WOLF SALIENT

"NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS" - NOT FOR ONESELF, BUT FOR ALL.

ISSUE 4 • DECEMBER 2022



Brace for impact!

Old Wilsonian scores twice in MLS Cup Final; find out more on P. 2

WOLF SALIENT: 2022 WRAP-UP

Welcome to the fourth, termly edition of Wolf Salient. This edition captures the key news from the autumn term at Wilson's, including an update (on P. 4) on the school's recent 'Outstanding' Ofsted Report - the first graded inspection of the school conducted in over a decade!

You can also find out how our inaugural Giving Day unfolded (on P. 3), as well as details about the launch of The Edward Wilson Society.

Thank you for continuing to support and engage with Wolf Salient. We wish all Old Wilsonians, and members of the Wilson's community, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BY WILL STRAW OW

WILSON'S SCHOOL ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

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JACK ELLIOTT, OLD WILSONIAN, NETS BRACE IN MLS CUP FINAL



Jack Elliott continues to represent Wilson's footballing excellence stateside, scoring twice in the MLS Cup Final for Philadelphia Union on 5 November 2022.

Despite playing centre back, Jack found himself helping out at the other end of the pitch. With the game poised at 2-1, Jack scored his first goal in the 85th minute, his equaliser from a set piece forcing extra time.

In the 124th minute, it looked as though Jack had won Philadelphia the MLS Cup for the first time in their history when he scored his second goal of the game from close range. Leading in stoppage time at the end of extra time, the opposition, LAFC, had also been reduced to 10 men after a red card for goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau.

It was to be late, late heartbreak for Jack and Philadelphia however, with Gareth Bale scoring for LAFC in the 128th minute - the latest goal ever scored in MLS history - to make the score 3-3, and send the game to penalties which Philadelphia unfortunately lost.

Despite ending up on the losing side, Jack was the Union's standout player and continues to represent Wilson's football brilliantly on the international scene.



You can view the match highlights, including Jack's goals, at the link here.

WILSON'S OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AS A SCHOOL ON LINKEDIN

We are delighted to say that Wilson's School is now officially registered as a school page on LinkedIn.

This means you can now list Wilson's as a place you studied in the Education section on your profile.

If you studied at Wilson's, please revisit your Education section to complete the previous step. This will help us to develop the Wilson's Alumni Network, enabling Old Wilsonians to connect and network with each other.

Additionally, adding Wilson's in your Education section allows us to improve our alumni records, and also ensure we can invite you to alumni events in the near future!

To follow the Wilson's School Page, click the LinkedIn icon, or follow the link here.

EVENTS, DEAR BOY, EVENTS...



Now we have emerged from the pandemic, the Development Office is planning a series of face-to-face events aimed at increasing the engagement of our alumni with the school and with each other.

Building on the success of the previous event in 2018 we are planning an alumni drinks party at the old Wilson's Grammar School building in Camberwell in 2023. This promises to be a highly nostalgic evening as the building, currently occupied by Camberwell College of Arts, is very much as it was when the school moved to Wallington forty seven years ago.

In the summer we are planning to hold a multi-generational 20:20 cricket competition at the school involving alumni and students. Also next year we hope to hold a special event for alumni of all ages, enabling them to visit the school, to reminisce, and to catch-up with old friends and recent developments.

Keep reading Wolf Salient or follow our social media platforms for the the very latest news of these events.

ALUMNUS OF THE TERM - JOHN COLLOMOSSE



Our Alumnus of the Term is Professor John Collomosse, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) researcher at the University of Surrey and Adobe.

Since 2019, John has led a research team at Adobe in Silicon Valley exploring Artificial Intelligence technologies and their use to combat fake news and misinformation online. Fake news is a major societal challenge, affecting many areas of our lives from democracy, to healthcare.

John is concurrently a Professor at the University of Surrey where he founded and co-directs the DECaDE research centre investigating the intersection of AI and Blockchain technologies. He is a Chartered Engineer and works with the UK Science and Engineering Council (EPSRC) on their Strategic Advisory Board for ICT.

John previously lectured at the University of Bath and has worked with the R&D divisions of IBM, Hewlett Packard and Vodafone. A 2007 Leaver, John completed his studies at Wilson's 25 years ago!

John recently participated in our 'Talk!' series, which offers pupils, alumni and parents valuable insights into the world of work.

