



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

# Old Whitgiftian News

2018-2019

*“Quod et hunc in annum vivat et plures”*





## WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION 2018-19

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*Immediate Past President:*

Lord David Freud

*Chairman:* Jonathan Bunn

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Peter Ellis (*School Representative*)

Dr Sam Barke (*WSC Representative*)

*Editor of OW Newsletter:* Richard Blundell

*Editor of OW News:* Nigel Platts

*Design & Production:* Pip Burley

## From the Editor

THIS the thirteenth edition of Old Whitgiftian News and it takes us through the Whitgiftian Association and School year from March/April 2018 to the first quarter of 2019. OWs with an interest in regular information on the School's progress should also look at the magazine *Whitgift Life*, which is accessible on the School website ([www.whitgift.co.uk](http://www.whitgift.co.uk)). When I look back on my involvement with the School, which started in 1955 as I joined what is now the Lower 1<sup>st</sup>, I am amazed by the changes that I have seen. To those at the School in recent times it must seem incredible that in the mid 1950s we had no swimming pool, no sports complex, in fact no new buildings since the Haling Park site opened in the early 1930s - and not even an organ in Big School. When I started at the School there were 810 pupils, nearly all of whom who lived within fifteen miles of Haling Park. Now there are well over 1,400 pupils from much more cosmopolitan backgrounds. The School's buildings are still immediately recognisable but the additions have added astonishingly to the range of activities offered and the excellence achieved. It is for this reason that the Headmaster and the WA are so committed to the provision of additional bursaries to ensure that capable boys can benefit from what Whitgift offers.

Chris Ramsey is coming close to the conclusion of his second year as Headmaster - we admire his enthusiasm for the School and look forward to seeing the development of his plans for Whitgift as we approach the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the North End buildings that started the modern era.

This edition of WA News records reunions, career successes, sporting triumphs and the deaths of OWs. I draw particular attention to the 1970s reunion organised by Francis Charig and others - a triumph of logistics and good fellowship which can be a beacon for others - and to the deaths of Richard Bunn, father of our current Chairman, and Alan Squires, two leading OW sportsmen of the 1950s and 60s who gave so much to the OW sports clubs, particularly the OWCC, at a time when we were among the strongest of amateur rugby and cricket clubs in the country.

One last word of Whitgift chauvinism - there are currently OWs representing England/Great Britain at the four major sports of cricket, football, hockey and rugby. The School 1<sup>st</sup> XV's recent success in the NatWest Schools' Cup Final at Twickenham was the culmination of a remarkable rugby season for teams at all levels. This can be matched in other sports and also in classroom, concert hall and on stage. The School is in robust health and deserves an *alumni* organisation that is connected and forward looking. That is the mission of the WA.

Please do not hesitate to make contact and let us know what you have been doing for the last ten - or sixty - years. You may also send letters and messages directly to the WA office at the School ([office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk)).



NIGEL PLATTS (1955-64)  
Editor, OW News

# Presidents



## The President for 2019 is Richard Blundell (1956-63)

When I first proudly walked up the School drive on that Thursday afternoon in mid-September, little did I dream that I would still be going up that same drive some sixty years later - I arrived at the School in 1956 and never really left!

My first Whitgift experience was as a pupil, which was hard work but most enjoyable, especially the sport under Gerwyn Williams and Eddie Watts, then it was on up to Croham Road for ten years of continuous rugby and cricket where I met and enjoyed the company of many other OWs and made new friends.

Next, there was a time out for family life, as Rotary Club President and growing the family transportation business into a worldwide concern and then returning to the School as a parent which was stressful but successful and less energetic when standing on the touchline.

From there OW committee work started to take over, firstly as chair of the Haling Park committee which entailed organising the entire activities of the then full OWA Day and latterly the Sportsman's Lunch and Music Soirée functions. This post also found me as the OW representative on four School auxiliary bodies and attending nearly all the School's productions and sports events. It was a short step as a Vice-President onto the OWA/WA main committee and a director of OW Trustees Ltd overseeing the War Memorial Fund grants, all of which made the editorship of the Newsletter for the last 27 years a simple choice.

Having worked with five School Headmasters and now at the pinnacle of this wonderful organisation of ours which I hold so dear and is so widely respected, it is my honour to serve as your 77th President.



## The President for 2018 was David Freud, Lord Freud of Eastry (1961-68)

The long-running saga of Brexit has caused innumerable ructions across the country. One of its lesser impacts has been to ruin the high point of my year as President, when I was due to chair the AGM of the Whitgiftian Association on December 11. This clashed with the three-line whipped 'crunch' vote on Brexit - in the event abandoned by both Houses of Parliament, although in the case of the Lords too late for me to get to South Croydon.

The rest of the year was less frustrating. The core obligation of the association's President is to ensure that the annual dinner is hosted in a suitably resplendent venue. In 2018 we returned to the House of Lords, where many members took the opportunity to take a tour of the historic site. Most heartening was the large number of younger 'old boys' who were able to come to the dinner. We had a great speech from one of their number, Abbas Khan, who told us what the school meant to him. He was out-done by Michael (Lord) Howard, who made a suitably risqué joke about golf clubs.

The most satisfying aspect of the year was the opportunity to work with Chris Ramsey, the Headmaster, alongside the Chairman of the Association, Jonathan Bunn, in an endeavour to revitalise the bursary programme initiated by Pip Burley.

Early on we realised that a simple programme purely to build up the number of bursaries would not really conform to the founding vision of Archbishop Whitgift, with its objective of helping Croydon's 'poorer sorte'. It would run the danger of parachuting boys out of their milieu, but not helping to improve the social environment they left behind them – one of the poorest areas of London. So the school has started to explore how it might help to improve educational outcomes right across the borough, whether or not the youngsters attend the school. It is also looking at how to transform the culture of the school to embrace the social commitment this involves.

These developments will take years to mature but I am sure that they are the most important initiative during the Presidency of 2018.

# A Message from The Chairman



THIS time last year I was looking forward to my year group reunion marking 30 years since we left the School. I'm delighted to report that it was a perfect day, thanks both to the generous support of the School and also the glorious July sunshine. Several former members of staff joined more than 60 former pupils for a remarkable day packed full of memories, laughter and warm words - not least from our Headmaster David Raeburn, as well as kind words from Sir Anthony Seldon, following an excellent lunch in the Old Library. Such events are at the heart of any old boys' network and it is great to see several more in the pipeline facilitated through the school.

Much of my past year as Chairman of the Whitgiftian Association has been dominated by extremely positive and constructive discussions with Whitgift's Headmaster Chris Ramsey about a shared future vision for how the school and WA should work together with aligned objectives supported by professional, efficient and effective ways of working. It is an exciting time to be Chairman with what is a once in a generation opportunity to ensure the WA truly serves all Old Whitgiftians.

A big step forward will be the establishment of a development office by the school which will provide much-needed administrative support to the WA and act as a focal point for OWs wanting to contact the School. A priority will be to update the membership database with all OW details so that we can reach as many former pupils as possible.

I've been in discussion with several alumni organisations recently and most leading school alumni associations operate hand-in-hand with their school. It is an undoubted and welcome best practice. Simpler, professional, and more dynamic with dedicated in-house resources, such a set-up offers smooth and effective day-to-day operation as well as the ability to harness the power of a global alumni network.

During the course of this year, we will explore how best to work with the school and what changes are needed to how we operate. These may be structural and procedural, and I look forward to reporting back to members with any proposals. The Committee is grateful to all the members who have provided their views so far. Support from members for any proposals will clearly be critical and we look forward to continuing the conversation over the coming months.

Change and transformation are never easy, and the byzantine complexity of our organisational structure serves to complicate matters further, but it is vital that the WA proactively seeks to evolve to ensure it is best-placed to support all Old Whitgiftians.

Finally, it is never nice to hear of the death of any OW. The OW community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of long-serving Committee member and former President, Ian Flanagan in December. Ian was dedicated to furthering the School and OW cause and always provided excellent advice. I would also like to thank all OWs who reached out to me following the death of my father, Richard (1946 - 54) in January this year - your kind words were much appreciated.

JONATHAN BUNN (1980-88)  
Chairman, Whitgiftian Association

# A Message to OWs from The Headmaster



It has been a great pleasure, during these last twelve months, to get to know more OWs and to share memories and plans! We have been delighted to welcome back, during the year, some of the distinguished alumni whom we are most proud of – Sir Keith Lindblom, for example, who spoke at one of our academic enrichment events; Tim Davie, who did likewise, as well as recent leavers Elliot Daly and Callum Hudson-Odoi, George Jaques, the rising actor and director, and at a recent dinner, an Old Library-ful of current Oxbridge undergraduates.

On that note, I'm delighted to report that seventeen Whitgiftians gained Oxbridge offers this year, a fine achievement in these competitive times; at the same time our 1<sup>st</sup> XV won the Schools Cup, as many readers will well know, since we were splendidly supported by so many of them. And our Under 13 footballers won the Independent Schools Football Association Cup again, Whitgift now easily the most prolific winner of that competition.

I wrote last year that we had commissioned a fundamental review of the site, and plans are now well underway for the first phase of the next generation of improvements. The key change over the next couple of years will be the removal of much car parking from the middle of the site, allowing a new senior quad to be developed on the 'gallery' area, the front of the school to regain its original feel, whilst a new artificial surface will, we hope, be laid on Puntabout and a new classroom block be added behind the Cedar Block. More news in due course, but we hope this will be a significant set of improvements. Meanwhile the long but necessary task of refurbishing the whole of the main block continues!

In other ways, our plans for Whitgift are moving on with a major 'outreach' project alongside a push for more bursaries, and I'm grateful to the working party of OWs who have helped develop this exciting vision. More on all of these areas will be published during the summer.

As ever, the busy Lent Term ends with the sight of exams on the horizon for many. I am particularly grateful to this generation of Upper Sixth boys, the next new lot of OWs, whose impact on the school has been memorable and almost wholly positive. They will do great things!

My very warmest wishes to OWs wherever you are. This will always be your school: do keep in touch and come to visit!

CHRIS RAMSEY  
Headmaster, Whitgift School

# 123rd Whitgiftian Association Annual Dinner

This year's Whitgiftian Association Annual Dinner, hosted by WA President, **Lord David Freud**, was a splendid affair with 120 OWs of all generations in attendance. The event was held at the historic Peers' Dining Room of the House of Lords. A champagne reception in the Peers' Guest Room, preceded a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster for most guests; then to dinner.

**Jonathan Bunn**, Chairman of the Association, welcomed everyone and made special reference to his own year group (which was well represented as they celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of leaving the School) and in particular, their Headmaster at the time, David Raeburn, who was attending his first WA Annual Dinner for some years. Jonathan then introduced David Freud, who, as event host, went on to add his own welcome and wished everyone a thoroughly enjoyable evening. David also took the opportunity to welcome his personal guests, who included colleagues from the House of Lords and fellow OWs, **Lords Peter Bowness** and **Graham Tope**. He also welcomed his special guest, Lord Michael Howard, from whom we were to hear later in the evening.

During dinner, there was entertainment from a young OW and gifted violinist, Ion Mosneaga. Ion performed *Ysaye's Solo Sonata No2* and received a richly deserved ovation.

In his toast to the guests, David Freud spoke of the profound effect of his Whitgift education, saying that he could only speculate on where he would have ended up without it – almost certainly not as a member of the House



Left: Sam Barke, Dominic Edwards, Ross Gooderson and Tom Barke

Below: Lord Michael Howard delivers his speech

of Lords! He went on to describe a series of amusing incidents from his days at Haling Park.. He then introduced our special guest, Lord Michael Howard, the former leader of the Conservative Party, who

gave a brilliant speech including a number of amusing references to the late Margaret Thatcher and her remarkable attention to detail, illustrated by a number of incidents and escapades.

Lord Howard was followed by **Abbas Khan** (2011-16) who proposed the toast *Floreat Domus*. A Classics student at Cambridge, Abbas emphasized his belief in the importance of a Whitgift education and shared his own amusing recollections of his time spent at School. His speech was greeted with enthusiasm as all stood to join him in his toast to the School.

In response, Chris Ramsey, close to concluding his first year as Headmaster of Whitgift, said (in a light-hearted reference to his predecessor's tenure) that he had, "only another twenty-five years to go!" He went on to describe his impressions of Whitgift so far, concluding that it was an outstanding school and his firm intention was that it should remain so. He praised the work of the WA and expressed his appreciation to those individuals responsible for arranging the dinner and the many other tasks the WA undertakes.

The formalities were rounded off with a hearty performance of *Carmen*.



***It has been drawn to the Editor's attention that retrospective comments from past President Richard Bateman about his year of office were inadvertently omitted from the last edition. With apologies to Richard, these now appear:***

It was with some trepidation that I accepted the nomination of President in 2017; Lord Tope was always going to be a tough act to follow. However, with the terrific support I received from the Main Committee and fellow members alike, I soon settled in to the role. To preside over the historic year when we said farewell to Dr. Barnett after twenty-six years and meet his successor, Chris Ramsay, was a great privilege. When as a first former I looked out onto the quadrangle wondering when I would be allowed to walk on this hallowed ground, little did I imagine that one day I would be having lunch there with royalty. Other highlights of my most enjoyable year were to be involved with the formative phase of our bursary fund and a fantastically well-supported Annual Dinner at my other alma mater, the Royal College of Surgeons.

I am delighted that after a year with a commoner at the helm we revert to nobility in 2018! I would like to offer my successor, Lord Freud, my very best wishes and trust that he may have an equally enjoyable year.

## Reunions



### Dinner at the Vineyard

In November, **Sir Peter Michael CBE** (1949-57), kindly hosted a WA Bursary Appeal fundraising dinner at 'The Vineyard', a wonderful hotel and restaurant he owns near Newbury. The Vineyard also showcases wines from the Sir Peter Michael Winery in California. On arrival, guests walked through the exposed cellar to enjoy champagne adjacent to the remarkable painting depicting The Judgement of Paris. Sir Peter explained that he had commissioned the work to illustrate the legendary industry event when Californian wines were favoured over French in a blind tasting.

Guests then enjoyed a private dinner matched by wines

personally selected by Sir Peter, including the award winning Les Pavots, the flagship red from the Sir Peter Michael Winery. Guests enjoyed a wonderful menu of seasonal and local produce and met the talented chef who explained his approach in the restaurant.

Following dinner, guests enjoyed musical performances from Whitgift boys, Brian, Theo and Luka who showed a diversity of talent with vocal, harpsichord and violin performances: a reminder to OWs of the breadth and range of music provided by the School's music department.

Headmaster Chris Ramsey then thanked Sir Peter and the WA for their efforts and shared his plans for the School and fundraising, which were very well received.

WA President Lord Freud introduced our host, Sir Peter, who spoke about his time at Whitgift and his career as an engineer and businessman. He gave a fascinating insight into his investments and entrepreneurial flair and his passion for the Winery and the Hotel.

After dinner, guests retired to the bar, a beautifully convivial space at the heart of the Hotel, for more drinks and conversation and for most an overnight stay.

Many thanks are due to Sir Peter Michael for his exceptional generosity in hosting the dinner which raised in the region of £10,000 for the bursary appeal. All present appreciated the quality and generosity in the food and wine. Thank you to the OWs and their guests who made the effort to travel to Newbury and support the event.

*Naomi Newstead*

### An Evening with David Raeburn

*"Whitgift in the 1970's had an ethos that espoused the best values of Western civilisation, such as tolerance and mutual respect, and that came, I think, from David Raeburn."*

So said **David Grant** (1970-1978), recently retired as Consultant Geriatrician at The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Unable to attend in person, his message was delivered on the big screen in the Visitors' Room at the Malmaison, Oxford Castle; his observation about Whitgift's headmaster for 21 years from 1970, was met with universal approval by those in attendance.

In an article reviewing *Oedipus at Colonus*, published in the *Financial Times* (15<sup>th</sup> June 2018) Robin Lane Fox described David Raeburn as 'The King of Greek Dramatic Productions'; the play had been staged to great acclaim at New College over this summer. "If Sophocles was in his eighties when he wrote the play, Raeburn had just turned 91 when he directed it. I mean it. He had translated the entire play, adapting his English to give its hearers a sense of the rhythms of the choral songs. He had conceived every movement, every nuance of delivery and use of space. He had cast the play with the sharpest of



*From left: John Kelsall, Peter Trevis, Ken Nicholas, Peter Gibson, Peter Gaillard, John Branston, Adrian Game, Norman West, David Raeburn, Dick Shelley*

eyes, drawing on undergraduates, and graduates to whom he still teaches classical Greek." After the play had completed its run and prior to his attendance at the Class of '78 reunion in September, David led a reading group of students on a trip to Greece. Seventy-five had gathered for the weekend festivities which may be read about below, but David Raeburn was made the weekend's Guest of Honour.

The level of affection for him was a remarkable endorsement of the respect in which he is held and recognition of the rounded, liberal and ethical education that he sought for his students. After a lengthy soirée where guests were served with Champagne and canapés, and a four-course dinner washed down with equally good red and white Riojas (thus disproving that a good Spanish white is a red), David Raeburn stood and delivered with clarity a remarkable speech, erudite, incisive and enthusiastic, without notes and no microphone.

As the School's former headmaster concluded talking the guests rose as one, their applause seeming to last forever, applause that must have been ringing in David's ears long after he had got back home. It showed a devotion and fondness that few headmasters at any school will ever experience; his students and former colleagues in attendance had responded as was merited in an unforgettable manner.

Earlier in the evening Peter Gibson (Master, 1965-2003) spoke. Having given so much to his students across CCF, sport, school plays and his English classes, and being known for his kindness in the provision of pastoral care, Peter's words were received by a supportive audience held in rapt attention. 'Gibbo', as he is affectionately known, offered an expert and carefully thought out analysis of the changing culture of the School across three headmasters. It was a glowing tribute of Whitgift under David Raeburn; among the many attributes that Peter believed made him such an effective headmaster, perhaps the most significant was never making a decision with self-interest at its heart. To be regarded as the most selfless of men is true leadership.

**Julian Gunn** (1970-1978) spoke on behalf of the Class of

'78, fifty of whom were in attendance, expressing his enormous affection for Whitgift and adding to the words of David Grant on the essential humanity of the school under David Raeburn and the importance of the values it engendered.

**Simon Lambert** (1970-1978) School Captain 1978, proposed the toast to the Headmaster. Emcee **Francis Charig** (1970-1978) told various lighthearted stories and read to the guests a story about David Raeburn from *Memories of Whitgift*, a book that Francis said included two of his own stories, although he pointed out that he had been given the nom de plume of 'Chang' in the list of contributors.

What has been written so far might mislead. There were actually very few formalities. It was just one part of the itinerary for a weekend reunion of the Class of '78. This was the most informal of events, no black tie in sight, very few ties at all in fact, jeans proliferating, relaxed. With most of the attendees not having seen any of their school year for four decades, they returned to recollect with their friends and to appreciate their Headmaster. There was real interest in seeing that everyone was healthy and happy, little or no interest in comparing. That the year had produced more than its share of talented doctors, accountants, lawyers, bankers, teachers, research scientists, civil servants and businessmen was immaterial; it was the inherent decency of the former students that mattered most and this was the best endorsement of the success of the Raeburn years at the school. The Class of '78 was the first to have both begun and ended its time under David Raeburn's leadership, a true reflection of this remarkable man at *his* Whitgift School.

