

newsletter



June 2004

www.fbga.org.uk

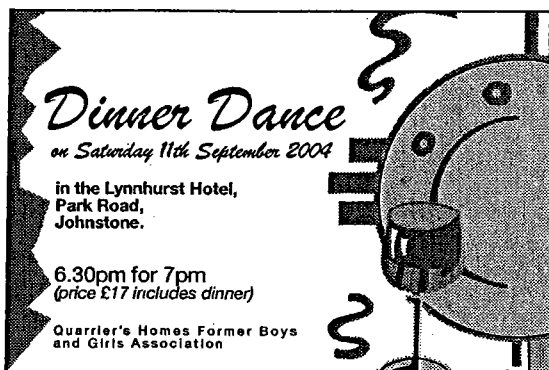
Dinner Dance 2004

Tickets for the next Dinner Dance will go on sale in July and will be held on the 11th September in the Lynnhurst Hotel, Johnstone. This is always a very popular event and there is a limited number of tickets ... so you should try and purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

This year you must pay for your ticket before it is issued and tickets cannot be held for anyone who hasn't paid. The price remains at £17 for the third year running which is excellent value considering the price includes a meal.

Accommodation can be booked at Cottage 8 or the Lynnhurst Hotel but you should also try and book these early since both are always in high demand.

If you require a ticket you can contact Ken Maskrey on 01505 325731.



Your letters/comments are very important. If you have anything you would like included in the next newsletter please write to:

The Secretary
Cottage 8
Quarrier's Homes
Bridge of Weir
Renfrewshire PA11 3SX

Dates

AGM:

11th September 2004,
2.30pm sharp,
Sommerville Weir Hall,
Quarriers Village.

Dinner Dance:

11th September 2004,
6.30pm for 7pm,
Lynnhurst Hotel,
Johnstone.

Mount Zion Church

No planning permission has been granted for the proposed development of the Mount Zion Church. The congregation are at present meeting in the Bethesda building. The alternative accommodation offered by Quarrier's is unsuitable for the numbers attending the services held on Sunday mornings.

The congregation and the Save the Church committee (see www.savechurch.org.uk) is very grateful for the continuing support offered by former boys and girls and if you wish you may still lodge objections to the proposed development with Inverclyde Council's Planning Department.

Quarriers Helpline

helpline@quarriers.org.uk

The Helpline was set up in September 2002 in recognition of the increased interest by former boys and girls in having access to the personal records of their stay in the Village. Since then, over one hundred and twenty records have been shared.

For most former residents this is an emotional experience as painful as a well as pleasant memories are recalled. Sometimes there is disappointment that so little is in the file; until the late 1960s the record is mainly the letters written in connection with the admission and discharge. Later, case reviews, social worker and school reports might be included. For some people whose childhood contained a number of moves, the record can clarify 'when and where' questions.

The Helpline is more frequently used by people

who are trying to learn more about the past of their, now deceased, parents, grandparents and other forbears. The records go back to the start of the City Orphan Home in Glasgow in 1872 and give an insight into the conditions in Victorian Scotland. Many former boys and girls kept their secret past from their own children, who only learned about it from personal papers after their parent had died. They are often humbled by the sheer strength of character of their parents to have been able to provide a nurturing home for them when their

own early conditions were so harsh.

Some of you may recall of the migrant groups to Canada in 1933 and then 1938. The first party of children migrated to Canada in 1872, seven thousand going over the next sixty years. There has been a growing interest in these Canadian descendents of Quarriers children, over the past ten years, to find out more about their Scottish connections. This has resulted in quite a number of visitors to the Village in recent years.

The priority for the Helpline is to support former boys and girls in viewing their records and the other aspects of the work fit, around this. If you are interested in making your own request, just email me, phone 01505 61600 (Monday and Tuesday) or write to me, Pam Barr, at Quarriers Head Office.

Subscription Form

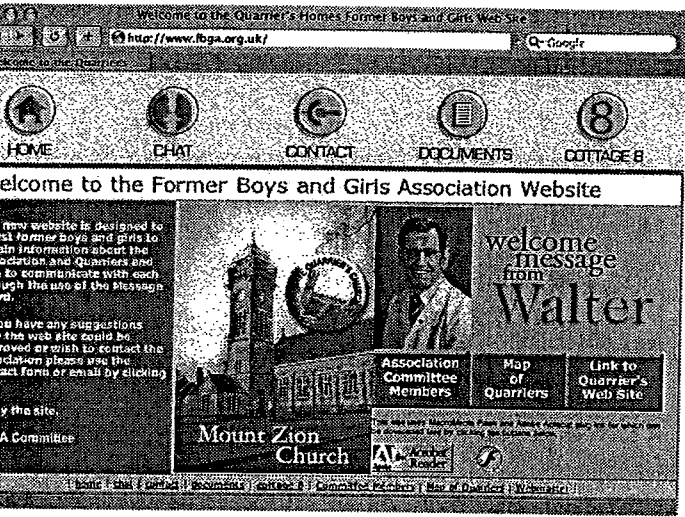


In order to renew my membership/become a new full/associate member of the Association, please complete the form and return it to: **The Treasurer**, Quarriers Homes Former Boys and Girls Association, Cottage 8, Quarriers Homes, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, PA11 3SX, Scotland.

