



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER 385 - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

PRESIDENT'S BLOG #77

Firstly into the School Barnett Conference Centre's front row for the Celebration of Whitgift Life and prize giving with Smith's winning the House Competition Cup and followed by a BBQ lunch in the Founder's Garden.



Back row, left to right: Julian Kennedy-Cooke (staff 1953-89), Nigel Carter (1953-62), church warden, President, front row L-R Dudley Tredger (1997-99) and Rev Felix Boyse LVO (1930-35)

Next a swift visit to West Wittering's ancient church to attend choral evensong to celebrate, together with other local OWs, the 102nd birthday of Rev Felix Boyse LVO (1930-35) with a glass of champagne, a slice of cake and the gift of an OW scarf, surely our oldest living member although not obvious from the forthright manner he read the second lesson!

Then into the Clubhouse Marlar room for the AGM of the Whitgift Benevolent Society with a change of chairman and a quick check on the cricket with OWCC playing Epsom between the summer showers.

An invitation from the HM to visit the immaculate grounds of Haling Park for the NSPCC Open Garden event and enjoying tea in the Founder's Garden on a very hot, sunny afternoon gave the opportunity of an outing for the VI Form School boater.

An admin visit to the School found the buildings not only covered in decorators but absolutely buzzing with this year's excellent exam results, a big well done to everybody concerned.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, OW (1956-63)

PARTNERSHIP FORMED ON WHITGIFT PLAYING FIELDS PUT TO THE ULTIMATE TEST THIS ASHES SERIES

A partnership almost twenty years in the making has been put to the ultimate test this summer, as Old Whitgiftians Rory Burns and Jason Roy stepped out at Edgbaston as the opening batsmen in the first Test of a hotly anticipated Ashes series.

© Action Images via Reuters / Andrew Boyers



The two Surrey batsmen have opened together at school and for their county, but until the warm-up fixture against Ireland, never before on the international stage. Indeed, while the newly crowned World Cup winner Jason Roy has established his credentials as a dominant white ball player in ODIs and international T20s, this Ashes series marks his first inclusion in an England Test side.

There was a first too for Burns, who knocked his way to his maiden Test century in his very first Ashes innings, producing a heroic stint at the crease to put the pressure back on the baggy greens. Unfortunately for England, opposition captain Steve Smith proved too much to contain. The visitors took the spoils on the fifth and final day at Edgbaston.

1-0 down in the series, the pair opened again in the second Test at Lords. Roy was dismissed early for a three-ball duck by Hazlewood; who went on to dismiss Captain Joe Root shortly afterwards. While wickets fell around him, Burns stayed the course – wearing several pacey short balls into the body – before he was eventually dismissed for 53 with an incredible diving catch from Bancroft at silly point. In England's second innings, it was the lower order who produced the goods – with Ben Stokes hitting a ton and leading England to declare on the final day, setting Australia 267 to win. The match ended in a draw.

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RUPERT BRADSHAW OW (2001-09)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

A successful OW summer with an ODI Cricket World Champion in Jason Roy OW (2004-08) whose batting and fielding (his the winning run-out throw) greatly helped England's cause followed by an Ashes century from Rory Burns (2001-06) and the Whitgift opening partnership at Lords, although nothing really changes as it was a John Fisher OB Tim Murtagh who took the wickets in the Ireland test match!

It was a gold medal for Joe Choong OW (2008-13) at the modern pentathlon World Cup which has sealed his Olympic place for next year and runs for Dominic Sibley OW (2007-14) for the English Lions against Australia which has aroused the selectors interest. A warm welcome back to Lawrence Okoye OW (2003-10) from American NFL to throw the discus at the Anniversary

Games in Stratford and congratulations to Oliver Little OW (1988-96) on completing his Channel Swim this July.

The mini reunions continue with a small gathering at Bridport and a select number of HOBs partaking of a drink or several around London Town and the regional Dinner at Tiverton giving an opportunity for our South West members to meet together.

Brian Kibble OW (1950-55) as president of the Surrey Mayors' Association and having already hosted the official Reception for new Mayors has now chaired the AGM and Garden Party which Alderman Geoff Austin OW (1958-66), past Mayor of Kingston, attended and rumour has it scoffed all the cream cakes and strawberries!

RICHARD BLUNDELL
OW (1956-63)

WHITGIFTIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of Whitgiftian Benevolent Society was held on Saturday 20th July at which the Chairman, Fergus McCombie, was able to report on another successful year's activities.

