

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.

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. I hope it finds you all well and in the best of health.

It has been a crazy start to the New Year with extreme flooding in the south of England, freezing weather across the USA and scorching temperatures across Australia. Is it climate change or just nature doing her bit to shake us up and have some fun with us all? Whatever it is I hope things settle down a little and get back to a bit of normality. If you have been hit by these events I am sorry for you and wish you well.

I start this edition by announcing the passing of a few of our older members, Doug Dielhenn, Peter Longhurst and Jim rayner.

Douglas Ian Dielhenn, passed away on Thursday 12th December 2013 aged 86 years. He was cremated at the South Essex Crematorium Upminster Essex on Friday 3rd January 2014. The funeral was well attended by many friends and family. A reception was held afterwards at St Chad's Bowling Club, where Doug had been chairman for many years.

Doug was a very active member of the Association for many years. He attended The Alexandra Orphanage School at Maitland Park at the age of 8½ with his brother Gordon aged 10, in the early months of 1935. He was evacuated with the school in 1939 at the beginning of the war to Bedford and later ended up at Bishopswood Camp. He left the school in 1941 at the age of 14½. He later joined the Royal Navy and went into electrical engineering after leaving the navy. Doug held the post of Chairman of the Gattton Association and various other posts within the Association.



He was a great supporter and fund raiser for Foundationers at the school, and was a regular contributor to their support. I have very fond memories of him and the stories of his past adventures. We will be running a few snippets of his life in following editions of the newsletter which you may find interesting.

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Dates for Diary

Founders Day - 10th May

Rallying Call
Old Scholars Football Match

Gatton Country Fair - 6th July

Local craft stalls and fun activities.

Grand Reunion 22nd - 24th August

150 Years of The Royal Albert School

September 28th 2014

Gatton Association AGM.
Have a say in the future of the Association. Come along and meet the Committee and friends.
Have a great day out and join us for an interesting afternoon.

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Doug leaves Joyce his wife, children and grandchildren. Our deepest condolences and sympathy to his family and friends, he will be greatly missed by all that had the pleasure to have chatted with and known him.

Peter Longhurst, passed away on 27th November 2013 aged 78 years. Peter attended The Alexandra Orphanage from the age of 18 months old in 1937 and left at the age of 15 years in 1950. Towards the end of Peter's time at school in 1950, the School arranged a job interview at Samuel Montague Merchant Bank, (now part of HSBC). Peter would tell the tale of his interview, with him being the only person he had known to go for a job interview wearing school shorts for a post in a merchant bank. He was asked a few questions but he felt that the only reason that he got the job, was that when they asked him did he play cricket, he answered yes and very well, the job was in the bag!! Peter remained with the bank for many years till he was head hunted by ICI for the post of Pensions Manager. Later he moved a couple more times with takeovers and ended up with Metal Box Plc, from where he retired at the age of 65.

Peter had been diagnosed with lung problems in 2009 even though he had never smoked or worked in heavy industry. Doctors were unable to ascertain the origin of this disease.

Peter was married twice and had two sons from his first marriage, and his second wife is Anne, with whom he had been married for the past 35 years.

Our deepest condolences and sympathy go out to Anne, his family and friends. He will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

James Cyril Rayner, passed away on 19th February 2014. Jim was 84 years old and had attended the Alexandra Orphanage and was later evacuated to Bishopswood camp at the beginning of World War 2.

I will not say too much here as Vic Kelaher has written an obituary and memories of his lifelong friend further down in the newsletter.

Jim will be missed by many, and remembered with fond memories by his friends and acquaintances.

May I offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to his long-time partner and to his friends who will miss this jolly and lively man.

Committee Members

Positions	Name
President:	Ray Davies
Vice President:	Benny Jones
Chairman:	Phil Wade
Vice Chair:	Alicia Edwards
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Ray Davies (Temporary Cover)
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

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Founders Day Saturday 10th May

This year will be the second Founders Day/Prize Giving to be held on a Saturday. Last year was such a success for the School that this event will be held on the Saturday nearest the 10th May in the future.

If you are planning on attending the Prize Giving service in the chapel, you will have to reserve your seat/s with the school due to the numbers attending. You can call the school on 01737 649000 or email to reserve your seats.

The service begins at 10.30 am in the chapel, but full details will be provided when booking your seats.

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 Country Fair' Sunday 6th July from 12 noon.

The Gatton Association are planning to have a stall at this event. The event takes place in the grounds of the school on Sunday 6th July 2014. 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.

