

SCIMITAR

AUTUMN EDITION 2015 ISSUE NO. 180



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
OLD FINCUNIAN ASSOCIATION

OUR CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

OLD FINCUNIANS ASSOCIATION

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September 2015

Dear Old Fincunian,

Welcome to the late summer issue of the Scimitar.

I know that it may sound a long way off but may I remind you that the re-union is only a year away (and you all know how 'time flies' as we get older). As previously mentioned Ian Thomas, our organiser supreme, has already reserved the Bowls Club for this reunion.

So, please put a note in your diary, on Outlook, on Google Calendar or whatever:

DATE: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH 2016

VENUE: GLEBELANDS (FINCHLEY) INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

ADDRESS: SUMMERS LANE

(the entrance is between Finchley Wingate Football Club & David Lloyd Tennis Centre)

TIME: From 1.30 pm

PRICE: £10 per person

I, like many of you was saddened by the news of Teddie Stevens' death. Somewhat ironic that he 'featured' in my last intro. I have many memories of Teddie, from admiring his England Schoolboy photo outside KAP's office when I joined the school in 1959 through to playing in the Old Fincs with him a few years later. Not surprisingly much is written about him in this issue.

Eureka! I recently received a call from Diana Colville, daughter of Peggy Edwards, who told me that the 'OF Time Capsule' is in the Facilities Room at Finchley Memorial Hospital and, as I write, is awaiting a cabinet in which to be displayed.

Kind regards

Godfrey Mann

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COVER STORY

Hands up those who recognised the pictures on the front cover? The only one with his hands up is David Powell, the son of Molly Powell (nee Holbrook 1929/35). David wrote to me back in June.

You will have spotted, of course, that the two pictures are of one medal, obverse and reverse views. David explains :- *'The pictures are of a Finchley Schools Attendance Medal, such prize medals were given in many parts of the country as a reward for good attendance. They were in vogue around 1900 and for a decade or so before and after that. They dwindled on for a little after World War 1 and I have one for my mother-in-law dated as late as 1927; the last local authority to use them, Hull, continued until c.1938-40. However, 1887-1914 was their heyday. Some are engraved with the name of the recipient, for which a space is left on one side of the design. Others, such as the one on the cover, are more general. They were generally issued on a local authority basis rather than for individual schools. The one on the cover comes courtesy of an Ebay vendor Alan Judd and is undated; others, such as the one on page 4, commemorate a specific year'.*

David tells us he is a member of a group called the '...Token Corresponding Society {TCS}, whose main purpose is to do amateur research into the use of unofficial local coinage and coin-like objects issued by local traders, organisations and the like;..... One of my favourite recently-discovered tools is the online British Newspaper Archive, but unfortunately, most of the London area local papers don't seem to be on it yet, so references to Finchley County School are fairly few..... There are rather more to the Finchley School Board, mostly people falling foul of it for not sending their children to school.....

Under the Elementary Education Act of 1870, local authorities were required to establish School Boards with the responsibility

of building and staffing new schools. London responded quickly. Board Schools were paid by result; the money they received was dependent on how many children regularly attended. The more children, the higher the grants the Board received from the government. So, means had to be found to encourage good attendance, and in 1886 the London Board hit on an idea: give prizes to the children, as an incentive. This had been done to some extent in private schools since very early in the 19th century, but it was a new idea for the public sector.

The London system provided good attendees with a bright, heavy, shiny medal; individually engraved, and either hanging from a brightly coloured ribbon or a dated pin. As children completed consecutive years of full attendance, their medals were upgraded: from tin to bronze, and then bronze to silver.

In 1904 the School Board for London was integrated into the newly formed London County Council. The emphasis on 100% attendance wasn't actually welcomed by all; a 1907 review of the medal system revealed that many children were coming into school with diphtheria and scarlet fever, so reluctant were they to give up their perfect records and the chance of a prize. As time wore on, and certainly by the late Edwardian period, the goalposts changed somewhat; the Medal-winning child was required to be not only present, but also clean, punctual, well-behaved and industrious. The later LCC medals, from about 1912, no longer bear the name of the child, and have the more generally worded inscription 'Awarded by the London County Council for attendance, conduct and industry during the year'.

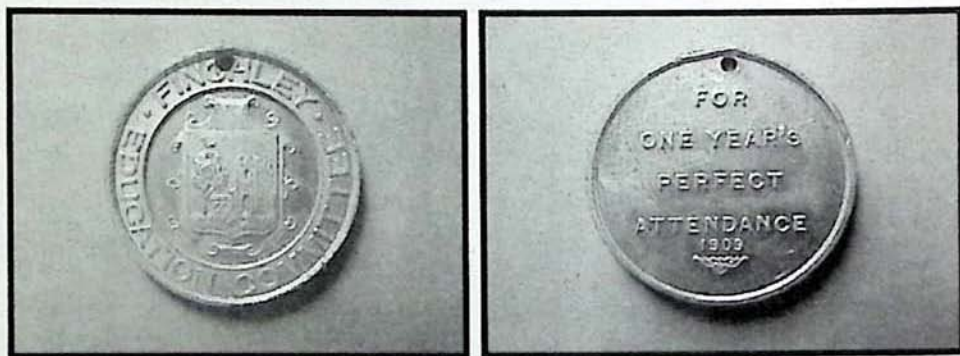
London County Council were not the only issuers of prize medals, nor the first; Liverpool introduced them in 1876. Other school boards across the country initiated their own prize schemes, and amongst them were many of the Middlesex authorities who abutted the LCC area. Finchley was just one of these, and they are also known for other local places such as Barnet (1903) and Hendon (1913). It would be nice to know the exact dates of issue. The LCC abandoned them after the

end of academic year 1919-20, but each local authority made its own decision. For local authorities who wanted a cheaper option than commissioning their own individual issues, the publishers Griffith & Farran mass-produced a small brass token {33x22mm} for more general use. These may account for many places which, superficially, are unrepresented by named location medals.

Attendance medals were generally issued on a local authority {i.e. borough} basis, rather than for individual schools; although there were exceptions, and a few Sunday Schools also jumped on the bandwagon. The Finchley Education Committee piece, whether dated or undated, has a rather pleasant rendering of what is obviously meant to be St. Mary's church. The example below is dated 1909.

I was just wondering whether any Old Fincunian readers have ever seen, or heard their elders talking about, anything like it?'

So, one last look at the Finchley Education Committee's School Attendance Medal dated 1909, obverse to the left, reverse to the right.



