



# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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

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NEWSLETTER 355 - September / October 2014

## OWs Remember Fallen Whitgiftians

A team of ten Old Whitgiftian Rugby Club members paid an emotional, humbling and poignant visit in July to the graves of 31 OWs and former players who lost their lives in the First World War in Northern France and Belgium.

Covering more than 750 miles across 25 burial sites in just four days, the group laid poppy wreaths at each grave. A specially commissioned Gilbert rugby ball based on the design used in 1914 and featuring the names of the 40 players was also placed at each grave.



The trip was organised to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of the war after it was spotted on the clubhouse Honours Board that Tom Hipsey had just equalled the eight season record of Frank Benton as the longest serving 1<sup>st</sup> XV Captain. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Benton's tenure as skipper ended in 1914 and further research revealed that he was killed in action at Deville Wood in 1916. His name is also inscribed along with 39 other OWs on the simple wooden memorial board at the Whitgift Sports Club entrance.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission supplied precise locations for each grave allowing full and effective planning of the trip. However, learning more about each player was a central feature of the visit.

School archivist William Wood provided information about each rugby club member to die during the conflict including details of their school record, military service and death. The School's records revealed that many of the players were recognised for their bravery in battle with three Military Crosses and one Distinguished Service Order awarded as well as seven soldiers mentioned in Dispatches - each a harrowing, but inspiring tale of Whitgiftian bravery.

Each soldier's tale was shared with the group at his grave before a minute's silence, which was broken with the words

*"We will remember them".*

In total, 40 players from the rugby club gave their lives. The other Old Whitgiftian rugby players who lost their lives in the First World War are buried in locations including Egypt, Gallipoli and Jerusalem.

The rugby club's commemorations began on 3rd July with a memorial service at the School's War Memorial to remember the 248 Old Whitgiftians who died in the First World War. The service was followed by a dinner in the School's Old Library attended by 50 OWs and guests.

One commemorative ball has been donated to the Rugby Football Union while another will be displayed at the OWRFC's headquarters at Whitgift Sports Club in Croham Manor Road, South Croydon.

The 40 OWRFC players who died in WWI had an average age of 26. Frederick Foot (died from his injuries, 11th March 1919) was the oldest at 38, while Albert Flower (Killed in Action, 11th March 1916, Arras) and Kenneth Greenaway (Killed in Action, 27th November 1915, Gallipoli) were the youngest at just 19 years old.

A short video of the trip is being produced and will be shown at a rugby club lunch on 15th November, the match day nearest to Remembrance Sunday. We would welcome all OWs and their guests to join the lunch where the tourists will also talk more about the memorable trip. *Jonathan Bunn*



OWRFC members meet with Lionel Weston

## Challenge Charlie



Old Whitgiftian Sam Hutton (2001-2008), whose younger brother Charlie tragically died in a boating accident, has challenged himself to run every day for 97 days and is asking others to join him to raise money for RNLI.

The *Challenge Charlie* runs will continue until Charlie's birthday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, primarily taking place in London. Those who live or work nearby are encouraged to take part in Charlie's memory.

The running distances rise by 2km every weekday, to 14km on Sundays. The time period (97 days) has been carefully planned: Charlie was born in 1997 and 97 days equates to 14 weeks. The 14km run each Sunday represents 1km for each of Charlie's 14 years.

Since Charlie's death in 2012, his two older brothers, Sam and Tom, have been showing their appreciation to the RLNI for all their efforts on that tragic day. The brothers' first fundraiser was the BUPA Great South Run in 2012, and since then they've taken part in the London Marathon, a Half Ironman and a 14km swim from Henley to Marlow. Collectively *Team Hutton* has raised almost £20,000.

Speaking about the Challenge, Sam said: "We wanted to create something that everyone can take part in and to inspire others to take up the challenge by running and getting fit. Charlie stood for sport, he stood for health and he stood for fitness."

To join Sam on a run, visit [www.challenge-charlie.co.uk](http://www.challenge-charlie.co.uk) or to donate visit Team Hutton's JustGiving fundraising page.

## From the Editor

Congratulations to the rugby club on their recent trip to the WW1 graves which included a visit to the OW plaque at Ypres (*front page*). A full report will be given at lunch in the clubhouse on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November. On a lesser note the Old Whitgiftian Trustees Ltd supplied specially overprinted Whitgift and OW small wooden crosses to the boys for their third form history trip to the trenches which was much appreciated by all concerned.

ALL OWs are invited to the Whitgift Remembrance Service at the School War Memorial on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00. Please try to come along in this anniversary year.

