



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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President - DAVID STRANACK

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NEWSLETTER 353 - May / June 2014

Inaugural Achievement Award Dinner



WA President David Stranack Presents Award to Lt Col James Coates

The Inaugural Achievement Award Dinner, held on Saturday 29th March at Whitgift School, in honour of OW Lt Col James Coates was a resounding success. Thank you to all OWs who attended and gave generously to Lt Col James Coates' chosen charity, The Afghanistan Trust.

The dinner, held in Big School, attracted nearly 100 guests including the Headmaster Dr Christopher Barnett, Brigadier Neil Sexton (Old Whitgiftian) and the Deputy High Sheriff of Croydon, Colonel Ian McRobbie. During the evening, a video message was played from Head of the British Army, OW General Sir Peter Wall, Chief of the General Staff.

Lt Col Coates commanded the 3rd Parachute Regiment in the northern Nad-e Ali region of Helmand Province during 2010-



(l to r) Patrick Marsland-Roberts, Chris Wrigglesworth, Jack Furtado, Attiya Afghan, Brian Kay, Mary Blundell and Paul Champness.

2012, where he implemented a new counterinsurgency strategy, known as "Precision Strike". The strategy successfully dismantled local insurgent networks by combining high-level intelligence, the latest surveillance technology and the use of precision missile attacks to target Taliban command with minimal civilian casualties. As a result, Nad-e Ali was handed over to the Afghans in August 2013.

Responding to the presentation of the Award by WA President David Stranack, Lt Col Coates said: "I owe so much to Whitgift for shaping me and providing the opportunities that led me to where I am today. I feel honoured to be here again. It's great for me to be able to set 3 PARA's last tour in Afghanistan into context and to highlight the extraordinary work of our soldiers as combat operations draw to a close this year. The tours were team efforts and I shall never forget the courage, commitment and deep professionalism of everyone involved."

Lt Coates' strategy attracted the attention of US General David Petraeus, Commander of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) and US Forces in Afghanistan, who said that James' tactics were "a most impressive way to do business".

Lt Col Coates was awarded the OBE in 2011. His citation read, "He set the benchmark across the whole of ISAF in Afghanistan as the exemplar in exploiting the emerging surveillance technology".

Lt Col Coates attended Whitgift from 1981-87 and since returning to the UK, has been a regular visitor to the School and a great supporter of the School's Combined Cadet Force.

The evening raised £3,000 for the Afghanistan Trust, a charity that helps re-build the lives of soldiers who return from Afghanistan having sustained serious injuries.



A note from the WA President, David Stranack

It was very worrying indeed when we learned that Newsletter Editor Richard Blundell was unwell and therefore unavailable to pull together the May / June Newsletter. We wish you well Richard in your recovery and hope to have you back for the July / August edition! Thanks to Vicky in the WA Office for stepping in as Interim Editor. Please be sure to book your tickets to this year's Annual Dinner, which will be held in Big School on 13th June. Details overleaf.

Music Soiree

The WA was proud to host a fabulous evening of music, in collaboration with Whitgift's exceptional Music Department and with guest of honour, OW Matt Kelly, composer and recent BAFTA winner in attendance.

As always, the proficiency and quality of performances by the current Whitgift pupils were outstanding, with many in the audience picking their chins up off the floor at the end of each piece! Highlights were Atanas Yanchev playing Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody and Hristiyan Hristov on Marimba.

Current School Captain Geddy Stringer gave an emotional performance of "Maria" and "Something's Coming", following soprano Max Sitter's beautiful recital of "Somewhere", all from the School's latest production of West Side Story. A delicious hot meal was served in the interval.

Other highlights included WA Chairman Pip Burley's rendition of three pieces he composed for the "Darling Buds of May" soundtrack, Whitgift's very own Rosie Whitfield's energetic performance of "Non, je ne regrette rien" and Paul Wilson's singing of Schubert's "Der Erlkönig", dedicated to Paul's mother who had sadly passed away the previous evening at the grand age of 99.

Thank you to the Catering staff who, as always, did a wonderful job, and to Richard Blundell for his work organising the event.



