



2ND VERDALA SCHOOL RE-UNION MALTA

Attendees, Itinerary & General Information

I am pleased to advise the final names for the 2nd Verdala School re-union to be held in Malta from 17 to 24 September 2005. They are listed in the table below and the final column indicates who will be staying at the Victoria Hotel with the main group. The other former colleagues have made their own arrangements but happily will be joining in the main events organised relating to the school.

SURNAME	1 ST NAME	HOTEL
Adams	Madeleine	Y
Adams	Susan	Y
Banks	Jane & Charlie	N
Bennett	Sheila & Michael	Y
Bingham	John & Patricia	Y
Broad	Brenda	N
Broadbent	Linda	Y
Browne	Anne	Y
Catton	Christine	Y
Clark	Tony & Joy	N
Cobb	Maureen	Y
Doherty	Peter	Y
Farrar	Alison	Y
Flaherty	Ruth	N
Henry	Antony	Y
Hillyer / Shaw	Anne / John	Y
Holdsworth	Linda	N
Lewis	Susan, Colin & Daughter Julie	N
Linford	Peter	Y
Mardell	Elizabeth	Y
Rickard	William & June	Y
Rose	Phillip	Y
Satow	Hugh	Y
Silvers	Janet	Y
Townsend	Margaret	Y
Wellard	Jennifer	N
Woodall	Jo & Graham	N

The main itinerary is listed overleaf and the remaining days in the week are at your own leisure. Liz Mardell is, however, arranging for various trips throughout the rest of the period so please contact her direct should you wish to participate.

Sunday 18 September @ 10.30am

Coffee Morning at the Victoria Hotel for introductions. We aim to meet in the foyer and dress can be very casual.

(September is 'xlokko' or 'sirocco' time [take your pick], so can be very humid, i.e. wet).

Tuesday 20 September @ 9.00am
(Traffic permitting)

Coach will depart from Victoria Hotel for visit to the school. Dress can again be very casual.

(School uniform optional. At least the coaches now have air conditioning and firm suspension, not like our old rickety school buses).

9.30am - 9.45am

On arrival, for approximately 1 hour, a brief talk by one of the present Verdala teachers on the history of the School.

(Probably a lot of information and pictures gleaned from the UK Verdala Website).

Refreshments will be served after the talk courtesy of the present headmaster and his staff.

(I'm not responsible for these but hopefully not the awful Goats milk we were forced to drink).

10.30am - 10.45am

Tour round the school revisiting old haunts at your leisure.

(Unfortunately the climbing frames have gone so no monkey business but the area for marbles is still there if anyone wants a game. The classrooms from the outside look the same, wait and see the insides).

12.30am

Board coach for return to the Victoria Hotel for lunch.

(No singing, whistling, throwing of streamers, balloon water bombs or anything else to hand. Heads must also be kept inside at all times!!!).

(There should be time to freshen up or even change for those staying in the Hotel should you wish to do so before lunch).

1.30pm

Drinks and Lunch will be served in the Copperfields Restaurant.

(Please note any drinks you require have to be purchased yourselves, as they are not included in the price).

(I am responsible for the choice of menu so this will be perfect. You can blame the Chef if not too your taste).

Thursday 22 September @ 7.30pm

Coach will depart from Victoria Hotel to take us to La Dolce Vita Restaurant in St Julians Bay. Dress is to be smart casual.

(Please note that as it will still be classed as summer in Malta, open short- sleeved shirts for dinner in restaurants are considered to be the norm for this time of year).

7.30pm

Pre Dinner drinks will be served on the Roof Terrace.

(Please note these have to be purchased by you, as they are not included in the price although mineral water is).

8.30pm

Dinner will also be served on the Roof Terrace, weather permitting.

(Lets hope there will not be the floods of September 2002 where cars were floating, roads impassable, and playing fields were swimming pools. At least we will be up high).

11.00pm onwards

(Depending on how we are enjoying ourselves).

Coach return to Victoria Hotel.

Late night drinks in the Hotel Penny Black Bar for anyone still wishing to continue.

(Boys no trying to bribe the coach driver to stop off at any bars on the way back).

(Us girls were perfect weren't we).

