



# Tanfield Association Newsletter

Tanfield School

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## Editorial

May I begin by wishing all members a happy Christmas and a merry New Year. I do hope you will enjoy this edition and would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed.

May I remind members that the Association year starts on 16th October, so please feel free to send your subscription to Sue and Karren (you can now pay by standing order), if you joined after 31st March you are paid up until 2003.

The Patrons scheme is

proving very popular and is having a very positive influence, particularly related to the raising of funds for Specialist Schools Initiative. For those unaware, to become a Patron one must pledge a minimum contribution of £100 over the next two years, contact Fred if you would like more details.

I am sure that everyone will agree the 90th Birthday celebration was a fantastic day and evening and remind people that copies of "90 Years On" are available through school at a price of £10. Apologies to

anyone for mistakes and errors discovered after printing, particularly to Maureen Charlton for missing her name from the organising committee.

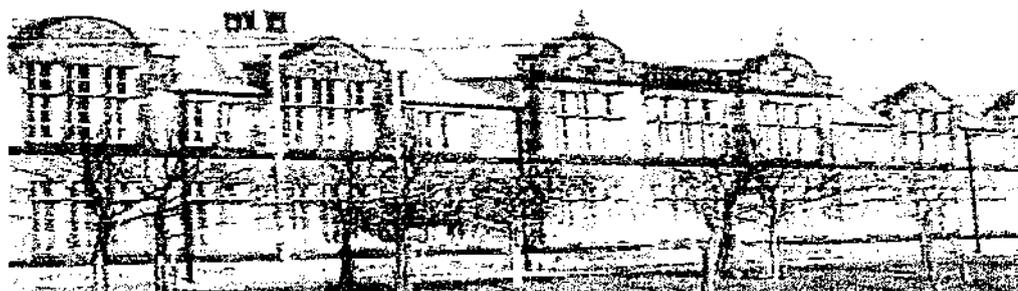
I hope to see everyone at the Burns Night Supper, it will be an excellent night, especially for those that enjoy single malt to accompany Mel's first class cuisine.

All the best to Ken Dixon after his heart by-pass.

Please send any letters and or articles to me for the next newsletter due in April 2003. Alan.R.

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## Durham Cathedral Painting .

One aspect in the history of our school was created in 1961 by sixteen-year-old Judith Jefferson, who as an enthusiastic member of Art teacher Miss Eggleston's art group, painted a mural of Durham Cathedral. The mural is still there after 40 years of school refurbishment and wear and tear, and is in need of some restoration. During the 90th Birthday Celebration weekend, Mrs Georgina Jack (Head of Art and Senior Mistress in the 1970s)

made an offer to restore the mural that is situated high up on the main corridor of the 1912 Building of the School. The Northern Echo has already said they wish to take pictures and print the story when the restoration takes place.

## "90 Years on"

The 90th Birthday Celebrations event also saw the publication of the book "90 Years On", compiled and edited by teacher Elizabeth Hawkins, who is a former pupil as well as serving as a teacher at Tanfield for over 30 years.

The book is priced at £10 (plus 70p postage and packaging if mailed) and is available from the school.



## 90th Birthday Celebration

The organising of the above event started in November 01, when the Tanfield Association Working Executive formed a sub-committee, whose brief was to organise the Celebrations. The 90th Birthday Celebrations committee was chaired by Eric Fisk (Deputy Head Teacher), other teaching staff were Susan Smith, Elizabeth Hawkins, and Alan Ramshaw, non-teaching members were Maureen Charleton, Cecil Johnson, Duncan Davis and Fred Westwater. Six meetings were held during the year, and the Executive of the Association are extremely grateful to the members of the Organising Committee for their time and work in making the Celebration of the School's 90th Birthday a resounding success.

The committee all agreed that the school should have 'Open Days' as well as the Saturday Evening event. The first Open Day was on Friday 11th October from 9.30am to 3.00pm, and Maureen Charleton of the organising committee co-ordinated the day. Visitors were met in The Conference Room where hot drinks were available. Over 400 photographs were on display in the Conference Room and other areas of the School, and guided tours of the school were also given by pupils. Saturday 12th October has been described as a wonderful, impressive and very memorable day. It began at 2.00pm when former pupils and friends could look around our recently (£3,000,000) refurbished School, view displays and meet old friends. Guided tours by pupils were also available.

It has been estimated that at least 400 people attended during the afternoon. The school yard and bus park were both used for car-parking and both were full to overflowing. Despite the formidable task of dealing with so many people in this short period of time, the School Staff headed by Eric Fisk did a remarkable job, and we thank them for their hard work.

