

THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

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



Chairman: Phil Wade

President: Ray Davies

News Editor: Chas Bailey

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Chairman's Welcome

Dear Member,

Welcome to our spring newsletter, even though it seems someone forgot to order some warmer weather. At least it shouldn't be too long till the warmer weather gets here we hope.

As usual, it is with a sad heart that I start by announcing that in the last few months I have been notified of the passing of a few of our number.

Firstly, as many of our members have already heard is that Monsieur Michel Jean Maurice HERROU aged 74 has died from cancer. We understand that he died around mid November 2012, and his funeral service took place at Thanet Crematorium on Thursday 22nd November. Michel was head of French language and house master in Gatton Hall. He was at the school from the early 1970's till the late 1990's. He retired from the school and moved to Herne Bay Kent where he had bought a house. He was a very funny and entertaining man who always made me laugh at his stories whenever I had a chat with him. He was loved and respected by all that knew him. He was a very humourous and generous person who will be missed and remembered with a smile by all who knew him. Many of his students and friends have left their condolences and thoughts further down in this newsletter.

Another member of staff who has passed away is Stella Margaret Cady (nee Trowbridge) passed away peacefully on 28th December 2012. Many of the old scholars of the 60's and early 70's will remember her as house mistress in Gatton Hall. She had an interesting personality and was a strict disciplinarian as many of the senior girls of the era will attest to.

I'm also sad to report the obituary notice of the Rev Paul Duval which appeared in the Telegraph on Saturday, 5th January 2013, notifying us that he had passed away a few days earlier.

Many past pupils may recall with pleasure and a smile on their faces the school Chaplain Rev P. Duval who was at the school during the period, roughly 1975 to 1985. He would appear on his scooter, cassock flying in the breeze, crash helmet atop his head. Happy days indeed!! They may also remember his kind and understanding nature, and his frequent Sunday services in the school chapel and how he prepared candidates for Confirmation. That preparation culminating in the Confirmation Service, when usually 45 - 50 children would be admitted into the membership of the Church of England by the Bishop. The event beginning in St Andrew's Church, and proceeding to the Chapel where parents and friends were waiting.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St George's Church, Hinton St George, Somerset, on Friday, 11th January, at 2.30 p.m. He will be remembered as a splendid Chaplain, and a good friend to us all. R.I.P.

Our thanks for this update goes to Mr. Frank Bickerstaff ex Headmaster.

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And lastly I bring to your attention the passing of John Parker aged 90 who passed away in November. I don't currently know too much of his circumstances at the moment. Thanks to his daughter Linda McCarthy for informing us of this sad news.

Our sincerest condolences and thoughts go out to all of the family and friends of Michel, Stella, Paul and John at this sad time. Rest in Peace our dear friends.

Our First 'Saturday' Founders Day is 11th May

This year will be the first Founders Day to be held on a Saturday since its inception 253 years ago. The reasoning behind this is that the head has had great difficulty in the past of securing a speaker for the Sunday services, so by holding the Founders Day on the Saturday it is felt that more people will attend the prize giving and service in the chapel. As has been expressed by many ex scholars it is a shame to change this tradition, but things change and so we will have to move with the times and adjust. I will miss the Sunday Founders Day outing, so as from this year Founders Day prize giving will take place on the Saturday nearest the 10th May. Because of the change we will be holding the annual 'Challenge Shield' Football Match on the Saturday. I hope this doesn't impact upon our turnout, but we will just have to see where we go with that. Watch this space.

This year is the 255th year since the inception of the school that we know today. It has come a long way since then with many changes along the way. This day is to celebrate its history and progress from times gone by, to where we are today. The celebrations start at 10.00 am in the chapel, so if you would like to come along and join in please do so. Bring your family and friends along to see what you have been talking about over the years. Lunch is served in the dining hall after the

chapel service, where you get a chance to catch up with other ex-scholars and staff. The annual 'Challenge Shield' Football Match will take place at 2.30 between the 'Old Boys' and the Staff. If you would like to play in this annual match, which has been running since 1994 please read below for further info.

