

THE GATTON ASSOCIATION



Incorporating
The Maitland Association &
The Royal Albert Old Boys' Association

Chairman : Phil Wade
President : Ray Davies
Membership Secretary : John Hounsom
Contact E-Mail : gatton.association@gmail.com

Spring 2008 Newsletter

Chairman's Welcome

Dear Members,

Hello and welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Firstly may I wish you all a very Happy New Year 2008. I hope it finds you all fit and well after the festive season.

I have to pass on some sad news which has just reached me, and that is that Rob Jamieson, ex Royal Albert School, has passed away. Unfortunately, I don't have any other information at this time but our sincerest condolences go out to his family. I feel I speak for all who knew him.

Forthcoming Events

Founders Day Weekend 10th & 11th May 2008

As most of you know, on the 10th May 1758 the origins of our school were founded and the first orphanage was sited in City Road, London, so this year is its 250th Anniversary year. Our 'Old Scholars Association' was founded in 1856, which is another landmark anniversary of 152 years of existence, making this a double celebration year. To mark this occasion, the school has arranged for a 2 day Founders Weekend on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th May. You are welcome to attend either day, but I feel that as we, the Old Scholars, are linked in the past to the Sunday being our day to gather in memory of Founders Day, I will consider Founders Day to be Sunday 11th May.

If you would like come to the Saturday, you will be more than welcome. The plan is that there will be a Chapel Service conducted by the Bishop of Southwark. For further information and the availability of seats for the Saturday, please contact the School direct on 01737 649040 during office hours. They will be able to advise and give you greater detail.

Sunday, as far as the Old Scholars are concerned, is Founders Day. There is a Service for Founders Day, which will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. But due to the volumes attending, unless you have previously booked a seat for this service, you will not gain access to the service.

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Founders Day Challenge Trophy 2008

The usual 'Old Scholars Challenge Trophy' match will take place as usual, kick off at 2.30pm. An 'Old Boys' 11 will take the field against a 'School' 11 in the annual football match. If you feel that you are game for an energetic afternoon and would like to play in the match, please contact me and I will give you fuller details. Don't feel that you have to be ultra fit to take part, as all who play will be rotated to allow for those not so fit and to enable everyone who attends to take part and make their own contribution. The 'Old Boys' have had a good unbeaten run and we would like to keep it that way. The important thing is the taking part and continued bond between the past and present School. It is a good fun day with a few drinks and nibbles after the game and with a chance to catch up on old and lost friends.

Contact me on 020 7803 5512 or email gatton.association@gmail.com



Gatton Goes Green 6th July 2008

The site is open to all for a rural country fair with amusements and stall. Also demonstrations of country skills used in the past and present. If you are able to come along from 1.00pm to 5.00pm you will have a pleasant afternoon in beautiful surroundings.

250th Anniversary Reunion News

I would like to remind everyone at this time that we are at the final approach to the closing date for bookings for the 250th Anniversary Reunion in August. If you are planning on attending, I would suggest that you get registered before 31st March via the booking form. If you are planning just to visit for the day, you will still need to let us know because of the security implications for the site. Please take this opportunity to book your place via the booking form found at the back of this newsletter.

If you have booked and are anxious about whether your booking has been received, you can give Sue Coombes a call on 01737 649050 or email at gatton.association@gmail.com for confirmation.

250th Weekend Events

On Arrival

On arrival, please head for the flagpole where you will see notices of where to register and book in for the weekend. You will be issued with Reunion Weekend ID badges and your sleeping allocation details. I know that you would like to sleep in the same dorm as your old school mates and, as such, we will do our utmost to facilitate your requests, so book early and ensure we know who is in your party. A great weekend for all is anticipated.

Dress Code

For the 'Dinner Dance' dress is smart casual. The rest of the time, it's down to you. Enjoy the weekend with old and new friends, reminiscing about old times.

[See Page 3]

'Dinner Dance'

With the Dinner we will be providing white and red wine on the table. Further wine can be bought if required. Tables will be reserved and a seating plan will be set up.