Grand Reunion 2014, Celebrating 150 Years of 'The Royal Albert School'

Yes, the other half of our school, **The Royal Albert**. We are having a reunion over the weekend of the weekend of 22nd – 24th August. We will be looking forward to seeing as many of the ex-Royal Albert School boys as possible at this event. And to help celebrate the occasion we want as many of The Royal Alexandra School members to join in with the festivities along with ex scholars of the combined Schools. Yes we want you all to have a great time mixing and swapping tales from times gone by, memories of fun and friends. A great get together for all of you to have a wonderful weekend. A chance to see the changes and meet up with old friends for a fun filled weekend. Speak to your old school friends and get a group together to enjoy this special memorable occasion. The booking form and details are later in this newsletter. Don't delay, book early for a magnificent weekend.

We look forward to seeing you there!!

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If you have any questions please email us at gattonassociation@gmail.com or call me on 07903 192989.

Best wishes,

Phil Wade

Chairman

FOUNDERS DAY 10th MAY 2014

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 scholars football match.

'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 10th May. Be there, bring the family, don't delay there are only a few seats left in the Grandstand.

Kick off 2.30 Saturday 10th 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

Obituary To My Lifelong Friend

It is with great regret that I notify the Association of the death of one of our Members, 84 year old James Cyril RAYNER, an old "AO'lian" and "Bishopswood Camper" who suffered a heart-attack and passed away at his home in Spain on Wednesday, 19th February 2014, following complications which arose after undergoing heart surgery at Malaga Hospital the previous week.

Jim was orphaned at the age of four years when his parents died in 1934 and a year later with his elder brother, Dennis, and sister, Daphne, the three of them were accepted as boarders/pupils by the Alexandra Orphanage which at that time was at Maitland Park in the Hampstead district of north-west London. In September 1939, Jimmy along with the rest of the school, was evacuated from London and spent the first six months of WW2 at Bedford, in Bedfordshire before the school was relocated to Bishopswood Farm Camp at Kidmore End, Sonning Common some five miles to the north-west of Reading in Berkshire. In 1943, by Royal decree the school's name was changed to "The Royal Alexandra School" and Jim, along with all the staff and pupils alike, was proud that the school had been given this honour.

The orphanage remained at Bishopswood throughout the war years and is where Jimmy spent the rest of his school days. He left school shortly after the war ended in 1945 and started a job, arranged for him by the school, as an office clerk at Stanley Gibbons Limited (Philatelists) at its offices in The Strand, London, WC2 but he hated being cooped-up in an office for nine hours every day and left after two years. On leaving that employment Jim had a number of jobs working outdoors in Central London, one of which was as a 'barrow boy' and another as a 'street photographer' taking pictures of visitors at the various well known London tourist spots.

His photographic work led him to working as a freelance photographer/news reporter providing stories and pictures to National and London Evening newspapers. Eventually this work enabled him to form his own business which he called 'Nationwide News Agency' with offices at an address in North Acton. His work meant him being out and about all hours of the day and night and in all weathers, this eventually took a toll on his health and by the late 1980's he was being advised by his doctor that he should consider going to live in a dry and warmer climate. In 1993 Jim sold up his house and business in London and, with his partner, moved to Spain.

Over the previous year's Jim had spent numerous holidays in the Fuengirola district of Malaga Province and that was where he purchased an apartment in a block of flats just off of the promenade. He later purchased a villa in the hills of Torre Blanca del Sol overlooking the sea and beaches of Los Boliches. After moving into the villa Jim retained his apartment and used it as a holiday-letting business for Brits, this source of income, together with his investments, meant that Jim could continue to enjoy a comfortable life style. Jim was married twice but did not have any children.

He was buried in Spain on Saturday, 22nd February in accordance with and to comply with Spanish law but a memorial service is to be arranged at a later date. Anyone wishing to have further details please contact me at the telephone number set out below.

Victor R. Kelaher 01392 467833 AO / TRAS - 1937/1945 24th February 2014.

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My Lifelong Friend

I first met Jimmy Rayner in 1937 when we were seven year olds at which time I became a resident pupil in the junior school of the Alexandra Orphanage which was then located at Maitland Park. As the two of us were in the same year group we were to spend the rest of our school years together but forced to move from Maitland Park in September 1939 with the outbreak of WW2 being evacuated firstly to Bedford Town and then to Bishopswood Farm Camp which was situated some five miles to the north-west of Reading in Berkshire.

The two of us both left school at the same time following the end of the war in 1945 and as we both went to work in Central London we could meet up and spend time together. I lost touch with Jimmy when I had to serve my period of National Service but met up again after I joined the Metropolitan Police Force and worked in London. After I married, Jim and I, together with my wife, would meet one another whenever work permitted us to do so. We also visited one another's houses for dinner parties and he accompanied us to many police social functions.

