



THE GATTONIAN

WINTER 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



Dear Gattonian,

I hope all Gattonians had an enjoyable summer. It was great to see many a familiar face in early September at the first GA barbecue. For those who attended the barbecue or

played rugby, football, netball: a big thank you for your attendance and I hope that you enjoyed the day. It was so heartening to see so many Gattonians enjoying their time, mixing with each other and sharing memories. I think it would be true to say that the day was an unqualified success and we will be repeating the venture just before the commencement of the 2018 academic year.

I must mention two individuals whose sterling work and photographic skills helped to ensure the day was captured and kept for posterity. Of course, I am talking about Sean Blyth and David Harbison whose skills were used to such good effect. Thank you so much David and Sean. Indeed thank you to all who made this a successful day. A big thank you to Mark Dixon, Headmaster, for allowing us to use the splendid facilities at the School; what a splendid backdrop to host any event!

The barbecue in early September was indeed a good start to the new Gattonian year and there will be other events and get togethers to follow – not all of the energetic type, we promise! Of course if you gather together as Gattonians away from the School at events that are organised by you or any of your friends, colleagues, classmates, year groups etc please

INDEX



Page No.

Chairman's Welcome	1
Summer Barbecue	2 / 3
Carols by Candlelight	4
Welcome Back!	4
Remembering Percy Ruse Lunn	5
Finding Friends	5 / 6
Photo Mystery	7
Gatton Hall Update	8
Social Media Goings On	8
Open Arms Malawi	9
Obituary - Charles Bailey	9
Congratulations - John Raeburn	10
Train to Teach	10
Sixth Former is a High Flyer	11
Cadet Promotions	12
Committee	13

let us know. If you record such an event in photographic form, we would love to have these photographic memories so that they can be shared with other Gattonians. Helen and Sefora will gratefully accept any such offerings.

You may be aware that some years ago the School began supporting a very creditable charity named Open Arms Malawi and it is so heartening to hear that the School has a trip to Malawi organised during the summer vacation of 2018. More on this trip will be mentioned later. Good luck and best wishes to all those who are involved in this very worthwhile expedition.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME *continued*

You will also be aware, following an earlier communication from Helen and Sefora, of the intended Carol Concert on the 7th December at St Katharine's Church, Merstham to which you are all cordially invited. Of course early application to attend is advisable because of the obvious limits on space. I hope to see many of you there on the evening of Thursday 7th for a jolly good sing, mince pies and mulled wine that will follow.

One of the Association's key objectives is to offer support to our members. And we're calling Gattonians to help us do this. If you are able to offer support or assistance to elderly or infirm Gattonians, please get in touch. A few hours of your time may really help another Gattonian.

Interesting we seem to be developing a "head of steam" and it's all moving forward in terms of dinners, balls, barbecues, sports events, interesting and informative contributions to

the newsletter. All of which, of course, help to cement the relationship between the GA and all its members of all ages. Do we need to think of other things that help us to move forward? That will get you involved? If you think we do, then let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate your thoughts and ideas.

It's interesting that the more that happens, the more information that appears in the newsletter, the less I need to say! An arrangement I am sure you will find more than acceptable.

Enjoyable reading.

Cheers

Benny Jones

Vice-President and Chairman of the Gatton Association

If you want to get in touch please email OldScholars@gatton-park.org.uk

SUMMER BARBECUE

As an Association we want to ensure that all of our events are welcomed and well-received by our community of members. We work hard to come up with fun and meaningful events that give Gattonians plenty of opportunity to come back to Gatton Park and, most importantly, meet up with school friends.



It is therefore incredibly heartening when an event is embraced, attended and enjoyed by so many Gattonians. We're happy to say that this was the case with the Summer Barbecue. On the sports side alone, we had more than forty Gattonians taking part. Then there were Gattonians who came to enjoy a day out. In total, we had more than 150 Gattonians in attendance! We had Gattonians of all ages and from all decades, some had left in the 70s and others just a few years back.

In total, the catering team cooked over 200 burgers and hot dogs. We're a hungry lot! It's best if we don't mention the bar... Let's just say, we're obviously thirsty, too.

While we were having fun, enjoying a good bit of exercise on the sports field, and a relaxing chat

SUMMER BARBECUE *continued*

afterwards, what you may not have realised is that your attendance also helped the school community which we're all a part of. The barbecue raised just under £375.

Like most of the GA's events, the barbecue wasn't a fundraising activity. The £5 you paid for the barbecue was only meant to cover costs. But so many of you turned up, and that now means that as an Association we can give back to the School.

