Whitgiftian Association

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President - LORD DAVID FREUD

Chairman - Jonathan Bunn

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Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

Newsletter 376 - March/April 2018

Bursary Appeal Fundraising Dinner at sketch



A fundraising dinner for the Bursary
Appeal in a unique central London
setting is becoming something of a
tradition for the Whitgiftian
Association and this year was no
exception. We were extremely fortunate
to hold a dinner at the two Michelinstar dining room in the outstanding
sketch restaurant in Mayfair.

sketch is a remarkable place to visit, buzzing with activity in the main entrance and adorned with contemporary artwork.

On arrival guests ascended to the Lecture Room and Library which is revealed when the waiters open the double doors to the magnificent restaurant. This eighteenth century townhouse has a beautiful domed ceiling and ornate plasterwork. Guests enjoyed champagne and canapés by the glorious full height sash windows overlooking bustling Conduit Street.

Guests were then seated in the sumptuous dining area, with tables decorated with seasonal flowers, to enjoy the full experience of the two Michelin-star service and dining.

Freshly baked bread crafted by sketch's renowned French pastry chef was followed by a remarkable and imaginative meal including venison served a variety of ways and a delightful trio of desserts.

French wines were

served and each guest was given a gift voucher, donated by sketch, to use when visiting again.

Guests enjoyed a speech by Lord David Freud OW (1961-68), WA President, who gave an insight into his involvement with various ministers and Prime Ministers during his work on welfare reform. He spoke about the importance to us all that young people in Britain are well educated. It was a privilege to hear from someone who brought considerable intellectual rigour and creativity to government.

We were due to hear from Henry Kerr, Upper Sixth at Whitgift, about his bursary but he had sadly been taken ill and was in Accident and Emergency that day. We wish Henry a speedy recovery. He is working extremely hard for his A-levels and is predicted to get excellent results. Simon Beck, Registrar at Whitgift, spoke on his behalf and explained how this naturally bright boy from New Addington, who could not afford the fees, has thrived at Whitgift and excels in maths and science. His

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WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS, WESTMINSTER

By Personal Invitation of Our President:

Lord David Freud

Speakers include: Lord David Freud, PC and Lord Michael Howard, CH, PC, QC



This year we are again privileged to be able to hold our Annual Dinner in the Peers' Dining Room at The House of Lords where members conduct their day-to-day business against a backdrop of grand neo-Gothic architecture and ornate Pugin designed interiors. The present-day building was designed by architect Sir Charles Barry and began construction in 1840. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987.

The cost will be £95 for WA members and their partners, £115 for OW non-members and, as a special incentive for OWs under 30, the cost will be £50. The price includes a glass of Champagne in the Peers Guest Room on arrival, followed by a four-course dinner and coffee in the Peers Dining Room. Drinks with dinner (alcoholic and soft) may be purchased at the bar throughout the evening. Credit and debit cards are accepted. A guided tour of the House of Lords is available at an extra cost of £5 per person.

Reception from 6.30pm, followed by tour and dinner at 8pm. Dress - Black Tie.

Please complete the registration form at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events/wa-annual-dinner-2018 and return, with payment, to the WA Office.

Alternatively, please send the correct payment directly to Lord Freud, by PayPal, at https://www.paypal.me/DavidFreud.

For queries contact: 0208 633 9926 or e-mail: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

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bursary has improved his prospects and helped him reach his full potential and he will no doubt have high aspirations for his children. This cycle of prosperity created by social mobility can only benefit our country and is made possible by bursaries.

Simon Beck then undertook the fundraising auction. OWs and parents once again donated a wonderful range of prizes and we would like to extend our thanks to those that donated including Lord Graham Tope OW (1953-61), Johannah Ball, Amanda Ross, Andy Bradshaw OW (1963-69), Adam Thompstone OW (1999-2006), Callum Hudson Odoi OW (2012-15), Rob Holland, Rashid Abbe and Andrew Gayler OW (1956-64).