After I had retired from the police force we continued to meet on a regular basis up until the time that Jim and his partner moved to Spain in 1993, since when we have been able to visit him on a number of occasions the last time being in the November of last year. As both Jim and I had the Skype video service connected to our computers we could also keep in touch with one another through this medium.

Jim Rayner always enjoyed life to the full and would be the 'life and soul' of any party he attended. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, not least ourselves.

Below is a photograph taken at an 'old scholars function' with Ellis 'Taffy' Evans, Deputy Head Master, which was held at a hotel in Holborn, Central London, sometime in the late 1950's early 60's. (L to R- Ellis Evans, myself, Elizabeth Towler nee Quayle, Jim Rayner and my wife Pamela).



Victor R. Kelaher, 24th February 2014

**To request a form so you can become a member of the
“Gatton Association” please contact Helen Pollard at the school.
Main Switchboard (044) 01737 649 000**

The late Dennis Grayson

Date of admission into school at Chalk Farm 28/04/1938 aged 7 years. His brother John, was also admitted the same day.

Dennis was evacuated to Reading during the War, by the School, before finally moving to Somming Common. He remembered happy times and had lots of friends, especially enjoying the countryside around the School at Somming Common.

He craved for a family life, when we married and had our two daughters he was overjoyed and was an excellent father and husband.

We visited all the Schools he was a student at, and went to many of the activities run by the Gatton Association where we met up with old friends, (two of which I am still in contact with).

The School helped to prepare Dennis for the future, and he always remembered his time there with affection and he had many good memories which we shared together.

Dennis was admitted to the School under the name of White, which he later changed by deed poll to Grayson.

Many Miles in May - In memory of Michael Bennett

(Rank House Master and teacher between January 1974 – December 2000)

Nicky Fuller

We are walking over 150 miles during the weekends of May this year; from Gatton Park in Reigate, to Burton Bradstock Beach in Dorset. Both areas of natural beauty, and, places that are important to us with happy memories of our Dad.

Weekend 3rd and 4th May- Gatton Park in Reigate to Farnham- approximately 34 miles.

Weekend 10th and 11th May- Farnham to Winchester- approximately 34 miles.

Weekend 17th and 18th May- Winchester to Salisbury- approximately 24 miles.

Weekend 24th and 25th May- Salisbury to Puddletown- approximately 36 miles.

Saturday 31st May- Puddletown to Burton Bradstock Beach- approximately 20 miles.

In October 2012 our Dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He started intensive chemotherapy within weeks of his diagnosis, but sadly the chemotherapy did not help his condition. He was told in January 2013 that there was nothing more that could be done, and he lost his fight on 16th May 2013, just seven months after the diagnosis.

Losing a loved one to pancreatic cancer is heart-breaking. Pancreatic cancer is notoriously difficult to diagnose and treat, because it is unusually aggressive, symptoms are often vague and appear at a late stage and surgery is very difficult. It also has the lowest survival rate of all cancers – just 3% of those diagnosed survive for five years.

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Yet despite its high death rate and lack of improvement in chances of survival, pancreatic cancer attracts little research funding in comparison with many other cancers. In 2011, pancreatic cancer attracted just 1% of research funding from the major funding bodies.

The Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund was set up in 2004 and exists to try and address these issues – to not only raise new funds for research, but to be a voice for pancreatic cancer sufferers and argue for a fair allocation of research funding and attention.

Please help us to raise money for this very worthy cause so more precious lives can be saved. Our Dad meant the world to us and he will always be in our thoughts.

<http://www.justgiving.com/BennettNJ>

Best Wishes

Nicky, David and Jayne

THE ROYAL ALBERT SCHOOL - 150th ANNIVERSARY

RAAS today is an amalgamation of former schools. The Orphan Working School and the Alexandra Orphanage came together at the turn of the twentieth century and eventually became the Royal Alexandra School. The Albert Orphan Asylum was the forerunner of the Royal Albert School. This year, 2014, we are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Royal Albert. Let's look back at some snapshots of an illustrious institution.

In the Beginning... On 2nd February 1864, William Morley Jnr, a businessman, gathered together a group of gentlemen at the London Tavern, where they decided to found a charity "to establish an Asylum for thoroughly destitute orphan children". Funds were raised to buy "an unfinished mansion", Collingwood Court, and two hundred acres of land at Bagshot in Surrey. In September 1864, applications were invited "on behalf of needy boys and girls". Fifty one boys and forty nine girls were elected to be admitted to the ALBERT ORPHAN ASYLUM on 16th December. They settled in quickly. In addition to lessons, the girls did domestic duties for the Matron, and the boys undertook practical work supervised by the Gardener/Bailiff who was provided with "four Welsh cows in milk, two in calf and half a dozen pigs". In 1865, a further fifty children joined the initial one hundred.

