

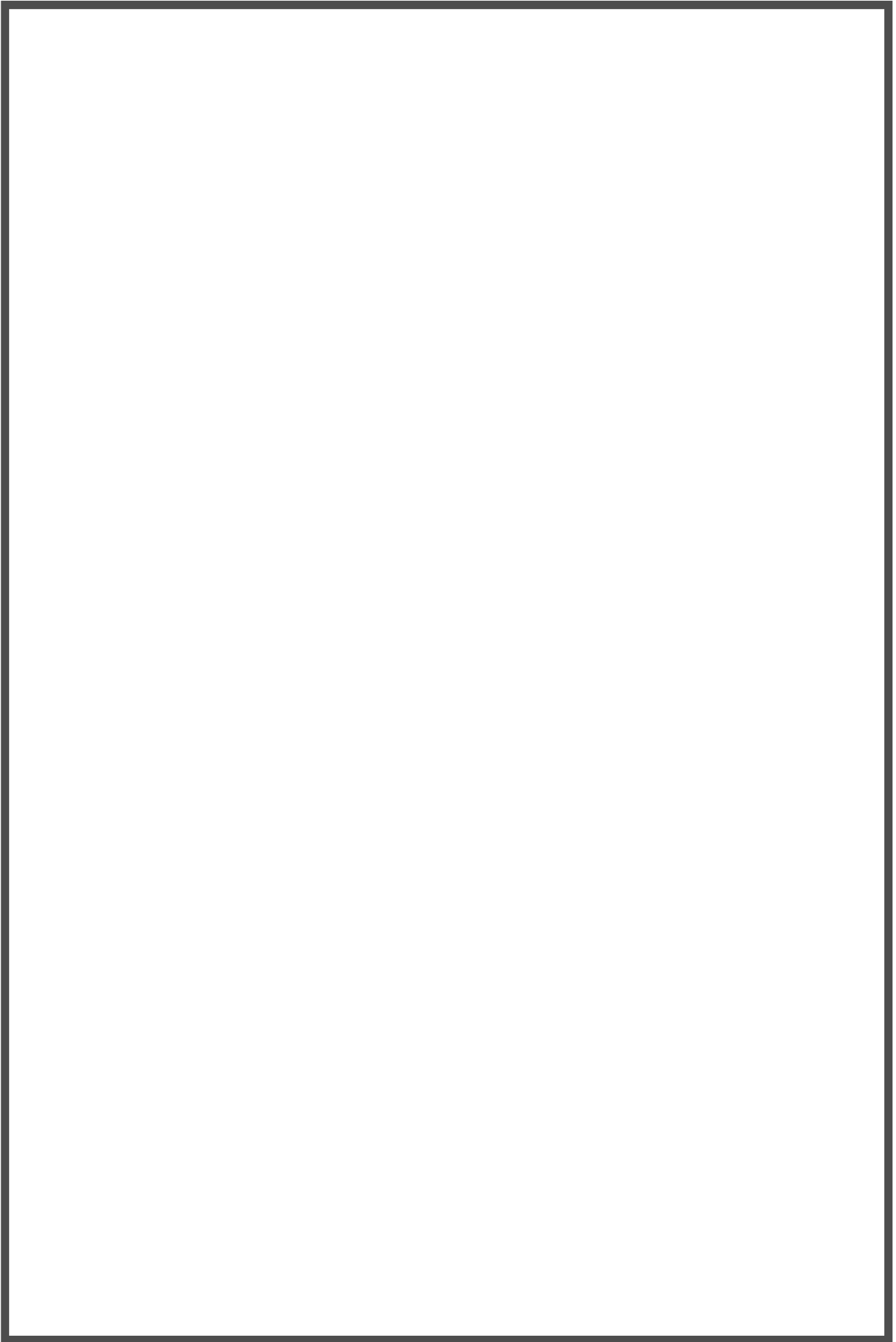
SCIMITAR

A massive industry
named after me - how
come IT is so hard!