The Society has around 30 active cases, supporting current pupils and their families, for example with help towards travel, lunch and uniform costs or other School related expenses, as well as OWs in financial and practical need.

The Society is grateful for the support of its members and would

like to hear from any OW who is interested in becoming a member to assist in continuing its work (the minimum annual subscription is just £20). Similarly, the Society will give consideration to any application for assistance from those within its beneficial class, namely past and current Whitgiftians, past and current members of staff and others with a connection with the School.

Contact can be made through the Secretary, Peter Dunn (peterdunn75@gmail.com).

OW5s CLUB



The OW5s Club had success in the recent national Rugby Fives Association (RFA) South East Open, with Nick Woolfenden and drawn partner Chris Davey (non-OW) winning the plate competition, beating a pair including the national no.1 singles player in the final. Recent leaver Cameron Low also put in a fine performance in the singles competition.

We are also pleased to hear the RFA London Open is likely to be held at Whitgift this year, on weekend of 28-29 September. This will attract many of the top players in the country, so do come to watch if you're in the local area.

The OW5s Club meets regularly on Thursday evenings for social 5s at the school courts, and we aim to have a number of fixtures against other clubs in the South East/London over the coming season, as well as our annual tour to the South West.

We welcome new or returning players of all abilities. Please contact Club Secretary Nick Woolfenden (<mailto:nickw5s@hotmail.com>) for more information.

FROZEN TENTS AND CAMELBAKS – ANDES EXPEDITION



Continuing in the spirit of Luke Bap (“Walking Israel” - WA Newsletter July/August 2019), Jeremy White OW (2009-15) and I thought we should share our recent expedition with you all.

While neither the route nor our beards were as long as Bap’s, altitude proved a worthy foe. With an average height of well over 4,000m, the Cordillera Huayhuash is set in the Peruvian Andes and truly packs a punch. Made famous by Joe Simpson’s ill-fated experience in *Touching the Void* (we’d like our English GCSE teachers to know despite all appearances we were actually paying attention), the range is one of the world’s most impressive.

The circuit took us through valleys and peaks on an unimaginable scale with scenery that no photos can ever truly do justice. From waking up to frozen tents and camelbaks in the mornings, to high altitude UV rays burning us through our generous applications of SPF 50, the climate was the harshest we had ever seen.

Whether summiting 5,000m passes or using an animal’s jawbone to smash

through ice and access water, the lessons learnt from both CCF and DofE were constantly in the back of our minds.

While we fear Luke’s dream of becoming Lawrence of Arabia is equated with our reality of being closer to Tintin in Tibet, it was Whitgift that installed this sense of adventure within us, and for that we are eternally grateful.

FELIX ARRIS OW (2009-15)



This picture shows Jeremy in the foreground of Touching the Void’s mountain, Siula Grande. The shadowed glacier on the mountain’s left flank contains the crevasse Simpson was forced to crawl out of and onwards for a further three miles.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

What do a cricket world cup winner, Jason Roy, Ashes centurion, Rory Burns, up-and-coming capped England footballer, Callum Hudson-Odoi, world cup champion modern pentathlete, Joe Choong, and British Lion and England rugby world cup squad member, Elliot Daly, all have in common, apart from the fact they attended our beloved school, Whitgift? That's right, none of them ever managed to win the House Championship during their time at the school!

They may have the requisite ability and desire to reach the top of their chosen sporting field, but they obviously did not have what it takes to drive their respective Houses onto the ultimate glory, a feat accomplished this year by Smith's, whose House Captain, Max Brown, received the trophy during the Celebration of Whitgift Life on the last day of the school year. Smith's were worthy champions this year, having wrested the lead from former multiple-time winners, Mason's, at the half way point, and never giving it up from then.

The House Cup was not the only award given out on during the illustrious ceremony, which saw hundreds of boys rewarded for academic and co-curricular success, as well as teams acknowledged

for national triumphs. The 2000 strong audience in the Sports Hall were also treated to a variety of musical and dramatic interludes during the ceremony, including performances from the Corp of Drums, Soul Choir and Brass Ensemble.

This year's guest speaker, famed historian, author and broadcaster, Kate Williams, paid tribute to all the hard work evidenced by the multitude of awards she had given out, and inspired the boys to follow their dreams and passions, by relating a series of personal anecdotes, including how one ostensibly frivolous game of make-believe with her brother when they were children, in which they jumped in and out of a large box and imagined they were travelling in time, actually planted the seed of desire for her current success as a historian.

