



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT. Tel: 020 8633 9926 www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

President - LORD GRAHAM TOPE

Chairman - PIP BURLEY

Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

NEWSLETTER 364 - March/April 2016



ELLIOT DALY'S ENGLAND RUGBY DEBUT

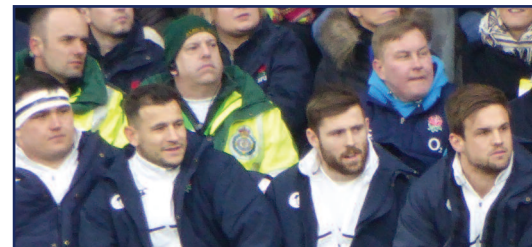
Saturday 27th February 2016 will be a date that Old Whitgiftian Elliot Daly (OW 2006-11) never forgets, for that was the day he made his full international debut for England.

After several months of amazing performances for Wasps in the AVIVA Premiership, fans were clamouring for Daly to be selected for his country. He had already represented England at U16, U18 and U20 as well as taking the field for both England Saxons and The Barbarians.

The 23 year-old was called up to the England squad before but failed to even make it onto the bench until now. After patiently waiting for his chance, Daly was selected as a replacement for the crucial Six Nations encounter with Ireland at Twickenham.

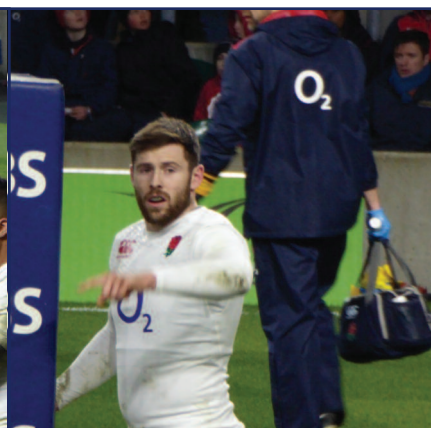
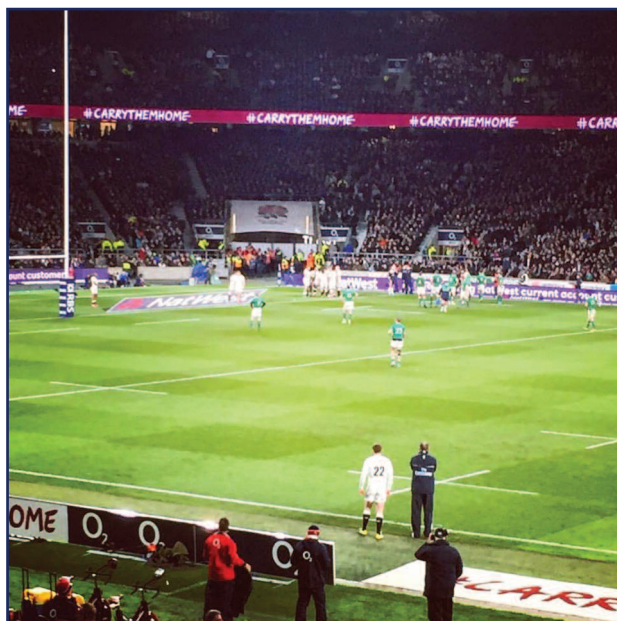
The match was going England's way and in the 66th minute, with his country leading 21-10, Daly was brought on as a replacement at Centre for Owen Farrell. Just a few minutes later he made a massive impact with a critical, well-timed, try-saving tackle on Josh Van der Flier. That intervention kept England eleven points to the good and prevented what would have been a nervous finish.

After his brief debut, Daly will now be desperate to get back on the field for both



club and country and continue putting in performances that have made him one of the most popular Rugby Union players at this time.

Everyone at the Whitgiftian Association would like to say massive congratulations to Elliot on this landmark career milestone and wish him all the luck for what is sure to be a bright future.