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
OLD FINCUNIAN ASSOCIATION

No 187 Summer 2020



OUR CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

OLD FINCUNIANS ASSOCIATION

GODFREY MANN

30 TEMPLE AVENUE, WHETSTONE, LONDON N20 9EH

Tel: 020 8445 5706

email: godfreymann@btinternet.com

June 2020

Dear Old Fincunian,

I know you have been waiting for this edition of the Scimitar for a while but, as I pointed out in the letter dated November 2019 from Janine, Colin and I, the task of production is not a simple one.

We were hoping to hold a reunion in September 2020 but the Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel and rearrange for 2021. Details are set out elsewhere.

I also mentioned that I was trying to set up a new web-site to which members would register and, once registered, be able to post their own messages.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has scuppered its development as the lock down has prevented me meeting up with the site designer.

Finally, good reading and keep safe.

Kind regards

Godfrey Mann

Editor : Ian Thomas, 93 Mallard Way, Sudbury, Suffolk. CO10 0YL

Telephone : 07925 592816 **Email :** ianc.thomas@live.co.uk

COVER STORY

Well, just as it looked as though there wouldn't be another Scimitar - along comes an edition marking the lockdown era.

The quiet period has allowed me to isolate the information that has come into my possession after edition 186 and so I was able to concentrate on putting together something that may help to fill the hours.

I have been disappointed to have lost contact with the lives of Old Fincunians and so this edition concentrates on the way in which people have come together to help one another in a fashion that goes beyond the call of duty - in fact precisely the manner in which we Fincunians have always conducted our contact with one another.

I am particularly indebted to Brian Andrews for his deliberations and contribution which you will see in the following pages and which have helped me to develop the theme.

I am also indebted to the other contributors here including from overseas. There seem to have been some very interesting, even heroic, events over the last couple of years and which deserve being highlighted.

Regrettably we have lost a number of dear friends during the past two years. I have noticed recently that some may have succumbed to Covid-19. These are difficult and unpleasant times.

The planned reunion for 15th September 2020 has been cancelled because of the continuing travel difficulties.

It has been re-booked for 8th May 2021 at the usual venue in Finchley. Attendance remains free. More detailed information is provided at the end of this edition.

I hope that you will all stay safe until we meet again.

In this lockdown state we cannot fail to have been struck by the way in which people have come together to accept privations for the common cause and to express friendliness towards our fellow citizens. I certainly have noted the similarity between the present situation and the common support that we experienced during our time at FCS.

And then a piece received from Brian Andrews (1965-1972) came to mind. Brian sent me lyrics based on a song by “The Seekers” and which describes the affection and gratitude felt by many - not all - for the qualities we share. I have edited it a bit to fit the prose space.

I am Fincunian

We came to Finchley High Road when youngest days were done

To the hallowed seat of learning and so start our union.

We stood so proud and honoured that the call to tome had come

With the chance to learn life’s secrets and become Fincunian.

We were wide eyed and anxious, didn’t know how things were run

We were naive, couldn’t believe so much work to overcome.

We were workers, sometimes shirkers with homework barely done

But we learned much through our years and became Fincunian.

We are one but we are many and from all strands of life did come,

We share a calling and sing with one voice - “we are all Fincunian”

In our coats of many colours people knew from where we’d come

Thus behaviour was our watchword and trouble we would shun (?)

We were charming, and disarming, with our Finchley Stripeys on

We’d wait for the bus, make no fuss, always let old people on.

