

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Annual Report & Accounts 2013 - 14

The Annual General Meeting of the Association
will be held in the Founder's Room, Whitgift School
Haling Park, South Croydon, CR2 6YT

ON SATURDAY, 13th DECEMBER AT 11AM



THE PRESIDENT, DAVID STRANACK, WILL TAKE THE CHAIR

AGENDA

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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | 11 | To elect the directors of OW Trustees Ltd for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that Chris Jenkins, David Straw, Nick Flood, Mike Irwin, Richard Blundell & Ian Flanagan be re-elected. |
| 2 | To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Dec 7th, 2013. | 12 | To elect a member of the WA Main Committee to sit on the Committee of the Whitgiftian Benevolent Society. The Committee proposes that Nick Somers be elected. |
| 3 | To consider matters arising | 13 | To approve Membership Categories & Subscriptions as follows: |
| 4 | To receive and adopt the Chairman's report | | Full Residing within 20 miles of Haling Park £50 |
| 5 | To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2014 | | Country & Overseas Residing more than 20 miles from Haling Park £40 |
| 6 | To elect the President for the year commencing January 1st, 2015. The Committee proposes that Keith Lindblom QC be elected. | | Staff Past and present staff of Whitgift School £40 |
| 7 | To elect Vice Presidents for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that the existing Vice Presidents be re-elected. | | Under 28 Under the age of 28 on Sept 1st of the current year £30 |
| 8 | To elect the Chairman for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that Philip Burley be re-elected. | | Sports Members Full Playing OW members of the Whitgift Sports Club (nil) |
| 9 | To elect the Deputy Chairman for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that Nick Somers be re-elected. | | Life Members Members who have paid a lump sum in advance (Currently standing at £1,000) |
| 10 | To elect the remaining officers and other members of the Main Committee for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that the following be re-elected and elected: | | Friends of the WA Association Annual donation to support the Association £25 |
| | <i>Hon Sec:</i> Ms Vicky Burley | | (All rates subject to a Hard Copy Supplement if member requires correspondence by post -£12 UK, £20 Europe, £25 rest of the world) |
| | <i>Hon Treasurer:</i> Mark Endersby | 14 | To appoint the Auditors. The Committee proposes that McCays be re-appointed. |
| | <i>Elected Members:</i> Richard Blundell, Keith Hopkins, Sam Barke, Jon Bunn. | 15 | Any other business. |
- OW Trustees Ltd nominated member (not to be elected): Ian Flanagan
Whitgift Sports Club nominated member (not to be elected): Alan Cowing

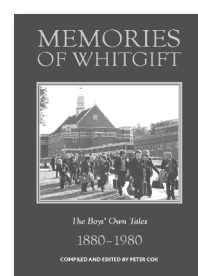
The meeting will be followed by a Buffet Lunch at approximately 12.30pm

“MEMORIES OF WHITGIFT” *The Boys’ Own Tales...*

Without doubt the most eagerly awaited publishing event of 2013 was the launch of *Memories of Whitgift*, compiled and edited by **Peter Cox** (1955-64). This splendid volume of contributions and anecdotes from OWs, plus photographs and items culled from *The Whitgiftian*, gives a lively account in their own words of what life was like for boys at the School for the century from 1880. Memories of masters, sport, the arts, war and peace, school lunches and the facts behind the Great Desk Swap of 1960 are all there. *No OW should fail to buy a copy.*

Hardback Price: £20 (plus postage).

**Secure your copy now from the Whitgiftian Association, Haling Park, South Croydon, CR2 6YT
TEL: 020 8633 9926 E-mail: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk**



OUR PRESIDENT DESIGNATE - SIR KEITH LINDBLOM



Sir Keith Lindblom was born in 1956, and is now a High Court judge. He is the son of John Lindblom, who was President of the OWA in 1992. He went to Whitgift in 1966, starting unpromisingly in Lower IB, left in 1974, and went on to read Modern History at St John's College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1980, and later the Bar of Northern Ireland, the Hong Kong Bar and the Bar of the Turks and Caicos Islands. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1996, and a Bencher of Gray's Inn in 2003. He became a judge and was knighted in 2010, and is now President of the Lands Chamber and lead judge of the Planning Court. He has been active in the life of the OWA and WA for many years, having played rugby for the OWRFC in the 1980's and served as Chairman of the Haling Park Committee in its early days. He is married to Fiona, has four children – a son and three daughters, and lives in London and in Hardy country in Dorset. He is, we think, the first President to follow in his father's footsteps.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2014

THIS report covers the first full year of operation of the WA since the establishment of our office at the School. It has been a great success with the Association catering for a much wider range of members' interests, a record number of OWs joining up and much stronger relationships between the WA, The School and the Foundation. We have made our first foray into fundraising with the formation of the Whitgiftian Association Trust, a registered charity which will enable us to process donations to the School and the Sports Club with the benefit of Gift Aid. Should you be interested in learning more about giving (including your time mentoring and assisting with careers advice), please refer to the WA website or, if you would rather, speak to me personally (01372 363689).