SPEAR17

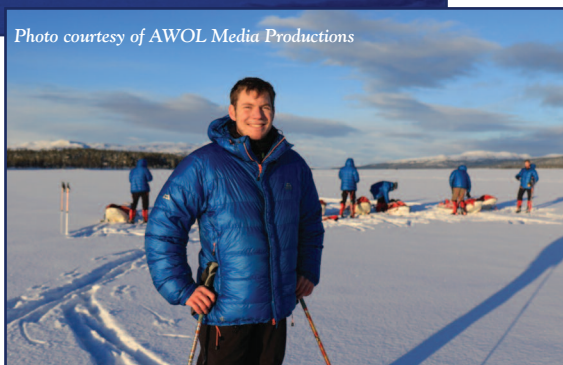
OW Ollie Stoten (2000-2008) has just returned from the final phase of selection to make the SPEAR17 team (South Pole Expedition Army Reserves 2017); a six-man team who, this year, will attempt to ski over 730 miles unsupported from the coastline of Antarctica to the geographic South Pole.

Ollie, about to finish his medical degree, will be carrying out research during the expedition into the effects of prolonged exertion on the body to better understand both ill health and human performance.

Each team member will be hauling an individual pulk weighing approximately 160kg that will contain everything he needs to survive for two months on the ice pack. The team will be completely self-sufficient and do not intend to receive any form of resupply or outside assistance. If all goes well they will reach the Pole in January 2017.

The team will face many challenges along the way with the harsh polar weather, constant katabatic headwinds, crevasses, whiteouts, climbing to 10,000ft, isolation from the outside world and the constant

Photo courtesy of AWOL Media Productions



mental and physical battle of man-hauling their pulks across the ice.

To make the team, applicants across the Army Reserves undertook a long selection process, culminating in a two-week exercise in Norway learning 'polar routine' where the final team was chosen. With

Photo courtesy of AWOL Media Productions



temperatures regularly in the -30s(°C), the team faced a constant battle to survive.

They had to learn the fine line between generating enough body heat to prevent hypothermia and frostbite, but not too much to cause them to sweat. The moisture would immediately freeze in the clothing, producing much faster drops in body temperature.

As the extreme daily exertion began to take its toll on the team and their bodies ate through their fat reserves, they craved more and more calories and their appetites turned to salami, cheese, chocolate and any other fat they had with them. Ollie,

with a background in ultramarathon running and interest in nutrition, will be planning the team's expedition food to allow them to undertake this mammoth task.

To be in peak physical condition, the team has joined forces with OWs Adam Jordan (2000-2008) and Michael Jordan (2002-2010) (7R Performance) to develop their strength and stamina.

As a consequence of the expedition the team hope to raise £100,000 for the ABF The Soldiers' Charity, helping those service personnel that require it most.

For more information, visit www.spear17.org.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Boys in different coloured blazers, boys in dresses, boys wearing spandex and wielding guitars... that's right: it's that time of year again and the Whitgift carousel has pootled its merry round to the Entrance Exam / Lower Third Shakespeare / House Music season! Once again, I find the marking on my desk submerged under togas, daggers and drumsticks – the after-show parties are becoming wilder every year! As one has come to expect with Whitgift, all three events were a success: the future of the school is in safe hands, with record numbers of bright-eyed young chaps visiting with their parents for interviews; the L3rd Shakespeare evening saw every boy in a year group of well over 200 perform an extract from the Bard's cannon – a spectacular and encouraging sight; last but not least, Dodd's won House Music in a wonderfully entertaining evening that showed Whitgift music in its best light, with everyone from virtuoso violinists to wannabe 13 year old Ozzie Osbornes strutting their stuff on the Big School stage!

