

## The Sassoon Family Bench

The Sassoon family oak bench has recently been restored and is believed to be the oldest bench still in use around the cricket pitch at Sandroyd. It was donated to Sandroyd School in 1939 by Humphrey Frederick Sassoon, Richard Joseph Sassoon and John Philip Sassoon and credited in the 1939 edition of the Sandroydian.

All three boys were the sons of Major Frederick Sassoon and Margaret Lucy Sassoon and they lived in Roehampton when attending Sandroyd which at the time was based in Cobham just before the start of the second world war. The Sassoon brothers were all keen moth hunters during their time at Sandroyd! All of the boys went on to Stowe School after Sandroyd.



**Humphrey Frederick Sassoon (H.F.S)** was born on August 18th 1920 and he died on May 5th 2014 aged 93 in Los Angeles, California, USA. He emigrated to the United States in 1964. He achieved a Bachelor and Master of Arts in Literae Humaniores, Oxford University, 1946; Bachelor in Agriculture, Oxford University, 1948; Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science, Bristol University, 1964. He was a Sergeant in the British Army from 1941-1946. Humphrey married Mary Patricia Boord on 8 June 1956

**Richard Joseph Sassoon (R.J.S)** was born on May 15th 1923 and died on 10th April 1945, aged 21. He was promoted to flying officer on 1st April 1944. He was shot down and killed whilst flying a Lancaster over Leipzig on a mission to bomb the Wahren Railway yards. Richard was the pilot.

**John Philip Sassoon (J.P.S)** was born on February 23rd 1925 and died on 13th July 2017, in Western Australia, aged 92. Most of his career was spent in some form of education, namely in Uganda and then running the external department of London University. He retired early to concentrate on his main interest, the study of ancient civilizations in particular Sumer. He wrote two important books, From Sumer to Jerusalem, the Forbidden Hypothesis, and Ancient Laws and Modern Problems, The balance between justice and the legal system. John married Rosemary Waley on March 31 1958.

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