



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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

President - RICHARD BLUNDELL

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NEWSLETTER 382 - March/April 2019

PRESIDENTIAL BLOG HASHTAG 77

Following a very supportive vote at the AGM, the Year began with a very first duty of a letter of condolence to the family of a very senior OW who had recently passed away.

Then it was out onto Big Side to watch the National Cup quarter final games with victories for the School 1st XV over Ivybridge and U15 XV over Millfield and then later support the Chess Club in their win against the School enabling me to present the Leonard Barden cup to the hard working captain Nigel Callow.

Next a main committee meeting to discuss matters of state followed by sub-committee meetings of the WSPA and WSC and then up to Croham Road to help a prominent OW celebrate a special birthday before supporting the OWRFC 1st XV in their league game against Battersea Ironsides but with the Club flag at half-mast as a mark of respect for the passing of Ray Codd a former School rugby coach. Lastly back to the clubhouse Marlborough Room for the AGM of the OWCC.

All the while working hard on the forthcoming Annual Dinner to which everyone is welcome!

ANNUAL DINNER

As President, I warmly invite you all to come and enjoy an evening of OW fellowship back where it all began at Haling Park.

As chair of the OW Haling Park Committee, I have watched the School grow and grow and if you have not been back recently you will be amazed at what the prefects will show you on the conducted tours running from 6.00pm.

With a reception in the Andrew Quad followed

by an excellent four course meal in Big School with wine from the President and first-class musical entertainment a splendid evening is in prospect.

Please come along and meet your contemporaries or even make up your own table of friends, club members or year groups and of course partners are most welcome.

RICHARD BLUNDELL OW (1956-63)

OW SWIMS THE CHANNEL FOR ASPIRE CHARITY

I have many fond memories of my eight years at Whitgift from 1988-96, and it was wonderful to reconnect with so many friends from that time at our recent 20-year reunion.

I tried to take full advantage of the many opportunities, joining everything in sight in the beginning, from apiarianists to water polo. Gradually that got whittled down in various ways – Mr Vincent was good enough to pretend to look disappointed when I removed my tone deaf vocal skills from the choir!

I was more suited to swimming, and fondly remember Barking Bob Brown, the cigar smell of his office, his box of spare swimming trunks and his habit of calling me "chunky" (was it just me?).

I never brought in any silverware for the school, but it gave me a good grounding and set me up with a pastime that's been a big part of my life. Over the years I've been upping the distance and this year on (or about depending on tides) 17th July, I'll be swimming as part of a team across the channel to France.



I'm incredibly excited about the prospect of crossing one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, in water just above 10 degrees! The rules are very clear that no wetsuits are permitted.

I've been a police officer for 18 years and I've seen first-hand how peoples' lives can change in an instant. I'm incredibly

lucky to be able to contemplate this extreme physical challenge. Every 8 hours someone suffers a spinal injury for which there is no cure. Their lives have changed dramatically in an instant and everyday tasks we do without thinking become real challenges. Aspire is a UK registered charity who support those who have suffered a spinal injury, with adapting their homes, workplaces, counselling, helping them navigate benefits systems.

I'm swimming to raise money for the incredible work Aspire do; your donation can make a real difference so please pledge what you can.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oliver-little1>

OLLIE LITTLE OW (1988-96)

COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL, WALLINGTON – 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Many Whitgiftians were first educated at Collingwood School, as I was. It was founded in 1929 and was established as an education in trust in 1978. I became a governor then, and served as Chairman for many years.



There are two special events planned for the Summer to celebrate the 90th Anniversary.

On Friday 24th May, from 1pm to 3pm, there will be a garden party at Springfield Road for pupils and parents, past and present. There will be entertainments, refreshments and an art exhibition. All those with a fond connection with the school are most welcome. Please 'phone the school office on 020 8647 4607 if you wish to attend.

A celebratory ball is being held at Zinnia Gardens in Banstead on the evening of

7th June, from 7pm – a fabulous evening of feasting, live music, magic and dancing. The invitation is open to all Collingwood friends, families, past pupils (adults), past governors, past teachers and anyone with Collingwood connections. Dress code is "smart" – Black Tie, if you wish. Please do look at the Collingwood website www.collingwoodschool.org.uk. The school has a super Head in Mr Leigh Hardie and excellent staff in all areas. The building is in wonderful condition.

