



# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT, Tel: 020 8633 9926 [www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk)

President - Sir KEITH LINDBLOM



Chairman - PIP BURLEY



Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

NEWSLETTER 358 - March / April 2015

## A Musical Night At the Movies

The WA and School were pleased to welcome over sixty Old Whitgiftians, current parents and staff members, old and new, to the Whitgift Concert Hall on Thursday 26th February for the annual WA Music Soiree.

Film-themed entertainment was provided by pupils, staff and OWs to the extremely high standard we have come to expect. A delicious buffet meal was provided by the ever-impressive School caterer during the interval and a cash bar ensured nobody went thirsty!

The evening was opened by the School's Soul Choir singing "Oh Happy Day!", followed by a moving rendition by Lower Sixth Former, Pavan Rao, of the Japanese song, "Hana wa Saku". International Music Scholars, Hristiyan Hristov (U5), Atanas Yanchev (L6) and Hristo Dunev (U6) impressed with their virtuosic playing of the marimba, piano and violin respectively. They have talent to match, or even surpass many professional players. Watch these guys closely!

Jacob Wilson-Watty (L5) sang Bill Withers' beautiful "Ain't No Sunshine" with real emotion and the Senior String Quartet moved us with their playing of the Intermezzo from 'The Godfather'.

But the highlights were surely the more 'mature' performers. WA Chairman, Pip Burley, amused everybody with his performance of the outrageous "Joyce the Librarian", Director of Orchestral Music, Phil Winter, showed off his jazz talents at the piano and Director of Music Development, Rosie Whitfield, truly wowed the audience with her performance of "Lola", ably accompanied by the Music Department's very own "Perky Peacocks".

Huge thanks must go, as always, to Richard Blundell and the Music Staff who pulled this event together as easily as they tune their instruments: no fuss and with utmost professionalism.

For information about upcoming Whitgift music events, go to [www.whitgift.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/events). The "Royal Festival Hall Spectacular" on 26th March is one, in particular, that we recommend you try to get along to.



Atanas Yanchev with the Senior String Quartet



WA Chairman, Pip Burley



Hristo Dunev, accompanied by William Church



Rosie Whitfield and the "Perky Peacocks"

## Message from the Editor

It's been a busy start to the year, both for the WA and for the School, as you'll see as you read through this edition. OW support at events is always much appreciated, so do try to get along if you can. I had the pleasure recently of attending a regional meeting of the Association of Representatives of Old Pupils' Societies (AROPS). I was interested to learn of both the challenges faced and successes achieved by other schools, similar to our own. Common to all, was a recognition of the importance of engagement with alumni. I hope that this Newsletter serves in that regard and brings to you the information you are interested in. If not, do get in touch! Always happy to hear your feedback and receive your stories.

*Richard Blundell, Editor, WA Newsletter*

## 'Old Codgers' Reunion

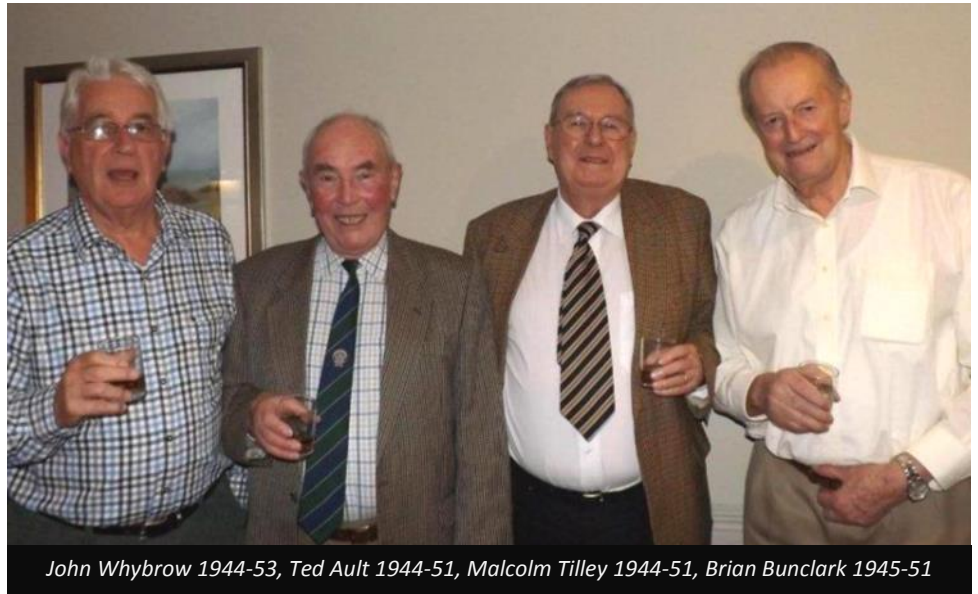
After months of emails around the world, four octogenarian OWs and their wives managed to meet up for nostalgic gossip at a couple of West Country locations in December 2014. As the participants came from Cornwall, Devon, Scotland, South Wales and South Africa you might guess the logistical hoops involved in the organisation.

