



# THE GATTONIAN

MARCH 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



Dear Gattonian,

My opening remarks to this edition of the newsletter are slightly shorter (marginally) and slightly different than the others I have penned to date. I have done this as I think that what is about to

be said can hopefully fan the flames of a wish to get better, and benefit in all manner of ways the group that we have such an affinity for. I know we have had a recent survey but a little more introspection will not do any harm.

Onwards and upwards!!! I haven't bothered to Google this and look at the originator; whoever it was must have been a "sharp cookie". He or she must have realised that individuals and organisations must have goals and objectives put before them in order to ensure that whatever they do and want to achieve is a target that can always be further refined and improved. The Association and all aspects of it holds much importance to many Gattonians; newsletters, small scale functions such as those that gather together small groups, plus the show piece events that are normally held at the School with large numbers, can be successful and give tremendous pleasure. Do we say, "that was good" or do we say "that was good but next time we'll..."

I have pondered over the connection between the two phrases "onwards and upwards" and "but next time we'll..." and have come to the conclusion that the synthesis of these two vital phrases are essential to our success as an organisation that caters and cares for the very many who are very much an integral part of it.

At this point you might be thinking to yourself, "it's got to Benny and he's flipped his lid!!!". Perhaps a Del Boy type

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reply would be appropriate at this point when replying to Rodney about checking the contents of the garage lock up in Peckham, "Au contraire, mange tout, petit pois Rodney!!! The lock up needs to be sorted and all the stock needs to be itemised and put on computer just in case the trading standards man swoops upon us and we hit the front page because of our stock of wine that we did intend to sell as communion wine is slightly discoloured and is looking a little bit whitish!"

So what have we got in our lock up and what are we going to do with it to make the GA even better than it

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME *continued*

is at the moment for all its members? Allow me for the sake of brevity to list the contents in the lock up:-

### Communication:

- The newsletter, thanks to the work of Helen and Sefora, is looking pretty good! More news about those who have recently left the School and are making their way at work, at college/university, on the sports field, recognised one off achievements, engagements and betrothals are some aspects that are at the moment untapped. Now can you add to this list and, more importantly, can you contribute to this list.
- What has been suggested above applies equally to those who have not recently left but who are still “moving on” and achieving and getting things done. It doesn't matter what age you are, what you are achieving, be it big or small, it is important to us and we would like to share it with other Gattonians. Let us know then we can move onwards and upwards in this field.

### Events for you:

- Yes, we have created an embryonic sporting section with the development of the Old Gattonian Sunday Rugby Club and it has been brilliantly supported. But what about an Old Gattonian Sunday Football Club or a Sunday Hockey Club or a Sunday Netball Club?
- Yes, we now have Gattonian Day on the Sunday of the Founders' Weekend, and we hope to make it grow by holding some sporting events for all (Gattonians, their children and the pupils of the School), but what if you are not too interested in this? Is there something else that would make you a “part of the show”, whatever your age?

- Yes, we are now in the process of organising large school-based events such as the Summer Ball that will be held this coming June. Can you get there? Do you want to get there? Are there aspects of your life (such as health) that may stop you attending, and is there something that we may be able to do to assist you with attending an event?
- Is it too difficult for you to attend local events that might be organised by a Gattonian close to you? Are we able to help in some way?
- Let us know then we can move onwards and upwards in this field.

### An Association that offers help to the present pupils of the school.

- Are we offering help? Can you contribute in any way?
- Let us know then we can move onwards and upwards in this field.

### An Association that offers help for its members.

- Are we offering help to our members and can we offer more?
- Let us know then we can move onwards and upwards in this field.

Not the usual sedentary opening remarks I know. A little different, and if you feel that it has provided food for thought, not just about the four areas highlighted, do let us know. What you may add and suggest is something that could be a further catalyst for moving onwards and upwards.

Cheers.

*Benny Jones*

Vice-President and Chairman of the Gatton Association

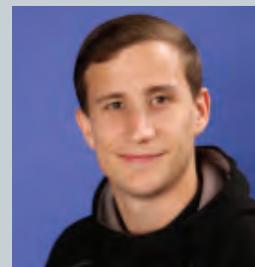


# INTRODUCING THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE GATTON ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

One of the main aims of the Gatton Association is to foster, encourage and enable all former pupils to remain in touch with the school. To accomplish this, the Association must have at its core former pupils who are keen to work together to ensure the continued growth and development of the Association. It is therefore with great pleasure that the Committee welcomes Nigel Edwards and George Fowles as its two newest members. Both Nigel and George have already made excellent contributions to the Association and are fantastic supporters of our overall goals.

As you will soon find, as you read on, George is a former pupil and new member of staff at the School. He, along with Benny Jones, have been on a mission to bring Gattonians back together through the Old Gattonians Rugby Club.

I joined The Royal Alexandra and Albert School in 2003 the first of three Fowleses, with my brother and sister joining the following year. I'm sure this is a surprise to most who know me well, but when I first entered the scenic grounds of Gatton Park I was a shy boy afraid to leave the boarding house! However, with a small amount of encouragement (threatened with confinement and jobs) from my House Mistress I found rugby and from there my passion in school and school sport was aflame. The fire still burns bright today and I am proud to be teaching Physical Education back at The Royal Alexandra and Albert School, under my line manager, Charlene Kaye, a true Gattonian in her own right. I am honoured to have been invited to The Gatton Association Committee and hope together we will be welcoming many an old face back to our school and home in the very near future.



George Fowles

(RAAS Old Scholar; 2003 – 2011)



## BIRTHS

Congratulations to Gattonian Jenny De'Ath. She welcomed baby Luca Alexander on Monday 6th March at 00:58. Luca was in a hurry to meet his family and arrived early at 37 weeks, weighing 6lbs 7ozs. We wish Jenny and her family all the very best at this exciting time.



# SUMMER BALL

It is our pleasure to invite you to the first Gatton Association Summer Ball, taking place on Saturday 10th June at 7pm.