Thank you, David, for your contribution to this issue of Scimitar, and we acknowledge the following sources:-

HARD COPY SOURCES:

*"School Attendance Medals of England, Scotland & Wales",
by Cedric Dry {Whitmore, 1992}*

ONLINE SOURCES:

Alan Judd - Ebay vendor as known as Cobwrightfortishe

*"Never Absent, Never Late: School Attendance Medals in the Museum of
Childhood ":*

<https://collectingchildhood.wordpress.com/2012/07/21/never-absent-never-late/>

*London Metropolitan Archives, Information Leaflet Number 31:
London school attendance medals*

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/visitor-information/Documents/31-london-school-attendance-medals.pdf>

*"Medals, Certificates and Reward Cards of The School Board For London and The
London County Council",*

by Philip & Harold Mernick

<http://www.mernick.org.uk/attendance>

At the last reunion to be held in the Old School building, a group of us were discussing truancy and what to do about it. Our proposed solutions varied between giving rewards for attendance and punishing absence. One of our group, I believe it was Dick Russell (1947/53), argued that Reward Schemes are always counterproductive because they penalise good kids who are absent because of illness, etc. On the other hand, if we give kids too many rewards for attending school, they believe that the only value of school attendance to them is the reward. To justify these sweeping assertions, Dick mentioned an American professor, who in 1971 asked some students to solve puzzles for money and others to solve puzzles for no reward at all. He then stopped the payments and his researchers noted that the students who had received money for solving the puzzles stopped working on them once they were not paid to do so. The students who had not been paid continued to work on the puzzles because they simply wanted to do so.

Get my drift?

PUZZLE PICTURES

In the Summer edition you were confronted by three pictures of an unidentified event believed to be an Annual Football Dinner possibly about 1951. Well here are some more. In the first one we can see Jack Rawlings on the extreme right



And at the same event who are these three likely lads?





And on this page there are seven more men of mystery. Could that be Peter Dewhurst on the extreme right of the bottom picture?



In the last edition I made a plea for information about mini-reunions held by various Intake Years. Gillian Aked (nee Ryall 1956/61) was quick off the mark and sent me this picture, but no clue as to when it was taken :-



'Thought you might like the attached photo for a future edition of Scimitar. We were originally a five-some but one of us - Ingrid Anderson - died some seven years or so ago, leaving a faithful quartet. We meet infrequently but keep in touch at Christmas, etc. We have decided that our year group was 1956/61 (or 62 for those who stayed on to the Sixth Form).

Our names, reading from left to right, are Nina Myerson, Suzanne Clark, Gillian Ryall, and Pauline Bartlett. These are our maiden names. We are pictured at a restaurant in Covent Garden for this reunion.

For those who may remember me (Gillian Ryall) I would love to hear from you....chazmum2@hotmail.com.

I lived abroad for twenty years and so have been a little out of touch but always subscribed to Scimitar wherever I lived. Two girls I remember in particular are Jeanne Berg and Gillian Endersby and I would love to know what happened to them. We were in the same form and became good friends.....”.

So what about it, you 1956-ers ? Apart from Gillian Ryall, the writer of the letter, there are at least seven of you receive Scimitar :-

*Gordon J Scott married to Gillian Endersby
Wendy Carnoby (nee Lightfoot)
Ian Michael Parker
Roy Horton
Alan Lamerton
Ian Wilson in Canada*

Now, where was I ? Oh! Yes. I was talking about 1956. Well, all of these pictures have a link to 1956. The first is the 1956 Intake photographed in 1960 (I think!) :-



Names, please.



Under 14's netball team taken in 1956.

Back Row: Ann Brooks; Susan Charles; Violet Monk

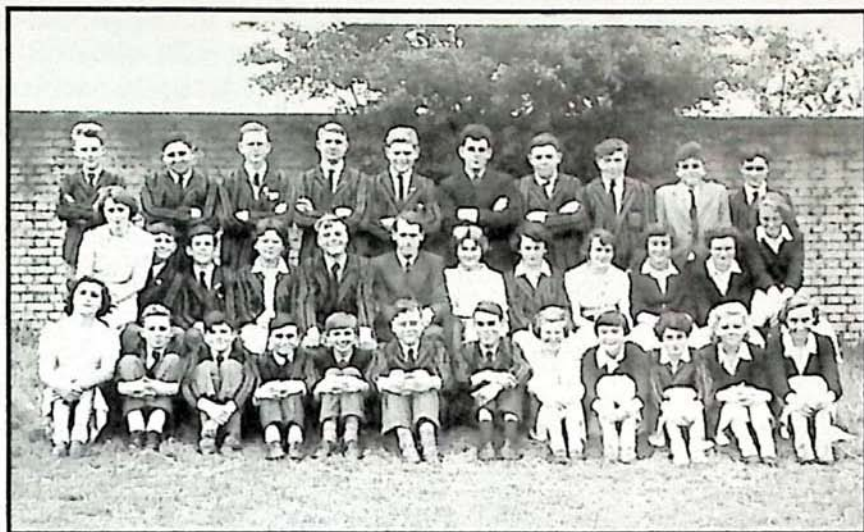
Front Row: Pat Watkins; Iona Jackson; Jackie Warner; Anthea Whyllie



3rd year rounders team taken in 1956.

Back: Violet Monk; Gene Fabian; Susan Charles ; Delia May

Front: Pat Watkins; Ann Brooks; Anthea Whyllie; Iona Jackson; Carole Austin



Form 3B - 1956

Back row: Dave Blewett, Melvin Ruben, Andy Alder, Wilf Eynon, Mike Eckett, John Kane, Andrew Benstead, Chris Barker, Brian Wonfor, Howard Heathfield

Mid Row: Valerie Clarke, Ian Thomas or David Everall, Peter van de Pol, Pat Coomber, Dave Walton, Mr. Rayner, Beverley Gatward, Angela Harris, Janet Price, Iona Jackson, Sue Charles, Brenda Leonard

Front row: Annabella Reavell, Graham Cox, Reggie Dickens, Stephen Emms, John Lamerton, Mike Nolan, Rod Champion, Elizabeth Stimpson, Susan Serner, Janet Lewis, Carole Austin, Valerie Dickens.

Time to move on, or to be more accurate, to move back.

Perhaps the most frustrating mystery about our Old School that I have come across is the mystery of "The Gun". I came across it when I was reading the Jubilee Issue of

the Old School magazine. In 1935 Leslie Miller (Form 3S) had written :-

'Why, sixteen years after the war, are we constantly reminded of it by having, outside our school gates, a gun, a ghastly relic of those years of needless bloodshed? It has done nothing to be proud of; on the contrary, in all probability many families are still mourning for their dead, mothers for husbands and children killed by it. Yet we have it there, as in a museum.

Many big schools have these objects so proudly displayed. Let the FCS set the example, let us do away with a weapon that a murderer has used with which to kill people.

WE MUST GET RID OF OUR GUN'.

The response from the Headmaster, Mr Carr, was :-

I have made a special appeal for the removal of the gun. If any old-iron merchant feels prepared to mobilise his own youth labour to remove the death-dealing piece of mechanism, he is more than welcome to do so'.