The Oxbridge results, whilst not quite reaching the dizzying heights of last year, were nevertheless still very impressive, with a total of 22 offers made in a variety of subjects ranging from the traditional, Classics and Natural Sciences, to the contemporary, Asian & Middle Eastern Studies and Computer Science. At the other end of the school, first former, Kit Connor appeared in BBC 1's adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Kit won the

role after a rigorous audition in London, where he was up against more than 100 hopeful young actors. He appeared alongside household names: Ade Edmondson (playing his father); Greta Scacchi (playing his mother); and Lily James (as his sister). Clearly, the more challenging reading list given by the English department to the first form boys is paying off. Next up – Ulysses!

In hockey, Whitgift continued their annual hosting of the Boys U16/U18 Schools' National Indoor Championship, held between 15-17 January 2016. The U16s, who had narrowly missed out on a semi-final place by just one goal the previous year, had a fantastic competition. The squad defeated Norwich School, Thirsk School, Repton School and South Dartmoor Community College, in the pool matches. The final was played against a strong Worksop College side, who, for long periods of the game, were very much in contention. A strong Whitgift second-half performance saw the team proclaimed national indoor champions. The First team, having monopolised the indoor scene for the past few years, did not quite manage to repeat their success this time around, but they are still going strong in the outdoor game, having reached the third round of the National Cup and racking

scores of 10 – 1 and 7 – 1 in friendlies against Millfield and Oxford University respectively!

In rugby, both the Firsts and the U15s made it through to the Natwest National Cup quarter-finals, where the former produced a combative defensive display to edge out Wilmslow High School 10 – 7, and the latter bravely succumbed 34 – 17 to a classy Sedbergh side, despite leading 17 – 12 at one stage and dominating the forward battle. Both matches were well supported, with the entire school out to support the firsts in yet another match that was televised by the RFU. The semi-final will take place at Allianz Park (the home of Saracens RFC) on Saturday 27th February, and will be a tough ask for the boys, seeing as how they have drawn current champions, Bromsgrove, who have thus far remained unbeaten this season.

Editor's note: Score just in before going to print... Whitgift unfortunately lost 24-50.

Whilst the school continues to go from strength to strength in all of the traditional sports, every year it is venturing further and further afield in its quest for national glory. In the last two months alone, we have achieved a number of firsts, including: progressing through to the semi-finals of the London Independent School Basketball League at U18 level; having a pupil - Upper Third Former, Daniel Harding - win a gold medal in a national Karate competition; achieving a record haul of medals (31!) at the Independent Schools Ski and Snowboard Championships in Les Deux Alpes; and lastly, the U11 and U16 table tennis teams qualified for the regional finals of the English Schools Table Tennis Association national competition, by both finishing as runners up in the London heats. Whatever



next? Anyone fancy a game of polo? So as not to be completely shown up by the boys, some members of the sports staff have also been excelling in their respective fields. Mr Neil Kendrick, the Head of Cricket Performance, was delighted to be selected to be part of the coaching team for the England Women's training camp, in Sri Lanka, in December. The trip, in preparation for ICC World Twenty20 taking place in India, in March 2016, provided an intensive development camp in conditions similar to the host nation. Whitgift's Rugby Development Officer, Mr Tom Stradwick, representing Blackheath RFC, has been selected to play rugby for the England Counties XV. The team is made up of players from 13 clubs, and their international fixture list starts on 26 February, when they will face a Scotland Club XV. When Tom turns up for the first training session, he will find himself in familiar company, as Mr Chris Wilkins, the school's director of rugby, has been chosen as part of the coaching team.

Finally, the eagerly anticipated Remembering 1916 exhibition is now nearly upon us! It runs from 12th March – 31st August and is set to focus on a pivotal year in the First World War through a series of unique, personal stories. In addition to the exhibition, there will be a gift shop selling souvenirs, and this brings me nicely onto the school shop, which can be located just inside South Entrance. When I popped in the other day, I reflected that there were a lot of items that a keen OW might covet: peacock cufflinks; umbrellas adorned with the school colours or, if you prefer, a peacock pattern (notice a theme here?); bow ties; pens; the stylish blue, gold and white striped OW blazer... the list goes on! Next time you come to the school, pop in for a look - you never know what you might find!

