



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Annual Report & Accounts 2016

The Annual General Meeting of the Association
will be held in the Old Library, Whitgift School
Haling Park, South Croydon, CR2 6YT

ON MONDAY, 12th DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM



THE PRESIDENT, LORD GRAHAM TOPE, WILL TAKE THE CHAIR

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Dec 12th, 2015.
- 3 To consider matters arising
- 4 To receive and adopt the Chairman's report
- 5 To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2016
- 6 To elect the President for the year commencing January 1st, 2016. The Committee proposes that Richard Bateman be elected.
- 7 To elect Vice Presidents for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that the existing Vice Presidents be re-elected and that Andy Hooper, Andreas Dracoulis, Mark Endersby and Ian Cotton be elected.
- 8 To elect the Chairman for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that Jonathan Bunn be elected.
- 9 To elect the Deputy Chairman for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that Philip Burley be elected.
- 10 To elect the remaining officers and other members of the Main Committee for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that the following be re-elected and elected:
Representative of the Whitgift Sports Club: Sam Barke
Hon Treasurer & Secretary: Mark Endersby
Elected Members: Richard Blundell, Keith Hopkins, Nick Somers & Yeboah Mensa-Dika.
Co-opted Members: David Stranack, Stuart Woodrow, Ian Flanagan & Peter Ellis (School Representative)

(Reminder: Members may by notice in writing no later than December 1st propose for consideration by the Committee the names of candidates for nomination as Vice Presidents but shall not themselves nominate candidates for election. Members may nominate candidates for election as Officers and members of the Committee by giving notice in writing to the Secretary not less than seven clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting and place them before the Annual General Meeting for a proposer and a seconder.)

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Committee has appointed David Straw, Richard Blundell, Ian Flanagan, Nick Flood, James Stremes & Jonathan Bunn to serve as directors of OW Trustees Ltd and has re-elected Nick Somers to sit on the Committee of the Whitgift Benevolent Society.

- 11 To approve Membership Categories & Subscriptions as follows:

Full	Residing within 20 miles of Haling Park	£50
Country & Overseas	Residing more than 20 miles from Haling Park	£40
Staff	Past and present staff of Whitgift School	£40
Under 28	Under the age of 28 on Sept 1st of the current year	£30
Parent	Parents paying into the AMS	(nil)
Sports	Full Playing OW members of the Whitgift Sports Club	(nil)
Life	Members who have paid a lump sum in advance <i>(Currently standing at £1,000)</i>	
Student	Open to any current 6th Former	(nil)

(All rates subject to a Hard Copy Supplement if member requires correspondence by post -£12 UK, £20 Europe, £25 rest of the world)

12 RESOLUTION

The Committee proposes a change to the wording of Clause 5(iii) of the WA Constitution to read: "The Chairman shall be elected annually. He shall not serve for more than three consecutive terms unless nominated for re-election for a further term or terms by a **two-thirds majority** of those present and voting at the meeting of the Committee which considers his nomination."

NB "two thirds majority" replaces "unanimous resolution"

- 13 Any other business.

OUR PRESIDENT DESIGNATE - DR RICHARD BATEMAN



Richard was born in Croydon and attended an old fashioned "3Rs" state junior school before getting a Council scholarship to Whitgift, where he spent seven of the most enjoyable years of his life. That was followed by five years at King's College, after which the University of London was naive enough to allow him to practise dentistry on the general public! He developed an interest in Orthodontics and currently runs three practices. He was on the OWA main committee in the late 90s, taking over as Chairman in 2001, a role he fulfilled for eight years. He played cricket for the OWCC from 1974, although his principal sport of hockey was played at Purley as the OWHC was then just a Sunday side. When hockey was rained off, he would occasionally play rugby for the Extra 'A's. Squash for the OWSRC was also a regular midweek pleasure until his back gave way. Today music fills a little of the gap and he is a flautist for the Biggin Hill Concert Band and the OW Corps of Drums. When not pulling teeth, he races cars and plays golf. He looks forward to his Presidential year - whilst acknowledging that he is 'following in some very impressive footsteps'.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2016

It is with pleasure that I am able to report another successful year for the Whitgiftian Association and one that marked the launch of our first fundraising initiative - the WA Bursary Appeal.