The War Memorial naming our World War 1 dead had been on the wall of our Hall since 1920 so I can understand why Leslie Miller and Charles Carr were so eager to condemn The Gun to the rubbish tip. However, it seems to me that the gun was placed there originally before the War Memorial was created as a symbol of victory and in memory of our war dead. A worthy cause I think!

I have been unable to find any other reference to "Our Gun" in any of the documents at my disposal and I wonder if anyone of you, out there, knows anything about it.

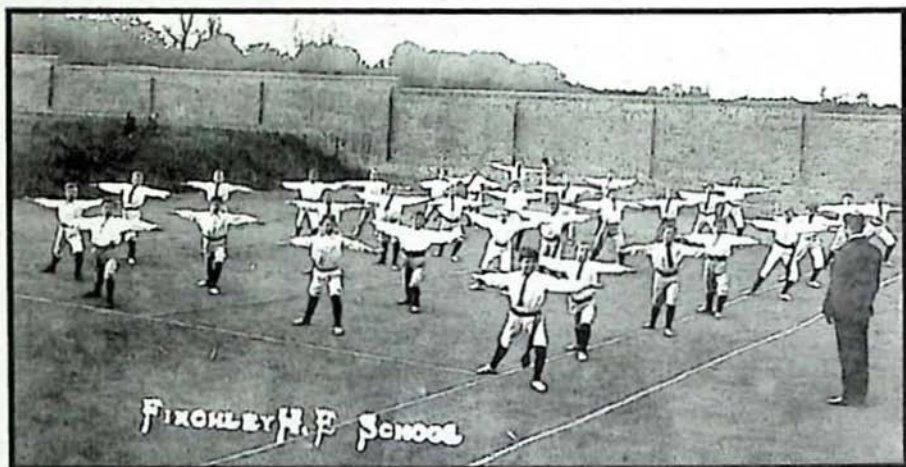
The next picture I found in a cardboard box full of photographs all marked "*Unknown Soccer Team*", or "*Unknown Netball Team*". Can anyone out there please tell us who are the girls in the picture, when and where it was taken ?



Peter Monk (1957/61) once again reminds us of the Finchley County School Digital Archive (FCSDA) which is full of pictures of the Old School including the buildings, the pupils, the staff and the documents and materials created while it was operating as a school. It also includes a lot of material about us since we left school, reunions and get-togethers.

So, to get to FCSDA go to the existing FCS web site at www.finchleycounty.co.uk and select the *NEWS* section, then follow the link provided to reach the FCSDA.

Just by chance, when I was putting my Scimitar papers away for the night, I found myself holding an old picture and for no reason at all I decided to see what other ancient pictures of the Old School I could find. Two of the oldest pictures were taken in 1905 while the Old School was known as *Finchley Higher Elementary School*. Written helpfully on the back of the first picture are the words, "Boys 1905", and "Girls 1905" on the second.



Remember these pictures from the last edition at pages 5 and 6 ? Well Derek Batten (1942/49) and Geoff Lence (1942/49) have started to put names to faces :-



Extreme left : *Len Pilditch*

Standing up: *Cliff Dunn*

Extreme right: *Alderman Bryson or Councillor Enright*



Second from left: *Cliff Dunn*

Standing up: *Alderman Bryson or Councillor Enright*

Extreme right: *K.A. Povah*



Extreme left: *Cyril Rawlings*

Second from right: *Jack Brazendale*

Extreme right: *"Personal friend of Cyril Rawlings who became a sort of associate Old Fincunian. I think his surname was Sandy but maybe Bill Segal or Peter Robinson could tell you more about him" says Geoff Lence.*

In the previous two pictures you can see that Geoff Lence and Derek Batten are in conflict over Alderman Bryson or Councillor Enright. Well, I have done my research and in the Old Fincunians Football Club History Book the conflict is resolved. The pictures are of Councillor Enright, Mayor of Finchley at the time the pictures were taken.

These pictures and explanations provide me with an excuse to raise a matter with you all. From the responses I get it is quite clear to me that most of you, if not all, like the Puzzle Pictures. The problem they produce for me can be illustrated by the following story.

In the Spring 2015 edition of Scimitar, No. 178, I published

a series of pictures about an event in 1974, and invited you to name as many people as you can. Next edition I published your responses but to make sense of them our readers require either a reprint of the pictures or a copy of the relevant Scimitar. The reprint of the pictures takes up a lot of space and space is money, so I would like to be able to reprint your responses without having to reprint the pictures. That means to make sense of that you should have access to your filed away copies of Scimitar, so you can find it easily and look up the pictures being referred to.

So, let's see what happens when I reproduce this appeal from our Chairman, Godfrey Mann :-

'The pictures on pages 4 to 6 of the Spring issue prompted memories - other than Jack, Derek and Teddie - some of the others in the pictures are: Jim Williams, Barry Ackerman, Dick and Sylvia Colomb, Mark Taylor (EJR's grandson) Eric Jones, Alan Humberstone, Peter Haughton, Brian Foyle (Old Minch), Bob Syms (EBOG), Alan Bloxham (Old Shene), Barry Starr, Jim Young and Alan 'Pud' Williams. Can you put faces to the names?'

To respond to the Chairman's question you will have to find your Spring edition and check it out. Well, am I talking a lot of old rubbish? Or am I talking a load of old rubbish?

Derek Woolley (1946/53), and his wife Ann , *'...were both delighted with the Jim Reeves, Allen (Pud) Williams and (Pip) Cox walk around Finchley, reported on page 27 of the last edition. Our first three years of married life were spent living in Hatfield but we travelled every weekend in Summer to play with the three amigos for Friern Manor and visiting all the pubs mentioned. I subsequently worked with Pip at what is now Middlesex University in mid-sixties'*.

The next picture is just a little bit later but it certainly qualifies as the earliest sports picture - the Finchley Higher Education School Soccer First XI of 1906/1907.