By Royal Command... Queen Victoria consented to the Asylum being a National Memorial to her late consort, Prince Albert. Her Majesty was asked, and agreed, to lay the foundation stone of a dining hall and chapel to be built on the side of Collingwood Court. Her formal visit was on 29th June 1867.

The Aldershot Gazette newspaper reported: "At twenty minutes past five o'clock Her Majesty, in an open carriage, drawn by four beautiful greys, attended by an escort of the 4th Irish Dragoon Guards, arrived accompanied by a numerous and brilliant suite". The Queen's entourage included three of her nine children. The Royal party was met by The Home Secretary and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Surrey.

Having laid the foundation stone, The Queen "declared the Institution open to receive, for all time, destitute orphan children, and to be called the ROYAL ALBERT ORPHAN ASYLUM". She also planted a tree in front of the main school building. Today, this now massive Wellingtonia Gigantua stands in the centre of a housing estate on the former Albert site. Its bark is still soft when punched, as many Albert boys will recall. The foundation stone rests in its shade. The spade used for planting is kept at Gatton.

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In the following year The Queen became the Asylum's Royal Patron. Her 1867 visit remains the only occasion when a reigning monarch has visited one of our Royal Schools: a singular distinction.

Early Years... As the Asylum developed, "Trade Masters" were appointed to teach tailoring, boot making, painting and carpentry. Soon, boys were supplying clothing and shoes for all the children. Girls were making their own garments and also underwear for the boys. The farm and kitchen garden provided much of the produce for the table. The Asylum established its own band, which played at fundraising dinners.

Discipline was harsh by today's standards. When five boys ran away together, the Management Committee, "wishing to eradicate the feelings which prompted such ungrateful conduct" decreed that absconders, when apprehended and returned, "should be kept in solitary confinement on bread and water for three days and then flogged in the presence of the school". However, within a decade, the Committee issued another decree, that "It is the Committee's foremost desire that the children are to be treated with the utmost kindness and forbearance... their happiness should be the first object of everyone who has any authority over them".

Diet was considered important. Australian meat, "being advertised at very favourable prices" was served several times a week. On the recommendation of the House Surgeon, Bullock's Head soup was also on the menu. When the children tired of mutton, they were given pork and bacon.

By 1882, there were two hundred and twenty three children in the Asylum. An external examination showed that their education had reached a very satisfactory standard. However, there was an unfortunate incident of a girl who had fallen asleep at her desk, had not gone to bed with the rest of the girls and had been found asleep at her desk the following morning.

Commemoration Day was established in 1883, initially as a "Day of Sports" to raise the profile of the Institution in the neighbourhood. It became the most important annual occasion in the Albert calendar for the seventy years until the eventual amalgamation of Albert and Alexandra. For many years it was held on or near to 26th August, the birth date of Prince Albert. The Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria's third son, already a friend of the Asylum, presided over the first and many subsequent occasions. In 1885, the day was particularly focused on Old Scholars, seventy of whom attended. Thereafter, increasingly, the day became an occasion for former scholars.

Also in 1883, William Morley Jnr, the founder and Chairman of the Charity, died. His life was described as "Christ like simplicity and unostentatious beneficence" and his death "of grave importance to the Institution".

Into the 20th Century... Raising funds to run 'Albert' was an ever present problem throughout its life, but in 1902 lack of finance became a crisis. For health reasons it had been necessary to reduce the number of children to one hundred and, as part of a plan for more economical management, it was decided to convert to a single sex school for boys. Discussion took place with the nearby Gordon Boys' Home in Woking about possible amalgamation, but the different objects of the two charities prevented this. In 1912, the Governors decided to drop the word 'Asylum' from the institution's title, which became THE ROYAL ALBERT ORPHANAGE.

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The First World War... On the outbreak of hostilities, it was decided to increase the school size to one hundred and thirty to accommodate war orphans. The Headmaster asked permission to volunteer for military service. This was refused but he joined up anyway, as did many male staff. The children's diet was changed because of shortages of flour and meat. More fish, particularly herring, was obtained from Grimsby. When, four years later, Armistice Day arrived on 11th November 1918 it was celebrated with a half day's holiday for the boys. On the next day the whole School - staff, servants and children - attended a thanksgiving service at Bagshot church.