*Francis Charig (1970-1978)*

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## Upper Fifth 1952-53

*Yet again it is a pleasure to report news of the annual reunion of Upper V 1952-53. That most assiduous of scribes, Dr Peter Warren CBE (1947-56), writes as he says "per pro Superior Quinti 1952-53":*

Being next after our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (see *Old Whitgiftian News* 2017-18, p. 7) our 66<sup>th</sup>, in November 2018, was an altogether smaller affair but none the poorer for that, with our loquacity well up to standard. We would have been 9 but some nasty bugs reduced that at the last minute to 7 – namely, Messrs Ian Brown, Brian Halfacre, John Hamilton, John Sutcliffe John Trott, John Webb and myself. We met at my home in Purley and enjoyed the ever-splendid food and service provided by our Honorary Member, my wife Angela, ably assisted again by Ailsa, John Webb's partner. Alas on this occasion I let my role as host, conversant and drinks steward dominate that of scribe and failed to take a single note. Accordingly, when the Editor invited this contribution to news of OW reunions I could not recall anything what we had spoken about. A plea to fellow participants for help revealed I was in good company, as one put it: "I cannot remember a thing except that we had an enjoyable time! But not all is lost for this report. We had our customary circulation of messages from absent class-mates including a

further poem from our resident bard, Peter Kennedy, and during proceedings Alan Stocks (our farthest-flung class-mate) rang from Brisbane to exchange news from down-under with that from the Motherland. I suspect the Beast of Brexit may have been mentioned! And, with help from two of us present more blessed than the rest in the memory department, I can reveal that the subject of examinations – then and now arose – not the usual one of "too many firsts, today" but the fetish for grades – A\*, A, B, C (or is it 1, 2, 3 now?) etc, so beloved today for 'O' and 'A' level passes. Was there anything like it in our time? We thought not, though one of our number thought that one could be given a 'distinction' at both 'O' and 'A' level not just pass (or fail).

In comments relating to pastimes, fitness, and ageing, golf, naturally, got a mention as a measure of the continuing mobility of members (or alas its absence) but also the Tall Ships charity (Jubilee Sailing Trust) which uniquely caters for both able-bodied and disabled people including those in wheel chairs, aged 16-80+!! Watch this space.

And, let us be honest, there was the inevitable exchange of sympathies and experiences of medical conditions of all kinds! Ageing is not fun. But, come what may, we remain determined to press on ever-optimistic that the last man standing will not put out the light before we mark our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Peter Warren (1947-56)*

## Sportsman's Lunch 2018

A small group of OWs met up in the Founders Room on 17 November 2018 for a drink, a chat and to listen to Dan Webb give us an expert overview of the term's rugby at the School. He had kindly rushed back from the ESSA swimming finals at the Olympic Pool and was on his way to care for his 2<sup>nd</sup> XV team. Dan was able to provide an insight into the workings of the Sports



Department and the close links to Croham Road and mentioned his appreciation of support received from Old Boys for the School's overseas trips, especially his own recent cricket tour to Perth. At this, **Stephen Brown** (1965-73), over from Hong Kong, commented that it was always a pleasure for overseas members to meet up with the School parties and added, "Tell us you are coming and we'll be there!"

There was time to present to School Rugby a framed montage of winning the National Sevens title in 1967 at

Rosslyn Park some 50 years ago. It should have been presented in 2017 but Dulwich cried off the fixture and the captain of the winning team, Chris Saville, could not travel over from France.

Then it was off for a delicious lunch in the new Private Dining Room in the School Dining Hall followed

by a splendid and exciting game of schoolboy rugby on Big Side played in wonderful conditions and where Whitgift beat Dulwich 33-30 with the winning try coming in the final seconds of overtime! On the day, the overall results of matches against Dulwich were: Won-16; Lost-5; Drawn-3.

During the post-match tea, it was noted that there were seven OWs representing the country that weekend - 2 rugby, 4 hockey and 1 cricket; a quite remarkable achievement which reflected the School's astonishingly high standards.

*Richard Blundell (1956-63)*

## Class of 1978, 40th Anniversary Reunion, September 2018, Oxford

*"If Carlsberg did school reunions, then they would probably be the best in the world."*

This was the underlying thought that went into designing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of Whitgift's Class of '78. Research showed that having waited four decades for a mass gathering, it wasn't just a short, formal event where the Old Boys would gather briefly for an evening and disappear that was required. We were seeking a weekend of festivities that would justify the efforts of those living abroad coming back to England and those in the north travelling south; we wanted the time so that we could get to know old school colleagues once more, and we desired total informality.



*Nick Tidnam (Partner, Hogan Lovells, Solicitors, London) Julian Gunn (bio included in report), Henry Martin (now retired), Alistair Newell (Area Manager Correspondent Banking & Representative Offices, UBI Banca, Milan)*

Tracking down Old Boys is not easy. The school, despite the excellent cooperation of Donna Lewis, is hamstrung by the legislation on data protection, and if it sends out a generic notification of a reunion then inevitably the response is limited. Consequently the event organiser realised that two actions were needed:

(a) We had to uncover the whereabouts of as many Old Boys as possible, which could partly be done by good old fashioned networking but mostly it was achieved by the use of online social networks such as Facebook and LinkedIn as well as Companies House and 192.com

(b) Someone had to write personalised letters to persuade boys from a year not noted for its reunions that this would be worthwhile attending, a lengthy endeavour requiring recollection of each person's friendship circles and their interests.

The event took almost a year of planning, by which time we had 50 students from the Class of '78 travelling from New Zealand, Dubai, Milan, Mainz, Milford-On-Sea, Hexham, Halifax and Harrogate attending from Saturday lunch to Sunday late afternoon.

Once the Old Boys had accepted their invitation, they were then asked to suggest Sixth Form, Sports and CCF Masters whom they would like to see again. Twenty were invited. David Raeburn (Headmaster, 1970-1991) was asked to come as Guest of Honour. At first David said he wasn't sure if he could come given that the timing could clash with a trip



David Jones, (House Captain of Tate's 1977-1978 and now Director, JLM Global Foods), Andy Archibald (Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Modern Pentathlon, 1976), Simon Hill (Managing Consultant, Hill Coates Associates Ltd., son of former Vicar of Croydon who was, of course, a governor of the school).

to Greece with his students. "But David, you're going to be 91. You should be sitting in front of the fire, wearing your slippers, proverbial pipe in mouth and sipping a hot cup of cocoa!" Not a chance! Anyway, it eventually transpired that the two events were separated by a week so David did come and he was the Guest of Honour.

It was agreed that Oxford would work well as the location. The consensus was that if we were away for a weekend we wanted to fall into our beds from the bar at the end of the Saturday evening, difficult in Croydon. Outside term time Oxford has its colleges with their student rooms to rent and is easy to access.

Masters and their wives who needed transport from their homes were chauffeured to Oxford by various OWs. We organised a free taxi service so that once in Oxford our guests could move easily around the City. A professional photographer was on hand to record the event and a digital hub was established upon which we could place all of our recordings of the evening, whether still or video.

Photographs from 1976 of all of the OWs attending the weekend were provided by Bill Wood, the school's archivist, to event organiser, **Francis Charig** (1970-1978). **Simon Hutton** (1973-1978) then incorporated those pictures into name badges worn to help Masters recall the person to whom they were talking – but of course really the Old Boys needed it for their own aid too!

**Jonathan Darnborough** (1970-1978) made sure that the background music playing in the evening was constructed to complement the atmosphere. **Simon Bates** (1970-1978) had added to his digital hub by collecting a series of videos from OWs unable to attend.

For many months an email thread was in operation for all those attending and also those who wanted to attend but could not, during which we wallowed in nostalgia of Whitgift in the '70s. You can imagine all of the emails that began, "Do you remember when...?" It meant that a lot of the ice had been broken by the time that everyone arrived at the reunion, a process that paid significant dividends.

The final itinerary was: September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 - Lunch at



Professor Steve Gunn, Warden of Merton College, talking to David Raeburn

Cherwell Boathouse, Oxford. Masters in the Conservatory; OWs in the Main Restaurant. Reception; Dinner and two bars at Malmaison, Oxford.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 - "Two Gunn Salute" comprising a Tour of Merton College by **Steve Gunn** (1971-78) and an Organ Recital in Merton College Chapel by **Julian Gunn** (1970-78) followed by lunch at The Folly, Oxford.

There were more than 35 present for a long Saturday lunch at the Cherwell Boathouse. The Old Boys were thinking that this was the one opportunity for Masters and their wives to misbehave, so the former staff were in one room, probably throwing buttered bread at each other while the Old Boys sat, talking animatedly to one another in the restaurant's main dining room. By early evening, most of the attendees had gravitated from the restaurant on the river to the City Centre to be joined in The Visitors' Room at the Malmaison by a further 40 or so, made up of ex-Masters and many of the ex-pupils who had been unable to arrive earlier in the day. This was described as 'The Main Event' and was a thank you to David Raeburn. The Malmaison, located inside Oxford Castle, used to be Oxford Prison until the 1990s so there were plenty of comments about this being a subliminal euphemism! Most of the attendees stayed at Keble College but a few stayed at the hotel. Photographs of David Raeburn and the former Masters and their wives were then taken by



Richard Acklam (author and educationalist), Francis Charig (event organiser) and David Raeburn

the professional photographer using what was A-Wing before the prison's conversion into a hotel.

After the reception of Champagne and canapés, the guests sat for dinner across eight tables named after each of the Senior School houses, a large helium balloon in the appropriate house colours flying atop every table.

Astonishingly given the time lapse, the right housemaster from 1978 sat at five of the tables, Andrew's with Peter Trevis (1965-1994), Dodd's with Norman West (1967-1998), Mason's with Ken Nicholas (1956-1991), Smith's with John Branston (1956-1997) and Tate's with Peter Gaillard (1970-1984).

At the end of dinner there were video messages from a number of OWs from the Class who were unable to attend as well as speeches from the floor from Peter Gibson (1965-2003) lauding David Raeburn, and from David Raeburn himself who received a lengthy and emotional standing ovation.

**Julian Gunn** made a joyous speech sharing his great affection for his time at the school. A series of carefully considered toasts were proposed by **Simon Lambert** (School Captain for the Lent and Trinity terms of '78. Francis Charig was emcee and he told a series of lighthearted stories.

These were mostly true, largely about various former staff members, including Chemistry Master, Jim Godbolt (1971-1975) leaping half asleep from a fast moving train, chaos in the classroom with Freddie Percy (1937-1976) and 'the two letters' story about David Raeburn found in the book *Memories of Whitgift*. A collection of Francis's tales about John Kelsall (1968-1978) were true in parts, but at least one was conceived by Francis whilst in the shower and had no historically factual basis whatsoever; but whether true or false, it was all highly affectionate - or, at least, that will be his defence at his defamation trial. Because of the 17 in the Class of '78 who went on to have medical careers, Francis reported the time he was treated for Falciparum Malaria by two OW doctors, bizarrely his own brother, **Mark Charig** (1967-1975) and, from the Class of '78, **David Grant** (1970-1978), the former claiming to write on the notes at the base of Francis's hospital bed 'Do not resuscitate'. Francis also told of being groped by seven female medical students in the Royal Marsden Hospital, a story best not repeated and

*"That it was an extraordinarily successful reunion is a consequence of the special bond between the Old Boys that has outlasted a gap of four decades ... and a reflection of their relationship with their Masters".*

one that didn't have a happy ending. After the speeches, the guests occupied two bars laughing loudly until the last drink was finished at just past four in the morning. There was now time for only the briefest of sleeps before breakfast and then onward to 'The Two Gunn Salute'.

The reunion took place one week before **Steve Gunn** began his tenure as Acting Warden at Merton College. The other and unrelated Gunn, Julian, is both a gifted doctor and a talented organist. The two led 'The Two Gunn Salute' that Sunday morning. Given the previous night's exertions, Francis estimated only a handful would have the energy needed to make their way to the College, but this transpired to be wildly wrong with more than fifty present. They were rewarded by special performances from both of the Gunn OWs. Steve, fresh from an amusing appearance on *Cunk on Britain* on BBC1 gave a highly insightful, interesting and amusing tour of Merton College which included him highlighting its Whitgift connection, while Julian's stunning recital on the beautiful Merton College Chapel organ lasted for more than one hour, holding his audience transfixed. Julian finished the Salute by gathering us around the Merton organ and leading the

most rousing and surprisingly tuneful rendition of *Carmen* that the author has ever witnessed. Tears were shed before we moved on to the Folly restaurant on Folly Bridge for another lengthy and excellent lunch that concluded proceedings for the weekend.

That it was an extremely happy and extraordinarily successful reunion is a consequence of a special bond between the Old Boys that has outlasted a gap of four decades and also a reflection of their relationships with their Masters. As one former pupil explained in a note to Francis Charig afterwards, every single former student he had met at the reunion was 'a gentleman'. And so say all of us. We now make plans for 2020, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those who joined in the Lower Firsts, which was simultaneous with the arrival of the much loved David Raeburn as Headmaster.

For information on future events for the Year of '78, please contact Francis Charig at [francis@charig.com](mailto:francis@charig.com). He is also happy to assist those working on reunions for other years should they so wish.

OWs named in this report and in *An Evening with David Raeburn*: **Simon Bates** 1970-1978, Director of Process Excellence at ARM; **Francis Charig** 1970-1978, *World Economic Forum* Technology Pioneer, Senior Board Director, Shin Nippon PLC; **Mark Charig** 1967-1975, Consultant General & Interventional Radiologist, Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust (1991-2013), Retired; **Jonathan Darnborough** 1970-1978, Director of Studies in Music at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education; **David Grant** 1970-1978, Consultant Geriatrician, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian, Retired; **Julian Gunn** 1970-1978, Professor of Interventional Cardiology, Honorary Consultant Cardiologist and Insigneo Fellow in the Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease, University of Sheffield; **Steve Gunn** 1971-1978, Professor of Early Modern History and Tutor in History, Merton College, Oxford, Acting Warden, Merton College (2018-2019); **Simon Hutton** 1973-1978, Founder and Managing Director, To The Point Ltd, London; **Simon Lambert** 1970-1978, School Captain 1978, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Honorary Consultant Surgeon, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, Honorary Senior Lecturer, UCL.

Masters present: David Raeburn 1970-1991, Andy Archibald 1974-1977, John Branston 1956-1997, Bob Brown 1960-1990, Ray Fooks 1965-1972, Peter Gaillard 1970-1984, Adrian Garne 1976-1982, Peter Gibson 1965-2003, Brian Griffiths 1969-2006, John Kelsall 1968-1978, Ken Nicholas 1956-1991, Frank Pattison 1973-1987, Dick Shelley 1962-2001, Peter Trevis 1965-1994, Norman West 1967-1998. Apologies were received from Don Gillard (1960-1994), Dick Glynne-Jones (1955-1995), Peter King (1972-2001), Chris Shorter (1969-1978) and Lionel Weston (1973-1979).

## 1960 Prefects - 58th Reunion

You have in the past heard from Tim Forbes and Robert Kibble about the occasional reunions of former inhabitants of Room 27 (the Prefects' Room as it used to be and possibly still is). The picture here is of those who were there in the summer of 1960, this picture having been taken on the occasion of their 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The back row, from left to right, shows Robert Kibble, John Higham, Tony Mitchell, Bruce Claxton and Tim Forbes. Sitting in front of them are David Mash, Peter Stevens, Andrew Patience and Roger Lambert. The first two named are now Californian residents, while Tim lives in New Zealand – why they should be standing having travelled so far to join the gathering cannot be explained. Also present, but having left before the photograph was taken, was John Trembath.

We all felt as young as ever, while acknowledging that we might appear to have put on quite a few years since we were together in the Prefects' Room. Ten of us comprise just over half of those who were there then and are still with us; sadly, earlier this year we lost an old friend from our



ranks, John Blackmore (the other permanent absentees from our number are, regrettably, Richard Arscott and Justin Parsons, both of whom died several years ago. We miss them all).

The 58<sup>th</sup> meeting was arranged because, having enjoyed similarly celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, we felt that it was too long to wait for our 60<sup>th</sup>. All these events have been at the same place, the *Horse & Groom*

pub in Groom Passage in Belgravia, where we have always been cheerfully and hospitably welcomed by landlord, Aiden Ganly.

We believe that our predecessors from 1959, who include five of our number, initiated these excellent get-togethers, and plans are already being made for that year to enjoy its 60<sup>th</sup> next year. Robert Kibble will also be convening those from 1961 to follow suit next year with their 58<sup>th</sup>. All good business for Aiden! (Incidentally, as a personal recommendation, it is a very good little pub for any occasion).

*Peter Stevens (1951-60)*

## 30 Years On: Class of '88 Gather at School to Celebrate

Blessed with glorious, warm sunshine and blue skies, almost 50 former classmates gathered at Whitgift on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to mark their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of leaving the School. Attendees came from across the world including San Francisco, Chicago and Hong Kong. To the delight of all present, a number of former teaching staff also

joined the festivities with Headmaster David Raeburn, Sir Anthony Seldon, Peter Gibson, Frank Pattison, Keith Smith, Phil Fladgate and Rick Sellers invited as our guests.

Drinks in the Andrew Quadrangle offered the perfect setting for multiple reacquainting, and it was not long before stories were being swapped and memories mined. With a gentle and welcome breeze blowing through the library's lead-framed windows, and serenaded inevitably by peacocks, Mr Raeburn rose to give a warm, touching and heartfelt welcome speech which was greeted with great applause from his former pupils. Pastor David Jane said a beautiful, moving Grace, providing an opportunity to also remember those friends no longer with us. After lunch, Sir Anthony



offered a brief vote of thanks that again drew strong applause before a rousing rendition of *Carmen*.

Many then headed on tours of the school and grounds where the multiple changes were noted. The general feeling was that Whitgift was "the same, but different" - still the same strong sense of Whitgift identity and feel, but with so much improvement

and development. In a serendipitous stroke of fortune, the group was able to retire after lunch to the Whitgift Sports Club and enjoy its Beer and Gin Festival long into the evening with the added bonus of seeing three OWs play for England as they beat South Africa in the final rugby test. We were delighted to see Bob Dinnage and Ken Nicholas there as well.

For some, it was their first time back to the School in thirty years, but it was agreed that the year group would seek to reunite in 2023 for its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Many thanks go to Donna Lewis at the School for facilitating such an incredible day and also to Headmaster Chris Ramsey for enabling and supporting the reunion. *Jon Bunn (1980-88)*

## Liverymen's Dinner - Saturday, 14th July

Despite the closure of London's bridges and streets, not to mention demonstrations and protests against Donald Trump, forty-two OWs and guests managed to gather onboard HQS Wellington moored on the Thames Embankment to enjoy the second Liverymen's Dinner.

With pre-dinner drinks and canapes served on the quarter deck in delightful weather and with magnificent views across the river, dinner was served below in the Master Mariners' Court Room.

The evening was hosted by the senior OW Liveryman, **Patrick Marsland-Roberts** (1953-60), current Master of the Worshipful Company of Carmen. He was ably supported by other OW Liverymen including: **Barry Woodman** (1956-64) past Master Mason, **Simon Fleet** (1950-57) past Master Farrier and **Dr Peter Warren** (1947-56) past Master Educator. Other Liverymen - and women - included current Masters Dr Elizabeth Goodwin, Educators, wife of **David Goodwin** (1955-62) and Ian Spring, Master of the Bowyers.

The Whitgift Foundation was represented by its Chairman,



Christopher Houlding accompanied by his wife Caroline and Chief Executive, Martin Corney with his wife Judy. Amongst other guests were members of the Croydon Dining Club, many with strong family connections to Whitgift and, keeping everybody above board and shipshape was **Lt Cdr Noel Atkins** (1954-62), in full naval regalia.

Following the customary Livery toasts, the host

formally welcomed everybody and followed with a brief outline of the evening ahead as well as a plea for those present to help identify other OW Liverymen whose details are currently unknown. He went on to toast the health of the guests.

Responding, multi-Liveryman Nigel Israel gave a most interesting talk, full of information about the history of the City of London Livery Companies.

As with all OW gatherings this highly convivial summer's evening was rounded off by a powerful rendition of the School *Carmen*, coincidentally, on this occasion also the name of our host's Livery Company!