During the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the special David Dixon (OW, 1935-44) Award was presented to the Welsh rhythmic gymnast Francesca Jones. This was the fourth such presentation of the award given in David's memory and is for the athlete who shows the greatest all-round "Spirit" of the Games.

Another first for OWs was the recently married JB Gill (1998-2005) taking part in *Celebrity Masterchef*. He did not make it to the Number One spot.

As always, a busy Autumn of events approaches which are organised for the membership and deserve your full support including the popular Sportsman's Lunch for which an application form is enclosed.

*Richard Blundell*

### 500 Club

For £12 a year you could win hundreds of pounds in our quarterly draws! For an even greater chance of winning, check out details of a Special Draw now at

[www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/3-for-a-100](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/3-for-a-100).



## An Appeal from the President of OWCC

In the late sixties, the Cricket Club decided to hold a 'Single Wicket Competition' which was well supported by playing members.

It took place on a Sunday with both pitches in use and everyone taking their turn to field whilst the drawn opponents battled it out over four overs on a handicap basis to even out the 1st XI all rounder taking on the 4th XI rabbit! At the end of proceedings there was no trophy to be presented (I know - I won).

One of the Club's great supporters and ex-player, Ken Bellamy, was

upset by this and had an engraved Tankard prepared to be presented at the Annual Dinner.

The competition became a regular event for a decade or so and since that time the Bellamy Tankard disappeared and club records do not show who the final winner was.

The Club would love to see it again to place it in our trophy display. If whoever has it or anyone with an elephantine memory can throw any light on the matter, please contact me on [mashby@virginmedia.com](mailto:mashby@virginmedia.com).

*Martin Ashby*



## Introducing the Carers Support Centre

Last autumn, The Whitgift Foundation, in partnership with Croydon Council, opened the *Carers Support Centre*, a brand new walk-in information and advice centre for carers in the heart of Croydon.

Since then, the Centre has welcomed thousands of carers through its doors to get advice, have a friendly chat over a cuppa and even learn a few ballroom dancing steps!

The Centre offers a wealth of local and national information, advice surgeries, training sessions, rooms available for hire from just £10 per hour and most recently, free NHS health checks for 40-74 year olds who are carers and the person they care for.

If you or anyone you know is caring for someone with an illness, disability or old age, drop in at 24 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1PB, Monday to Friday 10am-4pm or find out more at [www.carersinfo.org.uk](http://www.carersinfo.org.uk).

## OW Golf Society Report

This was a busy two month period. The main event to report was Whitgift's successful run to the final of the Cyril Gray (this is the tournament contested by over-50s from all the participating schools). Team captain Tony Mason reports as follows - "Worplesdon at the end of June was at its glorious best - in excellent condition with lightning fast greens and superbly presented. This inspired the Whitgift team to some fine performances, disposing of some serious opposition to reach the final.

On the way, there were victories against Eastbourne 3-0, Liverpool 2.5-0.5 and Edinburgh 2.5-0.5. However, the semi-final on Saturday morning against Merchant Taylors proved to be a very tight match. First pair Mason & Scovell won a very competitive match on the 18th whilst Leonard & Hayes narrowly lost the third match. Hedges & Stracey were still out on the course and had a real battle on their hands - experience, class and determination eventually prevailed

and they won the decisive match at the 20th! A bit of a nerve jangler!

The final was against the very strong Fettes team who had beaten us in the third round last year. Unfortunately they were a bit too good and we went down 2-1. Hedges & Stracey won 3&2 but fatigue kicked in and Leonard & Hayes lost 4&3 and Mason & Scovell 3&2.

It was a very good team performance and also great fun; on the course, there were moments of brilliance tempered with the occasional aberration; off the course (and sometimes on it) there was much amusement and good natured banter but everyone played their part in a most enjoyable few days. Particular thanks to the Blok Buster Brothers, Tony and Peter, who both played well in the early rounds but stood down for Andrew Stracey in the semi final and final."

Elsewhere, Mike Wilkinson's President's Day appeared to inspire certain members of the Society's committee to great things; playing at

Effingham, Mike himself finished third with 34 points, Vice Captain Tony Harris second with 36, and Captain Mike Berners Price first on the same score. (As Ronnie Corbett would have put it, your secretary knows his place!)

Matches were played at Tandridge against Old Alleynians (won) and at Royal Wimbledon against KCS Old Boys (lost). The annual triangular match against the school and the masters ended with the Society sandwiched in second place, with the school emerging as overall victors.

