

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

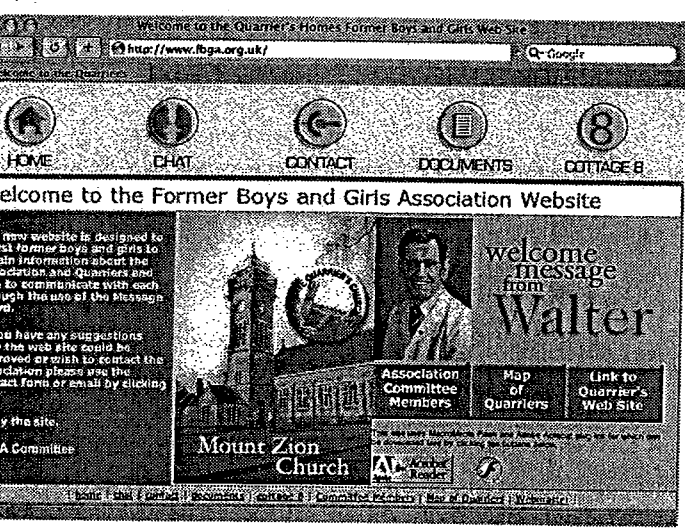


In order to renew my membership/become a new full/associate member of the Association, please complete the form and return it to: **The Treasurer**, Quarriers Homes Former Boys and Girls Association, Cottage 8, Quarriers Homes, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, PA11 3SX, Scotland.

Full name	Subscription Fee																		
Address <i>PH/ 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> <td></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> <td></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
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																	

Visit the Website

www.fbga.org.uk



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 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**