This is your opportunity to dress up and catch up with your school friends!

Tickets are £30 and include a cocktail on arrival, delicious finger buffet, live music, and a private view of the Year 11 art exhibition. The bar will be open throughout the evening.

If you would like to attend, please complete the form below by Tuesday 9th May. Partners are welcome.

Or why not get a group together? If you book five tickets by Sunday 30th April, you will get a sixth ticket for free.

Once you have completed the form below, please return it along with your payment to Miss Sefora Dias, Royal Alexandra & Albert School, Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0TD.

Alternatively, you may pay over the phone on 01737 649000 (choose the Finance Office option) and email the form to [OldScholars@gatton-park.org.uk](mailto:OldScholars@gatton-park.org.uk)



We look forward to welcoming you back and hope you can join us for what should be a lovely evening.

Please RSVP by Tuesday 9th May 2017



## GATTON ASSOCIATION SUMMER BALL



Saturday 10th June Gatton Hall 7pm – 11pm

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

My House was: \_\_\_\_\_

Gattonian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment (tickets are £30 each):

\_\_\_\_\_

A cheque is enclosed payable to The Gatton Association.

Name of Guest (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I will pay over the phone. Please call 01737 649000 and choose the Finance Office option.

I was at the School \_\_\_\_\_

from \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

to \_\_\_\_\_

# GATTONIAN DAY IS BACK!

The Committee is delighted to invite all Gattonians and their families to Gattonian Day on Sunday 14th May 2017.

Last year we had a great turn out and Gattonians from all decades came back for a relaxed afternoon with old friends and delicious school-inspired food – who doesn't love a tasty roast and sponge pudding! Tickets are £5 per adult, children are free.

A highlight from last year was the Gattonians v Current Pupils netball match.



*Last year's Gattonians v Current Pupils netball match participants*



*Some of last year's attendees*

Although the Gattonian team had experience on their side, current pupils were victorious and walked away with the gold medals. This year is our chance to redeem ourselves.

To add to the fun, we are looking to introduce international touch rugby to the day's activities. This is no contact rugby perfect for all ages, women and men, to enjoy together.

If you would like to attend, please complete the form below by Friday 21st April 2017 and return it along with your payment to Miss Seforta Dias, Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TD.

Please also indicate whether you would like to join a netball or touch rugby team. Alternatively, why not get your own team together? Teams should consist of 6-7 players.

Let's make this a great event. We hope to see you and your family there.

## GATTONIAN DAY



Sunday 14th May 2017  
at 12.30pm

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Gattonian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

I was at the School from \_\_\_\_\_

to \_\_\_\_\_

My House was: \_\_\_\_\_



Payment (tickets are £5 per adult, children under 16 years are free):

A cheque is enclosed payable to The Gatton Association.

I will pay over the phone. Please call 01737 649000 and choose the Finance Office option.

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

# FLANDERS TRIP

As part of the School's continued commemorations of the First World War, all Gattonians are invited to join current Year 8 pupils, parents and Governors on a trip to France to visit the memorial and graves of fallen Gattonians. The trip will take place on Tuesday 13th June 2017.



*Preserved Trenches at Vimy Ridge*

This year, the trip will concentrate on the area surrounding Bethune and Vimy Ridge. Planned stops include visits to Estaires Communal Cemetery, Le Touret Memorial, Loos Memorial and Lillers Communal Cemetery.

In addition to visiting the memorials of fallen Gattonians, the School intends to visit the Great War History Centre at Lens. Precise details will follow once the schedule has been finalised.

The cost of the trip is £55 per person and this includes all costs (travel by coach and Le Shuttle, packed breakfast, lunch and tea).

All of those attending need to meet in the top car park behind the main school building at 6am, and will be returning at approximately 11pm the same day.



*Le Touret memorial*

*Canadian memorial, Vimy Ridge*

If you would like to come on this trip, please complete the booking form and return it as soon as possible. There are only 45 spaces available, and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Friends and family of Gattonians are also very welcome to attend. I do hope you are able to join the School on what promises to be a very interesting and moving experience.



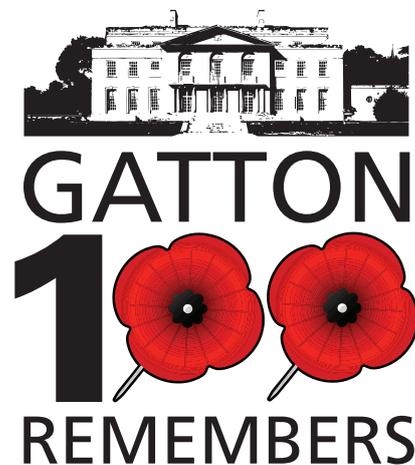
**GATTON**  
**1**   
**REMEMBERS**



*Notre-Dame-de-Lorette International Memorial - Lens.*

# FLANDERS TRIP

## GATTONIAN BOOKING FORM



Trip to Flanders – Tuesday 13th June 2017

Adult 1: First Name

Surname

Adult 2: First Name

Surname

*(NB you are able to book more than two places if you wish. Family and friends are welcome.)*

Please make cheques payable to 'Royal Alexandra and Albert School'.

Please complete this form and send, along with payment of £55 per person, to Flanders Trip, Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0TD

Packed breakfast, lunch and tea will be provided. Are there any special dietary requirements? Please give details:

Please ensure you have a valid passport or you will not be able to come on this trip.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

*(print name)*

Please note: Places cannot be held/reserved without payment. If you withdraw from the trip after a financial commitment has been made by RAAS (eg tickets have been purchased in advance, deposits paid etc) then a refund may not always be possible.