(Sorry can't think of anything else but I am sure there are others I have long since forgotten. No doubt I will be reminded of them during the week. All in all good clean fun but we were probably considered a horrible lot!!!).

(Teachers please refrain from comment).

The attendee's list was higher but unfortunately there have been a few cancellations, and the reasons given have all been genuine. There were also at least 20 others who expressed a wish to attend but again have since had to decline thus depleting our No's. Many of them were teachers who felt they would not be able to have the time off but accepted that September was the month that the majority voted for initially.

The actual numbers attending are more than we thought we would receive. Tal Handaq had quite a few more, I believe in the region of just under 200, when they held their Malta re-union in 2000. I am sure you will appreciate, however, that their school consisted of the four schools put together. I.e. Luqa (RAF), Tigne (Army), St Andrews (Army) and Verdala (RN).

It is disappointing, however, that there were quite a few who attended the 1st re-union and stated they would attend a Malta re-union but have not requested to join . Neither have there been any requests from former Maltese pupils despite the present Headmaster of the School mentioning the re-union in the Times of Malta whilst placing a feature on their anniversary of 20 years. I must stress that I never actually saw the feature myself but Mr. Huber mentioned this to me during a recent telephone conversation.

Turning to the actual events and as detailed earlier, the trip to the school will be on Tuesday 20 September and the coach will depart from the Victoria Hotel at 9.00am sharp. Regretfully, there can be no pick-ups on the way due to the Air Malta subsidiary Co. agreeing to keep the cost low if the entire group is collected from one point.

For those not staying at the Hotel and driving cars, street parking can be a problem in the Sliema area. I would suggest, therefore, that you allow plenty of time to find a space. The Hotel does have underground car parking that you can use if there are any spaces available especially as you will be having lunch there. My partner and I have a permanent reserved space in the Hotel car park, which should be available on this particular day. This space can fit two cars provided they park close together and you will have to remove the chain. The space is found on the first floor to the left as you come down the slope. It is marked with a Reserved sign and car registration No. COO 005. Any problems and I will be in the foyer.

On arrival at Verdala School we will be met by Joe Huber, the present Headmaster, of what is now a Boys School and a few of his teachers. He is arranging for one of the teachers to give us a short lecture on the history of Verdala although I believe they have taken a lot of the details from our Verdala Website in preparation. So I am sure you will all agree with me in saying well done to Alastair Newman for his brilliant idea, his hard work in setting up the Website and arranging all the submissions to this over the years. Alastair is one of those

who have unfortunately had to cancel for personal reasons but I am sure he will be pleased to receive all comments and photos on your return to include.

We will break for refreshments, that the School are very kindly supplying, approximately one hour later. After the break we can tour round the school at our leisure and revisit any classroom as there will not be any pupils attending at this time. Fortunately they do not start back for the winter term until the following week hence the reason this specific week was chosen.

The coach will leave the School at approximately 12.30 to return to the Hotel for lunch. This will be served at 1.30pm, which will allow sufficient time for anyone to freshen up if desired. I understand that six of the teachers from the present Verdala School will also be joining us.

On Thursday 22 September the coach will again pick us up from the Victoria Hotel to take us to La Dolce Vita Restaurant in St. Julians. There will be pre dinner drinks on the rooftop where dinner is also to be served. As our group No's have not reached the minimum required for exclusivity we will unfortunately have to share the area with another private party.

The coach will return to collect us from the restaurant around 11.00pm and on returning to the Victoria Hotel we can finish the evening with drinks at the Hotel's Penny Black Bar as they have to remain open for residents. The rest who wish to remain can hopefully be their guests.

The rest of the week is at your own leisure although Liz Mardell is arranging various organised sightseeing trips. Please contact her direct should you wish to join in. Her e-mail address is liz.mardel@btopenworld.com although I understand that many of the group have already made contact. I will be off to the Reef Club private beach for a tan top up and an in between rest. If anyone wishes to join me they are welcome although you will have to pay the entrance fee that includes free sun loungers and umbrellas.

I hope (and pray) that all those attending the re-union will have a very pleasant and enjoyable stay in Malta. I am sure we are all looking forward to reacquainting ourselves with old former colleagues and also meeting new faces of this long remembered by gone era.

Look forward to meeting you all and putting 'faces to fingers' so to speak.

Best regards

Lin Holdsworth