Treasure Hunt

The planned activities for the weekend have not been finalised as yet, but we are planning a Saturday morning Treasure Hunt around the grounds and gardens which will entail an enjoyable and leisurely stroll, taking in the beauty of nature in all of its summer glory.

AGM 2008

As this is a special occasion and we will be gathered together for the Reunion, it was suggested that we hold our AGM on the Saturday afternoon at 2.00pm in Gatton Hall. By doing this, it will give a chance for those not usually able to attend the AGM to have a say in the future of the Association as well as to meet the Committee. Your input to the AGM will be most appreciated and will be discussed. If you would like to raise any issues to the Committee for discussion at the AGM, it would be useful if you could please put it in writing and sent prior to the AGM, so that we will have a chance to assess the matter and formulate an answer for the meeting. Please send your item to any member of the Committee by post or email so that it can be evaluated for discussion at the AGM.

The AGM is planned to take no longer than an hour and a half, so please spare us some of your time to attend. I hope to see you all, both new and 'old' faces, at the AGM.

Reunion Weekend Meal Timings

Friday evening dinner 5.30 – 6.30

Saturday breakfast 8.30 – 9.30 lunch 11.45 – 1.15 Dinner 6.30 for 7.00 dance till late.

Sunday breakfast 8.30 – 9.30 lunch 11.45 – 1.15 End of term!!!!

Old Scholars/School song

I would like to thank Mike Chapman for putting together some words for a School / Old Scholars song. He has used the famous tune of 'Jerusalem' and arranged words to suit. Once we have had a chance to try out the new song, we will be publishing the words. Mike has given us licence to change some lyrics to our own needs.

Also, I would like to thank Daphne Sullivan for her offering of the original Maitland Park School song, 'The Best School of All', words by Sir Henry Newbolt and music by C.Hurbet H.Parry. we will have to assess which is most suitable. Results will follow later.

Gatton Association Badges

The Gatton Association badges are now back in stock and available for only £3.50 plus £1.50 p&p for up to five badges. If you would like one of these high quality enamelled badges please contact any of the committee to place your order.

Filming of Reunion

As you may be aware, the Association is funding the making of a film of the Reunion and the run up to it. The film will be a record of this historical weekend in the 250th year of the schools inception. The film will be available to buy in the future and details will be released once they are available.

Alicia Edwards has produced previous works for Channel 4 and other TV companies and is now the Producer and Director as well as Editor in Charge of our film. The film is set from the viewpoint of those who are attending the weekend. It will incorporate interviews from various ex-scholars about their apprehensions and thoughts about going back, in some cases for the first time since leaving. It will also include footage of the School and those on site during the weekend, with further interviews and input from attendees. Alicia will be travelling to many members' homes during March and carrying out interviews to put together for the film. These interviews will include all age groups from the youngest, most recent school leaver to the oldest pre Gatton members. It looks like it will be a very interesting piece. Not many schools have a history and story to tell like Gatton.

As with any project, funding is an issue. We need to raise more money to complete this film. At this point, I would like to thank Doug Dielhenn and his Bowls Club for their generosity and magnificent fund raising that has enabled us to start the project. Also to all of you who have already donated to the film, thank you – we are extremely grateful. But we are still in need of further funds to complete the project. If you could find time to dip into your pockets and help fund the completion of this film, it would be a major help. I would like to say that any and all donations, regardless of how large or small, will help to complete this historical project. I know we can raise the necessary funds from our generous ex-scholars!!

If you would like to donate to the film please send any donations to 'The Gatton Reunion Film Fund', c/o The Foundation Office, Royal Alexandra & Albert School, Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 OTW.

Please make cheques payable to 'The Gatton Association'.

All donors will be listed in the film credits. Thank you for your anticipated support and generosity.