The Battle of Loos 1915

# HOLDSWORTH PRIZE - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER

1963

HOLDSWORTH SCHOLARSHIP  
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER Time: 1 Hour

ONE mark will be awarded to each of the undermentioned questions:-

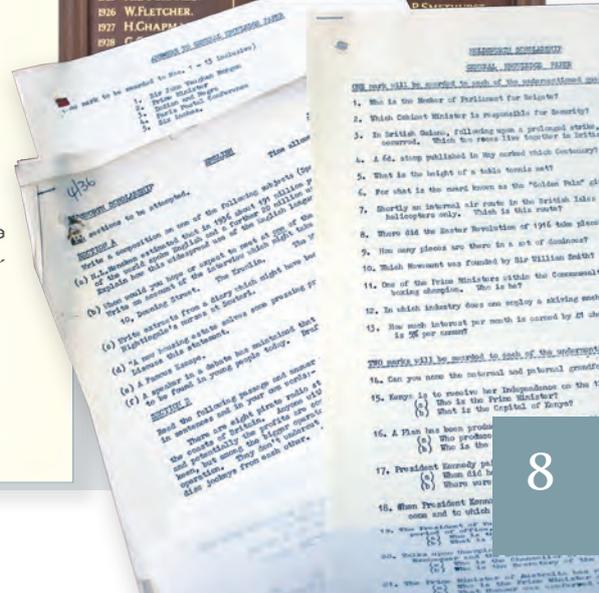
1. Who is the Member of Parliament for Reigate?
2. Which Cabinet Minister is responsible for Security?
3. In British Guiana, following upon a prolonged strike, race riots have occurred. Which two races live together in British Guiana?
4. A 6d. stamp published in May marked which Centenary?
5. What is the height of a table tennis net?
6. For what is the award known as the "Golden Palm" given?
7. Shortly an internal air route in the British Isles is to be flown by helicopters only. Which is this route?
8. Where did the Easter Revolution of 1916 take place?
9. How many pieces are there in a set of dominoes?
10. Which Movement was founded by Sir William Smith?
11. One of the Prime Ministers within the Commonwealth was once a heavyweight boxing champion. Who is he?
12. In which industry does one employ a skiving machine?
13. How much interest per month is earned by £1 when the rate of interest is 5% per annum?

TWO marks will be awarded to each of the undermentioned questions:-

14. Can you name the maternal and paternal grandfathers of the Duke of Cornwall?
15. Kenya is to receive her Independence on the 12th December this year.
  - (a) Who is the Prime Minister?
  - (b) What is the Capital of Kenya?
16. A Plan has been produced for the modernisation of our Railway System.
  - (a) Who produced this Plan?
  - (b) Who is the Secretary of the N.U.R.?
17. President Kennedy paid a brief visit to Britain recently.
  - (a) Whom did he have private talks with?
  - (b) Where were these talks held?
18. When President Kennedy arrived at Gatwick from which country had he come and to which country did he then go?
19. The President of Yugoslavia has recently been re-elected for a further period of office.
  - (a) Who is the President?
  - (b) What is the Capital of that country?
20. Talks upon Unemployment are soon to take place between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.
  - (a) Who is the Chancellor of the Exchequer?
  - (b) Who is the Secretary of the T.U.C.?
21. The Prime Minister of Australia has recently been honoured by the Queen.
  - (a) Who is the Prime Minister of Australia?
  - (b) What Honour was conferred upon him?

For many years, the School's most academically gifted pupils sat an exam for a chance to win the Holdsworth Scholarship prize. The exam consisted of three papers: English, Mathematics and General Knowledge. Pupils were given 1½ hours to complete the English and Mathematics papers and 1 hour for General Knowledge.

Recently, we were fortunate to find copies of some of the past papers from the 1960s, and even more exciting, the full set of exam papers for 1963. It was interesting to see the breadth of topics covered and the level of difficulty of many of the questions. To the left is the 1963 General Knowledge paper. See how many questions you can answer (without Google's help)!



# PRESIDENT'S HISTORICAL NOTES

## Two Centuries of Old Scholars - *The first in an occasional series*

The Gatton Association (GA) came into being sixty eight years ago, on 1 January 1949, when the Royal Alexandra School and the Royal Albert School amalgamated prior to moving to Gatton Park. Today, the Association is surging through the twenty first century, driven by the dynamism of its current chairman, committee and active groups of members, using current technology and social media to reach its more than two thousand members.

Today's world is very different from the time, two centuries ago, of the first reference in our historical records to an 'Old Scholar'. But, in looking back, I have discovered how similar the objectives of our predecessors were to those that the GA aspires to now.

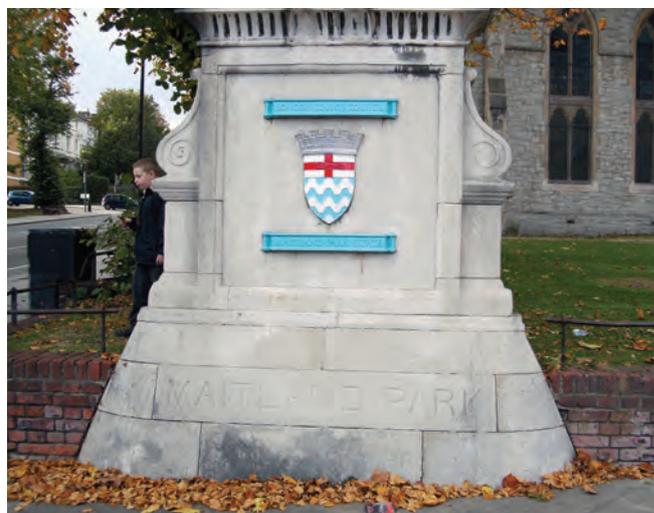
Benjamin Albin Tomkins was admitted to the Orphan Working School (which eventually became Royal Alexandra) on 10 August 1803. He left for apprenticeship in June 1808, eventually became the business partner of the employer to whom he had been apprenticed and later took over the business. Benjamin became a Governor of OWS in 1824; a member of the General Committee in 1838 and was elected a Vice-President of the Charity in 1863. It is recorded that for nearly thirty years he was seldom absent from meetings:

