



# WOLF SALIENT

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

ISSUE 1 • DECEMBER 2021



WILSON'S SCHOOL  
ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME, OLD WILSONIANS

BY WILL STRAW OW

Welcome to the first edition of 'Wolf Salient' - an alumni-focused, e-newsletter set-up to keep our ever-growing community of Old Wilsonians better connected.

As the Alumni Engagement Officer at the school, I will be creating, editing and producing one edition of Wolf Salient per school term.

If you have any queries, ideas or additions for the next edition of Wolf Salient, feel free to contact me at [wasewilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:wasewilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk) with your thoughts.

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## WHY 'WOLF SALIENT'?

BY WILL STRAW OW

The first challenge we faced after deciding to establish an e-newsletter for Wilson's alumni was to name it. We eventually settled on 'Wolf Salient' - find out why below!

Since 1883, the school has been accustomed to using the Wilson shield, pictured at the top right of this page, as its coat of arms. Adopted by our founder, Edward Wilson, the shield represents Wilson's current identity, and its historical significance can be traced back to the school's former location in Camberwell - here, a stone version of the shield is situated proudly above the main door of the old school building.

At the centre of the Wilson shield - and indeed, many other coats of arms associated with the name Wilson - is a wolf salient. Salient describes the position the wolf is in; evidently leaping up, but with both hind paws on the ground. The wolf is clearly the shield's main feature, and thus intimates that the symbolism associated with the animal is relevant in a Wilson's context.

In heraldry, wolves signify many characteristics. Throughout ancient history, the animal has been admired as a symbol of strength, intelligence, and courage. Its appearance on other crests has also sought to convey the rewards of perseverance, industry and nobility.

Indeed, these attributes are ones the school aims to inspire in all its pupils. Following a successful time at Wilson's, it can be inferred that Old Wilsonians are subsequently expected to be wolves salient themselves, and herein lies the thinking behind the name of this newsletter!



The Wilson Shield



A Wolf Salient



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

BY TIM EDGE

Wolf Salient will offer you news from alumni as well as career and mentoring opportunities, an archive section, and news of events. Will's appointment means that we can now allocate greater time and resources to connecting you with each other as well as offering you the very latest news from the school.

As we emerge from the pandemic, Will and I will be organising and promoting events, talks and communications, all designed to keep you in touch with Wilson's and your Year Group.

As you will be aware, though, any newsletter is only as good as the material it contains. I therefore encourage you to send us news and information for consideration. This can be news from your life, your career, or your year group. I look forward to hearing from you soon!  
te@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk

**"WE WILL BE ORGANISING EVENTS, TALKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, ALL DESIGNED TO KEEP YOU IN TOUCH WITH WILSON'S AND YOUR YEAR GROUP."**

## CLASS OF 2020 DRINKS RECEPTION

BY WILL STRAW OW

On Friday 3 September, we were thrilled to finally welcome back the Class of 2020 for an informal Drinks Reception. The final count saw 89 alumni in total return to the school's grounds, a number that far exceeded our expectations.

The Wilson's staff thoroughly enjoyed seeing the boys again, and we are hopeful that those Old Wilsonians who attended also enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with their former teachers, the school and each other.

The event was a great success, and will hopefully serve as a blueprint for future reunion events moving forwards!



## HISTORY-MAKERS! OLD WILSONIANS 1ST XI CROWNED CHAMPIONS!

BY MIKE PIKE OW



Back Row: Matt Golding, James Sellar, Josh Lawrence, Louis Pryor, Dan Seston, Jon Rodda, Dave Ellicott-White, Andrew Pomeroy

Middle Row: Mike Pike – scorer, Jane Abbett – scorer

Seated: Ollie Willis, Syd Sherlock, Michael Mitchell (Captain), Matt Abbett

I am delighted to be able to report that the Old Wilsonians' 1st XI cricket team was crowned champions of Kent League Division Two on September 11th after beating Upchurch, their tenth consecutive victory of the season.

They did so in style by hitting a massive 407 for 3, the largest total in the Club's 135 year history, before bowling out the opposition for 172, thereby securing a 235 run victory. The team will now play in the First Division in 2022 – the first time in the club's history – and are looking forward to competing at a higher level, having already set their sights on reaching the Premier Division to test their significant talents to its ultimate!