WA Chairman Pip Burley with BAFTA award winning OW Matt Kelly

Inaugural Founder's Day Auckland Meetup



Phil Holdway-Davis, Olivier Ball, Robin Ball, Alan Mitson (Trinity), Tim Forbes, Nick Lowe, Ian Lucas

The 22nd March was celebrated in Auckland this year at the inaugural New Zealand Founder's Day Meetup! Seven Old Whitgiftians were joined by an Old Mid-Whitgiftian at the appropriately chosen Speakers Corner English Ale House. The WA's thanks are extended to Phil Holdway-Davis for coordinating the venue, being a point of contact for those 'Down Under' and being an OW "beacon" as he proudly sported his OWRFC shirt.

Croydon Heritage Festival is a celebration of Croydon's rich and vibrant past, present and future organised by The Whitgift Foundation.

From **Saturday 21 June** to **Friday 4 July**, you are invited to explore Croydon's fascinating heritage through an exciting programme of events in collaboration with more than 70 local organisations. Find out more:

www.croydonheritagefestival.co.uk

1992-1995 Reunion



Over 30 OWs who left Whitgift between 1992 and 1995 assembled for supper in the Old Library on Saturday 26th April. A tasty two-course meal was enjoyed after a Tour of the School, kindly led by Whitgift's archivist, Bill Wood. For many attending, this was their first trip back to Whitgift since leaving over 20 years ago.

If you'd like to organise a similar reunion for your contemporaries, do please get in touch with Vicky in the WA Office, who will be happy to assist.

Whitgiftian Benevolent Society

The WBS is seeking new subscribing members to support the Society's aims as set out on the WA website. The standard annual subscription is £20, but many of our current members contribute more. We are also keen to hear of any Old Whitgiftian, or other member of the Whitgift Family, who may be in need of the Society's help. If you would like more information about the Society and its work contact the Secretary, Peter Dunn at peter@thefc.freemove.co.uk, or on 020 8660 5535.

Four Musketeers Tribute



John Branton, Bob Schad, Ken Nicholas and Dick Glynne-Jones

With a combined service of 170 years to Whitgift School, four retired teachers, all in their 80s, basked in the adulation of four generations of their former pupils at a dinner held in the newly refurbished Bowthorpe Room at the Whitgift Sports Club in Croham Road on Friday, March 25th.



Sir Jeremy Cooke delivers his speech

More than a hundred OWs aged between 35 and 75 gathered to celebrate the careers of Ken Nicholas, Bob Schad, John Branton and Dick Glynne-Jones. Pip Burley, Chairman of the Whitgiftian Association, said: "It must be



A toast to The Four Musketeers

very unusual, if not unique, for a group of pupils, some now well into their seventies, to be able to join together to acknowledge the debt we owe to four fine schoolmasters. They touched our lives and - for better or for worse - influenced the way we are today. Those years did indeed seem 'golden' and we hope that these four indomitable characters share the same affectionate memories of us as we do of them."

The French-themed dinner, prepared by resident Chef Richard Woodall, included French Onion Soup, followed by Coq au Vin and a selection of French cheeses. A highlight of the evening was a [video tribute by celebrated Old Whitgiftian actor, Martin Jarvis](#) (click to view online), filmed in his home in Hollywood. Other tributes came from retired Headmaster, David Raeburn and multi-award-winning author, Old Whitgiftian Neil Gaiman.

In proposing the toast to the "Four Musketeers", distinguished Old Whitgiftian, Sir Jeremy Cooke QC, said: "These men shaped our lives and we are lucky to have this opportunity to say 'thank-you'".

As the end of the evening each 'musketeer' was presented with a framed cartoon of the quartet as a memento of a special and moving occasion.



John Branton delivers his speech

OW 5s Club

The OW 5s Club recently escaped the South East for our annual tour to the South West. As always the socialising proved as welcome as the 5s – and generally less physically demanding! We greatly enjoyed the hospitality of OW Patrick Marsland-Roberts and his wife Annie in Sherborne, providing much appreciated refreshment after our match in the town. This also set us up well for the following day's game at Tiverton (photo attached). Tour tally – two wins out of two.

