

Tanfield Association Newsletter

Tanfield Association

Volume 1, Issue 2

Editorial

Happy New Year.

May I begin by wishing all members and prospective members a Happy New Year and all the best for 2002. This year is shaping up to be not only very exciting, but also very memorable; I am referring of course to the 90th Birthday of the School in October. All the details you will need for planning, contributions, tickets etc are contained in the Newsletter.

Thanks

As most of you will be aware we have had two very successful Association functions and we are looking forward to getting together in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Association who helped to organise these events.

Apology

We strive to produce some-

thing of worth and hope the Newsletter is informative and interesting. This is not without cost, not only financial but also of members' time, many of whom are in full time employment. We do now have a proof reading committee. If anyone would like to become involved please do not hesitate to contact us. Once again I apologise for the grammatical errors in the last issue.

Begging

It is now time for some begging. Please send us any articles of any interest to the Association and its members. We welcome photographs as well and we promise to return anything used. If you wish to submit an article, feel free to contact me (Alan Ramshaw) through School.

Join us

Fred would not forgive me if I missed the opportunity to ask for your help. Before you run a mile please read on! It is our aim to boost continually our membership, which currently stands at almost one hundred and fifty members. Our plan is as follows: Each member should try to spread the word and introduce two friends to the Association. Do you know two people who have an association with Tanfield and who have an interest in seeing old friends or would like to see the changes that have been made to the School. Please get involved (Contact Sue Donkin (01207) 529374 or Fred Westwater (01207 234548).

Many thanks,
Alan
P.S. See you all in October.

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Special points of interest:

- *Dates for your diary*
- *Birthday invite*
- *Entertainment news*
- *New members info*
- *Birthday report*
- *New buildings report*
- *Specialist schools*
- *Fund raising issues*
- *Competition news*

Congratulations.

To Michael and Tanya Green (nee Chambers) both pupils 1975 – 1981
JACK born 1st April 2001

To Kelly Parker pupil 1990 – 1995, and Partner Martin Tinnion pupil 1989 – 1994
MIA born 27th June 2001

To Graham and Wendy Fowler (nee Green) pupil 1983 – 1989
KATE born 11th October 2001

We are very pleased to be able to announce the above births, of JACK, MIA and KATE, to members of the Association and we are

happy to say that the babies are all very well and thriving.

Mr Howat our Headteacher, has noted their names, and has reserved special places for them at Tanfield in 2012, which is of course the 100th Birthday of the school.

Invitation to 90th Birthday Party

Saturday 12th October 2002

1. Open Days 11 October 2002 and 16 October 2002

These two days are an opportunity for former pupils to visit the school and see us at work.

Pupils will be available to give you a guided tour of the school, and displays of photographs and memorabilia will be available for you to browse through in the Conference Room.

It would be helpful if you could inform us on which day you will be visiting.

2. 90th Birthday 12th October 2002

Afternoon (2.00 - 4.00pm). The school will be open for past pupils and friends to look around, view the displays and meet old friends. Pupils will be available to give you a guided tour.

Evening - 6.00pm - Assemble, view the school and displays of photographs and memorabilia.

7.00 p.m - Formal welcome with guest speakers

7.45 p.m - Buffet supper

Rest of evening - take the opportunity to search out former school-friends by making your way to one of the meeting points designated to particular generations of pupils.

**For each of these events, to find out more information or to purchase tickets, you should telephone 01207 232881, write to Tanfield School, Tanfield Lea Road, County Durham, DH9 8AY, or e-mail on Tanfield@durhamlea.org.uk

3. Displays of photographs and memorabilia

We would really like to extend our range of photographs and memorabilia and will be pleased to receive any contributions to our exhibition.

We will be delighted to borrow old photographs, take copies and return the originals to you. It would be helpful if any photographs could be annotated.

4. "90 Years On"

Elizabeth Hawkins is hoping to produce a follow-up to the enormously successful "80 Years On". This will only be possible if you provide her with your favourite memories, stories and photographs of the time you spent at Tanfield.



A selection of staff, pupils and members celebrate the schools birthday.