*"in all weather and at all seasons he was found at his place at the school at Tuesday morning early meetings, where his mature experience and business habits rendered his services most valuable".*

The first mention of OWS wishing to foster contact between school and Old Scholars, is in a minute of a meeting of the House Committee in 1844:

*"Considerable conversation took place in reference to keeping up a kind of feeling among the Old Scholars and identifying them with the interests of the Charity, with a view particularly to their own benefit. It was proposed that they be invited to the institution to tea occasionally when some of the committee might meet them".*

The Maitland Association, founded in 1856, was the first Old Scholars Association. Its name came from the School location at the time, Maitland Park in North London. Initially, more than one hundred members met regularly



*Maitland memorial stone at Maitland Park*

at the School. As numbers increased, meetings moved to St. Bride's Institute in Fleet Street, where they continued for more than a century. The 1860 OWS Annual Report states: "Old Scholars like to see the forms on which they sat, the dormitory in which they slept, and the place where they dined".

At a dinner in 1877, to mark the 21st birthday of the Maitland Association, it was decided to publish a regular "Maitland Magazine". A copy of what appears to be the 1910 successor to this magazine, titled "The Gazette of the Maitland Association", mentions several items of particular interest. These are that the Association had a welfare fund to support members in need; held three dances and three whist drives in that year to raise money for the welfare fund and support children in the school; the Association's AGM would henceforth always be held at the school on Founders' Day, a tradition which continued until very recently. Perhaps the most interesting discovery comes in an account of the 1910 AGM:

*"We live in a time of change...sweeping over the land. Some of our younger members started a movement having for its object a modification of our Rules and Constitution. We are very hopeful that goodwill will result from these alterations, that more interest will be shown in the Association by younger ex-scholars, and that as a consequence our meetings, whether for business or social enjoyment, will be better attended and more thoroughly enjoyed".*

# PRESIDENT'S HISTORICAL NOTES

## Two Centuries of Old Scholars - *The first in an occasional series - continued*

More than a century later our younger committee members, and others within GA, are seeking the same objective: to broaden appeal to members in today's changing times.

The 1910 Founders' Day and AGM were attended by more than two hundred ex-scholars, out of a total Association membership of three hundred and fifty. The last Association reunion before the outbreak of the Second World War took place at Maitland Park on 13 May 1939. It was attended by six hundred Old Scholars.

The Albert branch of our School history started life as the Albert Orphan Asylum. It was established in 1864 as a National Memorial to Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, who had died in 1861. In 1867 the Queen made an inaugural visit to the Asylum, thus entitling it to be called Royal. The documented history of Royal Albert is less comprehensive than that of Alexandra and there is less information available about its Old Scholars.

There is mention that, in 1871, an Old Scholar, Joseph Baker, described as having a good situation as a wood engraver, offered to provide the children with an evening's entertainment including songs and recitations, to show his appreciation of the care he had received at the Asylum.

In 1883, the Management Committee of Royal Albert decided there should be an annual "Day of Sports", to be held on or near 26th August, the birth date of Prince Albert, and to be known as "Commemoration Day". In 1892, more than ninety Old Scholars attended and formed an Old Scholars Association. The tradition of Commemoration Day being essentially a day for Albert Old Scholars remained until Royal Albert boys moved to Gatton.

In 1902, it was announced that the Asylum would no longer admit girls. It is likely therefore that the name Royal Albert Old Boys Association, by which the organisation was formally known at the time of amalgamation into the GA, was introduced at some time after all the girls had left the Asylum.

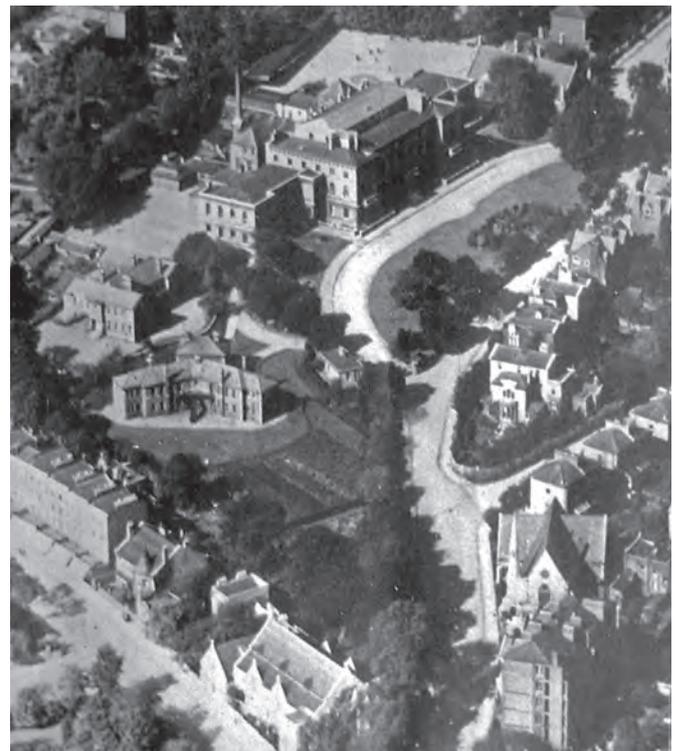
After the birth of the Gatton Association, some Old Scholars of Royal Albert continued to meet with each other for Albert reunions, as have former Maitland Association members done from time to time. It is pleasing that these cohorts have also come regularly to Gatton reunions. At the time the Gatton Association was formed in 1949 there were one thousand members.

Since 1959, Old Scholar attendance at Gatton Founders' Day has been a regular tradition. Annual Reunion dinners were also a feature for many years. Successful residential reunions have been held more recently. More events are being planned for the future.

I cannot conclude these notes without highlighting the generosity of Old Scholars over nearly two centuries, by way of several twentieth century examples.

In 1902, an anonymous Old Scholar gave a gift of £1,000; more than £85,000 at today's value.