John Whybrow (1944-53) and his wife, Sue (who had never had the somewhat dubious pleasure of experiencing a Christmas in the Northern Hemisphere) visited all the way from South Africa. We met for lunch on Wednesday the 17th, with David Dornom (1945-49) and his wife Paddy. It transpired that John and David had not met since they had, metaphorically speaking, bumped into one another on the high seas around 1954. This was while John was engineering his National Service and David was earning his crusts as a proper matelot.

On the Friday, we headed for the Crown at Crucis where we were joined by Edward (Ted) Ault (1944-51) and his wife Nancy from Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire and also Malcolm Tilley (1945-51) all the way from Edinburgh. And yes, after the initial shock we did recognise each other! And so began a weekend of reminiscences and even the production of an ancient photograph by David of three weedy characters on Big Side in their first long trousers in 1947. Malcolm is sure that he had not seen David since they met in Yokahama in 1963 and that he and I had not met since 1953 at my parents' home in Purley.

It was unanimously agreed that we all had a really wonderful time. The only fly in the ointment was the serious colds that swept through everyone, although perhaps the viruses were not sufficiently impeded by the contagious urge to drink out of wet glasses.

Brian Bunclark (1945-51)



John Whybrow 1944-53, Ted Ault 1944-51, Malcolm Tilley 1944-51, Brian Bunclark 1945-51

## Calling All OW Freemasons!

Following the demise of the Adeste Lodge of OW Freemasons in 1984 after 50 years of service to the craft, the Freemasonry scene has been rather quiet even though the sister lodge of Whitgift (OMW) and the Surrey Schools Chapter have continued to function.

However Bill Newman (1947-52) has expressed a wish to contact other OW Freemasons who may be interested in meeting under the Whitgift family banner.

If you are interested, please give him a call directly on 01483 755681 or alternatively, contact the WA Office on 020 8633 9926.

## Calling All OW Liverymen!

The Whitgiftian Association is planning a dinner in London in the near future, for Old Whitgiftian liverymen and others with a connection to the City.

In order that we can update our database, it would be most helpful if you could let us know if you are or have been a member of a livery company together with dates, name of livery company and any office you may have held.

Please email the WA office or call us on 020 8633 9926.

## OW Chess Club

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual match against the School resulted in a firm win for the Old Boys 7½ to 2½ and so we retain the Leonard Barden Trophy for another year.

Anybody interested in playing chess for the Old Boys please contact Nigel Callow on 020 8655 2292.

## World War I Exhibition

As a tribute to the 251 Old Whitgiftians who lost their lives in the Great War, the School is presenting another major exhibition, in March 2016, entitled *Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front*, and will include a display of many interesting items from the period.

The School would be delighted to hear from you if you have any letters, diaries, memorabilia of any kind, or a high-quality item of Edwardian furniture which you would be willing to lend for the six-month duration of the Exhibition.

If you can help, please contact the WA Office.



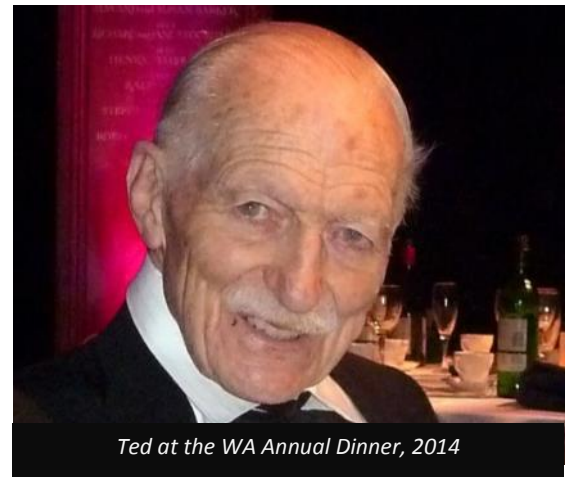
## Remembering Ted Westnedge

Edward John ("Ted") Westnedge joined Whitgift in 1929 when it was still located in the Victorian buildings in North End and moved with the School to Haling Park in 1931. At the time of his death in January 2015 at the age of 98, he was probably the oldest Old Whitgiftian and the last of that line of Whitgiftians who were educated in central Croydon.