Best wishes and look forward to seeing you all very soon,

Phil Wade

Committee Members

POST	NAME
President	Ray Davies
Chairman	Phil Wade
Secretary	Peter Page
Treasurer	Ray Davies
Membership Secretary	John Hounsom
Publicity Officer	Phil Wade
News Editor (Joint)	Chas Bailey & Sue Gulliver
Merchandising	Alex Duffy
Events Co-ordinator	Chris Manns
Events Co-ordinator	Ian Baines
Archivist	Ian Baines
Governing Body & ex scholar	John Billingham

Dates for your diary and attendance!

<u>May 10th & 11th 2008</u>	<u>2008 Founders Weekend Celebrations</u>
<u>May 11th</u>	<u>The Old Scholars 'Challenge Trophy' Football Match</u>
<u>July 6th</u>	<u>'Gatton Goes Green' Country Fair.</u>
<u>August 22nd – 24th 2008</u>	<u>250th Anniversary Reunion Weekend.</u> <u>Booking deadline fast approaching</u>
<u>August 23rd</u>	<u>The Gatton Association AGM (An hour of your time).</u>

From the Headmaster

You may have read over the Christmas holidays reports in the press of the School receiving an inheritance from a mystery millionaire. There are actually two legacies: one of about half a million pounds and the other of about £120,000.

The first legacy was from Mr John White who died, aged 98, a couple of months ago. John White's grandfather, who was a single parent, died in 1863, leaving his 8 year old son as an orphan. This boy was brought up by neighbours: two spinster sisters called Miss Taggart. When he grew up this boy married and his son was John White. John always wished to repay the kindness shown to his father by the two Miss Taggart sisters and he left money to the Foundation because it shows similar kindness to children in such circumstances.

The second was left to us by Maurice Chance, a local businessman who actually died over 40 years ago, but whose will is only now being completed. He was a long-time supporter of the School's Foundation giving money every year to help to finance Foundationers – children whose home circumstances make boarding desirable and who are thus given means-tested or free places. The money will be used to fund extra Foundationer places at the School, though we intend to put plaques to record the generosity of Maurice Chance and John White on two buildings later this year.

We have a substantial number of subscribers who pay between £50 and £100 each year to help to finance Foundationer places. They have an annual meeting – The Court of Subscribing Governors – where they hear about the progress of the School and in particular of the Foundationers. I am particularly pleased that the number of Foundationers has risen from 30 a few years ago to 49 this term and the Board of Management has approved plans to increase this to 54 in September. If anyone would like further details of this scheme, please do contact me.

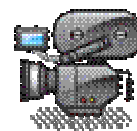
I am pleased to report that all Old Scholars who applied for tickets for Sunday 11th May when the Archbishop of Canterbury will be speaking will be receiving tickets. A small number of tickets are still available for Saturday 10th May – the exact 250th anniversary – when the Bishop of Southwark, Tom Butler, will be speaking. Please contact me ASAP.

I look forward to meeting many of you at this Summer's reunion.

Paul D Spencer Ellis
Headmaster.



Funding for the Re-union Film



Hello my fellow Gattonians!

As you all know there is a big reunion in August this year for all old scholars to attend.

If you are interested in going it is as easy as... **1.. 2.. 3..**

1. Fill in the booking form on the last page of the newsletter
2. Post the form back along the cheque.
3. Attend the reunion!

The deadline for the forms is **31st March 2008**. If you can not attend for the whole weekend you may attend on the Saturday.

You are still invited to the dinner and dance on the Saturday evening, to book this you must include a cheque with your booking form.

Please remember that you must still send in the form even if you only attend on Saturday.

Film:

If you would like to take part in the reunion film, please get in touch. I am looking for people to talk honestly and openly about their time at the school on camera.

Thank you to those of you who have got back to me who want to take part. I will be in touch within the next few weeks to arrange dates, times etc.

The first round of interviews on camera will take place in March. The camera crew and I will be driving around the country to meet with you and do the interviews - (that word sounds so formal! It will be a casual affair). You won't have to do a thing other than talk!

Please get back to me if you have any questions. You can email me at reunion_2008@hotmail.com or send me a message on facebook.