On the Albert Commemoration Day in 1941, Frank Burgess "brought with him two clocks and a sum of money raised from his friends, plus a silver cup to be awarded as



*Maitland Park*

# PRESIDENT'S HISTORICAL NOTES

## Two Centuries of Old Scholars - *The first in an occasional series - continued*

a Victor Ludorum prize”, just one of many gestures by Frank over many years. In 1941, he was also elected to the Management Committee.

In 1952, Newton Wells left a legacy of £25,000 in his will; equivalent to £500,000 today.

An Old Scholar, not named, donated the cost of television sets to be installed in all of the new boarding houses at Gatton in 1953, so that children could watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, our Patron. A truly generous gesture in the early days of television when few private homes could afford such luxury.

Finally, Old scholar, E J Muggeridge, received a telegram on his ninetieth birthday from our President at the time, the Duke of Gloucester, to recognise his generous

contribution throughout his adult life, not only financial but also through a lifetime spent supporting pupils in the school.

Old Scholars, over almost two hundred years, have generously contributed, as their individual means allowed, to our Schools - by way of donations, legacies or time given to the school and home which had previously provided them with a more secure childhood and education than otherwise would have been possible. It is reassuring to know that this spirit of generosity continues within the GA today.

John Billingham

*Royal Alexandra and Albert School (1949-1959)*

President of the Gatton Association

## BISHOPSWOOD – FURTHER MEMORIES OF 1944 -1952 BY ROBIN GORDON

On receipt of the ‘Gattonian’ dated July 2016 I read with interest Anthony Edmunds account of his time at Bishopswood, which brought back many memories, some good and some not so good. Certainly there was a mix of teachers and housemasters whom he mentioned who were good but strict, which is only to be expected. There were some whose behaviour nowadays would not be deemed appropriate. A Housemaster I remember was Mr Shepherd, he was firm but fair.

Another thing I remember well was the bicycles that the older boys could use at the weekends provided one had learned to ride. My father had been killed during a blackout in the early part of the war (1941) whilst riding his bike home from work, hence the reason I was at Bishopswood. My mother had asked me not to ride a bike. However, being bored on weekend, I joined my friends when they went to borrow bikes. When asked if I could ride I said I could and to my amazement, the person lent me one. With the help of my friends I learnt to ride in ten minutes. Weekends were never boring after that (weather permitting).

I can remember doing the ‘bob’ a job situation in the scouts and when that finished some of the people in the

village allowed us to carry on doing little jobs as and when required. This was very handy because the money they gave was then spent on food to supplement our diet.

When I visit the RAAS at Gatton Park I am amazed at the things that have been achieved in respect of out of school hours activities. Life would have been so much more pleasant at Bishopswood if we had half of what goes on there. Mind you, I enjoyed playing table tennis and billiards or snooker when I moved up to C Dorm.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the members of staff who invited the Old Scholars to join the trips to the First World War battle sites and cemeteries. My brother Tony Gordon, our wives and I have thoroughly enjoyed both the 2015 trip to Flanders and the 2016 trip to the Somme.

It also pleases me to say we all found the Year 8 pupils to be very pleasant and were brilliantly behaved, unlike some of the other schools visiting at the same venues. I was very honoured to be asked to lay the wreath on the grave of Rupert Percy Butler in Ovillers Military Cemetery. It will be good if there is a visit to another area in 2017 and hope we can make it as well.



# THE MYSTERY OF THE BISON HORNS

The archives are full of interesting documents and items detailing the School's long history. Some of



*Bison horns among the archives.*

the documents show the minute detail of the day-to-day running of a school, such as accounts and HR records, copies of past marketing literature, and even an old school bible. One of the more unusual items which one can't miss is the bison horns. We are not sure why the School has the horns, where they came from, or if they were used for a particular event. If you have any memories of the bison horns or know why the School has them, please do get in contact. The School would appreciate any help you can give to solve this mystery.

## OLD GATTONIANS RUGBY REPORT



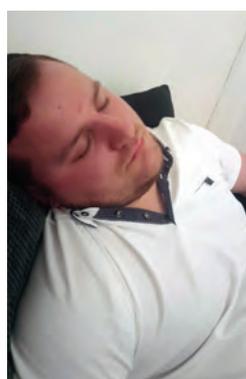
The inaugural match of the Gattonian Sunday Rugby XV proved to be a memorable, enjoyable and action packed event. Players, family, friends and all who thought an enjoyable afternoon and evening would ensue if they visited Gatton Park were not disappointed!

Arriving at the flagpole at midday it was reminiscent of Saturday mornings gone by, where a team was expectantly waiting for the mini-bus to arrive in order to get off to battle. However, the differences were plain to see; the absence of maroon blazers, faces a bit more weathered yet no wrinkles in sight, some with bellies telling a knowing [t]ale and an awful lot of cars that definitely weren't driven there from a Boarding House. But the enthusiasm was vibrant, the conversation was awash with "the fun of the past" and also of the anticipation of what was about to follow during the afternoon (and evening). It was good to see and feel that comfort and pleasure emanating from those who were there and those who were arriving; without the words being uttered it was evident that "coming home" permeated the conversation before the trek down the hill to the bottom field.

Many had arrived as promised; in fact so many we could have fielded two full teams. At this point, praise must be given to George Fowles, a real Gattonian with the dual qualification of having spent 11 years at the school as a Boarder and is now back as a member of the teaching staff

and working within a highly motivated and successful PE department. All in attendance were aware of the massive amount of work done by George to get this inaugural match to happen and ensure the after match arrangements and festivities ran seamlessly. I am sure you will wish to give George a big thank you. Further thanks go to the Headmaster Mark Dixon, who so wholeheartedly gave his support throughout the day.

Before the 2pm kick off a two-minute silence was held in memory of Harry Davies and Ziggy Worrell-Owusu whose lives were so tragically taken from them earlier in the year. They will be sadly missed by all family and friends; you will be affectionately remembered by all at the school who knew you.