The Saturday evening celebration started at 6pm, and owing to Health and Safety Regulations, it had to be a

"ticket only" event. Just under 400 people gathered in the School Hall at 7pm, after an hour of meeting old friends, viewing displays and memorabilia and poring over the hundreds of old photographs.

Archie Howat (Headteacher) gave the formal welcome to all gathered for the 90th Birthday Celebrations of the School. He stressed the importance of the School's heritage, and its momentous story over the past 90 years, and how the school is seeking continually to maintain those very high standards laid down over the years.

Professor Warren Pescod (President of Tanfield Association) spoke of how well our School at Tanfield was doing 90 years on. He gave a brief resumé of the Tanfield Association and its Aims, and asked for members to join the working executive where a number of vacancies had occurred (We still need people - meetings are held approximately once every two months). He stressed that it was not an arduous or time-consuming task. He went on to praise the members of the Association who had become Patrons of Tanfield School, and how their financial support was very important. Professor Pescod concluded by thanking everyone for their attendance on this wonderful occasion.

Eric Fisk (Deputy Head Teacher) gave an update on developments at the School, in particular the School's application for 'Specialist School Status' in Engineering and Science. He outlined the great benefits the School would gain, and how the whole community of Stanley would be enhanced by this 'Engineering and Science' Special School Status. He said the School was now better placed both materially and academically than it had ever been before.

Archie Howat concluded the formal speaking by thanking everyone concerned for the extremely successful day. Everyone was invited to join in the School Song, "First Things First", and the Birthday Cake was cut by two of the Association's oldest members - Delsey Armstrong and Kit Trevena.

The buffet that had been prepared by teaching staff under the supervision of Susan Smith was then served. Wine and soft drinks flowed freely from the bar

staffed by teacher Paul Hinnighan and other teaching staff. Everyone seemed to enjoy the main part of the evening that was an informal mingling with people greeting one another and rediscovering old friends, and drinking and eating. One of the main happenings of the evening was having photographs taken in small groups or whole year groups, by former pupil and professional photographer, Duncan Davis (who even dressed in his replica old Stanley Grammar School Uniform). Our grateful thanks for his outstanding contribution to the evening. The evening was brought to a close at approximately 10.30pm with everyone saying that it had been a wonderful, unforgettable event, and how fortunate they were to have been part of it.

The actual Birthday of the School on Wednesday 16th October 2002 was again an 'Open Day', to give former pupils and friends a chance to view the displays etc. and through the guided tours of the school, to see the school working. The Day was co-ordinated by Cecil Johnson of the organising committee, who welcomed visitors to the school in the Conference Room, which was given over to the Tanfield Association for the Celebrations.

### A Verse for the Tanfield Association -

The golden chain of friendship  
Is a strong and blessed tie  
Binding kindred hearts together  
As the years go passing by.  
Helen Steiner Rice





## Fenwick Lawson

Fenwick Lawson was born at South Moor on the 19th May 1932. When he was six months old, Fenwick, elder brother Tom and his parents, moved to Craghead. He started school at Bloemfontein, but when he was ten years old, the family moved to the other end of Craghead, and this involved a change of school for Fenwick. As a consequence, he did not pass for the grammar school, but went to Annfield Plain, to the Upper Standards – as it was known. Here, Fenwick made excellent academic progress and, as a consequence, was transferred to Stanley Grammar School when he was 14 years old. He adapted quickly to his new school and was soon recognised by fellow pupils as a gifted artist. Many of us will remember his artwork on the front cover of the old "Grammarians" magazine. Whilst at SGS, Fenwick met Joan Rooke, who was in the same year group. Joan was an extremely pretty girl, and very handy with the hockey stick, besides having a calm and sunny nature. On leaving school, Joan went on to teacher training, whilst Fenwick became an art-taught pupil to the County Architect in Durham. Here, when working on his Testimonies of Study for the Architectural RIBA, Fenwick decided to apply for a degree in Architecture and was accepted by Newcastle University.

At this time Fenwick responded to a fund-raising idea to create a 'Tree of Memory' for the local Methodist chapel where his parents were staunch members. For inspiration, he drew a tree which he had noticed at Blackie Boy on his way home from work, and placed the figure of Christ under it. Members of the church paid to have their names, or those of loved ones, inscribed as branches on the tree. This was a real success – both as a fund-raising effort and as a work of art and it still hangs in Fawcett Hill chapel in Craghead. When Fenwick's friend, Harry Martin, saw this drawing lying on the kitchen table he was impressed and urged Fenwick to forget about Architecture and try for a career in Art instead.