Ted was one of five brothers at Whitgift. Bill (1938-43) and Peter (1946-53), now living in the United States, survive Ted. Tony (1940-47) died three years ago and Bert (1936-39) was killed in action at Monte Cassino in 1944 while serving as a Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade. Ted's sons David (1953-59) and Anthony (1955-62) followed their father to Whitgift: there was at least one Westnedge on the School Roll in every year from 1929 to 1962 - the impact of the Westnedge family on the School was such that on his first day Anthony was asked by his form master whether he was "the last of the Westnedges".

It is not surprising that Whitgift had a great part in Ted's life. From leaving School he was involved in OW matters, whether as a rugby player or a committee man. He even met his wife Jean at an OWRFC dance (although to be fair they had met before - at kindergarten). He was President of the OWA in 1969 and was the instigator of the Advance Membership Scheme which did so much to improve the Association's finances. Into late old age, Ted was a regular visitor to Croham Road, as a rugby spectator or at reunions and family lunches - it was splendid to watch him drive into the club in his open top sports car. Of course there were numerous OWs at the funeral, along with a bugler from the School to sound the *Last Post* and *Reveille* and Colonel Brian Kay (1948-54) representing the HAC, which Ted joined shortly after leaving School and before his wartime service in the Royal Artillery where he reached the rank of Major. Ted, you are a hard act to follow and will be fondly remembered.

*Nigel Platts*



## Jeff Mathieson's 90th Birthday


Pip Burley and Vicky (who many of you will know from her work at the WA office) were delighted to have been invited to celebrate the 90th birthday of Jeff Mathieson, OW (1936-40) on Sunday 15th February. Family and friends were invited by Jeff to Tunbridge Well's "Hotel du Vin" for a wonderful lunch, organised and steered entirely by the great man himself. No mean feat for a nonagenarian!

WA Chairman, Pip, was honoured to have been asked to give a speech to mark the occasion but was quickly upstaged by Jeff's own, and very amusing, rendition of "Albert and The Lion", made famous previously by Stanley Holloway.

It is worth noting that when he was just 88 years old, Jeff was the first OW to sign up for WA membership using the online system, disproving the commonly held belief that only the younger generations can handle technological advances!

Congratulations to Jeff! From all at the WA. We look forward to reporting on your 100th.



  
WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION  
WA President  
**SIR KEITH LINDBLOM**  
*invites you to*  
The Whitgiftian Association's  
**ANNUAL DINNER**  
*to be held on*  
**Friday 12th June 2015**  
*at*  
The Caledonian Club, London

**ALL OWs WELCOME**

Book online at

[www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events)

## News from the School

To the teaching staff at Whitgift, the month of January and the first couple of weeks of February are known as Entrance Exam and Interview season. During the first couple of weeks of the new year, hordes of bright-eyed young boys descend upon the school to sit the rigorous entrance exam. In the ensuing weeks, many of them are invited back with their parents, to be led around the school by immaculately dressed Whitgift pupils to the various rooms in which the interviews take place which will ultimately decide the chosen few who will be lucky enough to be offered a place. Seeing these nervous young boys on a daily basis as I bustle round the school at break-neck pace to get to lessons on time, I cannot help but think of Charles Dickens' magnificent literary creation, Thomas Gradgrind, who at the beginning of the novel, *Hard Times*, addresses a group of expectant young pupils (not too dissimilar to those who make it through the selection process and end up in the hallowed classrooms of our beloved institution) and sees in front of him a "plane of little vessels then and there arranged in order, ready to have imperial gallons of facts poured into them until they are full to the brim." So what does the Whitgift educational experience hold in store for the 'empty vessels' that pass through our doors each year? Read on and see...

