

Burnt Mill Quiz previously presented by David Toms (dgt@dgtoms.com) at the 40th Reunion in November 2003

Answers (some dubious) can be found at <http://dgtoms.com/bmqquiz>

Section A - School and School Buildings:

- 1) When you first came to Burnt Mill in Autumn 1963 you wore a fresh new school uniform complete with black blazer and badge. What was the motto on the badge?
- 2) The houses were named after six living famous British people.
 - a) At the time of the 40th Reunion in Nov 2003, who was the only one still living?
 - b) Who were the two who died whilst we were still at school? (assuming June 1970)
 - c) What was the profession of the one after who the house with the dark blue tie was named?
- 3) Name three of Burnt Mill's "catchment" primary schools.
- 4) At break we all got a bottle of milk. How large was this bottle?
- 5) On Mondays if not entitled to Free School Meals we queued to pay for a set of 5 salmon coloured tickets for "school dinners". In the 1st year, how much was a ticket?
- 6) Who was the rather fierce woman in charge of all the catering and the "dinner ladies"? She once boxed my ears for mucking about in the queue.
- 7) Finding your way around was quite difficult. There were stairs up at each "House Entrance" and a four storey block. In 1963:
 - a) What was taught in the room above Moore House common room?
 - b) above Sheppard common room?
 - c) Sometimes you were sent with a message to the Staff Room. You knocked and waited, and a huge cloud of cigarette and pipe smoke wafted out. Where was this?
 - d) Where was Art taught?
- 8) Burnt Mill was not quite the last Secondary School to open in Harlow. Name one of the two that opened later.
- 9) Most subjects were streamed. I'm sure all of the attendees of the reunion were in the top stream for everything. What was it called in the first year?
- 10) English was compulsory to "O" level. Name any set book for 1967 when we sat it.

Section B - School Staff and Pupils

- 11) W R Stirling was only 33 when he was appointed.
 - a) Where did he get his degree (a 1st in History)?
 - b) What county did he come from?
 - c) What school did he attend? (relevant because he appointed several of his old cronies to senior positions)

- 12) In 1963:
- a) Who was Deputy Head? (a rarely seen figure. Rumour had it he spent most of his time in his office planning strategy for the board War Games he played with my father Vernon.)
 - b) Who was Senior Mistress? (was there one? I just copied this from the 2003 quiz.)
 - c) Who was School Secretary? She also looked after minor first aid, such as when I zipped my willy into my trousers.
 - d) Who was Head of History?
 - e) Who was Head of Art?
 - f) Who was Head of Science?
 - g) Who was Head of English? (I really fancied his daughter who was in the year below us.)
- 13) In 1963, what subject did the following usually teach:
- a) Mr Ratti
 - b) Mr White
 - c) Mr Shine
 - d) Mr Gilbert
 - e) Mr Peasey
 - f) Mr Norfolk
- 14) Who came from the Punjab in 1964 and caused much hilarity with his imperfect grasp of idiomatic english ("bell is about to have gone") and inability to pronounce names (e.g. Michael Scott)? He stayed at Burnt Mill for very many years.
- 15) What was the name of the old man with a dog collar and a deaf aid who attempted unsuccessfully to teach R.E?
- 16) Who was the strange anarchist who came in 1965 to teach Latin? He used to stand on a soapbox in the Stow and address the proverbial one man and his dog. I believe he was the first teacher to be sacked by WRS.
- 17) What was Martin Burrell's principal instrument, with which he made a living for many years?
- 18) When Burnt Mill appeared on TV "top of the form" in about 1967, which representative of our year was on the team?
- 19) What is the connection between W R Stirling and the most famous footballer / celebrity educated at Burnt Mill? (other than being his Headmaster of course,)
- 20) What house was Neil Brierley in? (Without him there would have been no reunions).
- 21) How many of the "Head of House" teachers in 1963 can you name?

Section C – Our Town

Harlow was well served by the Arts

22) Describe any one of the four items of sculpture found within ¼ mile of Burnt Mill. One of which was by Barbara Hepworth. There was one in Pitmans Field at the Commonfields end, two in the Stow – one on the wall of the library and one in the square in front of Moot House, and one at Glebelands.