Post War Change... As peace returned, the Orphanage changed its emphasis. The Tailor's and Shoemaker's shops were closed. Attention was focused on raising academic standards. The boys were taught Folk Dancing and Morris dancing and won prizes in local competitions. Christmas 1923 saw them perform a pantomime "to a crowded hall of invited guests". In addition to the already existing Cadet Corps a Scout Troop was formed.

The four School houses were Victoria, Edinburgh, Connaught and Sturdee. The first three were named after the School's closest Royal connections; the last was in memory of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Doveton Sturdee, a national hero, from the Battle of Jutland, and member of the Management Committee for many years, who had done so much to raise vitally needed funds. Each house had a junior and senior dormitory, one above the other on the first and second floors in the four corners of the main School building.

Electricity was at last brought to the School in 1932. Funds, as ever, were short and The Old Scholars Association, some six hundred members, was encouraged "to give more active support".

Holdsworth and Connaught... The Holdsworth and Connaught prizes, major awards still made each year on Founders Day, came from Royal Albert.

In 1916, money was donated to establish a "Colonel John Kelly Holdsworth Scholarship Prize" in memory of a Royal Artillery officer who had died a decade earlier. Criteria for judgement were: School Work; Outdoor Work; Games and Gymnastics; General Conduct; Esteem of Fellows. Winners of the Scholarship were entitled to wear a badge bearing the letter "H".

The Connaught Medal was instituted in 1931 by the Duke of Connaught, President of the School, as an annual award "to be made to the scholar who had excelled not only in educational attainments, but had displayed at the same time the qualities of diligence, discipline, truthfulness, courteousness, respect for the rights of all his fellows, and the general excellence of character, which are the foundation of true British citizenship". The original Holdsworth and Connaught boards are hung in Gatton Hall.

More Storm Clouds... When the Second World War started in 1939, the Albert boys were taught to knit, and the articles made were sent to the Lord Lieutenant's Fund for the Surrey County Regiment. Because of the threat of air raids, all children slept on the ground floor of Collingwood Court. Some boys acted as spotters during early raids, but this practice was soon stopped. Physical drill became a regular part of the training. Older boys did farm work for which they were paid one shilling per day.

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In 1941, Frank Burgess, an Old Scholar and successful businessman, gifted a substantial sum of money which he had raised amongst his friends, plus a silver cup to be awarded as a Victor Ludorum prize. He was later invited to join the Management Committee.

Noel Mobbs, founder of Slough Estates, a major property business, joined the Management Committee and became Chairman. One of his first acts was to propose a change of name to THE ROYAL ALBERT SCHOOL.

In 1942, the main object of the Charity was redefined: "To provide a home, free of cost, or where circumstances permit, upon very reduced terms, for sons of men who have been killed in the armed forces of the Crown, in air raids, civil defence or in war production, and orphans and boys for whom special conditions make it desirable that a home should be found". As a result of the School's new commitment, admissions steadily increased. By 1944 there were one hundred and forty eight boys in the School and Surrey County Council considered building a County School in the School's grounds.

Boxing was added to the curriculum and played a major part in the physical training of the boys. A well known instructor, Dusty Miller, ex Lightweight boxing champion of the British Army, was engaged as teacher. The memory of Dusty will be etched forever on the mind of any Albert Boy of the mid to late 1940s. Several years after his arrival, two boys reached the finals of the National Cadet Boxing Championships at the Royal Albert Hall.

When the Duke of Connaught died in 1942, an appeal led by The Lord Mayor of London raised over £50,000 for the School.

Towards Amalgamation... Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War the Royal Alexandra School had bought land south of Reigate in Surrey, in order to relocate from its North London home. When war started, Alexandra was evacuated to temporary accommodation in Berkshire. When the war was over, discussions began about how Albert and Alexandra might co-operate with one another. These talks led to formal amalgamation. King George VI agreed to become Patron of the new Charity, together with Queen Mary. The Duke of Gloucester became President.

The Alexandra site south of Reigate was too small to accommodate the combined schools. It was sold and Gatton Park was purchased. By 1954, the last children had left Collingwood Court and it, too, was sold. Thus ended a distinguished chapter of our School history, but the Queen's Tree and foundation stone remain as a reminder of the safe home given to thousands of children when they most needed it.

Compiled by John Billingham, ex-scholar of Royal Albert and Trustee and Governor of RAAS, from a manuscript by Eric Corner, former Foundation Secretary of RAAS.