And what's more, we know the names of some of the players :-

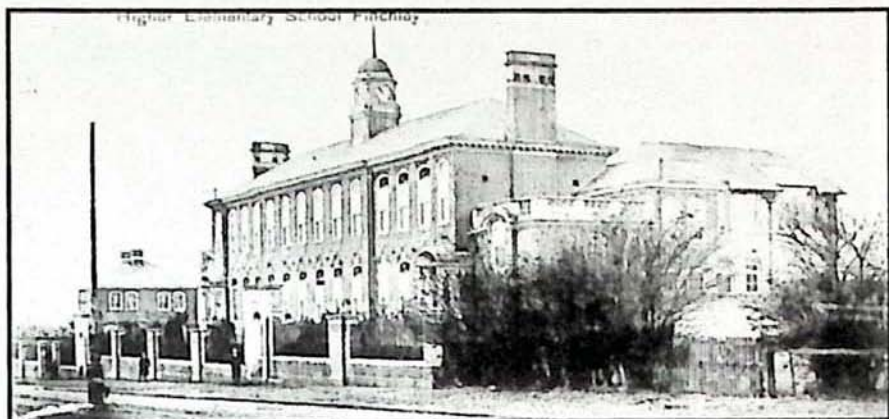
Back Row: 4th from left - Bill Wascett
4th from right - Oswald Glynn

Middle Row: 3rd from left - Ernie Baker
2nd from right - Les Smith

Front Row: Harold Sonex - Charles Carter

There is no shortage of photographs of the Old School building but few of them bear any reliable evidence of dates, but the next picture is definitely the earliest photograph of the Old School we have.

Taken in 1910 when the school was known as the
"Finchley Higher Education School".



This is fun! I am really enjoying this. The next picture is the earliest photograph of a classroom Taken in 1904 or 1905 it is of the Chemistry Laboratory on the top floor. Mr Carr, the Headmaster, is centre back and Mr L F Wallis is on the right. On the reverse are the words, *"Presented by Mr. L. F. Wallis"*.



Form 2B photographed in 1910 by "M Droom". The names are not in any particular order but they are recorded somewhat randomly on the back of the picture.



Taylor G. Boyce Hayward J Weir Gapson D M Beath
Heatherington

Neaso Mira Lawrence Mateer Eileen Leeming Simon
Irene Bevan

Mackechnie E Oulet Newton-Jones Winnie Lee Harward
Katherine Lord G Frutech Edith Harris

The sloping floor with its under-floor heating was a feature of the new school and can be seen clearly in the photograph.

Mr Carr, Headmaster, is centre back but the teacher in the left hand corner is unidentified.

Taken in 1911 this is a picture of what was then known as the "Lecture Theatre". In my time (1947/52) it was known as the "Geography Room".



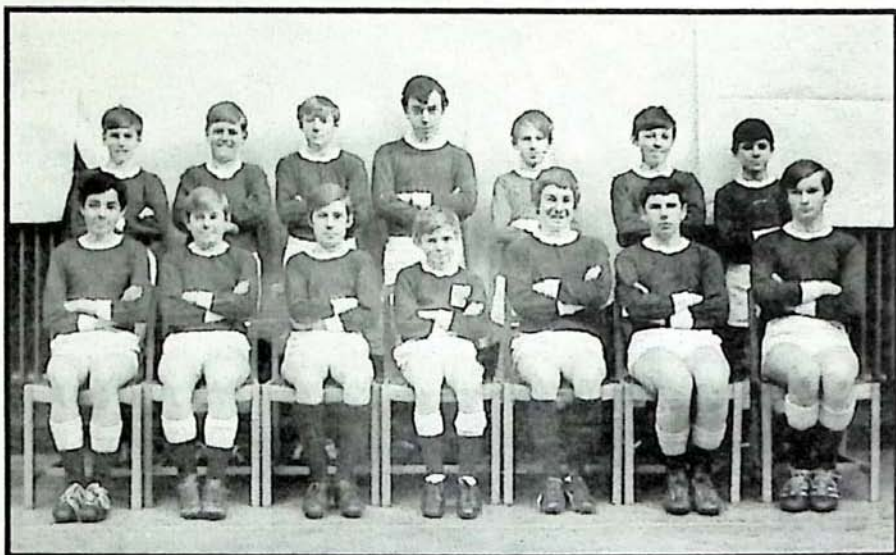
My memory is not what it was but I think this classroom was situated as follows. Stand on the stage and look towards the hall clock. To the right is the passageway to the girls' cloakroom. Just down that passageway on the right was sited this classroom. Maybe you know better?



And finally, to end this walk through the dim and distant past is one of my favourites.

The picture was taken in 1912 and it is the earliest photograph I have of an Old School Sports Day.

The next picture has appeared in the Spring 2014; Summer 2014; Autumn 2014 and now this edition. We had managed to name all but one of the players and now, thanks to Kevin Plunkett (1968/75) we can name them all.



Kevin wrote :- *'.....I had a look at the picture, I was sure that I knew the name of the "Mystery Boy" (second from the left in the back row), but like so often nowadays it had slipped away into a dark and dusty corner of my memory. Since I retired, I am a part-time flying instructor and one day while I was teaching the name "Neil Harris" leapt into my mind. I'm fairly certain that this is the "Mystery Boy". I might be wrong though....'*

So here, at last, are all the names.

Back Row: John Richardson; Neil Harris; Gary Dipple; Terry Gardner; Alan Cox; Paul Richardson; Michael Demetriou
Front Row: Albert Samuel; Steve Ralfe; Mark Cripps; Leslie Walters; Steve Tuckley; Paul Wolfe; Julius Wodjianski

Alan Williams, who taught at FCS from 1970, wrote in the Spring edition that he could only remember the names of nine of the boys and he could not name the "Mystery Boy". He added, '.....Are there any of the boys in the picture who is still in contact with Steve Tuckley?.....'.

Well, are there?

Mary Dark (1946/51) tells us 'It's 1.30 pm and I have just spent the hour since the postman delivered *The Scimitar* reading it from cover to cover.....Memories were rekindled regarding the birth of *The Scimitar* and of turning the handle of the Gestetner at the School and in subsequent years of the "bagging up" parties at Fred Holbrook's home in Highgate. Memories, too, of meetings of the Finchley Mummers at the home of Gil and Doris Butlin. Who remembers the male ballet to the music of "Dance of the Hours"? I must search out a photo.....This afternoon is our regular "tea dance", so I must be on my way.....'.

Who is going to own up to being a male ballet dancer in the "Dance of the Hours"?

Brian Andrews (1965/72) :- 'Thanks for the Summer Scimitar, received today but not fully digested yet.

However, (there is always a "however") on page 40, the last page of that edition, entitled "And Finally" you state that I am busy organising a reunion for the 1965 Year Intake. Not Guilty I'm afraid - this is the first one that I haven't organised as Christine Gilbert and Pamela Hayhoe (both 1965/72) offered to organise it this time and who was I to disagree?!

However, I will, of course, send you a report after the event in September 2015.....'.

The next letter should not be in the "Puzzle Pictures"

chapter really, but when I tell you it is from our regular correspondent Barbara Cranfield (nee Sear 1934/39) some of you may begin to realise why it is. It is not that Barbara is puzzling, or that her life at school and thereafter was mysterious in any way. I put her letter here because of that 80 years old headed notepaper which shows her address as one which she moved away from donkeys' years ago.

