience as 'comfortable', 'efficient' and 'civilised.' Several, such as Anthony Bruce (Benson 1951-56) chair of OW Society and Governor, remarked on how pleasant it was to be 'out of school for a while, well looked after and fed and a chance to lie in bed and listen to the radio.'

Some also remembered her assistant nurses, particularly if they were young and pretty. One respondent told the story of Miss Hall's admirable discretion when she encountered him with a young lady on a train to Guildford, somewhere he certainly should not have been!

One medical intervention in particular seems to have stuck in the memory of OWs. One recalls that 'whatever the ailment, whether seen by the doctor or matron, the cure always seemed to be a painful penicillin jab in the bottom', while another described 'the discomfort of daily jabs with penicillin (still a new-fangled medication) into one's posterior.'

The 1950s was an age when infectious disease was still rife, culminating in the Asian Flu epidemic of 1957 which was of course a global event. It hit Wellington at the beginning of the Michaelmas term, and in the space of three weeks 471 of the 659 boys at College had been affected. The Stanley had the worst rate, 47 of their 49 boys becoming ill, and on the worst day, 71 students were taken into the Sanny. It soon became full, and in all seven dormitories and houses were used to nurse the sick. Many of our respondents recalled being billeted in other dorms during epidemics, and one

mentioned finding a letter for him, kindly left by the previous inhabitant, which began 'Dear Sanny Weed...' Martin Kinna (Murray 1953-58) had a very serious case of the flu and 'was found thrashing about in my bed in my 'tish' by an agency nurse. Dr Hawkins was summoned and carried me to his car and got me to bed in the Sanny. I remember waking from a deep sleep to find three nurses by my bed. I asked what time it was and they said "You mean what day is it, you have been unconscious for over forty-eight hours." He credits the Sanny staff for saving his life.

After the epidemic, College pioneered annual flu inoculations, which soon proved effective. Dr Hawkins' daughter wrote that 'the story goes that the boys who lined up for the injection had to keep moving, if they hesitated they would get a second dose!' No doubt today's Wellington students will have equally fascinating tales to tell of the coronavirus pandemic in years to come.

▼ Dr Hawkins



▼ The Sanatorium



# 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](http://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](mailto: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*  
[msl@wellingtoncollege.org.uk](mailto:msl@wellingtoncollege.org.uk)

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# THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY LEGACY NOTIFICATION

If you decide to include Wellington in your Will, it would be a great help if you could let us know by completing and returning this form. This pledge does not commit you in any way. It is simply a statement of your current intentions. Your response and any subsequent correspondence or discussion will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## IN CONFIDENCE

**I wish to include a legacy to Wellington College in my Will.**

Full name:

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Address:

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Postcode:

Telephone:

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Mobile:

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Email:

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Signature:

Date:

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To help us with our planning it would be extremely helpful if you could estimate the value of your proposed gift in today's terms:

£

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Please return this form to:

**Wellington Community Office,  
Wellington College,  
Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU**  
**Thank you for your support.**

community@wellingtoncollege.org.uk +44 (0)1344 444023

**wellycom.net**

Registered Charity 309093



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