The Whitgift Sports Club has also flourished and, thanks to the efforts of its board, headed by Alan Cowing and conscientiously assisted by Richard Veldeman, is moving towards achieving financial independence.

The WA continues to regard events and reunions as a principal activity and in March we held our inaugural WA Achievement Award. The recipient was Lt Col James Coates who was at Whitgift from 1981 to 1988 when, amongst his many other interests, he was a prominent member of the CCF and keen member of the Corps of Drums. Since leaving school he has had an action-packed career in the Army culminating in his command of the 3rd Parachute Regiment in Afghanistan. In 2011, when he returned to the UK, he was chosen by *The Daily Telegraph* as one of their top ten 'Britons of the Year'. More than a hundred OWs, many resplendent in their uniforms and decorations, attended the event amidst an array of distinguished guests including the Headmaster and the Deputy High Sheriff of Croydon. During the evening we were treated to a cabaret from 'West Side Story' and a video tribute from Head of the Army, Sir Peter Wall (OW). The toast to Lt Col Coates was proposed by Brigadier Neil Sexton (OW).

Other events at the school included a Concert in June involving boys, OWs, staff and parents; an event which I am sure will be the first of many.

Also in October, in collaboration with the School's music department, the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic, I was privileged to present a concert of the music from 'The Darling Buds of May'. Big School was packed and, speaking for myself, it was a wonderful experience. I hope the audience felt the same way!

Richard Blundell continues to organise splendid Sportsman's Lunches at the School and a record number of OWs turned up on October 11th for lunch in the Old Library prior to watching the School First XV thrash arch-rivals John Fisher.

In April, the newly refurbished Gerry Bowthorpe Room at Croham Road was full to overflowing as OWs paid tribute to John Branston, Bob Schad, Dick Glynne-Jones and Ken

Nicholas, the 'Four Musketeers', who, between them, have 170 years of service to the school. A remarkable event when you consider that many of their 'pupils' are now in their 70's!

In June, our President, David Stranack, hosted a most enjoyable 119th Annual Dinner at the School attended by over a hundred OWs, the Headmaster and guest speakers Ian Watson and Clive Doig. We were blessed with a dry, sunny evening enabling us to enjoy a glass of champagne in the newly landscaped area adjacent to the new boarding house and the re-sited War Memorial accompanied by the OW Corps of Drums.

Other reunions during the year have included a dinner at Jesus College, Oxford in October with guest of honour David Raeburn and, in November, a dinner for OWs residing in the Sussex region. Our thanks to Graham Leeke and Alistair Lack for organising the former and Alan Cowing the latter.

We have also hosted events for school leavers and prefects - all well attended - serving to remind them of everything the WA has to offer.

Amongst a number of events arranged for the Centenary of World War One, the OW Rugby Club must be congratulated for initiating a trip in July to Belgium and France to place wreaths on the graves or memorials of 31 of the 40 members who gave their lives in the Great War. Plans are being formed to mark the remaining nine who are buried elsewhere in the world. This remarkable journey was preceded by a dinner in the Old Library and, subsequently, the planting of more than 400 trees at Croham Road to commemorate the fallen. To conclude the year's memorial activity, a lunch was held at Croham Road.

Our relationship with the Foundation continues to flourish and Chief Executive, Martin Corney, kindly arranged a guided tour of the Almshouses especially for OWs last month. Further tours are planned, so please let the office know if you would like to attend.

Speaking of the office, I would also like to thank Vicky Burley who runs things for us efficiently and with great imagination. During 2014, many OWs have got to know her and come to appreciate both her skills and enthusiasm. Don't forget to take advantage of the many member offers on our website which include discounted theatre tickets, the ability to book and pay for events online - plus our very own on-line shop as well as a Members' log-in section where you can quickly trace old friends and schoolday colleagues. Christmas is a good time to check it out and, if you haven't joined us yet, please do so now. (www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk).

