

THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

Incorporating
The Maitland Association,
The Royal Albert Old Boy's Association &
The Royal Alexandra and Albert School



Chairman: Phil Wade

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Chairman's Welcome

Dear Member,

Welcome to our autumn newsletter.

Before I go any further, it is my sad duty to announce the passing of two of our number.

Joan Markwick née Allen, attended the Alexandra Orphanage from 1935 – 1946. During this time she was evacuated with the school to Bishopswood Camp, where she finished her time at school. Joan was a very outspoken individual, who could easily be misunderstood. She was a great character and a firm supporter of the interaction between the Old Scholars and the School, which she frequently commented on. I have many fond memories of long conversations with her over the years, and we often saw eye to eye and occasionally didn't. I will miss our little chats and disagreements, but never forget her twinkling blue eyes. Joan had been suffering with dementia for the past year and was moved into a care home due to her condition. Her condition deteriorated over a period of months, and she passed away on 20th August, aged 81 years. Her funeral was held on 5th September at Watford Crematorium and was attended by many friends and family. We would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to Nigel her husband, family and friends.

Frederick R. Weight, aged 89, passed away on Sunday 19th August. He died peacefully at home after a short illness. Fred was at the Alexandra Orphanage from 1928 – 1939. Fred was chairman of The Maitland Association during and after the Second World War, and had always taken a great interest in the amalgamation of the Alexandra Orphanage and The Royal Albert School which formed The Royal Alexandra and Albert School at Gatton Park that we know today. Fred had sent in a copy of a handwritten magazine put together in the 1930's which we ran in a previous newsletter. We would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to Barbara his wife, family and friends.

Our thoughts are with their family and friends at this time, may they rest in peace.

Reunion Report

As many of you will know, we have just had another reunion over the August bank holiday weekend. It was well attended by many ex scholars from various decades. I would like to thank all of you who attended as, without you, these events would not happen (which would make my life a lot easier). I would like to thank all those that sent words of thanks and praise to our team for their efforts in making this a magnificent gathering. It was good to see so many people from different eras mixing and exchanging memories and experiences from their time at the school. As with all of these occasions some people are apprehensive at

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returning, some due to bad memories or experiences and some just didn't enjoy their time at the school. All those issues were in the past, and when I have spoken to those individuals after the event, they are all of the same opinion that their return had swept away many of those concerns, and brought light into those dark memories. Everybody that attended over the weekend had a great time, (see the feedback below). By the end of the weekend the general response was, "When is the next reunion?" Well, all I can say is watch this space for further news. These reunions are only possible because of YOU. The money we raise is used in sponsoring Foundationers in any way that we can, and from this reunion we will be able to support our music bursary for a couple of years to come. I thank you all again.

A question that was put to me over the weekend which was, 'why have Albert House and Gloucester House been switched around?' I didn't have a clue, so I put it to the head. The answer the head gave at the dinner was that it was due to the expansion of Gloucester House and the children that were to be moved wanting to keep their house name in the move to Albert House. The head said the children were given a vote and the majority opted to move the house names. So there you have it: the housemates had the last word and got the names reversed. I wish we had the chance of a vote or two in my time, things may have been a little different from the way they were.

AGM

I must apologise to you all but we have had to move our planned AGM from Sunday 30th September to Sunday 14th October at 2.00pm. I hope this doesn't inconvenience or prevent you from attending, as your attendance would be greatly appreciated. It would also give you a chance of seeing the autumn colours of the park, before the onset of winter.

During the reunion I spoke to a few ex scholars and discussed the AGM and the timing for it. During our chat it was suggested that in the future we could possibly hold our AGM on Remembrance Sunday, and hold a small service of remembrance. The question I ask is would this be of value and interest to those attending? Please let us know so that we can plan for the future. Your comments or thoughts on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Our Website

Please don't be shy, send us your news articles and any news that you would like to share with us. Visit our website and enrol at www.thegattonassociation.com where we try to keep you up to date on any breaking news we may have. Follow our threads or start a thread of your own, join us and get better connected.

