



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT. Tel: 020 8688 9222 www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

President - RICHARD BLUNDELL

Chairman - JOHN ETHERIDGE

Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

NEWSLETTER 391 - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

WE MAKE EVENTS / LIGHT IT IN RED



On Tuesday 11th August, Whitgift School's Big School, along with hundreds of venues around the country, was lit red as a display of solidarity with theatre and event makers in the UK.

When everything closed down and we began our first week of lockdown, nobody expected this to last as long as it has. We all thought it'd be over by June. Whilst the Government started to ease the lockdown in July (pubs, bars restaurants and many smaller non-essential businesses began trading again), the sector that was clearly not going to work was theatre and events. You simply can't have 1,000 people sat side by side in a theatre. Yet the industry received little support.

As we got closer to August the arts and music industry grew increasingly concerned that festivals, shows, and everything in between, would not happen. The major source of income for

hire companies, music producers, film makers, theatre makers and so many more, was lost.

Whilst we expect that theatres in London will be ok (the West End is lucky with high ticket prices and part of the 1.57 Bill arts funding package), the venues that will suffer permanently will be local theatres where so many people discover their joy and interest in the arts. Without local theatres, children who can't afford to come to London and watch a West End show will have no access to theatre at all, and the next generation of creatives and theatre makers will be lost to us.

This issue goes all the way down the supply chain. It's not just performers and show staff that are affected but also caterers, hire companies, delivery drivers, manufacturers, front of house staff, cleaners, bar staff, technicians, freelancers and so many more. One of the key moments in this Government's attempt to help was to offer a Self Employed Independent Support Scheme (SEISS), acting as a furlough system for freelance and self-employed people from every industry. Unfortunately, because of the way that arts contracts tend to work (often payrolled for 6 months of the year and then freelance the rest) you don't have a permanent job to get furloughed from but you also don't qualify for SEISS

(I am one of these people also having just graduated). There is a swathe of Freelancers left unsupported and desperate for help.

There is much more to be said about this issue and if you want more information head over to PLASA.org/we-make-events. Seeing Big school lit in red was a moment that made me, and other OW arts professional, feel incredibly proud to be a part of a school that is ready to support its alumni in their industries.

I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the team at Whitgift who are there at every event, every day, working until late at night to ensure dinners, meetings, plays, open days, parents evenings, graduations, CCF AGI, and every event in between, goes smoothly. Without them I wouldn't be where I am now, and so many wouldn't have had the same experience of theatre without them.

If you want to help in any way here are some suggestions: Write to your MP, sign up on PLASA's website in support, donate to theatres trust who help at risk theatres, and keep the conversation alive. When we return, which we will, please support your local theatres and artists.

HENRY PARRITT, OW (2009-2016)

FROM THE EDITOR

Congratulations to our two English cricket test opening batsmen on a successful summer: Rory Burns OW (2001-06) and Dominic Sibley OW (2007-14).

To Col Mike Cornwell OBE, OW

(1984-92) and Col Matt Birch OW (1987-92) who are both promoted to Brigadier and to Sir Keith Lindblom on his appointment as Senior President of Tribunals.

Full marks to JB Gill OW (1998-2005) late of JLS and now a farmer who has become an ambassador for the litter

campaign "Don't Trash Our Future" to crack down on rubbish dumpers and increase the fines available to the local authorities.

At least one member is still enjoying his Whitgift Rose some 20 years on from its

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special commissioning to celebrate the Quatercentenary of the School in 2000, anyone else I wonder?

In a rare escape from Croydon, the WA President was recently able to fulfil a long-held ambition to visit the village of Whitgift near Grimsby in Yorkshire. The visit to "Home" turned out to be a small collection of cottages on the South bank of the River Ouse but did include

the church of St Mary Magdalene a grade 1 listed building dating from 1304, which boasts an extraordinary clock.



Installed in 1919 to mark the end of WW1 it carried the motto In Terra Pax - Peace on Earth but more interestingly the clockface showed X111 at the top instead

of the usual X11 (but it only strikes 12). The local explanations of a drunk signwriter and one extra for the Devil, neither of which seemed fair on our Founder!!