The Old Wilsonians run four Saturday cricket teams and are always keen to recruit boys from the school – even before they have left – so why not be amongst them? This procedure has worked incredibly well as far as the Old Wilsonians Football Club are concerned, and there is no reason why it cannot do the same with the summer game.

For more details contact me at 020 8659 6443, or by email at [owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk)



## THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES

BY NATHAN COLE

Dear Old Wilsonians,

First of all, thank you for taking the time to read this inaugural edition of Wolf Salient which reflects the school's commitment to keeping its alumni base better-connected.

Wolf Salient is part of a broader development strategy entitled "Wilson's for life". Our aim is to fully engage the wider Wilson's community of alumni, parents, former parents, current and former staff and all those other individuals who are associated with the school. Crucial to this strategy is ensuring each Old Wilsonian joins a robust alumni network that facilitates a close, symbiotic relationship between alumni and the with the school.

Please watch out for further updates from the Development Office and future editions of Wolf Salient; there is plenty to look forward to on the horizon!

Best wishes,

Nathan Cole  
Headmaster

## MAKING WILSON'S WORLD CLASS - CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS!

BY TIM EDGE

I am delighted to announce that the biggest Capital Development Project in the school's recent history is underway.

A new Music School, new sports changing facilities and a state-of-the-art fitness suite are being built on-site with work set to be finished in summer 2022.

Whilst funding for construction has been secured, we are now looking to raise the funds required to ensure we can properly equip these new facilities.

We are appealing now to potential benefactors to assist us in fitting-out these new buildings.



It will cost at least £25,000 to equip our new fitness suite and the Music School will require significant investment, particularly in the provision of new pianos.

Further information on the Music and Fitness Project is included here:

<https://www.wilsons.school/fundraising/>

If you would like to sponsor a piece of individual fitness or music equipment please speak with me (0208 773 7684 or email me at [tee@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:tee@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk)).

If you would like to make an online donation to support this project, please [click here](#).



## A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW SCHOOL CAPTAIN

BY RONNIE GUHA

The Wilson's calendar is packed with exciting events involving different people from across the entire school. Although the last year and a half has been rather dominated by the pandemic, the easing of restrictions has, however, allowed us to reintroduce familiar events as well as introducing new ones. As School Captain, this has provided me with plenty to look forward to in the year ahead!

I recently had the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Remembrance assemblies, and am eager to run Student Board and meet parents at social events - all things that I have watched my predecessors do. I anticipate the public speaking that is involved in events such as the Christmas assembly, prizegiving and the end of year prefect dinner. As well as this, I'm excited to see the launch of our new charities programme in which students will be creating their own plans to fundraise and carrying these out during the year.

One intriguing idea that has caught my attention is the school's increasing use of the platform Alumnet to ensure a strong connection is maintained with former students. It is an excellent method for networking and keeping in touch with former classmates. I believe that mentoring from Old Wilsonians is also an excellent opportunity for current students to learn about potential career paths in a vast array of different fields.



Click on the link below to register for Alumnet; it takes less than a minute!

[HTTPS://ALUMNET.SOCIAL/REGISTER](https://alumnet.social/register)





Photographs from the school's visit to Jordan in the 1950s. Wilson's boys, who were invited to wear traditional Jordanian Headdress, not only met King Hussein, each of them shook his hand as well!



A snap of the Class of 1995 Reunion which took place at the Spread Eagle, Croydon in September 2018!