Fenwick decided to visit Sunderland College of Art, to see what was on offer and was inspired to study there. By this time he was 21 years old, not 16 as were most of the other students. He really felt that studying Art was what he wanted to do but, because of his lack of training, had little confidence in his ability to succeed. Fenwick recalls his first assignment at Sunderland. The students were sent out to draw 'Men at Work'. Outside the college he saw workmen digging up the road, but found he was unable to draw them. He returned to his tutor and told him he did not know where to start because his subjects were not standing still! Later, when modelling his first head in clay in the modelling class, he realised that he would love to

be a sculptor. Fenwick studied at Sunderland from 1951 – 54 where he did extremely well and was recommended to sit the entrance exams for the Royal College of Art in London. This was a whole week of exams which included only two hours to make a sculpture of a head. Most of the students' efforts were discarded after having been assessed, but Jacob Epstein said that Fenwick's attempt was the best head by a student he had ever seen, and had it put on display. Later Jacob Epstein offered Fenwick work doing the portrait heads which he had not had time to do himself. This offer he did not take up, instead wishing to follow his own thesis. Fenwick was the first Sunderland student of sculpture to progress to the Royal College of Art.

In 1954, during his studies in London, Fenwick and Joan became engaged. Joan was an only child and when Fenwick asked her father's permission to marry her, he was told that her father did not mind Joan marrying an architect, but objected to her marrying an artist! Nevertheless they married in 1955 and set up home in a houseboat on the Thames. Joan taught in Egham, whilst Fenwick continued his studies from 1954-57. In his last year at college, Fenwick was awarded the James Knott Travelling Scholarship and in 1958 travelled to France, Italy and Greece.

In 1959 Fenwick and Joan relocated to their native North East as Fenwick had secured a post as an art teacher at St. Aidan's Grammar School, from which he moved on to St. Joseph's School in Hebburn. In 1961 he became a Lecturer in Sculpture at Newcastle College of Art. The latter merged with the Polytechnic in 1970, and in 1972 he was made Head of Sculpture. The Art department later became part of Northumbria University.

During his career, Fenwick has created many beautiful, thought-provoking and famous images. Indeed, he has a published list of over 100 works, which includes sculptures displayed at St. Paul's Jarrow, Durham Cathedral, Lindisfarne, Hexham Abbey, Preston, London and Rome. From 1964 to the present time, Fenwick has exhibited his work extensively, sometimes with others, and sometimes in one-man shows at many venues. These have included the Laing Art Gallery and the Gulbenkian Gallery in Newcastle, Brinkburn Priory in Northumberland,

Edinburgh, Swansea, York, Oxford University, the Royal Festival Hall and the Royal Academy in London. In 1994, Fenwick was the Invited Sculptor at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. He has been a visiting lecturer at Dundee College of Art, the Royal Academy and many other institutions. In 1995 he was the Invited Speaker at the RIBA Northumberland Annual Lecture and in 2000 he was the Lecturer for the Millennium at Beda College, in Rome. He continues to advise committees of historic churches in the diocese of Durham, Newcastle and Hexham. From 1972 – 77 he was a member of the Arts and Architects Department of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, and in 1986 he was made an Honorary Member of the Northumbrian branch of the R.I.B.A. During the years 1979 – 95, he was a member of Durham City Trust.

Although retired from Northumbria University, Fenwick continues to create marvellous works at his studio which is attached to his home in Durham. I was privileged to visit there recently and to be shown several of Fenwick's works, some of which are ongoing. There is a wonderful carving of six monks carrying the coffin of St. Cuthbert, entitled "The Journey" which was created for the Millennium. Also there, was a market cross which will be erected shortly in a local town and hopefully, this cross will be repeated, with variations, in other northern towns, to mark the route taken by the monks. St. Cuthbert's coffin rested for 112 years in Chester-le-Street as well as travelling to Cumbria and Yorkshire before reaching its present location in Durham Cathedral.

Nearer to his old school, Fenwick's work is still evident in Stanley, where he designed the town's Coat of Arms several decades ago. He remembers that the work took several months of research and drawing, for which he was paid £10.

Joan and Fenwick have a daughter and three sons, who are all grown up. They are also grandparents and even great-grandparents to two young baby girls. During Fenwick's career, Joan taught for many years in a Chester-le-Street primary school, where she was held in great regard as a wonderful teacher, loved by all the children. When asked to explain Fenwick's success, Joan replies that, besides his considerable talent, Fenwick has a very stoical nature, taking things as they come and not being easily discouraged.

Joan and Fenwick Lawson are delightful, friendly, unassuming people. Who have never forgotten their roots. They treasure warm memories of the area and their friends and teachers at Stanley Grammar School.

June Todd.

# Burns Night Supper – Saturday 25th January 03

Although the above evening is organised by the Tanfield Association it is open to Family and Friends and all will be welcome. If you have never been to a 'Burns Night Supper' before, we can safely say that it will be an enjoyable evening never to be forgotten.