My telephone number is 01372 728003.

BRIAN LAY OW (1944-51)

GOLF SOCIETY NEWS

The anticipation builds! A new season for the society starts in earnest in April, and already preparations are under way for the Halford Hewitt, the major competition entered by Whitgift. 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 Shrewsbury, whom we have played three times over the 83 years since we started playing in the Hewitt – two wins and one loss so far. The match will start at 8.55am on Thursday 11th April; readers might be interested enough to come down to Deal and support our team.

Competition for places in our Hewitt side is keen. One important preparation event is the second holding of the Scratch Cup (donated by our President, Dudley Thompson), on Sunday 3rd March, also at Deal. Over twenty of our very best golfers have entered. Apart from hoping to win the cup itself, they will try to finish in the top six, who will earn automatic places in the 2019 Hewitt squad; the highest entrant amongst the over-50s will win the Silver Medal, donated by Matt

Webster, who is still too young to compete for his own prize!

The society's AGM and annual dinner are scheduled for 11th March 2019, with the AGM taking place in the Founder's Room and dinner in the Old Library. This year we will welcome as our special guests Gordon Garment and Andrew Stracey, two of only four Whitgift players to complete 100 matches in the Halford Hewitt; we will celebrate their outstanding contribution to the society.

At the dinner we will hold the draw for the 2019 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.

As for the rest of the season, our Open meetings are scheduled as follows –

April 18th

Captain's Day meeting
Purley Downs

May 23rd

Hornsey Walker Cup meeting
West Hill

May 23rd

Veterans' Cup meeting
West Hill

July 19th

President's meeting
West Sussex

August 29th

Autumn Cup meeting
Betchworth Park

Finally, back to the Halford Hewitt. In the same week, there is also the opportunity for spectators to play themselves. At Littlestone, also on the Kent coast, the Peter Kenyon Bowl (9th-11th 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 individual handicap of 18, so if you are interested, contact the secretary (see below) to express interest and he will endeavour to find you a partner.

If you wish to participate in any of the above, and/or join the society, you should contact the secretary at peterbgale@sky.com.

PETER GALE (HON SEC) OW, 1963-70



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

WA ANNUAL DINNER 2019

FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2019 AT 6PM

📍 At Whitgift School,
Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT

The president, Richard Blundell, warmly invites you to join him in a great evening of OW fellowship, commencing with a drinks reception in the Andrew Quadrangle from 6-7.30 pm during which time the Senior Prefects will conduct tours of the School, followed by a superb 4-course meal including all wines in Big School, with musical interludes.

The ticket price: £55 for OWs and guests with a special, single booking, table price for ten people of £450.

Dress code: Black Tie or Whitgiftian Blazer. Wives/partners are most welcome.

A school minibus will collect from and return to East Croydon Station. Please indicate your interest in this service on the form below.

Please complete and return the attached form together with payment to the WA Treasurer as soon as possible.

Book by email to treasurer@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk or telephone **020 8660 5562** with payment via BACS to Whitgiftian Association (Sort Code 56-00-46 | Account No. 01064495)



WA ANNUAL DINNER – FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2019

RETURN TO: WA Treasurer, 60 Hartley Down, Purley, Surrey CR8 4EA

Please book places for the WA Annual Dinner @£55 per person. Those in my party are.....

I would like to book Tables of 10 @ £450, ref name.....

Dietary requirements

Years at Whitgift Phone no Email

Name Address

..... Signed.....

I am interested in using the minibus station shuttle Yes ☐ No ☐

☐ I enclose cheque for £..... payable to Whitgiftian Association ☐ I have paid by BACS

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!"...Well, not anymore, but where is the harm in a little Christmas nostalgia when you get the chance? Yes, that's right, having come too late to make the deadline for the last newsletter, what better way to start the new one than to comment on the Whitgift Choristers' triumphant return to The Ritz hotel in London to spread some Yuletide cheer? The hotel is famous for being the epitome of English luxury, and for a limited time before Christmas, it provides a professional choir to sing carols during their sought-after afternoon teas. Whitgift Choristers have for three years replaced The Ritz Choir and performed a selection of carols on the first Saturday in December. It was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by parents, staff, and the boys, who were treated to the Ritz hot chocolate and other treats behind-the-scenes. Mr Ronny Krippner lead the choristers in a festive repertoire including Ding Dong! Merrily on High and Once in Royal David's City, as well as 20th-century American Christmas songs like Winter Wonderland, Jingle Bells and Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.