We've also played games against the Rugby Fives Association and Old Tonbridgians (a loss and win respectively) and look forward to taking on Whitgift School boys and masters shortly. We play social 5s at the school courts most Thursday evenings and occasionally on Sunday mornings. We're pleased to have welcomed several new and returning players onto the courts over the last couple of years and more are always welcome. If you'd like to play, do contact Nick Woolfenden at nickw5s@hotmail.com.



(l to r) OWs Messrs Andrews, Dalman, Ross, Norman, Higgins and, beyond two of our opposition, Hamilton

Whitgift Veterans Rifle Club

The Veterans' Full Bore programme commenced with the usual Practice Shoot at Bisley on 29th March on a bright sunny day, in direct contrast to last year when this shoot had to be postponed due to blizzard conditions and sub-zero temperatures! This year's well attended shoot resulted in some good scores at 600x, including a very good 46.2 ex 50 for Oli Raymond, a pupil in the Lower 6th and a member of our Junior Section.

The first of our regular full bore matches at Bisley - the LMRA League Round 1 - took place on 13th April and comprised shoots at 300x and 500x for which we entered one team. No results yet in.

Three further matches in May: Namely the LMRA Schools Veterans event over 300x and 600x for which we are entering two teams of four; the Surrey Veterans match for which we hope to enter two teams; and the LMRA League Round 2 for which we will enter one team of 6 as per Round 1. (Dates on back page.)

Our AGM was held in March at Whitgift Sports Club. As usual a well-attended and positive event, with a mix of admin,

well-earned trophy presentation and discussion.

Members agreed that the WVRG Committee may grant Honorary Membership to any individual who has given exceptional service to the Vets. In this respect it was unanimously agreed to award Honorary Membership of the WVRG to Ken Garside, an Armourer and a qualified firearms and weapon instructor for over 30 years. Ken has for many years been a keen supporter of the club and has provided invaluable assistance in both full and small bore.

The Whitgift School Rifle Club - now a junior section of the WVRG - moves forward with a firm core membership under the management of staff member Peter [PJ] Morrison. The WSRC has recently received Metropolitan Police approval and been awarded Club Status by the Home Office. With two shooting sessions a week, the boys are now moving up a gear in their shooting development.

OW Golf Society

The start of the season was marked by the society's AGM at the end of March, attended by 28 members who enjoyed dinner in the Old Library. The AGM itself saw Mike Wilkinson elected as new President and Tony Harris as new Vice Captain. As outgoing President, Mike Spanswick was warmly thanked for all his efforts on our behalf.

In April, our Halford Hewitt team had early success at Royal St George's. Round one was against Stonyhurst, and Whitgift ran out 5-0 winners; nonetheless it was fairly tense as three of the matches had to go down the 18th before being decided. The second round opponents were Charterhouse, traditionally very strong. That didn't faze Stuart Hollins' team! Whitgift won a high quality and exciting match 3-2 to record a rare victory against a team which has won the Hewitt on several occasions in the past. Unfortunately, an equally close encounter in round three, this time against Mill Hill at Deal, was lost by the same score, 3-2, but overall it was an encouraging week. Again, there was evidence of the talent emerging from the school golf academy; James Beck participated for the first time, and won all three of his matches, paired with the experienced Peter Hedges.

Mike Berners Price's Captain's Day took place on Thursday 24th April at Tandridge. The first main meeting of the year saw 42 players turning out, the highest number for some time, and we all enjoyed a great course in good condition and in good weather. You cannot ask for more, except that the dinner after the event, always a feature at Tandridge, was equally enjoyable.

This was the third year in a row that we have had a team from the School join us for Captain's Day, and Mike expressed the hope, shared by all, that this will become a tradition. Certainly they reduced the average handicap for the meeting, and played some of the best golf. Joe Carmody-Firth (playing off 1) took two of the nearest-the-pin prizes, whilst Harry Plowman-Ollington (aged 14, off 9) scored 41 points and came second in the individual event. Harry finished just ahead of Robert Hollidge (40 points) but just behind – by the single shot that he had got back on his handicap the previous weekend – Jeremy Stanyard, who won the Captain's Cup with a great 42 points. The team prize went to Kevin Powell, Don Anderson and Ken Anderson.