We are pleased to announce that the meal, which is the main part of the evening, is once again being provided by "Mel's Quality Catering" of Lanchester, and we guarantee the quality and quantity of his food. The eighty people who attended the "Memorable Evening" in June, will, I am sure, vouch for the extremely high standard of food provided by 'Mel'. In June, for the "Memorable Evening" we requested only two courses. For the "Burns Night", there will be three courses followed by tea or coffee.

## Burns Night Supper Menu

Fish Platter

Cock a Leekie Soup

Vegetarian Choice

Haggis

Savoury Roast

Steak and Mushroom Pie

Pork Chops and Garnish

Lyonnaise Potatoes

Creamed Potatoes

Puree of Carrots and Swede

Peas

Green Beans

Gravy

Apple Tart

Crowdie

Drambuie Trifle

Steamed Fruit Pudding

Meringue Nests

Custard Sauce

Tea or Coffee



We have engaged one of the North's best known young pipers, Scott Inglis Kedges, and we are convinced you will enjoy his piping tunes.

A bar will be available for your favourite tot of the golden blend (The Scotch drink) and other alcoholic beverages, and also for Scotland's favourite non-alcoholic drink, "Iron Bru", and other refreshing soft drinks.

The evening will commence at 6.30pm, with a prompt 7pm serving of the first course.

Tickets are now on sale from the school, telephone 01207 232881, or Ken Dixon 01207 283584, or Fred Westwater 01207 234548.

Price only £12 per ticket (Compare this price with other Burns Nights of the same quality) How do we keep the price so low? You may well ask!!

We would like to encourage everyone to wear something tartan, even if it is only a ribbon, a tie, or a scarf or even Full Highland Dress. There will be prizes for the "most enterprising persons".

Please book your ticket early, by telephoning one of the numbers above.

## Susan and Karen

In the "Where are They Now" articles, it was decided to let members have knowledge of two very important people in the Association. Susan Donkin is Membership Secretary and Joint Treasurer with Karen Scott, and the working executive of the Association wish to put on record that they are very grateful to both of them for the interest they have shown, and the time they give to the Tanfield Association.

Susan Donkin was born and brought up in South Moor. Her parents, Jean and Ron Rainbow, sent her to South Moor Greenland Infants and Junior School under Head Teacher, Oswald Barrass. She started Tanfield in September 1976 and left after passing her 'O' Levels in June 1981. After passing the Bank Entrance exam, interview and medical, Susan commenced work with Barclays Bank at Stanley, and while there she made history by becoming Stanley's first 'Personal Banker'. Susan still works for Barclays Bank but not at the Stanley Branch, and at present only works part-time. Paul finally gave in, and married Susan in 1999 at West Pelton Methodist Church, and they very happily reside at Holmlands Park, Chester-le-Street.

A complete break from work was made in 2000, for two years. This was after the very traumatic experience of Matthew, her two-year-old son, being diagnosed as having meningitis. Matthew made a full recovery and is a bright, lively, four-year-old, attending nursery school. Matthew also has a beautiful, older sister, Sarah, who is eight years old and enjoying school at Red Rose Primary School in Chester-le-Street.

In looking back to school days at Tanfield, Susan remembers a number of friends including Karen Maughan, Paula Michelle Grosvenor and Gary Preston. Her first outstanding memory is breaking her foot in the first year and Mrs G. Jack (Senior Mistress) taking her home. It resulted in Susan missing her first year exams. She was off school for some weeks. She enjoyed her time at Tanfield and was in the top five people in her class for the next four years of exams. Although she enjoyed most subjects at school, including backing books for Mr Jolley (French), her favourite was English with Mr Noel Dawson. She says, "Her love of English Literature which he gave her, has never left".

Susan believes the Tanfield Association is very worthwhile and more people should join, particularly her age group. "It was such a good feeling," she said, "When I first went back, and I believe Tanfield now has everything to offer for the future." Susan is

occupied in her spare time by being Treasurer of the Meningitis Trust, and helping to raise funds on their behalf. She feels it is giving something back, for all the help it gives others. She is also Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Tanfield Association, and voluntary classroom assistant in Mathematics at Red Rose Primary School.

When asked for memorable moments in her career, she recalled the sense of achievement on being hand-picked to attend a residential course and on passing tough tests to become a trainee for Barclays Bank. Memorable moments in her family life – Susan says she has had many wonderful times with Paul and her lovely little girl Sarah, but the most outstanding moments are every time she looks at Matthew, and she thanks God.

