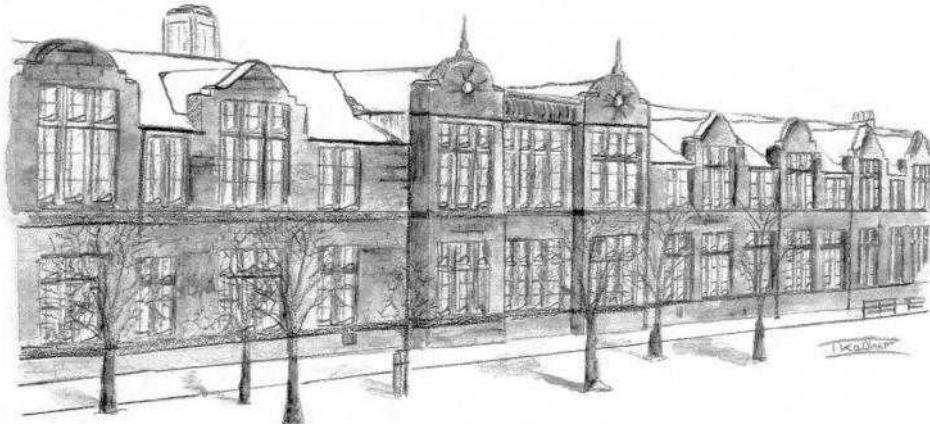


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Issue

No. 14

Newsletter Summer 07

Editorial and Contents

Thank you all for the contributions to the newsletter. It is great that former pupils in far away places still remember kindly their time at Tanfield School. We have printed in this issue a list of overseas members and, hopefully, the names may remind the many readers of the newsletter of good times and perhaps re-kindle old friendships.

We have also in this issue tried to explain how the school has changed over the last ten years with separate science buildings, a technology and engineering building and a separate sports hall. I hope you find the new layout interesting.

Two ‘usuals’ in this issue. Firstly let us remind you about the school’s 95th anniversary celebrations on the 16th October and secondly, all members are still asked to be recruiting agents. If you know of, or are still in contact with former pupils who are not yet members, can I ask you to encourage them to join the association?

Membership – Recruitment

This is an appeal to all Tanfield Association members to assist us in our recruitment drive for new members. Most of our present members will know someone who attended Alderman Wood/Stanley Grammar/Tanfield School as a pupil and is not yet a member of the Association.

Please send their names and addresses to the secretary by letter or telephone, as on the Newsletter heading. Your help will be greatly appreciated, as this is our only way of spreading the word and enlarging the membership.

Even if you are not sure as to whether they are members or not, please still send their names and we will check against the membership list before sending the information pack inviting them to join with us.

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Assistant Secretary

The Working Executive at their last meeting took great pleasure in appointing John Hogg of Dipton, as Assistant Secretary of the Tanfield Association. This position is felt to be an important one in the working of the association, and it is expected that John will bring new ideas of interest, as well as good practice to the job. President, Professor Warren Pescod was also heard to say “as well as propping the old man up” (Secretary Fred of course).

It is hoped to give an in-depth profile of John in the next Newsletter, but briefly one or two highlights from John’s career are as follows:-

Head Boy (Stanley Grammar) 1961;
Teacher Training in Science (Biology);
Teacher in County Durham;
Education/Mission work in Africa;
Methodist Local Preacher;
Semi-retired/part time teaching in County Durham.

Recently moved from a house in Annfield Plain to a bungalow in Dipton.

Impressions from a Brief Encounter

Having finally succumbed to the persuasive powers of the Tanfield Association enforcer, I allowed my name to go before the Executive Committee with a view to becoming his assistant. The proposal met with approval and I now find myself ‘in post’. The first requirement was a familiarisation visit which was duly arranged. I spent a couple of hours meeting people, wallowing in old memories and seeing new developments.