Finally, a plea for any budding (or even drooping) golfers who qualify as OWs, parents or teachers, to join us at Royal Ashdown on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September for our Autumn meeting. The event is great value at only £45 for golf and lunch. Further details from Peter at [peterbgale@sky.com](mailto:peterbgale@sky.com).

Peter Gale (Hon Secretary)

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## OW Veterans Rifle Club Report

Our final Bisley competition of the summer comprised one shoot at 500 yards, for which we entered our customary three teams of five. Around 47 clubs took part, fielding between them nearly 100 teams! Our teams fared well on the day: With best scores ex 50 in brackets, the 'A' team came 28<sup>th</sup> of 47 (Guy Hart 48.04): the 'B' team 12<sup>th</sup> of 28 (Paul Nalson 47.03) and the 'C' team 12<sup>th</sup> of 21 (Guy Riches 47.03). In the Aggregate Competition, we finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 9. Five of our 15 were shooting their first match for a year, with a couple using the club Musgrave rifles for the first time. Some excellent scores were achieved, ranging from 46.3 to 47.3.

Guy Hart has had a particularly good year in his shoots for the Veterans. Not only did he win the Hansell Cup for the highest aggregate score across both the Schools Veterans (SV) matches, he proceeded to further stamp his authority by also winning the Hammond Trophy as the best of our shots in the LMRA SV and the Reed Challenge Cup for his score in the NRA SV. Not too surprising for an international shot and a St. Andrews Shooting Blue!

It didn't all go Guy's way however, as the Long Range Cup (900 & 1000 yards) was won by John Horlock - one of our vintage senior members - in far from ideal conditions. Congratulations to you both.

It was good to see Stuart Ebbutt and Mike Rhodes, as veteran Veterans, attend the meeting plus two new



members, namely Mike Herron (left school last year) and Henry Parritt (Lower 6<sup>th</sup>). Hopefully these two will be shooting Full Bore next year.

As usual the shoot was followed by an informal dinner at the Artists Rifles (pictured), always an enjoyable occasion. The evening was considered a great success, enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks are due to Graham Clark who managed the shooting side of things and to Simon Lacey who sorted and coordinated the dinner logistics. Thanks to Nick Hart for organising another great raffle.

That is probably enough from me for now. I shall cover Small Bore shooting and our continued association with the school shooting club in the next report.

Further information regarding the WVRC and our activities can be found within the WA website ... new members always welcome.

Alan Hunter

## News from the School

Whitgift has enjoyed yet another spectacular year but it is not news regarding the boys that has made it to the top of this column: It is the retirement of a special member of staff. After 35 years of service to both the school and Old Boys, Fladders has left the building. Phil Fladgate's exploits in the classroom and on the sports fields will be remembered fondly by thousands of OWs. It is only just to pay tribute to his exploits in a column that has been synonymous with his name. One positive aspect of his retirement is that it will free him up to become a full time supporter of the School and OW teams, so you will have plenty of opportunities to see him and chew the fat over glory days when strolling the touch lines in the years to come.

The 2013-14 school year came to a rapturous end with *Celebration of Whitgift Life*. Literary genius and esteemed Old Whitgiftian Neil Gaiman (pictured), was guest speaker. He spoke movingly about his time at the school and how advice he was given by a particular member of staff helped shape the man he is today. Doubtless the highlight of his day was awarding the House Championship Cup to Mason's (won for the second year in a row, I might



Neil Gaiman, OW (1974-77)

add!) The cup was gratefully received by departing School Captain, Geddy Stringer, who earlier on had left the audience spellbound with a reprisal of his role as *West Side Story's* doomed lover, Tony.

Whilst the Celebration of Whitgift Life pays tribute to all aspects of school life, the majority of prizes are academic. This was exemplified the next day with the *International Baccalaureate* (IB) results: All 30 candidates achieved the prestigious diploma, averaging an impressive 37 points. Daniel Alsoof and Kavish Shah achieved the maximum of 45 points, and Kavish, having taken four Higher Level subjects, instead of the usual three, can claim to be the highest achieving IB candidate to have taken the diploma at Whitgift. This places him in the top few candidates globally. This pleasing trend was continued with another bumper crop of A-Level results: Boys achieved 88.17% at A\*-B grade. Impressive for a school of this size.