*Andrew Turner highlighting here, the physical toll of such scintillating rugby (and fun).*

The opposition for the day was a guest Reigate XV that was assembled by another Gattonian, David Perry, renamed during the evening and now known to all his friends as Harry. Thanks Harry for the hard work done in providing a side that played such a massive part in producing a game that was pretty scintillating from beginning to end.

# A Day to Remember - The Inaugural Match!

Old Gattonians XV v Reigate Rugby Club XV 18th December 2016



Back row: A Turner, R Hatch, M Hatch, D Streete, R Thompson, C Longley, M Jones, N Hagar, S Hibberd, E King, J Patience, A Hibberd, T Fowles, C Gibbons, J Calder, T Hampson, K Sofiedahl.

Front Row: D Keegan, D Gamble, A Ruinoff, R Cork, T Collister, H Skinner, T Raper, E Carne, B Calder, D Swan, G Fowles.

Absent from photo: D Hudson, D Perry, D Bouchard, D Harper, B Jones (Chairman)

Of course we are all aware of how keen you are to be appearing in maroon and gold when we meet again to do battle with our next opponents in our second fixture.

The next eighty minutes plus was an indulgence of sheer rugby entertainment with a constant interchanging of the 29 Gattonians (Dan Hudson had defected!).

This was a truly Gattonian side made up of past pupils and former staff, with ages ranging from young 18-year-old Charlie Longley to the longer in the tooth (and nose) 44 year old Mike Jones. The Gattonians played a no kicking approach, which provided excitement and some superb support based rugby. The cavalier approach adopted was responsible for some daring, high-risk rugby where fun and a swashbuckling philosophy was the order of the day. Of course the approach allowed for the well-equipped guest Reigate XV to pounce on any mistakes and an early lead was taken when the opponents grabbed two early scores.

However, nil desperandum, the approach was just what the doctor ordered for such a celebratory event. Four of the Gattonian tries were the result of imaginative support play amongst forwards and backs that resulted in Ed Carne crossing three times and George also grabbing one (just rewards for his administrative and organisational efforts). A nail biting finish followed and in the dying stages of the game, following a period of sustained and imaginative

support, Matt Hatch crashed over to ensure honours were shared at 27 points apiece.

The game was exciting; the social interchange between so many Gattonians on the touchline was entertaining and the evening that followed matched up to all that went before. Who says school food is not wholesome and filling; Harrison Catering disproves that statement! With bellies filled (with food at this point) an evening of reminiscence, fun and joviality and a little imbibing followed. A warm welcome was extended to all by Headmaster Mark Dixon and as the evening passed all who had travelled so many miles (Ketly Sofiedahl, 2009 leaver, flew in from Norway) to be there to play or support knew that the journey was a journey well-made and one they would willingly make again for future fixtures.

It was a magical day and all who were present look forward to repeating it in the not too distant future. Thanks to those who made this inaugural match so memorable.

**Match overview:** Final score: 27-27

**Try Scorers:** Edward Carne (3), George Fowles (1), Matthew Hatch (1)

**Conversion:** Andrew Ruinoff

**Man of the Match:** Toby Fowles

**DotD:** Dominic Streete

# OLD GATTONIANS 29 V. HORLEY RFC 22

12th February 2017



*Old Gattonians XV v Reigate XV - Outstanding in their field.*

It seems as if it was only yesterday when once again a horde of “fresh faced youth” thronged around the flag pole in anticipation of again donning the maroon and yellow to represent the colours for a second time. The enthusiasm was still massively evident and this time Dan Hudson was not to be denied wearing the nine shirt for the right side; David Harry Perry, generalissimo and organiser in chief of December’s Reigate XV was obviously not in the mood for representing any other XV, and was equally as enthusiastically supported by big brother Chris who made his debut for the OG’s.

So the scene was set for game two, in what we hope will be a long running saga of invitation events for the OG Sunday Rugby Club. Of course, the day carried special significance, as not only was the get together an exciting affair in order to enter into a gladiatorial event with another Sunday rugby organisation; it was also a way of showing

how much those who had dashed about on the playing fields of Gatton Park a number of years ago could do so again, with the additional aim of raising some finance for the lucky youngsters still at the School who will be embarking upon the exciting tour to South Africa during the summer vacation.

Both objectives were approached and met with what can only be described as great aplomb! Firstly let us focus upon the events that took place on the bottom field. Again, like with the inaugural match, the philosophy adopted was that the game of rugby is predominantly a handling affair, and throughout the 80 minutes every attempt was made to keep the ball in hand and play a high-tempo handling game that involved the good, the bad, the ugly, the thick (as in set!) and the thin (or rather those with muscles more defined than the latter mentioned category). Hence all body types were equally as keen to get the

## OLD GATTONIANS 29 V. HORLEY RFC 22 *continued*

12th February 2017

ball in their hands and entertain a very good crowd who had made the effort to come along. Their attempts to meet the objective, it must be said, was achieved and there were long periods of intense support play. Of course, the equally competitive Horley RFC, led by the stalwart Jon Daniels, played their part in ensuring the fun, excitement and action was pretty much perpetual.

Once again 30 plus members, some debutants, were involved in the game - a testimony to the support Old Gattonians have to the place where they spent so much time as children. It was particularly fitting that organiser-in chief, George Fowles, led the way on the score sheet with two well taken tries. A slightly "beefier" birthday boy Matt Hatch was once again, as was the case in December, on the score sheet. Beefiness might be a descriptor used as a bodily classification for Matt but there is nothing beefy about his intelligent support play and nimbleness of handling at the most opportune of times. A happy birthday Matt and once again a vital (not missing) link in the chain of the fun and support we try to engender. Your "baby brother" must be so proud and secretly wishing he had your scoring powers. Perhaps he'll give you a lesson or two before the next game Rich!