It was quite refreshing to be politely greeted and offered unsolicited assistance by several students and not to have to take protective evasive action on the corridors during lesson change. I make

this comment in the light of the last five years spent ‘supplying’ in various guises in a dozen or more of Durham County secondary schools. I was also quite impressed by the quality and level of equipment on view although I did not visit all departments.

I am now looking forward to helping with the Association’s various activities, particularly its supportive role in respect of the progress and development of the school.

John E Hogg
9th May 2007

Tanfield Yesterday

The following articles were taken from the Grammarians (School Magazine) Summer 1951.

EXTRACT FROM MR HARDY'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 1950.

“I gather from your letter that the building programme has been held up and you are wondering why. A little while ago I had a very courteous letter from Durham, asking if I would be kind enough to give my consent to the building on the Playing Field of a new Assembly Hall, which the County Architect said could not be built anywhere else on the school site and the legal deeds required my consent. I replied at

once stating that as far as I was concerned, I saw no objection at all seeing that the building would not interfere with the sports activities of the school, and I would be glad to give my consent so that formalities could be completed. I hope the legal authorities will hurry up and let the work go on”.

This letter and other tributes to Mr Hardy were printed in the Grammarians of Summer 1951, following the death of Mr Hardy earlier that year.

Other news items from the editorial of this issue of the Grammarians (Editor Kathleen Lawson).

The right honourable William Whitley M.P. was the speaker for Speech Day, Mr Whitley also presented a fine Oak screen to the school, which was made by our own Handicrafts Master Mr Harrison.

Congratulations to John Maughan a recent former pupil of the school, who won an Amateur Cup Winners Medal whilst playing left back for Pegasus, the combined University Team which won the Amateur Football Challenge Cup this season - Examinations under the Associate Board of the Royal School of Music:- successes include Sylvia Ward and Florence Hutchinson - Distinction in both lower and grade V, Margaret Armstrong grade V Merit, Joan Hobbs grade V1 Distinction, Cecil Johnson Lower Merit.

The following Scouts of the 1st Annfield Plain Troop have qualified for the Fireman's Badge: - C Beecroft, T.Clark, R. Hutchinson, S.Muirhead, W.Pescod, A.Porter, E.Rainbow, R.Rose and D.York. Not to be outdone the following 3rd Stanley Rangers have also qualified for this badge: - Dorothy Hardy, Betty Shield, Catherine Bell, Sheila Lyons, Jean Ross, and Jean Rainbow. Congratulations to the following who won the Kings Scout Badge recently: - Colin Armstrong, Brian Price, Richard Rose, Eric Rainbow, and David York, and also to Sheila Lyons who is the only girl in the school (or in the district) who has gained the Queen's Guide Badge.

Other articles in this issue of the Grammarians include an interesting article written by Richard Rose, V1 on a visit by most of the Science V1th form to the N.C.B. Laboratories at Oxhill, where all the analysis work on coal, witherite, mine air and mine water is carried out.

School Football Team had a successful run in the Tyneside Schools Shield Competition, beating Jarrow G.S and Houghton G.S. 5-3 and 4-0 respectively in the preliminary rounds gaining way into a semi-final tie. After a keen game Heaton G.S. finally came off the victors and thus far the second year running we failed to reach the final. The school was represented by Snell, York, Pescod (Captain), Hillcoat, Richards, Greenwell, Patterson, Batty, Temple, Askew, Holgate, Lewins, Dawson and Appleton.

A very pleasing feature of the season has been the spirit of keen competition, and good sportsmanship has been evident in each game.

Local Business advertising in this edition of the Grammarians are:- Shimelds - M.W. & A Dodgson - Lukes - Watson's Garage - Carlyons - Nellie Lumley - Grundys - Dinky Snack Bar (Market Hall) - Dunns Ltd - R.K. Shield.

The very elaborate Front Cover of this Grammarians was designed by Fenwick Lawson.