When you look at the other end of the Whitgift spectrum and focus on the current Upper Sixth and recent leavers, it becomes immediately apparent that the Whitgift 'vessel' is, indeed, filled with its fair share of facts, but a Whitgift boy is empowered to use them with complete autonomy to find his own way - and the results aren't half bad! A phenomenal 28 Oxbridge places have been offered to this year's leavers, one of the highest figures nationally for an all-boys school. Recent ex-master, Steven Rajavinothan, who has just finished implementing a superb debating programme at the school for the Third Form, narrowly lost in the finals of the world university debating championships, contested by London, Oxford, Harvard and, ultimate winners, Sydney. And, just last week, a Whitgift team entered and won a Spanish debating competition at Sevenoaks School. Mr Gradgrind would certainly be impressed - if a little bewildered!

The month of February saw two of Whitgift's longest standing traditions take centre stage: the House Music Competition and the Lower Third (or as

*Lower School Shakespeare*



you might remember it, Second Form) Shakespeare evening. Indeed, as I sit here typing in my office, I am surrounded by the remnants of the two hugely enjoyable and successful evenings: a purple wig here, a retractable dagger there, a rogue cymbal teetering precariously on the edge of a bookshelf - all par for the course for a Whitgift English teacher/Housemaster! Cross's were victorious in the Music, with their blend of dazzling Marimba playing and Wu Tang rap appealing most to the judge's taste. This win sees Cross's secure second place in the overall table at the half stage of the year; they are still some way behind current leaders, Mason's, though!

The First Fifteen's run in the Natwest Cup came to an end in the seventh round, away at the highly-fancied St Joseph's School, Ipswich. Having edged past old foes, St Benedict's, by one point a week earlier, the team put up an incredibly spirited performance at Joeys, only to succumb 20-12 at the final whistle. Given that the side was ravaged by injuries, with no fewer than four first choice backs unavailable (including both schoolboy internationals), the scoreline represents a mighty effort from the boys, including four U16 players who manfully embraced the challenge of stepping into the injured players' boots. Things look good for next year!

In other sports news, the hockey teams still continue to astound, with the win rate of all sides being up at about 90%! Having said that, the First Eleven - shock, horror! - have actually lost couple of games! Are they a team on the wane?.... Certainly not! The two teams they lost to, both by a 3-2 scoreline, were Purley Men's Hockey Club and Exeter University, so I suppose we can let them off. In between these 'friendly' fixtures, they also found time to win their fourth National Indoor title in five years and progress emphatically through the early rounds of the Outdoor Nationals by beating Trinity 6-0 and Dulwich 15-1.

That means that their cumulative score against Trinity in the three fixtures they have played this year is 40-1 - a statistic I hope brings a wide grin to OWs the world over!

Whitgift's U13 footballers have achieved the outstanding feat of reaching the Investec ISFA Cup final for the fifth consecutive year. The team travelled to Lochinver House School, in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, to take part in the semi-finals, and registered an impressive 2-0 win. The final will take place on 5 March, at Burton upon Trent's Pirelli Stadium, home of Burton Albion FC.

Another sport that Whitgift has traditionally achieved a great deal of success in is fencing, and the current crop of swordsmen are no exception, winning the majority of their friendly fixtures and a whole host of titles at the recent Surrey Championships and the South East Championships, which are used as British Youth Championships qualifiers. In addition, Upper Third Former, Tariq Roach, has achieved the outstanding feat of being selected to represent Great Britain at the next international fencing event, in Bratislava, as part of the U17 team. This is particularly significant considering he is only 13 years old. This follows on from competing for the first time ever in the U16 category, and winning, in the Elite Épée Series, a national competition that was held in Surrey, in November.

Finally, 32 boys and staff recently took part in the annual Tough Guy challenge in Wolverhampton. This race has now ensconced itself within the school to become a new tradition. The fact that several of the boys who successfully completed it are also those with Oxbridge offers, provides another affront to Mr Gradgrind's educational ethos and just goes to show that, for a Whitgift boy, there is more to life than mere facts!

*Dominic Edwards*



# News from the Whitgift Sports Club

## Rugby

Coming out of the Christmas break and moving into the second half of the season we can reflect on a largely successful first half. The 1stXV sit second in the league, behind a strong Battersea Ironsides team, and still in promotion zone. Good wins against Old Cranleighans, Kingston & Law Society added a few deserved bonus points. Old Boys may be interested to hear that, although we remain a committed "open" club, the 1stXV regularly contains over 80% past pupils from the school, with many recent university leavers joining this season. This is a testament to the hard work that has gone in to strengthen links with school rugby over the last few years. The Wanderers and Warriors continue to provide social, enjoyable rugby. For the first time in recent memory we had a first half of the season without having to cancel a single reserve fixture due to lack of interested players and, although the score may not have always been on our side, good spirit (particularly in the bar after) has always been on show.