And Finally

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas and the New Year, may I be the first to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2013, from all of the Committee and myself. We look forward to seeing you all in the future, at any of our gatherings.

Committee Members

Positions	Name
President:	Ray Davies
Vice President:	Benny Jones
Chairman:	Phil Wade
Vice Chair:	Alicia Edwards
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Ray Davies (Temporary)
Membership Secretary:	Andrew Bailey
Publicity Officers:	Phil Wade Alicia Edwards
Board of Governors & Ex-Scholar:	John Billingham
Archivist:	Will Wilson
Merchandising:	Michelle Ellis
Events Co-ordinator:	Vacant
News Editor:	Chas Bailey
	E-Mail: chasbailey@hotmail.co.uk
	Phone: 020 8648 7274
Webmaster:	Andrew Bailey
Member	Gina Perry

From the Headmaster

There are few Headmasters who can say that August was an exciting and busy month, as most are away on holiday, but for me August was exactly that.

The Old Scholars' reunion weekend was a great success with former pupils returning from as far afield as Canada, Germany, the USA, South Africa and New Zealand. The age range was also wide, with some who had left within the last few years and others who had left over fifty years ago. The Chairman of Governors, Bill Gillen, the Chairman of the Foundation, Graham Williams and the Foundation Secretary, Diana Bromley were all present as well.

What I particularly enjoyed was the chance to chat to individual Old Scholars, to hear the stories of their time here and what they had done afterwards – often with great success. It was also great to hear Ray Davies making a speech. Ray was, of course, Housemaster and Deputy Head, initially at the Albert School and then in Gatton Park and his memory for names and faces is unrivalled.

So what else happened in August ?

Well our first Upper Sixth got their A level results. All sixteen who applied to university got in – with nine of them going on to study Maths, Engineering or Science – and of the remaining 8, seven have now either got the sort of job that they wanted or have found a training course which suits them.

A week later it was GCSE results and we celebrated the ninth successive best set of results with the rise in results even more impressive as the national trend was downwards.

A word from Graham Williams - Chairman of the Board of Managements:

Bill Gillen (Chairman of Governors) and I very much enjoyed the Old Scholars' dinner at the end of August. We were both amazed at how many people attended of all ages and the distance that many had travelled. It was a most enjoyable evening and I would like to thank you for allowing us to attend.

Friend Search

SEARCHER's NAME			FRIEND's NAME		
Name	House	Year Left	Name	House	Year Left
Claire Sutherland (Wood)	Gatton Hall	1991	Lyndsey Netherwood	N/A	1991
Stephen Guare	Cornwall	1968	Diana Lacey	N/A	1970
Vanda Ryan (Haley)	Gatton Hall	1965	Sandra Legge	Gatton Hall	1965
Peter Charles Howells	Albert	1958	Linda Carter	Gatton Hall	1960
John B Garner	Kent	1957	Clive Plumb	Cornwall	1956-1957
Jane Tebbutt	Weston	1983	David Kirby	Kent	1984
Anna Tomlinson	Gatton Hall	1960	Angela Allen	Gatton Hall	1958-1959
Anna Tomlinson	Gatton Hall	1960	June Chinn	Gatton Hall	1959-1960
Anna Tomlinson	Gatton Hall	1960	Hilary Foster	Gatton Hall	1959-1960

Looking for a friend, add your search here by visiting the TGA website or use e-mail below.

"ALSO"

If know the person searching for you, e-mail gatton.association@gmail.com to arrange contact.

My Boarding School Life

By Steve Chandler.M.B.E (1953-1958)

5TH October 1953 is remembered as if it was yesterday! I was amongst the last intake of boys to start at Camberley before we amalgamated at Gatton Park.