'Oh! What fun we seem to be having with this nice old paper! It takes me back to when we first moved into Richfield Farm with two small children and an old fashioned telephone. We lived there for thirty eight years until we moved out to make room for my farmer son (Brian) and his twins - by that time our first two children had left the nest.....I was sad to leave Richfield and occasionally wept a little as the walls of this cottage closed round me. There were times when I wanted to run. Now, of course, this cottage is home only to me - set in a field all my own! And my giant Grandsons down from Oxford come to feed the ducks in my pond! One of the boys on a walk recently picked me up and carried me across a muddy puddle! "How light you are Grandmother". (Thank goodness!)...'

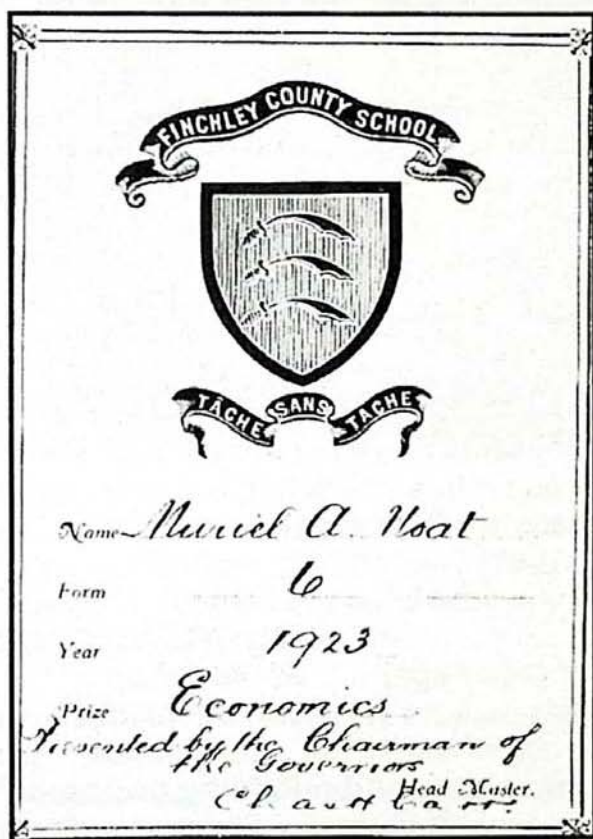
"Five Young Ladies" taken in 1955 or 1956, possibly in Elspeth Frost's garden



*Julia Searson, Anne Wallace, Elspeth Frost, Frances Giles,
Valerie Dickens*

BITS AND PIECES

One of my favourite TV programmes is "Flog It" and I am always delighted when one of the people presenting their antiques or collectibles explains that they bought it for fifty pence in a Charity Shop. Ted Stevens (1945/51) wrote these words shortly before he died on 28 May :-



'.....On a historic note. Imagine my surprise whilst working on the books - sorting and pricing in our local Oxfam Shop where I have worked for many years - I came across a School Prize. Presented to Muriel A Moat for Economics

In 1923. It is signed by Chas. H Carr (Headmaster) - a beautifully bound copy of Milton's Poetical Works.

I enclose a photocopy of the familiar presentation label....'.

Although "Moat" is not an unknown name amongst Old Fincunians, I have no knowledge or record of 'Muriel A Moat'. From the information we have she must have been born about 1906 and attended FCS from about 1917 until 1923.

Geoff Lence (1942/49) was surprised when he read in the last issue that there are eight Old Fincunians from his own 1942 Intake still reading Scimitar :-

'I should like to take up your offer to name the eight members of the 1942 Intake who are still reading Scimitar. I am amazed there are so many. I know three of them are myself, Derek Batten and Doreen Coghill (nee Page) at Kircaldy. Another could be Joyce Bignall (????) (nee Talbot) up in Norfolk, but I could not begin to guess the other four.....'.

Well, Geoff, here are the names :-

<i>Geoff Lence</i>	<i>George A Sharp</i>
<i>Derek Batten</i>	<i>Les Stitchbury</i>
<i>Doreen Coghill (nee Page)</i>	<i>Phillip Gillam</i>
<i>Elizabeth Flood</i>	<i>Joy Bigwood (nee Talbot)</i>

Earlier I was mumbling and bumbling on about Puzzle Pictures because whenever you wrote in with answers about them, to make sense of your answer I had to print the picture again. In that way our readers would know what you are going on about. I was trying to persuade you to have your back issues of Scimitar handy so you could look up the picture and thereby remove the need for me to reprint it. Well, the next picture just had to be

reprinted so that you will understand what I am going on about.

It appeared on page 22 of the Summer Scimitar No. 179, and it was sent in by George Holmes (1948/55).



George claimed that the picture was of a scene in the School Play, *"An Inspector Calls"*. The characters on stage are from left to right, *Geoff Karet (1947/52); George Homes (1948/55); Jeff Icklow; David Sparrow (1947/54); and Elizabeth Smitheram (1950/55)*.

Joan Ridley (1947/54) immediately challenged George and declared that the scene portrayed in the photograph was from a School Play entitled "Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure". "I am correct as I was in it, and I have photographs and an autographed programme. Sufficient evidence I submit", said Joan. Apparently, Joan had played a gun-toting broad and Elizabeth had played an attractive seductress in the play. Was there any doubt as to whether George had actually been in the play?

Joan then produced three more photographs of the play. The first one shows George Homes, Elizabeth Smitheram, Jeff Icklow, an unknown, and Joan Ridley.



Same characters in the same positions in the next picture which caught the moment when Joan Ridley produced a firearm with deadly intent. All Joan would say about it was, *'I am wearing a hat provided by Miss Temkin. (Ugh!).'*



In the final picture we have two unknowns, Elizabeth Smitheram on her knees, and David Sparrow. Joan says, 'I love the photo of Dave Sparrow in his pirate mode (out of character of course). His great line was "So perish all who cross my path". One I have used myself on occasions since. A triumph of a production on the school platform'.



Joan also produced a programme which had been autographed by the whole cast and most of the stage hands.

It was called, "*Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure*" and is set in the library of Ambrose Applejohn's house in Cornwall one winter's night.

George was quick to admit his mistake :-

'Was I even in the play? The photographs rather indicate I was there playing a Police Inspector and I suppose I only remembered my own insubstantial contribution rather than the name of the play. Thanks to Joan for properly naming the play as "Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure" and correctly recalling the seductive Elizabeth Smitheram's name.

What with Elizabeth seducing away and the gun-toting Joan Ridley, what chance did a mere Police Inspector have of solving the crime anyway? No wonder I remained in the dressing room and missed my cue. Thank goodness I was much better at running businesses than at acting. My apologies to Thespians everywhere.....Until my unforgivable error fades away a bit, we are currently enjoying a golfing holiday in Fuerteventura where the Internet reception is poor, almost negligible, hence the delay in replying to your emails'.