Karen Scott was born at the Richard Murray Maternity Hospital at Shotley Bridge to John and Sylvia Hockaday in 1960, sister to older brother Barry. She attended the Infants "Tin" School in Stanley and The Board School on Front Street, under Head Teacher Mr Joe Tyers from 1965 to 1971. She left Tanfield with eight good 'O' Levels in 1976. Karen enjoyed her time at Tanfield and was usually top of her class in most academic subjects. Although she had a number of friends at Tanfield, her best friend was (and still is) Anne Keegan (now Anne Fenwick of Great Lumley). She remembers an enjoyable trip to the Roman Wall with Mr Reece, but there were not many outings of this nature. Her favourite subjects were Domestic Science with Mrs Grant and Biology with Mr Robertson.

Karen has vivid memories of whole school morning assembly with Dr Sharpe and the teaching staff in their gowns together with the Sixth Form on the stage of the School Hall, and the very strict sense of discipline that was felt by all. As an older pupil, Karen recalls an occasion when she joined a girls 'sit-in' in the cloakroom, because they were told (rather foolishly and in an uncaring way) to go outside in the cold and rain. The girls 'sit-in' worked and they were allowed to stay inside school in inclement weather, after this time. After leaving school Karen joined Barclays Bank at Stanley, and she was there when Susan Donkin came to the Bank straight from Tanfield. Karen is still following her banking career but is now at City Office in Newcastle. Four years ago

Karen and Ken Hedley were the main organisers of a very successful reunion of their year group at Ramside Hall and it was because of their involvement with the reunion that Ken and Karen were both asked to become involved with the Tanfield Association. Karen is enthusiastic about the Tanfield Association and its benefits to the present School. She also says how interesting it is to see the school with all its fine traditions, move forward to a wonderful future. Karen was asked to name two memorable events in her life, and the first is fresh in her mind. This month (November 2002) she went on an unforgettable holiday in Singapore, a wonderful experience. The second memorable event and the most important, was the birth of her lovely daughter in 1991.

Susan Donkin is the Tanfield Association Membership Secretary and is most anxious to increase the number of new members. We have enclosed a membership form with a slogan for each of our present members.

"Recruit one for Sue  
in Two Thousand and Two"

Please do your best to recruit a new member, and send the completed form together with £5 administration fee to:

Mrs Susan Donkin  
19 Lindom Avenue  
Chester le Street  
Co Durham  
DH3 3PP

Cheques should be made payable to  
"Tanfield Association".

## Stanley Grammar School— A different view

I was a babyboomer. Of course when I entered the gates of Stanley Grammar School for the first time in September 1958, I didn't know that. The world would have to evolve another 25 years before the word was invented. What I did know, however, was that unlike every other year in the school there were four classes in our year, not the usual three. Still, that was of no importance to an eleven year old. One year later however, it assumed greater relevance, because, despite every one of the one hundred and twenty eight pupils being in the top 5% intellectually (if Eleven Plus statistics were to be believed), sixty four of us were cast aside.

The one hundred and twenty eight pupils were streamed, sixty four were 'A' Category: myself and sixty three others were 'B' Category. Again, no immediate importance to a twelve year old, except that unlike my friends in the 'A' Stream who were going to take eight 'O' levels, I was deemed fit only to take seven 'O' Levels. More importantly, the difference was Latin. I could not learn Latin. So what! Well, not taking Latin in the Fifties and Sixties meant that you were unlikely to be accepted by a university and many career opportunities were already closed to me. At twelve years old! So despite me being in the top 5% academically

in my age group. Stanley Grammar School had categorised and routed me at twelve years old. Incidentally, I was successful in all seven 'O' Levels while many in the 'A' Stream achieved a much lower pass rate. Hardly a testament to the streaming system. The difference in 'A' and 'B' treatment became more apparent during the next four years. I was stuck with 'B' stream teachers and their 'B' stream inertia, or occasionally 'A' stream teachers who made apparent their resentment when called upon to teach the lower orders (I exempt only Mr Robson and Mr Wood who always showed enthusiasm and support regardless of perceived ability). So with the benefit of 20-20 hindsight what do I think of Stanley Grammar School between 1958-1963? Well, quite simply, it was a poor school for those not in the 'A' stream. Do I regret attending Stanley Grammar School? Most definitely not. Friendships formed nearly half a century ago have withstood the tests of time and distance. Lessons learned have proved valuable in both my career and life in general. Those lessons were not Latin (obviously) nor indeed were they anything academic. No, they were lessons like don't categorise people;

always treat people with respect regardless of perceived ability; bullying may achieve power in the short term – but will never earn respect. And finally, although it is too late to advise the teachers of the fifties and sixties – they wouldn't have listened anyway – may I offer this advice to present staff. The one sitting in the front is probably not the diamond; it's more likely to be the one at the back still waiting to be unearthed. Life is not a sprint but a marathon: those leading after a hundred yards are unlikely to be out in front at the twenty six miles mark.

