

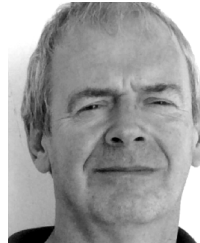


# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

## Notice of Annual General Meeting and Annual Report & Accounts 2017

The Annual General Meeting of the Association  
will be held at the Whitgift Sports Club  
Croham Manor Road, South Croydon, CR2 7BG

ON MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2017 AT 7 PM



THE PRESIDENT, RICHARD BATEMAN, 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 12th December, 2016.
  - 3 To consider matters arising
  - 4 To receive and adopt the Chairman's report
  - 5 **RESOLUTIONS**  
Members are advised that if they cannot attend, it will be assumed that they are voting *in absentia*, in favour of the changes proposed below, unless they inform the Secretary to the contrary by 26th November, 2017. Both of these resolutions must be passed by at least 75% of those members present and entitled to vote at a general meeting.
    - (a) The Committee proposes a change to the wording of the first sentence of Clause 9(b) of the WA Constitution to read: "The constitution shall not be altered except by resolution passed by a majority of at least 75% of those present and entitled to vote at a general meeting".
    - (b) The Committee proposes a change to the wording of Clause 7 of the WA Constitution to read: "At the Annual General Meeting an independent examiner shall be appointed to examine the accounts of the Association, and a statement of the accounts for the year ending 31st August certified by the independent examiner shall be included in the Annual Report and Accounts".
  - 6 To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts for the years ended 31st August 2016 and 31st August 2017
  - 7 To elect the President for the year commencing January 1st, 2018. The Committee proposes that Lord Freud be elected.
  - 8 To elect Vice Presidents for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that the existing Vice Presidents be re-elected and that Nigel Bowthorpe, James Coates and Dominic Edwards be elected.
  - 9 To appoint the elected officers for the period until the next AGM. The following are proposed: *Chairman* Jonathan Bunn, *Deputy Chairman* Pip Burley, *Secretary* TBA, *Treasurer* Andrew Gayler.
  - 10 To appoint the remaining elected members and confirm the appointment of co-opted members as follows:  
*Elected Members:* Richard Blundell, Nick Somers & Yeboah Mensa-Dika. *Co-opted Members:* David Stranack, Stuart Woodrow & Peter Ellis (*School Representative*), Sam Barke (*Whitgift Sports Club Representative*).  
**(Reminder:** 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 Whitgiftian Benevolent Society.
- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 11 | To approve Membership Categories & Subscriptions as follows: |  |
|    | <b>Full</b>  | Residing within 20 miles of Haling Park <b>£50</b>                                   |
|    | <b>Country &amp; Overseas</b>                                | Residing more than 20 miles from Haling Park <b>£40</b>                              |
|    | <b>Staff</b>   | Past and present staff of Whitgift School <b>£40</b>                                 |
|    | <b>Under 28</b>  | Under the age of 28 on Sept 1st of the current year <b>£30</b>                       |
|    | <b>Parent</b>  | Parents paying into the AMS <b>(nil)</b>   |
|    | <b>Sports</b>  | Full Playing OW members of the Whitgift Sports Club <b>(nil)</b>                     |
|    | <b>Life</b>  | Members who have paid a lump sum in advance<br><i>(Currently standing at £1,000)</i> |
|    | <b>Student</b>   | Open to any current 6th Former <b>(nil)</b>  |
- (All rates subject to a Hard Copy Supplement if member requires correspondence by post - £12 UK, £20 Europe, £25 rest of the world)*
- 12 Appointment of independent examiner.
  - 13 Any other business.