Bringing things up-to-date, recently it was the turn of the Houses to showcase their musical prowess, with the annual House Music competition taking place at the beginning of February. This year's adjudicator was former member of staff, Iain Carnegie, who before announcing his winner of the evening, showed that he is obviously still fond of his former

place of work, drawing a very favourable analogy between Whitgift and Beethoven. He explained that written on the great composer's grave stone in Vienna is simply one word - his surname. There are plenty of other famous composers buried in the city, but they all have their full names and years alive etched on their stones; with Beethoven, however, it was decided that one word was all that was needed, such was the extent of his reputation and influence in the musical field. Iain went on to explain that, since he has worked in other schools, he has only to mention his former place of employment, Whitgift, for people to instantly know exactly where he has come from, such is the school's reputation for excellence and dynamism.

Whitgift - Beethoven; it definitely has a nice ring to it. He can certainly come back to judge again sometime! He crowned Smith's as worthy champions for 2019; their large ensemble version of Queen's 'Don't Stop Me Now' was particularly impressive, given how many boys they managed to get on stage. Seeing as how the boys have to organise things independently, with staff involvement completely forbidden, getting a fifteen-piece band together for regular rehearsals when the boys all have multiple pulls on their time is quite some feat!

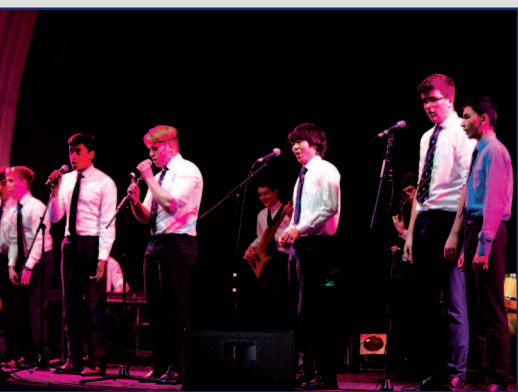
This event was the first of many in what is set to be a very busy Lent term for the Music Department. In March alone, there are three concerts to enjoy: the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra Concerto Concert on March 7th; Handel's Messiah - a joint enterprise being undertaken by Whitgift and Croydon Minster choristers, and the esteemed London Mozart Players and members of the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra - on March 23rd; and Strictly Come Brassing on March 29th. If that is not enough for you, the Chamber Choir will be serenading in Spring by singing at

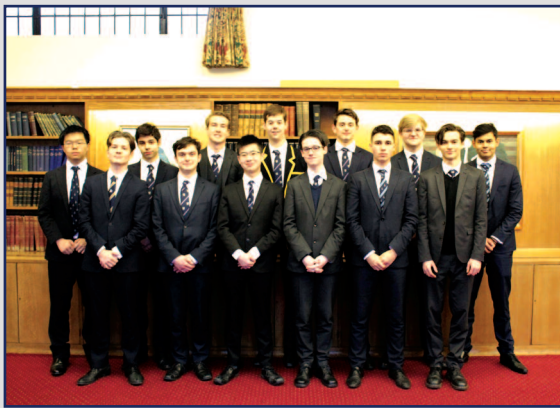
Westminster Abbey on April 2. Ave Whitgift! For further information and tickets, visit the school's website, www.whitgift.co.uk

Not to be outdone by our musical colleagues, the English and Drama Departments have also been doing their fair share to keep the boys busy. Indeed, the very next day after House Music, Big School was transformed (along with the Performing Arts Centre) into a junior theatre in order to host the Second Form Shakespeare evening, another decades-long running Whitgift tradition. Being the only member of staff who is both a Housemaster and English teacher, I have the unique privilege of being heavily involved in both events - a real treat for me! This year's evening saw the 184 boys who make up the Second Form perform an eclectic group of plays, ranging from Macbeth to A Comedy of Errors. Indeed, the audience were taken on an emotional rollercoaster in a real celebration of Shakespeare, and many parents wrote in to the English Department to say how pleased (and surprised!) they were that their sons loved the experience so much.

