



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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

President - DR RICHARD BATEMAN

Chairman - JONATHAN BUNN

Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

NEWSLETTER 369 - January/February 2017

1952-53 UPPER FIFTH REUNION

The Upper Fifth of 1952-53 (well, nine of us) met in Purley last November, with our Honorary Member, Angela Warren, re-hipped and ably assisted by Ailsa and John Webb, once again providing her customary rich repast to feed the flow of conversation. And this year we did not forget to be photographed! So here we are:



Standing; Brian Halfacre, Peter Warren, John Sutcliffe, Ian Brown, David Brewster and John Trott

Seated: John Webb, Kenneth Rokison and John Hamilton

The painting behind us is an original – one of many watercolours of Ireland painted by Robert Jones, one of our Whitgift Masters and a consummate amateur artist, hung in RA Summer Exhibitions.

We received with pleasure the traditional annual news and greetings from our absent 12 extant members and reminisced briefly. But we have never been given to mere nostalgia, and on this occasion less so than ever. With two professional lawyers at hand and, dare I say, at least one or two would-be lawyers, conversation inevitably turned speedily to Brexit, Trump and the Rule of Law in a modern democracy. One sensed a feeling that, in the quite outrageous, even insane, atmosphere of today, we rightly feared that, after nigh on 80 years of collective personal good fortune – on several occasions we have claimed the privilege of having lived through a golden age, our good luck may now be turning.

But we stand stalwartly unfazed. We shall all be endeavouring to meet again in Autumn 2017 to celebrate our 65th Anniversary and, indeed, for some of us, the 70th anniversary of when we first met as Whitgift Pupils. Happy Days!

PETER WARREN, OW (1947-56)

SCRIBE TO THE UPPER FIFTH

OWs IN RUGBY ACTION DURING THE AUTUMN INTERNATIONALS

Old Whitgiftians Elliot Daly and Marland Yarde were part of a superb autumn for English Rugby Union, with both hitting highs and suffering lows as England became only the second nation in the professional era to win every match played during a calendar year.

Daly made his full England debut in the first test of the autumn, playing at Outside-Centre against South Africa. He showed plenty of promise and received praise from fans and pundits alike. Playing the full 80 minutes, he scored a terrific long-range penalty and started the move which led to Courtney Lawes' important try during an impressive first appearance.

Yarde also started, and finished, this match but didn't have the impact he would have hoped. Despite playing a big part in Jonny Mays' opening try, he failed to impose himself on the South African defence and was left out of the squad for the next two games.

Those next two games saw Daly show the best and worst of himself. Moving out to the wing against Fiji, he was the star of the show. He scored a brilliant try and was a constant threat, with intelligent running and quality play which the Fijian defence struggled to cope with.

After two brilliant outings, Daly would have been hoping for another impressive game in the third test against Argentina. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out that way as the Wasps man saw red just five minutes into the game.

A dangerous tackle on Leonardo Senatore led to the referee sending Daly for an early bath. The

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Argentinian had to go off with a concussion and Daly received a three-week ban from the sport, bringing a negative and premature end to the autumn internationals for him.

Daly being suspended for the important final test match, against Australia, saw Yarde recalled to the starting line-up and he made the most of his opportunity. The Harlequins winger made several attacking runs at the Australian defence, linked up well with teammates and scored a superb try on the way to a 37-21 victory.

The autumn internationals proved to be a bit hit and miss for the Old Whitgiftians involved, but we at the Whitgiftian Association are extremely proud of both players and look forward to seeing them achieve further success in 2017 and beyond.

We would also like to congratulate Danny Cipriani for making his 150th Premiership appearance in November. Cipriani has been on the verge of a return to the international scene and with continued brilliant performances, we could see him join Daly and Yarde in the England squad in the coming year.

P REYNOLDS



OWs turned up in the dozens for this year's Memorial Service on Friday 11th November.

SPORTSMANS LUNCH - WHITGIFT 1ST XV v CRANLEIGH

This year's Sportsman's Lunch at the School was held later than usual with Christmas pressures possibly being responsible for the lower than usual attendance.

However an attentive group gathered in the VI form common room to listen over drinks to Dan Webb, the School 2nd XV coach, give an interesting and informative overview of the current healthy state of Whitgift rugby.