Looks like RIDLEY 1 v HOLMES 0

Robert Shade (1961/64) has written from New Zealand :-

'It occurs to me that a way of motivating a few Old Fincs to write might be to suggest they write about one positive and memorable experience. Remembering an incident brings the milieu entirely to life and facilitates the gathering of little chips of memory.

I was reflecting on some of my positive experiences at FCS last night. One of many, but very special, was the time Miss Hill drew me aside after morning assembly. Now those who knew of Miss Hill will be aware that she had the unenviable task of checking that the girls were wearing the correct uniform. Her eagle eye would scan the uniformed girls as they took their place in the assembly hall. It was all standing in those days and you could almost hear the guilty one's knees

knocking. Names were called out...you could feel the tension in the air...punitive decisions assailed these miscreants and then, unexpectedly (obviously I wasn't a girl) my name was called out for an after assembly tete-a-tete. My trouser length seemed pretty OK, I'd shaved the day before and hair length, well it was the Beatles era... and anyway wasn't this the senior master's job?.....Finally as the hall emptied Miss Hill just wanted to congratulate me for being the first student that year to be accepted for uni. and my first choice too. Not sure how she knew...the grape vine worked differently in those days. She had a lovely smile and was all warm. It took me aback to see a very human side of teachers who really cared about pupils. I truly felt bathed in the warm rays of the sun. As it happened most of my other class mates were accepted also and so they should have been, they were far brighter than I ever was. You don't forget things like that do you?'

Well, do you forget things? Derek Woolley (1946/53) does. He sent us this photograph but he doesn't say why, and he forgets how it came into his possession. He thinks it was taken 1948 or 1949.



Back Row: Unknown; Cornford; Piggot; Reeves; Hall; Kitchener
Front Row: Mitchell; Stevens; Richardson; Unknown; Mitchell

Joy Bigwood (nee Talbot 1942/47) has not been in touch with us for a very long time but she was so taken by the letter from Barbara Cranfield in the last edition that she could not resist putting pen to paper :-

'...I lived in Long Lane just a few doors down from the shop on the corner of Abingdon Road which Barbara wrote about. The name of the owners of the shop was Brunning, not Bunning, and the family consisted of Mr and Mrs Brunning, son Harry and daughter Vida. Harry took over running the business after the very tragic loss of his father as Barbara said. But his father hadn't gone outside for a smoke, he had gone to take a hot drink out to a night-watchman who was in Abingdon Rd outside the shop, and sadly they were both killed outright by the bomb.

As we are approaching the 70th anniversary of VJ Day I have been thinking back to August 6th 1945 when I was at Bletchley for a fortnight helping to bring in the harvest with a party from FCS. I was wondering how many Old Fincunians who were there at that time are still alive today.

I remember that Barbara Isaac nee Greenstreet was there. I went with her and Michael for a swim in an old gravel pit, making sure to only stay very close to the edge! Some of the girls went home early because they were homesick but the rest of us had a really enjoyable time. The work was quite hard but we felt that we were being useful.

There was a piano in the school where we were staying and we used to gather round for some top class music in the evenings. I think that I told you a long time ago of how we heard the news of the Japanese surrender. I am surprised that there has been no mention either on the BBC, or in the newspapers that I read, about the forthcoming anniversary, whereas VE Day was celebrated in style'.

Anyone any ideas?

Connie Fozzard (1945/52) does not get about as much as she used to (tell me about it!!) :-

'You will have noticed that I did not attend the re-union this year. My physical mobility, chiefly walking, is now poor due - I think via self-diagnosis - to the fact that it is my lack of reliable balance that has affected the confidence that I should remain upright. I have a disabled badge and still drive my 'trying hard to be vintage' Saab 9000 CSE. She has celebrated her 22nd birthday and still has not clocked up 100,000 miles. That is because I no longer undertake long drives. Indeed, I almost never go out of the Duchy of Cornwall and normally only take short drives around the City of Truro. How time brings us down to a level which we have not recognised since very early youth! But, fear not, I am well in myself and am thankful that the disability is physical rather than mental.

Today, I have been up to my field, bought in about 1983 to plan for activity in my retirement. Well, retirement came and I have enjoyed the wonderful and peaceful five and a half acres. Just under half of that I planted with a small orchard of apples, pears and plums and some bushes of red and black currants. Today, a friend and I ventured up to the somewhat neglected site, of which my farmer neighbour had topped the overgrown grass. Although the brambles have had a field day, the black currant crop is very heavy. In a couple of hours we picked about 8 pounds - each keeping that which we ourselves had picked. Now to process them - eat, freeze and/or jam making. It is lovely to have rural access. The field is just 1 mile from my central Truro house and the site has a cathedral and long train viaduct view in the distance. There is a road, but it is certified a 'Quiet Lane' and the peace almost overwhelms one. There is virtually no traffic sound and the hedges form a good sound break.

I shall return to my indoor quiet life. Au revoir for the present '.

MONEY MATTERS

Colin and Janine Luke, our Treasurers, have sent this report and list of *'Subscriptions & Donations received since the last Scimitar.*

<i>'Roger Francis</i>	<i>Alan and Joyce Scrine</i>	<i>Jim Reeves</i>
<i>Alan Williams</i>	<i>Robert Shade</i>	<i>Jackie Lackmaker</i>
<i>Jean Sutter</i>	<i>Colin and Janine Luke</i>	<i>Philip Sage</i>
<i>Audrey and Derek Humberstone</i>		

Please remember that subscriptions are due on 1 September each year and are still only £5 per annum.

Please send all monies to :-

Colin or Janine Luke
79, Northumberland Road,
New Barnet,
Hertfordshire, EN5 1EB.

*Cheques should be made payable to **The Old Fincunians Association** - please do not send cash.*

If you would like to pay by Standing Order you can now do so direct to :-

Old Fincunians Association
Abbey National
Account No. 43501533
Sort Code: 09-06-66.

Colin and Janine can be contacted by telephone on 0208 4490245, or by email at colin@colinluke.co.uk.

Please do not send money or cheques to the Editor.

LEST WE FORGET

Les Richardson (1944/49) has written to say that Ted Stevens (1945/51) has died :-

'Have just heard the sad news that Ted died in hospital on 28 May 2015 from a major stroke. He had not been feeling well for several weeks but this was a complete shock for us all. We have been friends since Manorside days and have been in touch ever since. More recently we have been trying to recognise and remember names of people in a video of our scouts group.....'