Old Colour film of School Events From 1962/63

To view this short silent film please go to the Gatton Association page on Facebook or to the Gatton Association website

<http://www.gattonassociation.com>

If you recognise anyone from those far off days,
please let us know who they are.



THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

Presents

Reunion 2014

22nd – 24th AUGUST 2014
BOOKING FORM

Please complete in capitals and return with ***crossed cheques or postal orders*** for the full amount (Sterling), made payable to: **“The Gatton Association”**.

Card payments will be accepted on **01737 649057** (office hours).

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

‘THE GATTON ASSOCIATION 2014’,

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

Enquiries to Phil Wade Phone no. 07903 192989 or e-mail: gattonassociation@gmail.com

THE CUT OFF DATE FOR BOOKINGS IS MONDAY 23rd JUNE 2014.

No bookings will be accepted after this date!

If you wish to cancel your booking, this must be confirmed in writing / email by Monday 7th July 2014. Refunds will be issued after Monday 22nd September 2014.

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

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 the calculations on the boxes below:

Number Attending;	Breakfast £7 pp (per person)	Lunch £11 pp	Friday Night Dinner £13 pp	Dormitory Accommodation £17pp
Friday X no. required	N/A	N/A	x £13 = £	x £17 = £
Saturday X no. required	x £7 = £	x £11 = £	Dinner Dance £30 pp x £30 = £	x £17 = £
Sunday X no. required	x £7 = £	x £11 = £	N/A	N/A
TOTAL				£

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

GATTON ASSOCIATION

2014 RE-UNION GATTON PARK, REIGATE

Friday 22nd August, Saturday 23rd August and Sunday 24th August

Itinerary for the weekend

Dear Member,

Here are the details for the 2014 Re-union.

TIME TABLE (the above booking form must be completed by all attendees)

All meals will be taken in the Dining Hall.

Friday 22nd August - Informal arrivals from 2pm

Registration	Dining Hall from 5.30pm
Evening Meal	6.15 to 7.30pm
Single sex accommodation in boarding houses allocated on registration.	

Saturday 23rd August

New arrivals register in Dining Hall

Registration	Dining Hall
Breakfast	8.30 to 9.45am
Coffee/Tea	Mid-morning
Lunch	12.00 to 1.30pm
Dinner/Dance	Be seated by 7.00pm prompt (Smart casual)
Followed by	<u>Disco in Gatton Hall with late bar.</u>

Sunday 24th August - Farewell

Breakfast	09.30 to 10.45
Lunch	12.30 to 13.30

Depart at your leisure, have a safe and pleasant journey home.

Partners are welcome but we regret that there are no facilities for children.

Name Badges (issued on registration) PLEASE WEAR AT ALL TIMES FOR SECURITY PURPOSES.

Don't forget your camera's, camcorders etc. We hope, as before, to publish a selection of photos on the Gatton Association page of the School web site.

Finally, a special invitation is extended to all pre-Gatton ex-scholars who may have not yet visited Gatton Park - You will be made very welcome and hopefully meet up with other scholars of your era and others, there is no generation gap at these re-unions.

All booking enquires, can be made to the organising committee via e-mail, gattonassociation@gmail.com

Or for booking forms queries contact the Foundation office on 01737 649 050.

We look forward to meeting up with friends old & new - Book EARLY - see you there!

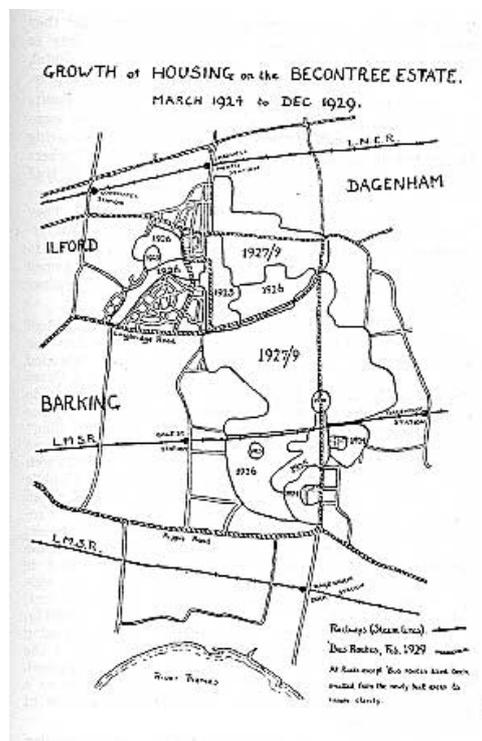
Best wishes,

Phil Wade
Chairman,
Gatton Association.

