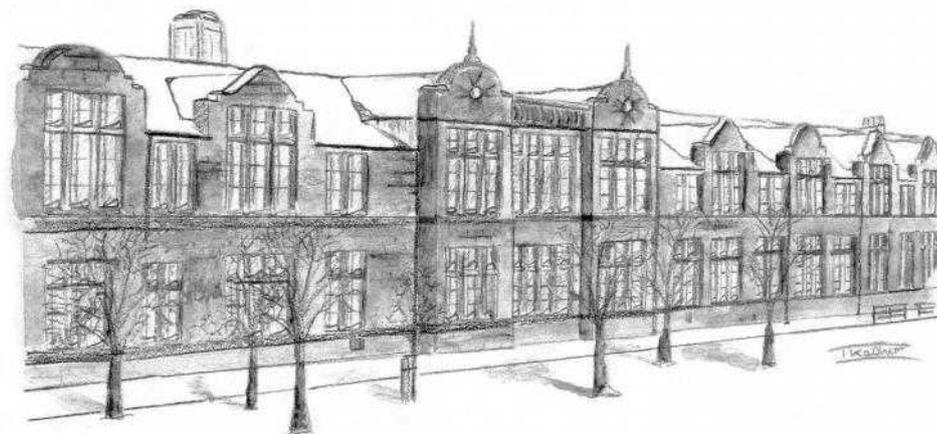


TANFIELD ASSOCIATION



c/o Tanfield School
Tanfield Lea Road
Stanley
Co Durham
DH9 8AY

e-mail tanfield@durhamlea.org.uk
Telephone 01207 232881
Fax 01207 282922

Secretary Mr Fred Westwater
10 Oxhill Villas
Stanley
DH9 7JT
01207 234548

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Newsletter Winter 2005

Editorial

Thank you once again for all of the contributions to this newsletter. This edition gives news of the old - the retirement of another long serving Durham County Head Teacher and introduces the new - Tanfield's new Head Teacher. Can I also use this opportunity to remind people - it's that time of year again - the annual subscription is now due. Can you please send your cheque for £5.00 to Susan Donkin, 19 Lindom Avenue, Chester le Street, DH3 3PP.

Graeme Lloyd

The last newsletter announced the retirement of Archie Howat as Head Teacher. It is sensible to use this newsletter to announce that the new Head Teacher is Graeme Lloyd, and to let former pupils know a little about Graeme, his background, his views and his vision for the school.

Graeme originates from South Shields, where he attended firstly, the local primary school and then South Shields Grammar School. Indeed, it was his experience at South Shields Grammar School that influenced his decision to be a teacher. He found his old school to be cold, uncaring and thoroughly unpleasant and he thought that he might follow an educational career to make future pupils' lives happier by adopting a different approach to teaching. After school Graeme gained a BA at Newcastle University and then obtained his teaching qualification at Northumbria University.

Graeme's teaching career began at West Denton school in the west end of Newcastle before moving onto the Rutherford School also in Newcastle. It was at these schools that Graeme (in his own words) learned his control techniques, but it was not until he joined Tanfield in 1992 (as number two in the English Department) that he learned his teaching skills. In 1994 he became Head of English and was promoted to Deputy Head Teacher in September 2004.

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As Head, he intends to take the school forward, building on the achievements of his predecessor, carry on with the inclusive culture of the school as well as aiming for strong academic results. He sees the role of Head Teacher as balancing the pastoral care alongside that of achieving strong academic outputs. Tanfield School is already one of the top five per cent of schools in the country in adding value at the 11-14 age range. Although academic achievements are good at the year 11 stage, Graeme sees no reason why Tanfield School cannot, in the future, have 80% of pupils attaining A to C Grades at GCSE.

Graeme's style is to try to involve parents in the education of their children and have them sign up to the school's ethos of fairness and discipline. Hopefully, in achieving this, he will raise the awareness and aspirations of both children and parents. Certainly, when asked about the greatest influence in his life, Graeme will cite his parents for giving him the correct values and good upbringing and for taking a full interest in his school life.