Tom Harpe

Stanley Grammar School 1958-1963

Editor's Note -

Thanks to Tom for his very interesting article. I am sure it will strike a chord with many others. Tom is an enthusiastic member of the Tanfield Association, and with his permission we intend to do a more in-depth study of where that young boy of 1958 ended up.

## Annfield Plain Methodist church

Annfield Plain Methodist Church is a hot bed of Tanfield Association members. They enjoy the keen sense of humour that often accompanies the regular church notices. With the kind permission of Beryl Spears nee Byers (1953 – 1958) who produces the church notices, we will give some examples of these from time to time.

1. There was a tradesman painter called Jock, who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often would thin down paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job, and needed a lot of painting done. Jock put in a bid and because his price was so low, he got the job. And so he set to erecting the trestles and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine. Well, Jock was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder and the sky opened. The rain

poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Jock clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned, useless paint.

Jock was no fool. He knew this was judgement from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke....."Repaint! Repaint and thin no more!"

2. When a couple go on an outdoor holiday together, they will discover that they approach physical challenges differently. Here is a story for long-suffering wives....

One day, three men were hiking and unexpectedly they came upon a large, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so. The first man prayed to God say-

ing, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, after almost drowning a couple of times.

Seeing this, the second man prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools to cross this river."

Poof! God gave him a rowing boat and he was able to row across the river in about an hour, after almost capsizing a couple of times.

The third man had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross this river."

And poof! God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, then walked across the bridge.

## A Scouts tale

This article came about when Clifford Beecroft (Pupil 1944 -1952) recently became a member of the Tanfield Association, and he brought some very interesting photographs with him. Some of these photographs are from Stanley Grammar School, and others are from the 1st Annfield Plain Scout Group. We hoped to produce some of the photographs in the newsletter but unfortunately were unable to do so. However, they will be welcome additions to the photographic archives at school.

One may ask, what are the scout photographs to do with Tanfield? The answer is quite simple, most of the Scouts were pupils or ex-pupils of Stanley Grammar School, including one of their main leaders, a young Jack Mackieson, who later went on to become Senior Lecturer and Head of

Geographical Studies at Sunderland University.

Most of the snap-shot photographs are of scout camps at Glencoe, Evesham and Alnmouth, and some of the scouts' names are:- Eric Rainbow, Richard Rose, Warren Pascod, Clifford Beecroft, David York, David Alderson, Harry Blackburn, Jim Nicholson, Fred Turner, Roland Hutchinson, Sid Muirhead and Alan Hewston.

The 1st Annfield Plain Scout Hut was situated near the entrance to Annfield Plain Park, but once a month they were all attracted to the rival 2<sup>nd</sup> Annfield Plain Scout hut, half a mile away, to the Saturday Night Dance. This dance was a very popular event in the area. It was even advertised in the "Grammarians" as a meeting place for newly-qualified

teachers. Clifford Beecroft met his future wife Betty at one of these dances. She was a member of Stanley Guides, who all came to the Scout Dances.

In conclusion, Clifford is still involved with scouting. He supports the Dipton Scout Group (through his grandsons, Michael and Paul) and helps in the maintenance of the Headquarters Building that used to be the Black Bull Inn on Dipton Front Street.

(Editor's note – has anyone any further information or stories, re scouts and Tanfield pupils?)

## Specialist School Update

£12,000 – and rising! We are almost a quarter of the way towards achieving our sponsorship target of £50,000. Special thanks to members of Tanfield Association who have contributed generously to our appeal. The 90th Birthday celebration generated donations totalling £1,000. Well done!

What is it?

You will remember that raising £50,000 allows Tanfield to submit its bid to the Department for Education and Skills for specialist school status in Science and Engineering. Our target date is now March 2003 – but we must have £50,000 either in cash or pledges!

How will it help Tanfield?

Achieving specialist school status will result in an immediate award of £100,000. This will be used to:

- 1) network the school's five Science labs so that each lab can be equipped with up to 15 computers.
- 2) refurbish part of the Technology Area to provide opportunities for pupils to use CAD CAM equipment
- 3) convert a Maths classroom into a Maths laboratory equipped with computer facilities.

There will be enhanced annual funding of

£70,000 per annum for additional staffing and resources.

Although most of the new funding will initially help Science, Maths and Technology, all subject areas will benefit from increased funding, and most important of all – Tanfield pupils will benefit.

How can you help?