After the game we will be retreating to the staff bar to have a chat and a few nibbles and give us all a chance to catch up and remember times gone by.

'Gatton Goes Green' Sunday 7th July from 12 noon.

The Gatton Association will have a stall at this event. It will be run by our vice chair and a few of our committee. The event takes place in the grounds of the school on Sunday 7th July 2013. It is also known as the 'Gatton Country Fair.' A great fun day out for all the family. Country crafts and demonstrations, children's activities, gardens and grounds are open from 12-5pm. *Cost: Adults £5.00 children free.* It is a very interesting afternoon out for all ages. Well worth a visit to check out these country skills and crafts and seeing them at close quarters.

Best wishes,

Phil Wade
Chairman

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

Dates for Diary

May 11th 2013

Founders Day

July 7th 2013

**'Gatton Goes Green'
Local craft stalls and fun activities.**

September 29th 2013

Gatton Association AGM. Have a hand in the planning of the future. Come along and meet the Chairman, Headmaster, committee and friends.

Have a great day out.

FOUNDERS DAY 11th MAY 2013

THE GATTON ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE SHIELD OLD SCHOLARS FOOTBALL MATCH

2.30 KICK OFF

MEET THE CHALLENGE NOW!!!

Yes my friends, it's that time again when we, the 'Old Gattonians' have to take to the field of glory, and return to the football field and regain our crown. We are currently beaten over the past four years. We have to dominate the field and regain our winning ways. We need men to take up the challenge, put those feet into action and beat the school in the annual

'Old Boys' Football Match.

If you are willing and able to take up the challenge then contact me as soon as possible so that we may once again return to winning ways. 'You Know It Makes Sense', and you know we can do it again. So, come and watch or come and play, it's the same day in May, and the day is Founders Day Saturday 11th May. Be there, bring the family, don't delay there are only a few seats left in the Grandstand.

Kick off 2.30 Saturday 11th May.

For further info, or to play call Phil Wade on 020 8514 2303 (leave a message with contact details if necessary), 07903 192989 mobile, or e-mail; gattonassociation@gmail.com.

Come one come all for a fun filled day, and meet old friends, and catch up on old times over a drink in the bar. I hope to see you there.

Phil Wade

Very Old Boy

I and my twin sister were pupils at your school from 1938 to 1944. From a study of your website I can assure you the school we attended was vastly different from what it appears to be today. I have many quite vivid memories from that time including our first days, visits to J Arthur Ranks establishment at Godstone, evacuation to Bedford, Bishopswood Farm Camp, passing a scholarship to attend Henly Grammar School and being part of the school choir who appeared in the first film of Shakespears Henry V. It occurs to me that your present day pupils may be interested to hear what life was like in that period of the schools history. Of course, I shall not bother you with such things if you have already this information or a sufficiently documented record. I must say that the education and experience of the Alexandra Orphanage, as it then was known, gave me a strong start leading to a 10 year Army career of commissioned rank, a further career in sales and marketing and finally running my own, very succesful , company until the age of 73.

Peter Humphries.

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

My last letter was written as the School prepared for Remembrance Day. I am pleased to report that everything went well on the day. The Service was held in Chapel and the address was given by Major General (Rtd) Tim Cross CBE. He described, in very moving terms, the huge numbers of casualties in war and the impact that every casualty has on the families who were affected. There was a roll call of all the Old Scholars who had fallen in battle.

It was good to welcome back some of our Old Scholars on Remembrance Day, including Charles Bailey and John Heywood. John brought with him a number of framed pictures (all his own work) which he donated to the School. They are now hanging in Gatton Hall and are greatly appreciated by the Sixth Form students who live there. The photo shows John and I holding two of the pictures, one is a photo of Gatton Hall that he took during an earlier visit, and the other is a photograph of one of his paintings.



John Heywood and Paul Spencer Ellis

Just over a year ago we lost our colleague Alan Taylor who was Deputy Housemaster of Edinburgh House. To mark the anniversary there was a ceremony and a tree planting near Edinburgh House on 8th February.

This was attended by staff and pupils who knew Alan and was a fitting way to remember a colleague and friend who is still greatly missed.