My arrival into Boarding School life was, in my eyes, horrendous. We arrived with our Parent/Guardian at 2pm and after a brief farewell, shown around the school and designated in respective dormitories. We were then taken down to the "quad" where the rest of the boarders had finished afternoon school and were cleaning their shoes. On completion of that task, we were lined up and a master inspected our efforts. If the shoe cleaning was not up to the required standard, the poor unfortunate bent down, was slipped, and sent back to clean them again. The whole school was sent to bed early. My spell at Camberley was not very happy as I was fairly tall for my age and felt I was an easy target.

In January 1954, we all moved to Gatton and I was able to melt into insignificance. I was suffering from dyslexia in my youth and it wasn't until I became a teenager that I managed to learn to read to a reasonable standard. This held back my progress but after the 2nd year in senior school, I was able to graduate from a B class (year 8) to an A stream (year 9). I dropped science, because I didn't like the teacher, and regrettably, because I was frightened of the History Master dropped that subject too. I took Technical Maths because the Head teacher taught it and foolishly thought that would look good. It soon became obvious I was not technically minded so I wasted 2 years trying to learn Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry etc.

I left school with Art GCE and hoped to go on to Art College. I was informed I would have to start to earn my keep. After several years in shop work, I met my future wife and decided to find a more substantial job. I applied to join the Police and after a year at night school, was accepted. Having been happily married for nearly 50 years, and keeping in touch with the school and Old Scholars, it is a pleasure to return and bring my sons and our Grandchildren to admire the grounds and reminisce. I'm sure few of us appreciated what a wonderful place Gatton Park was/is until after we leave. Many schools do not even have playing fields. Gatton has so much. Woods a Lake, Ponds and various after school activities, even in those days. In the circumstances which we all found ourselves, what a fantastic educational environment we experienced.

P.S I have deliberately left out names as some may not wish to be mentioned. However, I would like to include Ray Davis, who was my Housemaster at Camberley, and Kent Housemaster at Gatton. I think it is fair to record that Ray and his wife June were very highly respected House-parents and Teachers within the school. I had always regarded Ray as a father figure during my time at Gatton. I was also very grateful that he took the time and effort to attend our wedding and we have kept in regular contact over all these years.

Membership Announcement

by Andrew Bailey

Since taking over the Membership Secretary role, I have been working very hard by organising all the membership records making sure they are up-to-date.

Do you need your details updated? If so why not fill out the registration form at the back of the newsletter and have it sent to the address provided on the form or send it to gatton.association@gmail.com. Or you can amend your details online. <http://www.thegattonassociation.com/amend-membership.php>

Having your details updated makes it easier for the association to send members the latest newsletter addition, this means that you won't miss out on future events, important news or if you're looking for a friend you can find out in the newsletter.

Don't forget to visit our website at www.thegattonassociation.com, be part of the open discussions on the forums, share stories, find friends, check out all past newsletters. Please remember that you are not automatically registered to the website so this means you will have to register and provide all your details, this is another way you can update your details.

Thank you

By Peter Steadman

Dear Phil,

My last house guest left for home last night. I had promised myself that one of the first things I would do when they had all gone would be to write expressing my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you and the committee for putting together such a magnificent reunion. It really was superbly organised and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

You and all your helpers are to be congratulated. The amount of work and effort that you all put in was clear to see, and I and my contemporaries cannot thank you enough. I have to say that from my personal dealings with you in the lead-up to the reunion, I had some small insight into the sheer scale of the workload that this all involved. I am in awe as to how you managed to keep an even temperament and your good humour as you managed all of this, and still found time to handle our inane enquiries.

You made it a most memorable occasion. To quote one of my party:

"The whole reunion weekend was great, and if for some reason I never manage to make it back for another, at least I have that. It was totally special and I'll never forget it!"

Phil, as they say in some of the better parts of Upton Park, you really are a diamond geezer!

Take care now, and thanks a million.

Dates for your Diary

NEXT AGM

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2012
AT 2.00PM.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY!
FROM SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2012

NEXT FOUNDERS DAY

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

FOUNDERS DAY 2013 IS
SATURDAY 11TH MAY.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY!!
FURTHER INFO IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER.