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to David Stranack who has had an excellent year as President of the Whitgiftian Association. Supported by his lovely wife, Ann, he has worked hard to promote the WA both publicly and in his day-to-day dealings with those around him. Thank you, David.

PIP BURLEY, Chairman, Whitgiftian Association, November 2014

IT is my honour to write a report on School life. Having started in September as Second Master and having been a boy here myself, I can certainly say I know the School very well and can report that we are flourishing!

The School achieved some record academic results, which were testament to an emphasis on Academic Focus and the impressive efforts of staff and students. New School records were achieved in GCSE with 83% A*-A, and at AS Level with 82% at A-B. At A2, 90% were graded at A*-B and in the IB, Whitgift students achieved an average score of 37 points, with two scoring the maximum 45.

Boarding at Whitgift is going from strength-to-strength. We are now at capacity in Founder's House and there are 24 different nationalities represented which gives a very vibrant and exciting feel to the House. Boarding at Whitgift will be central to the new Summer School project, to launch in the summer of 2015, as we invite overseas students to spend the summer holidays at Whitgift to develop their English and participate in a number of exciting activities. If you would like to help with the Summer School then do get in touch.

Whitgift's Arts programme continues to impress with fantastic concerts and plays receiving deserved praise at every performance. In March, the School's major production, 'West Side Story' was outstanding and highly professional and demonstrated the immense talents of students, staff and crew. This year, we look forward to a Lower School interpretation of 'The Wind in the Willows', Upper School's 'The Importance of Being Ernest' and the major production, 'Spamalot' which is sure to be a huge success. In Music, we will celebrate Christmas with a concert at St George's in Hanover Square, and eagerly await another collaboration with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra when Whitgift perform alongside professional musicians at the Royal Festival Hall on March 26. Our Choristers have performed at Westminster Abbey and at Rochester and Canterbury Cathedrals and will be recording their own CD next term – good luck to them!

The Whitgift International Music Competition is now in its third year. Our three current Scholars have taken part in numerous projects and concerts, working alongside renowned musicians, including the amazing British cellist Guy Johnston, and performing in school productions. The Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA), a new, free Saturday academy for boys and girls, sponsored by the School, launched this summer. Classes take place during term with sessions in drama, dance, and musical theatre for children aged 8-18.

We have enjoyed many visitors at the School over the past twelve months including authors Frederick Forsyth, Eoin Colfer and Alex Scarrow and VIP visits from the French Ambassador and HRH The Princess Royal who arrived by helicopter on Big Side for the 400th Founder's Day Service in March. It was a great pleasure to have OW, and renowned author, Neil Gaiman return as Guest of Honour for the Celebration of Whitgift Life.

Most recently we commemorated the centenary of the start of WWI with a service attended by the whole school and many OWs and guests from Whitgift House. The event was particularly moving and many people have commented on what a fitting tribute it was to the 251 OWs who gave their lives in WWI. The CCF has again enjoyed a fantastic year, including being part of the pitch presentation at the annual Army-Navy rugby match at Twickenham. A number of our pupils planted



poppies at the Tower of London as part of the display held there recently. In March of 2016, the School will launch a major World War One Exhibition, akin to the previous superb Mary Rose Exhibition. There will be many opportunities to be involved so do let us know if you are interested.

Whitgift took part in the London in Bloom – Sow, Grow and Know 2014 competition and we were chosen as the overall winner, a significant accolade. The judges proclaimed that "Whitgift School is one of

the jewels in the crown of Croydon, London and the South East". The School's gardens will be on show in June 2015 for a National Gardens Scheme Open Day (7 June), and the London Open Garden Square Weekend (14-15 June).

The past year has again been truly amazing for sport. We have won numerous National titles and many of the pupils, current and past, have represented their country in a number of different sports. In particular, OW and current Whitgift teacher, Dudley Tredger, recently won Gold as the Commonwealth Individual Epee Champion – a great achievement!

In Hockey, the 1st team became double National champions winning both the Indoor and Outdoor competitions; this is the third year in a row they have won the Outdoor title. Upper Sixth student, Rhys Smith debuted for East Grinstead 1st XI and we currently have seven in the U18 England training squad. The U13 side were also crowned National champions. In Athletics, Ocean Schwartz continues to shine and was selected to represent England at the SIAB U17 International Track & Field Championship, finishing second in the High Jump, with 2.02m, ranking him No.2 in the UK in his age group. The U15 4x200m team broke the UK All Comers record and so now hold a National record. In Cricket, the U15s won the ESCA National T20 for the first time. In Modern Pentathlon, Whitgift continues to dominate. Sixth Former Henry Choong, was selected to represent Great Britain at the Youth Olympic Games in China, where he finished in 11th place. His brother, Joseph Choong, an OW, made his senior debut at the European Championships.