(Editors note - for any further information on the above items please contact the Secretary)

An International Organisation

Just recently a visitor from the USA was talking to a lady from Tantobie, the visitor enquired after the lady's large family. The lady replied that they were all fine and in good health and she saw them regularly as they were all living nearby except her youngest daughter who had moved away. "Oh!" said the widely travelled visitor, "and where is she living now?", expecting the reply to be London, or Wales or Scotland. "She has gone to live at Annfield Plain", said the lady, giving a great sigh!

Well for those of us who have not travelled very far from home to live and work, perhaps moving two or three miles away may seem a long way, (on the other hand, I hope it wasn't the fact that her daughter had moved to Annfield Plain?) In

France

Alan Arkless	pupil 58-66
Jean Clouseau	pupil 44-51
Eileen Portsmouth	pupil 53-58
David Portsmouth	pupil 53-58

Netherlands

Claire Proctor	pupil 81-86
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Germany

Margaret Fisk	pupil 50-57
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Australia

Ernest Miller	pupil 47-52
June Miller	pupil 47-52
Wendy Starkie	pupil 50-56

New Zealand

Ken Bragan	pupil 39-44
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Canada

Bill Armstrong	pupil 51-58
Joan Bennett	pupil 50-56
Jim Burrows	pupil 53-60
Barbara Davison	pupil 54-60
Claire Gullmes	pupil 82-87
Sam Hunter	pupil 43-50
Joan Oland	pupil 52-59
David York	pupil 49-56
Jean York	pupil 49-56

USA

Jim Errington	pupil 63-70
Margaret Patterson	pupil 42-48
Alan Pearson	pupil 62-69

Bermuda

Bob Patterson	pupil 44-51
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the Tanfield Association we can boast that we have members ranging from deepest Oxhill and New Kyo to addresses world wide. We are a very small organisation of 300 members with recruitment by word-of-mouth, but if we don't have quantity, as our secretary is always saying "we have the finest quality in our membership".

We thought the following list may be of interest, to know who is now living outside the U.K., but through the Tanfield Association still linked and very much a part of our family at Tanfield.

If any member wishes to contact someone on the Overseas List, the Secretary will be pleased to supply further information.

Gourec	
Baccon	
Orgeval	
Orgeval	
Almere	
Bad Liebenzell, Southern Germany	
Kallaroo, Western Australia	
Kallaroo, Western Australia	
Newport Beach, New South Wales	
Wamaka	
Markham, Ontario	
Port Hardy, British Columbia	
Cobble Hill, British Columbia	
Strathmore, Alberta	
Maple Ridge, British Columbia	
Victoria, British Columbia	
Oak Bluff, Manitoba	
North Vancouver, British Columbia	
North Vancouver, British Columbia	
Marina Del Ray, California	
Merritt Island, Florida	
Centreville, Florida	
Hamilton Parish	

Dr. John Wilson remembers teachers at Tanfield.

John started at the Alderman Wood School in 1943 for which his parents had to pay the princely sum of £6 per term. The Butler Education Act later converted the establishment into a Grammar School and there was no longer a charge. John's mother had been one of the first entrants to the school in 1912, when it was a Pupil Teaching Centre under the headship of Mr. Stringer.

John can remember many of the teachers:
Nora Hakin, his French teacher, and his first form mistress.

'Ganny' Jeffries (History)
Miss Nixon (Maths)
'Bart' Gunn (Chemistry)

Miss Miller (French) She was of Anglo-Indian descent and wore a thick lined 'pixie' hat to protect her from draughts. She lived at the Gunn household and whether or not she wore her hat in bed or in the bath were the subjects of endless speculation by pupils.

'Pete' Livesey (Physics) lived next door to the Gunns.

John Scott (Chemistry) commuted each day from Chester-le-Street.

'Fuzz' Fewster (Maths) who admonished one Kenneth Laverick for a finger drawing of a bald head, with one solitary hair and labelled 'Fuzz' in the classroom window condensation.

'Little El' Elliot (Maths), who lived in an old detached house near the railway bridge before reaching Barn Hill.