It has been a busy few months since I last wrote. As ever, pupils go on various trips throughout the year but one trip that was special was the Army Cadet Force Trip to Tambov Cadet School in Russia. Our Cadets went to stay in the Cadet School and their hosts showed them round the sights of Tambov and also took them to visit Moscow. It was an unforgettable experience for the pupils and staff and there is a page on the website (in the news section) that gives a detailed account of their time in Russia.



Our Cadets attend a class at the Tambov Cadet

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We continue to invest in our school buildings to keep up with the demands of growing pupil numbers. The ground floor extension to Edinburgh House was completed in the summer and will be officially opened by Lavina Sealy, Chairman of Surrey County Council, later on in March. The building work for a new Fitness Centre is nearly complete and it will be open to pupils next term. The Fitness Centre is at the end of the Health Centre building and will have high specification professional gym equipment including exercise bikes and weights.

We have always had a strong emphasis on sport and in the last few months our pupils have achieved success in a wide range of sports both within and outside of school. Pupils have won awards in national and regional competitions for Judo, Rugby, Netball, Karate, Cross Country Running, Sprinting, World Marathon Challenge, Cycling and Trampolining. It is very good to see so many pupils stretching themselves to excel in whatever sport they choose.

Looking forward, it is only a matter of weeks before we have our Founders' Day Service. Once again, I would like to extend an invitation to any Old Scholars who would like to join us for this important event in the School Calendar. Please contact my PA, Sally Herrtage on 01737 649000 if you would like to come. I look forward to welcoming you if you are able to make this event.

Paul D Spencer Ellis
Headmaster

Friend Search

SEARCHER'S NAME

FRIEND'S NAME

Name	House	Year Left	Name	House	Year Left
Marion Bird	Elizabeth	1955-1958	Roger Clark	Cornwall	Not Known
Paul Johnson	Cornwall	1966-1971	Dean Jamieson	Cornwall	1971
Carol Gall	Gatton Hall	1971	Shirley Fish	Gatton Hall	Not Known
David Roberts	Gloucester	1981-1986	Andrew Paul Smith	Gloucester	1982-1987
Claire Sutherland (Wood)	Gatton Hall	1991	Lyndsey Netherwood	Not Known	1991
Stephen Guare	Cornwall	1968	Diana Lacey	Not Known	1970
Vanda Ryan (Haley)	Gatton Hall	1965	Sandra Legge	Gatton Hall	1965
John Garber	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.

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In loving memory of Monsieur Herrou

Jacqui Milligan RIP Monsieur Herrou, legendary French teacher and nice man. I will never forget seeing him in his little sports car speeding around the school grounds.

Nino Da Costa It was sad hearing some old friends from Gatton Park gone, their memories remain in us, as their joins and smiles remained until now in our thoughts...

Danny Nd Carrie Halpin Haaallpinnn you are an attention seeker, now get out. I spent more time in the hall than in class. Rest in peace Monsieur

Robert Webb Monsieur Herrou - I was there when he first joined the school and had a crush on the PE teacher (well we all did!!)- A superb chap, great fun, patience of a saint - loved getting him to express his frustrations in French whilst unwrapping the language lab reel-to-reel!! He made a difference, left a mark and will be remembered with a smile. RIP Monsieur Herrou



Alicia Edwards Monsieur Herrou, I will never forget lessons with you; making us wear slippers so your carpet didn't get dirty, the way you would throw your glasses in anger, tell us how your Mont Blanc pen was more expensive than anything 'us English' could own, show us the photo of you being a body guard for the Beatles, talk about your house in France with a moat, yell at us for walking on the grass, and unforgettably, the way you always called me Cecilia! Rest in Peace sir, you are a legend! :)

Sarah Smith RIP Monsieur Herrou, after 7 years of learning I still cannot speak a word of French!