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From The President

As the first President of the Tanfield Association I feel I should set an example by contributing to the Newsletter, no matter how trivial my article might be. As I have not met up with most of my 6th form class since about a year after leaving the School in 1951, someone from the distant past might find something of interest in it and might even be motivated to respond in a future edition.

In the Science 6th then there were only six of us: Lawrence Campbell, John Greenwell, Brian Skilbeck, Jimmy Smith, Ken Smith and myself. Apart from Brian, who studied Pharmacy at the then Sunderland Tech., we all did degrees at Universities. Jimmy and I did Civil Engineering, at Sheffield (I believe) and King's College, Durham respectively, John did Mining Engineering at Birmingham, Ken did Mathematical Physics at Imperial College, London and Lawrence did Chemistry (I believe) at Bristol. Unfortunately, Lawrence died at an early age, having already made a significant mark as a metallurgist at Parsons, the power-generation equipment company. John became Mines Inspector with the Coal Board and eventually emigrated to the United States. Ken, after spending some time in the USA, ended up as Professor of Computing at Leeds University and I talked to him over the telephone in the late 1970s, when my oldest son was studying there.

I have not heard of Jimmy's progress or whereabouts. For those few readers who might be interested in hearing about a past pupil's progress, and not for my own glorification of gratification, I thought I might quickly revisit my own career.

Immediately after graduating in 1954 from King's (later to become the University of Newcastle upon Tyne), I joined Tynemouth Corporation Water Department as an Assistant Engineer. Within three months, I took up an opportunity offered to me by a Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA to study for a Master's Degree in Sanitary Engineering and earn a living by taking up an appointment as Teaching and Research Associate and PhD student. Fate intervened when I was offered a Lectureship in Engineering at Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone, which I accepted only after checking that my girlfriend at the time (now my wife of 44 years) was willing to marry me and live in the 'white man's grave' of West Africa. Both my sons were born in Freetown and after 4 years I returned to the UK, becoming a practising consultant with a major civil engineering firm

In 1964. I took up an appointment with the Overseas Development Administration of the British Government as Assistant Professor at the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering in Bangkok, Thailand. After one year, I became Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering and developed a most successful Division, attracting Master's and Doctorate Degree students from most countries in Asia. The Graduate School became the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1972 and I was promoted to Full Professor under the American system prevailing. I left AIT in 1976 to take up the Chair of Environmental Control Engineering at the University of Newcastle and appeared in the 1977 New Year's Honours List to receive OBE for services to technical education in Thailand. I stayed at Newcastle until retiring as Emeritus Professor in 1998, having served as Head of the Department of Civil Engineering for the previous 15 years. This was one of the largest Departments in that subject in the UK and received the highest rating in national research assessments. For 11 years, from 1986-1997.

I was a Non-Executive Director of Northumbrian Water, one of the major water and sewerage companies in England. I also formed Environmental Technology Consultants in 1986 and joined the company full-time after retiring from the University.

Since returning to the UK in 1976. I have lived in Rowlands Gill and for several years my wife ran a retail business in Stanley. Hence, over the past 25 years I have passed the school many times and reflected on my time there. Now, I have been honoured by becoming the first President of the Tanfield Association and take great pleasure in being more intimately involved with the school and its former pupils.

The Association aims to help the school achieve its aspirations as well as reunite former friends. We hope, with your help, to expand the numbers taking advantage of the opportunity to be part of the Association and attend its functions. Next year, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the school, is a special year and I look forward to meeting many old and new friends then.

Warren Pescod



Warren with Councillor Vaux, Mr. Howat and two pupils showing off their new school.

Tanfield Rises from the Ashes -£3 million facelift

Inevitably, memories flooded back. Walking along the ground floor corridor should have taken me past my first year form room on the right, across the corridor would have been Doc Sharpe's study, and then the geography room further along, before reaching the woodwork room where we all made photograph holders with Ted Brabban.

I returned to Tanfield School as deputy headteacher in January 1990. The internal appearance of the 1912 Building, as it had become known in the intervening years, now bore little resemblance to my recollection of September 1961 when I first attended Tanfield. Significant underfunding had led to long-term neglect of the fabric of the building. The former classrooms, too small to hold a full class of today's pupils, had been converted to offices and storage spaces. Pupils infrequently entered the building as most teaching by then took place in the 'Tower Block' and 'New Block' buildings.