Fundng:

I would like to take this opportunity to thanks those of you who have kindly donated money toward the making of the reunion film, especially Doug Dielhenn who has been a great support to me throughout the process.

We still need to raise £1,200 toward the film project. That would mean 100 of you donating £12, or 200 of you donating £6... or 1 of you donating it all! (see, I did listen in maths!) Anything you can put toward the project will be a great help.

You will receive a special thanks and full credit on the film. Please make your cheques payable to

The Gatton Association.

Make sure you write on the back of the cheque your **full name** and '**Reunion Documentary Donation**'. The address is: The Gatton Association, Foundation Office, Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TW

Using the stories from old scholars who attended the R.A.A.S in the 1940's right through to the 21st century, we will be capturing parts of history that we may not ever be able to hear again in a few years to come.

This project will become a part of not only the schools history, but part of British history.

Thank you,

Alicia Edwards
Gattonian from 1990 to 2001

Donations to the Gatton Association

As most of you know, our school was founded on May 10th 1758. It was then known as The Orphan Working School

In 1903 it was renamed The Alexandra Orphanage and in 1942 it became The Royal Alexandra School. In 1946 it was Amalgamated with The Royal Albert School, and is now known as The Royal Alexandra and Albert School.

We the old scholars are intending to this year to celebrate the 250th year of our schools foundation. All of these Celebrations will be funded by donations. Depending on the amount raised, in addition to the celebrations we would hope to support the setting up of a bursary in the form of a scholarship for the children.

One of our old scholars asked his bowls club committee if he could set up a raffle at the club, with the proceeds going towards our appeal. This raffle raised £185 including some cash donations. Two other old scholars have also each sent in a donation of £100.

The purpose of my letter is to appeal to you all for any donations, to make our celebrations a great success.

Doug Dielham 1935-1941

PS. Please make all donations sent payable to: "THE GATTON ASSOCIATION"

**Please send to: Mr. R. Davis
12, Fairlawn Drive,
Redhill,
Surrey.
RH1 6JP**

School Badge/Emblem

If you would like to purchase a School badge/emblem that can be fixed on the lapel of your coat. The badge is enamelled on Brass and is easily attached to clothing.

Please contact Phil Wade Who will be pleased to forward one or more on to you @: gatton.association@gmail.com

Each Badge will cost you £3.50 each plus a one off charge

of £1.50 for post and packaging. Every time a badge is purchased it helps raise money for the Gatton Association



Size of One Pence Coin

House Photo Appeal

I am trying to obtain a Albert House photo from 1962, and I am appealing to any old Albert House boys who have a photo from that year, I will of course cover any costs incurred by you.

You can contact me at: gatton.association@gmail.com

If any old Scholars would like to make appeals like mine above, just send your details to the email address above, and I will include their appeal in the next newsletter.

Geoff Gowers/Doug Dielham

In the latest newsletter I sense a degree of frustration. Is the Association in trouble due to lack of interest from old pupils?

Although I enjoy reading your newsletter and often reflect on my time at Gatton with my brothers, the general feeling has been amongst us of leaving it in the past. **"Mr. Bickerstaff, our Headmaster never encouraged an Association"**.

However, time to say that I feel you and the other members are doing a great job and what a shame if the Association did not thrive.

Geoff Gowers

Geoff Gowers contribution in our last Newsletter had us far as I was concerned, a statement that was completely wrong, and in my opinion, unfair.

I was the President and Chairman of our Association for 25 years. We at that time were going through a rough time. We had lost Elsie Fagg, Pat Harmonsworth and Fred Ward. Three of the mainstays of The Maitland and Gatton Association.

To say that Mr. Bickerstaff never encouraged us was exactly the opposite of what was truly the situation. Mr. Bickerstaff and his wife were two of the people who were always there to help us when they could.

Doug Dielham

Memoirs of the first 24 hours at Gatton.