Hot on the heels of Shakespeare was Kipling, with the First Form's production of The Jungle Book (Stuart Paterson's adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's popular classic) providing a suitably manic and upbeat end to what has been an incredibly busy half term. Done in the round and without an interval, the performance was a full-throttle, totally immersive experience. The Performing Arts Centre was transformed (again!) into a leafy jungle and the packed audience was held spellbound on all three nights by a cast of 22 First Formers parading around as monkeys, wolves, hunters, a tiger and a bear. The standout performance of the run came from Xander Handley, who used all of his skills as a trained dancer to mesmerise both the audience and poor Mowgli alike as Kaa, the beguiling snake.

On an academic front, the school is delighted to confirm 17 offers from





Oxford and Cambridge to read a variety of subjects, including Law, English, Chemistry, Engineering, Music, Computer Science and Classics, to name a few. The students worked extremely hard preparing for the pre-tests and interviews which the School has supported through subject teachers, form tutors, the Academic Enrichment programme, pastoral teams and support staff.

At the other end of the school, but no less impressive, is the news that Second Form student, Jake Dennis, was highly commended in a Holocaust essay writing competition and invited to read his entry at the Holocaust Memorial Day in Croydon Town Hall. The ceremony began with a candle-lighting ritual in the foyer of Croydon Town Hall, followed by presentations by Riddlesdown Collegiate and Oasis Academy Coulsdon, and a moving talk by Mrs Chantal Uwamahoro, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. The essay winners were then invited to read their essays in front of an audience which included the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Hamida Ali, Councillor Tony



Newman and Marilyn Arbisman from the Croydon Synagogue. Jake commented, "I really enjoyed the experience and being part of a service that commemorates something so important. I also had the opportunity to meet the Mayor and Councillor Hamida Ali." Four Whitgift students from the Whitgift String Quartet: Krystof Kohout (Violin), Luka Perazic

(Violin), Kosta Popovic (Cello) and Uriel Vilchez Meza (Viola), ended the day by playing a rendition of Schindler's List by John Williams.

Moving onto sport, the hockey season is now in full swing at the school and the results across the board have been as impressive as ever. The headline at this midway point of the term is that Whitgift has become the first school ever to win both the U16 and U18 National Indoor Championships in the same season for a second time - the first being back in 2011. Given what a mouthful this is just to say, it sure is quite some feat! Both teams persevered through a long season playing the best teams in the country; the U18s finished unbeaten in 25 matches scoring 133 goals, whilst the U16s scored just as many goals and played 23 matches.

In rugby, both the First Fifteen and U15s have moved through their quarter finals into the national semis to be held at Saracens' home ground, Allianz Park, on the 9th and 10th March respectively. For the first time in a while, both quarter finals were home matches, so large crowds of boys got to see the teams in action. The Firsts produced an extremely dominant performance, dispatching Ivybridge

Community College comprehensively, 40-12. The U15s was a much more close-run affair against Millfield. Indeed, the visitors lead by a try at half time, but Whitgift learnt from their errors of the first half and fought back valiantly to win 32-22. This means a Twickenham double is still on the cards!

Finally, I am pleased to be able to report that a group of 25 Sixth Formers and 2 members of staff achieved great feats of athleticism and resilience at this year's Tough Guy race in January. The endurance event in Wolverhampton, first held in 1986, was established with the aim of raising money for charity. Approximately 1,500 people from 27 countries took part this year. The 8 mile



course consisted of 300 obstacles, including jumping over fire and navigating through electric wires. Mr Thomas Nicholls, Head of Initial Teacher Training (and, incidentally, OW and captain of the 2011 National Cup winning First XV), raised £505 on behalf of Rape Crisis. He commented, "The boys showed immense camaraderie throughout the day. From sticking together in their tight-knit packs and helping one another over each of the obstacles, to giving dry clothes and blankets to those who had just finished, the boys certainly have done themselves proud."