To complete the scoring, Man of the Match Harry Skinner stormed over with that trade mark big smile on his face and the player awarded Dick of the Day, long Tom Hampson, showed that his ludicrous attempt at a one handed pass (that was responsible for the Dick of the Day Award) was not in keeping with his normal silky silks and good vision. It just goes to show Tom that even the best can "wander off the mark" occasionally. Never mind though, you, Harry and Matt were all good value for your respective after match awards. The final addition to the points tally came from conversions from the evergreen Dan Hudson and Harry (M.o.M.) Skinner

...and so to the after-match celebrations. Again Harrison, caterers extraordinaire, did us proud "feeding the five thousand", and such fine cuisine obviously helped in loosening the pocket of the many spectators who gave so generously when raffle tickets went on sale to support the South African tour. Bar sales were buoyant because of the

large crowd that swelled the staff club and of course a percentage of the profit made during the course of the evening was also donated to the tour funds. In this area of fundraising I am pleased to say that many Old Gattonians showed exceptional enthusiasm in ensuring donations would be maximised!

During the course of the morning of the game, Jon Dickson, who unfortunately could not be with us for the day, turned up at George's door with an auction prize that will surely help the fundraising effort. To the amazement of many at the game, and in the dining hall after the match, a 2015 England shirt signed by the full England World Cup squad (encased in a magnificent glass fronted frame) was displayed. This will shortly be put up for auction on eBay. We will ensure that when the shirt appears on eBay the necessary notification will appear on the OLD GATTONIAN RUGBY FACEBOOK PAGE and also GATTON ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE. Many thanks to Jon, and we look forward to seeing you in maroon and yellow in the final match of our OG RFC season.

Indeed we look forward to seeing all who have played to date being there for the season finale, which will be advertised shortly. Of course, we look forward to seeing all the marvellous, non-playing, fun loving OG/GA spectators/supporters once again. As Ruth Turner said to me at the end of the game, "it looked all very exciting but I'm not sure of the score as there was so much gossip to catch up with." Need we say anymore; games, gossip and Gattonians. What more could you ask for on a Sunday afternoon?

To finish, our huge thanks to the first president of OGRFC, Sergey Pichugin, for his generous sponsorship towards the purchase of the new shirts that we will be wearing for the finale. Also to a very important cog in our wheel, photographer David Harbison, who has undertaken and done such a sterling job as our official man with the camera. Thank you David and Sergey. And thank you to everyone who's turned up and supported the South African tour. We've raised over £500!

# LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER



Dear Old Gattonian,

Since I last wrote in November, there has been a lot of activity within the school and the Gatton Association. The Old Gattonian Rugby Team has played two matches and more matches are planned this season. We can also look forward to two big events in the Summer Term – the Summer Ball on 10th June and Gattonian Day on 14th May.

It is really heartening to see such enthusiasm amongst Old Gattonians who come back to enjoy these events with other past pupils as well as those still at the School. My thanks go to Benny Jones and the Gatton Association Committee who are working so hard to make these events happen. Arranging any event takes a lot of work and I have reviewed the resource in the Marketing team to ensure Helen and Sefora have more time to provide the support needed.

In a few week's time I will be attending a lunch for Year 13 pupils. This is an annual event where they are introduced to the Gatton Association, meet members of the Committee, and are invited to sign up as members. This will bring new members to the Gatton Association and enable us to keep in touch after they have left.

Last June we celebrated the 90th birthday of our Patron, The Queen by holding a street party followed by entertainment in Gatton Hall. This year we were very pleased to be awarded a gift of £2,500 from the Patron's Fund to mark the occasion of her birthday. The gift will be used to give Foundation pupils access to horse riding and music lessons.

In the School we continue to focus on delivering a rich and varied programme of co-curricular activities and trips for pupils. Last weekend was fairly typical with a trip to Wisley Gardens to see the butterflies, a trip to see the X Factor Tour, ballet lessons in the Dance Studio and the Junior boarders enjoyed a Ceilidh in the Performing Arts Centre. It is good to see so many pupils taking advantage of these opportunities.

Whilst we encourage pupils to seek out and enjoy new experiences outside the classroom, we still expect them to apply themselves to their school work. Year 13 students have been working hard towards their A Levels in the summer and many have applied to university, including one student who has an offer to study Natural Sciences at Cambridge University. The next few months will be challenging for all pupils who are facing public examinations but I am pleased with the way they are focusing on achieving their goals.

I look forward to meeting more of you at the Gatton Association events in the spring and summer. If you would like to visit the school at another time, please contact Helen or Sefora to arrange a time. They will be happy to arrange for you to be shown round by some of our current pupils so you can find out how things have changed since you left!

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Mark Dixon'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Mark Dixon



# SCHOOL NEWS

## THE ROYAL ALEXANDRA AND ALBERT SCHOOL CELEBRATES A GIFT FROM THE PATRON'S FUND

The Royal Alexandra and Albert School is celebrating after receiving a £2,500 gift from The Patron's Fund, the charitable fund set up to acknowledge the work of the charitable organisations for which Her Majesty, The Queen acts as a Patron, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The School is committed to providing its pupils with opportunities to develop their wider interests through the School's extensive co-curricular programme. Horse riding and individual music lessons are some of the most popular activities, and the gift from our Patron makes these activities accessible to Foundationers who are some of our most vulnerable pupils.

Foundationers are children with difficult family circumstances where the child would not thrive if he or she attended the local day school. Fifty Foundationer places are funded by the School's charitable Foundation, which seeks to provide these children with a stable childhood. Key to this is the Foundation's desire to give Foundationers the same opportunities as their peers, providing these pupils with horse riding and individual music lessons at no extra cost to their families.

Headmaster Mark Dixon said, 'We are delighted to have The Queen as our Patron. The School's charitable Foundation has supported vulnerable children for over 250 years, and this generous gift from the Patron's Fund will allow the School to continue giving these children the opportunities



*The school beneficiaries of £2,500 from The Patron's Fund* they deserve. As a School we are keen to see all of our pupils, regardless of their background or financial means, explore and develop their talents and passions. The gift will help the Foundation to give our Foundationer pupils access to horse riding and music lessons.'