Chris Grassy Grass One of his comedy quotes: "Grass.....get of the grass - I'll walk all over youuuu". Although we all hated French, he made the classes worth while. A true gent, made a difference and put a smile on our faces. RIP Monsieur Herrou

Angela Norrie-Bland As he shouted across the grass between the French hut and the San, to Alex.... Fat body.....you dent the grass.....get offffffff and also told my mother that my bright purple hair would never get me the right 'type' of man. Cannot believe the legend has passed. My thoughts are with his family. Gatton will never be the same and am proud to have been spat on by the legend that is Monsieur Herrou

Richard Adshead Monsieur Herrou, lots of fond memories of you back in the day. Now that I live in Canada I'm definitely wishing I listened more than I did. An absolute legend.

Rob Farmer Top bloke and will be truly missed. RIP Monsieur Herrou. My thoughts are with your family.

Renny Leftwich Bon nuit Monsieur. x

Alison Pardoe Such sad news about Monsieur Herrou, he was a great teacher and now sadly missed.

Kerrie Smith Good night and god bless sir.RIP.xxx

Martin Roberts Very funny man. Spent 45 mins yelling and 5 mins teaching. Used to kick the bin and get his foot stuck in it lol. RIP

Gary Luckhurst Rest In Peace Monsieur Herrou, my thoughts are with your family. A man that always made me laugh, especially when he went on about the Police being B*****ds for picking on him for having a nice car (It was Orange) and being French. Top Bloke and he always told you what he thought

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Andrew McIntyre Mcintyeeerrrrr you imbecillllleeeee! Hate French but thought he was a great man, fondly remembered. Rest in peace monsieur Michel Herrou...At 74 Michel jean maurice herrou lived a fulfilled and interesting life with the many tale he told may the lord be with you Michel ps be nice to st peter at the gates don't call him an imbecile and take your place at the highest table and rest in peace mon amie

Sara Bargeron So sorry to hear about Monsieur Herrou what a character, I will never forget his French classes or his sports car.

Christine Danielle Anderson RIP Monsieur Herrou. Thanks for giving me 3% in my French exam, (just for putting my name), to avoid me having a zero score. Thank you for trying to teach me French even though I was a lost cause, and thanks for teaching me alternative methods of cleaning wood. Certain things you learn may never be used in life, but you never forget them.

Abs Duke Just heard the sad new that Monsieur Herrou has passed away. He was a legend! Called me abi-girl & my bro Rufus Brooker abi-boy which cracked me up. I was lucky to have him as head of sixth form in Cornwall too! He was always very kind & generous. RIP

Abigail Payne Monsieur Herrou I will miss the way you threw your glasses and chairs, the way you looked down on the English and the way you called me abidale!! Rest in peace x

Luke Ewart Au revoir Monsieur Herrou - a good bloke even though you never had a first name. Never forget you making us scrape the graffiti off the desks with broken glass! RIP

Heather Cruickshank Just heard the sad news of the passing of Monsieur Herrou. A lovely funny man. Sure he touched a lot of lives of thousands. Rest in peace sir x

Shaun Wright Very sad news. Even though my French skills were so poor, he gave me a bicycle at school because I was wanted to start racing. Top of Form

Rufus Brooker Monsieur Herrou has sadly passed on this man was a true gent he progressed too teach us all a new language although many were unable too follow his faultless tuition at times. We learned so much from him culture and discipline never forgotten always in our fond memories.... Rest in peace we owe you the world

Vickie Wood RIP Monsieur Herrou, my thoughts are with your family!!! Will never forget how you used to throw your glasses and a few times it was even a chair! Some very happy school memories xXx

Wendy Brooks RIP Monsieur Herrou, I do have very fond memories of him even though he used to pick on me because of my maiden name, Le Couilliard.

Tina Bennett R.I.P sir sad sad news of your passing you were a great teacher sadly missed but never forgotten I've just found out by reading all the posts on here how many other people I knew have sadly gone may you all rest in peace xx

Steven MacEwan Rest in peace Monsieur Herrou, you were an integral part of life, and many fond memories I have of my time spent at Gatton Hall. You will be missed. My thoughts are with you and your loved ones.

Cathy Jennings Very sad news about Monsieur Herrou. An absolute legend of a French Teacher and House Master. RIP xx

Vicky Cann Rip monsieur herrou. To this day I can still sing the French nursery rhyme 'Du Soleil'.