Our good lunch followed in the Old Library where our main guest, Headmaster Dr Christopher Barnett on his last appearance with us before "hanging up his mortar-board" treated us to a very special Shakespearian themed (Hamlet was playing in Big School) grace, which with his kind permission is reproduced alongside.

Our other guests, Peter Wylie-Harris and Nick Meyer, resplendent in their striped Old Cranleighian blazers and matching socks also enjoyed the meal. Nick Meyer, as OCRFC President in thanking us for our hospitality, forecast a Cranleigh win, which unfortunately came to pass in a very spirited and energetic game of marvellous schoolboy rugby which the School lost 3-18 in the last game of term.

Ken Nicholas, former School master and rugby coach, was also with us this year and kept a watchful eye on the game from the touchline wearing his prized Leicester tasselled rugby cap awarded to him by Martin Johnson to mark his playing record at the Club.

RICHARD BLUNDELL OW (1956-63)

HEADMASTER'S GRACE

*In this my twenty-sixth and final year
About to leave what is so dear
I wipe away a heartfelt tear;
Another will soon this great
School steer
As into history I disappear.
Enough, to continue in this
vein were drear
T'would spoil this splendid
meal I fear.
Let's have a more positive souvenir
Of the sportsman's lunch,
which again is here,
With its haze of champagne,
and wine and beer
And golden memories of yester-year.
'Gainst Cranleigh may we
not be cavalier
But play our best and domineer
And find a sporting elixir
To bring us all some Christmas-cheer.
These rhymes might not
impress Shakespeare
But they are deeply-felt and
most sincere;
So, in this wonderful,
Whitgiftian atmosphere
Thank God for this company, great
sport and good cheer.*

DR C A BARNETT
HEADMASTER

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

As tradition dictates, WA President, Lord Graham Tope, laid a wreath at the memorial monument on behalf of all Old Whitgiftians, alongside wreaths from the pupils and Staff.

As ever, the occasion was moving and a fitting tribute to the many OWs who have sacrificed their lives in combat.



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

*“There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”*

So says Hamlet to his best friend after he has been informed of the brutal truth of his father's murder by the spirit of the deceased. Well, Whitgift's recent production of arguably the Bard's most famous play dared to dream big and boy did it pay off, with the end product being a week of sensational performances in a Big School utterly transformed. Indeed, the innovative traverse set up was unlike anything you would have seen in the venue before, with the actors able to interact with the audience and every corner of space being utilised, including the balcony, which doubled as the court room in Elsinore, and the conventional raised stage, which housed the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra, who accompanied the action with a brooding score, created at Sir Laurence Olivier's request for the Oscar-nominated film version, by British composer, Walton. I thought I knew what I was going to be in for, what with sharing an office with Mr Daniel Pirrie (director) and Mr Paul Wilson (creative consultant and Whitgift drama legend), but within a mere five minutes of the lights going down – after I had been submerged in theatrical smoke and had a spear thrust within an inch of my face by a fully armoured boy bellowing “Who's there?” - I knew I was going to be in for something a little bit special! The role of the eponymous tragic hero was shared between lower sixth former, Oscar Nicholson, and upper fifth former, Jude Willoughby. I only saw Oscar's performance, which was utterly compelling and deeply moving, but I heard that Jude was equally up to the task – quite some feat for a fifteen year old! The roles of Claudius, Gertrude and Polonius were taken by professional actors Marcus Gilbert, Wanda Opalinska and Keith Bartlett. The two young Hamlets and the rest of the company gained a huge amount from working in close proximity with experts, and the end result was a royal feast for all the senses.

*“The Play's the thing
Wherein I'll catch the
conscience of the King.”*

Hamlet was not the only theatrical production going on in Whitgift over the past couple of months; indeed, during the months of October and November, you could not walk to the end of a corridor without hearing one rehearsal or another booming out of classrooms. First up on Friday 21st October was The Call, in which a group of lower sixth boys performed a selection of self-directed plays. Next up, on Thursday and Friday 25th November, was the first form play, which involved a huge number of boys taking on a collection of tales from the Brothers Grimm. Adapted for the stage, the tales chosen to disturb and delight audiences were Iron Hans, The Hare and the Hedgehog, The Musicians of Bremen, Brother Scamp and Snow White. The boys grasped the challenge of the sometimes macabre subject matter with glee, and, with creative flair, managed to transport those in the Concert Hall into a fantastical land. Last, but not least, was everyone's favourite evening of theatrical escapades, House Drama. This year Dodd's were worthy winners with their version of current West End farce, Comedy About Bank Robbery. Bravo Whitgift drama!