With some of the profits from the barbecue, the Gatton Association will be purchasing a dolls house to replace the much loved dolls house currently in Rank Weston which is now very worse for wear.

Thank you, Gattonians.

Photography: With thanks to David Harbison for the photos.





IT'S NEARLY THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!

Come and be Jolly with us!



In past years, carols at Christmas time was one of the highlights of the Autumn Term, which many Gattonians still remember with much fondness. We're very happy to be bringing it back this December.

The Gatton Association is delighted to invite Gattonians and their families to a wonderful evening of beautiful singing. The School's choir will be performing Carols by Candlelight at St Katharine's Church, Merstham on Thursday 7th December at 6pm. St Katharine's is only a 5 minute drive from the School. The service will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

We hope you and your family are able to join us for carols, mince pies and mulled wine to kick off the festive season.

If you would like to attend, please email OldScholars@gatton-park.org.uk with your name and that of your guests. Please note that places are limited.

We very much hope to see you there.

WELCOME BACK!

It is always lovely when past pupils visit the school.

Roy Williams

Roy visited during the summer and is photographed outside Alexandra House where he was a boarder in the 60s.

Lauren Lee

I met Lauren when she was on site in her professional capacity as a Legionella Risk Assessor. The last time I saw Lauren was on results day in 2009 and she was in one of my favourite 'Results Day' photos with Jaymez Clark.



Marnie Burroughs

And some people just can't stay away!

Marnie Burroughs

Marnie Burroughs, who left in 2012, joined the Admissions and Marketing team in February this year and is thrilled to be back at the school.

All the best Helen Pollard



Lauren and Jaymez 2009.



Lauren is now a Legionella Risk Assessor.



Roy Williams

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN – PERCY RUSE LUNN

This year's Remembrance Day was a very special one for the School. For the first time, we had the pleasure of welcoming representatives from the family of one of our pupils who perished in the First World War.

Percy Ruse Lunn was born in 1896. In 1906, at the age of 9, he was admitted to the School after the death of his father. He left in 1910 to become an apprentice in an umbrella makers. Not long after leaving the School, Percy volunteered for military service and was sent to serve with the 62nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Percy was killed in action near Tilloy-les-Mofflaines on 8 June 1917. He was only 21 years old. To this day the School continues to remember Percy and the other 63 Gattonian casualties of war.

We were delighted that 11 members of his family were able to join us for the Remembrance Service and lunch in Gatton Hall. One of the highlights of the day, and a very poignant moment, was when Mr Dixon presented the family with a

framed photograph of Percy and a short citation.

It is important for all of us in our school community to come together to remember the sacrifices of past generations and recognise the contribution of our current armed forces.

There is and has always been a standing and open invitation to Gattonians to attend Remembrance Day service at the School. Please email ea2head@gatton-park.org.uk if you wish to attend a service in the future.

More details can always be found on the Gattonian website www.gattonian.com.



FINDING FRIENDS

Martin Ellis and Ray Hodges have been in contact with a wonderful collection of photographs from their time at the school in the 50s and early 60s.

They have already been able to put many names to faces through their memories alone but require some help to finish the task! Let's lend them a hand, Gattonians. If you are in these photos or recognise some of the faces, please do email OldScholars@gatton-park.org.uk. Mr Ellis and Mr Hodges would be delighted to hear from you.



CORNWALL HOUSE FOOTBALL TEAM – 1960/61

Back row - Len Renouf, J Gruman, Martin Ellis, Ray Hodges, Roger Clark, Clive Floyd, ? Cudmore?, Alan? Bristow?

Front row- ??, Gary Corboy, John Harding Captain, ??, ? Gade

FINDING FRIENDS *continued*

CORNWALL HOUSE Cricket Team – 1960/61

*Back row - Roger Clark,
J Gruman, Ray Hodges,
John Harding, Barry Sutton?,
? Cudmore?, Len Renouf.*

*Front row - Ray Gibbons,
Kimberley Stoner, ??,
Martin Ellis, Captain.*



CORNWALL HOUSE Gymnastics Team – 1960/61

*Standing - ? Gade, Ray
Gibbons, J Gruman,
Ray Hodges, Captain,
Roger Clark, ? Cosgrove?*

Sitting - Barry Sutton?



PHOTO MYSTERY

One very eagle-eyed Gattonian has pointed out that a collection of photographs on the Gattonian website had been incorrectly labelled. We had thought that the photos below were of 1963 leavers, due to a note on the back of the photos. It is now thought that the photos are more likely to be of pupils who left after 1965. For Gattonians who were around in the 60s, do you know when these photos were taken? One thing is for sure, they had style back then!