*A noble trait as we knew our fate - our time would duly come
When we'd be old but we chosen few would still be Fincunian.
We are one but we are many and from all strands of life did come
We share a calling and sing with one voice - we are all
"Fincunian"*

*We were the sports persons, the runners with races to be won
Despair or glory, proud or sorry, competing was collective fun
In frozen windy winter or under blazing summer sun.*

*We were sporty, sometimes gawky, many contests rarely won
At a small school with a small pool of talent to call upon
But we tried hard, never tired as round field tracks we'd run
It so made us, never fazed us, as we became Fincunian*

*Our streaming hair may disappear and lusty limb be but a whim
We are one but we are many and from all strands of life did come
We share a calling and sing with one voice - we are all "Fincunian"*

*We owe our standards to teachers who gave us a rule of thumb
To go on forward, always forward, and be the folk we have become
We did our years there, had joy and tears there, learned skills.*

*Made friends for ever, forget them never, all cherished every one
We've travelled high roads, sadly low roads, but thank the Lord
We can "hail" our comrades and give thanks to heaven.*

We are one but are many and from all strands of life did come

Brian goes on to discuss what might be a suitable collective noun for Fincunians. You might like to consider this and provide your own offering. (please keep it clean).

Among suggestions are:

A school, fellowship, college, alumni, excellence, friendliness ..of Fincunians?



An illustration of similar traits in the same sort of era was indicated by Denis Burnham and Tony Hosier (both 1955 entry). They both had careers at Barnet Press alongside a linotype printer by the name of John Motson who later went on to become a well known football commentator.

“Motty” retained his con-

tacts with former colleagues as witnessed by the below photo of our two Old Fincs with Motty at a Barnet Press Christmas reunion. I rather think he deserves honorary OFA status!



It is such a pity that the reunion cannot go ahead this September, as we had built up a good momentum — but like most things we have had to change for the common good and safety of our members.

Our caterer is still about and is looking forward to providing the usual large supply of delicious food at no cost to our members and to running the usual pay bar.

So 8th May 2021 is the latest date on which we have settled in the hope that it is not too optimistic.

In the meantime as an hors d’oeuvre, but also with apologies all round for the delay, there follows a display of photos taken at the reunion in 2018 when we all looked so much as we do now. The photos are provided without comment and nobody has been named, to protect the innocent. Hopefully you will get a flavour of what is possible in 2021.

Nevertheless, the ubiquitous Brian Andrews sent me a piece about the event as seen by “The sainted intake of 1965” - his words and not mine as a “Golden year” representative. Brian - please forgive me for exercising condensing editorship of your excellent report for financial publishing reasons. The full report is available for those who wish to read it.

“We came, we saw, we concurred that we were all looking pretty darn good for a travelling troupe of probationary pensioners. Taking the state shilling was to be claimed in less than a week after the 2018 reunion.

We were coming of age as this was our 21st official gathering since we last darkened the sacred portals of FCS in 1972. We were the first year to complete our education at Finchley Manorhill school where, in that year, we took our A level exams.

16 of our number made their way from North and West Wales, Southampton, Weymouth and many other worthy places including the mysterious East (Palmer’s Green). Bob Gower attended for the first time and it was wonderful to welcome him into the fold.

As the years rolled away we looked at old photos, spoke of anything and everything, important and trivial, sang the school song and noticed there was some lovely food left over.

It was then outside for our biennial team photo. We, amongst the youngest members of the old school, thought “what an elegant, swellegant party this was”. On returning everyone was leaving and the food — was it something we said?

We heard the following week from the IT department (Ian Thomas) that his year the 1953 Golden Year had 17 in attendance including one from further east than Palmers Green (Singapore). So our 16 on the day was unluckily pipped. Thus we came, we saw but we didn't conquer! But we will be back to try again - Bad losers? Us?”

I have struggled with time and editorship whilst continuing self employment. As years take their toll on my day to day work I hope to improve my IT proficiency (it couldn't get worse!) and will be pleased to receive comment, news and other offerings for a further Scimitar.

My email remains unchanged but my address and phone contact details have altered for a while, and will change again in due course.

At present I can be reached at 93 Mallard Way, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0YL. Contact is by mobile on 07925 592816.

