

**THE FORM AND ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY
TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF**

THE LUTON SECONDARY SCHOOL

on 19th SEPTEMBER 1904



**IN THE MAIN HALL OF LUTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
BRADGERS HILL ROAD
on SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2004
at 3.00 pm**

Words, music and song were very important in the founding School and those other establishments that it engendered in Luton:

LUTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
ALEXANDRA AVENUE

LUTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS
BRADGERS HILL ROAD

LUTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL & EVENING INSTITUTE
PARK SQUARE and BARNFIELD AVENUE



Before the Commemorative Assembly the Clifford Lloyd Brown Janes Memorial Organ will be played by John Mower

All stand to the tune "Trumpet Voluntary" as the Chairman, Principal of the Luton Sixth Form College and Governors enter with their Guests whose forebears in Office were associated with the formation of the School.

Welcome by the Chairman, Melvyn Butcher.

All stand to sing:

Our Father, by whose servants
Our house was built of old,
Whose hand hath crowned her children
With blessings manifold,
For thine unfailing mercies
Far-strewn along our way,
With all who passed before us,
We praise thy name to-day.

The changeful years unresting
Their silent course have sped,
New comrades ever bringing
In comrades' steps to tread;
And some are long forgotten,
Long spent their hopes and fears;
Safe rest they in thy keeping,
Who changest not with years.

They reap not where they laboured,
We reap what they have sown;
Our harvest may be garnered
By ages yet unknown.
The days of old have dowered us
With gifts beyond all praise:
Our Father, make us faithful
To serve the coming days.

Before us and beside us,
Still holden in thine hand,
A cloud unseen of witness,
Our elder comrades stand:
Our family unbroken,
We join, with one acclaim,
One heart, one voice uplifting,
To glorify thy name.

All sit.

THE SEED IS SOWN

Readings: Origins of the School: "In 1902 the Balfour Act....."

Life on Park Square: "From the opening morning....."

The Chairman will invite all to stand and sing:

We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine
And soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
For all his love.*

He only is the maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star,
The wind and waves obey him,
By him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, his children,
He gives our daily bread.

All good gifts.....

We thank thee then, our Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all thy love imparts,
But that which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts.....

All sit

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Readings: "The Huts" at Alexandra Avenue
"New award-winning building" at Bradgers Hill
"New girl at Park Square"
"Flying saucers have landed" at Barnfield site

FEATURES OF SCHOOL LIFE

The Chairman will invite all to stand and sing:

Dulce Domum
accompanied by Trevor Evans at the piano

Come companions join your voices
Hearts with pleasure bounding
Sing we this noble lay,
Sweet song of holiday,
Joys of home, sweet home resounding.

*Home sweet home with every pleasure
Home, with every blessing crowned
Home, our best delight and treasure
Home, the welcome strain resound.*

Quit your weary muse and labours
Quit your books and learning
Banish all cares away,
Welcome the holiday,
Cries of home and freedom yearning.

Home sweet home.....

All sit

Musical items from piano, strings and brass

Past pupils reminisce

The Chairman will invite all, remaining seated, to sing:

We all lived together on New Bedford Road,
All along, out along, next to the Lea,
Where we all faced our troubles and shouldered our load
With Dai Hopkins, Pop Whalley, Bill Davies, Ivan Jones, Roy Barter, Pat Froud,
Old Uncle Tom Collins and all, old Uncle Tom Collins and all.

Then came Comprehension to Luton one day,
All along, out along, next to the Lea,
And all that fair brotherhood melted away,
With Dai Hopkins, Pop Whalley,

And still in the field in the dead of the night
All along, out along, next to the Lea,
These Technical phantoms appear ghostly white
Of Dai Hopkins, Pop Whalley

THE HARVEST

Readings: "Thoughts on leaving school"

"Is it worth it?"

The Chairman will invite all to stand and sing:

Let us ere our day be ended
Sing a happy song
Of the stories long remembered
Of the records as we wrote them,
And the triumphs as we made them
Of the School.