GATTON HALL UPDATE



As many of you already know, Gatton Hall is currently undergoing extensive renovations.

Gatton Hall was built between 1934 and 1936, and our much loved building was feeling its age. To guarantee its continued use by the school community, major electrical and mechanical work is being carried out. To keep Gatton Hall open for as long as possible, the work is being done in stages, with the School's contractors focusing on a floor at a time.

The second floor should be completed, as planned, just before Christmas with refurbished dorms, new bathrooms, a new Sixth Form common room, TV room, IT suite and games room.

The boarders who currently reside on the first floor will return in January to the newly refurbished second floor of Gatton Hall.

The work is on schedule and will be completed by 2019.



Photography: With many thanks to David Harbison for the photo.

SOCIAL MEDIA GOINGS ON

The Gattonians behind the Gatton Park Facebook page were looking for a new cover photo for their page and put a call out for Gattonians to share their photos of Gatton Park. Just under 180 Gattonians reacted to the posts by liking it, commenting and sharing their photos.

There were some wonderful submissions; some were of the beautiful grounds and Gatton Hall, while others were of places around the school that are no longer there or no longer in use, such as the Gatton Puddle, the tennis courts or the outside phone boxes.



The winning submission, which is now Gatton Park's cover photo, was submitted by Gattonian Theresa Hill-Smith. The columns were specially lit for Theresa's wedding. Fantastic photo!

If you're active on Facebook, don't forget that you can find our alumni community here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/106336532762138/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gatton.park>

Many of you will remember the tsunami that hit South East Asia on Boxing Day 2004. I was still a member of staff at the School then, and like many educational institutions, the School gladly gave help and raised money for the cause.

At that time, the tsunami helped focus minds and sparked a lot of soul searching. We started to look at countries where poverty and suffering were rife and a part of people's everyday existence. It was decided that the School should develop a permanent relationship with Open Arms Malawi, a charity which provides foster homes for orphaned children in Malawi. There they receive an education, food, clothing, health care, and more importantly, they have someone to look after them.

Back in 2004, we started to sponsor four children who lived in Rose's House, one of Open Arms Malawi's foster homes. The children were known as The Famous Four. The School had many fundraising activities to help the children and raised over £14,500.

The relationship with Open Arms Malawi continues to this day. Next summer, some pupils from the School are setting off on an expedition to Malawi to visit Rose's House, do voluntary work, and explore the country.

So, what happened to The Famous Four? Aubrey, Wilson, Moses and Norman thrived under the care of Rose's House and their futures are bright. Wilson, Moses and Norman are now in excellent secondary schools in their area, and Aubrey, who has cerebral palsy, started a vocational training programme in 2015. The School are very proud of the work done with Open Arms Malawi to secure better lives for these vulnerable children.

You can find out more about Open Arms Malawi on their website: www.openarmsmalawi.org. If you feel this is a worthy cause and would like to show your support, you can do so through their Just Giving page:

www.justgiving.com/openarmsmalawi

Cheers

Benny

OBITUARY – CHARLES (CHAS) BAILEY

In September we heard the sad news that Chas Bailey, a loyal member of the Gatton Association for many years, had passed away on 29th September 2017.

Chas was a valued member of the Gatton Association and he was tireless in his work as Editor of the Newsletter from 2007 to 2014. Countless members of the Gatton Association will be very sad to hear that Chas is no longer with us, as he was responsible for keeping them up to date with the Association for so many years. I know that members looked forward to hearing all the news about the school, its history, and the stories from past pupils and events. Chas' input to the style and presentation of the newsletter made it more readable and entertaining.

Even when he was unwell, Chas worked hard to deliver the newsletter as he didn't want to let people down.

Chas will be remembered as a kind, warm hearted and loyal member of the Gatton Association and his loss will be felt by many members. Another part of our collective history has been lost with his passing. Chas always had a great way of describing his life when he was a pupil at the School and one never tired of hearing his stories.

I have written to Chas' family to offer sincere condolences on behalf of the Gatton Association.

John Billingham - President



SCHOOL NEWS

TRAIN TO TEACH



We all know there's something about Gatton. Something hard to define, but it makes people want to come back.

You might be interested to know that you can come back.

If you are considering a career in teaching, you could train to teach here.

We offer Schools Direct teacher training supported by the University of Sussex or the University of Brighton. After a period of one year, you would have a masters-level PGCE and could apply for a permanent position. In fact, most teachers who train here, stay here. There definitely is something about Gatton!