Outside of the league we had another successful Uni Boys XV v Club XV fixture on Saturday before Christmas and, of course, the annual Boxing Day fixture v Old Alleynians. After a good win away last year we were hopeful for more of the same this year in front of the home crowd, but it wasn't to be. A young and

## Hockey

The hockey club continues to thrive with four mens' sides and two ladies' sides taking to the field every Saturday and a Mixed side playing on Sundays.

Club training night for all teams is Wednesday, at Whitgift School on the Astroturf under floodlights from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. If you are interested in playing for the club, please contact our illustrious Chairman, Andy Hooper at [andyhooper@gmail.com](mailto:andyhooper@gmail.com) with players of all standards welcome.

The side best placed in their respective league at the moment is the Mens' 2nd team, who currently sit top of their table with six league games remaining. One of the highlights of the hockey season so far was the inaugural Whitfest hockey game between the Mens' 1st team and a side comprising of Whitgift students now at University, which ended in a thrilling 7-7 draw (players pictured right), which was followed by some hearty celebrations by both teams at the Clubhouse afterwards.

*Jon Foley*



talented Old Alleynian team edged us out to win 41-35.

Unfortunately we have been plagued by serious injuries, with no fewer than 5 players requiring surgery for broken bones of one sort or another. We wish them all well in their recovery. Of course, these injuries do us no favours with regard to player numbers so if you fancy a run out then get in touch!

*Sam Barke*

## Football

It seems hard to believe that, at the time of writing, the football club has almost completed fixtures for the 2014-15 season. Normally, at this time of year, we would have a couple of months of fixtures left to play but our season will be over in a matter of weeks. This is mainly thanks to the quality of our pitch, allowing us to fulfil all our home fixtures when other clubs have suffered from waterlogging at times of bad weather. But it is also an indication of how tough we found the start of the season, with several key members departing over the summer including Chris Liu, Charles Gans-Lartey and Roshan Sivarajan. Both teams entered two cup competitions: the Surrey FA cup and a League Cup, and both teams exited each competition at the first attempt.

As the season has progressed, our fortunes have improved: We have built a larger pool of members to select from with several recent school leavers joining the club. In the first team, Jamie Lammas has bolstered midfield and current Sixth Former, Saagar Patel has brought skill and trickery to the wing. Our second team have benefited from having a regular keeper in Jack Sealy, where for the whole 2014 season we were rotating the role. Jack Drawbridge and Charlie Armstrong have been almost ever present since joining the club this season, and have brought depth and versatility to the second team squad.

Both teams are now fighting to stay in their divisions. With a couple of positive results from their remaining games, the first team should avoid relegation. New manager John Mensah has steadied the ship, since Farhan Rahman decided to take a less involved role as an occasional player.

The second team looked certain to be relegated after picking up only three draws from their first ten games. But in the last month, their fortunes have changed, winning three wins and a draw. With a couple more wins, they can secure their place in the division for next season. Mike Tarlton, a founding member of the football club, continues to command the centre of defence, whilst Rafael Walton is challenging for our second team golden boot in his golden years.

It has been pleasing to watch the playing squad grow and the overall quality of our players improve this season. We are of course always on the look out for new players, ideally with eleven a-side experience. If you are interested in joining please email [oldwhits@gmail.com](mailto:oldwhits@gmail.com).

*Michael Ferguson*

## OW Fives Club

The OW5s Club kicked off the 2014-15 season with success at the inaugural national Rugby Fives Association South East Open, winning plates in both the singles (Tony Hamilton) and doubles (Nick Woolfenden) competitions.

Our own annual OW5s Club doubles competition in December attracted a good number entrants, with mixed pairs of OW5s players and current schoolboys - Tony Hamilton & Sarath Prakash proved victorious in a competitive tournament (photo attached).

Forthcoming (or recent, depending on how soon you're reading this) fixtures include our annual tour to the South

West, playing teams at Sherborne, Tiverton and Bristol over the weekend 13-15 March 2015.

Local supporters are warmly welcome to join us at the courts, or over a beer afterwards! More details from Nick Woolfenden (contact below).