As to the future, Tanfield is due to have an OFSTED inspection this academic year. Graeme sees this firstly, as a chance to compare achievements against the last

OFSTED report five years ago and secondly to build upon the findings of the new report. He wants to continue and strengthen business links and build upon the findings of the new report. He wants to continue to strengthen the school's specialist science and engineering status and continue to participate with the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme. Tanfield has always had a strong English Department which he expects to continue. Graeme is particularly encouraged by the skills and enthusiasm of a young and vibrant science faculty from which he hopes for great things. The fire in 1997 resulted in new, much needed building as well as long awaited repairs to the old structure. Hopefully, demographics and the educational needs of Derwentside not withstanding, he can continue the work to improve the infrastructure of the school.

On a personal level, Graeme is 45, married, with two children and lives in Jarrow. His 20 year old son is studying Computer Engineering at Newcastle University. His daughter is at Sixth Form College.

This Head Teacher, with great vision and enthusiasm, hopes to build upon the achievements of the school, supported by a very strong staff. The school is in good hands.



MALCOLM WEBB

In our last newsletter, we featured an article about Archie Howat who was the longest serving Secondary School Head Teacher in Durham County. By coincidence, July 2005 also saw the retirement of Malcolm Webb, the longest serving Junior School Head Teacher in County Durham, who also happens to have been a former pupil of Stanley Grammar School. Perhaps there is a message here of Tanfield instilling loyalty in its ethos.

Malcolm Webb was born in New Kyo in 1946 the only child of a loving family. He attended Annfield Plain Junior School and, although because of an early childhood illness his start had been delayed over a year, he soon caught up to his year group. Malcolm attributes this great catching up exercise to the dedication of his parents. At Annfield Plain Malcolm represented the school at football and cricket. This strong interest in sport has been apparent throughout his career and many children in Malcolm's schools have benefited from his enthusiasm.

Malcolm passed the 11 Plus and began attending Stanley Grammar School in September 1958. He represented the school at football and generally Malcolm has only happy memories of his time at Stanley Grammar. He remembers, fondly, the influences of two teachers in particular: Miss Williamson and Mr Cousins, both of whom had a more informal teaching style that seemed, not only to bring out the best in pupils, but also to make them feel valued, a style which Malcolm has himself tried to adopt in his own educational career. He also recalls, with fondness, a school trip in 1962 to the Low Countries which offered him his first trip abroad.

Malcolm believes that there were many factors that affected and influenced his early and teenage years. Life skills and values learnt in Annfield Plain Life Boys and Boys Brigade and especially his time as a member of Oxhill Youth Club, where the Youth Club Leader was Alan Westwater, another SGS pupil who had been Malcolm's PE teacher. It was through his association with Oxhill YC that Malcolm was able to take part in a Youth

Exchange scheme with young people from Denmark - a trip still fondly remembered that, at his recent retirement party forty years on, pictures of the event were on display. He also remembers a Youth Club trip to London in support of the local group The Stringbeats. Most of all Malcolm fondly remembers Oxhill Youth Club as the place where friendships for life were formed.

After passing his 'O' Levels he entered the Sixth form at Stanley Grammar, but after a while the lure of a job at County Hall beckoned and he decided to leave and take up full time employment. His ambition to go into teaching remained and whilst working at County Hall he took and passed his 'A' Levels at Durham Technical College, and re-entered the world of full time education in 1966 when he started a three year Teacher Training course at Northumberland College of Education. Incidentally, just before taking up his training course, Malcolm's first teaching post was as a Paid Student Teacher at Burnopfield Leazes School, a job which earned him the magnificent sum of twelve shillings and sixpence (62½ pence) a day. Malcolm's first proper teaching post, after qualifying in 1969, was at Whickam Front Street School. He started in June of that year, and as the junior member of staff, his first great memory of teaching was being asked by the Headteacher to take the children into the school hall to witness the television coverage of the first moon landing. During his time at the school he looked after the football team which, for the first time in their history, managed to win the Blaydon and District league. Malcolm was then, not surprisingly, asked to take charge of the District Football Team. In addition, he was also the coach and manager of the very successful Blaydon and District swimming team - a remarkable achievement for a non-swimmer.