Some of us were fortunate to have attended Whitgift on a scholarship or bursary, in hindsight an extraordinary privilege made possible by the Foundation fulfilling John Whitgift's edict that his schools should be accessible to all children within the Croydon community. Even in today's austere financial climate, the Foundation is funding bursaries to the tune of over £2m a year. Currently there are 147 boys (11% of the school roll) on bursaries. But this situation can no longer be sustained - or, at least, not if the many boys who deserve a place are to be accommodated.

I know many OWs still find this hard to contemplate, brought up as we were in the belief that the Foundation was immensely rich and a bottomless pit which would provide funding for bursaries - not to mention capital improvements at the School - forever. The reality is this hasn't been the case for several years.

So what has changed? Firstly, the old Government Assisted Places Scheme was abolished in the 1990's, having provided a substantial number of places for local children at independent schools including Whitgift. Secondly, fifteen years ago fees were £9,000 a year. Now, they are *double* that.

Of course, this problem is not unique to Whitgift. Throughout the independent sector, schools are having to deal with the problems of rising fees, a climate of austerity and reduced interest on investments. Set against this, we have a great School whose Founder wished to help local boys benefit from an outstanding education. It is time for us to help.

In the last four months, Old Whitgiftians have very generously donated £35,000 to the bursary appeal - some by making cash donations, some through their wills and legacies, others by giving money on a regular basis by standing order. Our target through to next year is to raise a minimum of £125,000, which will pay for one boy to start school in 2017.

We know better than anyone what an education at Whitgift can achieve; academically, socially, on the sports field, in the theatre and concert hall - as well as in every other area of life. Our Founder wanted every deserving child in Croydon to have this chance. Please call Naomi in the WA office on 020 8633 9926 or you can make your donation online.

Elsewhere, our events and reunions continue to attract a wide and varied cross-section of OWs. In May more than thirty OWs, partners and family members enjoyed a special day at the School starting with a presentation on first world war aviation by Sqd Ldr David Linney OW (1959-66), followed by an exclusive tour of the Exhibition, lunch in the Edwardian Café

and admission to the School gardens.

On Friday, June 17th, our WA Annual Dinner, hosted by our President, Lord Graham Tope, was held at the House of Lords. Not surprisingly given the venue there was not a spare seat in the house, including a gratifyingly high percentage (more than a third) of OWs who had left school this century. In fact, photos posted to social media channels were seen by over 3,000 people and widely shared, "liked" and "tagged" by the younger OWs.

Talking of younger OWs, other months saw a number of less formal reunions, of a kind often preferred by them. For example, in July, Stephen Deadmon (1988-96), Dominic Edwards (1988-96) and Andreas Drakoulis (1991-96), held a dinner for forty-six members of their year group in the Old Library followed by drinks at Croham Road. Anyone wishing to arrange a reunion should get in touch with the WA office.

Having announced his retirement last year, we have been keenly awaiting the appointment of Christopher Barnett's successor. In April we learned that he was to be Christopher Ramsey, currently headmaster of The King's School Chester. Mr Ramsey will take up post in September, 2017 and I know all OWs will join with me in wishing him every success as he inherits a school which Dr Barnett has left in fine shape.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new Chairman of the Whitgift Foundation, Chris Houlding, who was appointed at the beginning of the year. Chris went to Trinity and has a long record of service as a Foundation governor. We look forward to a continuing and strengthening relationship with the Foundation under his chairmanship.

Meanwhile, it has been a good year for the Whitgift Sports Club, which now enjoys a membership approaching a thousand, due largely to its flourishing junior sections. All of this has happened under the stewardship of Alan Cowing and Richard Velderman, both of whom retired in September having spent a huge amount of time at Croham Road during the last three years. We owe them a debt of thanks. A new board is now in place and we wish them all success in furthering the Club as an increasingly influential asset within the Croydon community.

I must also extend thanks to Graham Tope who has been an excellent President. He has brought charm and distinction to the role, worked hard to get to know as many OWs as possible, hosted a magnificent Annual Dinner and attended nearly all our other events.

Finally, this will have been my fourth year as Chairman of the WA and my last. I have received enormous support and help from many others who feel equally passionate about our Association and the future of the School. I hope to continue to be involved and will give every assistance to my successor.