### Class of 1970 Reunion

A very warm Tuesday 3rd July saw the latest of the Class of 1970 reunions at the Skimmington Castle in Reigate. Our contact list is now over 30 strong and 16 of us gathered for another bout of banter and reminiscing, making it the largest gathering to date.

In the picture from left to right are Keith Towers, Ed Andrews, Peter Chesterton, Dale Mockford, Chris Whitfield, Nick Chatham, Jim Mon, Mike Livesey, Tony Legat, Brian Lovering, Ali Randall, Travis McCall, Martin Stanton, Adrian Figgess and Peter Gale. Sadly, Dave "Mad Dog" Mason missed the photo-op but was there for the meal!

If you would like to be included on our email list, Whatsapp or Facebook group, please contact Dale on 07718904223.

*Dale Mockford (1962-70)*

### 1983 Reunion

On a wet September day, ten former pupils from 6 Science A of 1982-83 and their two chemistry teachers, Don Gillard and Alan Vibert, met for their 5-yearly reunion, mostly of those who participated in an industrial field trip to Germany led by the two masters. Apologies were received from two more alumni who couldn't make it as they were now resident in Australia and California.

Celebrations started with a drinks reception in the Founders' Room. In 1983 this had been the smoky Masters' Common Room, well and truly out of bounds to lowly schoolboys, so it felt a privilege to be invited up the stairs.

After this the party moved on to the Old Library for lunch – this had been the main school library back in 1983. Finally it was time for a tour of the School from Archivist Bill Wood, visiting both the familiar buildings and new developments as most had not returned in decades.

Event organiser Philip Beck said, "We had been meeting every five years in a restaurant, but this time I wanted to visit the School again. Since we left 35 years ago, the School has been through a programme of expansion and improvement while still retaining the character of the original buildings, and I can see the facilities providing an outstanding learning, social and sporting environment for today's students. Our thanks go to Bill and Donna from the School Alumni office for making this a memorable day". *Philip Beck (1975-83)*

# Remembrance 2018

*We Will Remember Them...*

A large contingent of OWs gathered in Big School for coffee before moving onto the Terrace for the usual School Remembrance Service.

To mark the significance of this year's event, the Service followed two special early morning Assemblies held for the boys to mark the Centenary of the ending of WWI, during which they were addressed by **Col**

**Mike Cornwell OBE** (1984-92).

Wreaths were laid at the foot of the War Memorial by the Head Boy, Chairman of the Staff Common Room and WA President Lord David Freud..

In addition, **David Straw** (1945-53) laid a wreath on behalf of the OW Trustees Ltd to mark its role in



overseeing the OW War Memorial Fund, initially set up to care for the children of the fallen OWs of the First World War.

Having enjoyed the music from the Corps of Drums, the OWs reconvened in Big School to witness Past President **Nigel Platts** (1955-64) present the School with the beautifully mounted medals of **Lt R.G. Hill, MC** (1902-04) which had recently been acquired at auction.

Later, after more OW fellowship, a small group of senior OWs adjourned to a local restaurant for a celebratory lunch which commenced with a solemn and heartfelt toast to the 251 Old Boys who did not return home.

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## Whitgift and the First World War A Hundred Years On

In the period from April 1918 until the Armistice and then well on into 1919 some forty OWs were killed or died as a direct result of the War. The School's Book of Remembrance, published in 1920 and compiled by Rev M H H Mason a master at the School after whom Mason's House is named, recorded details of those 251 known to have died in the War.

The book reflected the mixture of sadness and loss and pride in service but could not measure the impact of the years of War on those who survived: a look at photographs of OW sports teams from pre and post War is instructive - survivors of 1914 appeared far more than six years older in 1920.

The final few months of the War saw the last great German offensives and the decisive advance of British and allied troops - more movement than in the previous three and a half years. What stands out in this final list of casualties is the number who dies of influenza and related disease: at the end of the "War to End Wars". Much of the world was subject to the ravages of the so called Spanish flu which killed far more than military activity, disproportionately so in the crowded trenches and field hospitals of the Western Front.



*This Great War group of four medals was presented by the WA to the School (see above). Medal details; Military Cross, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal and the Bronze Memorial Plaque presented to the families of those killed on active service. These medals were awarded to Lt R.G. Hill, Royal Army Medical Corps, late Royal Field Artillery and Royal Flying Corps, who was killed in action while serving as Medical Officer to the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards at Houthulst Forest in October 1917.*

### *Those OWs who died from the end of April 1918 were as follows:*

Lt L G Abrams, Army Service Corps (Member of Staff) – died of pneumonia 3 November 1918 at Le Havre where he was Director of Transport, aged 35  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt F L Adams, Royal Garrison Artillery – killed 15 September 1918 near St Quentin, aged 22

Pte R H Aheme, Yeomanry – killed on a date unknown in 1918, aged 38  
Lt T Bentham, Royal Army Medical Corps – died of pneumonia following influenza 12 March 1919, aged 33. The son of a master at the School, he was a graduate of Oxford and Durham

universities and distinguished medical researcher who was mentioned in despatches for his work on diagnosing dysentery  
 Lt E W Bragg, RNVR attached RN Air Service – killed whilst piloting an aeroplane bombing the German fleet in the last week of the War, aged 22  
 Captain N L Buckham, Army Ordnance Department – died of pneumonia following influenza at Calais 30 October 1918, aged 29. He was a technical expert in ordnance having been employed by Vickers  
 L/Cpl A W Burton, Queen's Westminster Rifles – died of pneumonia 26 July 1918 at Le Quesnoy whilst a prisoner of war. He had served in the front line on the Somme in 1916, at Arras, Ypres and Cambrai in 1917 and at Arras in 1918  
 Lt A W Busby, RAF – killed in a flying accident at Nether Wallop, Hampshire whilst piloting his Sopwith Camel 3 September 1918 aged 18  
 Captain A W C Cartwright, RAF – died of pneumonia following influenza 22 November 1918 aged 21  
 Lt D T L Curties, HAC – died of influenza in Italy 24 October 1918 aged 25. He was mentioned in despatches  
 Staff-Sergeant P B Davy, Somerset Light Infantry – died of influenza at Rawalpindi following garrison duty in India and active service on the North West Frontier 1 November 1919 aged 31  
 Lt E H Dimmock, Royal Flying Corps - died of influenza and pneumonia 3 February 1919 aged 22  
 Sapper L W Down, Royal Engineers – died of diphtheria at Etaples 8 December 1918 aged 20. He was involved in the last sequence of attacks around Valenciennes from August to November 1918  
 Signalman J S Ebbutt, Queen's Royal Regiment – died of pneumonia at Nowshera, India 2 October 1919 aged 33  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt D H Ellis, London Regiment – died of influenza 22 February 1919 aged 29  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt J W Everitt, King's Royal Rifle Corps – died whilst a prisoner of war 12 April 1918 of wounds received near Ham Canal in March 1918 aged 23  
 Pte F C Foot, Royal Naval Air Service – died as a result of wounds received in 1917 at Zeebrugge 11 March 1919 aged 38  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt F G Garrard, MC, Gordon Highlanders – died of wounds received in Italy 22 May 1918 aged 20. Received the MC for rescuing a wounded officer when he himself was wounded  
 Cpl H T Hillyard, Rifle Brigade – killed by machine gun fire in the Drocourt-Quéant Switch 1 September 1918 aged 19. He was recommended for a commission  
 Pte P S Horton, Royal Fusiliers – killed on the Western Front after three weeks active service 8 September 1918 aged 37  
 Lt J A Ivory, Machine Gun Corps – killed in the retreat from Cambrai 27 September 1918 aged 23. He fought at Vimy Ridge, the Somme, Ypres and Messines Ridge  
 Lt (Acting Major) G P Kurten, Royal Garrison Artillery – killed by shell fire at Villers Bretonneux 24 April 1918 aged 28. He was a scholar of Pembroke College, Oxford where he took a first class degree in classics and as a civil servant was Private Secretary to Sir Mathew Nathan, Under Secretary of State for Ireland. He fought at Messines, Ypres, Passchendaele and on the Somme. He was twice mentioned in despatches  
 Pte V S H Laudy, London Scottish – died of wounds near Arras 26 September 1918 aged 22. He had previously been wounded at Vimy Ridge  
 Gnr F E N Lane, City of London Royal Field Artillery – died of tuberculosis following gassing 14 November 1919 aged 26. During four years' service on the Western Front he was wounded, gassed twice and discharged as physically unfit in May 1919  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt R W Leaning, King's Liverpool Regiment – killed in an air raid at Etaples 31 May 1918 aged 19  
 Lt E S Lloyd, MC, Royal Field Artillery – died of broncho-pneumonia at Le Cateau 23 November 1918 aged 33. Awarded the MC for gallantry  
 Brig-Gen A C Lovett, CB, CBE, Commanding Yorkshire Coast Defence – died after a short illness 27 May 1919 aged 57. He was a regular officer initially commissioned into the Gloucestershire Regiment, served in India for many years and, as a colonel with

the British Expeditionary Force in 1914, he was awarded the CB for distinguished service in the field. He was a noted artist frequently exhibiting at the Royal Academy and best known for his illustrations in the book "Types of the Indian Army"  
 Lt A C McAdam, Royal Marine Light Infantry – died of wounds suffered during the Naval Brigade storming of the Hindenburg switch line near Quéant 4 September 1918 aged 31  
 Major H B McMinn, Deputy Assistant Director Railway Transport – died in France 29 July 1918 after four years' continuous active service aged 33. He was a scholar of St John's College, Oxford where he read chemistry  
 Captain G A McK Morant, MC, West Yorkshire Regiment – killed at Bienviller 15 April 1918 aged 22. Awarded the MC for superintending the laying of advanced communication telegraph under heavy fire and re-establishing communication on three separate occasions  
 Captain A W New, Essex Regiment – killed accidentally while in the front line at Ypres 15 May 1918 aged 23. His elder brother Lt H B New was killed in October 1917  
 Captain H D R O'Reilly, Queen's Royal Regiment – died of wounds received in Mesopotamia 31 May 1919 aged 24. He served in India 1914-17 and in Mesopotamia from 1917 until his death. He was an exhibitioner of Downing College, Cambridge  
 Lt J S Reeve, HAC – killed while leading a bombing raid in Italy 28 June 1918 aged 21  
 Captain P B Reynolds, RASC – died of bronchial pneumonia following influenza at Boulogne 4 December 1918 aged 35  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt C B Sanderson, RAF – died of wounds sustained when his aeroplane was shot down at Busigny 17 October 1918 aged 19  
 Lt S H Scott, RAF – killed after being shot down at Cambrai 29 September 1918 aged 18  
 Gnr C P E Silcott, Canadian Artillery – died of wounds sustained on Western Front 22 October 1918 aged 24  
 Pte H J Smith, Queen's Westminster Rifles – killed by shell fire at Soissy-Laurette after one month of active service 8 August 1918 aged 19  
 Pte W H Smith, Royal West Kent Regiment – missing in action near St Quentin presumed killed on or after 23 April 1918 aged 20  
 Pte G M Thomson, Calcutta Scottish – killed in Amritsar 10 April 1919 aged 33  
 Captain J A Tuzo, Royal Sussex Regiment – died of black water fever at Dar es Salaam 8 April 1918 aged 44. He was a railway engineer and had been employed to repair bridges destroyed by German forces evacuating East Africa. His son, born August 1917, was General Sir Harry Tuzo who was Deputy Supreme Commander Allied Forces Europe from 1976-78  
 Tpr G M Vipond, Canadian Mounted Rifles – killed in the advance on Drocourt-Quéant 2 September 1918 aged 38  
 Captain J S Walter, MC, Queen's Royal Regiment – shot while escaping from captivity 28 May 1918 aged 28. He served in France from 1915 and during the Somme offensive was awarded the MC for repeatedly going out under heavy fire to rescue the wounded; on another occasion he and four men captured forty seven German troops while bombing their trenches. He was later captured by German forces, escaped and was recaptured three times: on the fourth occasion he was killed. He was mentioned in despatches on two occasions  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt W A White, King's Royal Rifle Corps – killed by machine gun fire at Le Catelet 3 October 1918 aged 19. He was a scholar of Exeter College, Oxford and would have been awarded the MC had he lived  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt C W Wilson, Royal Field Artillery – died of bronchial pneumonia 25 November 1918 aged 29. He fought throughout the War in Gallipoli, Egypt, Italy and France and was in the firing line up to the date of the Armistice  
 Lieut (Acting Captain) F C Worster, MC, Worcestershire Regiment – died of wounds 30 May 1918 aged 29. He was awarded the MC in May 1918 (his medal is in the School archive). He was a scholar of St John's College, Oxford where he was awarded a first class degree in Classical Mods and Greats; subsequently he was a classics master at St Paul's School before joining up in 1915

## OWs in the News



Callum Hudson-Odoi



Harry Williams



Tim Davie



Rory Burns

**Callum Hudson-Odoi** (2012-15) and **Harry Williams** (2002-10) have featured prominently in major articles in *The Times* both of which commented favourably of the School's part in developing these two exceptional sportsmen.

Harry was the subject of a lengthy interview which looked at his career from School to England via Loughborough University, Nottingham and Jersey Rugby Clubs before his flowering at Exeter Chiefs. The interviewer clearly found Harry an intriguing subject: not a star in the outstanding Whitgift team of 2010 but a young man who was prepared to work hard to achieve success: "Williams is the perfect example to any young player who feels slighted by the system. 'For any kid out there, if you don't initially break through, it doesn't matter,' Harry says. 'You can eventually push through. Obviously it's nice to go to these junior World Cups and that sort of thing, but it's not the be-all and end-all.'"

In comparison, Callum's early career has been a litany of success; this Under 17 World Cup winning footballer receives lavish praise for every aspect of his ability. Adi Viveash, who coached various age groups at Chelsea between 2008 and 2017, first saw Callum aged ten and watched as a shimmering "God-given talent" blossomed year by year. He recalls a player who "could change direction so quickly, was at home with both feet, had the ability to stop and start very quickly. Extreme pace. And he loved scoring and creating goals." Andy Martin, the School's Director of Football said "People would say to me, 'Who's the best kid you've coached, in your work in academies or schools?' I always tell them about Callum.

The next question would be, 'How good can he be?' And it may sound a bit [contrived] now, but I'd say, 'This kid won't just be a Premier League star, he'll be a worldwide star, that's how good he is.' Yet this remarkable player has been slow to break into the Chelsea first team and there was intense speculation that he would move to Bayern Munich for a transfer fee in the region of £35m.

The move has not occurred so far and Callum has made a number of appearances for Chelsea in the early months of 2019 including a first Premier League start against Brighton on 3 April. In March 2019 he was included as a member of England's Under 21 Squad preparing for the European Championship and then, only days later, promoted to the full international squad for qualifying

matches in the 2020 European Cup. The culmination of this remarkable tale was his appearance as a substitute in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute of the match against the Czech Republic on 22 March and as part of the starting team against Montenegro on 25 March. When Callum appeared in the Czech match he became the youngest ever player to make his début in a competitive match for England; against Montenegro he became the second youngest ever to start a competitive match for England. On top of that, he is certainly the first OW to play football for England! How many more caps will this extraordinary young OW win?

In January 2019 **Tim Davie CBE** (1980-85) became the second person to turn down the chance of becoming the new head of the Premier League. In the search for a new Chief Executive to succeed Richard Scudamore, who had been in place since the inauguration of the Premier League, Tim Davie narrowly missed out to Susanna Dinnage, who changed her mind about taking the job only two months after accepting. Tim was approached but confirmed to his team at BBC Studios that he would be staying in his current role.

Tim Davie took up the role of Chief Executive of BBC Worldwide in April 2013. In April 2018, BBC Worldwide merged with the BBC's production arm to form BBC Studios, the commercial arm of the BBC. In April, 2017 Tim was appointed to the new BBC Executive Board. Tim's other activities include being Chairman of Comic Relief, Trustee of the Tate and Trustee of the Royal Television Society and Chairman of the Creative Industries Council. He was appointed CBE in 2018 for services to international trade. In October 2018, Tim visited the School to give a talk about management of the BBC and production of radio and television programmes. All this from a man whose talk included the revelation that his first job had been at McDonald's in the Whitgift Centre

**Rory Burns** (2001-06) celebrated his first season as captain by leading Surrey to their first Championship title since 2002. His year continued to prosper as he was selected for the England tours of Sri Lanka and West Indies. In Sri Lanka he made his England début thus becoming only the second OW to represent England in test matches. He played a further three test matches in the



Benjamin Coyle-Larner



Jerry Buhlmann



Chris Cooke



Alex Dawson

West Indies. So far, he has recorded two half centuries with a highest score of 84 against the West Indies at Bridgetown, Barbados. In April 2019, the new edition of Wisden included Rory as one of its five Cricketers of the Year.

On 17 November 2018, the day when Whitgift played rugby against Dulwich, no fewer than seven OWs were representing England/Great Britain. As indicated above, **Rory Burns** was playing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Test against Sri Lanka at Pallekele (he scored 49 and 52), **Elliot Daly** (2006-11) and **Harry Williams** (2002-10) were playing rugby against Japan at Twickenham and **Rhys Smith** (2007-15), **Luke Taylor** (2009-13), **Zach Wallace** (2016-18) and **Jack Waller** (2013-15) were *en route* to India with the Great Britain hockey to play in the World Cup. What an achievement for Whitgift sport!

**Benjamin Coyle-Larner** (2006-09), or Loyle Carner as he is known on stage, won the NME Award 2018 for Best British Solo Artist.

**Jerry Buhlmann** (1973-78) has stepped down as Chief Executive of Dentsu Aegis Network after nine years in that role. He remains as a senior adviser to Dentsu, the Japanese advertising agency. The defining moment in his career came in 2012, when he masterminded the sale of Aegis Group, listed on the FTSE 250 index in London, to Dentsu for £3.2bn – a 48% premium for shareholders. He has also broadened Dentsu Aegis Network, the world's third-biggest media buyer, into new areas such as data, analytics and content through a series of acquisitions. The group has doubled in size in the past five years. Jerry has been since 2017 a non-executive director of Inchcape plc, global distributor and retailer of premium and luxury vehicles, and is a director of Madison Sports Group, a leading promoter of cycling events. The latter appointment reflects his passion for personal fitness: as a triathlete he has competed for Great Britain at senior level.

**Chris Aspinwall** (1973-81) has stepped down as Chief Executive of Fidessa plc following its acquisition by ION Group for £1.5bn. Chris joined Fidessa over thirty years ago and became Chief Executive in 2001. Fidessa develops and markets software systems for the financial services industry and, under Chris's leadership, Fidessa has reached a position where they are market leader with 85% of the world's premier financial institutions using their position where they are market leader with 85% of the

systems to provide multi-asset trading and investment infrastructure, market data and analysis and decision making and workflow technology. Their global network handles \$26 trillion worth of transactions each year.

**James Meekings** (1996-2001) is one of the founders and UK Managing Director of Funding Circle which was launched in 2010 as a provider of peer to peer loans to small and medium businesses. Funding Circle floated on the London Stock Exchange in September 2018 with an initial market capitalisation of £1.5bn a move that elevates it to the rarefied universe of UK technology 'unicorns', those start-ups worth more than \$1bn.

**Chris Cooke** (1992-2000), who was Guest of Honour at The Celebration of Whitgift Life 2018, has left *BBC Newsnight*, where he was Policy Editor, to join *Tortoise Media* a news forum specialising in "slow news". *Tortoise Media* promotes itself thus "Slow down. Wise up. We don't do breaking news, but what's driving the news. Not the news as it happens, but when it's ready." Chris is a Partner/Editor in the new company and is part of a team dedicated to "open journalism": in a world where everything moves at breakneck speed, say the founders, "we believe we need to slow down to wise up. We are overwhelmed by information. The problem isn't just fake news or junk news, because there's a lot that's good – it's just that there's so much of it, and so much of it is the same. Most of it is in a hurry. A lot is partial and confusing. Too many people chasing the news, but missing the story. It's made people anxious and distrustful. It's not nearly fun or funny enough. No wonder we've all been feeling bewildered and, frankly, exhausted. Drowned out and locked out of power. We believe it's time that changed."