Former Tanfield pupils have already shown their gratitude and generosity but we need still more help –

- 1) You could join the Tanfield School Patron Scheme by making a minimum donation of £100. A list of the Patrons of Tanfield School is displayed in the School's Conference Room and on the web-site.
- 2) Donations or pledges of sums of money of any amount are welcome
- 3) Businesses can also make donations and pledges, preferably in cash but it is also possible to donate materials and resources that can be shown to be relevant to the specialist school bid.

Remember –

- 1) All donations should be payable to Tanfield School Fund – Because Tanfield School Fund is a registered

charity.

- 2) You can claim your donations against tax.
- 3) You can pledge now, and pay later. As long as you make your pledge before March 2003, the cash does not need to be paid for a further 6 months.

Can you help your former school? For further information, please telephone – Eric Fisk, former pupil and now Deputy Head at Tanfield School, 01207 232881, or e-mail e. fisk100@durhamlea.org.uk or write to me at Tanfield School, Tanfield Lea Road, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 8AY.

Thank you



## School Song

One of the highlights of the Birthday Evening was the singing of the School Song, "First Things First", accompanied on the piano by June Todd (née Pounder).

The music of the School Song was recently announced as being lost, but June, who is a valued member of the working Executive, offered to transcribe the music from memory. When she was asked to play on the Birthday evening it

was noticed that she only had the sheet of music, and she was asked what about the words? Without hesitation, she replied, "Everyone will know the words," and they did!!!

The song was sung twice and the second time it was reported that the lights were swinging from the ceiling.

Once again. The Tanfield Association owes June thanks for giving of

her musical talent.

It has been proposed that the School Song, "First Things First," be revived because it stopped being sung in the 1970s. The Working Executive are therefore hoping to get in touch with Tibby Boggon who wrote the words and Mr Jack Dobbs who composed the music, and seek their blessing with this venture.

## Letters from Canada and Calafornia

Sam Hunter writes from Victoria BC –

I am married to another former Tanfield pupil, namely Norma Suddick (1943 – 50). For information, we have both been happily living in Canada since 1956, both taking advantage of early retirement offers in 1986 after 30 years with ESSO

Research Department for myself; Norma after a career in teaching (Primary and Special Ed.)

While here we have not been totally isolated from news of the school, having had several visits from ex-pupils including Harry Taylor, Frank Posseft, Jack Burton, Mary Anderson, Albert Belterby, Ivy Pearson and Denise Gowland. In addition, we have ourselves visited others on our frequent travels around the world.

Kenneth Smith writes from La Jolla

Bill and Margaret Wilson, who left the school in 1949 and who attended the 90 year re-union, kindly sent to me a copy of "90 Years On". As Warren Pescod mentioned in his article I left in 1951; I succeeded Sir William McCrea FRS to his London Chair of Mathematics in 1966 and retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1998.

I read much of the Memories of these first ninety years; I didn't see any mention of the Chess Club or the Madrigal Society which enriched my years at SGS. One of the proudest possessions is my Pupil's Report Book from the Alderman Wood Secondary School.

I would like to know how my school contemporaries are passing their retirement; the piano lessons from Joe Cullen,

coal miner living across from Upper Standards, which have been on ice for nearly 50 years, and the reading habits and taste I learned from John Willie Lawson, Librarian at Catchgate County Library, are now providing my greatest solace.

With my Best Wishes to you and to the continuing prosperity of the School, cordially.

(If you wish to contact Sam and Norma, or Kenneth, I have contact addresses—E Fisk, Deputy Head)

## Photo Archive

The School Conference Room now houses a large collection of photographs dating from the 1920's to the present. This collection of photographs (which are mainly large print copies of originals) is largely due to Duncan Davis, a former pupil 1962 – 1969, who started the collection for the 80th Birthday and, when requested, came readily to our assistance for the 90th Birthday and joined the organising committee.

Duncan spent all of the Saturday Birthday Evening taking photographs. All members of the Tanfield Association are very appreciative of the hard work involved in organising and arranging over 350 people in groups and settings, using a great deal of photographic equipment as well as Duncan's skill and techniques

as a professional photographer.

One of the most interesting photographs we have for the archives was handed in recently by Joicey Craven, one of Tanfield Association's keenest members. It is the earliest photographic record of The School Uniform, as modelled by his sister Sylvia Craven and her friend Nancy Arthur, both aged 13 years. The blazers were brown with gold braid around the edges and pockets and the Alderman Wood School badge on the breast pocket.

The photograph shows the two smiling, cheerful girls astride a very large Shire horse which is being held by Joicey aged 9 years, and who was still at Tanfield Lea Junior School. The photograph is

titled "1929 Happy Days during Hay Time at Wester Leith Farm, Tantobie". Thank you, Joicey, for this valuable addition to our collection at Tanfield.



