



Allan Palmer
e-mail: allan.palmer@bigfoot.com

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.

Reunion Update

Following up from my last "newsletter", it's now been decided that the Reunion date will be **Saturday 20th July 2002**. To reiterate the previous comments: this reunion get-together 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 in the A, B or C forms at any subsequent stage – all the way up to the Sixth Form. Please consider coming along and renewing old acquaintances, even if you only manage a short visit.

The plan

As noted previously, **John Winnert** has offered his home down on the edge of the New Forest, near Ringwood, as the venue. To get more details we now have a member of each of the A, B and C forms for you to contact. These volunteers are:

Steve Whittaker

e-mail: swhittake@south-west-water.co.uk

Dave Barker

e-mail: drdsbarker@aol.com

Janet Gibbons (nee Rogers)

e-mail: janet@jangibbons.fsnet.co.uk

(If you can't remember which form you were in, or joined in the Sixth Form, just chose one of the three to contact).

Having contacted one of these "Register Monitors" by e-mail, they'll send you full details of the reunion, including lists of local B&Bs as well as directions of how to get there.

It would be helpful when you respond if you indicate whether you're likely to a) just come for the day, b) stay for the evening (and so want

feeding), or c) stay overnight and be around on the Sunday.

The planned format is for people to arrive about 11:00am on the Saturday 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, details of local B&Bs will be available in advance, or if you're feeling hardy you can pitch your tent in John's back field. If not so hardy, John points out that there is easy vehicular access so no problem for motor campers or caravans.

For the Sunday, our host is thinking in terms of a walk in the Forest, and then a pint and lunch at the Alice Lisle (**Paul Curtis** and I can recommend this venue, having sampled it when we visited John before Christmas).

So please get in touch with Steve, Dave or Janet and register your intention to join us. We look forward to renewing acquaintance!

Class of 1967 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 25th 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)

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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), and Paul Curtis is the only one of us to upload a photo – so far! Anyone like to add more? [I think the largest Friends Reunited “bio” I've seen belongs to Pere Durrans' brother, Brian (1965) – definitely double Merit Marks there!!!]

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. Following on from inclusions on the 1967 DMGS web site, you will see photographs of the foot-stools that Paul Curtis and I constructed during our Woodwork lessons with “Jock” Hislop. Has anyone else still got a stool? Let's see yours!

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. **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.

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 Paris (Holley), Bernice Gregoriou (Clare), John McConnell, Patrick Lau, Craig Boxshall, David Carpenter, Brenda McCraith, Michael Beattie, Steve Hinton, John McGreal, Christine King, Norman Brown, David Barker, Steve Whittaker

Details of the newsletter will also be sent to others registered on Friends Reunited:
Len Shilling, Diane Loader, Linda McCaig, Carole Oehme, Terry Doherty, Ruth Davey, Derek Elliott, Paul Kapsia, Graham Morris, Katy Newton, Ged Nolan, Gail Walmsley