Miss Nichol (English) gave John an enduring love of Wordsworth. She had a sense of humour, but could also be intimidating.

Miss Allison (English) John's first English teacher, and a very likeable person. He can remember making very heavy weather of parsing and of trying to write essays for her.

Miss Boyd (French)
Miss Arkless (Latin and Greek)

Miss Smith- a lady distinguished by her sweaters and the fact that she was the first person at school to own a ball-point pen.

Miss Mortimer (Maths) a tall and formidable Scottish lady with a ramrod straight back and a twinkle in her eye.

Jack Dobbs (Music) He is remembered as a lovely man who did an enormous amount to promote music in the school. He also taught English and started the school magazine.

After military service, there were some changes in the staff. Mr. Proud and Mr. Gee (both Maths) joined the staff and both were highly regarded. They were also much younger than the other male members of staff.

A P.E, teacher called Mr. Ellis was at the school in 1943 when John started, but he was conscripted into the forces and replaced by Bob Chapman-a pleasant and effective teacher, who maintained order without bullying.

Mr. Harrison taught Woodwork-lessons from which John has benefited to this day.

Miss Lumsden taught the girls Cookery, whilst the boys did Woodwork. The only lesson the boys had from her was on the first day, in the school dining room when she taught them how to set out cutlery and how to use it. Those pupils who had to pay for school dinners were segregated on the platform from the rest of the pupils who sat in the body of the hall

This practice stopped in about 1944.

Mr. Carr, the head teacher, was affectionately known as 'Pongo'. He was a Quaker, and did not believe in corporal punishment. On the outbreak of war, he was taken away by the police as a potential collaborator because there happened to be a young German man holidaying with the the Carrs at Clough Dene on September 3rd 1939. Fortunately, he was soon released.

There was not a Biology Department at Tanfield in John's day, so those who wished to study medicine had to go to Consett or Houghton Grammar Schools to do Higher School Certificate. In 1948, John was the first person to go from Tanfield to Consett when a Biology Department opened there.

Of former pupils, John remembers the very gifted Fenwick Lawson and his lovely wife Joan Rooke. Although John lives in London, he has managed to see Fenwick's work at Jarrow, Lindisfarne and Durham.

During his medical career, John has worked in different parts of the country including Maudsley, Guy's and Great Ormond Street Hospitals in London. On his retirement in 1996, John held the position of Consultant Neurologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Although John has had such a distinguished career, he still has fond memories of his friends

in the Stanley area. He particularly remembers, as a boy, playing on the sands with Fred Westwater and visiting the Westwater sweet shop in Stanley Front Street. This became John's Mecca on a weekend because it sold foreign postage stamps.

95 Years 1912 – 2007

Our School at Tanfield will celebrate its 95th Birthday on 16th October 2007, and it could be said she looks as good now as she ever did. Over the years the school has been extended, refurbished, added to, renovated, re-equipped, and the original building of 1912, restored. Today we have a school whose buildings are extensive and right up-to-date, furnishings and equipment of first class order, facilities envied by many other educational establishments, dedicated highly skilled staff, and, very importantly, pupils who are achieving very highly each year.

How lucky we are to be associated with Tanfield School today, but of course, it did not just happen by accident. The above description of

the school is the result of a great deal of very hard work by a number of people. Perhaps the greatest impact of this effort has been evident in recent years under the leadership of Head Teacher Archie Howat and Deputy Head Teacher Eric Fisk, and the continuation of this work by the present Head Teacher Graeme Lloyd.

Through the Newsletter, the Tanfield Association members extend their very best wishes to Graeme and we would assure him of our total support in furthering the interests of Tanfield School in the future. Nearer the date of 16th October we will be requesting members to send cards or other forms of birthday greetings to the school.

School Playing (Sports) Field

It is interesting to read the extract of Mr Hardy's letter regarding his giving of the school playing field and his consent being sought by County Hall before they could build on the edge of it.