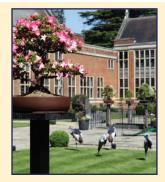
We would like to thank all our guests that participated in the auction for their generosity and particular thanks to the winning bidders – Pip Burley OW (1955-62), Christine Burley, Justin Owens, Mr and Mrs Peerbhoy, Simon Morris OW (1971-75), Simon Beck, Val Baxter and Peter Thorburn OW (1953-61). Thank you to all our guests for participating and special thanks to Louise Bratchie, our youngest guest, for spending her evening with us and winning Dominic Sibley's (OW 2007-14) cricket shirt!

The evening raised £32,000 for the WA Bursary Appeal, which is a record for an event. Supporting events is a fantastic way to help the WA Bursary Appeal and counts for a great deal in sustaining the fundraising and keeping it engaging and relevant.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the generosity and support of Johannah Ball and the Chief Executive Officer of sketch. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to them for making the evening possible and for the additional touches that made it so enjoyable for our guests. Thanks too to Lord David Freud OW for his generosity, support and involvement. We appreciate it enormously.

Whitgift's Open Garden Weekends

Sunday 20th May 1-5pm NGS Open Garden Scheme (www.ngs.org.uk) Sunday 10th June 11am-4pm Open Garden Squares Weekend (www.opensquares.org)



Admission price on the door: £4 (adults); free for Under 12s
Whitgift School is, once again, proud to be taking part in the National
Garden Scheme and Open Garden Squares Weekend.

Calling all OWs! Bring your family and friends and enjoy the School's wonderful range of gardens, complete with exotic wildlife, bonsai trees and maze. Visit our Water Gardens, with new outstanding features - waterfalls, bridges, special lighting, planting schemes, and the introduction of additional varieties of birds. Traditional afternoon tea will be on sale in the beautiful Founder's Garden.

In addition, this year we will be offering OWs a tour of the School by Whitgift's Archivist, Mr Bill Wood. If you are interested in participating in a tour, please email Donna Lewis (alumni@whitgift.co.uk).

News from the School

With a pride of peacocks here, a mob of wallabies there, and a stressed teacher carrying wigs and daggers to a last minute Lower Third Shakespeare rehearsal muttering nonsense as he wanders down the Big School corridor, a visitor to Whitgift could be forgiven for thinking that, like Alice in Lewis Carroll's novel Alice in Wonderland, they too had stepped 'through the looking glass' and entered a realm of fantasy where anything is possible. And, indeed, during the last week before half term, the school (the Performing Arts Centre, to be precise) literally did transform itself into Carroll's magical realm, as the First Form put on their annual play, Alice in Wonderland -Adrian Mitchell's stage adaptation of the classic novel. The show was quite an undertaking for Whitgift Drama legend, Mr Paul Wilson, as he had to manage a huge cast of over forty boys, but the final result was worth all of his efforts, as it was quite something to behold. Luke Ward was excellent in the main role of James Alice (see what we did there!), and Charlie Porter and Leo Tarby also shone as The White Rabbit and Mad Hatter respectively. All in all, the show was an utter delight, and I can say with great confidence that with the sheer amount of talent that was on stage, Whitgift drama is in very safe hands for the future!



They say all good things come in threes, and that is certainly the case with Whitgift drama. No sooner has one production finished, along come two more on the horizon. Yes, do not fret if you missed the opportunity to see Whitgift's junior boys strut the boards; the seniors are in action throughout March and what a line up they have in store! If you're feeling lucky, why not treat yourself to a night of glitz and glamour as Big School transforms itself into a swanky 1920s style gambling den to put on the school musical, Guys and Dolls from March 7-10? If you want answers and think you can handle the truth, you could come to the Performing Arts Centre from March 15

– 17 to see the Sixth Form play, A Few Good Men. Bravo!

March is going to be a particularly busy month for fans of all things Whitgift, as not only are there two exciting plays to watch, there is also the prospect of Natwest Cup semi-final weekend to consider. Yes, that's right... this year Whitgift has not one, but two national rugby semi-finalists, with the U15s joining the U18s by beating St Joseph's Ipswich by a whopping 69-12 in their away quarter final. Both semi-final matches are due to take place at Allianz Park, home of Saracens RFC. The U18s will be pitted against Warwick School, on Saturday 3 March at 5pm, and the U15s will face Hampton the following day at 3.45pm. It's been seven years since our last Twickenham jaunt, and several of the faces on show in that magnificent triumph (and the one the year before) have since returned to HQ in the white of England; let's cross our fingers and hope for more of the same from the class(es) of 2018!