## OUR PRESIDENT DESIGNATE - LORD FREUD



David moved to Selsdon in 1957 and came to Whitgift in 1962, where he followed an arts orientation. After a year travelling he went to Merton College, Oxford, where he read Philosophy, Politics and Economics. His first career was as a journalist, training in Cardiff on the Western Mail and then moving to the Financial Times, where he spent his last four years writing the Lex Column. In 1984 he began his second career, in the City, where he specialised in equity markets, IPOs and transport. His most dramatic deal was the flotation of Eurotunnel in the teeth of Black Monday. He ended up as Vice Chairman at UBS before retiring in 2003. Afterwards he wrote a book on the experience called 'Freud in the City'. A spectacular failure as a retiree, he took up a job as CEO of the Portland Trust, which worked on both sides of the Israel/Palestine divide. He also produced a report for the Labour Government on welfare to work in 2007, called 'Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity'. This led to a job as Conservative Minister for Welfare Reform (2010-16), where he worked to reshape the British welfare system. In particular, he was involved in creating and shaping Universal Credit, to break the poverty and welfare traps.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2017

"QUITE A YEAR" doesn't do it justice, but my first as Chairman of the Whitgiftian Association is certainly memorable.

As I write this at the start of November 2017, it's fair to say that a year ago, thoughts of Chairmanship were far from front of mind. However, needs must and I accepted the nomination to succeed Pip Burley who had held the role for four years.

Pip was an excellent Chairman with a deep passion and clear vision for the WA. I hope to represent the WA with the skill, sense and commitment shown by Pip. I am delighted that he remains Deputy Chairman - his wise counsel and advice have been of tremendous support to me and the Committee in my first year of office. Thank you, Pip, for your contribution over the years and your continued support, and thank you for the very warm welcome and support since.

Few Chairmen have the honour of welcoming a new Headmaster to Whitgift, but I was delighted to do so as Christopher Ramsey became the School's 27<sup>th</sup> Head in September, joining from The King's School, Chester. It seems an age (18 months) since his appointment was announced, but he is already making his own mark on School life.

While still early days, I have been able to discuss with Chris at a high level how School and WA should work together. I am pleased to say that we are deeply aligned in our view that both bodies should work closely together to support the needs of future and existing OWs. Relevance lies at the heart of our work - ensuring that we are relevant for all our members in a rapidly changing world.

We are exploring how best to do this - from administrative support, to fundraising, member services, careers and mentoring - and I look forward to reporting back further on this soon.

Our first fundraising initiative - the WA Bursary Appeal - grew in strength during the year with a series of excellent events - all designed to boost the appeal while entertaining. From Pip Burley's sell-out "Golden Age of Song" evenings - evocative tributes to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's songwriting greats - to sumptuous Dinners at The Athenaeum, London, and Green Templeton College, Oxford, OWs have come together to raise funds for this excellent cause so close to our hearts.

Many OWs were only able to attend Whitgift due to a scholarship or bursary. A staggering 46% of boys at Whitgift receive an element of financial support. It is a wonderful percentage, but sadly one that is not sustainable without a significant rethink about how such financial support is funded. To take a tune from Pip's "Golden Age of Song"... "*things ain't what they used to be*". It is a perfect storm of fund-sapping. No more Government Assisted Places. A doubling of fees in little

more than a decade. The school roll is twice the size it was when I was a pupil in the 1980s. Conversely, cash calls for capital projects across the Whitgift Foundation continue to grow and drain the funding source.

However, we have made a good start. Old Whitgiftians have very generously donated £150,000 to the bursary appeal - a blend of donations, wills and legacies, or regular standing order. It seems a lot, and OW generosity must be commended, but this sum represents just enough to pay for one boy to start school. We will look carefully at how we target our spend to ensure we adhere to John Whitgift's edict that his schools should be accessible to all children within the Croydon community.

Please do support us if you are able by calling Naomi in the WA office on 020 8633 9926 or making a donation online.

Elsewhere, our events and reunions continue to attract a wide and varied cross-section of OWs. I was delighted to be joined by my father Richard (1946-'54) at the OW South West Dinner in Tiverton in September, one of a number of OW gatherings around the world.

We also enjoyed a memorable WA Annual Dinner in May, our 122<sup>nd</sup>, hosted by our President, Richard Bateman, at the Royal College of Surgeons with more than 130 OWs of all ages in attendance. A host of less formal reunions took place throughout the year - year groups, prefects, teams - and I am looking forward already to my year group celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our leaving the school. Anyone wishing to arrange a reunion should get in touch with the WA office.

While our affiliated clubs and societies report regularly in the newsletter of their activity, it has also been a good year for the Whitgift Sports Club, with healthy membership buoyed by vibrant junior sections. The new WSC board is to be congratulated for developing a robust financial plan which has seen the club break even for the first time in living memory. The WA is working with WSC to see how we can make the club a sustainable stand-alone operation.