Let us tell again the memories
In our happy song
Of the roads we trod together
And the wonders that we found there,
Where the ways of learning lead us
To the stars.

May the lesson still be cherished
In our happy song,
Each for all in courage, steadfast
One in hope, in work unwearied
Hearts uplifted, hands most willing
This the seed.

While we think on things accomplished
Let us sing our song,
For the seed then sown shall ripen
Till the harvest must be gathered
And we too shall come rejoicing
With our sheaves.

All sit

Reading: Paul's Epistle to the Philippians Ch. IV v 4 – 8

Tribute to former Heads and their staff.

The Chairman will invite all to stand and sing "A History of Our Education" after C.W. Parry:

In gay King Edward's spacious days,
When Balfour led the nation,
We saw created LEAs
For secondary education;
Scholarship child or "passed to pay"
To Luton Modern wended,
Where Sanderson, ("The Boss"), held sway,
And to no man unbended.

*And this is fact that we'll maintain,
And make the world acknowledge,
That in that short but glorious reign
There was no sixth-form college.*

When sober George became our King,
The word "co-education"
Acquired a most unpleasant ring,
Like "prior consultation".
To meet the wrath of ladies spurned,
Regardless of the revenue
The Council left no stone unturned
In Alexandra Avenue.

*And this is fact that we'll maintain,
And make the world acknowledge,
That in that long and noble reign
There was no sixth-form college.*

An Edward might the throne ascend,
Doomed soon to abdication,
Or brother George to ruling bend;
We still had education.
Some shone at Maths, and some at games,
And some with brush or hammer,
While Logic, ever strict on names,
Changed "Modern School" to "Grammar".

*And this is fact that we'll maintain,
And make the world acknowledge,
That though those days brought stress and strain,
There was no sixth-form college.*

And now, as time its cycle turns,
A gracious Queen upholds us,
While still the torch of learning burns,
And education moulds us.
Yet though on earth men promise heaven,
Who cannot but be pensive?
For legion are the meanings given
To one word – "comprehensive".

*But this is fact that we'll maintain,
And make the world acknowledge,
That whatsoever party reign,
Long live the Sixth Form College!*

All sit

Chairman's closing remarks.

Blessing – as used in the 50th Commemoration Service in this hall in 1954.

During the playing of Blake's "Jerusalem" the Chairman, Guests and those who so wish, will leave the hall and walk past the War Memorial Plaques as the names of the Fallen are read aloud. They will continue along the bottom corridor to the dedication of the new Memorial Garden which replaces the Tennis Pavilion and three courts.

Others may then disperse as they choose.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Former pupils and staff who have contributed to this celebration

Denise Barber
Royston Beal
Melvyn Butcher
Pauline Dent – née Claridge
Trevor Evans
Ruth Hester – née Garrett
Harry Hauke
Colin Humphreys
Roy Joyner
John Mower

Arthur Redman
Janet Richardson - née Aynsley
Barry Robinson
Michael Root
Simon Router and L. Y.J.O.
Sally Siddons – née Overhill
Anne Simkins – née Thursby
Michael Southgate
John Underwood
David Webb

We are grateful to David Allsopp for re-creating the tune for the Luton High School for Girls School Song.

During lunch you were entertained by the Leaside Seven $(-3+1)^2$ Jazz Band

The readings used today are mostly quoted in the books “Crimson & Gold” by Anne Allsopp and “Rhubarb & Custard” by James Dyer.

We are very grateful to Simon Kitchener, the Principal of the Luton Sixth Form College, and his colleagues for all their interest and help.

Arrangements for the day have been co-ordinated by Patricia Gillespie - née Evans, John Gillespie, Eddie Lynch, Frances Norman - née Robson, Bob Norman and Arthur Smith

Your attention is drawn to a small display of memorabilia at the rear of the hall and the sale and distribution of the books by Anne Allsopp and James Dyer nearby.