With regards sporting excellence, James Wyatt (a Mason's boy, coincidentally) won the Pioneer Cup, Europe's premier junior squash tournament in Cologne, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The 14 year old is now ranked number one in Europe U15. Recent leavers, Dominic Sibley and Henry Cheeseman, (both Mason's boys) have continued to excel in professional sport in cricket and rugby respectively - Dominic scored copious amounts of runs in the recent U19 test series against South Africa, and Henry achieved success for Harlequins in the 7s form.

Whitgift's 6<sup>th</sup> Form Modern Pentathlete, Henry Choong, has been selected to represent GB at this Summer's Youth Olympic Games in China. He is part of the 33-strong Team GB squad, competing in Nanjing, 16-28<sup>th</sup> August. Henry's

older brother Joseph OW made his senior international debut at the modern pentathlon European Championships, in Hungary, in July. Meanwhile, fellow OW Sam Curry (2005-12), made sure Britain's competition ended on a high note, by winning bronze in the men's relay.

Three Old Whitgiftians took part in the EuroHockey Junior Nations Championship, in Belgium, on 26<sup>th</sup> July - an impressive England representation from a single school. OWs Luke Taylor, Rob Farrington, and Jonty Griffiths (Mason's), all now studying at Loughborough University were part of the England U21 team who beat the hosts 4-3, securing a dramatic bronze medal win. Finally, the cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI won ten fixtures, but unfortunately went out of the national cup in a tight loss to Tonbridge School.

Whitgift is blooming - figuratively and literally - having won the crown in the *London in Bloom - Sow, Grow and Know 2014* competition. 28 schools were judged against stringent criteria, with categories such as 'sustainability' and 'use of grounds for school curriculum'. The judges said that 'Whitgift School is one of the jewels in the crown of London and the South East' - high praise indeed. Head Groundsman, Stuart Webber, Head Gardener, Sophie Tatzkow and their dedicated teams deserve our congratulations.

Whilst my pedigree might not yet be on a par with Fladders, I like to think I am getting there. Thus far, I have spent 21 years at Whitgift - 8 as a boy and 13 as a member of staff (including 10 as Housemaster of a certain House: see if you can guess which one). I've loved every single one of them. I will endeavour to continue Phil's excellent work.

*Dominic Edwards*

## Whitgiftian Benevolent Society

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



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

## SPORTSMAN'S LUNCH

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER

Whitgift School, Haling Park



Tickets are **£35 per head** for members of the WA, staff and parents of current Whitgiftians, **£25 per head** for students and **£40** for all others.

Jacket and tie is requested, Sports Club or Colours Blazer if possible. Car parking will be available in the Gallery Car Park at the side of the School.

Book online at [www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events) or complete the enclosed form and return to the WA Office.



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



## OLD WHITGIFTIAN GOLF SOCIETY

### Autumn Meeting at Royal Ashdown

*Bring a guest and save £10!*

Old Whitgiftians, parents of current Whitgiftians and past or current members of staff are welcome to join us at Royal Ashdown for our Autumn Meeting.

Tickets are just £45\* for golf and lunch

Further details from Peter at [peterbgale@sky.com](mailto:peterbgale@sky.com)

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

\* £20 only for Royal Ashdown members



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

## OXFORD DINNER

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

in the Great Hall, Jesus College, Oxford

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

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

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

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

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

Please book online at [www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events). Tickets will be issued in due course. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office on 020 8633 9926 or by e-mail to: [office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk)



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

## SUSSEX DINNER

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER

The Birch Hotel, Haywards Heath



### LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

The location, close to both the A23 and A272, is convenient for those living in and around Sussex. The hotel has excellent parking and is reasonably close to the station.

The ticket price (which will include pre-dinner drinks, a three-course dinner with wine, and coffee/tea & mints) will be confirmed in due course.

Please indicate your intention to attend by writing to Alan Cowing via [office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk)

## Giving to Whitgift

It may come as a surprise to you that a school supported by The Whitgift Foundation needs to ask for financial assistance. However, as we all know only too well, times change.

Each year, the School receives some £1.5m from the Foundation, all of which is spent on bursaries and scholarships accounting for over half the pupils currently benefiting from a Whitgift education.

Still, the School is forced to turn away an increasing number of bright boys, aged 10 and 11, whose parents cannot afford to pay the fees. Demand for bursaries is growing and there is no question that many boys in Croydon and South London would benefit from such an opportunity - if we could expand the financial provision and places available.

We hope that those who have benefited from an education at

Whitgift will find it rewarding to support other young people so they can achieve their true potential. There is something very personal and meaningful about endowing a bursary and providing a talented young person with the opportunity to benefit from an outstanding education. Every supporter makes a significant difference to a child's life no matter what level of financial support is given.

