

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

Membership Secretary: Michelle Ellis

Contact E-Mail: gatton.association@gmail.com

Chairman's Welcome

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2009 Summer Newsletter which I trust finds you in good health. I hope you are all enjoying this unusually warm 'British' Summer so far, apart from those Antipodean members who are suffering their chilly winter!

You may notice certain changes to the Newsletter format which we hope you will find positive, but we are sure you will let us know if you think otherwise!

I take this opportunity to remind you that the next AGM of the Gatton Association will be on Sunday, 11th October 2009 in The Ballroom at Gatton Hall, and we would be delighted to see you there. If you wish to contribute any ideas or a criticism of the way in which the Association is run, this is the forum at which to raise it. We would like to see more members present at these meetings, as well as being able to give us your opinions and feed back, it also offers a chance to meet up with old friends and other Old Gattonians.

Lunch will be available in the School Dining Hall between 12.00 noon and 1.15pm and the AGM will follow at 1.45pm.

During the day, we also hope to have a preview of the Reunion 2008 DVD to which so many of you have contributed funds and which has been produced by former pupil, Alicia Edwards. We are also planning a conducted tour of the School to see how things have changed over the years! One thing is for sure, there will be more classrooms and computer screens than when you and I were there.

Congratulations to the School on winning The Founders Day Challenge Trophy, the School Football Team won a rare victory on Founders' Day when they beat the 'Old Scholars' for the first time since 2000! We may be bruised but not beaten, this should inspire any amateur (or professional!) players to join us next year to ensure that our winning run is only briefly interrupted! We have a reputation to preserve...

(Continued on page 2)

NEWSLETTER MENU

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.	1
FROM THE HEADMASTER	3
GOING BACK	4
THE VIEW FROM ALEXANDRA HOUSE	6
BISHOPWOOD CAMP	7
Bluebell Wood	9
Shop Order Form	10
Shop Products	11
Registration Form	12

Dates for your Diary

Go Green at Gatton

Sunday 5th July - 1-5pm

A great day out for all the family with country crafts and demonstration, children's activities gardens and grounds open. Adults £4 - Children free.

Grounds & Gardens Open Days

Sunday 2nd August, Sunday 6th September and Sunday 4th October 1-5pm.
Adults £3.50 - Children free.

11th October AGM

11th November 2009
Remembrance Sunday,
at 11.00 am

(Continued from page 1)

Congratulations to and a big thank you to Chris Turner (School Staff) who has assisted in the organisation of these matches since their inception 15 years ago. We wish him all the best in his forthcoming retirement from teaching and wonder what he will do with his spare time?!

‘Gatton Goes Green’ Country Fair – Sunday, 5 July 2009

A great day out for all the family. Visit the school and see it in its summer beauty. Make a day of it, arrange to meet old friends and have a fun filled day. There will be a variety of Country crafts on display and many demonstrations, stalls and children's activities, gardens and grounds open. 1 - 5pm. Cost: Adults £4.00, children free. The funds raised at this event go to maintain the grounds of the park. There have been many changes which are worth a look at, especially if you have not been back in a while.

Alicia Edwards will have a stall at GGG, where she will be selling copies of the 2008 Reunion DVD. Also Michelle Ellis will be on the same stall and presenting and taking orders for the new Gatton Association products described further on in the Newsletter. We have ordered a supply of 2010 diaries with gold embossed logo so, to avoid disappointment, order your gift sets and diaries early! Please see our special offers further on in this Newsletter.

We are very grateful to Michelle Ellis for all her efforts in setting up this new line of promotional items for the Gatton Association members. We know that members like to mark their time at the School, and it is an area in which we know has been lacking for some time, but has now been developed with what we are sure will be some very popular and useful lines.

And finally, my thanks go out to Chas, Sue and Andrew for their hard work and innovations in producing our Newsletters. Also I really appreciate and would like to thank all of our committee for their enthusiasm and commitment without whose support we could not maintain the strength of the Association.