I would like to correct another error in edition 186 of Scimitar and apologise formally to Peter Andrews (1949 entry) for incorrectly ascribing the origin of his report on the life of Bob Thorogood to Roy Sharp, who I hope will not have been embarrassed by the situation.

Our Chairman has commented on other ways of keeping in touch after the Covid-19 effect has lifted. Peter Monk's comments from edition 186 remain unaltered:

“The Digital Archive is available (best with browser on a PC). Go to https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1ztvu12erm6vs3q/AABtEhq_cZIzfvU2vNAeR6KAa?dl=0”

Alternatively get there via the FCS Website at <http://finchleycounty.co.uk/> which displays a link in the NEWS section.

And the best of luck with that!

Now, where were we in September '18?













BITS AND PIECES

Completing the reunion theme was an email received from Alan Williams.

“Following on from the very successful reunion on Saturday, I had a very pleasant surprise on the golf course on the following Monday.

I play at Batchwood, St Albans and turn out about once a year for the seniors team if they are short.

This was such an occasion and we were playing Shires who are based in Barnet. I was selected for the last match and noted that one of the opponents was a Brian Scott. I thought that the chances of it being the “boy” that I last saw 46 years ago in 1972 were relatively slim.

However, it was the Brian that I knew and we were both somewhat flabbergasted to meet on the first tee.

Apart from discussing Brian’s prowess on the football field I recalled entering him for an ITV penalty shoot out competition at Chelsea training facilities in Mitcham when the goalkeeper was Peter Bonetti. Brian scored 7 out of 10 on the day and still has the newspaper cutting.

We both worked at the Football Association although at different dates. Needless to say we were the last to leave the clubhouse.

Well, streaming hair and lusty limb - and a few pints! The perfect progression!”

However, the star of this edition has to be Roy Warne (1954 entry) who hit the press headlines worldwide in January 2019, and appeared in television and radio interviews following his rescue of the Duke of Edinburgh from the wreckage of the Royal Land Rover at Sandringham, Norfolk.

Roy, a retired barrister now living in Norfolk, was first on the scene and helped Prince Philip and the other parties in the collision.

I have it from good sources that Roy has much experience with Land Rovers having rebuilt one in the 1960s. Did you offer your services to rebuild this one Roy? Will you be applying for the royal seal? Did you leave your business card with either party?

Clearly FCS builds people tough and resourceful! We hope to see you at the next reunion.

Someone who keeps in touch with us in the UK on a regular basis is Ian Wilson (1955 entry) and who has lived in Vancouver Canada for many years. A number of OFs have gravitated to North America as well as to Australia, New Zealand and the far east.

It is lovely to hear from them and in 2018 Ian and his wife embarked on a trip to Africa which probably he wouldn't have envisaged when sitting in Miss Temkin's Geography lessons. He kindly sent some photos which I have not yet allowed to see the light of day. I hasten to remedy that.



Li-oning around on the back field?



**Tusk
sans
Tusk**

**Now what
was this prefect's
name?**



**Oh no,
that's another late
detention.**

And now an apology to Derek Woolley (1946 entry) who sent a lovely email from Oz in May 2018. I hope that another Scimitar will help alleviate your withdrawal symptoms. With reference to your reminiscences about the school cross country – we ran across Hampstead Heath and EJR used the same tactic of offering colours if we got into the first 100. I did achieve that. He didn't offer a pint for achieving top ten in the school senior race, however. I would have happily accepted that. My first pint from Jack was in the bar at East End Road after an Old Fincs game.