The first to respond were the Mitchell twins (1945/50). Brian wrote:-

'Teddy was in the same year as us, but in the "A" stream, so although we were aware of his prowess on the sports field, never got close to him. Personally, I will always remember him as never being without a cheeky smile. A sad loss from the thinning ranks of the Old Fincunians Association'

Denis wrote :-

'....I played alongside Ted for two happy years in the Old School's 1st eleven and we were awarded our School Colours together. Happy memories'

I was particularly touched by the sad news because the Summer Scimitar, No. 179 contained a piece from Ted with his own explanation of one of the puzzle pictures. That edition went to the printers on 25 May and was still there when Ted died on 28 May. You received that edition on, or about, 1 June, so you were reading Ted's words at least five days after he died. I am so sad because Ted was not only my hero during our school days, but also one of the nicest guys I ever knew thereafter.



This is possibly the most popular picture of Ted, wearing his England Schools International Football Cap.

Geoff Lence (1942/49) has shared with us some of his memories of Ted :-

'I have four distinctive memories of Teddie.

The first was at school watching this pocket dynamo running a game on the back field and thinking "Wow! He is brilliant".

The second was, of course, his tremendous feat in getting a schoolboy international cap. If I remember rightly, the game was played at Upton Park, the home of West Ham United.

The third and fourth memories are of games he played for the Old Fincunians. The third was against Old Quintinians on a pitch out in the flatlands of West London with a howling gale blowing down it. Most of the players had difficulty making any progress at all, but Teddie was able to kick the ball along the ground with consummate ease - brilliant.

The fourth was one of the best goals I have ever seen in any class of football. I always thought Teddie could head the ball harder than most players could kick it and this was a classic example. I think I have recounted this goal in a previous Scimitar, but it will bear repetition. The game was against Old Minchendenians at Bramley Road. Don Wakefield took a corner at the Cockfosters end. Teddie was standing on the

edge of the penalty area.....and the ball winged its way towards him conveniently at his head height. His head hit it with such tremendous power that the ball rebounded from the back of the net into the goal area. Absolutely superb.

But more of these separate memories were of his conduct and attitude. He played the game with such passion and enthusiasm (a miniature Duncan Edwards, if you like) but always fairly. He did not need to commit fouls - certainly his opponents found it very difficult to foul him. Perhaps that is why he did not make the grade professionally - he was too modest and not hard or cynical enough.

Such a sad loss, but a wonderful advert for the game!'

Derek Woolley (1946/53) says '*...I was never good enough to play football with Ted Stevens other than with a tennis ball in the playground. You will remember the games against the wall under K.A.P's Office.*

I remember 1949 when the School Magazine, "The Fincunian", reported:-

"The progress of "Teddy" Stevens during the season has reflected great credit on himself and the School. Firstly, he gained his Middlesex colours against Kent and then captained the team against Berks, Bucks and Oxon. He then played for London Boys against Birmingham and was selected for the South of England against the North. He acquitted himself well in this game and after a trial match was selected as a reserve for England against Wales. He crowned this long run of success by gaining the final honour - an England cap, in the game against Eire at West Ham where England won 7-1".

By 1951 the School Magazine was reporting on Teddie's progress while "On Tour with Tottenham Hotspur Juniors". It was written by Teddie himself :-

"We set off on our journey to Berlin in high spirits, with the responsibility of upholding British Soccer prestige resting upon our shoulders. As we drew nearer and nearer our destination we wondered what it would be like in Berlin (we all had brought extra warm clothing and iron rations in case we were suddenly transported to colder climes). From the train window the extent of the bomb damage in Germany seemed terrifying. The numerous skeleton of buildings, heaps of burnt and twisted rubble and the gaping craters where once had towered the mighty edifices of the Third Reich, presented a gruesome spectacle.

We arrived in Berlin in the morning and were given a very friendly welcome by a number of German Football Officials. Our hotel - the hotel Willemschule - was beautifully situated in the midst of a small wooded estate. We arrived on May 1st and were just in time to see the May Day Demonstrations. But as our palates were more accustomed to cold tea than sparkling vodka, we elected to refuse a prolonged visit in the Eastern Zone. We made many visits to places of interest, usually by Strassenbahn (tramway, any reader of Deutches Leben II will confirm the translation). We spent an enjoyable evening at the ballet and were also shown over the Olympic Stadium, built for the 1936 Olympic Games. A magnificent building. It was here that we played our first game.

From the football point of view we acquitted ourselves quite well; winning both our matches. The games were very keenly contested however, and I considered myself very fortunate and greatly privileged to play with such grand footballers. We made many good friends with our opponents at the reception after the matches, and hope to meet them again in the future. We had a comfortable return journey, and so rounded off a very memorable visit. It was a wonderful experience to tour with Tottenham Hotspur football party for which I am very grateful. At all times we were well looked after by Mr Vic Buckingham and Jimmy Joyce, who helped make the visit such a success".

Derek continues :- *'I played alongside Teddie at cricket for F.C.S. and the Old Fincs. He was a very accomplished batsman and a typical chirpy wicketkeeper. Unfortunately he was struck down with T.B, I think, and he left school while in the VIth Form and took up a position in the Pathology Department of the Medical Research Institute at Mill Hill, where he was joined a few years later by our Editor, Les Sharp.....'*

Mary Prokipchuk (nee Jacobs 1948/53) wrote from her home in Canada :- *'.....I was sad to hear that Ted has passed away and I will send a card to his daughter, Mary, and son, Kevin.*

My connection with Ted goes way back to when he and my eldest brother, Geoff, were in the Cubs together. Talk about "mutt and Jeff"! Later Ted started courting my best friend, Brenda Woods, who lived at No. 8 Cromwell Road whilst I was at No. 14. The Stevens family lived just around the corner on Long Lane and I remember his mother particularly well. The whole family seemed blessed with a wonderful sense of humour and were "salt of the earth" people. I attended their wedding (Les Richardson was there (another Old Finc I believe). After Brenda and Ted were married and I moved to Toronto, Brenda and I kept in touch until she passed away in 2004. I was so happy when Ted picked up the pen and maintained contact. He was clearly a devoted father and over the years the family enjoyed many camping holidays together. He and Brenda lived an unselfish life, helping out in the local charity shop, volunteer work and various other good causes, and I admired the way they lived their lives. I remember Ted for being a "good man" with a cheeky grin!!

I can't comment on Ted's soccer ability although I know he was a talented soccer player and that he had a bright future in front of him on the soccer field, but fate intervened when he was unwell at some time in his youth.....Anyway, he obviously enjoyed many happy hours playing for the Old Fincs.....'

Mary may feel unable to comment about Ted Steven's soccer ability but I know many people who can. Peter Robinson (1940/47) for example :-

'Ted will be remembered as the best F.C.S. footballer ever. He won his International Cap with England Schoolboys in 1951, and went on to play for Spurs Juniors. He seemed set for a professional career with Spurs when to our surprise and delight, Ted "transferred" to the Old Fincunians in 1956.

A short, stocky midfield player, Ted was strong in defence and attack with great ball control and distribution, and had many match-winning days. He also played cricket for the OF's; a good punchy middle-order batsman and wicket-keeper.