All the best till next time,

Phil Wade

Committee Members

Positions	Name
President:	Ray Davies
Chairman:	Phil Wade
Secretary:	Peter Page
Treasurer:	Ray Davies
Membership Secretary:	Michelle Ellis
Publicity Officers:	Phil Wade Alicia Edwards
Board of Governors & Ex-Scholar:	John Billingham
Archivist:	Ian Baines
Merchandising:	Michelle Ellis
Events Co-ordinator:	Chris Manns Ian Baines
News Editor:	Chas Bailey
	E-Mail: chasbailey@hotmail.co.uk Phone: 020 8648 7274

Non-Committee Members

Assistant News Editor:	Andrew Bailey
------------------------	---------------



From the headmaster

After the covering of snow since I last wrote "From the Headmaster" and the mysterious disappearance of a number of trays from the dining hall (I think the majority of you will know what they were being used for!) at last we can enjoy some warmer weather as an air of concentration settles over the school with the exam season upon us again.

The weather on Founders' Day in May could not have been finer and I was pleased to welcome the many Old Scholars who attended. We were joined by Councillor Peter Martin, Executive Member for Schools, Children and Youth Services at Surrey County Council. He gave an amusing and thought provoking speech before presenting the Senior School prizes. Calum Spink, James Ascough and Nadia Howell, three of our Year 11 pupils, were also presented with a "Diana Award". These nationally recognised awards were given for their outstanding and selfless contribution to their community and for being positive role models – attributes that will always be encouraged in a School such as ours. I hope that the number of you re-acquainting yourselves with the school continues to rise over the coming years.

June saw the official opening by local MP, Crispin Blunt, of our new energy efficient science building and dance studio, all housed within the John White teaching block. This has expanded the science facilities of the school with the addition of two new science labs and a preparation room. Mr John Turner, an Old Scholar who generously gave a considerable sum to promote science teaching at the School joined us to officially open the Science Laboratories, one of which now bears his name.

Thank you to the Old Scholars who have so far contributed to our Foundationer Fundraising Appeal. We have had donations from as far afield as Canada.

We still need your help and it is not too late to contribute.

If you have put your leaflet in a "safe place" or did not receive one in the post recently, please contact either Helen Pollard or Alison Nott by phoning 01737 649000, writing to the school or emailing oldscholars@gatton-park.org.uk and asking for the Gatton Association Foundationer Appeal leaflet. Working together we really can make a difference.

With all good wishes for a restful and enjoyable Summer.

Going Back

What kind of childhood do you have if you're from a single parent family living below the poverty level? Where do you call 'home' if your parents are in the forces and move country every two years? What if your father isn't around and your mother is a heroin addict?

Is boarding school the answer?

Going Back follows past pupils from the Royal Alexandra and Albert school on their journey back 'home'.

Using their stories, *Going Back* enables the audience to see what life is like at a state run boarding school and how it may benefit or hinder the lives of those children who went there when they became adults.

In August last year the school celebrated its 250th anniversary. There was a massive reunion weekend for all past pupils to attend. They did everything like the old days when they were back at school; slept in the boarding houses, ate meals in the dining hall, had a school disco, but most importantly they were reunited with people who meant so much to them as children...and even a few who they chose to forget!!

We follow our subject's right up to the big day sharing their thoughts, angst, joy, excitement and a million other emotions not to mention the questions buzzing in each of their heads...

Who will be there? Who is married, successful, has children, in prison, or even may not be with us anymore?

Will their first love be there? Maybe their worst enemy? Perhaps both?

DVD copies

DVD copies are now available to order at just £10 this includes p&p – unless shipping abroad.

What do you get for £10....an hour feature documentary plus over and hours worth of extra features!

If you donated money toward the film being made, you will be sent a copy at no extra charge.

Please contact one of the following to place your order now:

Alicia reunion_2008@hotmail.co.uk

Phil Gatton.Association@googlemail.com

Gatton Park facebook page - send over a message!

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project from the very beginning. Words can not describe how grateful I am to you.

Many thanks,

Alicia Edwards

Gattonian 1990 – 2000



Rear of Gatton Hall



Senior Girl's Dorm. In Gatton Hall

The View from Alexandra House

We came to Gatton when we were in Yrs 3 and 4 (*aged 7 & 8*) and it is hard to believe we are now reaching the end of our time here. We have so many happy and good memories of our time here that it will be very hard for us to leave and move on to Further Education.

This school has made us more confident and independent than any other school would have done and we feel we are so mature compared to other 15 yr olds we know.....although Mrs T doesn't always think so when we are having one of our silly half-hours! Mrs Turner has been our Housemistress for eight years now and she has watched us grow up and has led us through the rights and wrongs of life.