Peter Gale

The future looks good, with the prospect of matches versus other schools not an impossible goal. Well done PJ!

Like all clubs and societies, the Vets' future relies on loyal and supportive membership. I should like to remind readers that membership of the WVRG is open to current Whitgiftians, OWs, plus former and current, full or part-time, members of the teaching, CCF and WA staff, including family members thereof. Small Bore shooting takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the year at the school range (7-9:30pm).

If you are interested in following up a chance to revitalise old abilities or experience rifle shooting for the first time please contact Simon Lacey at secretary@wvrg.org.uk. *Alan Hunter*



THE WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DINNER 2014

FRIDAY 13TH JUNE

at Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT

President: David Stranack

Speakers: The President, Ian Watson OW, Clive Doig OW and
Dr Christopher Barnett, Headmaster, Whitgift School

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the 2014 Whitgiftian Association Annual Dinner will be held in Big School at Whitgift School.

The cost will be £65 for WA members, £75 for OW non-members and, as a special incentive for WA members under the age of 30, the cost will be £40.

Price includes: a Champagne Reception in the Quadrangle, followed by a three-course dinner in Big School. Wine will be included in the ticket price and a cash bar will be available.

Reception - from 7pm for 7:45pm. Dress - Black Tie

Please book online at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events or download the booking form from the website and return to the WA Office to secure your place. Discounted accommodation available. Check the website.

Telephone 020 8633 9926 or e-mail office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk
for further information or to check your membership status.



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OXFORD DINNER

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

in the Great Hall, Jesus College, Oxford

Jesus College, the only Elizabethan College in Oxford, has beautiful quadrangles tucked away in the heart of Oxford.

Tickets just £58 per person or £45 for OW undergraduates

Price includes: Pre-dinner drinks from 6.30pm in the Harper Room, a fine paneled room which is part of the lodgings of the Principal of Jesus, Lord Krebs and a three-course meal at 7.30pm, including wine, coffee, mints and a glass of port.

Dress Code - Black Tie (preferred) or lounge suits. Partners welcome.

Accommodation at the college is available at the cost of £70 for a single room or £90 for a double, inclusive of breakfast. Please contact:
simon.smith@jesus.ox.ac.uk quoting 'Dinner No: KX20551.'

Please book online at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events. Tickets will be issued in due course. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office on 0208 633 9926 or by e-mail to: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk
All applications should be received no later than September 2nd, 2014.

You are invited to the inaugural SUMMER SPORTSMAN'S LUNCH

Whitgift 1st XI vs. Dulwich

Saturday 21st June

from 11am

Ticket price: £30 for WA Members, staff & parents (£35 for non-members)

Price includes: Lunch with a cash bar in the Old Library with sandwiches and tea later

Book early to secure your place at

www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events

or email office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

News from the School

The School Musical 'West Side Story' was a major highlight this term. This magnificent production was staged over four nights with seats sold out two months before the show. Particularly impressive performances were seen from the two leads Geddy Stringer (Tony) and Talisa Tossell (Maria). The choreography was imaginative, creative and acrobatic and the orchestra, conducted by Philip Winter, provided dazzling music setting the tone for each scene. The stage crew and technical team did a thoroughly professional job in the staging and lighting of the show. A great evening's entertainment.



The 400th Founder's Day Service was a royal occasion; HRH the Princess Royal attended the celebration, having arrived by Helicopter which landed on Big Side, and afterwards had lunch in the Banqueting Hall at Old Palace.

There has been continued success in sport, especially in some of the newer sports being introduced at Whitgift. The Judo team achieved remarkable results in the recent Independent Schools Championships at High Wycombe. James Johnson, Clement Li-Rafael, Oliver Jones, David Saran, Christian Milotte and Todd Kelly all won Gold in their weight categories. James Hau won Bronze and to cap it all Whitgift won the team event!

The U13 football team won the ISFA Cup for the fourth year running beating Chigwell School 3-0 in the final; Callum Hudson-Odoi, a Chelsea Academy player, scored a hat-trick.

The U16 team have reached the final of the ESFA Cup; the team will play St Xavier's College, Liverpool at the Britannia Stadium, Stoke on 7th June.