In 1977 Malcolm moved on from Whickham to take up an appointment as Deputy Head Teacher at Lingy House, Leam Lane Junior School in Gateshead, which was a great challenge after the more genteel surroundings of Whickham. Nevertheless, Malcolm enjoyed the new environment and different

challenges and made a great success of his time there. Once again his interest in and encouragement of sport proved a great hit with his pupils and fellow staff members until he moved on in 1986 to become Head Teacher of Lanchester Junior School - a post he held until his retirement this year.

During these nineteen years Malcolm had to manage a great many changes. Most importantly, when Malcolm took over the school it was just a small junior school, but by the time he retired it comprised nursery, infant and junior school, one of the largest in the county, with Malcolm as overall Head.

When asked what had been the most significant change during his career Malcolm cited the introduction of the National Curriculum. He recognised that it may have its critics (and even its faults) but on balance he sees it as a good thing because it provides a balanced education, greater variety, prescribed accepted accreditation and helps to broaden children's knowledge base. It also provides a better structure for teachers.

Malcolm only really had one aim - he wanted to be a teacher in order to help the under-dog. He feels he has achieved this, usually by encouraging goals through sport. Lanchester is one of the few Junior Schools in the County to play rugby. They also have successful football (including girl's football) cricket and netball teams. It is a school which, under Malcolm's

guidance, has welcomed, and included the disadvantaged. This he has achieved alongside building and maintaining a strong academic record which in 2003 made Lanchester the sixth best performing school in the whole of North East England and which consistently features as one of the highest achievers in the region.

On the home-front, Malcolm and his wife Margaret, a Nursing Manager, have two grown up daughters. Incidentally, both of his daughters are former pupils of Tanfield School and both have followed Malcolm into education.

In retirement, Malcolm still hopes to carry on doing some part-time supply teaching, pursue his sporting interests and swap school management for domestic management. He will also be joining the Tanfield Association Executive Working Committee. Malcolm believes that the Association is an excellent way to meet up with people with whom he might have lost touch. At a recent event he renewed friendship with a former pupil now living in Somerset, whom he had not seen for forty years.

We wish Malcolm a long and happy retirement.



School Patrons

The following are a list of patrons of Tanfield School who are also Members of the Tanfield Association

Peter Ardrin (Deceased)	Jack Jeffery
Joan Armstrong	Cecil Johnson
Rosemary Black	Jim Nicholson
Richard D Chambers	Warren Pescod
Barbara Churcher	David & Eileen Portsmouth
GF Joicey Craven	Gary Preston
Florence Darby	Brian & J Price
Audrey Drake	Euan J F Ross
Bill Errington	Andrew & Susan Scott
Jim Errington	Ian & Karen Scott
Valerie Fisher	Robert & Ann Scott
George William Fraser	Esme Slattery
Elizabeth Hawkins	June Todd
Tom Henderson	Jenny Turnbull
Margaret Davies Hibbard	Robert & Ann Ward
Mevrille Hodgson	Delcia Westwater
Samuel Hunter	Fred Westwater
Gina Jack	David and Jean York
John Jackson	Maureen York

Tanfield Today

Head Teacher Graeme Lloyd gave his first report to the Governors of the School in September, in which he stated that he felt that there are exciting and challenging times ahead for him and the school. He stated generously that Archie Howat had left Tanfield in a strong position and it now fell to him to lead this talented staff to the next level of development.

It was also reported to the governors how the new academic year had begun well, the new year 7 pupils had settled in with little fuss so far, and generally seemed polite, enthusiastic and focused.

Can you remember? Was it like that in your first days at Tanfield? Please write and tell us of your memories of starting school at Tanfield - were you thrown in the nettles or over the wall, or pushed in the Houghall Beck or other horrifying things we had heard about at Junior School. Did you make new friends? Were you frightened by anything or anyone (apart from Dr Sharpe)? How quickly did you adapt to your new school at Tanfield? Please let us know!

It is also noted that once again parents are voting with their feet - Year 7 (1st year) admission maximum has once again been reached.

In Key Stage 3 tests (age 14 years) the Science and Mathematics results are well above the national average again this year.