11th May 1998 was another turning point in Tanfield's history. Only the present Year 11 pupils who were at that time nearing the end of their first year will remember 'The Great Fire of Tanfield' which led to the demolition of the Tower Block. The 1960's four-storey building which used to house all the English, Maths and Science teaching areas. Three years on, the scaffolding was dis-

mantled and the eighteen temporary, demountable, classrooms were lifted from the football and rugby pitches during the summer vacation. We started a new school year in September 2001, very grateful for their work, but excited at the prospect of being free from building contractors.

A year earlier, our pupils had moved into a new £550,000 extension to the Technology suite and redesigned Art accommodation. Together they provide new Textiles, Graphics, Pottery and Art rooms which match the best of any school in County Durham, as well as a third, fully equipped ICT computer room.

Visitors to Tanfield now enter through the impressive Reception and Administration Area. Along with five purpose-built Science Laboratories and a Science Prep Room, this forms an integral part of a newly constructed building at a cost of £760,000 which opened in January 2001 on the site of the former Tower Block. The Science department celebrated their new facilities with outstanding GCSE and SAT examination results.

Tanfield pupils have been proud to study in the marvellous, stone building that began its life in 1912. After intensive internal restructuring and a complete refurbishment at a cost of £1,500,000, we have taken repossession of the building. There is now a Maths suite of five specialist rooms on the ground floor, with the English faculty linked to the School Library and Resources Centre, and a state-of-the-art ICT room with thirty new computers, on the upper floor.

A £3,000,000 facelift has taken Tanfield School into the twenty first century with outstanding teaching and learning facilities unmatched in County Durham.

Former pupils have the opportunity to revisit Tanfield as it now stands during Open Days on 11th October 2002 and 16th October 2002, the latter being the 90th Birthday of Tanfield School.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Eric Fisk
Deputy Head Tanfield School

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Deputy Head Tanfield School

Snippets from the Grammarian

Autumn Term 1949

The girl's hockey team had all their matches cancelled because of bad weather and the condition of the field, but they did play one game against the boys' football team. The match was played after school on November 16th, the second half being played in almost total darkness.

The boys won 4-1

Scorers	Chris Greenwell (girls)		
	B Patterson (2)	A Armstrong	W Pattison (Boys)

Temple, Pendleton.

Report of the 89th Birthday.

The 89th birthday of the school was celebrated by opening the school all day from 9.30am to 3.00pm to members of the Tanfield Association. They were invited to see pupils working in the recently refurbished buildings on a normal school day.

The Conference Room was set out with photographs dating from the 1920s to the present day, and other school memorabilia. Once again the pupils did a sterling job conducting parties around the school and serving refreshments in the Conference Room.

Official photographs were taken of Professor Pescod (Association President), Archie Howat (Head Teacher) and Councillor Les Vaux (Chair of Derwentside District Council) with groups of present-day pupils.

An evening event was attended by approximately seventy members. Refreshments had been extremely well organised by Mrs Denise Ramshaw, and the Association Committee wish to express their grateful thanks to Denise for all her hard work for the Association.

Professor Warren Pescod opened the evening by welcoming everyone and introducing the "working executive" members of the Association.

A report was given by Archie Howat (Head Teacher) on the "New School", and the excellent results the pupils of the school had achieved this year in both SATs and GCSE results, "The best ever".

Professor Pescod then led a lively discussion on the proposed and anticipated activities of the Tanfield Association,

and the general consensus was an approval of the Association's aims and executive's actions to date. Following this, parties of members were shown around the 1912 Building by senior pupils when even more talking and reminiscing took place.

Councillor Les Vaux (Chair of Derwentside District Council) was also in attendance, to recognise the first official gathering of the Tanfield Association, and to celebrate the 89th Birthday of the School.

People left feeling very grateful to Archie Howat and his staff for a very successful and memorable day, and assured that the very fine traditions and achievements of Tanfield School are being maintained.