Mary Dark (1946 entry) sent me a report on the annual form reunion held in Richmond Village on 22nd July 2018 when eleven met for lunch:

“Stan and Stella (Napier) Vallis, Kipps Ruskin, David Leigh, Jim and Doreen Williams, Margaret and Ian Gunter, John Matton, Len Tebbutt, and Mary of course. The weather was beautiful and it was possible to sit out in the gardens before later afternoon tea. The time went all too quickly. The next reunion was held on 21st July 2019. A reunion planned for 2020 will sadly have been postponed. “

Jane Taylor (Greenwood) (1966 entry) emailed in September 2019 from her home near Montrose, Angus, Scotland. Jane moved to Scotland in 1976 but keeps in touch with a number of her old school friends and has just retired from 18 years working in a small rural school. Jane sends her very best wishes to all. Have a very happy retirement.

Alan Lamerton (1956 entry) is a nephew of Roy Charles Lamerton, known to us all as a name on the school war memorial.

Alan has kindly provided background information to his uncle's war service.

“Roy was born on 24th October 1912 and attended FCS from 1923 to 1929. In 1939 he married another former pupil Margaret Cooper.

He joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and in late 1942 was serving with the RAF 21 Squadron as a Sergeant Navigator.

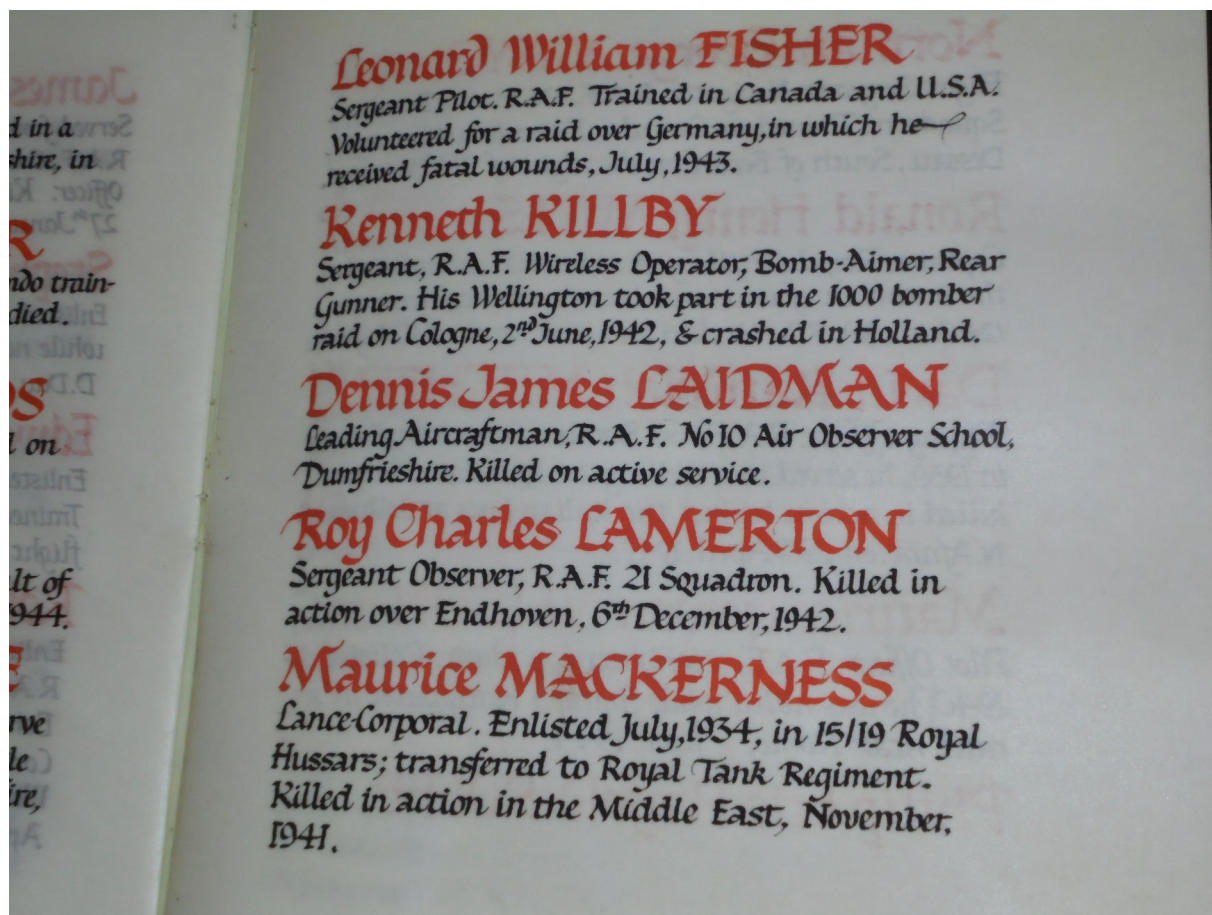
On 6th December 1942 he took part in a low level raid in a Lockheed Ventura Medium Bomber against the Philips radio and vacuum