There was an extra buzz of excitement for this year's House music competition as the guest judge was pop royalty old boy, Jon 'JB' Gill, of JLS and X-Factor fame. Upon leaving Whitgift in 2005, Jon took up a theology degree at King's College, but never got the chance to complete it, after his life took a radical change when he auditioned with three of his friends for the ITV show, The X-Factor. Known as JLS, his band made it all the way to the final of the show, where they finished as runners up. Their subsequent success was quite phenomenal, with the band racking up five number one singles and selling over ten million records worldwide during their career - so Jon knows a thing or two about the contemporary music scene! During the preshow drinks with the Housemasters, I took the opportunity to remind Jon that he had been in my GCSE English set and enquired as to how useful the two A* grades he had attained under my tutelage had been to him in his subsequent career, whilst also subtly dropping in the fact that I was Mason's Housemaster. My dastardly tactics did not work, however, as Jon eventually proclaimed Smith's and Tate's Houses as

joint winners of the competition, which, as ever, was an evening of genuine entertainment.

Had he been at Whitgift a couple of weeks earlier, I am sure Jon would have been pleased to see the school following in Simon Cowell's footsteps by putting on a talent competition of its own. During the penultimate week of January, the school put on its first singing competition in quite some time with 25 pupils from across the age groups taking part, in front of an enthusiastic audience of staff, parents, boys and the Headmaster. The boys were split into three categories – A, B and C – depending on their age, and sought to impress both audience and adjudicator (Mr James Newby, a professional baritone) with a host of charismatic performances covering a diverse repertoire, ranging from Stephen Sondheim to Sam Smith. The eventual winners were: First Former, Bakari Leon, who sung Labi Siffre's Something Inside so Strong; Third Former, Joshua Tikare, who sang a self-arranged medley inspired by Daniel Caesar's Best Part; and lastly Upper Sixth Former, Ashwin Gobiraj for his enthralling version of Giants in the Sky from Sondheim's Into the Woods. The competition proved to be most popular amongst both boys and staff and will hopefully become a regular fixture in the musical calendar. In other music news, our very own Anthony Strong OW 1996-2001 recently played a wonderful jazz concert to a sold out concert hall audience prior to his current jazz tour.

The elite hockey players at the school nowadays play the sport all year round, but the official hockey term does not, obviously, get going until after Christmas in January. This year the Firsts are looking as strong as ever, currently boasting a record of played 18, won 16, drawn 1, lost 1, with the only blight on their record being an away loss to Durham University first team. Even though it is only half term, there have already been several trophies won: the U16s were crowned National Indoor Champions at Whitgift in January, and they have also (in addition to the U14s) claimed the Outdoor County Championship. There has also been

a great deal of personal success, with no fewer than ten boys being involved in the England U16 and U18 sides. Two boys who deserve special mention are: Fifth Former, Matt Blood, who won the adult Premiership Indoor Title with East Grinstead; and Sixth Former, Zach Wallace, who has been invited to join the full Great Britain National side to train at Bisham Abbey!

In other sports news, the senior Fives team enjoyed a great deal of success in the recent SE Regionals, which were played at Whitgift. The U18 Singles Cup was won by Upper Sixth Former, Cameron Low, who only dropped three points in the entire competition - a remarkable feat against some very tough schools. In the doubles, we had an all Whitgift U18 final, with Cameron Low and Sean Kendrick narrowly defeating Danial Ahmed and Philip Lam 11-7. The best news of all, however, was that the new roof held up, despite the horrendous rain!