Jacqui Rhule-Dagher I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Monsieur Herrou this morning. He was a Gatton legend for sure! It's a testament to his larger- than-life character that we all still remember so clearly his 'war memorial' medals, his loathing of the English, and the piece de resistance-his disdain for chewing gum! Indeed, I don't think that I will ever forget the image of him gesticulating wildly and furiously kicking the dustbin around the classroom, because his foot had got stuck to the offending item. Ah Sir, it was a pleasure! Vive La France!

Matt Hawkins I will stay off the grass today monsieur... grandes merci pour le tout, R.I.P. monsieur, je suis desole pour mon insolence mon amis...

Louie Lit It is with deep regret to hear this. Monsieur Herrou had always been a good person and was always there when you needed him. Rest in peace Sir, sorry we had been bad pupils sometimes.

Jay Firmager You boy.....get out my class. Embedded in my memory lol. Great character..... Thoughts with the family x

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Jade Holden Really sad news! He taught me how to write my r's, I still write them that way today. God bless Monsieur Herrou, may you rest in peace x

Siobhan Davies Always called me a fish wife and sent me out of class!! A true French man.R.I.P x

Jo Malone M Herrou and I had many an interesting clash, but I loved that he asked me to do dictation class when he'd lost his voice. Condonléances. A bientôt.

Nicky Whaley According to the French and Belgian's I've worked with, I have no English accent when I speak French. This is all down to M. Herrou - he banged on about pronunciation so often. Would like to pay my respects and offer my thanks at the funeral if possible.

Tim Tacey I always respected Monsieur Herrou, he encouraged me with my French to the point that we spend a lot of time in the Arcachon area, have a high fluency in the language, and have learnt German as well. I liked him a lot. R.I.P.

Kelly Garbett Au revoir Monsieur Herrou, you'll always be remembered. The smell of coffee and polo mints will always trigger a memory of you x

Dave Browning Real character and great teacher, I remember looking at some saucy playing cards with Jon Shepherd and having them confiscated and his weekly debates with Gabrielle Col and Ollie Broadley as they were fluent in French. Also the weekly row with John Laishley which always ended in him blowing his top and JL in detention. Great memories of a great man.

Nuala Tighe This is the saddest news I have heard in years. Although it is over 10 years since we last met I have never forgotten him. How I wish I had known of his illness. It is only to-day that I have learned of his death. For many, many years we were the best of friends. Michel was an intelligent, warm-hearted man who was the best of company and liked nothing better than a glass of wine and congenial companions. My memory of him will remain with me forever. How I wish I could have known of his death at the time. I would have dearly loved to have been at his funeral. Perhaps it is still not too late to have a memorial service for him. He was a much loved member of staff at The Royal Alexandra and Albert School. He gave 30 years of loyal service to that school and that we must never forget.

Abidemi Adesanya RIP Monsieur Herrou. I'll never forget his French classes, hilarious times! Thoughts are with his family and loved ones.

Suzanne Ovenden Him after he caught me trying to mimic him in the school playground for yelling out to some boys... "Eh you!" in his French accent. He turns round and tells me "Go and stand outside the toilets!" Me: What the boys? Him: Yes why not, they aren't going to bite you. Thanks Monsieur Herrou for the fond memories of you, you did make me laugh at times. May you R.I.P

Sammy Wright He was truly a legend! I remember him walking around the school taking pictures when it was on fire... Still makes me giggle to this day RIP sir!!

Ben Sloan Proper old school hard line teacher and real character. God help anyone he catches graffitiiing the desks in the big classroom in the sky. R I P old boy.

Alison Parrott Such sad news - a lovely man who took so much pride in showing me and my children around Gatton Hall in 1999 when I took them to my school - he had so much time for us. I enjoyed lessons with him - how easy he was to wind up! RIP Sir - gone but not forgotten

Rest in peace Sir

The Gatton Association will ensure a memorial service is held for Monsieur Herrou. As the above condolences taken from our Facebook page show, Monsieur Herrou was a funny charismatic man who entered thousands of children's lives over the 30 years he worked at the Royal Alexandra and Albert school and any one pupil who met him has certainly not, and never will, forget him.