23) Name the String Quartet resident in the town from 1963. They were supported by the Gulbeikian Foundation, and they practiced over the Launderette in Tany's Dell.

24) What number was the bus that ran from Little Parndon (Canons Gate) to Potter Street (Red Lion) via the Station, Town Centre, The Stow and Brays Grove (The Phoenix)?

25) What was the name of the gloomy shop on the market square (?) which was the official School Outfitter for Burnt Mill?

26) What was the name of the pub in the town centre? It changed its name many times later.

27) What was the name of the hall almost next door to that pub, and upstairs? It was the largest public hall, totally inadequate for the town but hosted concerts by several well known groups.

28) Which of the following had happened in Harlow by August 1963 when we became Burnt Mill pupils:

- a) The Odeon Cinema opened, replacing one in a factory in Templefields. (Saturday Morning Cinema Club was only 6d I think)
- b) The first “Department Store” opened, although only the Co-Op.
- c) Princess Alexandra Hospital accepted its first patients. (Like many of my contemporaries I went to Epping to have my adenoids out and it was a grim place indeed)
- d) The Swimming Pool on First Avenue was opened.
- e) The Bowling Alley opened. (I was banned for a while for bugging about)
- f) The Central Library opened. It was wonderful and well funded. You could order any book or record – if they didn't have it they would source it from somewhere.
- g) Young teacher Stan Newens becomes Labour MP for Epping (which then included Harlow) and a Labour government under Harold Wilson took over from 13 years of Tory misrule. (I was very radical in those days but left the Labour party over Iraq.)
- h) The locally well supported Tottenham Hotspur win the first double of the 20th Century.
- i) The striking new Harlow Town station, for which the entire village of Burnt Mill complete with 3 shops and a chapel was demolished, opens for business. Electric trains replace steam.
- j) An Indoor Sports Centre is opened on the “Sportscentre” site, which previously was just a cricket field, a running track and field and a few concrete huts to change in. Of course the entire area is now housing.

Section D – Growing Up

29) Which of these “Hits” reached Number One during our first year – (Aug 63 – June 64):

- a) Beatles – She Loves You
- b) Herman’s Hermits – I’m Into Something Good
- c) The Searchers – Needles and Pins
- d) Gerry and The Pacemakers – You’ll Never Walk Alone
- e) Dave Clark Five – Glad All Over
- f) Roy Orbison – Pretty Woman

30) By 1967 some of us were sneaking off to The Greyhound (trying to avoid the teachers). How much was a pint in 1967?

31) Those of us who smoked (hem, hem) by 1968 could only usually afford 10 “crap” cigarettes like Players No 6 or (even worse) Sovereign. We sometimes smoked then behind the bike sheds or by the greenhouse (of course never peering through the keyhole of permanently closed door into the girls’ changing room). But how much were 20 “standard” fags such as Embassy, Guards, Gold Leaf, Benson & Hedges?

32) In those cool mid-1960s a trendy area of new houses opened in Bishopsfield. There was a horseshoe shaped block of flats in the centre and narrow lanes of windowless houses leading outwards from it. Popular with the younger Burnt Mill teachers, it also had our own Nigel Hamlin as a resident in the 6th Form. What was it’s nickname?

33) At the General Election in June 1970, which may have been the first one you could vote in following the Representation of the People Act 1969 lowering voting age to 18, who was elected as your MP? (this is perhaps rather surprising but I remember the election very well!)

34) Which of these world events happened during our schooldays? (possibly in order of importance to most of us):

- a) Beatles officially split up
- b) Marilyn Monroe dies of a drug overdose in Los Angeles
- c) BBC first broadcasts TV programs in colour
- d) Enoch Powell delivers his “Rivers of Blood” speech in Wolverhampton
- d) Dr. Barnard performs the first succesful heart transplant.
- e) US lands the first men on the moon
- f) President Nixon ends the Vietnam War
- g) Idi Amin seizes power in Uganda.