Thank you, it has been a privilege.

PIP BURLEY, Chairman, Whitgiftian Association, December 2016

HALING PARK - PETER ELLIS OW (1991-98), SECOND MASTER

AFTER another exciting year, I am delighted to report on the fantastic activities and achievements of 2015/16.

Outstanding results were achieved in the summer exams; testament again to the dedication and hard work of the students and the staff. International Baccalaureate results were our best ever. Our average points total of 40.8 out of 45 puts us third in the league table of UK schools offering the IB and the top all-boys school in the UK's 2016 IB league table. Over half the IB grades awarded to Whitgift pupils were a grade 7, the top result possible: this is an extraordinary achievement. At A Level, the A*B rate was 89% with 23% of all grades being at A*. At GCSE, 82% of all grades were at A* or A, maintaining our performance of over 80% at A*/A with 47% of grades achieved at A*. There was exceptional success in gaining places at top universities with over 80% of pupils securing admission to their first choice university including 21 at Oxford and Cambridge.

Boarding at Whitgift is thriving with 108 students. Demand remains in excess of supply and the White House continues to be a popular choice for flexi-boarding. 19 different nationalities are currently represented which ensures a welcomed diversity to the House. In July and August, the Whitgift Summer School, who make use of the Boarding House, had a very successful second year, welcoming 184 students from 22 different countries over five weeks of the holiday period. Once again, many Whitgift and Old Palace pupils were on hand to join the daily programme at the Summer School as Student Hosts. We were fortunate to have a number of Whitgift teaching staff involved in the Summer School this year who, along with many specially-recruited experienced teachers, completed a team of 43 staff who delivered an exciting programme of activities. If you would like to help in any way with the Summer School then do get in touch.

The School's First World War Exhibition, "Remembering 1916" has now had visitor numbers of over 21,000. The Exhibition has now been extended to 16 April 2017. It continues to attract critical acclaim, with a near 100% excellence rating from the public on Trip Advisor, and major coverage in the National Press. The Chief Executive of Cactus TV (a major supplier of programmes to the BBC) was so impressed during her visit that she has commissioned a film of the Exhibition. The Exhibition is well worth seeing and is open daily from 10.00am - 5.00pm.

Performing Arts events at Whitgift remain varied, popular and of an exceptional standard. For the annual First Form play production last November, the audience was treated to four 'bite-sized' portions of drama in the form of "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations", "James and the Giant Peach", "Emil and the Detectives" and "The King's New Clothes". In December, tying in with the Exhibition, the Upper School took on R.C. Sherriff's iconic "Journey's End", which is set in the trenches near Saint-Quentin, Aisne, towards the end of the First World War. In March, a cast of Upper School actors, together with girls from Old Palace and Croydon High School, performed the gruesome "Sweeney Todd", truly mastering the eccentric characters. It was the turn of the Lower School in June, who took us on a seafaring adventure to "Treasure Island". More recently in October, we thoroughly enjoyed the Sixth Form play, "The Call" - two evenings of entirely student-led drama, showcasing the very best of Sixth Form theatrical talent. In early December, we



eagerly await the School's production of "Hamlet", which promises to be an extraordinary experience and an exciting challenge for our young actors. We are also staging the opera "Eugene Onegin" in March. I would recommend both these outstanding productions and do visit the Events page on the Whitgift website for more information on all of the events.

In Music, the Whitgift Choristers returned to St Paul's Cathedral for Evensong in February and OW Tim Posner gave a wonderful cello recital in March.

Also in March, we enjoyed "Strictly Come Brassing" which showcased Whitgift brass players of all ages and standards to compete in the annual Whitgift Brass Prize. The choirs of Whitgift School and the Croydon Minster, along with our Piano Scholar, Jeffrey Macsim, treated the audience to an evening of "Mozart at the Minster" on 19 March. In July, we held a major event, 25 years of Whitgift Music, which focussed on the talent and vision of Whitgift Music over the years. Many Old Whitgiftians, including Grig Cuciuc, Tim Posner, Dilyan Todorov, Geddy Stringer and Anthony Strong, put on a series of outstanding performances. The evening also featured an excerpt of "Carmen", performed by opera singer David Durham.