During the past twelve months we have successfully established the WA Trust (WAT), a charitable vehicle registered and approved by the Charities Commission, which will enable all gifts and donations to be made in the most tax-effective way. All amounts donated will fall under the Gift Aid scheme, enabling both recipient and donor to achieve maximum benefit under current tax legislation\*.

The amount and the time-frame for donating is entirely up to you. When it

comes to creating bursaries, benefactors - either individually or in groups - are often very imaginative and we would be delighted to hear if you are interested in specific sports or other activities and may wish to create syndicated and named bursaries or scholarships.

I hope you will choose to join us in securing opportunities for thousands of young men in the future. I invite you to go to the Whitgiftian Association's site ([whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/giving](http://whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/giving)) and read more about the many ways you might support us, and then please get in touch.

Your assistance and generosity today will ensure the success of our great school in helping generations of boys in the future.



**David Stranack**  
President, WA, 2014

\* Donors are advised to seek professional financial advice as tax relief varies dependent upon individual circumstances.

### Dates for the Diary

Fri	12 Sept	Corps of Drums Muster	WSC	8.00
Sat	20 Sept	Whitgift Open Morning	School	9-1.00
Sat	27 Sept	OWRFC Supporters' Lunch	WSC	12.00
Thurs	2 Oct	WA Oxford Dinner	Jesus College	6.30
Fri	10 Oct	Darling Buds of May Concert	School	7.30
Sat	11 Oct	WA Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00
	15-16 Oct	Lower Sixth Play "Trapped"	School	7.30
Sat	18 Oct	OWRFC Past Players' Lunch	WSC	12.00
Fri	24 Oct	Sussex Dinner	Birch Hotel	6:30
Sat	1 Nov	OWRFC Supporters' Lunch	WSC	12.00
Sat	8 Nov	WSA Dance	School	7.30
Tues	11 Nov	Remembrance Service	School	10.30
Thurs	13 Nov	Careers Conversation	School	7.00
Sat	15 Nov	OWRFC Supporters' Lunch	WSC	12.00
Thurs	20 Nov	School Music Concert	Fairfield Halls	7.00
Sat	6 Dec	OWRFC Supporters' Lunch	WSC	12.00
	10-12 Dec	The Importance of Being Earnest	School	7.30
Sat	13 Dec	WA AGM and Lunch	Old Library	tbc
Tues	16 Dec	School Carol Service	Minster	7.30

### Appointments

The Whitgiftian Association Trust (WAT, *see above*) is looking for a Treasurer. If you or anyone you know is up for the job, please email the Chairman of the Whitgiftian Association, Pip Burley, at [office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk).

### Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 13th December. We intend to lay on a lunch afterwards. Please keep the date in the diary. We hope many members will be able to attend.

### What's On

Sat	6 Sept	Charlie Hutton Hockey Festival	School	10.00
Sat	6 Sept	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Beddington	H L	11.30
Sun	7 Sept	CCC Presidents XI v Paralytics	H	11.30
Sat	6 Sept	School 1 <sup>st</sup> XV v Sedbergh	H	11.00
Sat	13 Sept	School 1st XV v Bishop Wordsworth	A	1.00
Sun	14 Sept	OWGS Barnett Trophy v School, Addington Golf Club		12.00
Sat	20 Sept	School 1st XV v Skinners	A	2.00
Sat	27 Sept	1st XV v Old Cranleighans	H L	3.00
Sat	27 Sept	School 1st XV v Wellington	H	2.30
Sat	4 Oct	School 1st XV v Warwick	A	12.30
Sat	11 Oct	School 1st XV v John Fisher	H	2.30
Sat	18 Oct	1st XV v Battersea Ironsides	H L	3.00
Sat	18 Oct	School 1st XV v Chislehurst & Sidcup	H	10.30
Sat	1 Nov	1st XV v Camberley	H L	2.30
Sat	8 Nov	School 1st XV v High Wycombe	A	2.00

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

*Correction:-* With apologies, it was Mike Gooderson (1962-1966) not his brother Colin who received a BEM, as incorrectly reported on page 7 of the recently distributed 'OW News'.

### Recent Deaths

The WA has sadly been informed of the following losses:

*John Atherton (1952-56) died 2nd June, aged 76*

*Adrian Earl (1959-67) died 28th July, aged 65*

*Dr John Little (1929-37) died 13th June, aged 94*

*Donald Orchard (1931-37) died 30th July, aged 94*

*Richard Pater (1955-63) died 17th May 2013*