Full name	Subscription Fee																
Address <i>PLEASE THESE AREAS WERE IGNORED BY SOME INDIVIDUALS - HOW SAD!</i>	Donation																
	Total Sum Enclosed																
Post/Zip Code	<table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Full Membership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a)</td> <td>Under 21 years of age and over 60 years of age</td> <td>£2.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b)</td> <td>21 years of age to 59 years of age</td> <td>£7.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Associate Membership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a)</td> <td>Under 21 years of age and over 60 years of age</td> <td>£2.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b)</td> <td>21 years of age to 59 years of age</td> <td>£5.00</td> </tr> </table>	Full Membership		(a)	Under 21 years of age and over 60 years of age	£2.50	(b)	21 years of age to 59 years of age	£7.50	Associate Membership		(a)	Under 21 years of age and over 60 years of age	£2.50	(b)	21 years of age to 59 years of age	£5.00
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Visit the Website

www.fbga.org.uk



If you have an internet connection why not visit our website. Over the next few months we will be adding new content such as map of Quarriers Village with pictures of all the cottages. We already have a message board where you can post information, place requests for information about former boys and girls. You can also download previous newsletters and contact us using an online form.

In future we hope to develop the site to also include information on Cottage 8, news items and more areas of interest to members. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see on the web site we'd be very interested in hearing them so please send us your opinions (email: quarriers@fbga.org.uk). In the meantime, why not go along and join in the message board - it is an excellent resource for finding old friends.

An open letter from our Chairman

My Dear Fellow Members,

In recent times we have been bombarded with a broad sweep of discrediting of our beloved village and its founder via the media as a result of intolerable behaviour by a few individuals. **The evil of cruel misconduct on innocent, vulnerable children is a heinous crime and has to be dealt with in the strictest and most severe consequence to the perpetrators. The legal authorities, and only they, having considered all the collected evidence in the way of reports collated at the time, personal testimonies etc., have the sole right to convict and punish appropriately.**

It is certainly not for groups of people without facts getting together to convict or indeed defend the accused. The types of behaviour in question are generally done in secret and therefore only three persons know for certain what exactly happened in each case - namely the victim, the perpetrator and God. Now, this can be extremely reassuring and comforting to the conscience - on the other hand it can be frighteningly devastating. **Please be assured that as your chairman, do not pretend that such evil behaviour did not exist as it has, in some cases, been proved and my heart goes out to the victims who have suffered even to this day as a result**

We as the former boys and girls association are in no position to become involved in these matters.

Everyone has a right to their own opinion and on how they view the whole scenario, but if we were to come down on one side or the other there would be one mighty split which would lead to the end of the association and subsequent heartache and bitter disappointment. **We do not have a professional body such as social workers, lawyers, medics etc. to act on our behalf in these circumstances rather our association is simply a social set up allowing former residents of Quarriers, both at home and abroad, to contact each other and to enjoy social events from time**

to time. Also, being able to communicate with one another via the modern methods available. We cannot allow past misconduct, no matter how serious, to come between us and break up the bond that we have built up among our membership over the past 31 years.

It would be wise, and indeed prudent, to put all this recent activity in its proper perspective. Quarriers work over the past 120 years is well known and respected all over the world with many thousands of children passing through their care and then going out into society well adjusted and in many numerous occasions taking up positions in every profession imaginable. Then compare this against the very few in our present times who have brought shame upon the organisation.

On a personal note, I myself being brought up in Quarriers from 1940-1955 can only sing the praises of a place that nurtured and supported me from 6 months to 15 years of age. It would do us all good to remind ourselves of all the brilliant times we had during our formative years that offered so much to those of us who had so little going for us.

Think of the beauty of the village and surrounding area, the healthy environment, the security and feeling safe that became more real when we were approaching the age to leave and face the big world out there. Remember school days – the nicknames we had for most of the teachers – some teachers we loved and others, not so, just like any other school anywhere. We had our high days and our low days, but the most important we had each other.

Remember our treats – the Friday bun, Saturday sweets, halloween and Christmas parties, the Christmas Day tree service and special gift we all received. Truly life was simple but in many ways exciting. Remember the fun at the park, football, tennis, practising for sports day etc. What about the organisations – Life Boys, Boys Brigade, Rosebuds, Guides, choir, Christian Endeavour?

Personally, I was steeped in most of the activities – not only the discipline but also the fun and freedom we enjoyed. The camps in the summer to Crail and St. Andrews – fantastic fun. The food we all had a part in preparing – big pots of home-made soup, tatties and mince, stovies, lucky birthday dumplings etc.

Friday night was prayer meeting night for the staff and while they were solemnly praying for our needs, there we were making home-made tablet, enjoying flights down the bannisters on a mattress, the pillow flights, the giggles and laughter while each of us took turns as the look-out squad for the meeting coming out. When the house parents came back, absolute silence had descended over the house while we little angels with black wings pretended to be asleep.

Many times while enjoying all of the above in abundance, I would have nightmare moments of what the alternatives would have been had Quarriers not come to my rescue. Nearing my time for leaving was another nightmare situation, going out into the big world leaving behind the security and large family which my life totally revolved around, going out into the 'great unknown', having spent the first 15 years of

my life in the old village, with a complete sense of belonging.

After all the sordid revelations of recent times of the few who perpetrated such evil for their own gratification, I would plead with the majority of us to fix our focus on the good times and broadcast to the world at large the real and positive side of the Quarriers story if for no other reason than to bring honour and extreme gratitude to our founder William Quarrier.

Let this thanksgiving on 11th September be "the best ever" – come in your droves and show a power of strength to each other and to the present management struggling under enormous strain at this time.

Book your dinner dance tickets now – even stay the weekend if you come from a distance – but come. I and the committee will make a special effort to meet everyone personally.

May the motto of the village "Have Faith in God, Reverberate once again and bring comfort to those of us who are hurting in these times."

God Bless You All.
Your Chairman and friend

Walter Smith

If you have received this newsletter in error or no longer wish to receive newsletters please write to the address below and you will be removed from the database:

The Secretary
Cottage 8
Quarrier's Homes
Bridge of Weir
Renfrewshire PA11 3SX