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This attempt at a "newsletter" is being sent to former pupils of the 1963 intake to Drayton Manor Grammar School that I've renewed links with.

Please feel free to distribute copies to other former Draytonians that you may be in contact with.

Just when you thought it was safe to download your e-mail... here comes another edition of the "DMGS'63 Newsletter". I had hoped to produce a "Spring Term" issue, but circumstances precluded this (more later). In the meantime, herewith the results of your detective work...

## The Usual Suspects

Thanks to a number of people, we've now been able to put names to all the First Year faces on the 1964 School photograph.



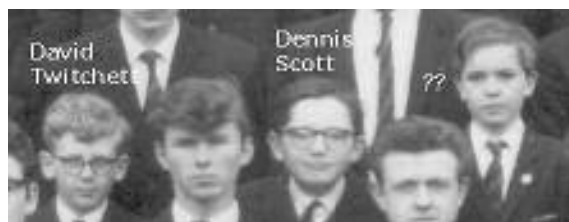
**Diane** Barker (formerly **Loader**) identifies the girl between Janette Barker and Christine Brady as **Margaret Grant**. Diane also picked out **Linda McCaig** between Patricia Brake and Ruth Davey. Linda's identity was also reported by one **Dave Hutchinson**.



By a process of elimination, i.e. the only girl left in the list of names from 1963/64, the face between that of Janet Rogers and Marilyn Davidson would appear to be that of **Moira Coombs**. (Unless someone knows better...)



Turning to the "john Does",



**John Winnert** suggested that the face to the right of Dennis Scott was that of **Steve Whittaker**. However, **Dave Hutchinson** eyeballed the boy between Peter Lockett and Paul Kapsia as Monsieur Whittaker, and Hutch's identification was confirmed by **Steve W** himself, who commented "...I recognize the ears!!" So, case proven.

Dave H went on to suggest that the lad to the right of Dennis Scott "...may be Colin Williamson(?), the cyclist from the year above..." Hutch also confirms my thoughts that **Ian Mathieson** and **Martin Bouetteare** not present in the photo. For the record, **Peter Durrans** and **Evan Griffiths** are not in attendance either.

Merit Marks to all who trawled their memory for answers!

No success, however, in identifying the female Staff member to the left of Mrs. Shavreen.



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## Personal Notes

As some of you may be aware, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to take “early retirement” last year. The paperwork was finally settled at the beginning of November and after coping with the usual run-up to the Christmas holiday, I settled down to a more leisurely lifestyle (the present Mrs. Palmer thinks I’ve always had a leisurely lifestyle...) – I can thoroughly recommend it!

I did have the intention of putting together a “Spring Term” edition of this “newsletter”, but as a result of taking a 12-week short course with the Open University on “*Start Writing Family History*”, I found my time taken up with research, tutorials and assignments.

I had been researching my own family history for about 18 months prior to this, collecting names and dates, but this course has helped me extend this by looking beyond the raw data and understanding the social circumstances of the relevant period. Both my parents had been born in Hanwell, but their ancestors only arrived in that village (as it’s described on the 1894 OS map) in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their roots trace back to Berkshire and Sussex.

So having got my OU course out of the way, (and perhaps inspired by looking at Hanwell in the 1880s?) I felt it was about time to inflict another DMGS’63 Newsletter on you. Now I may take a fresh look at the DMGS’63 website ([www.dmgs63.org.uk](http://www.dmgs63.org.uk))

## End of Term Report

I hope you continue to find these newsletters of interest. Let me know your thoughts.

This newsletter is being sent by e-mail directly to:

Allan Taylor,  
Bernice Clare,  
Brenda McCraith,  
Christine King,  
Craig Boxshall,  
Dave Barker,  
Dave Hutchinson,  
David Butcher,  
David Carpenter,  
Derek Elliot,  
Diane Loader,  
Evan Griffiths,  
Ged Nolan,  
Gordon Warren,  
Graham Morris,  
Graham Reynolds,  
Jane Barker,  
Janet Rogers,  
Janice Holley,  
Joan Beattie,  
Joe Jakubowski,  
John Blackwell,  
John McConnell,  
John McGreal,  
John Winnert,  
John Wyatt,  
Len Shilling,  
Les Redford,  
Linda Wheeler,  
Linda McCaig,  
Lindsay Churchill,  
Liz Cowell,  
Margaret Bromley,  
Mick Beattie,  
Norman Brown,  
Patrick Lau,  
Paul Curtis,  
Peter Durrans,  
Peter Lockett,  
Phil Slade,  
Ruth Davey,  
Steve Hinton,  
Steve Whittaker,  
Sue Brown,  
Sue Grimes,  
Tim Dean,  
Tony Ryan,  
Valerie Brind,  
Victor Lipko.

I will also check through the Friends Reunited list to see if there are others to contact.

Please feel free to pass this missive onto any ex-Draytonian you may be in contact with.

Don’t forget to keep in touch, and if you come across any DMGS mementoes, e.g. photos, why not share them with us?

*Allan Palmer*