In skiing, Whitgift boys performed outstandingly at the 2017 Independent Schools Ski and Snowboard Championships, held in Les Deux Alpes, France. Now in its twelfth year, the 2017 Independent Schools Ski and Snowboard Championships (ISSSC) has grown in popularity and now welcomes over 350 competitors from an increasingly wide variety of schools. Head of Outdoor Education, Mr Ben Green, remarked, "This was the largest team of ski racers that Whitgift has ever sent to the championships, and, following indoor success in September and a good training evening back in the autumn, expectations were very high before the racing began." The final list of medal winners is too long to



News from the School Continued

list here, but particular mention should be made of the junior team, who were particularly successful, with Augustin Bozzetto and Freddie Nevrides (both Upper First Form) providing one of the stand-out moments, as they battled it out for gold in the individual slalom event. The junior boys were also a formidable force in the parallel slalom, claiming team gold.

To conclude, I would like to draw attention to a variety of individual successes achieved in recent weeks. The school's stock in basketball has been growing and growing in recent years, with more and more age groups putting out teams and London titles starting to come our way. Now we have a schoolboy international amongst our ranks with Upper Fifth Former, Joshua Uduje, being selected to play for the England U16 squad. From hoop dreams to the football factory, another Upper Fifth Former, Lucas Defise, has been selected for the Belgian U17 team ahead of the 2018 U17 Euro Championship. This, in addition to old boy, Callum Hudson-Odoi's, January professional debut for Chelsea FC, shows that the school's football programme is continuing to bear fruit in the wider game. And now to two more Fifth Formers making a splash on the water polo scene: Toby Roberts has been selected for the Great Britain U17 squad, ahead of the European Championships, in 2019 and Kishen Patel has been selected for National Age Group Squads (NAGS). This is the second year running that Kishen has made national selection. Last year he was part of the National England Water Polo Academy.

Finally, we move away from sports and onto a game - the Imitation Game to be precise! Upper Third Former, Kai Lam, has been awarded the runner-up prize in the University of Southampton's National Cipher Challenge. The national codebreaking competition has been running since 2002, including both solo and team entries from over 700 UK schools and colleges, this year taking place between October 2017 and January 2018. Competitors were tasked with unravelling encrypted messages centred around the mystery of Rome's Lost Legion, which vanished in Northern Britain in 108 AD. This challenge proved an enigma to most who took part, but Kai performed exceptionally well and will pick up his prize money of £800 at the annual prize-giving ceremony at Bletchley Park later this year.

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)

WHITGIFT VETERAN RIFLES CLUB REPORT

Our WVRC year commenced very sadly with the death of Alan Hunter OW (1952-59) on 17th January, after a long battle with cancer. His resilience and humour never left him, nor did his excellent contributions to the WA Newsletters. His service and support for WVRC over so many years was extreme – exemplified by the number of members who communicated their sorrow at his departure. To Hazel and all the family go our most sincere condolences. Quite apart from his support in both small & full bore shooting, he was Treasurer for 14/15 years, and the Secretaries in post during his tenure all testify to his excellence. The words "true gentleman" have been regularly used in condolence messages, one including "Alan was a true gent, with a wit dryer than the Gobi desert" – so true. Hazel kindly asked us if we could say a few words at the funeral, and the eulogy that his fellow school friend, Graham Clark OW (1952-59) presented on our behalf, was excellent.

Shooting wise, regrettably we were only able to raise one team for the Surrey League small bore competition this winter, together with a smaller number of entries for the Individual League.

However, the good news is that we have increased our membership during the last 3 months with both adults and juniors, and there are some more juniors in the pipeline. One of our adult new members, Duncan Samuel, shot a 99 ex 100 recently – setting a fine example!

The Bisley full bore season approaches and we welcome, as ever, those who are interested in both small/full bore target shooting to join us on a Tuesday evening at the school range, or contact our Hon.Sec. Mark Collins, markdcollins@outlook.com or Jack Furtado riflemanfurtado68@gmail.com.

"I went outside my front door in Shenfield, Essex and walked the first 28 miles of 3,235 that separated me from the Holy City"

Dr Martin John Hoyle OW (1950-59) was mentioned in our last newsletter in the context of the Oxford dinner. He attended the dinner with Mrs Hoyle and subsequently donated a copy of his book "Six Million Steps" to the School. He sadly passed away less than two months later on the 23rd December 2017. His book is a fascinating account of his pilgrimage to Jerusalem and demonstrates how intrepid and resourceful Dr Hoyle was.