“Remember me.”

With the school honouring the fallen of 1916 in the first class exhibition in the Performing Arts Centre, this year's remembrance service took on added poignancy and meaning. The service itself followed the same format as usual, with the Lower School boys and their tutors gathering with a group of Old Whitgiftians by the War Memorial to remember the dead, but one key difference this year was that the bugle used to play the last post was a German one actually from 1916, which was kindly loaned for the purpose by the exhibition. Talking of the exhibition, it may interest you to know that it recently

got the royal seal of approval.

Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front was honoured to receive a visit from His Royal Highness, The Duke of York, KG, on Thursday 13 October. The School's longstanding Patron viewed the exhibition for the first time since its launch, in March this year. He received a warm welcome from the Headmaster and Exhibition Director, Dr Barnett, alongside Whitgift students, exhibition staff and guests. Whilst making his way through the displays, he was serenaded by vocal and instrumental performances of the era, and he exited the exhibition garden, on a beautiful autumnal day, to the strains of Good-bye-ee!, sung by the Barbershop Ensemble. He described Remembering 1916 as ‘a brilliant exhibition’.

*“'tis the sport to have the engineer
Hoist with his own petard,”*

After such a promising start to the season, it was a shame that the rugby First XV ran out of steam in the latter stages when an ever increasing injury list and fatigue got the better of them. The first two games after half term were crushing away victories over RGS Wycombe and Dulwich, and hence seemed to promise great things, but the wheels came off when they were knocked out of the Natwest Cup in a 8 – 10 reverse away to Felsted school, in a match that took place only three days after the team's heroics at Dulwich. This was a crushing disappointment to the boys and precipitated a rather lacklustre end to the season. It's not all doom and gloom in the rugby ranks, though: the U16A team had their first unbeaten season in quite some time and the U13s and U15s are both still in their respective national cups. The 13s and 15s have also progressed through to the semi-finals of the ISFA football national cups, beating Royal Russell and Millfield respectively, and in hockey, the U16 and U18 sides both won their age groups in the South indoor finals, meaning they qualify for the national finals next year. Lastly in sport, the Whitgift

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL CONTINUED

Inter (Year 10) boys competed in the ESAA Cross Country Cup Final, early in December, in Formby, Liverpool. The predominantly Year 9 team performed incredibly well to finish 7th as a team, out of 23 of the best cross country schools in the country.

*"Nay, but to live
In the rank sweat of an enseamed bed,
Stewed in corruption, honeying and
making love
Over the nasty sty – "*

Yes, that's right, Whitgift now has its very own apiarist society and not only that... they are making award winning honey! Launched in September 2016, The Apiarist Society is the latest addition to Whitgift's co-curricular clubs. Design and Technology Technician, Mrs Angela Nicholls, set up the Society believing it to be a worthwhile venture for the students. She explains that, "Whitgift is an ideal situation to aid the recovery of the local bee population. The grounds and gardens of the School are ideal ecosystems in

which bees thrive." So far, the Society has given boys the opportunity to visit the Whitgift apiary, open a hive, observe healthy bees and identify different parts of a hive, and understand the relationship between bees and our world, and their importance for pollination. In its first year, Whitgift Apiarist Society has produced 60 jars of honey, which sold out in just 25 minutes during a lunchtime in September. At the National Honey Show at Sandown Park, at the end of October, Whitgift's honey was awarded second place, out of 46 entries, in the Open Class (for the British Isles) for Medium Honey. During the winter months, boys will be making hive parts ready for next year and will be learning about bee anatomy, their life-cycle and hive management. For more information on the Apiarist Society, please contact Mrs Nicholls on a.nicholls@whitgift.co.uk.

So that's it from Whitgift for 2016. How best to sign off? How about some season's greetings uttered by Marcellus in the first

scene of a certain play you might have heard of...