GCSE level (August 2005) - the school once again achieved a high level of 50% passes of five grades at C or above. Subjects that did particularly well were Science, Technology, Textiles, Graphics, Food Technology, Art and Design, History, Geography and Business Studies.

Two of the teaching staff who are also members of the Tanfield Association retired in August

1. Elizabeth Hawkins was described by Graeme as an excellent classroom teacher of English and a dedicated Head of Year. She was also responsible for producing the two Tanfield books '80 Years On' and '90 Years On'.
2. Gerry Barker (pupil 1965 - 1969) retired early on health grounds, Graeme describes Gerry as an excellent classroom teacher and a valued member of the technology department who played an important part in its recent success.
3. The best wishes of staff go out to them.

Five new teachers joined the school in September in the departments of English, mathematics, P.E. and Technology.

AGM

The AGM, cleverly disguised as a Cheese and Wine Evening, was held on Wednesday 28th September at school. This was a special meeting in that its main purpose was to say farewell to one headmaster and welcome another. Attendance was a little disappointing but the weather was atrocious and there was Champions League football on television that evening !!

In the absence of the Association's chairman, Warren Pescod, the meeting was chaired by Ted Brabban who swiftly covered the formal

business of the evening and proceeded to the very special other business.

On behalf of the Association, Ted thanked Archie Howat for all his wonderful work throughout his many years at Tanfield School and for his unfailing support of the Association. He reiterated previous good wishes to Archie for a long and happy retirement with a hope that we would see him at future Association events. Ted concluded by asking everyone to raise their glasses in a toast "To Archie".

Archie responded by thanking Ted for his kind words and good wishes .He said that it had been a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of Tanfield School and he would treasure his memories of his time at the school. Archie commended the work done by the Association for the school and confirmed that he was still a fully paid up member and was looking forward to being involved on a more social level rather than in his previous official role. Graeme acknowledged that Archie was indeed a hard act to follow but he was looking forward to continuing Archie's good work and meeting challenge of taking the school forward.

Before declaring the meeting closed , Ted Brabban had one further vote of thanks to

make - to the Association's secretary , Fred Westwater. Ted thanked a visibly embarrassed Fred for his tireless and unstinting work for the association, recognising that , without Fred, the association simply would not exist - sentiments which were soundly endorsed by everyone present and which will surely be echoed by all the Association's members.

Without more ado, the formalities of the evening were brought to a close , allowing everyone to get down to some serious sampling of the delicious cheeses and wine which had been so well organised and presented by Susan Smith and Catherine Hanson

Golden Jubilee Year Photograph

The photograph below is form 1B in 1962 taken on the grass in front of the main school building, and Mr Harold Robertson is the form teacher. We know of Miles Handy (back row, third from left) and Neville Bougard

(back row, eighth from left), but we need your help in identifying the other twenty seven pupils. Please write or telephone if you can help us with the identification.



Remembrance Day Service

The school Conference Room was the central venue for the Service of Remembrance, and while members of the Tanfield Association and representative groups of pupils joined together for their service, the rest of the school in their Tutor Groups conducted their own Acts of Remembrance.

A very impressive start was made when all visitors were met by well-turned out and very smart year 7 pupils who were trained in the conducting of visitors to their venue. It was an absolute pleasure to be met in such a way and gave a very impressive start to the occasion. It was also very pleasing to have Jim Brown, Chair of the School Governing Body, in attendance giving his support to the Remembrance Day Service.

The Conference Room was set out in a very appropriate manner for the service, with British Legion posters and displays of Poppies facing rows of chairs, each with the Order of Service placed on the seat. At the centre of the Remembrance Displays stood the Second World War Memorial Plaque dedicated 11th November 2004.

The Service commenced with a warm welcome to all visitors by Head Teacher Graeme Lloyd, who also said how important it was to have the Tanfield Association members joining together with pupils of the school for this service of remembrance. Professor Warren Pescod was asked to say a few words as President of the Tanfield Association. He said how pleasing it was to see so many members there, and he also stressed the importance of the Remembrance Service. He then introduced the Rev. John Maughan who was conducting the service.

A short address was given by Rev. John Maughan the theme was Remembering and Peace, how in remembering the horrors of war and the terrible loss of so many young lives, we should always seek for Peace and Love and Caring in this world today.