This issue first came to the Tanfield Associations attention last year when two of our senior members, Joicey Craven and Barbara Churcher told us that Mr Hardy, Tanfield's first Head Teacher, had purchased the field and donated it for use as a playing field for the school. There is no record in school of this

event having taken place and no-one at the present school has any knowledge of it. County Hall up to the present time has no documentation regarding the playing field being given by Mr Hardy. However, this written evidence through the Grammarians Magazine of Summer 1951 is proof that it did happen.

We intend to pursue this issue further and will keep members informed of any developments.

Some Recollection of my Time at AWS 1933 - 1939

I was at AWS from July 1933 to May 1939 when I left to enter to the Ministry of Labour in Newcastle a time when a period of turbulence and change was starting for everyone and I soon lost contact with most of my contemporaries but two of your contributors struck a chord. I suspect that David Yorke could be brother to Lillian Yorke who was in my class at Alderman Wood whilst Joan Charlton was in the year before mine.

She was a classmate of my late sister Joyce whose old address book lists Joan at Girton College. Through my sister I knew that Joan wrote poetry and at least once was invited to recite some on the local BBC which I thought quite remarkable. George Bolam a year or two earlier also went to Cambridge and read Mathematics. Joan Charlton and my sister were members of what academically was a vintage year. The top four places in that year never varied: Alan Nattrass was always 1st Joan Charlton 2nd Winnie Lowes 3rd and my sister 4th. Both Joan and Winnie gained State Scholarships and I believe Alan became a research scientist. My sister left after School Certificate to start work in a tax office. My own year was less academic again there were four, John Cresswell, Bessie Ovington and myself. John Bailes went onto university, while John Cresswell and I both entered the Civil Service. I don't know what Bessie did after school but she spent the war in the WAAF. John Bailes became a lecturer at Leeds doing research on dialects and accents. Robert Armstrong went to university and took a BSc in Chemistry. Eric Scott from Causey became a teacher somewhere in this area. Most of the others sat the Civil Service General Clerical exams either late 1938 or spring 1939. I don't know where the girls went but I think some entered teacher training which was still the school's basic raison d'être.

I have every confidence that the pupils in my class and the other classes in that year were well capable of qualifying for a degree but that was an option only where parents could afford it.

In 1937 my brother started in the first year so the three of us were at AWS together. John Cresswell had an older brother (Lawrence?) in the fifth or sixth when we entered. Bessie Ovington's older brother Oswald attended Alderman Wood before our time and went on to university. Warwick Bolam brother of George entered the Civil Service in London was accepted for aircrew in the RAF and lost his life. Like his brother Warwick was a natural mathematician. I believe he was the only one in our class selected to do calculus. I learned only recently that Warwick had a much younger brother Ken who qualified as a doctor after leaving school. Another lad in my class Charlie Bradley served as aircrew and survived. Tommy Russell in the same year was also aircrew was shot down over Germany and made a POW. In my class I know of four of us who went in the Navy: Alan Dodd Jimmy Elliott John Nunn and myself, but most of the others in the year must have served in the forces. It may seem strange that so many of us took the Civil Service exams but at that time that was the only non-coal industry avenue for those who did not have professional business or commercial family connections - nor was it a soft option. There were 7/8000 candidates for each of the bi-annual competitions of which only 1000 were accepted except the spring exam in 1939 where the list was extended to 1500. That was the last competition until after the war. The starting salary of £75 p.a rising to £105 at age 18 seems paltry nowadays but for those allocated to positions locally it was very good money; for those sent to London it was hard going.

Mary Vincenti's older brother Peter the Stanley ice cream family was ahead of us in the sixth. I remember his regular task on Sports Day was running the ice cream stall. Henry Templeton passed the Civil Service executive grade exam and went to the Air Ministry as a meteorologist. He was followed at Tanfield by twin brothers about the same age as my brother.