Our Weston House memories always seem to be the best ones, it was just the most homely but very organised House we have been in here in Gatton. We remember the dorm boxes with a clean pair of knickers and socks in everyday all rolled up in neat rows, our Saturday nights cuddled up in our PJ's ready to see if the bonus ball was our house number (that meant £1 to spend in tuck shop) before we watched our video together, our cuddle and "night night God bless" when we went to bed, the cough signal we used to give at night-time to signal that 'ma'am was coming' and so many more. When we got to be in Yr 6 (*aged 10-11*) some of us were given 'the privilege' of helping to put the younger ones to bed. We used to sit on the corridor like Ma'am and tell them to shush and then go in and put the lights on if they didn't, to see who was talking. We thought we were really grown up and special. Being a yr 6 didn't always have its advantages though, sometimes Mr Freddy organised discos for the Juniors and Mrs T would always come with her rulers!! She had three sizes and the older we got the longer the ruler had to be in between us and the boy we were dancing with, not fair!

We then left Weston House to go into Lizzie House with Miss Tomlin. We remember running up and down the corridors at night-time then hiding in the drawers under our beds so no-one could find us. We always used to shout across to the boys in Albert House and I think this was our 'naughty phase'.

After Lizzie we moved into Alex House with Mrs Turner again (our school Mummy).

Alex has been the best House we have ever been in throughout our eight years here. We have so many memories it is hard to remember them all. This school and the people in it have been here through all our growing up and all our ups and downs and we wouldn't want to have changed a thing about it. The friends we have made have been amazing and we know that they will be friends for life.

We are so grateful for the opportunity we have had in coming here because being here with all our friends has been the best experience of our lives so far. This school has really made us who we are today !!

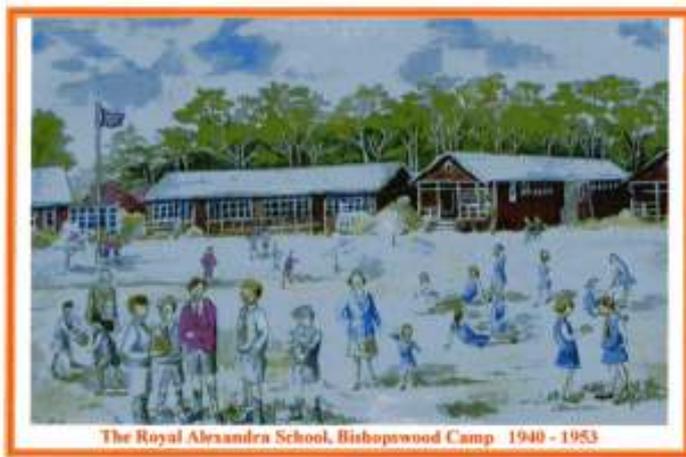
Zara Carter and Natasha Gibbons

BISHOPSWOOD CAMP

In his address speech given 19th April 1951 General Douglas MacArthur quoted this phrase from an old army ballad - **“Old soldiers never die, they just fade away”**.....

which brings me to ask the old scholars from **1940 to 1953** who attended The Royal Alexandra School, Bishopswood Camp, near Reading, where are you now?

Recently I have been asked why we never get a mention in the Gatton Association Newsletter. A good question! When I was involved with the committee of The Association, I knew exactly when the next newsletter was due and we always had our write-up published. If there wasn't any news received from you to insert, I would always give the change of addresses,



The Royal Alexandra School, Bishopswood Camp 1940 - 1953

marriages, and obituaries so you would be in touch. Since leaving the committee over 10 years ago, I never knew in advance when the next newsletter would be published. So I appeal to you – let us know what you think of the Association, if you have any interesting school anecdotes you would like to share with the **“new”** old scholars or any snippets you think the readers old and young would like to read.

It is up to you now – so I am ending with this phrase slightly altered from an old soldiers army ballad to an old scholars school ballad **“Old Bishopswood scholars never die, they just fade away”**.....