Our annual Autumn Collection Concert took place in Big School this year due to the temporary closure of Fairfield Halls whilst renovation works take place. We look forward to a fantastic music programme as we head towards Christmas. Following their recent success at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, the Chamber Choir will make their Choral Evensong debut visit at St Albans Cathedral. This will be followed in November by a collaboration with the Choirs of Croydon Minster and His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts for an evening of Venetian choral and orchestral music for Monteverdi: Vespers of 1610. Whitgift Choristers will start the festive season as they did last year by singing traditional carols at The Ritz while guests enjoy afternoon tea! The Choristers and the Chamber Choir will, again, celebrate Christmas with a concert at St George's in Hanover Square.

We have enjoyed visitors to the School over the last twelve months. On National Poetry Day, performance artist, Talia Randall performed and also ran an assembly and poetry workshops. Additionally, we have welcomed authors, Neil Hanlon and Paul Dowswell. We were most excited that our Patron, HRH The Duke of York, KG took time to visit the Exhibition this month. The Academic Enrichment programme has continued to impress with a number of speakers including Dr Jonathan Hare who discussed Hollywood Science, and Robert Harrap who offered a Buddhist perspective on peace.

Whitgift, once again, opened its gardens to the public over the summer for the National Gardens Scheme Open Day and the London Open Garden Squares Weekend. Visitors were able to enjoy the School's gardens and wildlife areas. Revenue received through admissions and plant sales went to the scheme charities.

Whitgift students have continued to excel in sport this year. Our portfolio of National titles has been impressive and many pupils, current and past, have represented their country in their chosen sports. Most notably was Old Whitgiftian Joe Choong, who was chosen to compete as part of the GB Modern Pentathlon team in the Rio Olympics this year. Joe, at 21 years old, was the youngest selected in the Team GB pentathlon quartet, yet he secured a top 10 finish that bodes well for Tokyo 2020.

In Rugby, the 1st XV have won the Esher Presidents Cup and

have also reached the fourth round of the NatWest Cup following a fantastic win against Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School. Old Whitgiftians are excelling in rugby with nine OWs in the Premiership this season. In Hockey, twelve Whitgift boys have been selected to play in the England Hockey Futures Cup 2016 which is an annual four-day tournament for some of the best junior hockey players in the country, and is the main selection for the England U16 and U18 teams. In Football, current pupil Jamal Musiala has been selected for the England U16 training, a remarkable achievement for a U14 student. Recent leavers Luke Dreher and Nathan Baxter have been making excellent progress in their footballing careers with Luke now included in the first team match-day squad for Crystal

Palace and Nathan achieving the major recognition of being named in Chelsea's senior squad for 2016/17. In Fencing, Tariq Roach (U5) was ranked 1st place in the Cadet Epée following a very successful result in the U17 British Fencing ranking series. In Skiing, Piers Bellman (U6) has been called up to the Welsh national team and will compete at the Welsh Championship in January.

I do hope this summary has given you some insight into the goings-on at the School and the activities we can look forward to over the coming year. As ever, Old Whitgiftians are always very welcome to revisit Whitgift at any time and I would encourage you to do so - please contact the WA Office. School events are open to all so do check our website www.whitgift.co.uk/events.

CONTACTS & GENERAL INFORMATION

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Manager & Membership Secretary:

Vicky Burley, Whitgift School, Haling Park,
South Croydon CR2 6YT. 020 8633 9926
office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

Fundraising: Naomi Newstead

WHITGIFT SPORTS CLUB

Club Manager: Suzanne Piscina.

The Clubhouse, Croham Manor Road, South
Croydon, CR2 7BG. 020 8686 2127,
office@whitsports.co.uk

OW TRUSTEES LTD

David Straw, 52, St James Road, Hampton
Hill, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 1DG
davidstraw@grimstontrust.co.uk

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION TRUST

Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon
CR2 6YT. 020 8633 9926
wat@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

EDITORS

WA Newsletter (bi-monthly)

Richard Blundell, 7, Peaks Hill, Purley,
CR8 3JG. 020 8660 2171
editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

OW News (Annually) Nigel Platts

2, Briton Crescent, South Croydon, CR2
0JE. 020 8651 0855
nigel.platts@yahoo.co.uk

AFFILIATED CLUBS/SOCIETIES

Benevolent Society: Peter Dunn (Hon Sec).