The public exam results make for particularly pleasing reading for both boys and staff alike, reflecting the huge amount of work put in over the past two years to increase the academic profile of the school. In IB, the students achieved an average of 39 points, which was 9 points above the global average, placing Whitgift as the top boys school for IB in the United Kingdom.

The A-Level results saw a big

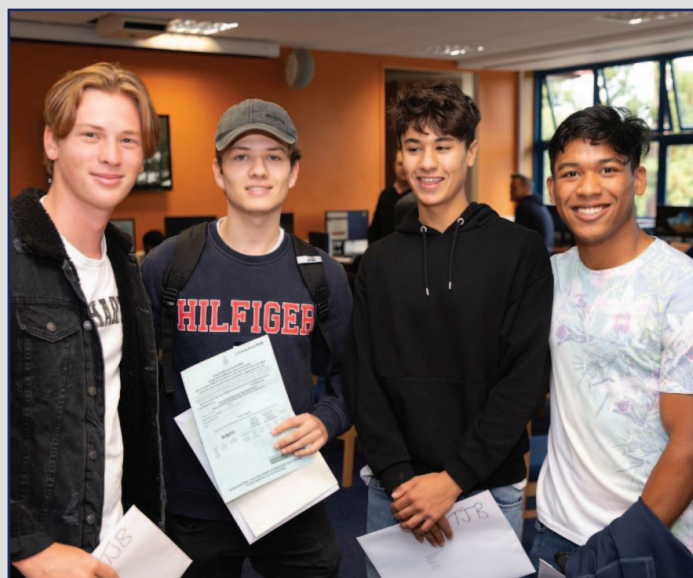
improvement from last year, with 93% of boys achieving A*-B. When you factor in the IB boys' equivalents, that number increases to 94% - a fantastic achievement for such a large cohort. What was also very pleasing was that fact that the vast majority of the cohort will be moving onto their first choice university placement.

The improvements continued in GCSE, with 82% of the 206 boys sitting the exams achieving grades 7-9 (the old A*-A) equivalent. 27 boys achieved eight or more 9s, with six of these sweeping the board with straight 9s, something managed by only a few hundred students nationally.

In cricket, the 1st XI had a very successful season, but unfortunately, their run in the National T20 competition was to be brought to an end at the same hurdle, London final (last 16), and against the same opposition, Merchant Taylor's, as in the last two years!

The U15 A team, despite losing a couple of friendlies, managed to go one better than their senior counterparts and get through to the national finals day, which is on Sunday 1st September at Arundel Castle.

The most successful team in the school this year was the U13 As, who won all twelve games they played and ended their season with a 2 wicket victory over





arch rivals, Trinity, to win the Watcyn Evans trophy.

Having won the Natwest Cup at Twickenham back in March, the 1st XV have certainly not rested on their laurels; indeed, they have just returned from an arduous tour of New Zealand, probably the hardest place to travel in world rugby, with a quite spectacular set of results. They won all five games they played, scoring a quite remarkable 288 points and conceding only 21!

The 2nd XV also enjoyed a great deal of success, winning four out of their five games, so things bode very well for the new season! The domestic season starts for the 1sts with a chance to retain the Esher President's Cup on Friday 30th August, before a daunting trip up to Cumbria on Sunday 8th September to face current Daily Mail Trophy winners (basically, the national league for all the top rugby schools), Sedbergh.

As I write this, an intrepid bunch of sixth form actors will have just finished their first performance of their take on Georg Buchner's classic European play, *Woyzeck*, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Running for five days, this is just the kind of ambitious enterprise that Director of Drama, former Globe Theatre performer, Mr Daniel Pirrie, has encouraged the boys to undertake. What with boys directing major performances without any assistance and touring being back in vogue, Whitgift drama is

certainly in fine fettle right now!

As is the case every year, the school site has certainly not lain dormant over the long summer holidays. Once again, hundreds of students from all around the world have been given the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful facilities during the Whitgift Summer School.

In addition, the school opened its gardens to the local community to showcase its beautiful 45-acre parkland site to support NSPCC fundraising. On Wednesday 24th July, Whitgift was delighted to welcome the Mayor of Croydon, Humayun Kabir, and the South Eastern community Fund Manager for the NSPCC, Vicky Goodman, who took time to walk the Open Garden tour route with Head Gardener, James Mallett, and spoke to members of the public and staff. The event was a fantastic success and raised nearly £1,450 for a wonderful charity.