*"Some say that ever 'gainst that season
comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then, they say, no spirit can walk
abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no planets
strike,
No fairy takes over, nor witch hath power
to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time."*

DOM EDWARDS OW (1988-96)

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION		
500 Club		
WINTER DRAW		
1st	Alan Cowing	£100
2nd	Alex Steele	£50
3rd	GHB Coiley	£50
4th	Ellen McClaren	£50



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

WA ANNUAL DINNER 2017

26TH MAY - ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Charles Melbourne (2009-14) successfully applied to the Old Whitgiftian War Memorial Fund for a grant to help fund his overseas expedition as part of his Oxford University Studies. Here is his report:-

I have just returned from my 6-week expedition in the Yucatan Peninsula region of Mexico where I worked for a conservation group called Operation Wallacea, which has many different expeditions in biodiversity hotspots all over the world.

The first 3 weeks were spent in the Calakmul forest bio-reserve. Here I learnt many skills that were key to recording data for the conservation efforts of the reserve. I learnt how to identify, mist-net and process many bird and bat species, which are good indicators of the health of the forest. I also learnt how to track large mammals, recognize, measure and date the tracks of large cats and game, such as a Jaguar and Tapir. I also completed herpetofauna transects, as reptiles and amphibians are good indicators of the effects of drought in the area, as well as habitat plots, which were essential to assess the health and

OPERATION WALLACEA MEXICO EXPEDITION

diversity of the trees present and were used to bind all of the different data sets together.

A typical day would start by completing either a bird, mammal, herpetofauna or habitat transect in the morning. After lunch, an optional bird and habitat transect was available, and after dinner there was either a bat or herpetofauna transect.

The data collected will be used to put forward a case to the government in appeal against building a super-highway through the core region of the bio-reserve, as well as to show the effect of drought on the area's biodiversity.

The last 3 weeks were spent in the Akumal nature reserve, by the coast, which has struggling populations of green and loggerhead turtles, as well as a natural coral reef. The area has only been made a nature reserve in the last year, so many policies are not yet being enforced. In the first week there, I learnt how to dive with the PADI open-water course, as well as having to learn all of the fish, invertebrate, algal and coral species found in the area. Once these courses were completed, I was then able to get involved in recording scientific data for the last 2 weeks. We did transects on the reef in order to monitor the species diversity of the flora and fauna on the reefs, as well as monitor the scale of coral bleaching that was occurring. We also did turtle transects and sea-grass transects in the bay area, where we monitored how

the large number of tourists were affecting the health and behaviour of the turtles and the sea grass beds that they feed on. The data we collected will hopefully be used to be put forward to the Mexican government in order to try and enforce tighter regulations on the public use of the nature reserves so that they actually serve their purpose.



The money granted by the Old Whitgiftian War Memorial Fund helped pay the internal travel costs, as well as the hiring of scuba equipment and PADI open-water course. The trip has aided me academically, as it has given me first hand experience of topics I study as part of my Biological Sciences degree at the University of Oxford, as well as giving me an insight into possible future career paths. The expedition was such a rewarding experience, one that I will cherish and remember. I was able to meet some amazing, like-minded people, gain some useful contacts and experience a new side of biology that I had not previously considered.

**CHARLES MELBOURNE
OW (2009-2014)**

AGM REPORT

The WA Main Committee wishes to thank nearly 40 Old Whitgiftians who attended the Annual General Meeting on the evening of Monday 12th December 2016, in the Old Library at the School.

Jonathan Bunn OW (1980-88) succeeds Pip Burley OW (1955-62) as Chairman, who has served diligently in the role for over 4 years.

Dr Richard Bateman OW (1967-74) succeeds Lord Graham Tople OW (1953-61) as President for the 2017 calendar year.

Andy Hooper OW (1991-98), Andreas Dracoulis OW (1991-96),

Mark Endersby OW (1975-83), Ian Cotton OW (1977-82) and Tony Percy OW (1956-65) were all elected Vice Presidents of the Whitgiftian Association.

Other changes on the WA Main Committee see Christopher Jenkins OW (1956-63) elected as Secretary and Andrew Gayler OW (1956-64) as Treasurer. The committee wishes to thank Mark Endersby for his hard work over the past year in his role as Treasurer.