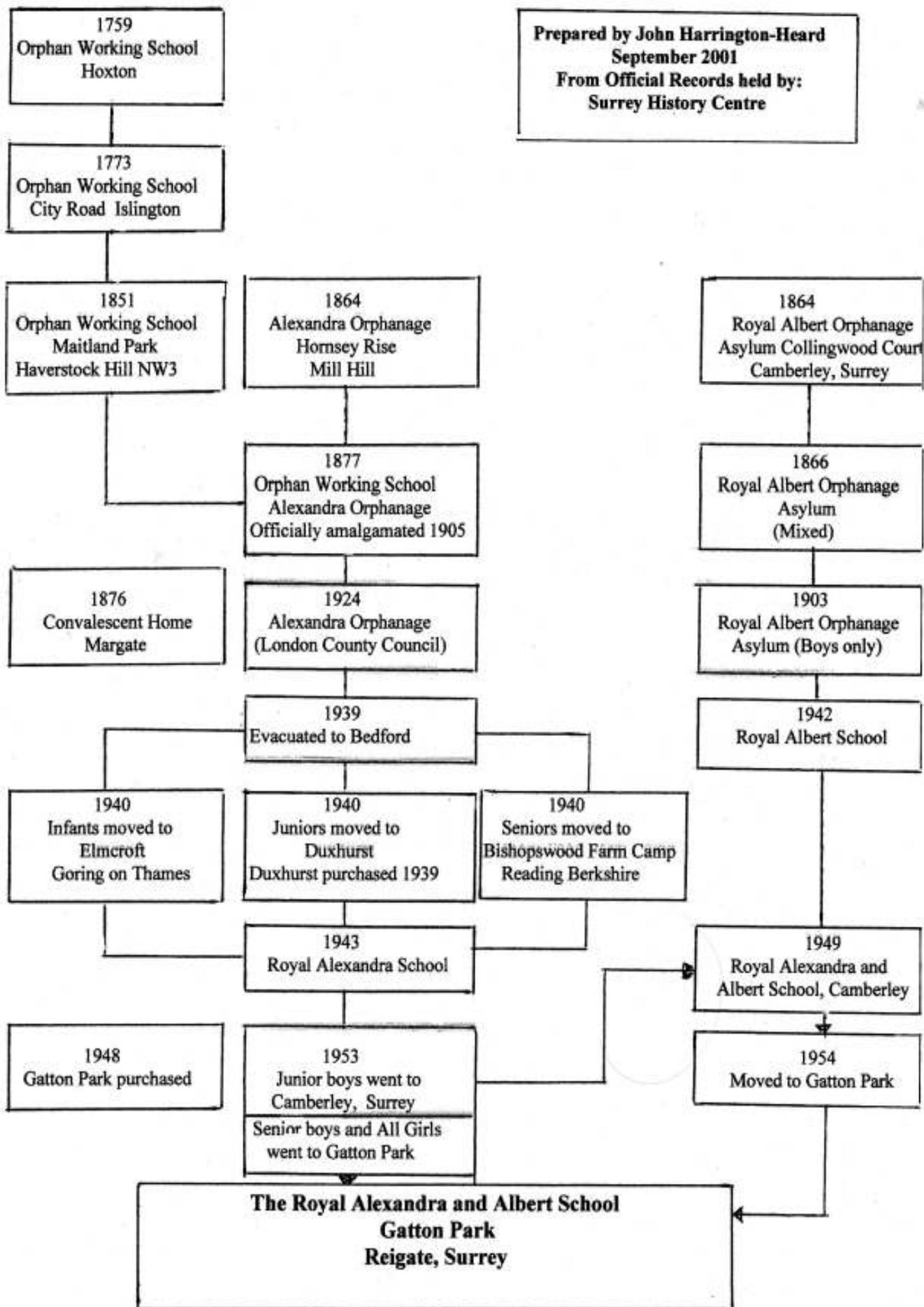
Now, on a more positive note – If you do happen to visit Gatton Park, do have a look at the original painting of The Royal Alexandra School, Bishopswood Camp, Reading painted by a local artist. The painting is displayed in the main hall (ballroom) together with the other paintings of all the schools associated with its history dating back to 1759. (See history of schools enclosed with this page).

Other attractions for you to see are (1) The inscribed bench which the Bishopswood old scholars donated from our raffle proceedings held at our 2002 school reunion at Bishopswood Camp and (2) The three Cherry trees we donated from our raffle proceedings held at our 2006 school reunion at Gatton Park. Two Cherry Trees, (one spring and one autumn) are located in The Japanese Garden and the third is outside Gatton Hall near The Rock Garden, looking towards the lake.