RICHARD BLUNDELL OW (1956-63)
WA PRESIDENT #77

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

For the last few years, the summer holiday period has been a very rewarding time for Whitgift. Within days of the boys and teaching staff leaving to enjoy their well-earned break, the classrooms, corridors and fields have been bustling again with the sounds of students learning and playing – students from all over the world enjoying the Whitgift Summer School experience. This creates a great deal of revenue for the school and obviously could not happen this year due to Covid-19.

However, due to the inception of the community summer school, Whitgift has once again been full of the sounds of students learning and playing. On 27th July, the school, in conjunction with Croydon Council, opened its doors to local girls and boys in Year 5 who had experienced reduced education provision since school closures began in March 2020. Staffed entirely by Whitgift teachers, the school was able to provide a programme including stimulating lessons in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, as well as a range of exciting enrichment activities such as Philosophy, Languages, Sport and Music to 45 pupils a week in a Covid-19 secure environment.

Funding for the programme came from both Whitgift and donations from those connected with the School community, allowing 180 pupils from 7 Croydon primary schools to attend for free. So, whilst not in a lucrative sense, I am very happy to say that the school has once again enjoyed a most rewarding summer, looking to give back to the local community and be part of the national effort to fight what the virus has taken away from us.

Results days are a rollercoaster of emotions for boys at the best of times, but this year, as has been extensively documented in the media, took things to

another level. With there not actually being any exams to sit due to the closure of schools, students' results were to be determined by a combination of Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) and a now infamous algorithm.

Things started off relatively calmly with the IB results in early July. These qualifications are not under the jurisdiction of Ofqual or the UK government and, as things turned out, the IB board proved themselves much more competent in applying the new system than their British equivalent. Indeed, this year's cohort achieved higher than last year's excellent group, with slightly more gaining over 40 points, and an average of 39 – once again the best of any UK boys' school.

With A-Levels, things were not quite so simple. The final picture, following the government's dramatic u-turn to allow the CAGs without the impact of the 'algorithm', was very pleasing: 75% at A or A* and 98% at A*B. However, these were not the results the boys received on results day. If the media is to be believed, the government perpetrated a grossly unfair system which prioritised private over state schools and so you might have expected that our results would have been as above – the outstanding levels we have become accustomed to. This, however, was not the case: the dreaded algorithm had a severe impact on a whole raft of Whitgift boys' grades, leading to many miserable faces on results day due to first choice university places being lost – something I have not seen before at Whitgift.

Obviously, this all changed within a matter of days, but as I write this, there is still a great deal of uncertainty as the Sixth Form team are having to deal with the resultant chaos of universities now being oversubscribed. I am sure everything will work out in the end, but

it is yet another unfortunate hurdle that the class of 2020 have had to deal with.

Things settled down by the time of the GCSE results, with the boys knowing what to expect. Indeed, the CAGs were largely in line with the 2019 results with 65% 8-9, 88% 7-9 and 34 boys gaining the top grade in nine subjects or more.

The new school year starting in September is going to be one fraught with uncertainty due to the swathe of changes necessitated because of the impact of the virus. Concepts such as Year group bubbles, staggered start times and part virtual lessons are all being bandied about, and no-one knows for certain how long we will be able to stay in the buildings with the threat of another spike-induced lockdown looming over us.

One significant change that has nothing to do with Covid-19 is

the fact that for the first time in years, Peter Ellis will not be part of Whitgift life. Pete joined the school as a bright-eyed First Former back in 1991 and proceeded to spend a cumulative total of 26 years here, having returned in 2001 as a Maths teacher. During the ensuing nineteen years, Pete took on a multitude of roles including Head of First Form, A team hockey and cricket coach, Head of Maths and, for the past six years, Second Master. Normally, one would expect to move onto a Headmastership from such a high position in a prestigious school, but Pete has gallantly decided to put his career on hold to support his wife, who is set to become the country's Deputy Ambassador to Uganda, meaning an African move for the whole family. Pete has given an incredible amount to the school and will be sorely missed.

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)



WVRC AUGUST REPORT



Hello lovely readers, I hope we find you all well. A short missive from the Rifle Club.

Since the

start of lockdown, our shooting has been pretty quiet we haven't really been down the range and most clubs have been closed.

However, following recent updates from the Government, we've been able to reopen the range at the School! Several committee members spent an evening preparing the site for visitors including putting up signage everywhere and coming up with the procedures that members will be following. Our deepest thanks to all those committee members who have contributed and got us up and running again.