In Rugby, the 1st XV have had an excellent season so far, including superb wins against Dulwich away and Sedbergh at home. Upper Sixth pupil, Matt Gallagher is in the England U18 training squad and made his 1st XV debut for Saracens in the LV Cup. In Football, the U13s won their fourth consecutive Investec ISFA National title and Whitgift teams are unbeaten in this competition since first entering in 2010. The U16 side were runners-up in the Premier League ESFA National cup, losing the final on penalties. In Golf, the team won the 2014 ISGA National Individual Team Championships, held at Carnoustie in April. Two of the team, George Mullins and Harvey Byers, recently represented England. In Judo, we were National Team winners in the Independent School Championships and also brought home a number of Gold medals. Lower Third Form pupil, Shaun Michaels, won Gold in his 11-12 years age category in the 5th WUKF Junior World Karate Championships. In Squash, Year 10 pupil, James Wyatt, is ranked Number One in Europe in his age category. In Swimming, the Senior team retained the Bath Cup and Otter Medley Relay trophies.

As I said, the School is flourishing in every aspect and this summary is only a glimpse into what is happening. As OWs, you are very welcome to revisit Whitgift at any time – please contact WA Office. Events are open to all and are published on our website www.whitgift.co.uk/events.



FAMILY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th AT THE CLUBHOUSE - 12.30 for 1pm
CROHAM ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON

Sparkling Wine on Arrival followed by a
full Four-Course Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings!

SPECIAL CHILDRENS'S MENU ...and Santa Claus with presents!

ADULTS £35, CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE £12.50 FAMILY (2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN) £80.
DRINKS FROM THE BAR (10% discount on presentation of your membership card)

Please book by contacting the WA Office on 020 8633 9926 or e-mail: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

CONTACTS & GENERAL INFORMATION

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HOME AND OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENT

We currently have OWs scattered around the
globe, and if you wish to be put in touch with
an OW in a particular country or continent,
we will do our best to put you in contact.
Tel: 020 8633 9926

ADDRESS CHANGES

Of our 8,912 registered OWs, 1,787 are
currently "lost". If we do not know your
address and contact details, particularly e-
mail, we cannot invite you to Reunions or
keep you in touch with other news and
events, so when you move house, please do
remember to let us know. You can update
your contact details at any time by writing to
or telephoning the office or by sending an e-
mail to: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk.
Please e-mail the office if you know the
whereabouts of any other OWs who you
think we may not know about.

STANDING ORDERS

Some members may have standing orders
that have to be identified individually from
the WA bank statements and entered
manually into our computer system. Direct
debits and PayPal subscriptions are processed

automatically and save the WA both time and
bank charges. Please make the move this year
from standing order to direct debit. If you
have an antipathy to
direct debits, at least please ensure your SO
is updated to reflect current subscription rates
(see page 1). Direct Debit forms may be
obtained from the website or from the office.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION

In view of ever increasing postal charges, we
have expanded our use of e-mail distribution
facilities where possible. This Annual Report
has been sent to you as a pdf attachment. If
you know any members who are unable or
unwilling to receive e-mail attachments, it
may be downloaded from the WA website.
Please ensure we have your e-mail address.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

As we maintain personal records of members
on a computer database, we have to comply
with the rules of the Act, although we are
exempt from "Notification". We do not pass
members' data to commercial organisations.

WA ON THE NET

You will find the new WA website at:
www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk. The site
contains a current calendar of events, news,
recent and past issues of the WA Newsletter,
and WA News, membership details and
subscription rates, the Constitution, together
with a list of officers, past Presidents & Vice
Presidents and celebrated Alumni. You can
also book and purchase tickets for WA and
School events and take advantage of the
generous Members' Discounts that apply via
the Members' Log-In area and WA Shop. You
can also pay subscriptions online as well as
take advantage of offers and promotions.
Please e-mail any comments or contributions
to: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

WHITGIFT BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

We ask all Old Whitgiftians to consider a
legacy to the Society, as we continue to strive
to help the less fortunate in the wider
Whitgift family. All OWs are encouraged to
contact the Secretary c/o: the WA Office if
they hear of or suspect that an Old
Whitgiftian could be in need of help.