Mike Chapman

My dad died in 1953 when I was just turned four. Apparently, just before then, we'd all been set to emigrate to New Zealand, mum, dad, my older brother Frank and myself having passed the medicals that would enable us to do so. A week later, courtesy of the mistreatment he received at the hands of the Japs whilst being set to work on The Death Railway and The Bridge on the River Kwai before eventually being thrown into the notorious Changi prison camp, he suddenly succumbed & passed away. Five hard, early post-war years later, The Japanese Prisoner of War Society, who had always been supportive to my mother, offered for the last time (Frank & I seemingly having turned the opportunity down twice beforehand!) to secure places for both of us in a faraway, almost mythical land with the improbable name of 'Surrey', where, an imposing residence that was known by the daunting appellation of 'The Royal Alexandra & Albert Boarding School' patiently awaited us, one last time. Mum must have come up with a better way of presenting it this time for we both jumped at it. I vaguely recall having the impression I was going to wear an army-type uniform and carry a gun!

Mum??!!!

How well I remember that first night, it was all so different to what I had known up 'till then & I was already missing my mum terribly. In a dormitory with seven other little waifs, I turned my head into the soft comfort of my pillow and cried. A few minutes later, Mr Belson ('Belgie) who must have known I'd be vulnerable as a 'New Boy', made a point of singling me out and asked if I was crying. 'No sir' I promptly lied in a voice that implied I was made of far sterner stuff and almost insulted he had felt the need to ask. 'All right' he said, unconvinced, and left me to cry some more.

The next day, bright & early, I was allocated my school number. 'You're Forty Seven, lad, can you remember that?'

'Yes sir' I replied, hopefully.

'Go on then, tell us what your number is' he asked in front of fifty other boys in the Cloakroom.

Coming fresh out of Manchester, I launched confidently into my rendition of the number I would take with me – not only for the next five years but through the rest of my life as I 'default' to it even now for all numbers of reasons.

'Farty Seven, sir'. At first there was a stunned silence. Everyone held their breath to see how Old Belgie would take it. I remember him looking at me, eyes wide, a hint of amusement behind the surprise.

'Say it again lad', he managed after a second or two.

'Farty Seven, sir' I repeated, oblivious of my accent.

Mr Belson dissolved into stitches of laughter, his own amusement acting like a corporate release of held breath for the rest of them. When they'd all settled down a little and got over the New Boy's audacity he made me repeat it several times and although I didn't understand what they were laughing at, I laughed with them! I was beginning to feel better already!

That morning we lined up outside Gloucester House to make the march to the Dining Hall, Mr Evans, the lilting Welshman & resident House Master supervising. On the way, we past other Houses where more incumbents were being disgorged to gather in orderly line on the path. 'Kent', 'Edinburgh', 'Cornwall', all Senior Boys Houses, past 'Elizabeth' where the younger girls were, then – wonder of wonders – to the right & opposite the Dining Hall - the majestic Corinthian pillars of Gatton Hall where the senior girls were housed, Mr Wylie, The Warden, also being in residence.

The Dining Hall was huge, the noise unbelievable, until we were all told to be quiet when we instantly fell into obedient & respectful silence! They made me eat baked beans! I hated baked beans – still do – passionately; the squidgy, foul tasting red pellets were sickening. I remember the name on the tins they came out of; 'Armour', to me, it was appropriate for they tasted like liquid rust! I remember the name of the margarine we were supposed to spread on our bread, too, 'Lupin'. I say 'supposed to' for it was impossible. The hard, pale yellow block was more resistant to scraping than a diamond & defied all efforts to 'spread', tearing the bread into lumpy sections, instead. Good job for me I had never been a big eater! To be fair, though, quite possibly due to my own particular preferences, likes & dislikes, most of the other boys & girls thrived on what I turned my nose up at!

Breakfast over, the individual chores allocated to each boy at the beginning of the term also discharged, it was off to school for the first time.