G.A. 2012 Reunion Weekend Photo's



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Thumb's up for a great reunion weekend

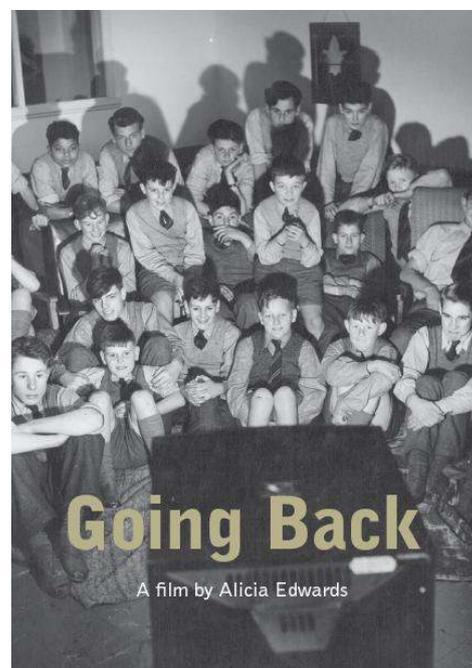
Reunion Feedback

- I would like to give a big THANK YOU to Phil for all of his hard work and effort to make the Reunion a great experience for us all. Linda Langrish
- Would recommend that anyone that can should go to the next one as it was like stepping back into a set of warm welcoming arms meeting old friends. Phil Thorne
- I loved every minute so picking out highlights is kind of difficult but I'll give it a go. Foremost I would have to say that meeting up with old friends who its otherwise difficult to see and just hanging out with them and catching up is always a highlight for me. That Being said the reunion is a great place to make some new friends, Everyone just seems to click! The dinner and dance night was a lot of fun, even if I did forget the moves to Whigfields 'Saturday night'. People ask me 'Why are you going back?' as if it's a bad thing. It's hard to explain to those who didn't go to Gatton that there seems to be an unspoken bond between the old scholars that ties us all together. We always have a good time in each other's company, what other reason do we need ? Low point - losing SIX ,yes count them SIX games of pool in a row to Marc McMaster !Edd Pennells
- This was my first time going to a reunion as I have very bad memories of the school. So very few good ones but with the support of my husband and daughter (whom both came with me) I did go back just for the day this time. I am glad I went the school has changed very much since I was there 1978-1983. The freedom we had is now all gone but the technology and privacy is so much better. The school grounds are as beautiful as I remember. I feel that making the journey almost 30 years after I left has helped, also meeting a couple of old house mates I have since become better friends with on FB has also helped to put a different face on the school. I would say to anyone not sure of going, see if someone you know and like is going and plan to meet them, also take family with you, go for just the day the first time and see how it goes may be a lot better than you think. (it was for me) It was great to wander around the old place. Thank you S Jane Tebbutt (Kirby)
- What a weekend it was. It has taken a lot of time and effort between the Gatton Association team who have been organising this reunion over the last couple of years and all I can say is WOW! It was such an amazing weekend. Thank you to everyone who came, whether it was for a couple of hours or the whole weekend. Without you making the effort to attend, there simply wouldn't be a reunion. We hope to see you all again at the next one, and even more of you who couldn't make it this time. Thanks again for your continuous support. Alicia Edwards

Going Back tells the story of life growing up at in a state boarding school told from the perspective of its past pupils who attended the school in the 40's through to present day. We then follow these pupils on a journey back to the school for a reunion weekend. As the reunion date nears, many thoughts and emotions are running through their head - Will their first love be there? or their worst enemy? Perhaps the house parent they hated, or admired. Which friends will make it? How will it be sleeping in their old dorm again? Or worse...eating the school food!

Whether you attended the school in 1930 or 2000, you will love this film! Why? Because it will make you laugh, make you cry, and you can relate to all that is mentioned in the film...you might even spot yourself in one of the photos or videos.....

Order a copy by emailing reunion_2008@hotmail.co.uk or call **0781 601 4499** for more details.