I must also extend thanks to Richard Bateman who has been an excellent President and support to both myself and the Committee. He has brought a dry wit, warmth and a deep love of the School to the role, worked diligently to attend as many WA events as possible, hosted a magnificent Annual Dinner and been generous in his time.

As first years go, it is somewhat different to when I arrived at Haling Park in 1980 with a satchel and new pen set. Many challenges lie ahead, but I am confident that we will meet these and ensure that the WA remains relevant for all its members.

*Jonathan Bunn, Chairman, Whitgiftian Association,  
December 2017*

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

I am delighted to report on the fantastic range of activities and achievements at Whitgift School during 2016/17.

The dedication and hard work of the students and the staff resulted in some impressive results in the summer exams. International Baccalaureate results were excellent with an average points total of 39.7 out of 45, with two boys achieving a top score of 45. Whitgift was, for the second year running, named as the top all-boys school in the UK's 2017 IB league table. Over 80% of the IB grades awarded to Whitgift pupils were a grade 6 or 7, which is a fantastic achievement. At A Level, the A\*-B rate was 88% with 58% of all grades at A\*/A. At GCSE, 85% of all grades were at A\* or A, maintaining our performance of over 80% at A\*/A with 51% of grades achieved at A\*. There was exceptional success in gaining places at top universities with most students securing admission to their first choice university.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) carried out an inspection of Whitgift in May 2017. The results were published in June and the School was delighted with the outcome. As well as passing every aspect of the inspection in terms of compliance, we achieved the top rating of Excellent in both the quality of pupils' achievements and the quality of their personal development. The Lead Inspector noted that: "the excellent achievement of pupils is underpinned by the commitment of leadership, management and governance to ensuring an environment of ambitious expectation which promotes in pupils the desire to aim high and work for success." Staff and students can be truly proud of their achievements.

Boarding at Whitgift remains full with 110 students. Demand remains in excess of supply and the White House continues to be a popular choice for flexi-boarding. 21 different nationalities are currently represented which ensures a welcomed diversity to the House and the School. The Whitgift Summer School ran for a third year for five weeks during the summer holidays and welcomed 205 students from over 20 different countries. We were fortunate to have around 50 Whitgift staff involved alongside returning externally recruited teachers. Just under 100 Whitgift boys and Old Palace girls also took part in a range of activities from afternoon project-based lessons, sports and creative activities, meals and evening activities.

In June, a dinner was organised to mark Dr Barnett's retirement, with many staff, friends and family in attendance; it was a fitting farewell to the Headmaster after a truly remarkable 26 years of service. The Trinity Term ended with the annual Celebration of Whitgift Life and we were delighted to have Whitgift's Patron, HRH The Duke of York, KG, as our Guest of Honour. The Duke paid tribute to Dr Barnett, highlighting his many accomplishments during his tenure at the School. We welcomed the new Headmaster, Mr Christopher Ramsey, in September and we are sure he will continue to set Whitgift's sights high.

Performing Arts events at Whitgift were high-quality, varied and ever popular. For the annual First Form play last November, the audience was treated to a collection of tales by the Brothers Grimm. In December, Lower and Upper School pupils joined forces with professional film, television and theatre actors to deliver a triumphant performance of 'Hamlet'. In collaboration also with Old Palace and Caterham School, it was a remarkable play directed by actor-turned-English teacher, Dan Pirrie. In June, we enjoyed a majestic performance of 'The



Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', with many cast members having never starred in a Whitgift production before. We look forward to the School's production of 'The Government Inspector' in December; I would encourage Old Whitgiftians to come along to Whitgift productions wherever possible. Please do visit the Events page on the Whitgift website for more information.

In Music, the eagerly awaited opera, 'Eugene Onegin', was held in Big School in April. Featuring girls from Old Palace, staff, students, parents and professional singers, it was a truly spectacular performance of Tchaikovsky's best-loved opera. Whitgift ran the International Music Competition in April 2017, which resulted in four talented musicians joining the School as music scholars in September 2017. The annual Autumn Collection Concert in Big School was a huge success, once again sold out. We look forward to a fantastic music programme as we head towards Christmas. Whitgift Choristers will perform traditional carols at The Ritz and Choristers, with the Chamber Choir, will, again, celebrate Christmas with a concert at St George's in Hanover Square.

