



## Westcliff High School for Boys

# Alumni Network Newsletter

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## Issue 2 - Spring 2017

### WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER, MIKE SKELLY

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the second edition of the WHSB Alumni Network Newsletter.

Since the launch of the School's Community Development Office in January 2016, I am delighted to report that our Alumni Network is steadily growing in numbers. Our new, termly-issued WHSB Alumni Network Newsletter was launched in September 2016 and received a very positive response. The first Alumni Network Social event took place in the City of London on 20 October 2016 and we were pleased to see so many of our former students and staff attend. More networking events are planned for 2017 and details will follow.

As we fast approach the School's Centenary in 2020, plans are underway to establish a WHSB Centenary Committee to formalise what is to take place in terms of activities and events to formally mark this most important milestone in the history of the School. A Centenary Fund will be established, together with the formal commissioning of a publication about the history of Westcliff High School for Boys.

Finally, I encourage you to read the Westcliff Diary (available on the School's website) which lists all of our forthcoming events. We would be very pleased to see you at any of the events. Please contact our CDO Team



for further information or to arrange to visit the School.

### ALUMNI PROFILE: IAN CROXFORD QC



An Old Westcliffian (1964 to 1971), former School Captain (1969-70) and former Chair of Governors at Westcliff High School for Boys between 1995 and 2016, Ian obtained a Law degree from the University of Leicester with First Class Honours in 1974. He was

called to the Bar in 1976 by Gray's Inn and elected a Bencher in 2001. He was appointed as Queen's Counsel in 1993. He is a member of the Commercial, Chancery and Criminal Bar Associations and is currently a member of Wilberforce Chambers, one of the leading Chancery sets of Chambers in the UK.

He has been involved in many large-scale and high-profile cases including in particular professional liability cases relating to claims against solicitors and accountants. In addition, he is regularly engaged in commercial disputes concerning not only the due performance of obligations, but also those where fraud is a component.

The recent edition of Chambers & Partners 2016 notes that he is a vastly experienced Silk with a notable domestic and international workload. "He is technically excellent, very good at dealing with Judges and opponents, and very highly respected." "A superb court performer" who is "an excellent advocate and cross-examiner who masters his brief thoroughly."

A keen armchair sportsman (supporting both Saracens RFC and The Arsenal) he plays regular but bad golf. Ian lives in Rochford with his wife, Sandra. He continues his active involvement with WHSB as an Academy Trust Governor and member of the Old Westcliffian Association.

# ALUMNI NETWORK AUTUMN 2016 SOCIAL

Our first Alumni Network Social Event took place in the City on 20 October 2016 at Davy's Wine Bar in Mincing Lane, a stone's throw from Fenchurch



Street Station.

We were delighted to meet so many of our former students and staff. Feedback would suggest that an annual Autumn Social event in London, coupled with a summer event hosted by the School would be appreciated.

Our Summer Social will take place on Friday 23 June 2017. Further details will follow in next term's edition of the Alumni Network Newsletter and on both the School's and Old Westcliffian Association's social media feeds. We



look forward to meeting members of our Alumni Community so please do spread the word.

## SUCCESS FOR WHSB IN SUNDAY TIMES SCHOOL GUIDE

We were delighted to be ranked 51st in the country and fifth in East Anglia in the list of State Schools in 2016's Sunday Times Parent Power guide, which produces rankings based on the latest academic results.

Westcliff High School for Girls and

Southend's two grammar schools took the sixth, seventh and eighth positions behind us in the East Anglia region.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this amazing achievement! The full results are available on The Times website.



## ALUMNI DONATION TO SCHOOL LIBRARY



On Friday 11 November 2016 WHSB Alumni Professor Brian Hamnett, from the University of Essex (Department of History) visited the School to donate a large number of history books from his personal collection to the School Library.

Professor Hamnett attended Westcliff High School for Boys from 1954 to 1961; then Peterhouse, Cambridge to study History, from 1961 to 1964, and as a Research Student from 1964 to 1967. He received his Ph. D (Cantab) in 1968. He specialised in Late-Spanish Colonial History and taught at the State University of New York at Stony Brook as an Assistant Professor in Latin-American History from 1968-72, and at the University of Strathclyde from 1974. He moved to the University of Essex in 1990 and became a Professor in 1995. After retirement, he was made an Emeritus Professor.

He has published several books and articles on Latin-American and Spanish History, both in English and

Spanish including three editions of *A Concise History of Mexico* (Cambridge University of Press) and has two new books coming out: *The Enlightenment in Iberia and Ibero-America* (University of Wales Press) and *The End of Iberian Rule in Continental America, 1770-1830* (CUP, New York). He has been a member of the Royal Historical Society since 1986 and a Corresponding Member of the Mexican Academy of History since 1993.

We thank Professor Hamnett for his very generous donation and look forward to him returning to the School to provide a university-style tutorial session for some of our Sixth Form history students.

# WHSB GARDEN PARTY 2017

## Sunday 11 June @ 12.00pm



# OWA ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2017

Another 'save the date' for our Alumni Community is this year's OWA Annual Reunion Dinner on Friday 8 September 2017. The event promises to be, as always, an extremely enjoyable evening with fine food and reminiscing. This year's speaker will be Neal Martin, the internationally-recognised, award-winning wine critic and author and an Old Westcliffian (1982 to 1989).