Going Back

A film by Alicia Edwards

MAITLAND PARK & BISHOPSWOOD CAMP

Mrs Joan Markwick (née Allen) The Alexandra Orphanage 1935 -1946

Once again it is my sad duty to let you know that an old scholar from our Bishopswood era has passed away. Joan was a stalwart member of The Old Scholars Association and attended our latest three reunions in 1996, 2002 and 2006. I have sent a letter of condolence to her husband Nigel on your behalf.

I saw with great interest some of the photos for the August reunion at Gatton Park and it has prompted me to write a short résumé of life in Bishopswood camp.

Were we mollycoddled? No not at all. It would be better to understand this short write up if you could go to the reunion photos to know what I am talking about. I viewed the photos with great interest. I start this write up after viewing the dining room photo. What an excellent layout compared to our dining hall at Bishopswood Camp - Wooden tables with wooden benches seating eight pupils at each table.



With all the clatter of knives and forks you would think the noise would be deafening – No! – Because, when the master or mistress stood at the centre post you had to be as quiet as was humanly possible – (96 girls and about 160 boys).

Next was a Bedroom photo - Wow! Compare this to each dormitory with 24 bunk beds down each side, each bunk bed having a thin horse hair mattress on the hard springs.



Our swimming pool was a concrete square hole outside which was really the cold water tank (in case of fire) but we managed to get 48 girls in it at a time. Hence the reason we never learned to swim. What a beautiful setting The Japanese Garden is. Did you know that at our 2002 reunion at the Bishopswood Camp site we had a raffle and we donated the proceeds to purchase Cherry Trees for The Japanese Garden at Gatton Park? I hope they are still flourishing.

As a number of children started at the school as babies or infants having lost a parent in the war we became a family unit making friends for life. Caning was normal punishment for the girls as well as boys and I remember having the cane often and called a cannibal just for biting my nails.

Despite the hard times during and after The Second World war we left the school having learned to stand on our own two feet making us independent and ready to face the outside world.

So let us hear some stories from The Bishopswood Old Scholars to let the "Newer" Old scholars know that we were definitely not mollycoddled.

Katie Putt (née Houston) 1940 – 1952

Gatton Association Shop



Gold coloured Maroon Key ring with gold trolley coin



MAGLITE -Dark red with laser engraved school logo



Ballpoint & Fountain Pen Set with printed logo



Gatton Sports Bag in various colours



**Enamelled gold coloured
Badge On Brass
[Size of a 1p coin]**

The Gatton Association

:: Order Form ::

Product Types	Price	Order Amount	UK Price Postage	Europe Price Postage	World Price Postage	Total
Gatton Logo Badge	£3.50	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 1.50	£ 1.50	£ 1.50	£ <input type="text"/>
Description:	Enamelled gold coloured Badge On Brass. (Up to 5 in one Envelope)					
Pen Set	£6.00	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Description:	Printed Logo - Ballpoint & Fountain Pen Set					
Gatton Bag	£4.50	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Colours:	<input type="checkbox"/> Maroon - <input type="checkbox"/> Purple - <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Blue - <input type="checkbox"/> Grey - <input type="checkbox"/> Black - <input type="checkbox"/> Green					
Trolley Keyring	£3.00	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Description:	Gold coloured Maroon Key ring with gold coloured logo and on the Flip-side - Gatton Association. (Up to 4 in one Envelope)					
Maglite Torch	£9.99	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Description:	Dark red with laser engraved school logo					
Bundle Types						
Key ring & Gatton Badge	£6.00	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 3.80	£ 4.80	£ 6.00	£ <input type="text"/>
Torch & Keyring	£12.50	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 3.80	£ 4.80	£ 6.00	£ <input type="text"/>

Total Amount: £

Note: P & P Charges will be adjusted for large or multiple orders.

You can also make up your own customised orders.

Please contact – Phil Wade either by Phone: 07903192989 or
by E-Mail: gatton.association@gmail.com for further information for P & P Charges

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