*The school beneficiaries of The Patron's Fund in music lessons*

# A ROYAL APPOINTMENT



When Mark Dixon accepted the role of Headmaster of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School, he knew he was joining a school with a royal connections spanning more than 200 years. Nevertheless, he had not expected to be invited to Kensington Palace to meet the Duchess of Gloucester within a few months of taking up his new post. The Duchess is President of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School and is a regular visitor, attending important



## Court Circular



### Buckingham Palace

28th February, 2017  
The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, Royal Governors, this morning opened the new redevelopment at Sutton's Hospital in Charterhouse, Charterhouse Square, London EC1, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Mr. Kenneth Olisa), the Chairman of Governors (Sir Michael Graydon) and the Master (Ms. Ann Kenrick).

Her Majesty, accompanied by the Chairman of Governors, viewed the garden, learning centre and museum, and met charity representatives and members of staff.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by the Lord Glenarthur (Governor) and Brigadier Charles Hobson (former Master), viewed the garden, Great Hall and museum, and met Governors, Brothers and members of staff.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh subsequently visited the Chapel.

The Duke of Cambridge, on

behalf of The Queen, this morning held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace.

### Kensington Palace

28th February, 2017  
The Duke of Cambridge, Patron, Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre, this evening attended a Dinner at Thomas Goode and Company Limited, 19 South Audley Street, London W1.

The Duchess of Cambridge this morning officially opened Ronald McDonald House Evelina London, 216 Lambeth Road, London SE1, and was received by Mrs. Rosemary Prescott (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

### Buckingham Palace

28th February, 2017  
The Earl of Wessex, Royal Honorary Colonel, Royal Wessex Yeomanry, this morning held a Meeting.

The Countess of Wessex, Patron, Blind Veterans UK, this morning visited the Llandudno Centre, Queen's Road, Llandudno, Conway, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Clwyd (Mr. Henry Fetherstonhaugh).

### Buckingham Palace

28th February, 2017  
The Princess Royal this morning opened Digitech Studio School, Bristol, Tower Road North, Warmley, Bristol, and was received

by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Dame Janet Trotter).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, UK Youth this afternoon visited the Road Code Programme, Stonehouse Youth Centre, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse, and was received by Mr. Clive Lewis (Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

### Kensington Palace

28th February, 2017  
The Duke of Gloucester, Honorary President, BR Class 8 Steam Locomotive Trust, this morning received Mr. Steven Wakeland (Chairman), Mr. Ron Mitchell (Trust Secretary) and Mr. Nicolas Trudgian (Artist).

His Royal Highness, Vice Royal Patron, the Almshouse Association, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at Coutts and Company, 440 Strand, London WC2, to launch the Sir David Money-Coutts Appeal for Almshouses.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, today received Mr. Steven Pocock upon assuming his appointment as Chief Executive.

Professor John Wallwork (Chairman of the Board of Directors) was present.

Her Royal Highness, President, Royal Alexandra and Albert School, this afternoon received Mr. Mark Dixon upon assuming his appointment as Headmaster.

*Footnote: On Saturday mornings, the Headmaster teaches an A Level Further Maths class in Rank Weston House (our Junior Boarding House). Usually the Headmaster grabs a quick cup of tea before the lesson starts. However, last Saturday, mindful that the Headmaster had recently been for tea at Kensington Palace with the Duchess of Gloucester, a full tray service of freshly brewed tea was laid out for him on his arrival.*

*Anything Kensington Palace can do Rank Weston can do as well!*

occasions such as Founders' Days and major anniversaries. She was keen to meet the new Headmaster so invited him to join her for tea on 28th February.

Mark Dixon said "It is great that the Duchess of Gloucester takes such an interest in this School. She was fully aware of recent developments and asked how our Sixth Form was progressing. She was interested to hear about the increase in boarder numbers, especially junior boarding and I explained about the work we are doing to expand our co-curricular programme. It was clear that the Duchess enjoys meeting pupils and staff when she visits and she asked me to pass on her best wishes to everyone at the School."



The Duchess of Gloucester at last year's visit to the school

# THE COMMITTEE OF THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

President	John Billingham
Vice President	Benny Jones
Chair	Benny Jones
Vice Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Ruth Turner
Treasurer	Diana Bromley

## Committee Members:

Ray Davies  
Jenny De'Ath  
Alicia Edwards  
Nigel Edwards  
George Fowles  
Frances Hartigan  
Di Martin  
Mark Measey  
John Turner  
Will Wilson

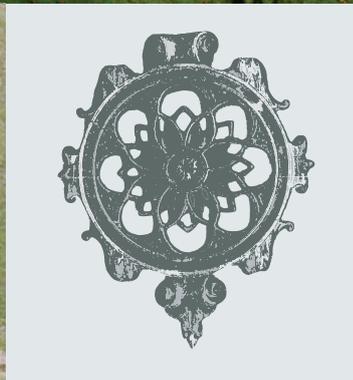
## Associate Committee Members:

Helen Pollard  
Sefora Dias

## THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

The Objectives of the Gatton Association are:

- To encourage and enable all former pupils and former staff to remain in touch with their school colleagues and the School
- To offer support and assistance to former and current pupils



## CONTACT DETAILS

To contact the Committee please email [OldScholars@gatton-park.org.uk](mailto:OldScholars@gatton-park.org.uk) or write to:

Gatton Association  
Royal Alexandra and Albert School  
Gatton Park  
Reigate  
Surrey  
RH2 0TD

You may also contact Helen Pollard and Sefora Dias, the Gatton Association liaising team at the School if you have any queries, newsletter contributions, or if you would like to offer any support to the School or Association.

Helen Pollard  
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Sefora Dias  
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