Mr Trinder, my first teacher. What a wonderful old chap he was! He was dearly loved by all of us. I remember us all gathering around his desk between lessons when he rolled his cigarettes! There was something 'magic', 'adult' about it. In those far-off days, he was even allowed to smoke in front of us & we all watched him, wondering what it would taste like when it was our turn to 'grow up'.

And that was it. Somehow or other, I had managed to get through my first day at Gatton Park without crying again, and although there would be other tears shed along the painful way to adolescence before I eventually left in 1963, I remember my old school with great affection & wouldn't have swapped it for another anywhere in the world. I was lucky! In effect, I traded the 'Red Wreck' where we used to play in Manchester, a bombed out dereliction a block away from the condemned house we lived in, for the green & pleasant fields, the gently rolling hills and the fresh, bracing air of Gatton Park.

As we stand on the threshold of the 250th anniversary of its humble beginnings, I pose a question & raise a toast. The question is this – how many other schools could solicit such fulsome, yet genuine affection from past pupils?

And now to the toast, I hope you will all join me by raising your glass when I propose -

'God Bless Gatton Park, The Royal Alexandra & Albert Boarding School, & all those fledgling men & women she proudly sent out in the past to the Brave New World beyond the boundary gates'.

Salute!

Michael K Chapman.

Gloucester & Kent Houses, 1958-1963.



Some more Memories of Gatton

Mike Chapman

Standing up to a Bully

We had a big - big lad in our dorm called Michael *****, a farmers boy and did he look the part, muscles where his brain Should've been! Anyway, me being so small & weedy at the time (I later grew to a staggering 5'8 1/2 courtesy of the bracing sea air in the Merchant Navy) he was always picking on me. One day - I lost it.

I remember where it was, too, right outside the entrance door to Kent. He was pushing me around as usual but this time, I'd had enough. I took a wild swing at him - missed - he laughed, I ran, he might have thought I was running away but instead, I jumped on his back, wrapped my legs around his waist and Pummelled his face, again, & again. He never bullied me again - that taught me a lesson I've never forgotten - never be afraid of a bully because underneath - they're cowards.

The Bare Truth

Another story about the entrance door to Kent, one evening, I came out of the shower, subjected myself to the compulsory inspection & decided to walk up to the dorm in the buff. A girl from Elizabeth, an unprecedented event, was stood there waiting to see the Housemaster!

I froze! As if that wasn't bad enough, she was a classmate!!! The glass doors were panelled, if you recall, I swear this is the truth, as she looked under one glazing bar to see who it was, I looked over at the same time. Then I panicked! Boy did the Housemaster laugh!!

Mike Chapman. Kent House ? - 1963

The Big Fir Tree

There used to be a big fir tree behind Gatton Hall, I remember it well, it's where I sneaked my first ever kiss! A certain Miss Crosby, (much to my shame I cannot remember her first name). And going down to the Playing Field one day, I was just in time to hear a commotion in one of the highest trees we had and witnessed first hand my own brother bouncing from one branch to another before landing - unhurt - at my feet! Were we made of rubber in those days?

O happy days!

Stormy MFV Trip - 1962

Glad you enjoyed my contribution for the "School Song" I would be delighted to present it to Gatton if they would have it.

You say you were in the Sea Cadets in '62; so was I! By any chance, were you on the notorious Poole Harbour trip on an MFV in outrageous weather that resulted in everyone being sick? I was! I held out to the grim end, thinking what a true sailor I really was when all around me had succumbed, then - as we entered Portsmouth - yes!! In fact, despite coming through category 5 hurricanes and 50' waves of Atlantic storms a little later, it proved to be the one and only time I was ever sea sick.

If anyone else can remember this event, I would like to hear from you. Chas Bailey - Editor

My Confession

(By Chas Bailey A231)

It was February 1963 and the snow was deep everywhere and frozen solid in places. I had just turned 13 and like most of the other boys enjoyed sledging down the slope by the tennis courts. This particular evening in question I met up with a couple of other boys from Albert House and a couple of other boys from Cornwall to meet up for a couple of smokes by a fallen down tree in the woods. We kept our A1 Light tobacco, Swan Vesta, matches, and peppermint toothpaste wrapped in plastic bags in a hole on the side of the tree trunk.