DOMINIC EDWARDS (OW 1988-96)

WHITGIFTIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

We continue with our work of helping Whitgiftians, both those at School and Old Whitgiftians and not forgetting the wider members of the Whitgift community. We are currently assisting some OWs who are progressing through university and Old Whitgiftians both of the older and younger generations who are in need either of short term assistance or longer term help. One or two of our beneficiaries are abroad and the rest in the UK. Sometimes it is the widows of Old Boys or of Masters that we help.

Our help to boys at the School can take the form of putting money on their lunch cards, paying fares to and from School, purchases through the School shop of uniform and contributions towards the cost of School trips essential to their School curriculum.

We sent Christmas gifts to some of our beneficiaries.

We were very sorry last summer to lose the magnificent contribution which had been made by John Straw to our work as he decided that after 41 years as a Trustee he deserved a rest and the great support of Susan Hooker who had to step down on her retirement from School. She had proved an invaluable link between the School and the Society. Susan has been replaced by Whitgift Master, Keith Smith, who is certainly proving himself to be a worthy successor to Susan.

As always, we are keen to hear of any Old Whitgiftian or other member of the Whitgift family who needs the Society's help and to that end we arranged for the parents of all boys in the Vth and VIth forms to receive, at the end of Michaelmas Term, a letter about the Society's work.

ANDREW PICKERING (OW 1956-64)
WBS CHAIRMAN

WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB REPORT

Just a very brief report as we are currently in that interim period which comprises the approaching conclusion of the Small Bore Winter Leagues and the commencement towards the end of March of our Full Bore calendar.

Just too late for inclusion in the last report was the now very demanding Veterans Christmas Shoot. Won on this occasion by Rob Beere (OW 2000-05) with Ben Justice in second place. Ben was one of the four school boy shots taking part, all of whom were part of the School winning team in their postal shoot v other schools last summer. All four shot very well indeed, a credit to Peter Morrison (PJ) under whose leadership the School Shooting Club continues to flourish. Well done all!

Moving on to Full Bore, Graham has arranged the first practice shoot for 19 March, an all-day shoot at 600 yards for which reasonable conditions would be welcome – not always the case however.

The Vets' first match shoot of the 2016 Bisley season will be Round 1 of the LMRA League on 17 April, this to be followed by the LMRA Schools Veterans match on 30 April. For those who may be unaware, the latter competition was in fact instigated by the WVRC many years ago.

The Veterans AGM will be held this year on 29 March at the clubhouse with Bunny Branton (OW 1930-38) in the Chair.

That I think covers the club's state of play at the moment. Small Bore League results etc 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 (OW 1952-59)

OW APPOINTED PROFESSOR OF CARDIOLOGY

Julian Gunn, OW (1970-78), has been appointed Professor of Interventional Cardiology at the University of Sheffield. He continues in his post as Consultant Cardiologist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He



spends half his life re-plumbing patients' hearts, and the other half researching into how he could do it better. He is immensely grateful to all the inspirational teachers who had to put up with him at Whitgift, every one of whom

he recalls with pleasure and amusement, and without whom he would not be privileged to be in this position. And the poor blighters who had to share a classroom with him.

Julian is also a Fellow of the London College of Music, Associate of the Royal College of the Music, and Organist to the Damian Singers.

UPPER VTH 1952-53 REUNION

On the indisposition of our Honorary Member (Angela Warren) and hence of our annual hostess, Averil and John Trott (WA Vice-President) kindly stepped into the breach, welcoming us to their home in Bletchingley. We accepted with alacrity and enjoyed their excellent hospitality; so much so that for another year we quite forget again to photograph ourselves for the columns of this Newsletter. Apologies. But, as invisible as we may be, extant we remain – 21 from the original 28; of whom 11 were present and correct*, and the remainder, in spirit, through newsy letters, from Australia, Belgium and locations spread across the Home Counties, all avidly read by those present.