Snippets from the Grammarian

Easter Term 1950

The following players have represented the school this term
Snell, Keppie, Pescod, Reid,
Gleghorn, Barras, Greenwell,
Newton, Pattison, Patterson,
Armstrong, Moiser, Fenwick,
Temple, Pendleton.

Seasons Scorers:

Patterson 5, Moiser 5, Armstrong
5, Pescod 4, Pattison 2, Fenwick
2, Newton 2, Greenwell 1, Tem-
ple 1, Ledger 1.

Special Offer

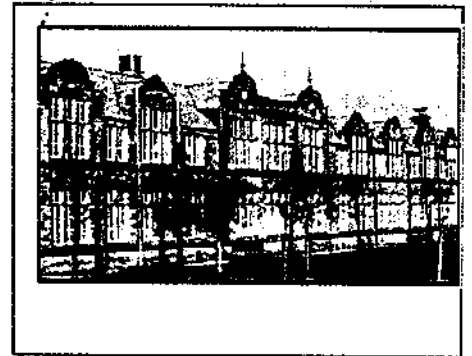
Book early for a Tanfield Association Holiday. 10% discount for Tanfield Association Members.

Sea Grove Hotel
Sandown Isle of Wight

Landsdown Hotel
Torquay
Devon

Prince Hotel
Gt. Yarmouth
Norfolk

The three hotels are recommended by Tanfield Association



Members for having very good food, excellent service and first class locations.

Contact Mr Alan Westwater
01207 234567

The Specialist Schools Initiative

The Specialist Schools Programme was introduced to assist schools (in partnership with private sector sponsors and supported by additional Government funding), to build on their particular strengths, establish distinctive identities through their chosen specialisms and achieve their target to raise standards. Any school participating in the Programme must be prepared to develop ways of working within a 'family of schools'-i.e. Tanfield and its primary schools- for the benefit of pupils beyond the particular school's boundaries and the wider community.

After considerable thought and discussion within Tanfield Comprehensive School, the staff and Governors have now decided to proceed with an initiative to qualify as a Specialist School within the programme. To take advantage of existing strengths, the chosen specialism is to be Science and Engineering. This encompasses Science, Mathematics, Information & Communications Technology and Design and Technology.

The Working Executive of the Tanfield Association fully supports this initiative and wishes to encourage members to provide whatever assistance is possible to enable the School to achieve its objective. This is the first time since the Association has been established that an opportunity has arisen for members to address the second and third of our aims, that is to promote the interests of the School and provide financial support.

To qualify for the Programme, a Specialist School has to:

- ◆ Raise £50,000 of private sponsorship
- ◆ Draw up a 4-year curriculum development plan for school and community work

What the School will get:

- Specialist School status
- £150,000 capital grant (£50,000 sponsorship and £100,000 government grant)
- £123 per pupil per annum recurrent grant for 4 Years (approx. £80,000 each year)

Clearly, Tanfield Association members cannot be expected to donate large sums themselves, unless they are predisposed to do so, but assistance in identifying and/or approaching potential sponsors will be helpful. The School has a 6-month target to raise the £50,000 sponsorship, so early action is necessary. Any member who wishes to assist should get in touch with the Deputy Headteacher, Eric Fisk, at the school: Tel. 01207 232881.

The Deputy Head is chairing a Management Committee to steer this initiative

and two members of the Working Executive of the Association have been invited to join this Committee. Progress will be reported through the Newsletter and the Website. The Tanfield Association wishes the School every success in this worthwhile endeavour to provide even better facilities for future pupils and develop a reputation in the community for excellence in Science and Engineering.

Warren Pescod
President of Tanfield Association

Dear Former Pupil

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find a sponsor donation letter should you wish to make a donation. Any sponsorship donation you wish to make, should be made to Tanfield School Fund. This is a registered charity and we are advised that any donation will therefore qualify for tax relief.

Originals of letters from sponsors offering sponsorship have to be included with our application for Specialist School Status.

We will acknowledge receipt of your sponsorship offer, and would wish, with your agreement, to publicise our thanks through the Tanfield Association newsletter and web-site.