We had to be back inside the House by 17:45pm to get ready for the evening meal and this night we realised we were going to be late. As we were rushing past Alexandra House Mr. Andrews (Gump) called us over and asked us to go to the bottom of the slope to retrieve 2 sledges his boys (7-9 yr olds) had left down there. Sir we said, we will be late back to our House and will get into trouble, he told us not to worry as he would inform our Housemasters. So off we went to get these sledges and thanking God for Mr. Andrews.

Us boys parted company with the Cornwall boys and made our way in to the changing room in Albert House. That evening loads of boys (18 I think) were late in and a Housemaster and Prefects were taking names and excuses from all that were late. When we were asked, our excuse was of course that Mr. Andrews caused us to be late, and that they should see him, which of course they did. The rumour went round that those boys had been smoking, so obviously some boys from Albert House had been seen smoking.

During the evening meal the whole of Albert House was very glum indeed as we all knew what was in store later that evening. After the evening meal we went back to the House to start prep in the Common Room and shortly after prep started the fireworks began. One by one each a boy was called to the area just outside of Mr. Steel's flat for the cane. The other two sinners and I kept looking at each other as nothing had been said to us regarding our alibi. Anyway our names never got called and 15 boys got the cane accused of smoking and being late.

As far as I know none of them boys smoked, but I might be wrong?

A Special Thank you

A special thank you should go to my son Andrew Bailey for his technical help in putting this, and past Newsletters together. Without his help I would be quite useless. Andrew has also been busy building a website for the Gatton Association which we hope to release details of very shortly.



Two Choices For The School Anthem

The Best School Of All

It's good to see the school we knew, the land of youth and dream. To greet again the rule we knew, before we took the stream. Though long we've missed the sight of her, Out hearts may not forget: We've lost the old delight of her, We keep her honour yet.	The stars and sounding vanities That half the crowd bewitch. What are they but inanities To him that treads the pitch? And where's the welth I'm wondering, Could buy the cheers that roll When the last charge goes thundering Towards the twilight goal? Then men that tanned the hide of us, Our daily foes and friends, They shall not lose their pride of us, However the journey ends. Their voice to us who sing of it, No more its message bears, But the round world shall ring of it, And all we are be theirs.	To speak of fame a venture is, There's little here can bide, But we may face the centuries, And dare the deepending tide; for though the dust that's part of us, To dust again be gone, Yet here shall beat the heart of us, The school we handed on! We'll honour yet the school we knew The best school of all We'll honour yet the rule we knew Till the last bell call For working days or holidays And glad or melancholy days They were great days and jolly days At the best school of all
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Chorus:

Sir Henry Newbolt

In Gattons Green & Pleasant Land

And did these woods in ancient times On distant borders have their meet? And did the sound of holy songs Trail in the wake of Pilgrims feet?	Bring me your Dreamers, or your bold, Bring me your innocents, or weak, Bring me then young, and hear, when old How fond of Gatton Park they speak.
And did the waves still lap those shores, Or did these hills as gently roll And was this sanctuary builded here Hid deep amidst the Surrey soul.	In all the walks of life that wait For me beyond the boundary gate, I'll pray. One day, again to stand In Gatton's green and pleasant land, In Gattons green and pleasant land.

M K Chapman - Kent & Gloucester Houses 1958-1963

This poem is dedicated by the author to the Royal Alexandra & Albert Boarding School in Surrey, to all from the original Founders & Benefactors of 'The Orphan Working School' in 1758 to Masters and pupils past & present with many fond memories of the school he attended from 1958 through to 1963.

Special mention to Chas Bailey (Old Boy & co- editor of 'the rag') who asked for it.

THE GATTON ASSOCIATION**Presents****The 250th Anniversary Reunion****22nd – 24th AUGUST 2008 BOOKING FORM**

Please complete and return with ***crossed cheques or postal orders only*** for the full amount (Sterling), **made payable to:**

“The Gatton Association”.