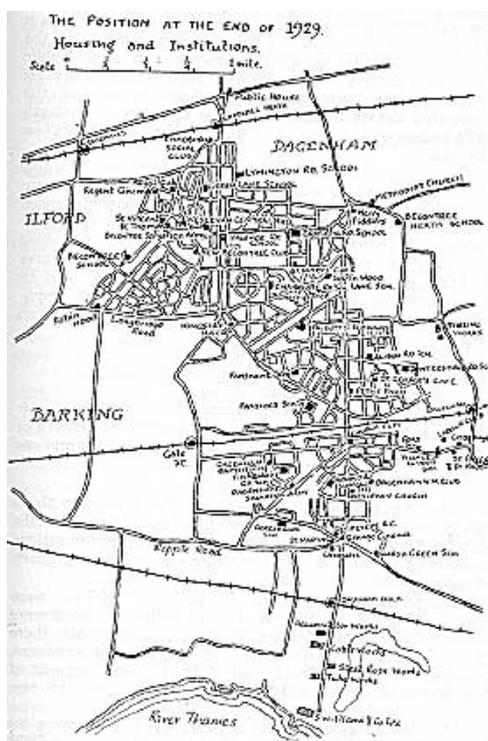
From Boy To Man

By the late Doug Dielhenn 1926 - 2013

Part One



Beacontree Estate, 1924-29



Beacontree Estate, end of 1929

EARLY YEARS

I was born on July 31st 1926 at 118 Baron Road, Dagenham, Essex, one of the earliest houses on the London County Council Beacontree Estate, the largest housing estate ever thought of up to that date.

I think my parents moved to Dagenham from Leytonstone, families were being moved out of the East End to the Beacontree Estate to offer them better housing.

They first moved to 27 Manor Square then shortly afterwards to Baron Road.



Mum & Dad c.1919

At eight months of age I had Peritonitis and apparently to survive at that age was quite a remarkable achievement. One of the funny things mum used to do was to explain this marvellous feat to anybody we met and in turn I was instructed to lift my shirt and show the scar to all and sundry. My belly must have been inspected by countless gossiping ladies in the streets of Dagenham. If I had had a dirty raincoat I would obviously qualified as the youngest flasher ever.

I was two years old when my father died, so of course I don't remember him at all. The cause of his death was kidney trouble, which was the result of drinking water poisoned by the Turks at the Dardenelles in the 1914-18 war. It took twelve years to kill him, of course his country did absolutely nothing for his widow, my wonderful mother, other than a miserable ten shillings a week widows pension. How she managed I find it impossible to imagine.



Three boys: Denis ten, Gordon three and a half and myself two years old. That not being enough, one year later Denis died as a result of an accident in the school playground. He was pushed while bending and banged his head against a brick wall and was dead within three weeks with Meningitis. Still my old mum against the odds managed. I do remember Denis, mum went out cleaning and it was Denis's job to take me to stay with my Aunt Lil during the day on his way to school. What I remember most, I was always bought a farthings worth of chocolate buttons. Strange our memories, the only other thing I remember about him is that I was left sitting waiting at the entrance to King George's hospital and mum coming out and telling me that Denis had gone to heaven.

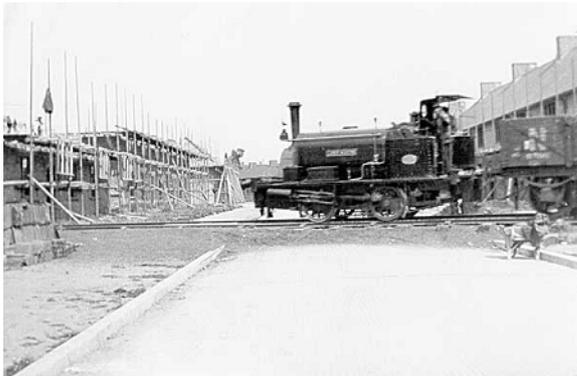
While the estate was being built a temporary railway line was laid running from Chadwell Heath to what is now known as Martin's Corner. It was in the centre of Valence Avenue and carried all of the building materials for the construction of the houses.



Denis aged 4, Dec 1922



Gordon, Denis and Me, 1929



Beacontree Estate 1927

It crossed Green Lane, the main road from Ilford to Beacontree Heath and at that point there was a level crossing. Baron Road was the road next to Valence Avenue and it was a great thrill for us when the gates of the level crossing closed to climb on the gates and watch the loaded trains rumbling past.

Somehow or other we always knew when a train was due and we used to run down Baron Road and round to the level crossing, climb up and watch the train go by, piled up with all the timber and bricks and God knows what, there were loads of kids about.

