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This attempt at a "newsletter" is being sent to former pupils of the 1963 intake to Drayton Manor Grammar School that I've renewed links with.

Please feel free to distribute copies to other former Draytonians that you may be in contact with.

## [www.dmgs63.org.uk](http://www.dmgs63.org.uk)

Well, as I wrote in my first attempt at this "newsletter", **Paul Curtis** and I thought it might be a good idea to set up a web site specifically for the Drayton Manor intake of 1963. After all, if those young whippersnappers from the 1967 intake could do it ([www.dmgs67.co.uk](http://www.dmgs67.co.uk)), why not us as well?

Little did we realise what we were creating! I thought it would just be a case of putting together four or five web pages with a few photos and one or two bits clipped out of old issues of Phoenix. However, as more people became aware of the site and the Message Board on it, things gathered momentum.

More old Draytonians were discovering and registering themselves on the Friends Reunited web site, so this provided further potential contacts. The list of ex-pupils from "our" era has continued to grow. I managed to locate **Peter Durrans** (having initially tracked down his brother at the British Museum via the Web!) Peter has been digging into his memories and added a few comments to the Message Board and also found a couple of photos, which have been added to the web site. He's promised to excavate his archives further over the Christmas/New Year break, so look out for some more photographic evidence of the "Swinging Sixties" at DMGS.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed a memory of one form or another to the web site. Keep them coming!

## Reunion Suggestion

As mentioned in the initial newsletter, while there are a few small groups of people from "our era" in contact with one another, it might be opportune to have a "Reunion" of the Class of '63 during 2002. An occasion to celebrate our each attaining the big Five Oh – our fiftieth birthdays.

Paul and I met with **John Winnert** in mid-December down at John's place on the edge of the New Forest. Having got over the shock(!) of seeing each other again after thirty years [Paul still looks like his 1964 school photo – John and I both hide our chins under hirsute growth...] we were pleasantly surprised at (as John put it) "...being able to slip straight into some comfortable conversation so easily and naturally after so long."

One of the many topics we talked about that day was the feasibility of a "Reunion". The intention is very much for an informal, friendly get-together as a chance for people to reacquaint themselves with others they spent up to seven years of their education with at Drayton Manor.

First and foremost, we'd like to stress that the "Reunion" is for **anyone** who was part of the **1963-1970 year group**. It's not just for those who joined the First Form in September 1963, but also for anyone who joined that '63 intake at any subsequent stage – all the way up to the Sixth Form. [Using back issues of Phoenix I've tried to compile as comprehensive a list as possible of pupils from our year group and published this on the web site – if there are any corrections, please let me know] If anyone can think of a better way of describing us, I'd be interested to hear. Somehow

[www.dmgs63andallthosewhojoinedlater.org.uk](http://www.dmgs63andallthosewhojoinedlater.org.uk) doesn't quite have a ring to it...

Provisionally we've selected **Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> 2002** as the date to invite everyone to meet up. John has very kindly offered the use of his house near Ringwood (Hampshire) as the venue. We seem to be fairly well dispersed around the UK (and elsewhere!), so it would probably be difficult to get a location that's 100% suitable for all.

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The suggested format is for people to arrive from about 10:00am bringing whatever liquid refreshment they prefer together with contributions towards a “bring and share” buffet. Everyone then just mixes in and enjoys lunch and plenty of “catch-up” conversation. (Bring photos and other interesting items!)

John and **Janet Gibbons'** (nee **Rogers**) husband (Dave) have volunteered to cook an evening meal of chilli and rice for those wishing to stay on to the evening.

If people want to stop over for the night, well look at getting details of local B&Bs, although the more hardy ones may like to pitch their tents in John's back field.

John, Paul and I all thought this arrangement would be more comfortable and enjoyable than trying to organise a large hotel/formal “sit-down” meal, etc. Hope you all agree.

If you think you're likely to be attending, please let me know soon, so we can start working out the numbers and make sure there's enough eating irons, etc to go around. Once we have a good idea of the response, we'll endeavour to sort our more details and eventually let you have directions, etc.

Please e-mail your intention to attend to: [reunion@dmgs63.org.uk](mailto:reunion@dmgs63.org.uk), or drop me a line at: 97 Packenham Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 8YA.

## Another Reunion

If you were friendly with people in years other than ours at Drayton Manor, you might like to know that the 1967 and 1971 groups are planning a get-together on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2002 in Osterley Park. Their invitation is open to anyone whose starting date at DMGS was around 1962-1971.

**Lindsay Trevarthen** (nee **Churchill**) is planning to attend as her husband, Graham, was member of the '67 intake.

Check the DMGS1967 web site for more information ([www.dmgs67.co.uk](http://www.dmgs67.co.uk))

## Friends Reunited

John Winnert seems to have cornered the market in the amount of biographical information he's put on the Friends Reunited site ([www.friendsreunited.co.uk](http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk)), and Paul Curtis is the only one of us to upload a photo – so far! Anyone like to add more?

## More Requests

I've been very pleasantly surprised by the feedback that's appeared on the DMGS'63 web site Message Board. But I'm sure you could do better. Perhaps I should award a Merit Mark (remember those/) each week for the best contribution?

If you have the opportunity to search through your loft, cellar, or wherever you store those things you haven't thrown away, please look out for any memories of our time at Drayton Manor. Your photographs would be welcome additions to the web site.

Has anyone got any “classic comments” from the School Reports that they'd like to share?

Below I list all those people I'll be distributing this newsletter to (either via e-mail directly or via the Friends Reunited web site). If you're in contact with any other ex-Draytonian, please could you forward them a copy of this?

If you have any ideas to add to the DMGS'63 web site, please get in touch. I have a few more photos from Paul Curtis to add, and as I mentioned earlier, Peter Durrans has promised to supply some more exhibits from his archive. I also intend to extract some more “interesting bits” from old issues of Phoenix.

Apologies if there's anybody who's waiting for a reply from me. I do try and keep up with all my mail, but there are times when things get put on the “must do” pile only to be engulfed by other “must do” items.

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year,  
Keep in touch!

*Allan Palmer*

This newsletter is being sent by e-mail directly to: Paul Curtis, John Blackwell, Sue Murrilo (Brown), Tim Dean, John Winnert, David Butcher, Janet Gibbons (Rogers), Peter Lockett, Dave Hutchinson, Sue Geary (Grimes), Allan Taylor, Lindsay Trevarthen (Churchill), Les Redford, Tony Ryan, Peter Durrans, Graham Reynolds, Janice Holley, Bernice Gregoriou (Clare), John McConnell, Patrick Lau, Craig Boxshall, David Carpenter, Brenda McCraith, Michael Beattie, Steve Hinton  
Details of the newsletter will also be sent to others registered on Friends Reunited:  
Len Shilling, Diane Loader, Linda McCaig, Carole Oehme, Terry Doherty, David Barker, Ruth Davey, Derek Elliott, Paul Kapsia, Graham Morris, Katy Newton, Ged Nolan, Steve Whittaker