While all this has been going on, there has also been building work occurring to kick start the Headmaster, Mr Ramsey's, ten-year plan for the site. The current projects are only small scale, with the renovation of classrooms and creation of a play space between the Swimming Pool and the water gardens, but if everything goes to plan, over the next few years, we will see the construction of new classrooms, a new theatre, new social spaces, a new sixth form centre in a dedicated new building, and the laying of



a 4G multi-purpose sports pitch on Puntabout, to name just a few of the proposals!

These site changes are just one facet of the Headmaster's future plans, which were grandly unveiled to parents, after an extensive two year consultation process with every member of staff, at the end of Trinity term. The extended details of the plans can be found in a document in the Aims & Development Plan section of the school's website entitled *Whitgift 2025 - Our Vision*, accompanied by a slick, promotional video, but some of the headline features are: changes to the make-up of the school day; a much greater integration with the local and global community; a shake up of the curriculum to promote independent learning habits; and a new, exciting, digital strategy. It is the latter of these which is being implemented first, with every first form boy to be given a school lap-top to work on from next January.

Other shake-ups to the Junior School curriculum to begin in September include the introduction of specific global citizenship lessons, as well as the subtle integration of this topic into all other subjects, and the establishment of a major independent learning project for second formers. So it seems that exciting new times are afoot for Whitgift; keep reading every couple of months to see how they pan out!

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)

GOLF SOCIETY NEWS



L to r; Martin Hayes, Ian Chicken, Alan Blok, Peter Blok, Tony Mason, Mark Chatham

Glorious weather-wise, but mixed in terms of golfing success. Such was the outcome of this year's Cyril Gray, a knockout tournament for the last 32 schools to enter the Halford Hewitt, competed for by the 'senior' golfers of each school (over 50 years of age).

This year's team (pictured below – five of the team making Martin Hayes look about 6' 7"!) came up against old foes Fettes in the first round, but could not repeat the success achieved against the same opponents in 2018. Whitgift lost 2.5-0.5, but went on to have a decent run in the Plate competition; wins against KES Birmingham and King's Canterbury were followed by a semi-final defeat to Epsom.

There was an outstanding result however in the Senior Cyril Gray – one round of stableford foursomes where the combined ages of the two participants needs to be 140; Dudley Thompson and Mike Berners Price stormed to a well-deserved victory with 27 points. Bearing in mind this is a scratch competition, that is a great score.

They say great golfers never remember their bad shots. Well, the same appears to apply to the OWGS team which played KCS at Royal Wimbledon in July. Apart from knowing that it was a 5-0 drubbing ("but a couple of matches were close"), your correspondent cannot find anyone who can recall anything reportable about it! No doubt next year will be different; for the first time, we will be the hosts, playing at Croham Hurst.

The society held Dudley Thompson's President's Meeting at West Sussex GC, on one of the hottest days of the year. 28 turned out, amongst them Tim Forbes, an all too infrequent visitor to these shores, and new member Bob Justice, who played with the President (pictured).

There was general agreement that the course was superb, but more difficult than most could cope with. The weather took its toll on some, not least Alan Cowing and Dick Shelley, who had to push their failing buggy over the finishing line.

On the whole, the scores reflected the difficulty experienced, which makes it all the more creditable that Ian Chicken took the President's Prize with 34 points, narrowly beating off David Absalom (34) and Don Anderson (33), both of whom have won at earlier events this season. Many thanks to Dudley, whose last year as President this is, for hosting and for donating a splendid box of wine as the main prize.

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

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



Dudley Thompson and Bob Justice at West Sussex GC



Soulstice Festival is a one day and one night charity music festival that takes place in the Surrey Hills at the end of summer in aid of the RNLI and Young Minds charities. The event includes over 12 hours of music, camping and on-site entertainment for all guests, with proceeds going to the two charities.

My brother, Jamie (OW 2008-13) and I came up with the idea of running a charity festival back in 2017. We ran our first event in September 2018, thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt areas where we wanted to improve. This helped us make the second year a great success, which took place on Saturday 31st August. Music ranged from live bands to DJs all performing a variety of funk, disco, soul and more. This year's line-up included two hours on the decks from fellow OW Will Goodall (2008-15) that was watched by over 30 more old boys, who formed a part of the 300+ attendees.