As well as being a good all-rounder, Ted will be remembered as a most easy-going, unassuming and modest team-mate and friend.....'.

Connie Fozzard (1945/52) writes - *'...Teddy Stevens was indeed in the same year as I; the intake of 1945.....It comes to mind that he started in 1B and, with one or two others, was promoted to the A form either at the end of the first year or the very beginning of the second.*

At that stage, I did not have much interaction with him. I do remember, however, that he joined the group of us who chose German - rather than Latin, when we were expected to take a second language as our French was considered good enough to bear such an increased load. For those who were reckoned not to be good enough in French, they had extra French laid on to strengthen their grasp of that language.

We all liked Teddy, but I have to say that I do not recall much about him until after we had matriculated at the end of the fifth year. We all knew of his football prowess, that he was sought for professional preferment and that he was to play for England

as a schoolboy....I did see him playing football up at the sports field and it was very impressive, the way he planned and executed his moves.....I do remember that his England cap was on display in a Perspex case outside the Headmaster's office.

He was to be signed as a professional footballer by one of the North London clubs - was it Arsenal or Spurs? But T.B put paid to that . Never once did I hear him embittered by such a disappointment and loss. He just got on with life and made the most of what he had

It was in the Science Sixth that six of us came close. Six of us were together in Chemistry with Mr. Vivian, Physics with Mr. Salmond and Pure Maths with a lady teacher whose name I have forgotten. Peter Hall, Nicky Phillips, Teddy and the Barnard twins and I shared a locker room. Whilst they were all reading engineering subjects, I was reading Botany and Zoology in addition as separate subjects. I also had to attend all the Pure Maths classes, so that Mr. Salmond did not have to teach the proofs with and without calculus. I seem to recall that both Teddy and I were struggling a bit with some of the Physics.

I think that we all - well most of us in the science sixth after taking the very first A levels, - spent time on the tennis courts with our very variable styles. But then we all went our own ways until we all met up again at a re-union. I believe he went to work at the Mill Hill Research Centre, but I never learned what were the specifics of his interest. I can't remember the year of that re-union, but a number of photos was taken out in what had been the playground. What do I remember of Teddy ? He was great; never an ill word, always kind and generous to others - a good friend and a perfect gentleman....'.

Peter Hall (1945/52) was one of Ted's form mates 'mostly remembered for my severe punishment from his boxing gloves during the days of sport's master Tom Cleghorn, and his thunderous shooting and heading ability when I was

playing goalkeeper during the days of sport's master Jack Rawlings. Ted also enjoyed English Literature possibly inspired by Messrs. McNelly and Jones. He was a great sportsman and a much respected pupil.

I have also heard that Margaret Hancock (1941/46) has died. She was a close friend of my sister, Margaret Jack (nee Hall (1942/45). Margaret Hancock was always full of energy and smiles and will be remembered for her netball skills. Margaret was the sister of Freda Hancock (1940/43), also great friends with my sister, Margaret, who died about three years ago. Their friendship started 1942 when the Hall family moved from Leeds to East Finchley and my sister, Margaret, joined the second form at FCS and also the Girl Guides at Muswell Hill.....'.

As I was reading Peter's letter, I remembered that I have been sending Scimitar to Freda Hancock (1940/43) ever since I became editor in 1996 and then the Summer edition 2015 was returned with the envelope noted, "Miss Hancock died more than two years ago and the family has moved away from this address". I have no further details but what a sad way to learn of the death of an Old Fincunian. And now her sister Margaret has gone.

Katherine Colcombe is the daughter of Helen Josephine Lansdell (1954/59) and sends the sad news that her mother died on 30 January 2015 suffering from mesotreloma. I have no further details.

George Auger (1949/56) informs us that Ann Seward (nee Prosser 1950/56) died at her home in Hertfordshire in May this year. Her sister, Valerie Birch (1951/58), died in June 2014. Both were keen Scimitar readers.

Roger Francis (1952/59) felt '...the need to acknowledge the sad news from Tony Hosier regarding the death of Barry Furr. Although some four years adrift of my own time at FCS, I well

remember that Barry and Tony were staunch friends of my late brother, Malcolm, who tragically died so young in 1991. I also recall how emotionally affected Barry was at Malcolm's funeral, along with many of his friends, both at school and thereafter. I found Tony's excellent obituary most poignant and I certainly had not realised how influential Barry was in his chosen field....'.

Robert Shade (1961/64) *'...was saddened to hear of Barry Furr's passing. I remember him as a larger than life character in more ways than one. His solid build on the soccer field made him a huge asset if he were playing on your side but definitely one to be avoided in Opposition'.*

Roger Emms (1955/60) *was reading Tony Hosier's obituary of Barry Furr when he 'remembered something which not many people may know. I attended St. James Primary School in Friern Barnet Lane, and it was there that I first met Barry Hammersley. He was just "one of the kids" in those days, but I remember our teacher telling us that Barry wasn't in class one morning because his Mum had remarried, and Barry was going to have a new name. I remember him coming in that afternoon and proudly announcing "from now on you must call me Barry Furr". Are there any Old Fincs who attended St. James's Primary who remember Barry Hammersley?'.*

Len Lear is not an Old Fincunian and he lives in Perth, Western Australia. He has sent us this sad message about George A Sharp (1942/47):- *'It is my sad duty to inform you that George Sharp of Perth Western Australia, passed away on 27 March this year. I was a close neighbour of George and during the five years he was in the Village, we became very close friends. He was diagnosed with leukaemia in May last year and fought strongly going through a variety of procedures – most of which were accompanied by significant pain - but in the end, was only delaying the inevitable.....He enjoyed receiving the Scimitar and regularly referred me to pictures or articles of particular interest to him.....'.*

AND FINALLY

Ian Thomas (1953/60) has now started to take bookings for the next Old Fincunians Association reunion to be held at the Glebelands Indoor Bowling Club in Summers Lane on 17 September 2016. I repeat—17 September 2016. From 1.30pm onwards.

Here is the usual coupon for you to complete and send to Ian with your cheques. I repeat—please send your cheques to Ian and not to me! Ian's email address is shown so that you can contact him with any queries or problems. If you don't want to damage your "Scimitar" then write the required information in a letter or note or on a photocopy slip.

I WILL/WILL NOT be attending the Reunion on
17 September 2016

NAME(S).....

Maiden Name.....School Years.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

I enclose a cheque for £10 (per head) payable to :-
OLD FINCUNIANS ASSOCIATION

Send to:-

Ian Thomas
22 Colchester Road
Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5AE

Email:-

ianc.thomas@live.co.uk

Any contributions for the next edition by end of December please. Well, that's all there is this time so keep in touch and Bye 4 Now.

Les Sharp

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