Please **print your name, address and cheque guarantee card number on the reverse of your cheque** and send to:

THE GATTON ASSOCIATION 2008,
The Foundation Office, The Royal Alexandra and Albert School,
Gatton Park. Reigate Surrey, RH2 0TW.

Enquiries to **Phil Wade** Phone no. 020 7803 5512 or e-mail: gatton.association@gmail.com

or

John Hounsom e-mail: gatton.association@gmail.com

THE CUT OFF DATE FOR BOOKINGS IS MONDAY 31st MARCH 2008.

No bookings will be accepted after this date!

If you wish to cancel your booking, this must be confirmed in writing by Monday 7th July 2008. Refunds will be issued after Monday 15th September 2008.

If booking is unsuccessful or late in arriving, all payments will be refunded / returned.

The 250th Anniversary Reunion Booking Form

Please print clearly. Number attending: (Males..... Females.....)

Men and women will be accommodated in separate houses, in dormitories of 2 or 4 beds.

Surname First Name Maiden Name

School attended From To

Last House attended

Home Address

..... Post Code

Home Phone No Work Mobile

Fax No Email

Dietary requirements (vegetarian etc.)

Mobility / Access requirements

Please note all payments must be made in full for each place booked.

Please indicate numbers required and complete calculations:

Number At- tending;	Break- fast £6 pp (per person)	Lunch £10 pp	Friday Night Din- ner £12 pp	Dormitory Accom- modation £17pp
Friday X no. re- quired	N/A	N/A	x £12 = £	x £17 = £
Saturday X no. re- quired	x £6 = £	x £10 = £	Dinner Dance £25 pp x £25 = £	x £17 = £
Sunday X no. re- quired	x £6 = £	x £10 = £	N/A	N/A
TOTAL				£

ON COMPLETION OF THIS FORM PLEASE MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR OWN RECORD.

Please enter on the reverse of this form any suggestions for activities:

Registration Form

Please complete the form below and return it to our membership secretary at the address on the form, or via e-mail.



Gatton Association Registration Form

First Names:..... Surname:..... Former Name:.....

Address:
.....

Town:..... County..... Postcode:.....

Country:.....

Home Phone:..... Work Phone:..... Mobile:.....

Email Address:.....

Please remember to keep us informed of Postal or Email Address changes or our correspondence will not reach you.

School Location attended (*tick as appropriate*):

Gatton Park Maitland Bishopswood Elmcroft Duxhurst Bedford

Camberley Other (please state).....

Last House(s) attended:.....

Years attended: from..... To.....

If you would prefer to receive Newsletters etc. by Email please tick the here:

Please return completed Registration Form to the Membership Co-ordinator:

JOHN HOUNSOM, 38 THACKERAY AVENUE, TILBURY, ESSEX RM18 8HS

OR

Email: gatton.association@gmail.com

If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to pass back to us, please do so via John Hounsom at the address above.

Thank you

To be completed and returned with your 2008 re-union booking form. Thank you.

AGREEMENT

During the reunion weekend there will be camera crews filming a documentary about the school reunion in August 2008. This release form is an agreement between the producer and you, the attendee, that any video or sound of the attendee that is captured may be used in the final cut of the documentary and any extras on the DVD. You have the choice of whether you would like to talk on camera or not but there is no guarantee that you will not be seen somewhere in the background at some point. Please do not worry about any disturbance to the weekend caused by the camera crews; the main focus is for you all to enjoy yourselves. Please complete this agreement and return it along with your booking form.

Ithe undersigned agree to the use of film / video / sound / archive footage of myself being used in the production named below and agree to sign away the rights to it being shown in other contexts to public audiences.

Production: **Royal Alexandra and Albert School, The Reunion** (working title)

Signed by the Attendee

.....

Signed by the Producer

.....

Print name

.....

Print name

.....

Date.....

Date.....

Address;

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Address;

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Thank you.