Mrs Hoyle would be pleased to hear from OWs that knew Martin. Please contact the WA office.

Our sincere condolences to Mrs Molly Hoyle and Philip, Elizabeth and Mary.

Dr Martin John Hoyle (5 November 1940 – 23 December 2017)

OW GOLF SOCIETY REPORT

The society's AGM and Annual Dinner are scheduled for 12th March 2018, with the AGM taking place in the Raeburn Library and dinner in the Old Library. This is a great chance for potential new members to learn about the society and enjoy an excellent dinner in the company of friends.

At the dinner we will hold the draw for the 2018 Challenge Cup, a knockout competition open to all members. This represents a great opportunity to play other members' courses; the player drawn first has the choice of venue (often of course his own club), and the loser pays the green fee (hence everyone pays one green fee, apart from the ultimate competition winner!) Within an overall timescale for each round, you can play matches whenever convenient to yourself and your opponent; so even those whose time for golf is normally limited to

weekends are able to participate. Indeed last year's winner, Paul Harrup OW (1986-93), is a good example of this!

As for the rest of the season, our Open meetings are scheduled as below:-

April 19th - Captain's Day meeting Kingswood

May 23rd - Hornsey Walker Cup meeting Banstead Downs

May 23rd - Veterans' Cup meeting Banstead Downs

July 18th - President's meeting The Addington

August 31st - Autumn Cup meeting Betchworth Park

A word on the Halford Hewitt. This famous competition, contested by the same 64 schools each year, is played as scratch foursomes by five pairs from each

school, in a knockout format. This year Whitgift has been drawn to play the first round at Royal Cinque Ports GC, Deal, against Downside, whom we have played only once before - a victory in 1938! The match will start at 2.10pm on Thursday 5th April; readers might be interested enough to come down to Deal and support our team. If so, there is also the opportunity in the same week to play themselves. At Littlestone, reasonably nearby, the Peter Kenyon Bowl (4th-6th April) is open to any society member of any of the 64 participating Hewitt schools. This is also a foursomes event, played off a maximum handicap of 18, so contact the secretary (see below) to express interest and he will endeavour to find you a partner.

Anyone wishing to play with and/or join the society should contact the secretary at *peterbgale@sky.com*.

PETER GALE OW (1963-69) HONORARY SECRETARY

OWRFC PUSHING FOR PROMOTION

It's been ten years since OWRFC gained promotion into Surrey 1. In those 10 years, Whits have finished consistently in the top half of the table and have had 3 unsuccessful attempts at promotion through play-off against Hampshire.

But things may be

about to change. With five games to go, Whits sit 9 points ahead in the league, boasting an unbeaten record at home and picking up 7 try bonus points along the way. There is an excitement building at Croham Road that this may well be our season, and the increasing crowds to home matches are evidence of the exciting brand of rugby being played.



Three home games remain:3rd March v Old Walcountians
24th March v Old Wimbledonians and
season finale on 14th April v Chipstead.
Your support would be very welcome.

Match reports can be found at www.oldwhitsrfc.co.uk.

SAM BARKE OW (2000-05)

OW CHESS Club

Under the careful guidance of Nigel Callow OW (1983-91), the Chess Club is moving forward and has now joined the Croydon District Chess League Division 2.

Having warmed up with an 8-0 win over the School in the annual Leonard Barden Cup match, the team have beaten Coulsdon Chess Fellowship 2.5-1.5 and South Norwood 3.5-0.5 with Crystal Palace next up at the Clubhouse using the chess sets supplied by the WA, which helped launch the Chess Club on its winning way.