factory in Eindhoven, Holland.

Roy's aircraft was shot down with 8 other Ventura aircraft and crash landed. Roy was killed but the other 3 crew members survived and were taken prisoner.

Roy is buried in a marked grave in a military graveyard in Holland.

The special generation."



It seems fitting to be able to display the appropriate page from our Book of Remembrance.

MONEY MATTERS

Subscriptions & Donations received since last Scimitar, up to 30th September 2019

Brian Andrews	Colin & Janine Luke	Philip Sage
Stephen Emms	Philip Silvester	Val Jeffery
Alan Cox	Tony Hosier	Roger Emms
Ken Amphlett	Geoffrey Batten	Betty Connor
Lesley Christofi	Margaret Brown	Ken Whitaker
K & J Turner	Michael Steed	Ann Anderson
Roger Hooker	Robert Catlin	Diana Colville
Joan Oram	Margaret Pryke	Ian Parker
Jim Williams		

Please do not send any more cheques to us for subscriptions — we will not be banking any more, and if you pay by standing order please remember to cancel it.

Thank you for all your support in the past.

Annual Accounts for year ending 31/12/2019

Opening Balance 01/01/2019		8,402
Subs & Donations received		395
Interest received		18
		<u>8,815</u>
Less cost of		
Members letter	<u>322</u>	<u>322</u>
Closing Bank Balance 31/12/2019		<u>8,493</u>

Although the extent of our Treasurers' responsibilities will reduce, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Colin and Janine Luke as they continue to oversee payments for reunions, Scimitar and any other expenses that arise.

LEST WE FORGET

Sadly we have lost a number of our comrades over the past 2 years.

Sheila Segal (Rawlings) (1946 entry) emailed to advise that husband Bill Segal (1946 entry) had passed away quietly at home on 8th May 2019 after long battles over 13 years against 6 types of cancer.

Bill was an extremely active and well known Old Finc, very much involved as a footballer and cricketer. He had been football team secretary and, of course, ran the bar at Finchley Club house in East End Road with Albert King, Chris Nutting, Brian Andrews, Dick Column, Ian and Margaret Gunter, and Sheila herself.

He and Sheila were regular participants in the annual Old Fincs cricket tour of the Isle of Wight where Bill would often keep wicket and on other occasions bowl.

Extremely sad not to see Bill's always smiling face at reunions.

Sadly also, Derek Nichol (1945 entry) passed away just 6 weeks after Bill on 25th June 2019.

Mary Dark emailed to advise that Ann Williams (1946 entry) died in 2018. Sadly, she had been in poor health for several years.

We recently learned that Howard Heathfield (1953 entry) passed away in 2011 in Holt, Norfolk. Howard had founded the Holt Museum Trust.

I am also aware from recent correspondence that the following have died:

Ashley Blackburn – husband of Pam Crisp. – Little Chalfont, Bucks.

Colin Dean – Potters Bar, Herts.

Alan Hamilton – West Langdon, Dover.

Mollie James – St Agnes, Cornwall.

Pat Lawrence – Wivenhoe, Essex.