Further details will be released once arrangements have been made.

Keep updated here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/619772578040336/>



Bishopswood Camp

Hi, just wonder if you could help me or pass it on to someone who could..

We, Rotherfield United Football Club, have just purchased Bishopswood and I am looking into the history. Being a local chap for 50 years I probably know its last 30 years from when the cedar wood clubhouse was on site and my mother played hockey for Ranelagh.. and it looked like this.. The clubhouse was subject to many break ins and serious vandalism. Being council owned they said it was too expensive to maintain and it was all demolished, although the base still stands. We don't own the Bishopswood nursery school or the wooded part that goes between the old clubhouse and the road. This is the bit with all the shelters, see.. <http://www.derelictplaces.co.uk/main/showthread.php?t=11858>

From your Timeline..

1940 In February, senior children and staff are re-united at the National Camps Corporation Bishopswood Farm Camp, Kidmore End, Reading, for the duration of the War.

Woodham Place not large enough to accommodate influx of infants. A house on the Duxhurst Estate is renovated and the nursery moves.

Government requisitions Duxhurst Estate for military use. The Board purchases Elmcroft, a house at Goring-on-Thames, near Bishopswood Camp. Infants and Juniors are re-united at Elmcroft throughout the War.



1942 The Duke of Kent, President, is killed on active service. The Duchess of Kent becomes President in succession to her late husband.

1944 King George VI commands that the Alexandra Orphanage be henceforth known as the Royal Alexandra School, "in recognition of the long service to fatherless and motherless boys and girls which the Charity has provided".

1945 Second World War ends

Eleven former Alexandra Scholars and one teacher are known to have given their lives.

Of the approximately 300 children in the School, 84 had lost fathers in action and 23 had lost parents in air raids on London.

Surrey County Council suggests that Royal Alexandra School moves from its wartime accommodation at Bishopswood Camp, to be co-sited with Royal Albert School at Camberley, Surrey.

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1947 Infants and Juniors move from Elmcroft to Duxhurst Park.

1948 The Boards of Management of the Royal Alexandra and the Royal Albert Foundations agree to an amalgamation of the Schools into the Royal Alexandra and Albert School.

The council sold off the plot and the woods with all the aerial masts to Bishopswood Pavilion Ltd, a lovely local lady that had so many great plans called Sue Abbot. She eventually received planning for a sports centre and then she sold it to us..

I would love to know any of the old history or pictures from the past please

Many thanks

<http://bishopswood.blogspot.co.uk/p/history-of-bishopswood.html>

Trevor Back,

01189 242159

Chief Electrical Engineer MIET

Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells

Blounts Court Road

Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9NH

01189 242159

Locating Friends

I was a pupil at the school from 1955-1959 and lived at Edinburgh house. The house master was Mr Jefferies is he still alive if so could I contact him? He may remember as one holiday I stayed with him and his wife and dug a rather large hole in his garden

From Bill Tyrrell formerly Bill Slack

Thought you might be interested in this photograph. Can anyone put a date to it? Mine's the face nearest to the camera.

I think it might be 1959.

The back of the photograph reads:

"FURTHER COPIES CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED FROM MESSRS LAWSON & CO

6 CHANDOS STREET CAVENDISH SQUARE W1

Regards

OLD SCHOLAR ROBERT O'NIELL



MAITLAND PARK & BISHOPSWOOD CAMP

Mrs Eileen Smith née Mead (1933 – 1941)

Eileen's husband Maurice would like me to pass on to members of the Maitland and Bishopswood contingent of The Gatton Association, the sad news that Eileen passed away recently.

Eileen and Maurice were childhood sweethearts at our school and I remember them celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

I would like to pass on our sincere condolences especially to Maurice and also to our members who were at Maitland Park and Bishopswood Camp with Eileen and Maurice.