As conversation of yore blossomed, one could but be amazed, in grand-daughter speak, at the 'awesome' capacities of some to remember in such detail events and personalities in our lives together at Whitgift 63 years ago and more. Fascinating they were. And at this distance the perceived foibles of our Masters could be put in some perspective, not least that of those developed by their former pupils!

We soldier on toward that 65th Anniversary and this month (February) we shall progressively be reaching 80 and entering our 9th decades (God willing). On one thing we could all agree: life has been kind to our generation and we have much to be thankful for.

PETER WARREN, OW (1947-56)

**This year's crew: Ron Bernard, David Brewster, Ian Brown, John David, Brian Halfacre, John Hamilton, Nick Hartley, John Sutcliffe, John Trott, John Webb and your scribe.*

OW CONDUCTOR EARNS STANDING OVATION

One of the winners of Whitgift's 2015 International Music Competition, Leo Appel, gave a magnificent performance of Korngold's Violin Concerto, with St Giles Orchestra under the masterful direction of Old Whitgiftian, Geoff Bushell (OW 1968-76). The concert took place on Saturday 23 January, at St Andrews Church, Oxford.



The performance brought the audience to their feet, in obvious appreciation of Geoff's skilful conducting and Leo's playing.

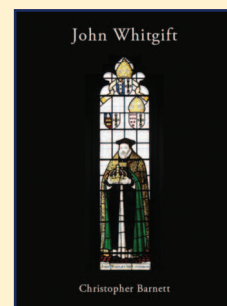
Old Whitgiftians Michael Proudfoot (OW 1956-63) and Stuart Dryden (OW 1961-69) were present, as was Whitgift's Director of Music, Rosanna Whitfield.

JOHN WHITGIFT BOOK

In his book, "John Whitgift", the author and Headmaster of Whitgift School, Dr C.A. Barnett, examines the 'life, character and achievements' of the Elizabethan Archbishop. With no study of his life published for nearly five decades, this accessible account takes a modern perspective on an unusually complex man.

Published in 2015, the biography gains insight by examining words from Whitgift's contemporaries, as well as from the man himself. There are a wide-range of colour illustrations which help shed light on the life of this 16th century man, whose significant legacy still lives on in the Whitgift Foundation.

The book is priced at £10 plus £2.50 P&P. Please email Donna at d.lewis@whitgift.co.uk to purchase your copy. Signed copies available on request.



WHITGIFTIAN RALLY DRIVER

Whitgift Upper Fifth Former, Ruairi Bell, competed in the New Year Stages rally car race, part of the Northern Irish Championship, on 22-23 January. Out of a total 50 cars, the 16-year-old had an amazing performance, finishing third in his class.



This competition is followed by the Eurocables Stages Rally, on 13 February. Both are important practice events towards a potential campaign in the Baltic Rally Championship (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) later in the year, which will see him competing in a much more powerful car, and on various surfaces: tarmac, gravel and snow.

Ruairi has had a passion for driving karts from an early age, and at the age of 14 he passed his rally license and began competing only last year.

We wish him the best of luck in his future driving endeavours.



OW AND BROTHER AND FATHER ON CYCLE RIDE

Stefano Nella (OW 2003-2011) is preparing to cycle 1,000 miles to the south of Europe following the route his great-grandfather took to arrive here in the UK. He will be joined by his father, Mark Nella, 49, and brother, 27-year-old Mario. They start by taking part in the London-Paris 2016 bike ride, considered one of the toughest amateur bike rides for cyclists. The two-generation team are taking part in the rides to raise money for DEBRA, a charity trying to find a cure for genetic skin condition EB, and Bloodwise, following the death of Mark's father aged 44 from Leukaemia.

The Bromley based family will then continue on, travelling through Germany, Austria and over the Dolomites into Italy, before arriving at their family's village of Carisolo, in the Trentino province. The trio will be retracing the steps of Mario and Stefano's great-grandfather, Emilio Nella, who walked from the village in northern Italy, all the way to London, sharpening knives along the way. Upon arrival, Emilio founded the family business, Nella Cutlery.