Tina Rayment (wife of Derek) – Malpas, Cheshire.

Brian Rowland – Cheddar, Somerset.

Beryl Wilsher – London, Ontario.

Stella Brazendale – Bournemouth, Dorset. Letter returned.

Frank Draper – Hoddesdon, Herts. Letter returned.

Peter Hall – Burbage, Leicestershire.

Betty Stean – Wickham Bishops, Essex.

I am afraid that I have no background information to offer in respect of these Old Fincs who have sadly left us.

FINCHLEY COUNTY SCHOOL.
CLOTHING FOR GIRLS.

June, 1953.

All clothing and articles brought to the School must be clearly marked with the owner's name.

- + Goods marked + may be purchased or ordered through the School.
- = Goods marked = may be purchased from Messrs. Pullen of Temple Fortune.

WINTER UNIFORM to be worn from 1st October. (Form Form I from beginning of Autumn Term).

Outdoor.

- Navy raincoat or coat.
- + Navy beret with school badge: 7/-
- Navy or black gloves.
- Black low-heeled walking shoes.
- = Scarf (if worn) navy with school colours: 15/9d.
- + Navy gaberdine waterproof hood is obtainable. (No coloured headscarfs are allowed, but dark-coloured mackintosh hoods may be worn in wet weather).

Indoor.

- = Navy tunic in regulation style. (Pleated tunics are not allowed).

Length:	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"
	43/6	46/-	48/3	50/9	53/-	56/6	57/10	60/3

- = White square necked blouse for Forms I - IV: (short sleeves)

	34"	36"	37"	38"	39"	40"
In two-fold poplin:	19/6	20/1	20/9	21/5	22/-	22/7
In cotton:	17/3	17/3		17/3		20/3

- If made at home: Pattern Style No. 4898, open down the back.

OR white shirt blouse to be worn with school tie and tunic for Form V,
white shirt blouse to be worn with school tie and navy skirt for Form VI,
but tunic essential for games.

- + Girdle in House colours: 3/3d.
- + Navy V-necked regulation pullover with school colours: 26/6d.
- White ankle socks. Grey $\frac{3}{4}$ length socks may be worn.
- = Navy blue knickers (Interlock 4/9d., woollen from 10/-) with white pantees or linings. (In no circumstances may coloured knickers or petticoats be worn beneath gym. tunics).
- = Black gym. shoes: 7/9, 9/9.
- White interlock gym. vest (round neck) may be obtained from "Mary Lamb", of Tally Ho!, North Finchley.

SUMMER UNIFORM.

- + Blazer - striped in school colours, £3. 6s. upwards, according to size, (or navy blue, if already purchased).
- = Regulation school frock:

Length:	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"
	23/11	33/-	34/6	36/-	37/6	39/-	39/-

- White gym shoes.
- Navy blue or black regulation swimming costume.
- Swimming cap in House colour.
- = Plain navy cardigan (optional): from 24/9d.

Hair Styles. If hair is worn long it must be either plaited or tied back with a ribbon, which may be either in the school colour, black, or navy. White ribbon is allowed with summer dresses. In the interest of cleanliness shorter hair must be above the collar. Coloured slides and ribbons are not permissible.

Purses. We request that money brought to school should be in a purse worn on a shoulder strap. Pullens supply a plain navy flannel purse with strap and zip opening at 4/9d. (Can be supplied with school crest embroidered into material at 7/9d.)

Jewellery. No jewellery, apart from watches, is allowed.

Shoes have to be worn with school uniform.

AND FINALLY



**I WILL be attending the Reunion on
8th May 2021**

NAME(S).....

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

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

Send to:- Ian Thomas

**93 Mallard Way, Great Cornard,
Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 0YL**

Email:- *ianc.thomas@live.co.uk*

Ian Thomas

Editor: 93 Mallard Way, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0YL

Tel: 07925 592816 Email: *ianc.thomas@live.co.uk*