Katie Putt (née Houston) 1940 – 1952

I have been sorting through the memorabilia which Joan Paris (deceased) sent to me from Canada and I came across an article in The Maitland to Gatton CENTENARY GAZETTE dated 1956. I contacted Eric Clarke (1940 – 1948) about his letter printed in it and he would be happy for me to print it out as I thought it might be of interest to those members who attended Bishopswood Camp during the 1940's and 1950's.

The School at Bishopswood

It was a cold day early in March 1940, when I arrived at Bishopswood Farm Camp, Kidmore End, Near Reading, Berkshire (to give it its full title). This was to be my home for the next eight and a half years. I was now a member of the Alexandra Orphanage.

It was barely a week earlier that the school had moved down here from Maitland Park and I was the first "new boy".

In the early days I was continually informed that it was nothing like the "old school", but I was quite satisfied with my new surroundings, which consisted of many newly painted huts (dormitories), dining hall, hall, classrooms, hospital etc), set in twenty acres of ground and surrounded by beech woods and farms. The nearest towns were Henley and Reading, about five miles distance, but this was not of interest to us in the early days and we were lucky to be so far from war-ravaged London.

The focal point of our life was the first Sunday in every month when we were allowed visitors, and crowds would eagerly await the coaches from London. An important day in the life of the school at Bishopswood was in 1943 when we had a visit from H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent (our President at that time), who has always taken a great interest in the school. *** (see photo next page) Another of our memorable occasions were the visits of the late J.V. Rank to our Annual School Sports, as we all know how much of his time and money Mr Rank devoted to our School.

One day in 1944 we had important looking visitors (which was soon confirmed when it was discovered that we had cake and jam for tea)! The memorable day was when we were informed that H.M. The Queen had conferred upon us the title of "The Royal Alexandra School" and the cheers that day must have raised the roof off the dining-hall.

As was inevitable we were bound to leave our mark on the locality and it was not very long before every farmer in the district knew our tell-tale red caps. It was, however, in the field of sport that the school greatly distinguished itself. At cricket we played all the top Reading schools and local teams. In the early days we did well in the Reading football league and later the school team was to win the local schools' league and also to become runners-up and then cup-winners in the Oxfordshire Schools League. The finest individual performance was when David Heaphy returned from Henley Grammar School (which children from our school attended) with seven cups won by him at their Annual Sports.

Despite several earlier rumours, it was not until the 1950's that the School eventually moved from these quarters to an even more picturesque situation at Gatton Park., near Reigate and linked up with The

(Continued from page 11)

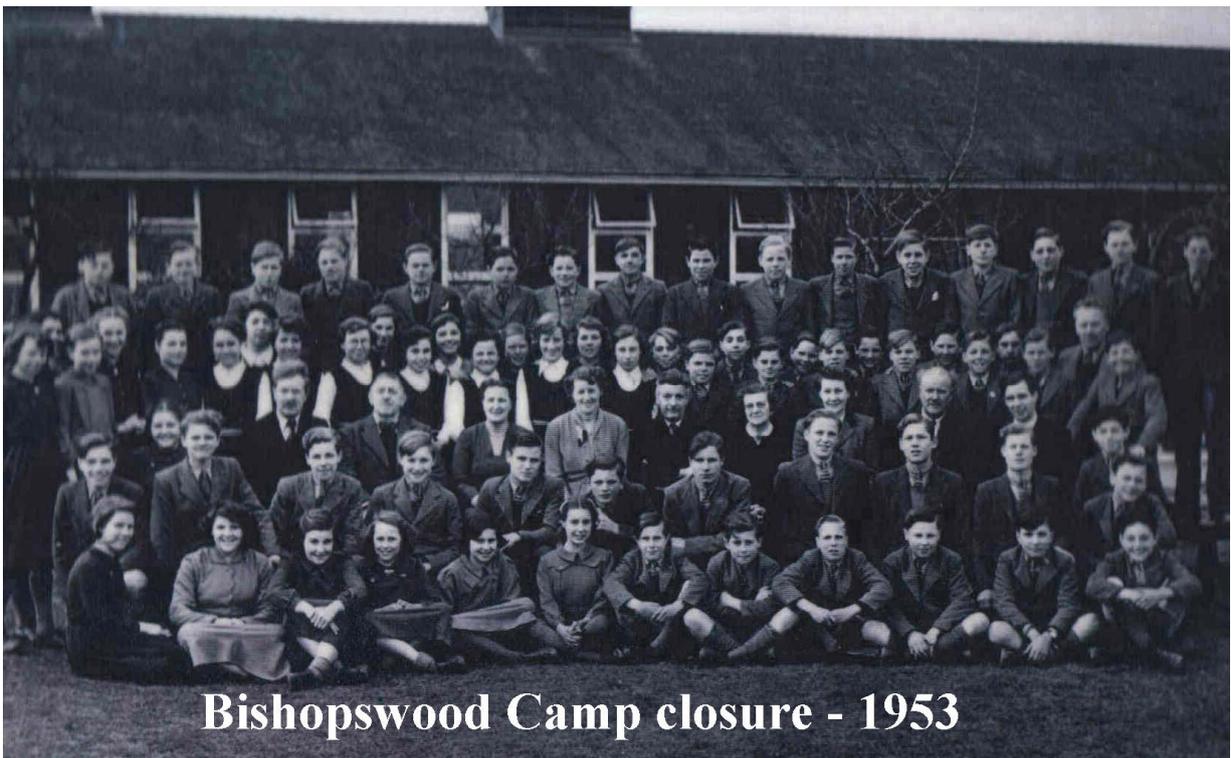
Royal Albert School to become "The Royal Alexandra and Albert School". Although, those huts at Bishopswood have been left behind and were only a temporary home for our School, they will always hold a permanent place in the memories of all who stayed there.