A recording of Collomosse's talk - 'Fighting Misinformation & Fake News with Artificial Intelligence' - can be accessed here.

WILSON'S GIVING DAY SUCCESS!

Wilson's Giving Day 2022 saw a fantastic £135,536 raised to fit-out our new building with sports and music equipment; 542% of our initial £25,000 target!



515 individual donations contributed to our success, demonstrating both the strength and generosity of the Wilson's community.

To find out more about the key numbers from our inaugural Giving Day campaign, click here to read the WGD2022 review.

To see how our campaign unfolded, including details on the Mario Kart Racing Fundraising Marathon which contributed to our success, click here to view our Instagram updates!

Once again, a massive thank you to everyone who kindly supported our inaugural Giving Day campaign!

WILSON'S GIVING DAY

22/09/2022

FOLLOW 'WILSON'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM' ON INSTAGRAM

Rebranding from our original Wilson's Giving Day account, you can now follow Wilson's Development Team on Instagram.

To hear about our ongoing work at Wilson's, please follow and engage with the account at this link.

Further updates on our new building – the Britton Centre – are coming soon, as well as other information related to fundraising, engagement, and the Wilson's Alumni Network!

RECORDINGS OF ALL 'TALK!' EPISODES UPLOADED

The Development Team have recently established themselves on the Wilson's School website.

You can now access all things Development-related at the link attached here.



Additionally, this includes recordings of all our previous Wilson's 'Talk!' virtual career episodes.

Offering insights into a range of interesting professions, our first three online talks featured speakers from financial services, water conservation, and management and law.

To access these talks, and others, click the link here.

LEGACIES FOR WILSON'S: THE EDWARD WILSON SOCIETY LAUNCHED



We are delighted to be launching 'The Edward Wilson Society' as part of our 'Legacies for Wilson's' campaign.

We are planning to host our first legators event – for members of The Edward Wilson Society – at the school in 2023/4, or even earlier if there is a strong response to the campaign.

If you are interested in making a legacy to Wilson's – or if you have already made a legacy to Wilson's but have not yet told us – please read and follow the instructions in the legacy brochure by either clicking on the image of the front page on the left, or by following the link here. In particular, we invite you to complete and return the Legacy Pledge Form on Page 11.

Additionally, if you have any questions, please contact the Director of Development, Tim Edge, via email at TE@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk

'OUTSTANDING' IN EVERY CATEGORY

Following a rigorous Ofsted Inspection on 28 and 29 September, we are delighted to report that the school has been awarded an Outstanding judgement in every category, including “overall effectiveness”. The report highlights many of the things that make us all proud of the school, including attainment of “the very highest standards”, the “warm” atmosphere and a culture where “everyone is valued”. Wilson’s is indeed a “harmonious and collaborative community”, and we were celebrating just that sense of shared identity at our very special Founder’s Service in Southwark Cathedral on the day the inspection was announced in September; the timing did put teachers and leaders under a little additional pressure!

It is very important to us that the report highlights the role of “skilled pastoral staff” and the care to “nurture pupils into (becoming) accomplished citizens” because we value these qualities very highly. The “exceptional enrichment curriculum” is also praised, with “nothing left to chance” in order to ensure that every single pupil can benefit from the “extensive opportunities” available. Our very strong safeguarding arrangements are also mentioned: “leaders and staff are highly trained and alert to the signs of pupils at potential risk from harm”. The inspectors comment on the “highly ambitious” curriculum at Wilson’s and the fact that pupils “achieve exceptionally well academically”, being “engaged and stimulated in every lesson”. Parents, staff and pupils can take equal delight and pride in the role they play in making Wilson’s such a special place to work and learn.

In addition to this outstanding report, we are also delighted that recent Department of Education ‘Progress 8’ pupil progress scores indicate that Wilson’s adds considerable value to the expected attainment of pupils between the point they join the school and the point they leave, equivalent to an extra grade at GCSE and A Level. Wilson’s Progress 8 score was 1.06 compared with a Sutton Borough average of 0.35 for state-funded schools and an England average of -0.03.

BRITTON CENTRE NEARS COMPLETION!

We are delighted to report that our new building - the Britton Centre - is finally nearing completion.

