

OLD FLAMES

Spring 2024

The Old Silcoatians' Newsletter

Welcome from our Alumni Officer, Corrina Slaski.



CSlaski

Dear Old Silcoatian, it is with pleasure that we present the latest edition of our Old Flames newsletter. This newsletter relies on your contributions, so if you have any memories, stories, anecdotes or photographs, please forward them to me, for potential inclusion in future editions.

More information regarding events and communications can be accessed via our updated Facebook page and new LinkedIn group. Please contact me with any Alumni related feedback. Alumni@Silcoates.org.uk

SILCOATES & WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL

Silcoates have recently become patrons of Wakefield Cathedral: this offers us many advantages, some of which include the use of its many amazing facilities. The Senior Management Team have held meetings in Chapter House, one of the meeting rooms under the Cathedral, we have recently been invited to perform as part of their prestigious musical recital series, and, this year we are excited to announce that Senior Speech Day will be held at the Cathedral for the first time. We would like to thank Old Silcoatian and Wakefield Cathedral Development Manager, Rachel Copley for inviting us to be part of the Cathedral family.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2024

To commemorate the 120th anniversary of the School fire (13 April 1904), the whole School will be taking part in a sponsored walk during week commencing 15 April. We plan to walk the equivalent number of miles between Silcoates and its then temporary home, at Saltburn by the Sea. The money raised will be donated to the Staithes and Runswick Bay RNLI, as a very close bond was established during this difficult time, and the Lifeboat Station displays a School crest, as a result. If you would like to be involved in this event, or sponsor any of our students, please email alumni@silcoates.org.uk. More about the fire will be covered in the next issue.

May 2024

The Parents' Association **Golf Day** is on Friday 10 May at Normanton Golf Club - email pa@silcoates.org.uk for more information.

The Old Silcoatians' Day will be held on Saturday 11 May. For further details please visit www.silcoates.org.uk or email alumni@silcoates.org.uk.

June 2024

It would be lovely to welcome Old Silcoatians at our annual **Summer Ball**, which is being held on Saturday 29 June. Why not use this event to organise a reunion, particularly if it is ten or twenty years since you left?

July 2024

July sees the return of our "**Speed Dating**" **Careers Event and mock interviews**. An invitation to take part in these important calendared events will be communicated in due course.

October 2024

We would love to see as many Old Silcoatians as possible at the Tom Burrow Cup on 12 October.

REUNION OPPORTUNITIES

This Summer we have three golden opportunities to reunite with former students and staff of the school.

The first being the The **Silcoates' Parents' Association Golf Day** and Dinner on Friday 10 May at Normanton Golf Club. All members of the extended Silcoates' community are welcome to join us.

The day will commence at 12 noon, with tee off at 13.00 (shotgun start).

Golf and Dinner Ticket: £75.00 (includes golf, bacon sandwich and dinner)

Additional Guest Ticket: £25.00 (dinner only)

Tickets for this event are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To secure your place, please reserve your tickets by emailing pa@silcoates.org.uk.

Deadline to respond: Friday 26 April



SILCOATES

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION IS DELIGHTED TO INVITE YOU TO THEIR INAUGURAL

GOLF DAY & DINNER

AT NORMANTON GOLF CLUB
FRIDAY 10 MAY

The day will commence from 12 noon, with tee off at 13.00 (shotgun start).

Golf and Dinner Ticket: £75.00
(includes golf, bacon sandwich and dinner)

Additional Guest Ticket: £25.00
(dinner only)

PLEASE NOTE THAT TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT ARE LIMITED AND CAN BE PURCHASED VIA THE PA ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Please email pa@silcoates.org.uk to reserve your place.