You can help the team on their 1000 mile cycle from London to Italy, on www.justgiving.com/Nella-Cutlery. Their ride starts in London on May 26

THREE OWs WIN ENGINEERING PRIZE

Three Old Whitgiftians, Joseph Warren (2007-15), Charlie Constable (2007-14) and Jong Hwan Kwon (2010-15), have celebrated their success at receiving the Diamond Jubilee Scholarship from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

They are part of an elite set of engineering students who have been awarded the prestigious award, as the IET and its partners invest £3million in the UK's up-and-coming engineering talent, over the next five years.

The IET Diamond Jubilee Scholarship scheme is now in its third year. The scholarships provide each winner with at least £1,000 per academic year. Winners also benefit from mentoring and work experience placements through the IET's

extensive networks.

The scholarships were given to 102 engineering students who started university at the beginning of this academic year, who achieved at least three As in their A Levels, or Advanced Highers, and who accepted a place on an IET accredited engineering or technology degree course, in autumn 2015.

Naomi Climer, IET President, commented: "We are really pleased to give financial help to the 102 young people as a result of our prestigious Diamond Jubilee scholarships. We hope that they will go on to become the leaders of tomorrow in an industry which offers a diverse range of exciting opportunities and challenges.



GOLF SOCIETY

The 2016 season may not yet be under way but there is plenty of activity behind the scenes in order to get ready. A full schedule of matches and golf days is planned, this year including members' competitions at Effingham, Walton Heath, Croham Hurst, Hankley Common and Royal Ashdown. The Croham and Ashdown meetings are to be held at the weekend, to enable younger OWs to participate as well as our longer serving members.

The society is holding its AGM and

annual dinner on Friday, 18th March

at the school. As always, newcomers are welcome, as well as existing members. We will have a guest speaker, Mike Kelly, whom some will know from Tandridge GC and others from the OWCC, and we will hold the draw for the members' annual knockout competition, the OWGS Challenge Cup. Entries for the knockout can be made at the same time as applying for the dinner.

The Halford Hewitt is amongst the oldest and best known of amateur team golf competitions, being contested by 64 prominent schools. It comes early in the season, just after Easter, and Nic Gates(OW

1984-91), captain of the Whitgift side, is putting his squad through their paces in anticipation of their first round match against Stowe on Friday 8th April. Whitgift has never won the Hewitt, but Nic has organised six practice weekends this year for the young squad, several of whom have only recently left school. Last weekend saw a friendly match at Royal Cinque Ports against Rugby, who knocked us out in last year's competition; Nic is happy to report that Whitgift won this time around. Whatever happens this year, no one can fault the squad's preparation.

PETER GALE (HON SEC)
(OW 1963-69)

OW CHESS CLUB REPORT

The 23rd Annual chess match, Old Boys versus The School took place at Whitgift on Friday 8 January.

After 90 minutes of play, the OWs had stormed into a 7-0 lead in the 9 board match. The top two boards went the distance. The schoolboys securing impressive wins on both.

So the result was OWs 7 - Whitgift 2.

OWs therefore retain the Leonard Barden Cup and lead the series.

NIGEL CALLOW (OW 1983-91)

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION
**ARE YOU GETTING THE
MOST OUT OF YOUR
WA MEMBERSHIP?**

LOGON TO THE MEMBERS' AREA ON THE
WA WEBSITE FOR THEATRE DISCOUNTS,
MEMBERS NEWS, THE ONLINE WA
MEMBERS DIRECTORY AND MORE!

OW DRUMMERS BID A FOND FAREWELL TO JACK COCKS

With only a week's notice it was amazing that no less than 12 Old Whitgiftian drummers travelled from all corners of Southern England to attend the funeral of Jack Cocks OW (1937-43).