**Alex Dawson** (1996-2004) has left 10 Downing Street, where he was Director of Research and Messaging, to join Global Counsel as Practice lead in UK Politics and Policy. Global Counsel is an advisory firm under the chairmanship of Lord Mandelson that helps companies and investors across a wide range of sectors anticipate the ways in which politics, regulation and public policymaking create both risk and opportunity – and to develop and implement strategies to meet these challenges. Alex spent over a decade advising British prime ministers and politicians on strategy, research and messaging. Before working as one of Theresa May's most senior advisers, he ran the Conservative Party's research operation briefing David



Derren Brown



Stuart Nunn



Sir Peter Wall



Dr Sam Barke

Cameron for Prime Minister's Questions across the whole range of government policy.

**Neil Gaiman** (1974-77) was one of four nominees for the *New Academy Prize in Literature* a one off prize to stand in for the 2018 *Nobel Prize for Literature* which was not awarded because of controversy over its proposed recipient. He received the *Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award* which "celebrates authors who have given generously to other writers or to the broader literary community." Neil was given the award "for advocating for freedom of expression worldwide and inspiring countless writers". The television series *American Gods*, based on his book, started its second series in March 2019 with a third series scheduled for 2020.

The range of talents displayed by **Derren Brown** (1981-89) never ceases to amaze. Not only are his shows *Sacrifice* (first broadcast on 19 October 2018), *Miracle* and *The Push* streaming as Netflix Originals but his book of street photography *Meet the People with Love* has recently been published to acclaim. Derren's US show *Secret* received the 2018 *New York Drama Desk* award for Unique Theatrical Experience.

**Stuart Nunn** (2006-12), whose appearance in the National Theatre's production of *Network* was noted in the last edition, has continued his successful early theatrical career by taking a part in the new West End production of *All About Eve* at the Noël Coward Theatre.

Among the numerous events that take place within the

City of London it is worth noting that **General Sir Peter Wall GCB CBE DL** (1965-73) was the lecturer at The Royal Fusiliers Memorial Chapel Committee Lecture in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre London EC1 on 8 May 2019 taking as his subject "Our Duty to our Soldiers: How are we doing". In retirement from the army, Peter Wall is a Director of Amicus, a strategic leadership consultancy, specialising in imparting military command experience to the corporate world, with emphasis on strategic planning and execution, development of senior leaders, trust, reputation, and resilience. He is also a Director of General Dynamics, the Fortune 500 US defence and aerospace contractor. He is an honorary fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and Selwyn College Cambridge, and a visiting professor at Exeter University. He is a regular speaker on the UK's role in the world, strategic thinking, operational and institutional leadership and command: the art of running organisations.

**Dr Sam Barke** (2000-05), Medical Director of Return2Play, was interviewed about concussion on the 27 February 2019 edition of the weekly BT Sport Rugby Tonight programme. The presence of Sam as an acknowledged medical expert on this important aspect of player welfare is an indicator of the significant position of Return2Play as a leading provider of medical care and monitoring to those participating in grass roots sports. A large number of schools and clubs, including Whitgift, use the services of Return2Play; this reflects great and increasing concern about head injuries in all contact sport

## Honours, Awards and Appointments



**Christopher Trott** (1976-84) has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan with effect from May 2019. Since 2016 he has been Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan and Head of Joint FCO/ Department for International Development (DFID) Sudan Unit.

**Professor Peter Grant, FRS, FRSC** (1947-55), together with his wife Rosemary, was awarded the Royal Medal of the Royal Society in 2017 for their evolutionary research. The Grants' medal citation reads, "For their research on the ecology and evolution of Darwin's finches on the Galapagos, demonstrating that natural selection occurs frequently and that evolution is rapid as a result". They follow a distinguished line of previous medal winners dating back to 1825 which includes Michael Faraday, Humphrey Davy and Charles Darwin. In 2017 both Peter and Rosemary Grant were awarded honorary degrees by the University of Toronto.



Andy Duncan



Graham Masterton



Simon Nieminski



Tim Posner

**Professor Steven Gunn** (1971-78) has been appointed Acting Warden of Merton College, Oxford for 2018-19, the period between the retirement of the previous Warden and the commencement of the newly appointed Warden in October 2019.

**Warren Tucker** (1973-80) has added appointment to the board of Tate& Lyle plc to his extensive portfolio of non-executive directorships which include Reckitt Benckiser plc, Thomas Cook Group plc and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**Andy Duncan** (1973-80), formerly Chief Executive of Channel 4 and Camelot, has been appointed Chief Executive of Travelopia Holdings Limited. Travelopia describes itself as "the world's largest collection of specialist travel brands"; its well known brands include Jetsave, Citalia, Hayes & Jarvis and several dedicated sports tour companies.

To the many academic honours received by **Professor Andrew Chesher, FBA** (1960-67), immediate Past President of the Royal Economic Society, may be added Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences and Fellowship of the International Association for Applied Econometrics both awarded in 2018.

**Dr Andrew Holding** (1996-2001), Senior Research Associate at Cancer Research UK's Cambridge Institute, where he researches into the molecular interactions that drive cancer, and a Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge, has been awarded a Turing Fellowship for 2018-20 at the Alan Turing Institute in London and in 2019 will be a visiting lecturer at Keio University, Tokyo. He was a Thomas Jefferson visiting fellow at the University of Virginia in 2017. The Alan Turing Institute, based at the British Library, London, was created as the national institute for data science in 2015 and in 2017, as a result of a government recommendation, added artificial intelligence to its remit.

Andrew's Turing Fellowship supports the application of deep-learning strategies to model the biological systems he studies. These models will predict new therapies that bypass resistance and minimise side-effects in patients.

**Graham Masterton** (1957-62), the author of numerous best-selling novels, particularly in the horror genre, has received the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Horror Writers' Association. Members on the selection committee have fond memories of Masterton's books," reported HWA President, Lisa Morton. "Graham Masterton

has influenced many horror writers. We are truly thrilled to bestow him with this award."

Graham is known for his horror novels, but he has also been a prolific writer of thrillers, disaster novels, and historical epics, as well as one of the world's most influential series of sex instruction books. He became a newspaper reporter at the age of 17 and was appointed editor of *Penthouse* magazine at only 24. His first horror novel *The Manitou* was filmed with Tony Curtis playing the lead, and three of his short horror stories were filmed by Tony Scott for The Hunger TV series. More recently, Graham turned his hand to crime novels with *White Bones*, set in Ireland, swiftly becoming a bestseller. This has been followed by nine more bestselling crime novels, featuring Detective Superintendent Katie Maguire.

He has also published a grisly 18th century crime novel, *Scarlet Widow*. Graham's horror novels were introduced to Poland in 1989 by his late wife, Wiescka, and he is now one of that country's most celebrated award-winning authors. A new horror novel *Ghost Virus* will be published in French in 2019. He has established an award for short stories written by inmates in Polish prisons, *Nagroda Grahama Mastertona "W Wi\_zieniu Pisane"*.

Upon learning of this award, Graham said, "At the age of 10, I discovered how to give my friends a tingle of fear by writing a short story about a man who was decapitated but walked around singing Tiptoe Through the Tulips out of his severed neck. That's how my career in horror began. I am gratified that all these years later my tingling has been recognised by the Horror Writers Association."

**Tim Posner** (2006-13), the cellist, currently a pupil of Leonid Gorokhov at the Hochschule für Musik in Hanover, became the first-ever British prize winner at the International Karl Davidov Competition in Latvia. Tim plays as a soloist and in various ensembles and has performed across Europe and Asia as well as recording works by Berg and Kreisler. Tim was recently awarded the prestigious Gundlach Musikpreis and will be generously supported by the Gundlach Stiftung for the next two years.

**Simon Nieminski** (1978-86) has been appointed Assistant Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, Australia. Previously he was Organist of St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral and Director of Music at The Robin Chapel in Edinburgh and before that Master of the Music at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Simon's work takes him around the UK and abroad, both in

concert and over the airwaves, from BBC Radio 2's The Organist Entertains programme to Choral Evensong on Radio 3, and Pipedreams in the USA.

As a recitalist, his programmes often include unusual but attractive repertoire. His recordings have helped to revive the music of neglected composers; his first CD, for example was of Eugène Reuchsel's Promenades en Provence ("This is a splendid release... There is a lot of poetry here." - The

American Record Guide; "Simon Nieminski's playing is utterly convincing and at one stroke establishes him as a recording artist of the first rank." - Organists' Review).

His most recent recording (July 2018) was 'La Vie du Christ' and 'Bouquet de France' by Eugène Reuchsel played on the organ of St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh and released on the Resonus Classics label.

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## Queen's Birthday Honours List 2018

**Tim Davie** (1980-85) - CBE for services to international trade; Tim is Chief Executive of BBC Studios and a member of the Executive Board of the BBC.



**Simon Thomas** (1985-93) - OBE for services to British foreign policy; Simon is Deputy Head of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires at the British Embassy in Harare.

**Colonel Mike Cornwell** (1984-92) - OBE, for services as Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

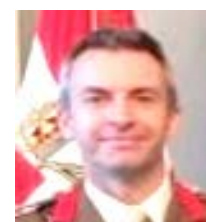
**Dr Christopher Barnett** (Headmaster 1992-2017) - MBE, for services to education. Dr Barnett (left) has recently been appointed a Governor of Bromsgrove School.



**Neil Sexton** (1978-85) has been promoted Major General and appointed Director, Engagement and Communications for the British Army.

## The Services

**Colonel Mike Cornwell, OBE** (1984-92) has been appointed Assistant Head Warfare at The Land Warfare Centre, Warminster.

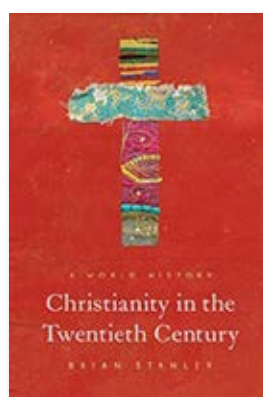


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## Publications with a Whitgiftian interest

The review in The Spectator of the English edition of *The Capital*, a novel about the hubristic aspirations of mid-ranking bureaucrats in the European Commission seeking a way of celebrating its 50th birthday in style, comments enthusiastically on the translation by **Jamie Bulloch** (1979-87) from the German of author Robert Menasse. Jamie Bulloch's translation "serves Menasse splendidly". The importance of the translator in making foreign language books accessible to English readers is easily forgotten but a clumsy translation (and I have read a number, *Ed*) reduces both sense and enjoyment. Jamie Bulloch has made a great name in recent years with German novels: his translation of *The Mussel Feast* by Birgit Vanderbecke was awarded the 2014 Schlegel-Tieck prize of the Society of Authors and the English version of *Zen and the Art of Murder* by Oliver Bottini was short listed in 2018 for the International Dagger of the Crime Writers' Association. Perhaps Jamie's most celebrated (or notorious) translation is *Look Who's Back* an English version of the bestselling German satirical novel (and film) about Adolf Hitler *Er ist wieder da*. Jamie's translation was long listed for the 2015 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and the 2016 Dublin IMPAC Award.

Professor **Brian Stanley** (1963-71), Professor of World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh, has added to a long list of publications a new book *Christianity in the Twentieth Century: a World History* published in late 2018. This book draws on a wide range of sources to present the expansion, assimilation and contraction of the Christian religion in a global context. The book offers a compelling account of how the Bible became a global book and of how expectations for the global conquest of Christian missions gave way with the impact of the First World War, the end of empire, secularisation, migration, religious pluralism, political change, persecution and genocide together with the proliferation of new religious movements. Also in 2018, Brian Stanley published his book *The Global Diffusion of Evangelicalism - The Age of Billy Graham and John Stott*, the fifth in a series of books written by a range



of authors on the history of evangelicalism. It was a busy year for the Professor.

**Wulf Bodenstein**, who attended the School as an exchange student from Germany in the early 1950s, has published *Exploring Africa with Ancient Maps*. This book is based on the collection of maps at The Royal Museum of Central Africa (RMCA) in Tervuren, Belgium, which houses in its collection approximately 3,500 maps of Africa of European origin. Of these maps there are 600, from late 15th century to early 20th century, which the RMCA designates as "ancient".

After retirement from a career in air traffic control, Wulf Bodenstein turned his avid interest as a map collector into a new profession as curator and historian of old maps at the museum and has selected 80 of the museum's most significant ancient maps which are reproduced and contextualized in his book.

The book's six main chapters are arranged chronologically by century of map publication and Wulf has written short introductions to familiarise the reader with cartographic techniques commonly employed during each epoch. Chapter introductions are followed by colour reproductions and commentaries. The commentaries detail geo-political events, cartographic conventions and scientific explorations that influenced mapmakers whilst creating each map. He also describes seminal ancient maps (such as those of Ptolemy) and how mapmakers frequently gleaned information from them to be incorporated in their own efforts to distinguish Africa's known geography from "Terra Incognita".

Throughout the text, Wulf explains "new" details that appear on African maps over time, and highlights unusual, erroneous or enigmatic details that make them worthy of study.

In the introduction Wulf states the purpose of this book is to provide "...a leisurely, stimulating journey through time, in the company of [African] maps of all sorts, shapes and sizes, many of the them with an immediate artistic appeal...". Reviewers have commented that *Exploring Africa with Ancient Maps* is successful in taking the reader on an informative guided tour of the mapping of the continent of Africa through a lens of historical European cartography and forms a recommended resource for those interested in exploring African history through maps as well as the history of cartography more generally.



Never averse to frightening his readers, **Graham Masterton** (1957-62) has now reached number ten in his series of Katie Maguire crime novels set in and around Cork. *Begging to Die* was published in late 2018 and will be available in paperback in autumn 2019. The synopsis gives a flavour of what to expect:

A young girl has been found in a deserted cemetery. She speaks a foreign language, and she cries for her mother. But nobody claims her. Nobody knows who she is. On the streets of Cork, beggars are being horrifically murdered. But why would anyone want to kill the city's homeless? It's up to DS Katie Maguire to find out. Katie's fiancé is fighting his own battle: against illegal puppy farming, a lucrative black market run by Ireland's most fearsome gangs.

When the investigations collide, who will Katie save first? She knows that for those left behind, there's only one choice: "START BEGGING TO DIE"

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## SPORT



**Joe Choong** (2008-13), the 2016 Olympian, won bronze medals in both European Modern Pentathlon Championships of 2018 and during the winter won a further bronze medal at the 2019 Budapest Indoor Championship. In early April he bettered these performances with a brilliant display to win silver at the first World Cup competition of 2019 held in Sofia.

In August 2018 **Victor Moses** (2004-07) announced his retirement from international football for Nigeria; he made 37 appearances and scored 12 goals. Victor represented Nigeria at two World Cups and was in the team that won the African Cup of Nations in 2013. In the first part of the 2018-19 season he made only six appearances for Chelsea and in January 2019 went on loan to the Turkish Premier League club Fenerbahçe where he scored his first goal on 1 February 2019.

**Bertrand Traoré** (2011-13) continues to play for

Olympique Lyon in the French Ligue 1. During season 2018-19 Bertrand has maintained his outstanding form: so far he has played 80 times for Lyon and scored 28 goals in League, Cup and European competitions.

During calendar year 2018, **Jason Roy** (2004-08) scored no fewer than three centuries against Australia. The year started with his record breaking score of 180 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and continued when the Australians were in England in June when he scored 120 at Cardiff and 101 at Chester-le-Street. These two innings were either side of an innings of 82 at Nottingham: 303 runs century against West



Indies on 20 February 2019 at Bridgetown, Barbados. As at the beginning of March 2019, Jason has played 73 one day internationals for England as well as 32 twenty/twenty internationals.

The opening fixture of



Elliot Daly



James Wyatt



Harvey Byers



Nathan Baxter

the English first-class cricket season is a match between the Champion County of the previous season and the MCC. The 2019 fixture in Abu Dhabi from 24-27 March featured no fewer than five OWs, **Rory Burns** (2001-06), **Freddie van den Bergh** (2003-10), **Ryan Patel** (2009-16) and **Jamie Smith** (2010-18) for Surrey and **Dominic Sibley** (2007-14) for MCC. Jamie Smith marked his first class debut with a century; he is only the ninth player in the history of Surrey cricket to achieve this notable landmark and his score of 127 is the highest ever from a Surrey debutant, beating a record that had stood since 1899. OW success continued when, in the second MCC innings, Dominic Sibley also scored a century. This was his fourth century in successive first class matches. He took that sequence to five when he scored 132 for Warwickshire against Kent in his next first class match. Ryan Patel also attracted favourable comment with his maiden first class century against Essex in Surrey's first match of the 2019 Championship.

**Elliot Daly** (2006-11) scored tries against South Africa on the England tour in June 2018, Australia at Twickenham in November 2018 and Ireland in Dublin in the Six Nations' Championship match in February 2019. Elliot has so far won 30 caps for England (and 3 for the British and Irish Lions) and scored 11 tries for England as well as 6 penalty goals (and one for the Lions). **Harry Williams** (2002-10) has played alongside Elliot in several recent matches, often making an appearance in the second half as an impact substitute (or "finisher"). Harry now has 17 England caps.

**Danny Cipriani** (2001-07), who has never been far from the headlines during his rugby career, made an immediate and positive impression with his move to Gloucester. At the Premiership Rugby Awards, Danny was named in the BT Sport Dream Team for 2017-18 when he was still with Wasps. However an article in the Daily Telegraph in January 2019 considered the importance of Danny to his new club Gloucester's performance: "With Cipriani in domestic action, they average more points, more tries, more defenders beaten and more

line breaks. Cipriani tops the Premiership tally for line-break assists - passes that have allowed a team mate to run clear and only Saracens full-back Alex Goode and Worcester scrum-half Francois Hougaard are above him in the try assist stakes. These statistics underline just how forcefully Cipriani has taken ownership of Gloucester's attack since arriving from Wasps".

Danny Cipriani was named as Player of the Month for September 2018 after his 'Pass of the season' sent Charlie Sharples in for a remarkable try. This came shortly after his excellent return to England service in the last Test of the June 2018 South African tour: yet he continues to find little favour with England.

**Nathan Baxter** (2009-15), who has been associated with Chelsea since the age of eight, has been on loan to Yeovil Town since June 2018. At the end of March 2019 he had made 29 League and Cup appearances for Yeovil and captained the side on 2 March 2019. As of November 2018, he was recorded as the only teenage goalkeeper currently in the professional ranks to have played over 100 games at senior level. Nathan set a Yeovil record by keeping six consecutive clean sheets in all competitions and did not concede a goal for 10 hours and 12 minutes. **Renny Smith** (2010-13) is now playing for Dordrecht in the second tier of Dutch professional football. He joined his present club in July 2018 and has so far played 21 matches and scored 3 goals.

**James Wyatt** (2012-18), who last year was England's top ranked under 19 squash player, is now at Columbia University, New York, where he has been playing for Columbia Lions, notably in the highly competitive championship for Ivy League universities. As a result of his performances he has been selected for the All-Ivy representative team.

**Harvey Byers** (2010-17) won the Bernard Darwin Salver at Rye Golf Club at the end of March 2019. His aggregate score over four rounds was 275, giving him victory by six shots. This prestigious competition is open to no more than fifty participants under the age of 21 with Category 1 (5 or lower) handicap and is described as the South of England Youths' Championship, although in reality it appears that





Henry Cheeseman



Marland Yarde



David Pearson



Jamie Smith

entry is not limited to those from the South of England. As a comment on the importance of this competition, previous winners have included the 2018 Ryder Cup player, Tyrell Hatton.

