



Allan Palmer
e-mail: dmgs63@ajpinternet.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 2004

Once again, our thanks go to **John** and **Norma** Winnert for hosting a get-together of former **Draytonians**. As in previous years, the weather was fine (albeit cooler), and the opportunity for forest walks were very pleasant. It was only towards the end of the pub lunch on Sunday that a drizzle of rain began.

Thanks also go to **Phil Slade** who has provided photographs from the Saturday, which are available for viewing on the **DMGS'63** web site.

According to the register, those Drayton Manor reprobates in attendance were: **John Winnert, Evan Griffiths, Paul Curtis, Allan Palmer, Joe Jakubowski, Len Shilling, Linda Wheeler, Phil Slade, Mick Beattie, John McGreal** and **Graham Reynolds**.

It was another pleasant and enjoyable weekend – good food, good walks, good talks and good friends.

The DMGS'63 Web Site

As well as adding Phil Slade's photos from the 2004 get-together to the DMGS'63 web site (www.dmgs63.org.uk), your Webmaster has finally got around to uploading extracts from the **Phoenix** magazines of 1969 and 1970, representing our last years at Drayton Manor. You can also view Adobe PDF versions of the complete magazines, which have been kindly provided by **Bryan Smith** of the 1967 DMGS intake.

I have also perused the **Phoenix** issues from 1971 to 1976 and selected a number of items which either recount the departures of various Staff who attempted to teach us during the '63-'70 years, or describe the changes that affected Drayton Manor

as a result of the alterations to Secondary Education that took place in the 1970s. You will find this selection under the heading **Beyond 1970** on the **Phoenix** page of the web site.

I note that the majority of the Staff departure tributes appear to be penned by 'F.R.J.R', otherwise **Mr Russell** – supreme of the Stationery Cupboard. He was still contributing to **Phoenix** in the School's 50th anniversary issue (1980), but I have not seen any note of his departure. Is he still ensconced in the Stationery Cupboard writing tributes to departing staff?

Another Contact

I recently received an e-mail from **Gordon Warren** (DMGS 1963-67) who had discovered the web site. Gordon writes (November 2004):

Currently living with my wife of 30 years Linda, in Golden Grove, a suburb of Adelaide in a house on 1000 m2 we built in 1990. We have a second house I have just bought as an investment property. Our 2 children have left home over the last couple of years but still live locally and often still come round to eat our food. I have given up supporting Brentford and have converted to Aussie Rules football. I had an undistinguished basketball career for about 25 years and finally retired after deciding I had broken too many ribs (none of them my own!).

My hobbies are mainly watching sport these days, but I have a special interest in mentoring people who struggle financially in wealth creation and I do a bit of public speaking on this and other things. My pride and joy is a new car - a 180 kilowatt Holden Commodore V6 (similar to a Chevvy) which will do 200kph+ but you have to drive to the Northern Territory (1000 km away) to do it legally!

I am currently working as General Manager for an economic development organisation called "GullyCorp" and get the chance to help make a difference to people's lives through our projects and training courses.

Keen to hear from any others at any time!

So if anyone want to get back in touch with Gordon, let me know and I'll pass his e-mail address along.

Photographic Evidence (1)

Gordon has also been able to offer identification to some more of the faces on the 1964 full School photograph that's available on our web site, By the time you receive this, I hope to have updated the annotated version accordingly. We now seem to have identified practically all the First Formers at DMGS in May 1964 when the full School photo was taken.

Can anyone name the reaming unidentified First Years? There are 3 females and 2 males.

Who is the girl between Jane Barker and Christine Brady? (There was a previous suggested that she was 'Joanna Twitchett', but I haven't found any record of her in *Phoenix*?)



Who is the girl between Janet Rogers and Marilyn Davidson?



Who is the girl between Ruth Davey and Patricia Brake?



The possibilities for these females appear to be:

Moira J Coombs,

Margaret H Grant, or

Linda M McCaig

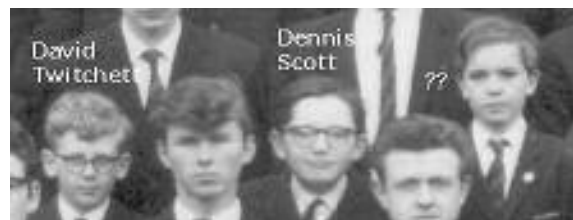
All are reported to have joined DMGS before May 1964.

There appear to be two unidentified male First Former:s

Who is the boy between Peter Lockett and Paul Kapsia?



Who is the boy to the right of Dennis Scott?



The possible names I've culled from *Phoenix* magazines are:

Ian Mathieson (Sept'63 intake),

Martin Bouette (When did he join DMGS?), or

J A MacDonald ?

[I may of course have this wrong and J A MacDonald was a female who joined late...]

While we're on the subject of identifications, who is the female Staff member to the left of Mrs Shavreen?



Based on information in *Phoenix*, the possible candidates are:

Mrs Andrews (p/t)

Mrs Barker (formerly Miss Bitt), **but** she left
Xm,as 1963, i.e. prior to photo

Mrs Courtney (p/t)

Mrs Crewe (p/t)

Mrs Double (P.E. – p/t)

Mlle Sortais (French Assistant)

Can anyone put a name to the face?

The updated “named” full School photograph is now viewable on the DMGS'63 web site. [It's large – 6.3Mb – and may take 15 minutes to download if you're not on a Broadband connection.]

Photographic Evidence (2)

The subject of photographs reminds me to ask that if any one out there would like to submit a recent photograph of themselves as a counterpoint to their 1960s image on the web site, then please get in touch with me and we'll see what we can do.

Additionally, why not write a brief summary of what's happened to you since your days at DMGS as Gordon did? While a number of us have been in touch with each other, I doubt if everyone has caught up with everyone else. (Don't worry, such submissions will not be marked like an English essay!)

Of course, if anyone out there has some piece of memorabilia from our time at DMGS, then please get in touch also. Any school timetables (let's not embarrass anyone by publicizing their school reports!), or item from the last century (frightening, isn't it?) will be of interest. Perhaps you've found a long-buried box in the attic with some photographs from Hanwell W7 ?

Compliments of the season

I think that's all I can come up with for the moment. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Keep in touch!

Allan Palmer

P.S. You may leave early on the last day of term
But no running in the corridors!

This newsletter is being sent by e-mail directly to:

Allan Taylor,
Bernice Clare,
Brenda McCraith,
Christine King,
Craig Boxshall,
Dave Barker,
Dave Hutchinson,
David Butcher,
David Carpenter,
Derek Elliot,
Diane Loader,
Evan Griffiths,
Ged Nolan,
Gordon Warren,
Graham Morris,
Graham Reynolds,
Jane Barker,
Janet Rogers,
Janice Holley,
Joan Beattie,
Joe Jakubowski,
John Blackwell,
John McConnell,
John McGreal,
John Winnert,
John Wyatt,
Len Shilling,
Les Redford,
Linda Wheeler,
Linda McCaig,
Lindsay Churchill,
Liz Cowell,
Margaret Bromley,
Mick Beattie,
Norman Brown,
Patrick Lau,
Paul Curtis,
Peter Durrans,
Peter Lockett,
Phil Slade,
Ruth Davey,
Steve Hinton,
Steve Whittaker,
Sue Brown,
Sue Grimes,
Tim Dean,
Tony Ryan,
Valerie Brind,
Victor Lipko.

I will also check through the Friends Reunited list to see if there are others to contact.

Please feel free to pass this missive onto any ex-Draytonian you may be in contact with.