Please contact me if you require further information regarding Tanfield becoming Specialist School, claiming tax relief, information on business sponsors etc.

Thank you

Summer Term 1947

Harry Jackson Hon. Secretary of the School Chess Clubs, reported that Roger Simpson had won the Durham County Juniors Championship. Winning 14, Drawing 1 and Losing 1 out of 16 games. Mr Carr (Headteacher) was also thanked for this advice and support during the year. Members who played for the school were: - R. Simpson (V1), H Young, H Jackson, K Smith, R Simpson (V), W Pescod, J Nicholson, T Welsh, K Lynn, C Milburn, S Reid, F Pearson.

Some of the Advertisers in the "GRAMMARIAN" during the late 40s early 50s may bring back some memories.

SHIMELDS, Front Street.

DUNN'S, Radio and Cycles of Station Road.

R K SHIELD, Newsagent, Books and Toys of Station Road.

WATSON'S GARAGE, of Beamish Street.

NELLIE LUMLEY, Ladies and Children's outfitter, of Park Road, South Moor.

CARLYON'S, Fruiterers and Florists, of Market Hall, Stanley.

GRUNDY'S, Radio and Electrical Appliances, of Front Street.

M W and A DOGESON, Newsagent, Confectioner and Tobacconist of Front Street.

LUKES, Ladies, Children's and Gent's Outfitter, of Front Street.

R JOSEPH & SON, Sports and Travel Goods, of Union Street, Sunderland.

Alas all of the above business names have gone, with the exception of "Carlyons" Florist which has now moved to Front Street, Stanley, but is no longer owned by the Carlyon family.



Tanfield Association

Tanfield Comprehensive School,
Tanfield Lea,
Stanley
DH9 8AY

Phone: (01207) 232881

Fax:

Email:

We're on the web, try our site.
www.tanfieldassociation.com

Tanfield Association,
Join today



Dear Member

The Tanfield Association is to hold a "MEMORABLE EVENING", of good food, and excellent music, on Saturday 15th June 2002, at the school, commencing at 7pm.

The menu is enclosed, and will be a self-serve buffet, prepared by Mel Somersall, a local chef/caterer, who is well known for his quality food.

The entertainment is to be provided by a very professional group of musicians, Ken Dixon, Baritone; Jane Westwater, Soprano; Accompanist, June Todd.

Ken Dixon has performed semi-professionally throughout the North East of England, and although he is involved in a very responsible position in Social Work, he is a committed member of the Felling Male Voice Choir,

where he holds the position of Featured Baritone. He has readily agreed to sing with Jane, for the Tanfield Association.

Jane Westwater is also well known in the performing world for her unique singing voice. She was trained at The Royal Northern College of Music, and also has a degree in Performing Arts from Newcastle. She is at present Course Leader for Performing Arts, at the City of Sunderland College, and we are grateful to her for the giving of her talent for the Tanfield Association.

June Todd is a very experienced accompanist, and her recent retirement as a Head Teacher has allowed her to give even more time to music. She is at present principal accompanist for the Chester-le-Street Amateur Operatic Society. She has also been called upon to

accompany solo instrumental candidates in the RA examinations, as well as being much valued for her accompaniment of solo vocalists.

The Tanfield Association wish to express their appreciation to Ken, Jane and June for their valuable contribution in making this event a most Memorable Evening. The event is open to members, families and friends and costs only £10 per ticket. Unfortunately we are limited in numbers and must operate on a first-come first-served basis. We would kindly advise, that anyone requiring tickets should send their request to school by return of post.

A bar will be available for the sale of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Reply to Tanfield School

Come and join us!

Please contact anyone you know who has had or has an association with Tanfield School. We are eager to recruit new members. The Association is an ideal way to see old friends and colleagues and find out a little of what is happening now at school. Please use for the following contacts for membership details and subscriptions.

Fred Westwater (01207) 234548

Ken Dixon (01207) 283584

Karen Scott (01207) 529374

Please send any articles to Alan Ramshaw via the school.

Tanfield Association Memorable Evening

Please send tickets at £10 per ticket to: -

(Please Print)

NAME

ADDRESS

..... Tel.....

Cheques payable to Tanfield Association