The next is the social event of the year, the **Old Silcoatians' Day** on 11 May. This is a great day to dust off those shorts or skorts, and show off your sporting prowess against the current school teams, or simply to catch up with old friends. Following this you will be rewarded with a luncheon in the main Hall and an enjoyable tour of the School, should you wish. As a special treat this year, former PE teacher, Amy Knowles (2010-2021) will return to the School as our guest umpire. This year's event will also mark the inaugural presentation of the prestigious **Phoenix Cup**, which will be awarded to the overall winners of the day's competitions: Old Silcoatians vs Current Silcoatians. What a great way to spend an early Summer Saturday!



As I am sure you will all remember, the Summer Ball is the big event at the end of the School year, and the end of the School life for many of our students. Most of you will have fond memories of this special night, when you attended as students yourselves, and we would love to see you back at the School with your friends. Why not book a special **reunion** table in the the Sports Hall to celebrate the Sixth Form leavers and dance the night away. If you would like to join us on 29 June, please email alumni@silcoates.org.uk to purchase your tickets.



SILCOATES CONNECT

Unfortunately, we are having to say goodbye to Silcoates Connect. Some of you may have used it, while others have not. Please be reassured that your data will be securely transferred over to our new system. Any important information, up until that point, will simply be emailed out. Please continue to follow the Old Silcoatians Facebook and LinkedIn pages, and refer to the School's social media pages. You can also check the Old Silcoatians' page on the School website.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

We welcomed Old Silcoatian and Former Head Girl, Cara Maynard-Connor, back to School, to host a Careers Breakfast earlier this term. Cara shared valuable insights into the Vantage Explore Law Programme, a unique opportunity for Year 12 students to gain a first hand look into the world of commercial law, including networking opportunities with leading law employers, before embarking on their university journey. Pupils seized the opportunity to engage with Cara, posing intriguing questions about Law studies and gaining insights from her university experiences. It is always a pleasure to have Old Silcoatians visiting us, and we always include a tour of the School, for anyone that is interested.





It was also wonderful to welcome back Old Silcoatian, Anna Sykes. Anna, who graduated in 2020 and now studies at Nottingham Trent University, joined us to research for her teaching training. She spent the day observing our curriculum support for Year 6 to Year 7 transition, and spoke highly of our staff's fantastic teaching, caring practices, and commitment to Silcoates.

Old Silcoatians are always welcome back to the School.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

I have received lovely communication from Old Silcoatian, Tom Sharp 1953-1960, reminiscing about his days at Silcoates. Please find below some excerpts from his letter, together with the article he has so carefully and thoughtfully put together.



Covering letter :

Looking at Silcoates via the website, it is only now I realise what my secondary education could have been. In the early 1950's Silcoates had not been elected to the 'Headmasters Conference' (i.e. a Public School). The then Headmaster, Frank Spencer (Spencer's House), gained this distinction for the school and was inordinately proud to have achieved the status. Oxbridge entrance and Red Brick university places were of utmost importance. Sporting prowess was prestigious. The creative curriculum comprised a lump of well used plasticine on a grey flaking board for your first year, then nothing more.

The school had about 220 boarders and 60 day boys. A one form entry school actually, so when the 1st XV beat a large grammar school like QEGS it was really something. This happened twice in my time; in 1955 and 1960. Michael Binns mentioned 1955 in the last newsletter. I was a reserve and ran the line in 1960.

Dormitory 8 Yonge's, 1958



Yonge's House boarders were on the top floor, up the stairs, and in Sunny Hill House.

Back row from left to right – Walker, Saunders, Tom Sharp (Tertius), Jamieson (Major), Walton, Jagger, Jamieson (Minor)

Row 3 from left to right – Oddie (Minor), TBC, TBC, Kenyon

Row 2 from left to right - Bruce, Broadbent, Varley, Lawson, Fletcher

Front row from left to right - Maxwell (Head Boy), Ireland, Oddie (Major)

Moore's House boarders were on the first floor, up the stairs.