The lighting in the houses was by gas. I remember one night when I was about three and a half I woke in the night and called for our mum and got no reply. My brother Gordon who was five took me downstairs to find mum, she wasn't there. The gas was getting low and the light was fading and she hadn't got a shilling for the meter. She turned the gas to it's lowest and rushed down to her friend at number 110 to borrow a shilling. That of course is when we came downstairs. The light in the kitchen was above the Butler sink. Gordon climbed onto the sink so that he could turn up the light but unfortunately turned the gas tap the wrong way and turned the gas off. Mum came back to find him sitting on the sink and me on the floor, both screaming our heads off in the dark.



To be continued in the next Newsletter!

Headmaster's Letter

Dear Old Scholars,

When I last wrote we were preparing for our annual Remembrance Service. It was, once again, a moving occasion with an excellent address from The Right Reverend Jonathan Clark, the Bishop of Croydon.

We are nearing the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and plans are underway to commemorate the Great War with various events over the next four years. We aim to raise pupils' awareness of this momentous period in our history, and also use it to increase the links between past and present pupils.

There will be a trip for Year 8 pupils to Northern France on 24th June and Old Scholars are invited to come along on this trip – further details to follow. We will be visiting some of the graves of soldiers who had been pupils at this School so it promises to be a memorable day.

In common with the rest of the country, Gatton Park was affected by the severe winter storms which were particularly bad over the Christmas holiday. The storms brought down many trees in the Park and flooded the School's boiler room meaning there was no heating in the main school building. Nevertheless, we started the term with a functioning boiler and the worst of the tree damage cleared up, thanks to the round-the-clock efforts of our excellent maintenance team.

The bad weather now seems to have finished and we are now looking forward to spring. Founders' Day will be held on Saturday 10th May and Old Scholars are warmly invited to join us for the service and for lunch afterwards. If you would like to come please book your place by contacting my PA Sally Herrtage by email pa2head@gatton-park.org.uk or by phone 01737 649000. It is important that you book in advance because we need to ensure there are enough seats available in Chapel for visitors.

Logo launch for commemorations

The School plans a series of events to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the 'war to end all wars'. The commemorative events will, wherever possible, tie in with the school curriculum. There are already plans for a dramatic piece of artwork, a trip to the battlefields of Normandy, re-enactment events and building a commemorative website.

To start the commemorations off, the School had a competition to design a logo that would link the School's commemorations with the 100 year anniversary of the Great War. There were 140 entries from pupils of all ages and the winning design was by 11 year old Isabella Williamson. Isabella's design will be used on all communications that are connected with the School's commemorative events.



Isabella Williamson with her winning design.

Haircut

Rebecca King has had long hair for as long as she can remember. If she had a haircut, it was just to trim the ends. That was until 18th February when the 13 year old pupil from the Royal Alexandra and Albert School had the most radical haircut of her life.

It all started last year when she came across the website www.littleprincesses.org.uk and heard of people donating their hair so that children with cancer, who had lost their hair, could have a real-hair wig. A few years ago Rebecca lost her father to cancer and she wanted to do something to help other people who had cancer. So she took the decision to have her waist-length hair cut.

Rebecca, who had the haircut only a day after undergoing laser surgery on a birthmark on her face, said "I was inspired to donate my hair after watching videos of other people doing it and I wanted to help someone with cancer. Now I have had my hair cut I prefer it shorter. It's much easier to handle and look after."



Jumping fun for valentines

It was rosettes all round in the Valentine Show Jumping Competition which took place on 12th February at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School. The School's Indoor Riding Arena was the venue for the valentine-themed, heart-filled fun event for pupils.

Twelve junior students participated in the first half of the competition which encouraged them to develop their show jumping skills. In the afternoon session senior pupils faced a more challenging course with higher jumps.

The Stables also run a number of jumping clinics throughout the year to help improve students' abilities and confidence in show jumping. Rowan Wall, a Year 6 student, has taken part in the clinics before and thinks they help her, "It makes you feel better about jumping. Today, I got to ride my favourite horse, Mini, and do some really good jumps. It was great!"

The students were able to ride a number of horses, some of which they had not ridden before, including Star, Blackberry and Cotton Ball. Jasmine Thompson, also in Year 6, enjoyed spending more time with the horses and doing the jumps, "Some of the jumps were scary, but I loved doing them."

Year 5 student, Mia Collins, took first place in the junior competition, but all of the students who took part were given rosettes. Katie Thomsett was proudly displaying her 3rd place rosette and explained, "It's nice that everyone left with a rosette and certificate, that way no one felt left out."