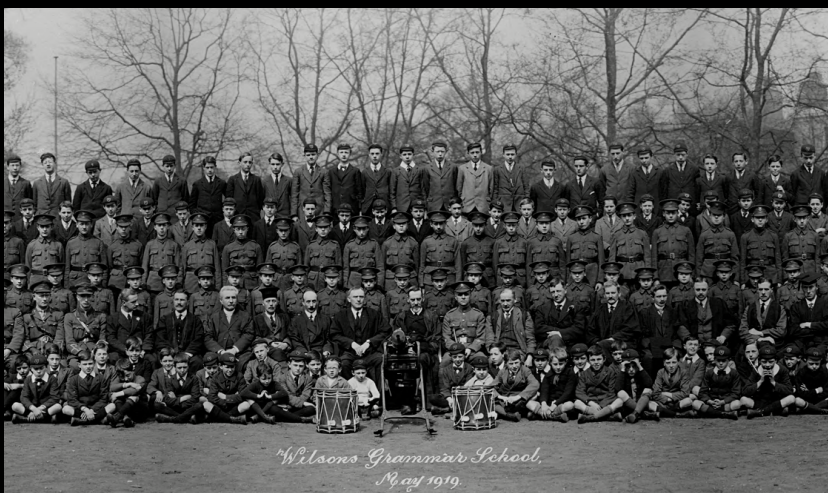


Wilson's 1st XI at the close of a successful 1908/09 season with manager Mr Brocklebank pictured on the right-hand side.



A more recent football memory; the 2020/21 1st XI last season photographed prior to kicking off against Repton in the National Cup Final - the first time the school had ever reached this historic landmark!

Wilson's boys photographed on the French Exchange trip to Grenoble in 1979!



An excerpt of the 1919 whole school photograph with Headmaster, Thomas Knight, seated in front of many Wilsonians in uniform.

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 WASewilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk - thanks in advance!

**NEW PUBLICATION RELEASED...**

**PRO PATRIA MORTUI**

TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ORIGINAL WILSON'S SCHOOL, BORN MEMORIAL AT CAMBERWELL, ON 20 OCTOBER 1921.

**Foreword by Lady French OBE**

**Letters from the Front**

**Witnesses at war**

**Ball of Honour**

**VICTOR SHIRAPNEL**

UNDERSTANDING THE SHIRAPNEL CHALLENGE CUP


**Victor George Frederick Shirapnel**, mentioned on the right, was a model **Wilsonian**. Throughout his time as a pupil at the school in the early 1910s, The **Star** 1910 edition of *The Wilsonian* magazine notes as much.

**Industrious, hard-working, and a player of brilliant abilities, shown in the classroom, the cricket and football fields, in the debating society. In the chess team, and on the Magazine Committee.**

It was on this cricket field in particular however that Shirapnel excelled. Shirapnel was Captain of the school's cricket XI in 1910-1911, and received international honours in 1911. Shirapnel took his seat in the School Council, at 17 years, and led students at 18 years in 1912.

Shirapnel's remarkable ability did not go unnoticed by his superiors. During County Cricket C.A.B. alongside studying at Wilson's and also an agent at Cambridge in Magdalene College, Oxford, aged just 21.

Shirapnel's future plans were disrupted however as he was commissioned into the 10th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment in late 1915, serving as an acting Lieutenant by December.



Despite missing the Third Battle of Ypres and the First Battle of Passchendaele on 22nd March 1918, Shirapnel was killed by machine gun fire during Operation Michael, the last German offensive of the war.

Following his death, Shirapnel's father gave 'The Shirapnel Challenge Cup' to the school and also an agent at Cambridge in Magdalene College, Oxford, in every year who ever won a Wilson's cap!

To this day, the Shirapnel Cup is still awarded every year to the best captain in the upper school. In 1919, Shirapnel's achievements and memory were kept alive.

On 29th October 2021, a pamphlet - titled 'Pro Patria Mortui' - was produced to mark the centenary of the inauguration of the original Wilson's School war memorial at Camberwell.

The 16-page publication includes letters written at the Front by Old Wilsonians and the reflections of Nathan Cole, Headmaster, among other things.

If you would like to receive a digital copy of Pro Patria Mortui, please get in touch!

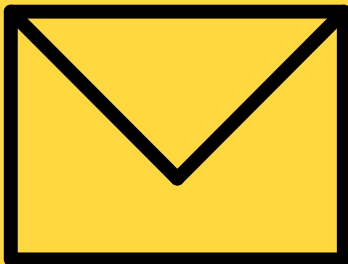
# GET IN TOUCH WITH US

CALL US



THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE:  
020 8773 7684

EMAIL US



EMAIL TIM EDGE:  
TE@WILSONSSCHOOL.SUTTON.SCH.UK

EMAIL WILL STRAW:  
WAS@WILSONSSCHOOL.SUTTON.SCH.UK

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