Back row from left to right – Sharp (Major), Whitaker, Holyoake, Hardcastle, Frost

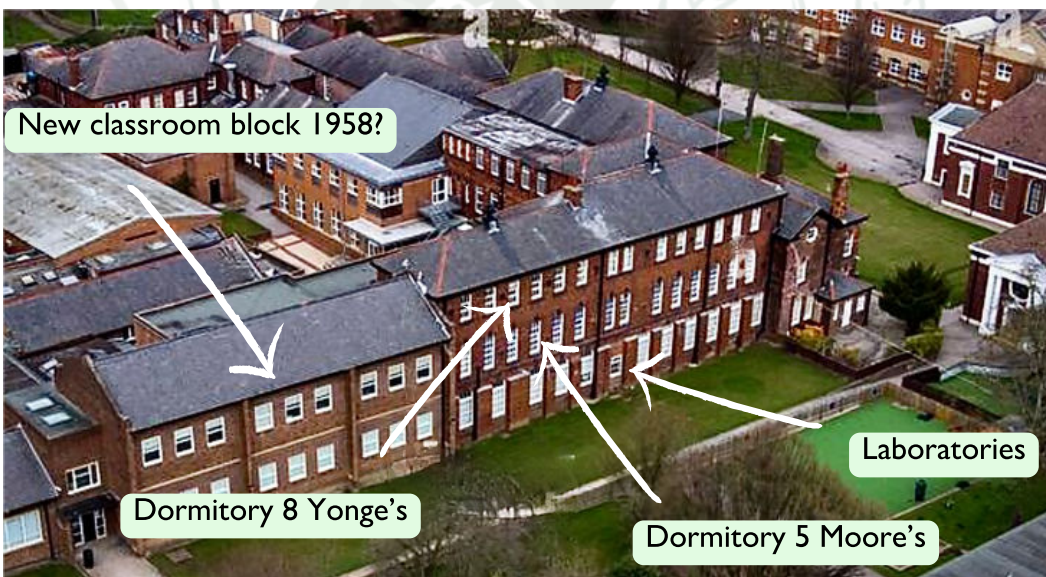
Middle row from left to right – Sharp (Minor), Duffin, Davy (Minor), Seager, TBC, Davy (Major), Edmunds, TBC, TBC, TBC

Front row (sitting) from left to right - Crowther, TBC (Monitor and Prefect in charge)

Dormitory 5 Moore's, 1958



The labelling of brothers, and others of the same surname, by major, minor, tertius, quartus and in my case quintus led to much amusement. I started in 1953 in upper 3rd (year 7) as Sharp Quintus, as I had an elder brother in the fifth form and there were also three other Sharps, not related.



Form 2 = Year 5
Lower 3rd = Year 6 (11 plus)
Upper 3rd = Year 7
Lower 4th = Year 8
Upper 4th = Year 9
Lower 5th = Year 10
Upper 5th = Year 11

Dormitories were spartan : bedstead and small bedside cupboard and bare floor boards. A Prefect (Maxwell) and Monitor (Oddie Major) were in charge of the dormitory. Daily bed making (hospital corners) and general tidiness were strictly observed.

Prefects and Monitors 1959/1960



Back row from left to right - Ireland, Fletcher, Pulleine?, Steele, Tom Sharp, Varley, Hendry, Whitaker

Front row from left to right - Dickenson, Crowther, Wade, Payling (Head Boy), Thompson, Marshall, Clay-Thomas

The whole process of elevation to Monitor then Prefect was shrouded in secrecy. It was simply announced! I know it left a bitter taste in the mouths of those left out. Having crossed swords with authority on numerous occasions, it was a complete surprise that I was called into Frank Spencer's study to be told I was awarded the green tie, signifying monitor, and a year later the red tie of prefect.

I had at some point in the 5th form said I wanted to go into teaching and was asked to supervise 'sets', (sports sessions on Wednesday afternoons) and occasionally evening 'prep' (Homework evening sessions) with the junior forms. That experience helped me get a place at Teacher Training College, as I was never going to achieve a university place. I'm grateful for that.