Minutes of the meeting will be published in the Members' Area of the WA website (www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/members/) in due course.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 6 Jan	OW Chess v School	School	16.00
Fri 13 Jan	OW Corps of Drums Meet	Whitgift Sports Club	20.00
Thur 19 Jan	WAT Fundraising Dinner	Atheneum Club	19.00
Thurs 9 Feb	Music Concert	School	19.00
Sat 11 Feb	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
12-18 March	School Opera- Eugene Onegin	School	19.30
Wed 22 March	Founders day service and breakfast	Whitgift House	07.00
6-9 Apr	Halford Hewitt Golf	Deal	
Fri 26 May	WA Annual Dinner	Royal College of Surgeons	

FIXTURES

Sat 7 Jan	OWRFC1stXv v Old Freemans	L	A	14.00
Sat 7 Jan	School1stXV v Ravenswood		A	10.30
Sat 14 Jan	OWRFC Warr XV v Purley Fisher	L	H	14.00
Sat 14 Jan	School1st XV St Benedicts		A	14.00
Sat 21 Jan	School 1st XV v Freemans		H	14.00
Sat 28 Jan	OWRFC 1stXV v Old Wellingtonians	L	A	14.00
Sat 28 Jan	School 1st XV v St Josephs		A	14.00
Sat 4 Feb	School1stXV v Hampton		H	14.30
Sat 11 Feb	OWRFC 1st Xv v Law Society	L	H	14.30
Sat 18 Feb	OWRFC 1st Xv v Old Georgians	L	H	14.30
Sat 4 Mar	OWRFC 1st Xv v Old Amplefordians	L	A	15.00

RECENT DEATHS

GEOFFREY BASSETT OW (1945-52)
D. 3RD NOVEMBER 2016, AGED 81

NOEL GODFREY CARPENTER OW (1940-46)
D. 29TH NOVEMBER 2016, AGED 88

GROUP CAPTAIN PETER CLARK OW (1943-49)
D. 18TH DECEMBER 2016, AGED 83

DEREK DRURY OW (c. 1937)
D. 26TH SEPTEMBER 2016

ROGER GOSS OW (1946-53)
D. FEB 2016

DR DONALD LLOYD OW (1943-50)
D. 20TH NOVEMBER, AGED 83

DR JERRY MARSHALL OW (1974-81)
D. NOVEMBER 2016, AGED 54

JOHN WHITWORTH OW (1943-48)
D. 14TH MARCH 2016, AGED 83

VETERAN RIFLE CLUB REPORT

120 years ago in 1896, our Whitgift Veterans Rifle Club was formed and has been active ever since. It is believed to be the 2nd oldest Old Boys Club or Association still active.

We enjoyed an excellent Anniversary Dinner at Croham Road in October, where we were fortunate enough to have Lord Graham Tope as our principal guest. We remain very grateful to the School for permitting us to use the range here for our .22 shooting, not only on Tuesday evenings but, since early October, on Thursdays too. The latter was the brainchild of OW Henry Parritt, who left School last July. He believed, correctly, that he could encourage Whitgift boarders to enjoy the sport quite apart from other members who now also have the option to shoot on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays – it certainly has worked.

We continue to enter two teams in the Surrey League as well as members competing in the Individual League. Full bore shooting at Bisley has been enjoyed with 7 events plus of course competing in the Schools Vets, followed by the usual Dinner at the Artists

Clubhouse. This Anniversary year we managed to raise 4 teams of 5 and didn't disgrace ourselves.

Thanks, in extremis, continue to be extended to the School's Peter Morrison for voluntarily running the Whitgift School Rifle Club, with Tuesday and Wednesday sessions in the range for boys voluntarily attending – as mentioned many times, such boys are hopefully the future of WVRC. Sadly, yet understandably, Peter has insufficient time available to introduce boys to full bore shooting at Bisley. For the sake of the future of WVRC it has to be hoped that the new Headmaster, in post next year, will see fit to reinstate the role of a dedicated shooting coach for School CCF shooting, as was the case for decades prior to 1995. Thus Whitgift would have 1st & 2nd Vllls, able to return to competing for the Ashburton Shield as we did since 1878, as well as other National and County competitions.

The "feed-through" of such boys, so lacking during the past 21 years, I am sure you will appreciate would assist hugely to ensure the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the WVRC in 30 years time.

JACK FURTADO - CHAIRMAN WVRC

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 370 covering March/April 2017 closes on Sunday 19th February 2017. All news and photographs should be sent to editor@whitgiftiamassociation.co.uk or via the WA Office at Haling Park. Tel: 020 8633 9926 if you have any queries.