In the year before mine Joyce Greenwell Mary Hather and Betty Paxton all had sisters who followed them at Tanfield.

In my brother's year his friend Donald Horsefield son of a local headmaster had an older sister Sheila. Another of Gordon's friends known as Scotchy had to move to Hookergate after School Certificate to study the biology he needed for medicine which reminds me that in my class Joanna Morrison and Neil Parry both were doctor's children so if they wished to become doctors also they would have had to transfer. Was Biology ever included in the Tanfield curriculum before it lost the sixth form?

There would be many more siblings at the school, but these few examples show that Alderman Wood brought together a collection of local children with potential ability to do well in the days when the schools catchment area was reputed to be the largest UDC in England. That is not surprising considering that as recorded in Durham County Education Yearbook in 1923 of the local annual total of 11000 children in the area 1100 were sifted tested and interviewed to fill 100 places at Alderman Wood of whom 60 paid no fees. It produced a range of talent comparable with any grammar school in the country.

When I returned to this area in the late 80s I spent some time researching the origins and growth of the area including the chronology of school building.

Some remarkable efforts were made in the field of local education over many years but Alderman Wood School was a major advance in the quality of its building facilities and equipment qualifications of staff and comprehensive pupil selection system. Looking back I realise that it was unusual in being both non-denominational and co-educational which I believe at that time was not the norm in the majority of long established grammar schools of which I think the vast majority were single sex and/or had some sort of faith based governance or similar connection.

These musings necessarily skate over wide areas where I have no useful data. If anyone can help I would be grateful for any contributions.

There remains for possible future attention some account of the history of the school inaugurated at a time when this area was very prosperous and wealthy but which had to function when the area became one suffering recurring periods of deep depression and extreme poverty.

Roger Clough
Lanchester
(Pupil 1933 - 1939)

“Carole Clegg & Speakeasy”

Following the very successful event of the 94th Birthday event in November 2006, when the above Band entertained us with a tremendous programme of first class music. The Executive Committee by popular request have engaged “Carole Clegg & Speakeasy” to be our entertainment Band on Saturday 24th November 07 (95th Birthday Celebration).

We have never had so many people say how much they enjoyed the evening entertainment given to us by Carole and Speakeasy last November, and how much they would like them

to come back again if possible (and that's not including the enthusiastic fans of Ted Spears and Ed and Brenda Carrington, who were in great admiration of their dancing). The food will again be in the form of a Hot and Cold Buffet provided by South Moor Golf Club Catering, we all look forward to their excellent provision of scrumptious nourishment. It is also very pleasing that Carole and husband Eric are members of the Tanfield Association and are keen to give support in all we do. However, we have discovered there is more to it than the Band's leaders being members, we have also

found out that the Band evolved from a group of young people who formed a Band while they were pupils at Stanley Grammar School in the 1960's.

The following may be of some interest:- In the beginning the idea was Billy Golightly's, who was a Junior Leader of Annfield Plain Central Methodist Youth Club, "for any interested members to form a traditional jazz band".

The year was 1960.

The Band was called "The YAMA YAMA Jazzmen" after the tune by Wilbur de Paris called "The Yama Yama Man" and the tune was adopted as their signature tune.

The original line-up who were all Stanley Grammar School pupils were:-

Billy Golightly -	Trumpet
Brian Chester	- Trombone
Eric Clegg	- Clarinet
John Iceton	- Banjo
Ted Spears	- Drums
Reg Harrison	- Double Bass

This line-up played at several local youth club functions and events, and soon became very popular in the Stanley area. Due to Further Education and employment demands the line-up changed and Reg Harrison was replaced on Double Bass by Eddie Piper, John Iceton was replaced on Banjo by Terry Harvey, and the Drum chair was taken by Jimmy Maughan, and the Band changed its name to the "Phoenix Jazzmen" as it had arisen from the ashes of the previous band. It was this Band that was chosen to represent the North of England at the National event of the U.K. Methodist Association of Youth Clubs at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1961, to perform in front of thousands of young people.