The Hymn "Make Me a Channel of your Peace" was sung accompanied by the Association's accomplished pianist June Todd

(pupil 50-57). Two New Testament passages were given by two senior members of the school teaching staff, Alan Johnston read Matthew 5 verses 1-12 and Susan Smith read John 15 verses 9-7. This was followed by pupils of the school reading out the names of former pupils who did not return from both the 1st World War and 2nd World War.

Then, probably the most moving episode of the service took place, when Captain Joicey Craven RA (pupil 32-37) veteran of the Second World War and Christopher Alexander year 8 pupils (2nd year) walked to the front arm-in-arm together and laid Poppy Wreaths at the foot of the Second World War Memorial Plaque. This was an extremely touching moment and powerful emotions were felt by all gathered there.

Rev Maughan then led prayers followed by all present saying the Grace together. Everyone then left the Conference Room and gathered in the School Quadrangle to be joined by hundreds of pupils with their teachers. When everyone was in place Captain Craven (85 years young) stepped smartly forward, his medals shining on his breast, and in a loud voice that any Regimental Sergeant Major would have been proud of, gave the extract from Laurence Binyonn's poem "For the Fallen"

"They shall not grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will Remember Them"

This followed by his giving of the Khoima Exhortation, written by an unknown soldier of The Durham Light Infantry.

"When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today"

John Stephenson (Head of Music) played very professionally the Last Post which was followed by the Two Minutes Silence. John then sounded Reveille which ended the Remembrance proceedings. Tanfield Association Members found a hot cup of tea or coffee waiting for them and the pupils and staff went to their mid-morning break.

It would be safe to say that no one could fail to be impressed with the School Remembrance Service - the excellent organisation by Susan Smith (Assistant Head Teacher), the outstanding attitude of pupils who were a real credit to by the school, the conducting of the service by Rev John Maughan and the willing and accomplished participation of all who helped, must make Head Teacher Graeme Lloyd very proud of our school.

A Group of Tanfield Association Members on Remembrance Day



A Sports Achievement Appeal

Alan Johnston (pupil 1966-73) Senior member of the school teaching staff has volunteered to take on quite a large project on behalf of the Tanfield Association. The project is to list people who, while at school or in after school years, achieved in sport.

Alan has some considerable knowledge of the world of sport at Tanfield, but freely admits that he needs help, so we would like all members to put on their thinking caps and supply us with names of people and the sport in which they achieved. It could be at a local level, district level, county level or international

level. Please don't let anyone think their contribution may not be very important or worthy. We would welcome any information of sporting achievement.

Many of us know about Colin Milburn who played cricket for England, but we also need to know about those who achieved in sport at school or afterwards.

Please write and tell us your thoughts or telephone the secretary. We would be very grateful for your assistance.

MEMBERS' LETTERS

It's always good to receive letters from members expressing their appreciation of the newsletter or one of the Association's events or even just to let us know where they are now and what they're doing. Here's a selection from places far and near.....

The Revd. Peter Atkinson

Dear Fred,
I need to let you know that I recently retired and moved from Aylesbury to Knaresborough - quite a bit nearer to Durham and Stanley !

I would also like to say how much I enjoyed the article on Roland Proud in the last issue of the newsletter. Of all the members of staff who taught me in the 1950's , he is possibly the best remembered.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Marjorie Curnow

Dear Fred,
I really must thank you and the Association for organising the wonderful World War II commemoration Evening in June. It was a night to remember.

Do you by any chance have any spare song sheets ?

Kindest regards
Marjorie Curnow

Bill Armstrong

Dear Fred,
It was great to receive the Tanfield Association newsletter.

It's now over 40 years since I came to live and work in Canada and since I retired in 1996 , we split our time between our homes in Ontario and Florida. Bets, my wife, doesn't like the cold winters so we head south each year from December to April.

We have two sons and three grandchildren who we try to see as often as possible when we're not busy with our hobbies - Bets quilting and me restoring old planes , building full size replicas and researching the aviation industry in Toronto.

Please give my regards to any of the old gang that you see.

Take care,

Bill