There is more information about Schools Direct here:

www.warwick.surrey.sch.uk/assets/The-Warwick-Partnership.pdf

And you can find out more about teaching at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School here:

www.raa-school.co.uk/downloads/recruitment-teachers.pdf

We will be running information sessions over the next year and you would be very welcome to come along. You will already know about the school and Gatton Park, but you might have questions about training to teach here.

Please let me know if you would be interested in hearing more about the information sessions. My email address is traintoteach@raa-school.co.uk and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Gatton Park is a great place to be a pupil. It's also a great place to teach.

I look forward to welcoming you to one of our information sessions.



With best wishes
Bryony Potter
Director of Teaching
and Learning

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to John Raeburn who has completed 30 years' service at the School. John spent 27 years as a house tutor in Gloucester House and for the last three years has been working in the activities team.

A trained lifeguard and swimming teacher, John has taught hundreds of pupils to swim since he joined the school. The Headmaster presented him with a tankard in recognition of his many years' service.



SIXTH FORMER IS FLYING HIGH

For a number of years, Mark Dyos, Year 12 student at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School, has dreamed of becoming a pilot. He came down with a serious case of the 'Aviation Bug' when he was introduced to planes by his father and uncle.

Mark's ambition to one day become a pilot has seen him seek experience in the field. He applied to take part in the very competitive British Airways Work Experience Programme and had to undergo a rigorous selection process. Mark explained, "I applied for the Programme and had an interview and an online test and I was really pleased to be selected for the 4-day work placement. The industry is competitive so it wasn't a surprise that the work experience selection process was the same."

Currently, Mark is studying for his A Levels in Geography, Business Studies and IT, but on Monday afternoons he is out flying. He said, "I'm currently getting my Private Pilot License and doing two hours of flying every week. The Sixth Form team have allowed me the time to get my license alongside studying for my A Levels."

His ambition is to become a professional pilot and one day fly an Airbus A380, one of the biggest passenger planes. For this, he is aiming to train with either CTC Aviation or CAE Oxford Aviation Academy.

A career as a pilot requires intensive training and commitment, and pilots must have excellent leadership, communication and problem-solving skills, not to



mention the ability to remain calm under extreme pressure and stress. Even with a lot of boxes to tick, Mark is willing to put in the effort. "After my A Levels, I still have to complete a 2 year course to get my pilot's license. After that, I can become a co-pilot and then a pilot with a company like Norwegian Airlines or EasyJet."

Headmaster Mr Dixon said of Mark's ambition, "We aim to equip all our Sixth Form students with the skills necessary to progress to the career of their choice. In our Sixth Form, in particular, we look to foster leadership skills, and there is no doubt that this is one skill pilots are required to have. Becoming a pilot is no easy feat; it is a demanding career and it can take up to 7 years to qualify with a full license. It is very pleasing to see that Mark is already working towards achieving his goal, and we look forward to seeing him reach his full potential and become a pilot in the future."



Pictured: Airbus A380 which Mark hopes to one day fly

CADET PROMOTIONS



Three Surrey Army Cadets in the School detachment were promoted on 21st September. This was in recognition of their service to Cadets and the work they had put in as part of their training.

Cadet Lance Corporal Scarlett Millar was promoted to Cadet Corporal. Cadet Rhett Lawrence and Cadet Alex Tribelnig were promoted to Lance Corporal. Detachment Commander, Sgt Raymond said “These cadets have shown great commitment to the Army Cadets, they regularly attend parade nights and training weekends, sporting events and community activities. They are an asset to the detachment and an inspiration to their junior cadet peers.”

15 year old Cpl Scarlett Millar is now the highest ranking cadet in the detachment. She explained the tasks the

cadets undertook to earn their promotions “We did drill training, rifle drill, first aid, expeditions and work in the community. The training can be hard, especially the field exercises during the 2-week annual camp. I have decided I want a career in the Army as a physiotherapist so this is good training.”

Headmaster Mark Dixon said “Many of our boarders have parents in the armed services and the School has always had a strong connection with uniformed services. The pupils in our cadet detachment are learning skills that will serve them well in the future and I am pleased to see that Scarlett, Alex and Rhett are being recognised for their commitment to the cadets.”

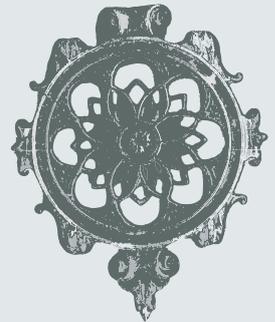
THE COMMITTEE OF THE GATTON ASSOCIATION

President	John Billingham
Vice President	Benny Jones
Chair	Benny Jones
Vice Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Ruth Turner
Treasurer	Tony Murray



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 or write to:

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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.

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