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 2 Mar	School Rugby Tour Ball	School	19.00
Thurs 7 Mar	Music Concert	School	19.00
Mon 11 Mar	OWGS AGM and Dinner	School	18.30
Fri 15 Mar	Charity Comedy Night	School	19.00
Fri 15 Mar	OW Drums Meeting	WSC	20.00
20-22 Mar	Play "The Sneeze"	School	19.30
Fri 22 Mar	Founders Day Service and Breakfast	Whitgift House	07.00
Fri 22 Mar	WA Past Presidents' Lunch	WSC	12.30
Tues 2 Apr	School Choir	Westminster Abbey	17.00
7-11 Apr	Int Music Competition	School	19.00
Fri 12 Apr	Thanksgiving Service for WA Past President Ian Flanagan	United Reformed Church, Sanderstead	14:00
Fri 10 May	President's Musical Soiree	School	19:00
Fri 24 May	WA Annual Dinner	School	18.00
Thurs 30 May	1952 Leavers Reunion Lunch	School	12:00
Fri 31 May	1957 Leavers Reunion Lunch	School	12:00
Sat 22 June	1989 Leavers Reunion Lunch	School	13:00
Sat 22 June	WSC Beer Festival	WSC	13:00
Sat 28 Sept	WA South West Dinner	Tiverton	18.00

FIXTURES

Sat 2 Mar	OWRFC 1st XV v Winchester	L	A	14.30
Sat 9 Mar	OWRFC 1st XV v Petersfield	L	H	14:30
Sat 9 Mar	School 1st XV v Marlborough	S/F Cup	Saracens	17:00
Sun 10 Mar	School U15 XV v Wellington	S/F Cup	Saracens	15.45
Thurs 21 Mar	OW Fives v School		A	19.00
Thurs 21 Mar	OW Chess v West Wickham		WSC	19:30
Sat 23 Mar	OWGS v School		A	12.00
Sat 23 Mar	OWRFC 1st XV v Trojans	L	A	14:30
Thurs 28 Mar	School 1st VII National Sevens		Rosslyn Park	09.00
Sat 30 Mar	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Tiffinians	L	H	14:30
Sat 6 Apr	OWRFC 1st XV v Teddington	L	H	14:30
Thurs 11 April	Halford Hewitt Golf v Shrewsbury		Deal	08.55

Congratulations to our two England cricket test players, Rory Burns and Jason Roy for their achievements during the West Indies Tour.

OW CHESS CLUB REPORT

The 26th chess match against the School took place in the dining hall on Friday 11 January and was a closely contested affair but which after 90 minutes of play resulted in an OW win of 5.5 to 1.5 and thus retaining the Leonard Barden Cup and we now lead the series 20.5 to 5.5.

The results in the new division 2 of the Croydon Chess League are so far even with a good win over Lewisham but losing to Streatham and the next home match is on Thursday 21 March at the Clubhouse where your support would be most welcome.

NIGEL CALLOW OW (1983-91)

RECENT DEATHS

RICHARD H BUNN

OW (1946-54)

D. 22ND JANUARY 2019, AGED 82

RAY CODD

SCHOOL RUGBY COACH (1972-79)

D. 16TH JANUARY 2019, AGED 71

R STUART EBBUT

OW (1945-52)

D. 2ND JANUARY 2019, AGED 83

IAN FLANAGAN OBE

OW (1948-54), WA PAST

PRESIDENT, D. 26TH DECEMBER

2018, AGED 81

PETER JOHN WEBB

OW (1950-56)

D. 15TH OCTOBER 2018, AGED 80

DR PETER WILLIAMS

OW (1942-51)

D. 14TH JANUARY 2019, AGED 86

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION WA SOUTH WEST DINNER

This year's Dinner will be held on Saturday 28th September 2019 at Tiverton Devon and I will be calling on all OWs in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Bristol, Avon and Dorset to come along.

If there are any other OWs from further afield who are interested in attending please email me at skennedy@projectconsultants.co.uk.

Some overnight accommodation is being held at the hotel and I look forward to seeing many OWs and their guests at the Dinner.

SIMON KENNEDY OW (1959-66)

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 383 covering May/June 2019 closes Sunday 21st April 2019. 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.