Dates for Your Diary

Sat 3 Mar	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12:00
7-10 Mar	Guys and Dolls	School	19.30
Sat 10 Mar	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12:00
Mon 12 Mar	OW Golf Society AGM & Annual Dinner	School	18:30
Fri 16 Mar	OW Corps of Drums Music Evening	WSC	19:30
15-17 Mar	A Few Good Men	School	19.30
Thurs 22 Mar	Founders Day Service and breakfast	Whitgift House	07:00
Sat 24 Mar	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12:00
Wed 28 Mar	School Music Concert	London	19.00
Thurs 5 Apr	Halford Hewitt Golf v Downside	Deal	14:10
Sat 14 Apr	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12:00
Fri 27 Apr	OWRFC Annual Dinner	WSC	19.30
Sun 20 May	Open Gardens	School	13:00
Thurs 24 May	OW Drinks in the City	Market Porter	17.30
Sun 10 June	Open Gardens	School	11:00
Fri 22 June	WA Annual Dinner	The Lords	18.30
Sun 15 July	OW Drums Concert	Brighton Bandstand	14:00
Weds 25 July	NSPCC Open Gardens	School	14:00
Fri 19 Oct	OW Corps of Drums Music Evening	WSC	19:30
Mon 5 Nov	OW Corps of Drums	Lewes Bonfire Night	17:00
Fri 9 Nov	Remembrance Service	School	10:30
Mon 10 Dec	WA AGM	Tbc	Tbc

FIXTURES

Sat 3 Mar	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Walcountians	L	Н	15.00
Sat 3 Mar	School 1st XV v Warwick	Cup Semi-final	Α	17.00
Sun 4 Mar	School U15 XV v Hampton	Cup Semi-final	Α	15:45
Sat 10 Mar	OWRFC Wands XV v Cobham	L	Н	15.00
Sat 24 Mar	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Wimbledonians	L	Н	15:00
Sat 7 Apr	OWRFC Wands XV v Bec Old Boys	L	Н	15:00
Sat 14 Apr	OWRFC 1st XV v Chipstead	L	Н	15:00

RECENT DEATHS

ROGER THOMAS JOHN BENCE OW (1950-57), D. 23RD DECEMBER 2017, AGED 78 JOHN BLACKMORE OW (1951-60), D. 20TH FEB 2018, AGED 77 MARTIN HOYLE OW (1950-59), D. 23RD DECEMBER 2017, AGED 77 ALAN HUNTER OW (1952-59), D. 17th January 2018, aged 75 MICHAEL KNILL OW (1941-47), D. 25TH DECEMBER 2017, AGED 87 NICHOLAS LACK OW (1059-66), D. 2ND FEBRUARY 2018, AGED 69 JOHN DUNCAN RAE OW (1934-1940), D. 12 Aug 2017, AGED 94 BRIAN RICH OW (1938-45), D. 17TH DECEMBER 2017, AGED 89



1stMr K Rhodes£3002ndMs H Platts£1503rdMr J Straw£504thMr M Austin£50Independent Scrutineer Mr Roger Peters

To join the 500 Club and be in for a chance to win a quarterly prize, please contact treasurer@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

REPORT OF THE WA AGM, DECEMBER 2017

A well-attended AGM, boosted perhaps by the generous offer of a buffet and wine from WA President Richard Bateman OW (1967-74), was held at Croham Road on 4th December 2017.

The President welcomed members and reflected on his busy year in office before WA Chairman, Jonathan Bunn OW (1980-88), gave his report, including encouraging words on the WA's relationship with the School and the development of the WA Bursary

Appeal which raised £150,000 in 2017 thanks to the generosity of members.

The Statement of Accounts for Years ending August 2016 and 2017 were approved. This was followed by the election of Lord Freud OW (1961-68) as WA President for 2018, who said his year would focus on how the WA can best help the school in its "extraordinary and transformative" work.

Three new Vice-Presidents - Nigel Bowthorpe OW (1982-89), James Coates OW (1981-88) and Dominic Edwards OW (1988-96) - were elected, recognising their contribution to the WA or the wider world.

A number of proposals around the structure of the WA were raised and these will be taken forward for consideration by the WA Committee. Full AGM Minutes will soon be available on the WA website.

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 377 covering May/June 2018 closes on Sunday 15th April 2018. 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.