We've now had our first couple of indoor sessions with several members; the first was almost too hot to shoot, I was absolutely dripping in sweat! The second we had last week being very successful with our members getting back into the swing of things.

We've been lucky enough to have Guy Hart organising our full bore calendar and had a practice shoot down at Bisley only a few weeks ago. We had a good turn out and the weather didn't wreak too much havoc for once! Of note was Ian Todd's tidy score whilst trying out shooting from a bench and chair, Nick Harman's unknown 600 yard settings and Duncan Samuel & Willem Samuel's wind-coaching of one another.

Finally, in more good news, we're lucky enough to have had several prospective members contact us and are looking into running dedicated training days, Covid safe of course, for them to get them introduced to the club. We're very excited and cannot wait to reintroduce them to the sport.

Other than that, we wish you all the best and hope to see some of you at the range or the pub again soon! Please do get in contact with us if you'd like to re-discover a passion for shooting. We'd be happy to welcome you.

HENRY PARRITT (2009-2016)

GOLF SOCIETY NEWS



The society finally got started in mid-July at the President's Meeting. This was held at Kingswood, our President's (Pip Burley's) club – or more accurately, one of them – and the weather was perfect; warm but not unpleasantly so, and just right for a Covid-compliant gathering on the club's terrace after the golf! 31 players turned up, including two former professional sportsmen in the form of Mark and Steve Coppel, and two new members, Graeme Jordan and Ali Dewji. John Mainwaring, past captain at Tandridge, attended as Roger Oldfield's guest.

The standard of golf was generally high, with 20 players returning scores of 30 and above. Top of the tree though was Nigel Bradley, benefitting no doubt from some home course knowledge, who returned a score of 40 points, three ahead of his nearest rivals, Alan Blok and Jeremy Stanyard, Captain and vice-Captain respectively. Overall, great to be back!

Alan Blok (Captain), Nigel Bradley with the President's Prize, Pip Burley (President)

The oldest trophy contested by members of the society is the Hornsey-Walker Cup, which was first presented after the 1927 annual meeting. This year the meeting, originally scheduled for May, was held

in early August at Cuddington, a course which enjoys fabulous views over West London. It has also undergone several changes over recent years, notably the removal of huge numbers of trees either side of the fairways, giving it a much more open aspect.

There was another good turnout on one of the hottest days of the year, including Vic Malempre as a guest of John Gould, and again the club did us proud with both the presentation of the course and the meal afterwards, served on the terrace. Playing honours, and the cup, went to David Absalom, who scored 36 points, who narrowly beat Alan Longhurst on countback. Since Alan had reached the significant birthday earlier in the year, he won the Veteran's Cup, which itself dates as far back as 1937 and is awarded to the leading member over the age of 65. In third place was David Hughes, just one point further back on 35, who pipped our Captain, Alan Blok, on countback.

Alan Blok (Captain), David Absalom with the Hornsey-Walker Cup, Alan Longhurst with the Veteran's Cup. All of the society's matches this summer, as well as two of our main meetings, have been cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so there are no further details to report, other than that our last meeting of the curtailed season will be



RECENT DEATHS

ROY BATTERSHILL,
OW (1938-43),
D. 12TH JULY 2020, AGED 93

BOB BROWN,
SCHOOL STAFF, 1978-92,
D. 28TH MARCH 2020, AGED 81

MICHAEL COLEMAN,
OW (1933-40),
D. 31ST JULY 2020, AGED 97

VALE AIDAN LAVERTY,
OW (1976-83),
D. 4TH AUGUST 2020, AGED 55

TERRY DAVID LEE,
OW (1955-62),
D. 4TH JULY 2020, AGED 75

DUNCAN NEWTON,
OW (1956-63),
D. MAY 2019, AGED 74

MICHAEL REGESTER,
OW (1943-49),
D. 22ND JUNE 2017, AGED 85

CHRISTOPHER TYLER,
OW (1945-51),
D. 16TH NOVEMBER 2010, AGED 75

at Royal Ashdown in September. We will be playing their West course. There is also an Autumn Tour to South Wales.

New members, from any OW generation, and including staff and parents, are very welcome to join the society, and should contact peterbgale@sky.com to express their interest.

Best wishes to all readers.

PETER GALE (HON SEC)