

## ***Old Mitchamians - Reunion History***

### ***In the Days that Followed***

The first group to meet up was probably those working in the City. A couple of Lunchtime meetings were held at the "Cock & Woolpack in Cornhill. The group included Bill Ansell , Don Carter, Stuart Cresswell, Derek Kinsley, Geoff Pearson and Doug Morris.

As each insisted on providing a round of drinks it made for an uncomfortable afternoon in the office. As an outcome it was decided to consider the alternative of an evening function and Stuart and Doug set out to find suitable premises.

The result was the first of the organised Reunions. It was held at the "George" George Court, Charing Cross on 14th December, 1971. 35 attended for a sit down meal with a humorous address by the notable Alan Simpson.

During the subsequent years Reunions have been held at a number of venues:-  
Nation Liberal Club, Whitehall, "Ship & Shovel" Charing Cross, "Cheshire Cheese" Little Essex Street, "Aristocrat" off Baker Street and RFU Twickenham (Rugby Club 50th Anniversary).

To these has been added a new venue "The Theodore Bullfrog Public House" Charing Cross, arranged by Colin Chapman. It provides comfortable facilities for the increase in numbers attending.

Separately an attempt was made to hold a Reunion for those who had attended the Girls/Boys grammar Schools. This was an impressive enterprise undertaken by Arthur Freakes with assistance from Ron Mead and Doug Morris.

The first took place in April 1981 and was held at the Worman Trust Sports Club, Hayes, Kent. The same venue was used for the following year. Further gatherings were held from 1983/1987 at the Merton Hall, South Wimbledon.

On two occasions attendance exceeded over two hundred. Unfortunately the administration became too demanding to be effectively undertaken..

During the intervening years there have been other select meetings:-  
Cricket matches, Weddings, Birthdays and still ongoing WAG's(Wives &Girlfriends), FoB (Friends of Brian Hewson).

On 16.10.16 the WAGs gathering is meeting at the original 2000 venue "Derby Arms" Epsom Downs.

In between time, other venues have been the "Park Place" Beefeater Mitcham, "Mill House Harvester Mitcham and Mitcham Golf Club.

Clearly the fraternal spirit reflects the bonhomie induced at the respective Grammar Schools.

**DHM E & O E**