Further details will be released by the Old Westcliffian Association in their 2017 Newsletter.



## WHBSB CENTENARY: MEMORIES AND MEMORABILIA

Following our request in the first edition of the WHBSB Alumni Network Newsletter, we would like to thank all those members of our Alumni Community who have made contact, sent us information, and visited the School to lend us their photographs and memorabilia. We hope to maintain this momentum as we are now accumulating a wealth of information and material to work with as this project progresses. Please do keep contacting us and we will keep you informed of our progress.

We would particularly like to thank local resident and Old Westcliffian Tony Le Masurier (1959 to 1966) who visited the School in October, bringing with him various photographs and

items of memorabilia relating to both his and his father John's time at the School. John Le Masurier, as an eleven year old boy, was one of the first pupils through the doors of the newly opened Westcliff High School for Boys in Kenilworth Gardens in September 1926. Born in 1915 in Aberdeen, John's family moved to Westcliff-on-Sea in 1919. Tony said his father could recall the houses being built along Kings Road in Westcliff, then a rough track, on his regular walk to and from School in the 1920s and 30s. John was a keen sportsman and he is included in a team photo of the First XI that played against an Essex County XI on 17th July 1933 that is displayed in School today on the wall outside the Headmaster's Office.

on-Sea) to work in the Engineer's Department. During his time with the Department, John was responsible for creating a photographic record of Southend's post-war and subsequent development up until his retirement in 1980. Tony Le Masurier donated his father's extensive records of the wartime bombing of Southend to the local museum, and they were the subject of an exhibition there to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the war in 2005. These records which charted the 700 or so pieces of ordnance which fell on our town, were saved by John, despite him being asked to dispose of them during the move to the new Civic Centre in the early 1960s.

John Le Masurier died in 2001. His family are now third generation Old Westcliffians, with his sons Tony and Terry, and grandsons Tim and Jonathan Dickens, following in John's footsteps.

*The photo is of John with his sons Tony and Terry, taken in Leigh-on-Sea in 1953.*



After leaving School in 1934, John pursued a career in photography and during WW2 served in Italy, as a photographer with the Royal Engineers, where he learned to speak Italian. Returning home in 1946, John joined Southend Council (then the County Borough of Southend-

## ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT IN CAREERS

This term the School will be holding three Careers Evenings for students, across all year groups, and their parents/carers to attend.

The first, for those interested in a Medical Career, was held on Thursday 19 January. The second, focussing on jobs within the Banking and Finance sector, is on Thursday 23 February. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) careers will be talked

about on Thursday 16 March. We would like to thank all those members of our alumni community who have offered their time to assist with these evenings.

If anyone is able to offer our current students careers advice at future events relating to these three key employment sectors, we would very much like to hear from you.

We are also seeking to place our Year 11 students following their GCSE examinations this summer in a variety of organisations to obtain general experience of the working environment across all employment sectors. If you, or your organisation, are able to facilitate such opportunities between 3 and 14 July 2017 (ideally for a week, if possible for the fortnight), please contact Nicki Weller in the CDO.

# FORTHCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

## Oliver!

**7th to 9th February 2017 @ 7.30pm**

**Adults: £8; Pupils: £5**

**Tickets available from <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>**



### **Parents' Association Annual Race Night**

Saturday 4 March 2017 at 6:30pm

The WHSB Parents' Association would like to invite members of our Alumni Community, their family and friends to attend this event. The Race Night is a regular, annual fundraiser for the School run by the Parents' Association and is an extremely popular family night out so early booking is advised. Doors open at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for children and students. Bring your own drinks and nibbles, or for an extra £4 per ticket, you can enjoy a fish and chip supper (or vegetarian alternative). Deadline for ticket sales is 25 February 2017.



### **Spring Sinfonia Concert**

Thursday 9 March 2017 at 7:30pm

This term's Concert will include a performance of Grieg's Peer Gynt Suites No 1 and No 2. Perhaps one of the most famous examples of programme music, this Suite boasts a collection of well-known tunes including Morning, Anitra's Dance and In the Hall of the Mountain King. The evening will also feature a favourite composer of the orchestra, Johann Strauss I, whose Huldigung der Konigin Victoria von Gross Britannien was written as a homage to Queen Victoria. The piece makes use of some typical British melodies, with a variation of Rule Britannia and a waltz version of the National Anthem featuring at various points in the piece. Ticket Price: £5.00 for adults, students free of charge.



Tickets for all events are available to purchase at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> or via the TicketSource Box Office on 0333 666 3366 (please note that a booking fee of £1.50 will be charged for telephone bookings).

## LAST WORD

If you or someone you know would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the WHSB School website. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. You will then receive password information enabling access to the secure 'Alumni' area of the School website. For further information, contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email ([community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk)). The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

In addition, you can follow Westcliff High School for Boys on Facebook and Twitter where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School. We would be delighted to welcome members of our Alumni Community back to the School to see what is going on. You can also network and keep in touch with other members of the WHSB Alumni Community on LinkedIn and the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA) Facebook and Twitter accounts.

We welcome your comments and contributions for future editions of the Alumni Network Newsletter which will be published termly, with the next scheduled for Summer 2017. Please contact Jemima or Nicki in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email at [community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.



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