In Modern Pentathlon six Whitgift pupils represented GB at an

international competition at Solihull during March. Henry Choong, David Pearson, Josh Miller and James Male at U18 and Charlie Goriup and Finn Slattery at U16.

On the rugby front, Stan South and Henry Cheeseman are to join the full-time Harlequins Academy at the start of next season. They have both represented England U18 this year.

The rugby season finished with many Sevens competitions, at various age groups, in which there was considerable success.

The hockey season still has some very important fixtures to be completed – the U13s, the U14s and the U18s have all qualified for the National Finals which take place at Cannock in May. There has been remarkable success for all hockey teams this year.

During the holidays many tours, exchanges and trips took place. The cricket season is about to get under way with some very promising cricketers in the 1st XI and in the other age group teams.

It is worth noting that there are four Old Whitgiftians on the Surrey CCC staff this year; Jason Roy, Freddie Van Den Bergh, Rory Burns and Jack Winslade and one Whitgiftian, Dominic Sibley (UVIth).

Events of note this term at the School are: Thursday 22nd May – Trinity Term Collection Concert in the Concert Hall; Friday 13th June – WA Annual Dinner in Big School; Friday 20th June – UVIth Form Graduation and Leavers' Ball; Wednesday 25th June, Thursday 26th June, Friday 27th June – Lower School Play, 'Lady Macbeth' in Big School; Sunday 29th June – Guy Johnson with the RPO and WCO Orchestral Concert in Big School; Friday 4th July – Celebration of Whitgift Life.

Phil Fladgate

Dates for the Diary

Sat	17 May	Surrey Veterans	Bisley	12:30
Sun	18 May	LMRA League Rd. 2	Bisley	08:30
Sun	18 May	OWGS Grafton Morrish	Royal Wimbledon	
Thurs	22 May	Trinity Term Collection Concert	Concert Hall	
Fri	13 June	WA Annual Dinner	Big School	19:00
Fri	20 June	UVIth Form Graduation Ball	Big School	
Sat	21 June	WA Summer Sportsmans' Lunch	Old Library	tbc
Wed-Fri	25-27 June	Lower School Play <i>Lady Macbeth</i>	Big School	19:00
Sun	29 June	Guy Johnston & RPO Concert	Big School	19:00
Thurs	3 July	OWRFC WW1 Graves Dinner	Old Library	19:30
Fri	4 July	Celebration of Whitgift Life	Big School	
Weds	9 July	WA Reunion for 1951-53 Leavers	Old Library	
Sun	3 Aug	OW Corps of Drums	Brighton Bandstand	
Sat	20 Sept	Whitgift School Open Morning		9-13:00
Thurs	2 Oct	WA Oxford Dinner	Jesus College	18:30

What's On

Sat	17 May	Whitgift 1st XI v New Hall	H	11:00
Sat	17 May	OWCC 1st XI v Esher	H	12:30
Sat	24 May	Whitgift Whitgift 1st XI v Hampton	H	11:00
Sat	31 May	OWCC 1st XI v Camberley	H	
Sat	7 June	Whitgift 1st XI v Brighton College	H	11:00
Sat	14 June	Whitgift 1st XI v Bradfield College	H	11:00
Sat	21 June	Whitgift 1st XI v Dulwich College	H	11:00
Sat	21 June	OWCC 1st XI v Malden Wanderers	H	11:30
Wed	25 June	Whitgift 1st XI v MCC	H	11:30
Fri	27 June	Whitgift 1st XI v Rondebosch Boys, SA	H	11:00
Tues	1 July	Whitgift 1st XI v Domini CC	H	16:00
Wed	2 July	Whitgift 1st XI v Langley Park School	H	13:00
Sat	12 July	OWCC 1st XI v Cranleigh	H	11:30
Sat	2 Aug	OWCC 1st XI v Cheam	H	11:30

More details at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events

Recent Deaths

The WA has sadly been informed of the following losses:

Paul Haken (1969-76) died 8th April, aged 55

Tony Eve (1966-73) died 11th March, aged 59

John Paul Clarke (1989-92) died 5th March, aged 35

Dr Robert Smith (1933-39) died 27th February, aged 94

Zane Phillips (1985-92) died February, aged 39