67, Russell Hill Road, Purley, CR8 2LL 020
8660 5535
peter@thefc.freeserve.co.uk

Corps of Drums: Chris Carter-Pegg

c/o WA Office, Haling Park, South Croydon,
CR2 6YT 020 8633 9926
owdrums@yahoo.com

Fives: Nick Woolfenden

1, Kingsley Mews, Brooker's Road,
Billingshurst, RH14 9SL.
01403 783015 / 07737 478537.
nickw5s@hotmail.com

Golf: Peter Gale

7, Fitzroy Place, Reigate, RH2 7AP
07718 641511 peterbgale@sky.com

Prayer Fellowship: Tony Ramsey

5a, Pevensey Park Road, Westham, Pevensey,
BN24 5HN. 01323 764557.
ant.ramsey@gmail.com

Shooting: Simon Lacey

c/o WA Office, Haling Park, South Croydon,
CR2 6YT 020 8633 9926
secretary@wvrc.org.uk

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

East Anglia: John Humphries

2, Lucas Lane, Ashwell, Baldock, SG7 5LN.
01462 742475.
john.humphries@springrise.co.uk

South West: David Stranack

The Granary, Manor Farm, Strete,
Nr Dartmouth, Devon, TQ6 ORU
01803 770748 david@stranack.co.uk

Oxfordshire, Warwickshire & West Midlands:

Graham Leeke, The Grove, Oakley Wood
Road, Bishop's Tachbrook, Leamington Spa,
CV33 9QE 01926 882675
graham.leeke@btinternet.com

HOME AND OVERSEAS

CORRESPONDENT

We currently have OWs scattered around the
globe, and if you wish to be put in touch with
an OW in a particular country or continent,
we will do our best to put you in contact.
Tel: 020 8633 9926

ADDRESS CHANGES

Of over 9,000 registered OWs, 1,791 are
currently "lost". If we do not know address
and contact details, particularly e-mails, we
cannot send reunion invitations or other
news and events, so if you move house, please
do remember to let us know. You can update
your contact details at any time by writing to
or telephoning the office or by sending an e-
mail to: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk.
Please e-mail the office if you know the
whereabouts of any other OWs who you
think we may not know about.

STANDING ORDERS

Some members may have standing orders
that have to be identified individually from
the WA bank statements and entered
manually into our computer system. Direct
debits and PayPal subscriptions are processed
automatically and save the WA both time and
bank charges. Please make the move this year
from standing order to direct debit. If you

have an antipathy to direct debits, at least
please ensure your SO is updated to reflect
current subscription rates (see page 1). Direct
Debit forms may be obtained from the
website or from the office.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION

In view of ever increasing postal charges, we
have expanded our use of e-mail distribution
facilities where possible. This Annual Report
has been sent to you as a pdf attachment and
is available on the WA Members' area of the
website. If you know any members who are
unable or unwilling to receive e-mail
attachments, it may be downloaded from the
WA website.

**Please ensure we have your e-mail
address.**

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

As we maintain personal records of members
on a computer database, we have to comply
with the rules of the Act, although we are
exempt from "Notification". We do not pass
members' data to commercial organisations or
to non-members.

WA ON THE NET

You will find the WA website at:
www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk. The site
contains a current calendar of events, news,
recent and past issues of the WA Newsletter,
and WA News, membership details and
subscription rates, the Constitution, together
with a list of officers, past Presidents & Vice
Presidents and celebrated Alumni. You can
also book and purchase tickets for WA and
School events and take advantage of the
generous Members' Discounts that apply via
the Members' Log-In area and WA Shop. You
can also pay subscriptions online as well as
take advantage of offers and promotions.
Please e-mail any comments or contributions
to: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

WHITGIFT BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

We ask all Old Whitgiftians to consider a
legacy to the Society, as we continue to strive
to help the less fortunate in the wider
Whitgift family. All OWs are encouraged to
contact the Secretary c/o: the WA Office if
they hear of or suspect that an Old
Whitgiftian could be in need of help.