In the Rugby Premiership for 2018-19 there has been OW representation as follows: London Wasps - **Elliot Daly** (2006-11) - Elliot will be moving to Saracens for Season 2019-20; Gloucester - **Danny Cipriani** (2001-07); Harlequins: **Henry Cheeseman** (2006-14), **George Merrick** (2009-11), **Stan South** (2012-14); Exeter Chiefs: **Harry Williams** (2002-10); Sale Sharks: **Marland Yarde** (2008-10), who has missed much of the season after suffering a serious knee injury in October during Sale's victory over Newcastle Falcons ; Saracens: **Matt Gallagher** (2013-15); Leicester Tigers: **Adam Thompstone** (1999-2006). Matt Gallagher was again a nominee for Breakthrough Player of the Year for his performances in the Premiership Cup; he has also played an important part in a number of Saracens Premiership matches including being named Man of the Match against Leicester Tigers in February 2019. George Merrick will move to the French Top 14 club ASM Clermont Auvergne for season 2019-20.

**Sven Kerneis** (2010-15) of St Peter's College won his Blue as Number 8 in the successful Oxford team at Twickenham in December 2018. Unfortunately for Sven, he received an injury early on in the match and had to be substituted.

The Exeter University rugby team that won the BUCS Super League title for 2018-19 included **Sam Morley** (2012-16) at fly half and **Lasha Jaiani** (2014-16) in the second row.

The 2019 Oxford v Cambridge hockey match was another big occasion for Whitgift hockey as **Noah Francis** (2008-16) of St John's College and **Ryan Kavanagh** (2007-14) of Worcester College were joined in the Oxford team by **Johann Perera** (2008-15) of The Queen's College. **George Oyebode** (2008-16) of Exeter College, a Blue in 2018, was unable to play because of injury. Despite this notable Whitgiftian representation Cambridge achieved a 3-2 win.

**David Pearson** (2009-15), won the Gold Medal in his age group at the European Duathlon Championships in November 2018. David said he was 'very satisfied to have finished the season with a gold at European Duathlon Championships', although it was not the smoothest race

since marshalling errors almost cost David his medal. Earlier in the year, he won a silver medal in the European 20-24 age group sprint distance race held in Glasgow. This was a significant achievement for David who experienced a crash and hospital treatment when competing in 2017 in the equivalent event. He was delighted by his achievement and said 'From lying in a hospital bed after Düsseldorf 2017 to a silver medal in my age group at Glasgow European Sprint Championships 2018 - it was a great day at the office - enough motivation to keep me going till next year'. After experiencing a very successful year in triathlon, winning the varsity race and attaining a full blue, David graduated with a first in biological sciences.

In domestic first class cricket **Rory Burns** (2001-06), in his first year of captaincy, led Surrey to their first Championship title since 2002. Rory again scored over 1000 Championship runs in 2018 (the fifth successive season in which he has achieved this feat) and with 1359 runs at an average of 64.71 was the most prolific scorer in Division 1 of the County Championship. **Jason Roy** (2004-08) was again required regularly for England one day matches and only appeared in two Championship games for Surrey where he scored a century and a fifty in his three innings. In his first season with Warwickshire, **Dominic Sibley** (2007-14) scored 777 runs in Division 2 of the County Championship: this included four centuries, three of which (against Leicestershire, Sussex and Kent) came in the last three matches of the season. Dominic was a key member of the side which achieved promotion to Division 1. **Laurie Evans** (1998-2004) did not establish himself in Championship matches for Sussex in 2018 but was top of the county's averages in both the 20 over and 50 over competitions. In the 20 over Vitality Blast, Laurie was the highest scoring batsman in the competition. **Michael Burgess** (2004-08) played regularly for Sussex in all forms of the game and recorded another first class century. **Ryan Patel** (2009-16), Captain of School Cricket in 2016, played a number of County Championship matches for Surrey and had one remarkable day at Guildford where he took 6 Somerset wickets for 5 runs in 11 balls with his medium paced bowling.

**Jamie Smith** (2010-18), the School's Cricket Captain in 2018, made his Surrey debut in the Vitality Blast competition and during the winter of 2018/19 toured Bangladesh as Captain of the Young Lions (England's Under 19 team). In the Second Youth Test Match, Jamie scored 90 and 104 in his two innings.

# OW Sports Clubs

The Rugby Club played in London SW Division 3 in 2018/19 but sadly a very poor first half of the season could not be recovered by post New Year improvement: five wins after Christmas were only good enough to raise the team to tenth in a league of twelve and relegation. A great pity, since as Chairman Dr Sam Barke indicated, the team was good enough to beat most of the teams in the league. Overall, however, the club is in good heart.

Both football and hockey performed well in 2018-19: the football club is now celebrating its 21st birthday and both its teams had good seasons whilst the hockey club 1st XI has stayed up in Surrey/Hampshire Regional 1st Division and lower teams have been close to the top of their leagues. For cricket, the 2018 season was a difficult one.

In golf, an exciting line up for the 2019 Halford Hewitt competition promised much with a first round win (4-1) against Shrewsbury, one of the perennially stronger teams,

but there was defeat (3-2) against Radley in the second round. The OW Golf Society remains popular - the mixture of society days, matches and an annual tour continues to appeal.

The Chess Club has taken part with some success in the Croydon District Chess League Division 2 while the 26th annual Leonard Barden Cup match against the School was won by 5 1/2-1 1/2 (the OWs lead the series 201/2 - 51/2).

The Whitgift Veterans Rifle Club, now 122 years old (and second only to the OWCC in antiquity among OW sporting clubs) continues to shoot with success in numerous events and happily also attracts a number of young OWs. In the same way the Rugby Fives Club has benefited from a recent resurgence in School Fives.

More detail of all these activities can be read on a regular basis in the bi-monthly OW Newsletter.

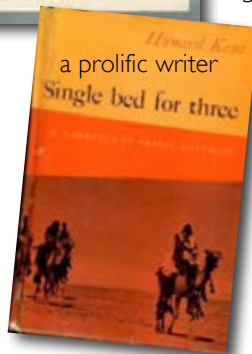
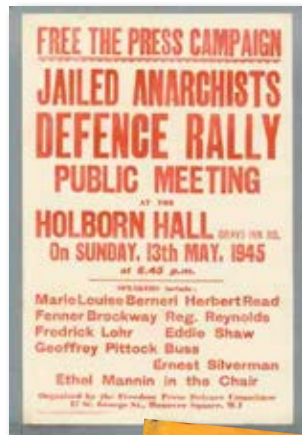
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## Other News

### Howard Kent

There has been interesting and extensive correspondence about Howard Kent - Peter Preston, a social historian, approached Bill Wood, the School Archivist, to ask why Howard Kent, yoga enthusiast, pacifist, and philanthropist who devoted the last thirty five years of his life to the advancement of yoga and the benefits that its practice could bring to sufferers of multiple sclerosis and other serious medical conditions, was not included in the School's Wikipedia list of notable alumni. The answer was simple - the School knew no one of this name.

Through careful checking it was confirmed that he was an OW, but at School was known by his birth name **Geoffrey Pittock-Buss** (1931-35). Born in Croydon in 1919, the son of a civil servant and a professional singer, he went into journalism and publishing after Whitgift. He set up the New Vision Publishing Company and in 1944 published Vera Brittain's *Seeds of Chaos: What Mass Bombing Really Means* for the Bombing Restriction Committee. He edited or worked on local newspapers in Kent and south London as well as *The Illustrated London News*. He then joined the *News Chronicle* in 1955, becoming its chief picture editor until the paper's closure in 1960. In 1961, he spent six months in Spain, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon working as picture editor on the film *Lawrence of Arabia*. His experiences while editing and organising the thousands of still photographs led to him writing the book *A Single Bed for Three, A Lawrence of Arabia Notebook*. He was offered work on the film *Cleopatra* but turned it down to



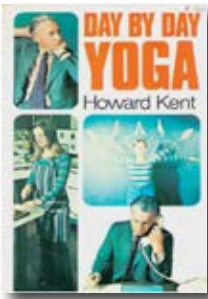
set up a show business agency with Theo Cowan. The agency represented, among others, Shirley Bassey, Peter Sellers, Richard Attenborough, Dirk Bogarde, and André Previn.

It is not clear at what stage Geoffrey Pittock-Buss changed his name to Howard Kent, but in 1941, aged 22, he provided an introduction under his birth name to a book entitled *Letter of a Prisoner for*

*Conscience Sake* by Corder Catchpool, on pacificism and Quakerism and in 1945 his name appears on a poster advertising a rally in defence of jailed anarchists - others featured included novelist Ethel Mannin, poet Herbert Read and politician Fenner Brockway, all well known for their anarchist sympathies.

He first encountered yoga in the early 1940s after reading Gandhi's Gujarati translation of the 'Bhagavad Gita' and other writings about his philosophy. In 1942 he was elected to the executive committee of the Indian Freedom Campaign, a group of London writers and politicians supporting Indian independence, and was asked to edit their magazine. Howard studied yoga in India and became an early protagonist of hatha yoga.

Following a meeting in 1967 with Larry Freiberg, controller of the U.S. television company Channel Five, he created the



production company United Television and invited the yogi Richard Hittleman to come to Britain. They made sixty-four episodes of the television programme *Yoga for Health* with Hittleman as host. The programme, first shown in January 1971, ran for three years across most ITV channels; it was a topic not previously covered by British

television and attracted an audience of more than four million viewers. The book produced to accompany the series sold in excess of a million copies. In 1971, the series was offered to PBS in the U.S. and eventually screened in more than twenty countries around the world. The programmes were constantly repeated and in New York, *Yoga for Health* was broadcast non-stop for more than four and a half years. In 1972, Howard Kent, as he now was, created the not-for-profit Yoga for Health Clubs as well as writing extensively on yoga, and in 1976 financed the formation of the Yoga For Health Foundation (YFHF) as a registered charity. In April 1978, the organisation leased a large country house, Ickwell Bury, in Bedfordshire as its residential headquarters. YFHF at Ickwell Bury gained recognition for developing techniques to help people suffering from a range of health problems including multiple sclerosis, cancer, arthritis, Parkinson's disease and other chronic conditions: its importance was recognised by its description in the 1990s as "essential both to the NHS and the local community".

From 1994, Howard Kent was an adviser to the International Integrated Health Association (later to become Child Health International).

Howard Kent (Geoffrey Pittock-Buss) died on 15 February 2005 aged 85. His was a remarkable life that certainly deserves recognition among OW alumni.

## Dick and Anne Glynne-Jones

On a hot and sunny day in August 2018 more than a hundred guests joined Dick and Anne Glynne-Jones to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary at Piltdown Golf Club, close to the home where they have lived for the past twenty-six years. The OW community, many of whom were taught by Dick during his forty years at Whitgift as an



influential and inspiring teacher of English and Head of Careers, join in congratulating the couple for their long and successful marriage and wish them all the best in the years to come.

The couple's sons, Jeremy and Tim, provided entertainment and - clearly inheriting their father's talent with words - performed a specially composed song in their parents' honour. At Dick's prior request, this was followed by a sing-along of the couple's favourite songs spanning the past sixty

years, led and accompanied by Pip Burley (1955-62) on piano. The party concluded with an impromptu rendition of "A Penny a Kiss, a Penny a Hug" sung by Dick and Anne, who rightly received a standing ovation from an appreciative and affectionate audience.

Dick has been a keen sportsman all his life and remains a member of Piltdown Golf Club and the Old Whitgiftian Golf Society - although, at the age of eighty-eight, is less often seen strolling fairways and greens.

## Fl Lt Alan Wagner DFC\*

The School archive is indebted to Basil Nash, father of **Martin** (1963-72), **Ian** (1968-76) and **Paul** (1975-77) and father-in-law of **Bob Macintosh** (1967-72) and **Jerry Curtis** (1968-72) who moved with, as he says, "all the intelligent members of the family" to Sydney in 1977. Basil sent a copy of a lengthy article from *Aeroplane* magazine of August 2018, which describes the flying exploits of **Alan Wagner** (1927-32). Wagner was the uncle of **Nicholas** (1958-63) and **Philip** (1959-65).



Alan Wagner joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1937 and called up on the outbreak of War. He flew constantly, initially on Tiger Moths in communications, then in Hurricanes during the Battle of Britain following which he became a night fighter pilot in a Boulton Paul Defiant. It was in a Defiant that Wagner destroyed his first enemy aircraft. He was awarded his first DFC in 1941. Alan then moved to the Western Desert, flying a Hurricane, and then to Ceylon where he destroyed two Japanese dive bombers. By 1943, he was flying Mosquitos (he nick-named his plane Wag's War-Wagon) and involved in attacks on airfields and other targets in Belgium and later in Germany. For his brave service in 1943-44 Alan Wagner was awarded a second DFC.

He transferred to the Fighter Interception Unit (FIU) in early summer 1944 and flew the Hawker Tempest - the FIU was formed principally to attack V1 flying bombs, which it did with considerable success, but it was on one such mission from RAF Newchurch that Alan Wagner was killed: on 18 July 1944, he was pursuing a V1 in thick fog and crashed. He was 29. His name is recorded on the School's 1939-45 War Memorial and also on the plaque commemorating OWs who flew in the Battle of Britain. As Basil Nash, a former Fleet Air Arm pilot, writes: "Alan Wagner was a brave and exceptional pilot of the time". The Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum in Everett, Washington has a Mosquito which, although it was not Wagner's, carries the name Wag's War-Wagon and has five kill symbols, three German and two Japanese.

## Basil Nicholson

News has recently come from the son of **Basil Nicholson** (1924-30), who toured South Africa in 1938 with the British

and Irish Lions, that he has received, in a splendid presentation box, a cap in recognition of his father's appearance in a Test match against the Springboks. The Lions did not award caps at the time but even eighty years later this was a delightful and nostalgic memento. It is



interesting to note that the 1938 touring party included two Old Cranleighans, one each from Old Birkonians, Instonians and Glasgow Academicals as well as an Old Whitgiftian: all shown as their principal clubs. How times change.

Basil Nicholson also has another claim on immortality: the poem 'Rugby Football Excursion' by Louis McNeice

tells in 44 lines the story of a trip from London to Dublin to watch a rugby match at Lansdowne Road. One section shows that it was the Ireland v England match of 1938 since it reads:

*"Eccentric scoring - Nicholson, Marshall and Unwin,  
Replies by Bailey and Dailey;  
Rugs around our shins, the effortless place kick  
Gaily carving the goalposts"*

Basil Nicholson's try referred to in the poem was his only one in international rugby.



Nick Mann

**Nick Mann** (1973-81) changed track in 2008 after twenty years in stock broking and investment banking to set up Habitat Aid which promotes and sells British native trees, hedging, aquatic plants, wildflower meadow seeds and heritage fruit trees. Habitat Aid has close links to a number of specialist science based UK conservation charities and work with them to reverse biodiversity loss. Half of the profits from retail sales go to these charities and funding is provided for community planting and seeding projects. Further information on this fascinating and worthwhile project can be found on [www.habitataid.co.uk](http://www.habitataid.co.uk). The website was named as website of the year 2018 in the Garden Media Guild Awards.

## OW Expeditions

Although the Expeditions section in this edition is not as imposing as in the previous edition, it is worth noting **Ollie Little's** (1988-96) cross-channel swim. He will not be the first OW to swim the Channel but there have not been many!

Ollie modestly says that has been a police officer for 18 years. He is in fact a Detective Chief Inspector in the City of London Police and Head

of Major Crime with emphasis on cyber-crime. Prior to his present posting he was head of Insurance Fraud Enforcement, a nationwide task run by the City's police.

Ollie has fond memories of eight years at Whitgift and the pleasure of meeting so many friends at the 20-year reunion. He tried to take full advantage of the many opportunities at School and from the first joined everything in sight from apiarists to water polo. Gradually that was whittled down - for example Mr Vincent was good enough to pretend to look disappointed when he removed his tone deaf voice from the choir.

Ollie says: "I was more suited to swimming, and fondly remember Barking Bob Brown, the cigar smell of his office, his box of spare swimming trunks and his habit of calling me 'chunky' (was it just me?). I never brought in any silverware



for the school, but it gave me a good grounding and set me up with a pastime that's been a big part of my life. Over the years I've been upping the distance and this year on or about 17th July, depending on tides, I'll be swimming across the Channel to France as part of a team. I'm incredibly excited about the prospect of crossing one of the

busiest shipping lanes in the world, in water just above 10 degrees! The rules are very clear that no wetsuits are permitted. I've been a police officer for 18 years and I've seen at first-hand how people's lives can change in an instant. I'm incredibly lucky to be able to contemplate this extreme physical challenge. Every 8 hours someone suffers a spinal injury for which there is no cure. Their lives are changed dramatically in an instant and everyday tasks we do without thinking become real challenges. Aspire is a UK registered charity that supports those who have suffered a spinal injury by adapting their homes and workplaces, counselling and helping navigate the benefits system."

Ollie is swimming to raise money for the work of Aspire; your donation can make a real difference so pledge what you can. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oliver-little>



## Deaths

We have, with regret, to record the deaths of the following OWs reported since the preparation of the previous edition of OW News:

BECK - On 5 March 2019, Reverend Geoffrey Edward (1928-34), aged 100

BUNN - On 22 January 2019, Richard Herbert Bunn (1946-54), aged 82, father of N R (1978-84), J J (1980-88) and T W (1982-90)

CALDWELL - On 29 October 2018, Ian (1940-48), aged 88

CODD - On 16 January 2019, Raymond Anthony (Member of Staff 1972-79), aged 71

COULSON - In 2015, Michael Herman (1955-56), aged 76

DIMMOCK - On 20 September 2018, Norman Albert (1934-39), aged 95

EBBUTT - On 2 January 2019, Robert Stuart (1945-52), aged 83

FLANAGAN - On 26 December 2018, Ian Bennett, OBE (1948-54) aged 81, President WA 2010-11

FORSBERG - On 15 November 2018, Anthony John (1951-59), aged 77

HART - On August 2017, Richard John (1931-39), aged 95

HODGES - On 27 November 2018, John Michael (1945-52), aged 84 father of J E (1978-86)

HOLCOMBE - On 30 September 2018, Anthony John (1945-53), aged 83

HONEY - On 19 March 2018, Roger Philip (1942-50), aged 85, brother of B E J (1940-46)

HORNE - On 24 June 2018, Christopher James (1951-58), aged 78, brother of the late N C (1949-56) and J K (1952-57)

KEYTE - On 19 February 2019, John Brian (1942-49), aged 88, father of J D (1966-73)

LEGG - On 28 November 2018, Victor John (1944-49), aged 84

MELINSKY - On 22 October 2018, Canon Michael Arthur Hugh (1936-42), aged 94

MILSOM - On 9 July 2018, Lt Col Rodney John, OBE (1950-56), aged 80

NICHOLAS - On 10 March 2019, Walter Kenneth (Member of Staff 1956-91), aged 92, father of P C (1976-82)

PEARCE - On 16 July 2018, David Guy (1962-68), aged 68, brother of the late J C M (1962-66)

PITTOCK-BUSS - On 15 February 2005, Geoffrey Benjamin (1931-35) known as Howard Kent, aged 85, brother of the late A J (1920-26) and uncle of B J (1947-52)

ROGERS - On 18 March 2018, Leonard John (1942-50), aged 86

SAUNDERS - On 7 November 2018, David Ian (1944-48), aged 87

SMITH - On 31 October 2018, Rev Kenneth Victor George (Member of Staff 1978-95), aged 81

SMYTH - On 14 April 2018, Michael James Tindall (1936-43), aged 91

SQUIRES - On 24 August 2018, Alan Blair (1945-53), aged 83

TIERNEY - On 7 November 2018, Hugh Patrick (Head Porter 1988-2006) aged 78

TUNNAH - On 10 November 2018, Dr Barry Graham (1950-58), aged 78

WALTON - On 2 December 2017, David (1957-60), aged 75

WEBB - On 4 July 2018, Jeffrey Cecil (1946-52), aged 83

WEBB - On 15 October 2018, Peter John (1950-56), aged 80

WHITE - In June 2018, Duncan Mackenzie (Member of Staff 1992-2008), aged 82

WILD - On 13 July 2018, Denys Aubrey Tudor, OBE (1937-43), aged 93

WILLIAMS - On 19 January 2019, Professor Peter John (1942-51), aged 86

WYATT - On 2 February 2018, Graham Barry Shorten (1950-55), aged 79

# Obituaries

## Reverend Geoffrey Beck (1928-34)

*The appreciation that follows is based on tributes from his daughter Hilary and from John Reardon, former Moderator General Assembly United Reformed Church, which were given at the funeral of Geoffrey Beck on 19 March 2019. Geoffrey Beck was not only one of the few OW centenarians but a man of remarkable talents and vision. He was honoured by the Federal Republic of Germany and was an Oxford Blue at hockey (playing alongside a very young Bob Schad immediately after WWII). He also played cricket for Oxford against Cambridge in wartime Varsity matches for which Blues were not awarded. In early 2019, shortly before his death, he was recorded as the sixteenth longest lived first class cricketer in history and the third oldest still alive.*

Over the last six or seven years, as I watched Geoffrey age, I realised that one of the risks of living to a ripe old age is that there may be no friends and colleagues left when the time comes to celebrate your life and say goodbye. His obituary particularly troubled me; I wanted the world in which he lived and his life, dedicated to bringing people together, to be remembered. As a daughter I am not well-equipped to write his obituary, because it was in his relationships with friends and colleagues that Geoffrey really came alive. I recognised this as a child and loved to listen to my parent's adult conversation with friends; I could understand that they were interesting people and were greatly valued by others.