Katie Putt (née Houston) Elmcroft, Goring-on-Thames and Bishopswood Camp 1940 – 1952.



Prepared by John Harrington-Heard
 September 2001
 From Official Records held by:
 Surrey History Centre



Bluebell Wood

'This beautiful Glen is situated on the north border of Onchan and runs in an easterly direction toward a small, secluded beach. It houses a picturesque disused water mill and is stunningly beautiful in any season. From April to late May, the bluebells light the banks in a splash of colour between the gushing stream and tall, stately trees. It would be hard for anyone to remain uninspired in such a cathedral of beauty.'



Bluebell Wood

By Mike Chapman

Gloucester & Kent Houses, 1959-1963

No joyful trumpets sounding dawn
In Bluebell Wood today.
No giddy bells to ring the morn
And chase the night away.

So brief, the floor show in the glade;
So filled with joyful cheer,
So hard to know I'd now be made
To wait another year.

Instead, a fog swirled through the boughs
Stirred by a laden breeze;
And giants loomed with brooding brows
Where yesterday, were trees.

And only then if I survive
For like the Bluebell flowers,
The time we have to be alive
Is counted by the hours.

Grey, smoking trails of vapour wound
Through mornings' early hours
And swirled like tendrils on the ground
To weight the Bluebell flowers.

Yet as I stood to leave the glen
A parting of the clouds
Spilled sunshine on the ground again
And woke the sleeping crowds.

And as I knelt beside the beds
Of premature demise,
I gently cupped their drooping heads
And mourned them in my sighs.

In Groudle Glen the Bluebells grow
Beneath the dappled leaves,
Beside the stream in gentle flow,
Between the ancient trees



The Gatton Association :: Order Form ::

Product Types	Price	Order Amount	UK Price Postage	Europe Price Postage	World Price Postage	Total
Gatton Logo Badge Description: Enamelled gold coloured Badge On Brass. (Up to 5 in one Envelope)	£3.50	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 1.50	£ 1.50	£ 1.50	£ <input type="text"/>
Pen Set Description: Printed Logo - Ballpoint & Fountain Pen Set	£6.00	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Gatton Bag 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	£4.50	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Trolley Keyring Description: Gold coloured Maroon Key ring with gold coloured logo and on the Flip-side - Gatton Association. (Up to 4 in one Envelope)	£3.00	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Maglite Torch Description: Dark red with laser engraved school logo	£9.99	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
2010 Diary Description: Maroon pocket diary with gold coloured logo & gold metal corners	£3.75	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 2.75	£ 3.95	£ 4.95	£ <input type="text"/>
Bundle Types						
Pen & Diary Set	£9.50	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 3.80	£ 4.80	£ 6.00	£ <input type="text"/>
Key ring & Gatton Badge	£6.00	<input type="text" value="x"/>	£ 3.80	£ 4.80	£ 6.00	£ <input type="text"/>
Diary, Pen Set & Torch	£18.90	<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

:: Delivery / Contact Details ::

Title:	First Name:	Surname:
Address:		
Post Code:		
Country:		
Phone:	E-Mail:	

Gatton Association Shop



Printed Logo - Ballpoint & Fountain Pen Set



Dark red with laser engraved school logo



Gatton Sports Bag in various colours



Maroon pocket diary with gold coloured logo & gold metal corners



Gold coloured Maroon Key ring with gold coloured logo and on the Flip-side - Gatton Association



Enamelled gold coloured Badge On Brass.

[Size of a 1p coin]

Registration Form

Please **only** complete this form if you are a new registrant or have any change in your contact details



Gatton Association Registration Form

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

Address:
.....

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

Country:.....

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

Email Address:.....

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

School Location attended (**tick as appropriate**):

- Gatton Park Maitland Bishopswood Elmcroft Duxhurst Bedford
- Camberley Other (please state).....

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

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

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

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

MICHELLE ELLIS

Via

Helen Pollard

Royal Alexandra & Albert School, Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey, United Kingdom,RH2 0TD

Main Switchboard (044) 01737 649 000

Or

EMAIL: GATTON.ASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM

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