In the new school at Gatton can still be found some of the staff who served the school faithfully at Maitland, Bishopswood and now Gatton. How many hundreds can recall Mr "Taffy" Evans, Mr "Gump" Andrews, Mr "Sarge" Vousden, Mr "Alf" Belton and Miss Leigh, all who have helped to carry on the school traditions and make it forever "the best School of its kind".

Eric Clarke



H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent - visit to Bishopswood Camp in 1943



Bishopswood Camp closure - 1953

Olympic volunteer lunches with Prime Minister

Formally known as John Hounsom - Edinburgh House - 1952/1962

A TILBURY man enjoyed a coffee with the Prime Minister as a thank you for his hard work at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

John Kingsgate was one of 20 volunteers from the Games invited to meet David Cameron at Number 10 on Monday morning.

The retired 67-year-old was nominated for the honour by the team of gamesmakers at the velodrome, where he volunteered and put in 14 hour shifts on many occasions.

John, from Thackeray Avenue, said: "I got the call at about 7.30pm on Sunday inviting me, and said yes straightaway. "I thought what a way to end the experience.

"The next morning I was sitting in the Cabinet room with David Cameron and the other volunteers having a coffee.

"He was really pleasant to talk to, he is much more relaxed off camera.

"He asked me questions about where I worked during the Games and seemed to really know his stuff."

The volunteers were then given a tour around Number 10.

John was determined to work as volunteer at the Games as soon as he heard London had been awarded them.

He said: "I applied online straightaway and it has taken over the last seven months of my life.

"It's been brilliant though – I've seen nearly every medal in the velodrome and the atmosphere in there was absolutely fantastic. I felt very fortunate to be involved."

John, whose role involved looking after the athletes and bringing them drinks, ice and towels, said he struggled to find a single highlight of the Games as there have been so many amazing moments.

He said: "Seeing all the gold medals was great, but I think it was how people's perception of the Games changed that was so good.

"I think a lot of people thought things were going to go wrong, but in the end it was brilliant.

"It was also the small things that meant a lot to us volunteers.

"For example, after the last event at the velodrome we'd all gathered together for a picture, then all of a sudden, Australian cyclist Anna Meares just came over and got in the middle of the picture.

"It was little things like that which made it extra special."

Author: ThurrockGazette.co.uk

Source:

http://www.thurrockgazette.co.uk/news/9924042.Olympic_volunteer_lunches_with_Prime_Minister/



John Kingsgate at No 10

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:						£ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>

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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Country:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>				
Phone:	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>		E-Mail:	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	

