

Francis Tunney – September 1959 to February 1965

MHGS played large and formative part of my life and some of the life-lessons learned there have stuck with me for a long time. Indeed as I am now in my 'biblical' three score and tenth year they are as relevant today as they were then.

A pen-picture of me today: retired (partially), married (for almost 48 years), two sons and four grandchildren. We live in deepest, darkest west Cheshire in a village no-one has heard of and which is nine miles from any town of size. I am currently Chair of our Parish Council, re-elected in May 2019 and do lots in the community.

My time at 'Mouldy Hole' was cut short by a family move from Cheshire to Coventry (why Coventry?) where I joined a comprehensive school (say that in hushed tones) for the last few months of secondary education. I left having achieved middling GCE 'O' levels in Maths, Physics with Chemistry, Technical Drawing and a very creditable Grade 9 in English (for me it was creditable and would set me fair for my future career in Marketing!!!) I have sought, without success to make contact with old compadres: Robert J van Gaalen, John Russell, Andy Trap, and a few others.

The summer of 1965 was a strange one, trying to establish which direction I wanted to take, but my Dad (an ex-Flight Sergeant Drill Instructor) took control and arranged an interview at the GEC where my GCE in TD would come in handy. It must have gone well because the next thing I knew I was indentured for a 4-year sentence as a 'Telecommunications Technician Draughtsman'. The next four years were spent drafting, tinkering, installing and rewiring telephone equipment at each of their five factories in Coventry and working at 'Dial House' in Manchester helping reroute cables as part of an upgrade.

All the while I was on day release (a bit like parole but nowhere near as exciting) at Coventry Technical College doing and succeeding at a 'General Certificate in Engineering' followed by an 'ONC in Electrical Engineering' and in September 1969 I 'passed out' as a qualified draughtsman quickly followed by being installed as a 'Freeman of the City of Coventry' – sounds awfully high-falluting but all I got was an illuminated scroll that gave me permission to 'graze cattle and sheep on Common Land in the City of Coventry'.

The next two to three years were like trying to climb the career ladder whilst wearing 'dead mens' shoes' (the key being that someone had to leave, retire or die before you could move up a rung.

I had a desire to look at 'Marketing' and found my way into an electrical factors, from there to a road-stone company, British Home Stores, Quinton Hazell, the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation ('Food from Britain'), Invicta Plastics ('Mastermind'), Unipart, En Tout Cas, Econocruise, TNT Logistics, Transport Development Group, DFDS, Community Transport Association, FT Consult (my own business), Christian Salvesen/Norbert Dentressangle and finally the 'Food Storage and Distribution Federation'.

So you might conclude that I have had a varied career – all of down to MHGS.

If anyone who knew me wants to get in touch try my Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/frank.tunney>