Geoffrey's mother and father had to battle to get anywhere in life. Though his childhood was not unhappy, there was little humour or sense of fun. However, he was greatly supported by his parent's attitude of acceptance, an attribute he inherited and valued throughout his life. Geoffrey's father was steady, reliable and trustworthy. He could be out-spoken, even forthright, but he believed in sharing based on a strong moral sense of responsibility and gave 10% of his income to charity (a commitment continued by Geoffrey, as soon as he had an income). He was also a good lay preacher.

Up to the age of 10 - and the arrival of homework - Geoffrey would read the Bible together with his mother in the evenings. On Sundays, there was chapel and Sunday school; the Quakers had been a crucial support to his parents during WWI (when his father was a Conscientious Objector) and this was never forgotten, neither by his parents nor by Geoffrey. At school there was Religious Education or Scripture, but



Religion and Theology as serious subjects of study seemed to him to be restricted to people in the Church of England-and he was brought up to avoid Anglicans. His parents were also strongly anti Roman Catholic so Geoffrey only knew that Catholics existed. These were attitudes which he did not carry into his later life!

As an only child Geoffrey learned how to be happy in his own company. He did well academically at school, and particularly enjoyed sport (in his teens he wanted nothing more than to spend his life playing cricket) and meeting other people with different backgrounds and outlooks from his own. Later (especially during his first ministry in Lancashire) these two passions of sport and people merged, and he valued and used sport for its ability to cross all social, cultural and particularly religious divides.

Slowly he began to learn that there were different and valid ways of looking at the same thing and grew to recognise, as he grew away from his parents, that these different viewpoints were formed by people's different experiences. When he became a Conscientious Objector he said that he didn't feel 'better' than those who were donning uniforms, or that his view was the correct one, he just understood that he saw things from a different viewpoint, and this came from his different values. But he only valued different ideas and attitudes when they were accompanied by questioning and intelligent, clear and open thinking. Then his willingness to be open to everyone enabled him to seek out common ground on fundamental issues, and to celebrate and enjoy the differences.

When he left school in 1934 he had three apparent options for his future career - the

alternative family traditions of printing and the church, or to spend his life playing cricket! So he started on the printing. By 1936 he was working in his father's business, and in 1937 this took him to Vienna where he met and talked with Quakers, factory workers, Austrians, Czechoslovakians and refugees from Germany. He was excited by the new backgrounds, ideas and opinions he encountered, it stimulated his political concern and he started to develop a sense of European-ness. He realized there was still much he didn't know about his own country and felt restless and unfulfilled by his job. He sought vocational guidance and was told he was quite capable of taking a degree and doing well; this was a new idea to him.

The war was coming. As the son of a 'conshie', it was natural that Geoffrey should be among the first to register as Conscientious Objectors in June 1939 when conscription was resumed. He also registered as an evening student at LSE, to specialise in International Affairs. Then, in July he was sent as a last-minute delegate to the First World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam-a meeting of a thousand young Christians from 70 nations on the eve of war with exciting visions of the future which resonated with him. He had met the world Church and wanted more. In his mind he developed the idea of doing something in international peace-making after the coming war-with others he thought and talked about the ecumenical movement, the concept of Family Church, people in community, social justice, politics.

In 1940 LSE was evacuated to Cambridge and Geoffrey met and listened to more and more interesting and like-minded people. Because of the war and the small number of students he switched courses to Sociology, through which he first met Joy. He also took courses in Comparative Study of Religion-because he thought it sounded interesting. In 1942 he completed his first degree and was faced, as a conscientious objector, with going to prison. His choices were limited. Finally he saw what was probably blindingly obvious to others, that he could combine all that interested him-and avoid going to prison-via Mansfield College and going into the ministry. His course was set.

*Hilary Welch*

Geoffrey Beck's preparation for ministry was at Mansfield College, Oxford, where he came under the influence of Dr Nathaniel Micklem, the College Principal and Dr John

Marsh, his successor. Whilst at the Mansfield, Geoffrey became President of the Junior Common Room and was awarded an Oxford Hockey Blue although for much of his life cricket was his sporting passion..

Geoffrey's first ministry was at Eccleston in Lancashire where he was later described by some "as a breath of fresh air". In 1950 he and Joy moved to Oxford when Geoffrey became minister at Summertown Congregational Church where he remained until 1965. This was a long and extraordinarily fruitful ministry among a church membership that included not only some of the staff of Mansfield College but other academics. Looking back over those days when Geoffrey was celebrating his 100th birthday last year one person wrote "he had or made time for absolutely everybody".

Two very significant achievements during Geoffrey's ministry in Oxford were his successful perseverance in persuading the Bishop of Oxford that the city needed a Council of Churches and his pioneering role in establishing the ecumenical Church of the Holy Family in Blackbird Leys, an Oxford housing estate. For the latter there was a minefield of trusts, considerable financial problems and the complexities of denominational rules to contend with. These ecumenical negotiations, in which it was said that Geoffrey never took no for an answer, led to him being head hunted for the post of Warden of the Chapel of Unity at Coventry Cathedral in 1965, a post he held for six years and which was the embodiment of post-war hopes and visions for Christian unity. He was also the General Secretary of the Coventry Council of Churches. The Chapel of Unity was meant to be a Christian Service Centre and Geoffrey worked closely with the Coventry Voluntary Services Council of which Joy was the Co-ordinator.

During his time in Coventry Geoffrey travelled extensively helping to create a network of peace and reconciliation centres in Europe using the Coventry symbol of the cross of nails as a unifying motif. While at Summertown, Geoffrey had been one of those who helped to consolidate the link with the Palatinate Church in Germany and while in Coventry he extended his personal links with many in East Germany and Czechoslovakia during the Cold War. He was the obvious person from the Congregational and later United Reformed tradition to serve on the East-West Relations Committee of the British Council of Churches. When in the 1980s that body published its survey of East-West relations between the churches here and in Eastern Europe, under the title "Discretion and Valour", Geoffrey was responsible for the chapter on

Czechoslovakia. In 1971, Geoffrey became minister of Central Free Church in Brighton and was there until retirement in 1984. His task was to bring together churches each with their own ethos and he combined administrative work with wider responsibility as Ecumenical Officer for the Southern Province of the United Reformed Church after the union of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in England and Wales in 1972.

During retirement Geoffrey did not rest. One of his enthusiasms was for the partnership between the United Reformed and the German Evangelical Church of the Palatinate - this relationship with Germany formed the inspiration for another remarkable achievement. He and Dr Elaine Kaye, former Headmistress of Oxford High School, worked together to secure a memorial in Oxford to Adam von Trott zu Solz.. Adam von Trott, studied at Mansfield College and Balliol as a Rhodes Scholar at the beginning of the 1930s. During the War he was executed in August 1944 for his part in the July plot to kill Hitler. Geoffrey and Elaine Kaye were instrumental in raising funds to sponsor German students to study in Oxford. So successful was that initiative that a number of German students have already been sponsored; to recognise the part that Geoffrey and Elaine played in this enterprise they were awarded in 2014 Germany's highest honour, the Cross of the Order of Merit. The award ceremony emphasised eternal values of peace and friendship between peoples that transcend individual lives. What more fitting tribute could be paid to such a remarkable person as Geoffrey Beck?

*John Reardon - former Moderator of General Assembly United Reformed Church*

### Canon Hugh Melinsky (1936-42)

Theologian and biographer of the creator of Bomber Command's Pathfinder force Canon Hugh Melinsky, who has died aged 94, was a theologian who devoted his learning to the service of the church rather than to research. He was helped in this by a liberal mind of considerable versatility that enabled him to reflect on several areas of social ethics as well as to new patterns of

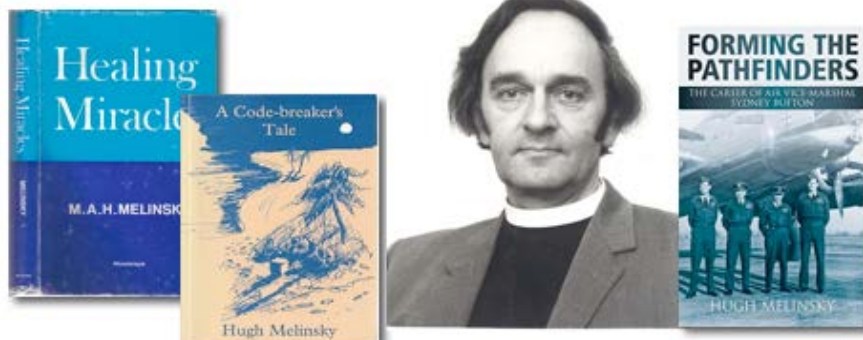
ordained ministry. In retirement he branched out to write a biography of the prime mover behind the RAF's wartime Bomber Command Pathfinder force.

Michael Arthur Hugh Melinsky was born at Croydon on January 25 1924. His grandfather was the son of a rabbi who fell victim to a devastating Russian pogrom of the Jewish community in Kiev in 1905. Known always as Hugh, he left the local Whitgift School in 1942 for the Interservices Special Intelligence School to train in code breaking and cipher work. He then spent two years involved in Japanese Intelligence interpretation.

In 1946 he went to Christ's College, Cambridge, to read Theology and came under the lasting influence of its Master, Charles Raven, a distinguished liberal theologian, and its chaplain, Ian Ramsey, who later became Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at Oxford, then Bishop of Durham.

Uncertain about ordination, Melinsky moved on to the London Institute of Education to gain a teaching qualification. From 1949 until 1957 he taught at Normanton Grammar School then at the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster. In 1949 he had married Renate Ruhemann who had escaped Berlin in 1935. By 1957 Melinsky, by this time considering that he was ready for Holy Orders, prepared briefly at the liberal theological college, Ripon Hall, Oxford (subsequently merged with Cuddesdon College). The same year he became a curate at Wimborne Minster in Dorset, moving to Wareham two years later. In 1961 he became Vicar of St Stephen's Church, Norwich, combining this with the chaplaincy of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. This ministry to the sick stimulated his interest in the relationship between religion and medicine. He also founded the Samaritans branch in Norwich.

In his book *Healing Miracles* (1967) he considered the possible psychosomatic elements in the miracles of Jesus. For example, on the healing of lepers he wrote: "If the disease was leprosy, the cure was wholly outside our knowledge. If, however, it was psoriasis or something like it, then the emotional impact of Jesus' acceptance of the outcast man might have played an important



part in his cure." This led to his involvement in the Institute of Religion and Medicine and he edited its journal in 1970 and 1973.

Then came the chairmanship of a Church of England Commission on Euthanasia and editorship of its ground-breaking report, *On Dying Well* (1975). This booklet argued strongly for palliative care as the proper alternative to assisted suicide and went through two editions.

Meanwhile, in 1968 he had become Canon Missioner of Norwich diocese and was confronted with the challenge of a shortage of clerical manpower and money to sustain Norfolk's very large number of small rural parishes. His response was to advocate the ordination of priests who would remain in their secular jobs or use early retirements to carry on ministry on a part-time basis, without pay. This, he believed, would not only help to fill gaps but also introduce different forms of ordained ministry that had their own authenticity and value. Others were considering such a solution, but Melinsky's powerful advocacy and theological skill took him in 1973 to the chief secretaryship of the Church of England's Council of Ministry, responsible for the recruitment and training of all clergy. During the next five years, under his leadership, a new policy, assisted by his book *Patterns of Ministry* (1972), took shape. He insisted on the importance of maintaining a large complement of full-time clergy and the tough, appropriate training of self-supporting priests.

The final 10 years of his full-time ministry (1978-88) were spent as Principal of the Northern Ordination Course in Manchester, using some of its university resources in the training of self-supporting clergy for many of the Northern dioceses. He was also a member of the Social Policy committee of the General Synod's Board for Social Responsibility and of the church's Theological Education committee.

He retired to Norwich, where the memory of Norfolk's many wartime RAF bases led him to research the contribution to the bomber offensive made by the little-known Air Vice-Marshal, Sydney Bufton. When in 1942 scientific investigation revealed that too many aircraft had missed their German targets, Bufton - then a Group Captain - proposed the creation of special squadrons of the most skilled pilots and navigators who would fly ahead of the rest and accurately illuminate targets with the use of incendiary bombs and flares. This was fiercely resisted by the head of Bomber Command, Air Marshal Arthur Harris, and other senior officers, on the grounds that the creation of an elite would demoralise other aircrews.

Eventually the Chief of the Air Staff, Charles Portal, intervened and the Pathfinder Force was created - with much improved bombing results. Credit for the success went to the Force's intrepid young leader, Air Vice-Marshal Donald Bennett, and the vital part played by Bufton was largely forgotten, though the "quiet, earnest and thoughtful" Bufton had been credited in his Telegraph obituary of 1993 for his determination. Melinsky remedied the neglect of Bufton's achievements with his book *Forming the Pathfinders*, published in 2001.

He is survived by his wife Renate and their three daughters.

*Hugh Melinsky, born January 25 1924, died October 22 2018 - Daily Telegraph, 2 November 2018*

### Ian Caldwell (1940-48)



*Ian Caldwell playing in a boy's international match at Haylake in 1947*

Ian Caldwell, who has died at the age of 88, was a dentist by profession but was best known as one of the leading amateurs of his generation. He was the first of the School's Walker Cup representatives and a regular player for Whitgift in the annual Halford Hewitt competition at Deal. Ian was a member of Sunningdale for 64 years, his service to golf being recognised by election as an honorary member. He was also an honorary member of Walton Heath, Chipstead and Tadmarton Heath and one of the longest serving members of the R&A. Ian started his golf at Chipstead Golf Club and would, in his spare time from School, almost always be found on the course. The History of Chipstead Golf Club records that Ian "joined the club as a junior around 1940 and later became probably the most accomplished player to have membership associations with the club. His father, Rev. Mathew Caldwell, was a Free Church of Scotland minister who combined pastoral work at Cane Hill Hospital with a keen interest in sports psychology. The family lived in Hollymead Road and Ian often played three rounds in a day". Ian's son Richard tells a remarkable story of his father's early golfing exploits: one evening, whilst playing golf with a friend, they were left terrified by a German aeroplane

dropping surplus bombs on the course whilst returning from a raid on Croydon.

Richard's eulogy at his father's funeral continued: "Dad became very good, very early at golf. In 1947 he was runner up in the British Boys' Championship, played for the English Boys' team and most notably won the English Boys' Championship (The Carris Trophy) at Moor Park. He successfully defended the title in 1948 and was asked to trial for the Walker Cup aged only 18. From 1950 to '53 he played in Home Internationals for England and also in 1951 his first of two Walker Cups at Royal Birkdale. It was at Birkdale that he famously halved his single match having been 5 down after 7. The *Golf Illustrated* report stated 'Caldwell stuck to his guns and with the American failing to keep up his display, Caldwell, full of fight and good golf, performed a miracle and set the last green almost delirious, it was a transformation with a vengeance'.

Dad played in more Home Internationals in the 1950s, but it was in 1961 that the highlight of his career came when he won the English Amateur Championship at Wentworth. He later went on to win two English Senior Amateur Championship titles, and still remains the only person to have won the Boys', Men's and Senior English amateur titles".

The impact of his early golfing successes on his contemporaries at School was profound: seventy years on John Lindblom and John Jacobsen have vivid memories of Geoffrey Marlar, the Headmaster, announcing in Prayers the news of Ian's Carris Trophy victories - an exciting glimpse of something beyond post War rationing and austerity.

As indicated earlier, Ian Caldwell was a dentist by profession. The book *The Golf Delusion - Why 9 out of 10 Golfers Make the Same Mistakes* includes a story about Ian and a celebrated patient - Sean Connery. Sean Connery, the original James Bond on film, is now well-known for his love of golf, however, it appears that prior to his clash with Goldfinger, the most widely viewed match in the history of golf, he had little interest in the game. Before filming commenced he told Ian that he had to learn to play golf for the latest film in the James Bond series. Ian had recently secured the national title after working on his swing with Leslie King and told Sean Connery that the only man who could make him look a convincing golfer was the man who had finally helped Ian achieve his own personal ambition.

When Ian won his English Amateur Championship the last few holes were exceptionally stressful: a comfortable lead

disappeared over the last few holes and he faced a longish putt to take the match to a deciding 37th hole - the line of the putt, he said afterwards, looked like a furrow and he just knew it would go in. At the 37th, the author of *The Golf Delusion* wrote: "As he approached the ball, he asked himself what he could do and replied 'I'm now going to be in the Golf School. I am standing on the mat and Mr King is teaching me, telling me just to concentrate on the swing and not to worry about the ball, just make a movement through it and not try and hit it'. He made the most excellent of swings and the title was his."

So, good coaching added to an abundance of natural talent brought Ian Caldwell an English Amateur Championship and skill as a dentist and an ability to offer good and timely advice led to a film star becoming not just James Bond but a celebrity of golf. *This appreciation is based on information received from Carole Caldwell, herself an international Curtis Cup golfer, Ian's son Richard, the Chipstead Village Archive and on conversations with Ian's School contemporaries, John Jacobsen (1941-48) and John Lindblom (1945-48)*

### **Ian Flanagan, OBE (1948-1954)**

Ian Flanagan was President of the Whitgiftian Association in 2010-11 and did much to shape its future. Following his Presidential term, he continued to serve on the WA Main Committee and was a Trustee and subsequently Chair of WA Trustees Ltd, the charitable company established by the WA to raise funds for bursaries at the School and for the Whitgift Sports Club.

Ian was a chartered surveyor and for many years a partner in the celebrated firm of Hillier Parker. He had also been a governor of Croham Hurst and Woldingham schools and was one of the first non-Old Blue governors of Christ's Hospital. He was much involved in charity work, particularly for Perennial, the charity of the horticultural industry. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners in 1996/97 and was awarded an OBE in 2008 for his work with Perennial.

Ian's experience, integrity and clarity of thought - coupled with his great charm and interest in others - was of great benefit to both the WA, WAT and, more latterly, the School. He firmly believed that change is inevitable, encouraging those around him to look forward rather than back. His manner was forthright, especially in emphasising the necessity to build an alumni body which was relevant and accessible to younger school leavers whilst, at the same time, remaining faithful to older generations of OWs. In fact,



it was largely as a result of this thinking that membership of the WA was opened up to boys in the sixth form and still at School.