Jack had planned the whole service prior to his passing. As a member of the Royal Navy during WW2, he had opted for a nautical theme throughout. It was his wish that Skye Boat Song be played on a flute as his coffin was carried out of the church at the end of the service. I am sure he would never have imagined that so many of his band would have been able to take time off work to turn out and play for him to bid him farewell.

St Mary's Church, Addington Village was completely filled with an estimated 150 people in attendance. The OW Corps of

Drums members on parade were: David Lawrence (OW 1949-54), Simon Wermig (OW 1985-92), John Jacobsen (OW 1941-48), Richard Bateman (OW 1967-74), Andrew Robertson (OW 1999-2006), Mohan Venugopal (OW 2005-13), Michael Coatman (OW 1965-

72), Chris Carter-Pegg (OW 1984-92), Graham Kellas (OW 1946-53), Ed Chandler (OW 2006-13), Phil Williams (OW Whitgift Master 1985-95) and James Goatcher (OW 1965-73).

CHRIS CARTER-PEGG (OW 1984-92)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 to 5 March	Sweeney Todd Musical	School	19:30
Thurs 10 March	WWI Exhibition Concert	School	19:00
Sat 12 March	WWI Exhibition Opens	School	10:00
Fri 18 March	OWGS AGM and Dinner	School	19:00
Sat 19 March	OWRFC Supporters Lunch (<i>Michael Spicer Testimonial Lunch</i>)	WSC	12:00
Tues 22 March	Founder's Day Service & Breakfast	Whitgift House	07:00
Fri 8 April	Halford Hewitt Golf v. Stowe	Sandwich	08:20
Fri 8 April	Wine Tasting Evening	WSC	19:00
Sat 16 April	OWRFC Annual Dinner	WSC	18:00
Sun 1 May	OW Corps of Drums Concert	Brighton	14:00
Sun 22 May	Open Gardens Event	Whitgift	10:00
Thurs 16 June	Ronan O'Hora Piano Recital	School	19:30
Fri 17 June	WA Annual Dinner	The Lords	tbc
Sat 18 June	Three Choirs Concert	Croydon Minster	19:00
Sun 19 June	Open Gardens Event	Whitgift	10:00
29 Jun-1 July	Lower School Play, "Treasure Island"	School	19:30
Weds 6 July	Celebration of Whitgift Life	School	11:00

FIXTURES

Sat 5 Mar	Wands XV v Old Mit Whits	H	L	15:00
Thurs 17 Mar	National School Sevens	A		10:00
Sat 19 Mar	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Cranleighans	H	L	15:00
Sat 2 Apr	Wands XV v Bec Old Boys	H	L	15:00

RECENT DEATHS

ALAN ABEL (OW 1945-51) died 12th February 2016, at the age of 80

PATRICK BELL

(OW 1935-40) died on 14th November 2015, at the age of 90

JACK COCKS (OW 1937-43)

died 19th January 2016, aged 89

MICHAEL JAKEMAN (OW 1940-46) died 29th January, aged 85

ROY KENNEDY (Whitgift Master, 1950-65) died 7th January 2016, aged 93

ERNEST REXFORD POLAND

(OW 1938-42) died on 30th December at the age of 90

MARTYN PORTER

(OW 1951-56) died 25th December 2015, aged 85

DONATION

We have apologised to the family of Major Anthony Parker, who died last year, for awarding him first prize in the 500 Club Winter Draw. We are most grateful that they have kindly agreed to donate this sum to the Whitgiftian Association Trust.



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

WA ANNUAL DINNER 2016
17TH JUNE - HOUSE OF LORDS

THE EVENT, HOSTED BY WA PRESIDENT 2016, LORD GRAHAM TOPE, WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PEERS' DINING ROOM

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 365 covering May/June 2016 closes on Friday 22nd April. All news and photographs should be sent to editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk or via the WA Office at Haling Park. Tel: 020 8633 9926 if you have any queries.