At the end of April, Whitgift chartered the magnificent Goodwood House, in West Sussex, for a very special 'East meets West' Arts Day; the School's second venture at this historic venue, the first being in 2003. The event was a huge success and featured a wonderful programme of outstanding Whitgift talent and special guests. The event included music, drama, art, crafts, tea ceremonies, demonstrations by the Whitgift Corps of Drums and Whitgift fencers, and croquet and golf lessons. The day ended on a high, figuratively and literally, as we were amazed by a spectacular air display, which included dare-devil tumbles. It was an incredible day and we look forward to returning to Goodwood House in the future.

We have enjoyed many visitors to the School over the last twelve months. On National Poetry Day, we welcomed author and poet, Karl Nova. In September, sports personalities Sally Gunnell and Matt Dawson came to speak to the Upper Third Form about meningitis. The Academic Enrichment programme has continued to impress with a number of guest speakers including OW Ollie Stoten who recounted his Antarctica explorations, Jo Ruxton, producer, who discussed the effects of plastic packaging on sea life, Aardman Animations who showcased their work, and Benevolent AI who explained the use of AI in the development of drugs. In March 2017, we were immensely proud to host the Right Reverend Rowan Williams who gave an insightful talk about the role of religion in society.

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's charities.

An impressive range of building and renovation work was carried out over the summer, which included three laboratories being renovated and the water gardens having a full refurbishment. This October the Fives Courts are having a very welcome and perhaps overdue refit.

Whitgift students have continued to excel in sport this year. Our portfolio of National titles remains impressive with team and individual wins in sports as diverse as Hockey, Golf, Table Tennis and Skiing to name but a few. Additionally, many pupils, current and past, have represented their country in their

chosen sports. Special mention goes to Connor Head for his achievement in international fencing and George Simpson and Jai Patel for their successes in GB Modern Pentathlon. Ten Whitgift students have been chosen for England Hockey squads this year, which is an outstanding achievement. The Hockey teams also deserve particular congratulations for winning a clean sweep of National Outdoor Hockey titles at U14, U16 and U18 levels. OWs continue to progress in their sporting careers. In particular it is worthy of note that Elliot Daly was selected to join the British & Irish Lions on their recent tour to New

Zealand and Victor Moses played a main part in the Chelsea side that were crowned Premiership Champions in 2017.

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 again I would encourage you to do so – please contact the WA Office. School events are open to all and are published on our website:  
[www.whitgift.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/events).

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## CONTACTS & GENERAL INFORMATION

### WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

#### Manager & Membership Secretary:

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[office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk)

### WHITGIFT SPORTS CLUB

#### Club Manager:

Suzanne Piscina.  
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### WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION TRUST

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### OW TRUSTEES LTD

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### EDITORS

#### WA Newsletter (bi-monthly)

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#### OW News (Annually) Nigel Platts

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### AFFILIATED CLUBS/SOCIETIES

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#### Prayer Fellowship: Tony Ramsey

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### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### East Anglia: John Humphries

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#### Oxfordshire, Warwickshire & West Midlands:

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Road, Bishop's Tachbrook, Leamington Spa,  
CV33 9QE 01926 882675  
[graham.leeke@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

The new General Data Protection Regulation  
comes into force in May 2018, and we will  
shortly be contacting members for permission  
to hold their details on our database. We  
would appreciate your cooperation so that we  
may continue to communicate with you  
effectively. Please be assured that we *never* pass  
data to commercial organisations or to non-  
members without express permission.

### WA ON THE NET

You will find the WA website at:  
[www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](http://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 make payments online. Please e-mail  
any comments or contributions to:  
[office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk)

### WHITGIFTIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

**Benevolent Society:** Peter Dunn (Hon Sec).  
67, Russell Hill Road, Purley, CR8 2LL 020  
8660 5535 [peterdunn75@gmail.com](mailto:peterdunn75@gmail.com)

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.