Featuring a state-of-the-art fitness suite, nine music practice rooms, three classrooms, and several changing rooms, the new facilities will massively improve how music and fitness are taught at Wilson's, and will no doubt be enjoyed by staff and students alike!



A massive thank you must be extended to all the supporters of Wilson's Giving Day 2022, who have directly contributed to the purchase of a range of equipment needed to equip the new building.

Relatedly, we are excited to invite our donors to visit the Britton Centre, and tour the building, in January 2023!



OLD WILSONIANS AND ARTS NETWORK COMBINE TO REMEMBER KIRK BENJAMIN

The Old Wilsonians SuperVets football team, so called to pay homage to their old age rather than their skills, have been playing two games a season against Arts Network, a charity that supports those with severe and enduring mental health issues, to raise much-needed funds for the charity and draw attention to the issue of mental health.



Sophie and Kirk Benjamin with their daughter, Sienna

One of the OW participants in the early days was Kirk Benjamin, a man known to one and all as a vibrant individual, full of life and with considerable footballing skills.

However, beneath Kirk's outward persona was a man in pain, and after he took his own life, it was agreed that these regular fixtures should be in his memory, and a Cup was purchased – 'The Kirk Benjamin Memorial Trophy' – to be awarded to the winning team after each game.

'Men at the Hill', the OWs forum for discussing and encouraging members to talk about their mental health issues, has been functioning for some years and with great success in that it has helped many members cope with this cruel disorder, and our SuperVets side has 'Men at the Hill' emblazoned across their shirts, whilst Arts Network, founded in 1996, continues to help vulnerable people.

"The camaraderie and socialising helped me realise that I am not alone", proclaims one of its members.

As a way of saying 'thank you' to the OWs for the money they have raised for them, Arts Network have produced a beautiful mosaic of the Club's badge which will form an integral part of the Clubhouse following the proposed refurbishment at Hayes.

Whilst thanking this wonderful charity, I have no doubt that they will agree with me that the most important aspect of all of this is to draw attention to those with mental health issues and to help them in any way they can, and I am confident that the readers of 'Wolf Salient' will endorse these admirable sentiments.



The beautiful mosaic produced by the Arts Network, ready for display

ARTICLE WRTTEN BY MIKE PIKE OW



Old Wilsonians Football Club's (OWFC) 1st Team and Wilson's School's 1st XI pictured together after Vice President's Day on 3rd December 2022. Part of an annual set of fixtures, the Old Boys played three separate games against school sides, winning two and losing one. Wilson's boys were introduced to OWFC's ground, facilities and clubhouse at Hayes, and we hope that many will return to play for Old Wilsonians in the future!

Wilson's boys on football tour to Croatia in 2006!



Wilson's Ballboys at Wimbledon in 2016 - dozens of Wilson's boys take part every year.



Wilson's faceoff against local rivals WCGS on the cricket pitch in 2018.





Wilson's Climbing Club in action on the school's climbing wall in 2009!





A few shots from Wilson's Carol Service in December 2012, held in Croydon Minister.



During the activities week in July 2015, 120 Year 10 students, took part in a two day residential trip to the Great War battlefields of the Somme and Ypres. The boys paid their respects at Connaught Cemetery where Private Reginald Perrott (an Old Wilsonian) is buried.



Moving forwards, the "Through the Archives" section of Wolf Salient will be aim to solely be a collection of alumni-contributed photos and memories. Please send these to WAS@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk - thanks in advance!

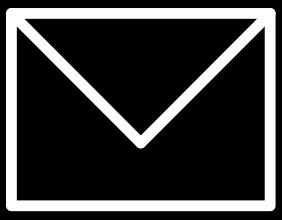
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CONNECT WITH WILSON'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- JOIN THE WILSON'S ALUMNI NETWORK ON FACEBOOK HERE
- CONNECT WITH WILSON'S DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ON LINKEDIN HERE
- FOLLOW WILSON'S SCHOOL ON LINKEDIN, AND LIST IT IN YOUR EDUCATION SECTION ON YOUR PROFILE, HERE
- REGISTER FOR ALUMNET HERE

VISIT THE NEW WILSON'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM AREA OF THE SCHOOL WEBSITE HERE, OR BY CLICKING THE LOGO BELOW

WILSON'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM





FOLLOW WILSON'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM ON INSTAGRAM HERE

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