Ian was generous in thought and mind, as evidenced by his enthusiasm and support for the WA Bursary Appeal - in fact, it was impossible to hold a dinner, raffle, auction or any other fundraising event without his willingness to become involved and lend his full support, both financially and in person.

He will be greatly missed by his contemporaries at Whitgift as well as those who were fortunate enough to have worked alongside him in more recent times.

*This appreciation of Ian Flanagan was written by Pip Burley (1953-62) with whom Ian worked extensively on matters relating to the Whitgiftian Association and the Whitgiftian Association Trust*



### **Michael Coulson (1955-56)**

Michael Coulson was brought up and largely educated in South Africa, but spent a part of his school life at Whitgift where he lodged with Freddie Percy and family.

The following obituary, which has recently come to WA attention, appeared in the *Johannesburg Sunday Times* in July 2015:

Michael Coulson, who has died at the age of 76, was a formidably intelligent, erudite financial journalist who served for 16 years as deputy editor of the *Financial Mail* and was rather bitter about never getting the top job. He also grumbled about not being made editor of *Business Day*.

Calling him a financial journalist does no justice to the extraordinary scope of his talents. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge about many things, including art, art auctions, theatre, literature, classical and jazz music and cricket, and wrote about them with consummate ease and an authority and depth of understanding that amateurs found compellingly readable and professionals in these fields rated very highly indeed.

Although he said he was useless at the game himself, perhaps his greatest love was cricket. He was a member of Marylebone Cricket Club. Sitting at Lord's, watching the Ashes in his MCC tie, he was as close to heaven as he could be. He bought a flat in London to cater for his thrice-yearly cricketing trips and forays to the West End, for theatre was another passion. He was an amateur actor and once contemplated turning pro.

Coulson had 30,000 or so books in his otherwise sparsely furnished home in upmarket Forest Town, Johannesburg. If you mentioned an author or title, he could pick it out with lightning precision. He haunted second-hand bookshops and never came away from once-a-week visits to Exclusive Books without at least five new purchases. He loved reading history and poring over newspapers (the weekend edition of the *British Financial Times* was his financial bible) but his great weakness was crime fiction. He thought English women were best at this genre, but by the time he died rather suddenly - of kidney failure due to undiagnosed cancer - he had become an ardent fan of the Scandinavian crime writers, too.

A member of the genius's club Mensa, he devoured crossword puzzles. Word got around and people he often barely knew would phone up with a clue that was driving them mad.

There were plenty of reasons Coulson's sense of being cheated out of the editorship he felt was rightfully his might have been justified. Nobody knew more about the technical business of producing a financial publication, and few, if indeed any, financial editors or journalists could match his technical expertise, which he picked up without the benefit of any formal financial education - his majors at the University of the Witwatersrand had been English literature and history. But there were also good reasons for keeping him out of the

editor's chair - much the same as those that made him a difficult, if indispensable, colleague. He did not suffer fools at all and could be cruel and abrupt if colleagues did not meet his own high standards. He was judgmental and dismissive of views he thought were ill informed and with which he disagreed, usually the same thing as far as he was concerned. He did not bear his knowledge lightly. He could be pompous and a bit of a show-off. Any newsroom he led might well have been a rather fraught and divided place. He became deputy editor of the Financial Mail in 1987 and retired in 2003, but remained on as a consultant for a few years.

He was something of a ladies' man - even if his endeavours in this regard were not always welcomed - he padded about the newsroom in his socks and smoked cigars, did not make for easy company and did not socialise much with colleagues.

An only child, Coulson was born in Yorkshire in England on October 9 1938. His father, Donald, went off to war when he was not much more than a year old, and when he returned Coulson did not know who he was. His mother, Doris, he idolised all his life. He kept a photograph of her in his bathroom and said barely a day went by that he did not miss her. The family fled postwar austerity in England for South Africa when he was seven. They settled in Krugersdorp, where his father taught divinity, or biblical studies, at Krugersdorp High School, where Coulson himself matriculated. He was raised an Anglican but came to hate religion. His marriage to a Glasgow-born scenic designer, Liz, ended acrimoniously after seven years when she became too religious for his liking. Before becoming a journalist, Coulson lectured briefly in economic history at Wits.

He is survived by his partner of 15 years, Sheree Lissos, a historical curator at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

*Chris Barron - Johannesburg Sunday Times 5 Jul 2015*

### **Denys Wild, OBE (1937-43)**

Denys Aubrey Tudor Wild, born 9 July 1925, died unexpectedly on 13 July 2018 just four days after his 93rd birthday.

Denys grew up in Croydon and attended Whitgift School, where he presumably honed his many talents including a precocious spelling ability, a lifelong crossword obsession, inventing limericks on the spot, spouting appalling puns, an obsession with fair play, arguing points long after others have lost interest, acting, rugby and cricket. Soon after graduating from Whitgift, he joined the British army, and after basic training was sent to India where he



joined the 13th Frontier Force Rifles of the Indian Army. The war years took him to Burma, Singapore and points in between and were filled with the kind of experiences that most of us can only imagine, but that Denys would occasionally recount with his trademark combination of modesty, humour and aplomb.

On leave, he travelled extensively, mostly in the areas that now mark the border between India and Pakistan, which cemented his life-long love and respect for the region and its people. One memorable adventure included a chance encounter on a train platform with the diminutive Gandhiji who, traversing the country in a last ditch bid to prevent partition, spotted and was apparently amused by the image of a tall, solitary, uniformed Englishman, and winked at Denys before disappearing into the enormous crowd.

At the end of WWII, Denys returned to Croydon where the spirit of adventure and facility for languages were expected to fade quietly and sensibly into distant memory. Denys disagreed, and after attending an enlightening, yet apparently unrelated engineering apprenticeship in a brewery, he happily boarded a ship back to India, ultimate destination Assam, to begin his new life as a tea planter.

His career in Assam lasted many years which were filled with further adventure, acres and acres of camelia sinensis stretching in every direction, monsoons, earthquakes, outdated copies of the Sunday Times, treks through jungles dressed in evening wear (mad dogs and English men!) evacuations (twice), spicy food, personal and professional growth, cricket, amateur theatrics, an ever expanding, sometimes colourful, group of friends, romance, a beautiful wife, Elizabeth, née Johnson who he was lucky enough to marry in 1955, and four daughters. The family returned to England and settled permanently in Dorset after Denys retired from tea in 1973 as the last Superintendent of the Jorehaut Tea Company. As a well-deserved coda to his days in India, Denys was listed in the 1973 Queen's Birthday

Honours, receiving an OBE for services to the British community in Assam.

Denys soon began a new phase at the Foreign Office, which spanned the rest of his working life. Travelling to and from London daily allowed him to work on the Times crossword. The Sunday Times cryptic crossword was pored over every weekend and the finished product sent in, resulting in at least two occasions where Denys was invited to participate in increasingly difficult puzzle rounds in a London hotel, which he thoroughly enjoyed! Cricket remained another constant, and he continued to bowl well into his 50s.

In retirement he and Elizabeth gardened, kept a rotating menagerie of animals, socialised with their many friends, travelled extensively and enjoyed visits from the growing stream of grandchildren. Denys took up cycling in earnest and enjoyed long bike rides in the gorgeous Purbeck hills. After Elizabeth's death he met Rona and moved into nearby Wareham. He continued travelling long into his 80s.

He is survived by his sister, 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great granddaughters. He was predeceased by his wife Elizabeth in 2004 and his partner Rona in November 2017.

*This tribute, provided by Belinda Wild, one of his four daughters, is based on that which was written by another daughter, Catherine, and was given at Denys Wild's funeral.*

*Editor's note: Denys was a regular attender and cricket player on OWA Days, presumably on leave from Assam or perhaps having come up from Dorset after retirement from his tea planting days. I have clear memories of a tall, bespectacled medium paced bowler of great accuracy on those sunny days forty or fifty years ago. His memories of School, war service and beyond were recorded as part of the Imperial War Museum's Oral History Project and can be accessed online.*

### **Alan Squires (1945-53)**

Alan Blair Squires was born in the outskirts of Glasgow in May 1935, the youngest of four children. The family moved to Birmingham and then to Croydon when Alan was about five. Alan entered Whitgift at 10 and stayed through until 18. At School he excelled at sports, particularly cricket and rugby and from 1951-53 played cricket for the Young Amateurs of Sussex. After School Alan undertook two years of National Service as a surveyor in the Royal Artillery - while stationed for a year in Germany he represented the Regiment at cricket. Army service enabled Alan to try the Cresta Run as number three in a four-man bob team - he said it was the most frightening



experience of his life.

Alan met his future wife Margaret in 1958; they married in September 1959, moved to Middlesex and had three children in three years. In 1965 they returned to Croydon. Alan played cricket and rugby at the OWs, despite the responsibility of three young children and shone particularly as a cricketer. He was a high quality fast bowler and excellent batsman, scored many runs, took many wickets and was a determined and successful captain of the 1st XI.

In 1959 he joined a company called No-Nail Boxes as a sales rep. The company, which specialised in heavy duty packaging, was owned by the well-known and flamboyant MP, Sir Gerald Nabarro. On one occasion, Sir Gerald asked Alan to drive him to Heathrow and told him he could keep the Daimler while he was abroad for a few days: Alan took the opportunity to take Margaret to the cinema. The result was a nervous driver and a nervous passenger!

In 1973, Alan and family moved north to Leeds to a subsidiary company, Philip Redmond & Sons, where in due course, Alan became sales director. Alan moved his cricketing allegiance to North Leeds CC where he played in the 1st XI, captaining the team for two years. North Leeds CC included an appreciation of Alan on its website which stressed both the quality of cricketing skills (he won the batting trophy in 1974, 77 and 78) and the high regard in which he was held by fellow members and those in the locality.

After his cricketing days were over, Alan took up crown green bowling at which he also excelled; he enjoyed bridge, gardening, classical music, photography and holidays (there were many of these).

Alan is greatly missed by Margaret and family and was delighted that, not long before he died, their son Mark was able to

visit from Australia so that the family was together for the first time in twenty-five years.

*This appreciation of Alan is based on the family eulogy at his funeral in Leeds in September 2018 and on the tribute from John Jackson of North Leeds Cricket Club. Margaret also writes to say that two of Alan's most treasured possessions were a silver cigarette case given by friends at the OW Cricket Club at the time of his move north and a replica cup awarded to him in 1972; the latter was the first award of the Richard Arscott Memorial Cup donated by Harold and Babs in memory of their son Richard who was so tragically killed in a motor accident.*

### **David Pearce (1962-68)**

*David Pearce gave much valuable service to the WA, as manager of the sports club at Croham Road and also as a diligent Secretary to the Association. The following tributes are by David's son Jamie and his School friend and contemporary Simon Brown.*

David started at Whitgift in 1962 and soon made good friends with a number of boys, some of whom he remained friends with until his sudden and sad death.

At school, he was a good sportsman, particularly in rugby, hockey and athletics and retained his interest in sport to the end. He was a member of Surrey County Cricket Club and Saracens Rugby Club, which he followed all over Europe in their Cup exploits.

After school and University he had a distinguished career in finance and pension administration where he achieved senior management positions.

Once retired he decided to take up golf seriously and about 3 years ago joined Croham Hurst Golf Club and the OWGS. Having been such a good sportsman he found golf very frustrating as he had such high standards when playing any sport. Like many of us his big regret was not having taken up golf earlier. However he persevered and made every effort to improve his game. He stuck at it and thoroughly enjoyed playing with his former school mates, especially on the two OWGS tours that he joined.

If it is any consolation at this sad and difficult time, it is that when he collapsed whilst playing the game that he enjoyed so much, alongside two of his closest and longstanding school friends.

He will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.

*Simon Brown (1960-68)*

*The following tribute is based on the address given at David's funeral by his son Jamie*

My father was born in Cardiff in February 1950 but moved frequently in his early years as his father, a pharmacist in the Boots Company who eventually became a member of the board, moved with his job. The family eventually settled in Croydon and my father and his elder brother John, to whom he was very close when growing up and who, sadly, died in 2003, both went to Whitgift. .

Tragically my grandfather Charles died in 1966 when my father in the middle of his O Levels. His mother, Peg, lived in Croydon until she passed away in her 90's.

I'm told he was a great sportsman at school, playing rugby and, believe it or not, running and athletics. Many of his old school friends have remained lifetime friends, and I'm sure there are many here today.

After leaving Whitgift, he joined his brother at Nottingham University where he studied Economics. He continued to play rugby and also became secretary for the student union.

After University he joined Noble Lowndes, where he had a successful career. It was while he was working in Bristol that he met my Mother, Sue. They moved to Croydon where they got married in July 1985. I was born in September 1986 and Andrew in June 1988. We moved into Manor Way later that year and this is the only family home we have known.

We went on some fantastic family holidays always expertly organised by Dad. A Pearce holiday involved a detailed itinerary including a walking tour followed by several terrific bars and a fantastic restaurant. On one recent family trip to Munich between Christmas and New Year my Dad, the only one with a vague understanding of German, created an A4 sheet entitled "Useful English to German Translations". This included some hilarious phrases which you can be certain weren't listed in any phrasebook and are not repeatable here. Most embarrassingly we accidentally left our phrase sheet in a beer hall...

We all much enjoyed family holidays to Mousehole in Cornwall - and will no doubt continue the tradition. These were the times when my Dad was at his happiest, walking the coastal path (rain or shine) with the three of us in tow - stopping for food or refreshments whenever we felt like it. It is also worth mentioning that when Andrew and I were in our teens, he organised a walking trip along the Cornish coastal path to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. This was a fantastic trip and no doubt inspired our interest in walking and the outdoors. It also led to another family tradition of entering the Weald Walkers Wander - an annual walking and quiz challenge often with some very strange

people. I'm ashamed to say that following some close results over the years, in one year in which my Dad and I could not take part, the event was won by my brother and his friends!

Following his retirement, my Dad worked as manager of the Old Whitgiftians clubhouse for several years which he thoroughly enjoyed. When he decided to give this up and retire full time he was able to go on even more holidays with my Mother.

Dad was a massive sports fan. Whether it was rugby, football, cricket, golf or more recently cycling and the Tour de France, you could always rely on there being sport on the TV when at home. However, his biggest passion was rugby and his team, Saracens. I still remember going to the 1998 Tetley's Bitter Cup Final at Twickenham - my Dad had organised a big day out for us and a lot of his work colleagues - what a great day out and amazing to watch us win our first trophy. We have since followed Saracens all around Europe including memorable trips to Toulouse, Paris, Nantes, Clermont, Edinburgh, and Connaught. Dad was able to watch his favourite side win a number of trophies in recent years - the most recent at Twickenham when Saracens won the Premiership in May. Again, this will be a tradition that we will keep going in the future - let's hope the side doesn't let him down!

Another of my Dad's great passions was for food, wine and cooking. He liked nothing better than going out for an expensive lunch on a Friday or Saturday. My Dad was also very talented in the kitchen and I'm sure that many here will have enjoyed his culinary delights. He was involved in a wine share programme, and would head over to France every year to fill up - I remember one year he filled his Volvo estate car with over thirty cases.

Andrew and I have always said is how lucky we were to receive such amazing support and encouragement from Dad. I remember him taking me to the Farnborough Air Show as a child - this inspired me to work in the aerospace industry. He encouraged Andrew with his guitar and helped him out with some of his essays at University - they used to joke together that it was 'their' degree. He was also brilliant at encouraging us to play our favourite sports - with me it was rugby and athletics and for Andrew, cricket and golf. He used to take me to mini rugby every Sunday and often we would go on to watch Saracens play in Watford. In summer, Andrew kept him in the garden for hours so that he could perfect his cover drive.

We should all remember the great times that we have spent with my Dad. I'm sure

that everyone would agree that he was exceptionally kind, generous, funny, clever and hard-working; the list could go on and on. Let's use today as a celebration of his amazing life.

### **Ken Nicholas**

*(Member of staff 1956-91)*

The remarkable gathering of friends, former colleagues and former pupils at Ken Nicholas's funeral service on 22 March 2019 was a tribute to the respect and affection that so many had for this warm and charming man. He served Whitgift as a schoolmaster for thirty five years and was a continuing presence until the end of his life particularly on the touchline or at meetings of the OW Golf Society. A few years ago OWs held a dinner to mark their gratitude and respect for four masters who had great impact on the School in the period from the 1950s to the 1990s: of course, Ken was one of those four. His son Peter (1976-82) and daughter Wendy spoke movingly of their father at the funeral and both focussed on the sense of responsibility and duty that he had displayed as they grew up. The Rev Jeremy Groombridge summed Ken up as "a good man", an easy attribute to apply but a difficult one to achieve.

Walter Kenneth Nicholas was born and brought up in the mining community of Newbridge, Monmouthshire and educated at the local grammar school. Like many from his background he looked to teaching as a career, but before entering Loughborough College in 1947 he served for three years in the Royal Navy. Ken graduated from Loughborough in 1950 with the Diploma (First Class) in Physical Education. At Loughborough he met Gerwyn Williams who later encouraged him to take a position at Whitgift.

Ken was an outstanding rugby player; his teaching position at Wyggeston Grammar

School in Leicester from 1950-55 facilitated his appearances for Leicester and Leicestershire. He played over 150 games for Leicester's 1st XV between 1948 and 1953 and therefore received the coveted cap which, to his delight, was presented to him by former England Captain Martin Johnson. From 1954-59 he made 82 appearances for Bedford. Those who only saw Ken playing rugby when he was a member of the staff at Whitgift cannot have seen him at the peak of his career, yet he was still an elusive sprite with much Welsh guile. The fact that this most Welsh of Welshmen should have a trial for Scotland was always a mystery. Ken explained it by saying he had a good game for Leicester against London Scottish and one of the officials of the opposing team had asked if he fancied a Scottish trial - there were national headlines but sadly he did not play for Scotland.

Ken taught geography, maths and physical education with great success - in the words of one former pupil "he taught me in the class room and on the rugby field and excelled in every area". Ken took up golf with much of the skill and enthusiasm that he had shown for rugby and was a member of Purley Downs Golf Club for well over fifty years - he was an active member of the OW Golf Society and a winner at some stage of most of its trophies including the oldest one, the Homsey Walker, in 1963 and 1992.

Ken's closeness to the School lasted throughout and he spent his last few days in Whitgift House. His widow Sally said that when he was there he was visited by a doctor who said "There's a familiar face - you taught me geography when I was twelve."

Ken was a much loved part of Whitgift and will be remembered by generations of grateful former pupils. Sympathy goes to Sally and Peter, Wendy and their families.



*School rugby team 1974/75 with Masters in Charge Ken Nicholas and Ray Codd*



### **Richard Bunn (1946-54)**

Richard Bunn passed away on 22nd January 2019, aged 82, after a short, brave battle with stomach & oesophageal cancer which was diagnosed in late October last year. Mercifully, it was a peaceful and painless passing, and he was surrounded by his four sons (three of whom, Nicholas, Jonathan and Timothy, are OWs).

A school prefect and member of Tate's house, he captained the school Hockey 1st XI (although Bill Edge broke his leg in a rugby demonstration session for juniors which limited his appearances!), enjoyed two years in the Cricket 1st XI, and was a great athlete (robbed he claimed of the Victor Ludorum by a faulty stopwatch), as well as a gifted tennis and squash player, and golfer.

He was a staunch OW having represented the sports club at Rugby as a winger, and also captained the cricket club in the mid 1970s as a decent all-rounder. I have fond memories of him smashing sixes over my head during Cricket Week as I lay on the Croham Road bank, and years later of him coming to watch me play for the rugby club as often as he could (always armed with constructive advice on the art of propping despite never have been near a scrum).

A Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, he had a successful and high-profile career in the City as a corporate financier for Hoare Govett advising companies including Rolls Royce, Habitat, B&Q, Iceland and British Caledonian among others before retiring aged 55 down to his much-loved Thurlestone where he lived on the 16th fairway and enjoyed endless rounds of golf as part of the club's legendary Dawn Patrol.

He last attended a WA event at the SW Dinner in 2017 in Tiverton, but sadly was unable to attend the recent dinner at The Vineyard in Newbury due to his rapidly advancing illness.

In his later years, and perhaps his proudest achievement, he was an adored grandfather of 12 and he will be much missed by us all. *This appreciation of his father was written by Jonathan Bunn (1980-88), current Chairman of the WA*

### **Peter Williams (1942-51)**

Peter Williams died peacefully aged 86 on January 14, 2019 in London, Ontario. He was predeceased by his wife, Kari and was survived by two daughters, a son and four grandchildren.

Born and raised in Croydon, England, Peter was educated at Whitgift School, Croydon and then Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, where he received a B.A., Natural Science and Geography (1954), and MA (1958). He met his Norwegian wife, Kari, while at Cambridge and subsequently attended the University of Oslo Geographical Institute and led research expeditions to the mountains of Norway with Kari and other students of geography. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Stockholm in 1969. Following his marriage in 1957, Peter and Kari moved to Ottawa and started a family. He worked for NRC, Division of Building Research (1957-1969), became full Professor of Geography at Carleton University, Ottawa (1971), and Director of Geotechnical Science Labs at Carleton (1978). A specialist in the physics and mechanics of freezing soils, he acted as Expert Witness at the Berger Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry and as adviser to agencies on geotechnical problems of Northern oil and gas megaprojects. He established the International Contaminants in Freezing Ground conference series in 1997. Following his retirement as Professor at Carleton in 1993, he travelled extensively with Kari, typically combining pleasure with work, and continued his research with colleagues in Canada, Norway, France, Russia and the U.K. He held the positions of Emeritus Associate of the Scott Polar Institute, Cambridge and Distinguished Research Professor at Carleton; and was honoured with The Roger J. E. Brown Memorial Award from The Canadian Geotechnical Society (2002) for Outstanding Contributions to Permafrost Science and Engineering.

An energetic family man of many talents, he could speak Norwegian, French and Russian. When not busy with his research, he built the family cottage, enjoyed woodworking, gardening, international culture, fine food, and travelling with family. In later years, he struggled with a long illness, but was lovingly cared for by his wife until her death in 2016, and then moved to be

near his daughter, Beatrice, in London, Ontario.

*This obituary is based on that which appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on 26 January 2019*

### **Stuart Ebbutt (1945-52)**

Stuart Ebbutt was a member of a prominent Croydon family many of whose sons were educated at the School: the first Ebbutt recorded at the School was among the initial intake (number 33 on the register) when the School opened its new buildings in 1871 and by 1892 there were already five Ebbutts among the roll of Whitgiftians.

Graham Clark (1952-59), a close friend and fellow long term member of The Whitgift Veterans Rifle Club gave the following appreciation at Stuart's funeral:

When, in 1896, R. G. G. Reed became the first Honorary Secretary of the Club 123 years ago, I doubt very much if he or anyone else visualised the Club still being in existence and very active today. Furthermore it is unlikely that they imagined that those who were good shots at School would, in the main, go on to join the Veterans on leaving School and mostly stay members of the Club for the rest of their lives. Stuart is a prime example of such people - he excelled at shooting in the 1950s. At that time we undoubtedly had the finest cadet force in the country and School shooting was at its peak. The School team that included Stuart won the Sussex Schools, came 5th in the Surrey and 7th in the Ashburton competitions. Steffan Cranmer and John Horlock came 1st and 2nd in the Bisley Small Bore National Junior Championships which led to both of them being on the short list for the 1952 Helsinki Olympics (Steffan competed in Helsinki and the two subsequent Olympic Games).

Stuart was Drum Major of the Corps of Drums and paraded complete with leopard skin regalia. Since the Drum Major marches with the mace, his father made a weighted mock mace with which Stuart could practice before he led the CCF and School through Croydon to the Parish Church on Founder's Day. After such practice Stuart perfected his use of the real mace so that he was able to throw it in the air, catch it and do all the other intricate movements required of a proficient Drum Major.

On leaving School Stuart joined the Veterans Rifle Club and remained a member all his life. He remained a very accomplished small bore and full bore rifle shot and shot regularly on Tuesdays at the School range and at Bisley during the summer months.

When I joined the Veterans in 1961 I almost immediately became Honorary Secretary. The Committee at that time

comprised Messrs Hammond, Branton, Ebbutt, Sargeant and Swann; apparently Cecil Swann had been earmarked to take over from John Hammond as Secretary but then a keen young shot named Clark came on the Scene and took on the job for the next fifteen years. I found Stuart to be very helpful when it came to organisation and for some time he was responsible for full bore shooting at Bisley.

The beauty of shooting as a sport is that one can participate from a very early age until very late in life: in the last three NRA Imperial Meetings the youngest participant was 14 (the minimum age permitted under NRA rules) and the oldest in his mid-90s! There is a special bond among shooters: we meet on Tuesday evenings or at Bisley and we are proud to be Veterans and Old Whitgiftians. When I spoke last year at the funeral of Alan Hunter, I mentioned that we joined the School together in 1952 in class 1B and since leaving School we had seen each other every Tuesday evening for over fifty years. The same applies to Stuart and me. When such a regular routine ceases it leaves quite a hole in one's life and in one's circle of friends. So, Stuart, you may be gone but you are certainly not forgotten.



### **John Hodges (1945-52)**

*This tribute at the funeral of John Hodges took the form of a dialogue from his two sons James (1978-86) and Jonathan - the uplifting service ended with closing music from 'The Great Escape', a final reflection of John's abiding love for action films and his sense of humour!*

*James - We are proud to stand here and remember Dad. He led a long and happy life. He would be very pleased to know that so many of you have come to say goodbye. Born before the war in 1935 in Sanderstead, Dad and his parents lived in a new house surrounded by open fields and a clear, unobstructed view to Hamsey Green well over a mile away. The fields have long since been built upon and a slower pace has given*

*way to our contemporary world. Dad was a rock amidst this change: traditional, values-led and incredibly consistent in his qualities and actions. People loved him for it.*

*Jonathan - There are certainly many Hodges traditions and characteristics that he instilled in us which will carry on! We hope to encourage his grandchildren, Florence, Cordelia and Lilja to embrace his values of honesty, reliability and sincerity. Both Dad and Grandad, Harold, instilled from an early age the importance of a firm handshake and Dad retained it to his very final days. When he was in the nursing home, surrounded by us all and unable to speak, a hand came from under the sheet and gripped mine with vice-like precision in identical fashion to the one taught to me all those years ago.*

*James - Dad attended Elmhurst Prep School and then Whitgift; I followed the same path a generation later. On my first day at Whitgift, I found the word HODGES chiselled into a stone staircase and was horrified that I might get the blame for something that my father had carved in a moment of anarchy three decades before! Not that Dad was one of life's rebels, though he did love a joke and in his youth was an active prankster. More typically, Dad was a man commended as methodical and trustworthy; a most solid and safe pair of hands. During the 1960s he was active in East Surrey Young Conservatives and was Divisional Chairman in 1962. Always well presented, he would wear a tie even in the most casual of environments. He was well ordered and experiences in National Service partially informed a life spent mastering a neat side parting, cultivating an immaculate garden and mastering the art of a perfectly packed car. Indeed he would often carry out a full dress rehearsal the night before going on holiday!*

*Jonathan - Dad spent most of his working life in the timber trade, specialising in softwood. There he made wonderful friends and colleagues, and he was referred to as 'Honest John'. He adored his career. His saw-mill slide shows were a thing of legend. His main locality was Scandinavia and he took naturally to various essential skills such as conducting business whilst sitting in a sauna drinking vodka. His integrity was recognised and when he set up his own company former clients rushed to give Honest John their business, knowing he would come up with the goods without fail.*

*James - Dad was always most concerned that you were having a good time. "Are you winning?" and "Who's driving?" - in other words "Can I pour you a very large drink?" - were regular catchphrases. He was curious about other people's lives. This polite and*

*interested sociability was something he shared with his father, and it is something I hope we have learned and will hand down to our own children. Thankfully, he never seemed overly perturbed or upset by the slowly growing limitations of his Alzheimer's. Rather, many of his most endearing qualities continued to shine out: if you accompanied him on a walk, he would stop and say hello to everyone he met and I was always struck by the number of people who gave him a cheery wave.*

*Jonathan - "An Englishman's home is his castle." This phrase rang true for Dad. Apart from National Service and a couple of years in Oxted, where he and our mother Eve first lived, Sanderstead was home for his entire life. Self-assured, he drew great happiness from his castle on the Ridgeway and its immediate environs: he knew for certain that he lived not only in the best village in the land, but also on the best side of the best road, with an all-important west facing garden.*

*After Mum and Dad went their separate ways and life had resettled, John met Barbara. They enjoyed many happy married years together. A great team: Dad became well regarded at Purley Downs Golf Club too, with his best performances reserved for the 19th hole. Here he could be spotted through the window sipping from his special tankard.*

*If James and I have inherited any of his talents in gardening and sport they're clearly latent. However, we both share his appreciation of good food and liquid accompaniment.*

*James - We had idyllic early childhood holidays in South Devon, and later shared amazing trips to more far-flung parts of the globe, including Australia and Tasmania. He and Barbara also took in South Africa and New Zealand - coincidentally, all parts of the world recognised for their production of fine wine as well as interesting terrain. Dad loved landscape - and loved to give a geography lesson to anyone prepared (and sometimes unprepared) to listen, whether that was contemplating the rock formation of the North Downs or the chalky soil in his vegetable garden which he found a great source of pleasure. Long before farmers' markets became fashionable, he was supplying the household with a rich stock of home-grown fruit and vegetables - perhaps most infamously from his military lines of runner beans.*

*The military theme featured elsewhere in a love of marching bands and the excitement of action films. He enjoyed a good Western and was always excited by WW2 blockbusters like *The Guns of Navarone* or,*

even better, *The Great Escape*, of which he never, ever, grew tired.

Dad and Barbara chose each other very well: on top of their many interests they shared great qualities of loyalty and fortitude. As the effects of Dad's illness became more evident, he was lovingly encouraged, supported and looked after by Barbara. She positively adapted their lives together and Dad's later years contained much to be happy about: he holidayed until quite recently and enjoyed friends and family including his three young grand-daughters.

Barbara once fondly said of Dad that "cream always rises to the top" - we think that's a very fitting epitaph for him.

### Lt Col Rodney Milsom, OBE (1950-56)

Rod Milsom was born in Croydon on 7th April 1938. He had a younger sister, Avril, and the family spent most of their lives together in and around Croydon, apart from a few years when London was threatened by the Second World War. When they eventually returned to Croydon, Rod was educated at Elmhurst Prep, before entering Whitgift. Rod went on to become a student engineer at Cubitts and spent time working on major building projects on the M1 and the South Bank.

Rod received his call up for National Service in March 1959 and he duly reported to The Buffs barracks in Kent on 2nd April. He was selected for officer training and transferred to the Royal Engineers in March 1963 and, having decided he wished to have a career in the Army, continued his service as an Officer with the Sappers for over thirty years travelling the world and attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Rod was always very modest about his Army career and, despite numerous requests from his children, never quite got round to writing down where he had been and when; so the family's knowledge about his early time in the Army is somewhat hazy. They do know that he spent a lot of time overseas during the 60's with operations in Canada, Kenya, Libya and Cyprus. Field Engineer projects included six months building a fuel storage facility on Christmas Island in the Pacific. He did spend some time in the UK with postings in Chatham and Waterbeach, and returned to Yorkshire in 1970 where he was based at the Army Apprentice College in Harrogate.

It was during this posting that he met Mary Wilson; Mary had recently graduated from Manchester University and had returned to her Yorkshire roots when they met. It was not long after that Rod was posted to



Germany to take command of a Squadron - Mary moved to London to start her career with Glaxo in a city which enabled her to visit Rod frequently. From Germany Rod was posted to the UDR Headquarters in Northern Ireland for two years, before returning to the UK as second in command of 1 Training Regiment. Ever the procrastinator, it wasn't until 20 January 1979 that they finally wed.

After attending the National Defence College in Latchford, Rod was posted to the British Army Training Team in the Sudan in January 1981. Mary left her job at Glaxo to accompany Rod to Khartoum; not an easy tour but one which they were able to enjoy, exploring the country and making great friends, some of whom are here today. Mary and Rod returned to the UK in 1983, based near Stratford-Upon-Avon, in time for the birth of their first child, Matthew. It was during this posting that Rod achieved perhaps his greatest career highlight, when he led the planning and execution of a secret overnight mission to secure RAF Molesworth in 1985, earning him an OBE in the New Year Honours list of 1986. Later that year, Mary gave birth to their second child Stephanie.

The family moved to Salisbury in 1991, which was to become their permanent home. Rod was still in the Army at this point, serving at Land Command in Wilton where he continued as a retired officer before final retirement in 2004 at the age of 66.

Rod had a number of passions in life, some of which started at school. He was always very keen on sport, and Whitgift provided the opportunity for him to excel at both rugby and shooting, representing the school on a number of occasions in both sports. Rod was proud to have competed

frequently at Bisley, he played competitive rugby for Rosslyn Park and during his early Army career for the Combined Services in the Far East. Swimming also featured heavily while Rod was a teenager, and he represented his School and County during that time. During his tours overseas he was fortunate to enjoy a lot of deep-sea sport fishing but sadly his dream of catching a marlin was never realised. Fly fishing was always a part of his life and in recent years he had spent many a happy hour fishing on the Avon and other local rivers.

As a young man, Rally Driving was also a great interest for Rod; he entered the RAC rally one year, and impressively finished in the top one hundred. And then, of course, there is golf. Rod became a member of the High Post Golf Club in 2000 and I know a number of you here today will have fond memories of him on the golf course.

Following knee replacements and other ailments over the last few years, Rod became more of an observer than a player: one golf tournament or another would always be on the TV in the Milsom household.

Rod lived a full, adventurous and happy life, and this is how his family wish you to remember him today.

*This address was given at Rod Milsom's funeral by his close friend Martin. Rod's son Matthew also gave an appreciation which included the following:*

"As a modest man my father would not often talk about his accomplishments, but every now and then he would surprise us and casually mention something extraordinary. I should like to share a couple with you:

\*A few years ago a group of celebrities climbed Kilimanjaro to raise money for Sport Relief. We were watching the film of them complaining about altitude sickness and exertion after seven days getting to the top, when Dad declared that as a newly commissioned officer he had led a troop of soldiers up and down in three days and that they had carried their own kit. Quite rightly, he couldn't see what all the fuss was about!

\*The family regularly played 'Articulate', but Dad would always opt to observe rather than be in a team. On one occasion when the answer was 'twice Formula 1 World Champion Graham Hill', Dad smiled and said he had built a car with him. This was the car which Dad later took to the RAC rally.

\* During his posting in Libya, Dad rescued the son of King Idris from drowning after he had crashed his speedboat. He also arranged for the boat to be repaired. His reward? A Rolex, from the King himself!"



## Brief Lives

### **Brian Keyte (1942-49)**

After leaving School in 1949 Brian did National Service in the army at Oswestry base before joining Westminster Bank. He began in traditional banking first at West Norwood and Tulse Hill branch then at Croydon and Bloomsbury Parr's branches. After ten years he moved into the Head Office team working with the first computer in Westminster Bank, which was installed in 1961. It was meant to be a six month secondment but he remained through the merger with National Provincial Bank to form NatWest in 1968 pioneering the implementation of the early branch wide computer systems of the bank. With NatWest he went on to become Head of Data Processing by 1972 and in 1986 was appointed General Manager of the bank's Premises Division a post which he held until his retirement in 1990.

Brian's love of sport started at Whitgift where he was a member of the 1st XV and 1st XI. He later played social tennis at Selsdon and Redhill clubs until his fifties and sixties. He was also a dedicated sports spectator and a lifelong supporter of Crystal Palace - and until recently a season ticket holder at London Irish. In retirement he was for many years Treasurer of St Mary's Church at Oatlands, Weybridge.

Brian and his wife loved to travel and were lucky that, when their six children were grown up (they subsequently had fifteen grandchildren), they were able to travel extensively particularly to the USA, Far East and Europe. In retirement they bought an apartment near Cannes and were able to spend every summer there in a place that they really loved.

*This appreciation is taken from the tribute given at Brian Keyte's funeral.*

### **Dr Barry Tunnah (1950-58)**

Barry Tunnah left the School in 1958, where he had been a Prefect and Vice-Captain of Andrew's, a member of the hockey 1st XI and Captain of the 2nd XV, for Cambridge

where he had a Major Scholarship in Natural Sciences at Pembroke College. There he read chemical engineering and took part in college rugby, hockey and rowing. Immediately prior to university and after graduating he worked for Shell Refining Company at their Stanlow refinery. For over fifty years until his death he worked as an independent consultant on energy efficiency and environmental projects, mainly for industrial plants and processes. He carried out many projects in China and a variety of developing economies. In many cases his work included a significant element of training and accordingly he gave a large number of training courses, produced written course manuals and developed practical training programmes.

### **Jeffrey Webb (1945-52)**

Jeff Webb died on 4 July 2018 at the age of 83. After National Service as an officer in the RAF, he had a career as an accountant and Chartered Secretary for Shell and Conoco around the world including Cambodia, Ivory Coast and Kenya but latterly lived in Purley. His obituary notice in the Daily Telegraph describes him as a "notable tennis player" and "Old Whitgiftian". By sad coincidence, his second wife died on the day of his funeral. He left three children, eight grandchildren and a step daughter.

### **Ray Codd (Member of Staff 1972-79)**

Ray Codd, who has died at the age of 71, was a top class rugby player for St Benedict's School, St Luke's College, Exeter and Rosslyn Park where he was captain. He was also an England triallist. He spent a number of years at School and coached the 1st XV. In 1979 he moved to King's College, Taunton where he remained for the rest of his working life. In 1994, his team from King's won the Festival Competition at the Rosslyn Park Sevens. As The Independent said at the time: "Codd, the former Park captain and full back, never laid his hands on the big prize - his club lost the 1975 John Player Cup Final to Bedford. Yesterday, though, King's

rewarded their master in charge". His funeral in February 2019 took place at the chapel of King's College.

### **Duncan White (Member of Staff 1992-2008)**

Duncan White was educated at Lancing College and Trinity College, Dublin and came to Whitgift after a remarkable period as Headmaster of Cumnor House School which he had taken over at a time when its fortunes were at a low ebb. Duncan focussed on improving the sporting performance of Cumnor, which he did by the judicious hiring of young sporting staff, notably Alan Butcher, the Surrey and England cricketer, whose own sons, in due course went to Cumnor. In Duncan's time Cumnor developed a fearsome reputation for sport, particularly cricket where former pupils including Mark and Gary Butcher, David Sales, Scott Newman and Richard Nowell went on to play professionally. Mark Butcher became a very successful Test cricketer for England. Cumnor under Duncan White was not merely a sporting hothouse as witnessed by the numerous scholarships won by pupils to leading schools, particularly Whitgift and Trinity. The job of a preparatory school Head is to manage parents' expectations and ensure that aspirations are matched with reality; Duncan was expert in this and few parents felt unhappy with their son's move to secondary education.

In 1992, Duncan sold Cumnor House but felt that retirement was premature - he was taken on by Whitgift to head the Junior School and had a significant second career. He remained an enthusiast for all sports and for the continuing development of a wide curriculum. Junior cricket tours went to Australia, Duncan's second home, just as they had in the Cumnor years. Even after retirement, he was a familiar spectator at cricket and rugby matches until in his last years he moved away from the area to be near members of his family.



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