We continue to enjoy regular social 5s sessions at the Whitgift school courts on Thursday evenings (followed by equally enjoyable socialising at the Croham Manor Road Clubhouse), as well as playing occasionally on Sunday mornings.

We've welcomed several new/returning players onto the courts over the last couple

of years and more are always welcome. Do contact me ([nickw5s@hotmail.com](mailto:nickw5s@hotmail.com)) if you'd like to play or want any more information.

*Nick Woolfenden*



## OW Golf Society

Any OWs, teachers or parents who play golf are welcome to join the OW Golf Society. Here's a catch-up on the end of last season.

The Autumn meeting was held at Royal Ashdown, on a Sunday to allow the 'workers' to participate. Our President, Mike Wilkinson, won the Autumn Cup with 40 points (and it was his birthday too!); 2nd was David Mason with 35 points; 3rd James Wilde with 34 points.

Thirteen players took part in the Tour to Kent and East Sussex in October. The weather was kind on two days but we experienced all the hazards of Links golf, with high winds and some rain lashing into us on the Littlestone back nine. (Mind you, we came across a golfer being photographed in honour of his having holed-in-one on the 377 yard 11th hole - unfortunately it was not one of our party!) The final outcome was a 3-shot win by Captain Mike Berners Price, with VC Tony Harris a gallant runner-up who suffered a 4-shot cut to his handicap on the last day - imposed, yes, by the Captain! Many thanks to John Gould for organising a thoroughly enjoyable tour, now an established feature.

In other action over the latter months of 2014, the Barnett Trophy was retained by the School in a 3-1 win over the OWs, our Grafton Morrish team lost to Charterhouse (yes, them again!) in the second round of the finals, and Peter Blok overcame Nigel Huxtable in the individual knockout final at Rye.

2015 sees Whitgift drawn to play Sherborne in the first round of the Halford Hewitt in April, and the society AGM and annual dinner take place at the School on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Our main meetings over the summer will be at Effingham, Addington Palace, the Addington, and Royal Ashdown. Anyone wanting to join us at the dinner, or at any of our playing meetings, should contact Peter Gale at [peterbgale@sky.com](mailto:peterbgale@sky.com). *Peter Gale (Secretary)*

## Dates for the Diary

Fri	6 March	WSPA Quiz Night	School	19:30
Sat	7 March	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12:00
11-14	March	School Play "The Crucible"	School	19:30
Fri	20 March	Founders Day Service	Whitgift House	07:00
Fri	20 March	OW Golf Society AGM & Dinner	School	19:30
Sat	21 March	School Rugby Tour Ball	School	19:30
Thur	26 March	School Music Concert	RFH	19:30
Sat	28 March	OWRFC Supporters' Lunch	WSC	12:00
Fri	10 April	Halford Hewitt Golf v Sherborne	Deal	08:20
Sat	18 April	OWRFC Dinner	WSC	19:00
Fri	12 June	WA Annual Dinner	London	19:00
Sat	17 Oct	South West OW Regional Dinner	Tiverton	19:00

## What's On - Fixtures

Sat	7 March	1st XV v Law Society	H	L	15:00
Sat	21 March	Wands XV v Farnham	H	L	15:00
Thurs	26 March	National Sevens		Rossllyn Park	
Sat	11 April	Wands XV v Esher	H	L	15:00

Further information and booking details at [www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events)

## 500 Club - Spring Draw



Spring Draw Winners:-

**Ian Mackay - £100**

**Vicky Burley - £50**

**J B Squires - £50**

**Alan Cowing - £50**



For £12 a year win hundreds of pounds in our quarterly draws! For an even greater chance of winning in our Special Draw, visit [www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/3-for-a-100](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/3-for-a-100).

## Recent Deaths

The WA has sadly been informed of the following losses:

*Michael Atterbury* (1946-52) died 21st January, aged 79

*David Brett* (1955-61) died 10th February, aged 71

*Gerrard Gaved* (1943-49) died 4th October, aged 82

*F C Grover* (1939-47) died in 2009, aged 80

*Anthony Hyland* (1946-53) died 3rd March 2014, aged 78

*Keith Kingston* (1944-49) died February 2015, aged 82

*Phil Maunder* (1936-39) died 25th January, aged 92

*Major Anthony Parker* (1936-40) died 22nd January, aged 91

*Bill Pickering* (1960-68) died 5th February, aged 65

*John Pollock* (1946-55) died 10th February, aged 78

*Ted Westnedge* (1929-35) died 26th January, aged 98