We pride inclusivity and diversity in our festival from the music to the attendees, which were values we experienced at Whitgift. We also are focused on investing in upcoming and home-grown talent – two more values we experienced at Whitgift across a range of co-curricular activities.

We are committed to the fact that the festival is non-profit and our priority is the proceeds going to the two chosen charities both close to our hearts. In July 2012, Whitgiftian Charlie Hutton tragically died in a motorboat accident and the RNLI were truly admirable in their services. Ever since, we have supported the RNLI in various ways and after creating the festival, we wanted to continue this.

Young Minds is an equally special charity through the work they do to help mental health in young people. Jamie's and my experiences with

mental health, as well as those dear to us, motivated us to build a relationship with this charity. In our first year, we raised £6,200 from Soulstice and we are hoping to raise another great total this year.

If you would like to donate to our two brilliant charities, our Just Giving page is: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/soulstice2019>

If you would like to find out more about the festival, our website is: <https://soulsticefestival.org/>

If you would like to contact us about anything regarding Soulstice, please email: soulsticefestival1@gmail.com

If you are interested, keep an eye on our website for news and updates regarding Soulstice 2020.

With thank to Max Cantellow for the photos.

GEORGE OYEBODE, OW (2008-16)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 13 Sept	Gin Cocktail Evening	WSC	19:30
Sat 21 Sept	Open Morning	School	09:00
Sat 21 Sept	S A Braai Day	WSC	10:45
Sat 28 Sept	WA South West Dinner	Tiverton	18.00
28/29 Sept	RFA London Open	School Courts	
Weds 16 Oct	3S Music Concert	F/F Halls	19:00
Sat 19 Oct	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12:00
Weds 30 Oct	WA Vice Presidents' Lunch	WSC	12:00
Sat 9 Nov	OWRFC Past Players Lunch	WSC	12:00
Mon 11 Nov	Remembrance Service	School	10:30
Mon 11 Nov	President's Buffet Lunch	WSC	12:00
Tues 12 Nov	Careers Convention	School	18:00
Sat 23 Nov	WA Presidential Lunch	School	11:00
Sat 30 Nov	Christmas Carols	The Ritz	15:45/17:45
4-7 Dec	School Play, "Hairspray"	School	19:30
Fri 6 Dec	Christmas Concert	London	18:30
Mon 9 Dec	WA Annual General Meeting	WSC	19:00
Thurs 12 Dec	School Carol Service	Croydon Minster	19:30
Sat 14 Dec	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12:00

FIXTURES

Sat 7 Sept	OWCC 2nd XI v Bank of England	L	H	12:00
Sun 8 Sep	School 1st XV v Sedbergh		A	12:00
Sat 14 Sept	School 1st XV v Wimbledon College		H	10.30
Sat 21 Sept	OWRFC 1st XV v Teddington	L	A	15.00
Sat 21 Sept	School 1st XV v Wellington		A	15.00
Sat 28 Sept	OWRFC 1st XV v Kingston	L	A	15.00
Sat 28 Sept	School 1st XV v Warwick		H	13.00
Wed 2 Oct	School 1st XV v John Fisher		H	14.30
Sat 12 Oct	School 1st XV v Sidcup Grammar		A	10.30
Sat 19 Oct	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Haileyburians	L	H	15.00
Sat 19 Oct	School 1st XV v Bishop Wordsworth		A	12.00
Sat 26 Oct	OWRFC 1st XV v Law Society	L	A	15.00
Sat 9 Nov	OWRFC 1st XV v Purley John Fisher	L	H	14.30
Sat 9 Nov	School 1st XV v RGS High Wycombe		H	13.00

RECENT DEATHS

PETER ABEL

OW (1940-45)

D. 25TH MARCH 2019, AGED 90

PAUL COULTER

OW (1946-53)

D. 29TH JUNE 2019, AGED 83

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION 500 Club

Join the WA 500 Club now!
For only £12 a year per number you
could win hundreds of pounds!

Buy as many numbers as you like!
Draws in March, June, September
and December.

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th prizes per draw.
To join the 500 Club and be in for a
chance to win a quarterly prize,
please contact

treasurer@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk.

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION JOIN US FOR THE 2019 WA PRESIDENTIAL LUNCH ON SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER FROM 11AM.

Visit
www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk
/events for more info.

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 386 covering November/December 2019 closes Sunday 20th October 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.