2nd XV Rugby Team 1957/1958



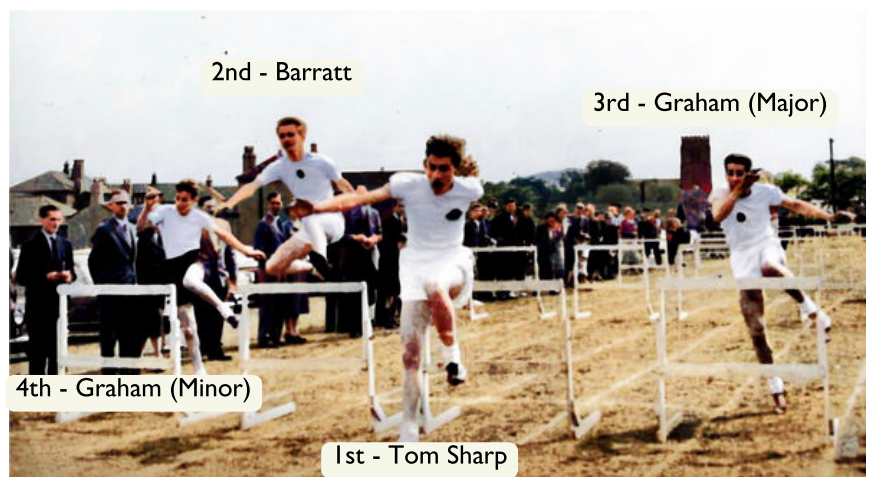
Back row from left to right - Frost*, Knowles, Jamieson (Major), TBC, Walton*, Jagger*, TBC, Broadbent

Front row from left to right - TBC, Whittaker*, Oddie (Major), TBC captain, Steele, Graham (Minor), Tom Sharp

2nd teams rarely featured, so this one is unusual. I'm sure several players on this photo would not mind my saying they were not sporty and must have been dragooned into playing. This includes Oddie (Major). At least five* were aged 15/16 and went on to be in the unbeaten 1st XV (Dream Team) of 1959/60.

Sports Day 1959

This photo is interesting to me for several reasons. Graham (Major) was a superb athlete, as was his younger brother Graham (Minor). Graham (Major) hit the 1st hurdle heavily, otherwise he would have won hands down. My win for Yonge's was a fluke. Graham (Minor) returned to Silcoates years later, after teacher training, to take charge of PE.





This photo is of me (Tom Sharp) in the same senior 100 yards (110m) hurdles and was passed on to me some time later. I never knew who took it. It's a very long shot after 65 years but if anyone knows.....!

Thank you to Tom for sharing his School memories with us.

Please do get in touch if you can help to identify anyone not named, or add any further information.

If you have any memories to share, please do email alumni@silcoates.org.uk.

And finally -

Haircuts, short back and sides only!

We felt honoured to have haircuts by the barber from HM Wakefield Prison



Whilst producing this newsletter, it is with sadness we announce that Denis Sharp (1936 to 2024) passed away peacefully on Tuesday 5th March 2024 aged 87.

Denis attended Silcoates School from 1947 to 1952, and was the elder brother of Jim Sharp (1949 to 1954) and Tom Sharp (1953 to 1960). He played cricket for the School XI, and gained his Cert A in the School Army Corps.

Denis, Jim and Tom were intending to pass on memories of their time at Silcoates to 'Old Flames', and we are sure Denis would have been delighted to share a selection of his favourite anecdotes, some of which will be published in a future edition.

HONOURING OLD SILCOATIANS WHO HAVE PASSED

Sadly, each year, we hear of the sad passing of Old Silcoatians. These dear Alumni are remembered at our Remembrance Service and their obituaries can, with agreement, be posted on The Old Silcoatians' Facebook page. If you wish to notify us of the passing of a relative or friend, please do so by emailing alumni@silcoates.org.uk

Thank you, as always, for your support,

Corrina Slaski

Alumni@Silcoates.org.uk



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