## Letter

Dear Fred

This is to thank you for sending Jean and I copies of the Tanfield Association Newsletter, vol. 1 issues 2 and 3 which we thoroughly enjoyed. We look forward to further issues. We enclose a money order in the amount five pounds as annual fee for 2002 membership in the association. We have also been following with keen interest the drive behind the Science/Engineering Specialist School application for Tanfield

School.

We applaud the move to do this and take off our hats to the individuals and prime movers in this ambitious project. In this regard I will take steps to become a Patron of Tanfield School and, before year end, will forward the appropriate funds. We are in receipt of the appropriate patronage form. As general interest, we are frequently in touch with Keith Errington and his wife Norma and most recently Jean

saw Liz Dawson who is also now retired. On the same topic our son, his wife and son met most recently with Bob Patterson in Bermuda.

With best wishes.  
Yours very truly

David and Jean York  
(1945-52) (1946-53)

## Fuzzy

Do you remember Fuzzy?

Otherwise Mr Fewster. Grey-haired, he seemed to us very old, that is probably fifty-five or so!! - and had a young wife. He was teaching maths in 1935. - I can't remember when he retired.

He was very keen on children learning to save money and used to run the school scheme for the National

Savings campaign. This was where you bought a 6d savings stamp (what would that be worth now? 2½p?) which you stuck on your card and could cash later on. However this was never a success. In fact, I never knew anybody who ever bought a stamp! So Barbara Carden (1929-36) wrote a rhyme about it -

Ding dong bell  
Fuzzy doing well  
One savings stamp bought  
Ninety more to sell

Sent by Olga Armstrong

1929-36 (pupil)

## School birthday cake

On the Saturday evening of the Celebration Day, after the formal welcome, Archie Howat (Headteacher) called forward two of Tanfield Association's oldest members - Delsey Armstrong and Kit Trevena, former pupils who commenced their education in 1924 and 1925 respectively. To loud acclaim from all, they cut the Birthday Cake. It was

however only a symbolic cutting of the cake as it was taken away to be divided on Monday morning, among the year seven (first year) pupils of the school. This was a visible connection over the years, from the eldest to the youngest members in celebrating the 90 years of education at Tanfield.



## Recruiting

Dear Mrs Donkin

Thank you so much for the communication that you sent to me. Enclosed is the £5 membership fee. I am contacting a few people that I have kept in touch with - older people I am afraid (my years were 1946-53 under the Headship of Mr W Carr, and then for one year - Dr Sharp). I should love to get in touch with the sixth form of that era. With married names - it is difficult to

make contact. Can I suggest that maiden names are included in articles?

Some of my fellow students were:

Jean Hetherington (New York)  
Pearl Mitcheson  
Eleanor Wardle  
Joy Robinson  
Vera Daghish

It would be good to know what has happened to them. I very much enjoyed the '80 Years On'



Tanfield School  
Good street  
Tanfield Lea  
Stanley  
Co.Durham

Phone: (01207) 232881

Join us today.



## 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 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.

## Snippets

### Snippets from "Grammarians"

#### Christmas 1965 Editorial Staff.

School Editor: Valerie Tempest  
Staff Representative: Miss A Thompson  
Proof Reader: Mr W Wood  
Business Manager: Mr TE Brabban

#### Past Students' Reunion

The committee has decided that following the lack of support of previous years, no reunion will be organised this year.

An interesting article was written by Neville Bougourd in the lower sixth entitled:

Science – From the Point of View of an Arts Student.

He argues that science is a creative art, but it is also the most convenient art of destruction.

#### Summer Term 1950

##### Editorial Staff

Editor: Wendy Herdman  
Proof Readers: Miss Nicol, Miss Allison  
Business Manager: Mr Seed  
Committee: Mr Carr, Miss Thompson, Mary Anderson, Kathleen Lawson, James Moiser, Pearl Mitcheson, William Wilson, Missouri Harrison.

Results of school Musical Festival – Adjudication by Miss Joyce Bell LRAM of Durham.

Original Verse (Junior) 1st Marjorie Henderson 2nd Nigel Secombe  
Recitation (Junior) 1st Nova Williamson 2nd Nigel Secombe  
Recitation (Senior) 1st Rosemary Coulson 2nd Heather Harris  
Piano Solo (Junior) 1st T Thompson

Piano Solo (Senior) 1st Florence Hutchinson

Piano Duet (Senior) 1st Vera Dalglish and Mavis Crossley

Voice and Piano (Junior) 1st Frank Dowson 2nd Nigel Secombe

Voice and Piano (Senior) 1st Norma Suddick 2nd Heather Harris