In the same year Carole Long was added to the Band as Vocalist. Carole married Eric in 1967 (their Ruby Wedding Anniversary is this year), and they continued to perform in various Bands at home and abroad with a variety of top jazz musicians. They now are the leaders of their own very successful Band "Carole Clegg & Speakeasy" whose policy is to encourage young musicians to play and enjoy jazz.

Their current drummer, Tim Steemson is 17 years, Bass player John Pope 22 years, and Keyboard player Chris Welsh 27 years old.

It is interesting to note that Carole and Eric were at the same age as their present drummer when it all began.

Isn't it wonderful that from that idea and start by Billy Golightly in 1960 with Stanley Grammar School pupils, Carole and Eric are now leading their own Band in performing for the Tanfield Association Members in 2007.

Most people would agree that the 95th Birthday of the school is a special birthday and therefore, for the Celebration Event we would wish to encourage as many people as possible to attend. By giving members plenty of notice (Saturday 24th November 07) it would encourage them to come not just as individuals, but also as family groups or friendship parties.

The Association events are always with tables place-named, therefore ensuring that everyone is reserved a seat. It also means that families or a group of friends can reserve their own table, so please don't delay, start now organising your family or friendship group table, and look forward to a really memorable evening together with "Carole Clegg & Speakeasy".

Tanfield School

Key to Lay - Out (not to scale)

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. | 1912 Building - Original School | 16. | Bus and Visitors Car Park |
| 2. | Engineering, Design and Technology Building | 17. | Bridge over Houghal Burn |
| 3. | Science Building | 18. | All-Weather Area |
| 4. | Administration Area | 19. | Tennis Courts |
| 5. | Joining Corridor | 20. | Flood-Lit Astro-Turf Area |
| 6. | Dining Hall | 21. | School Playing Field |
| 7. | School Kitchen | 22. | Pea Wood |
| 8. | Assembly Hall | 23. | Vehicle Entrance |
| 9. | Music Room | 24. | Main Car Park Entrance |
| 10. | Fine Art Building | 25. | Main Pupil Entrance |
| 11. | Humanities Building | 26. | Green Area |
| 12. | Sports Hall | 27. | Quadrangle |
| 13. | Gymnasium | 28. | Grassed Areas |
| 14. | House (ex caretakers) | 29. | Boundary Fence |
| 15. | Main School Car Park | | |

Tanfield School - Physical Lay-Out

So much has been written about changes to our school at Tanfield, the bringing up to date of certain areas or additions to the school, that it was felt that it may be a good idea to describe the school lay-out as it is today. This may be of special importance to members who have not been to the school since leaving as a pupil or have not visited the school for a number of years. The following description is in conjunction with the sketch map (not to scale) of the school territory and its numbered areas.

1. The Main Building of the School built and opened 16th October 1912.

Two floors - ground floor containing large conference room (where the Tanfield Association Working Executive usually meet, Heads of Years Room, five Maths teaching rooms, Toilets (staff and pupils), Large open area for senior pupils (original hall in School's early years), Spacious corridor running length of building). First floor containing five English teaching rooms, Main IT teaching room, School library with full complement of computers, Spacious staff room, Special Inclusion Room, three admin/interview rooms.

2. Engineering/Design/Technology Building containing Computer/Design room, two practical rooms (woodwork etc). Technology machine area, Technology/Engineering teaching room, Domestic Science teaching room, Food Science practical teaching room, Food Science teaching room.
3. Science Building - including Laboratory/Science rooms, Science teaching rooms.
4. Administration area - including School Main Reception area, School Office area, Head Teacher's room, Deputy Head Teacher's room.
5. Joining Corridor containing - Staff and Visitor toilets, Pupil Reception area, Pupil lockers, entrances to Science Building, Dining Hall, Stage area and Assembly Hall, Deputy Head Teachers room.
6. Dining Hall (Pupils and Staff)

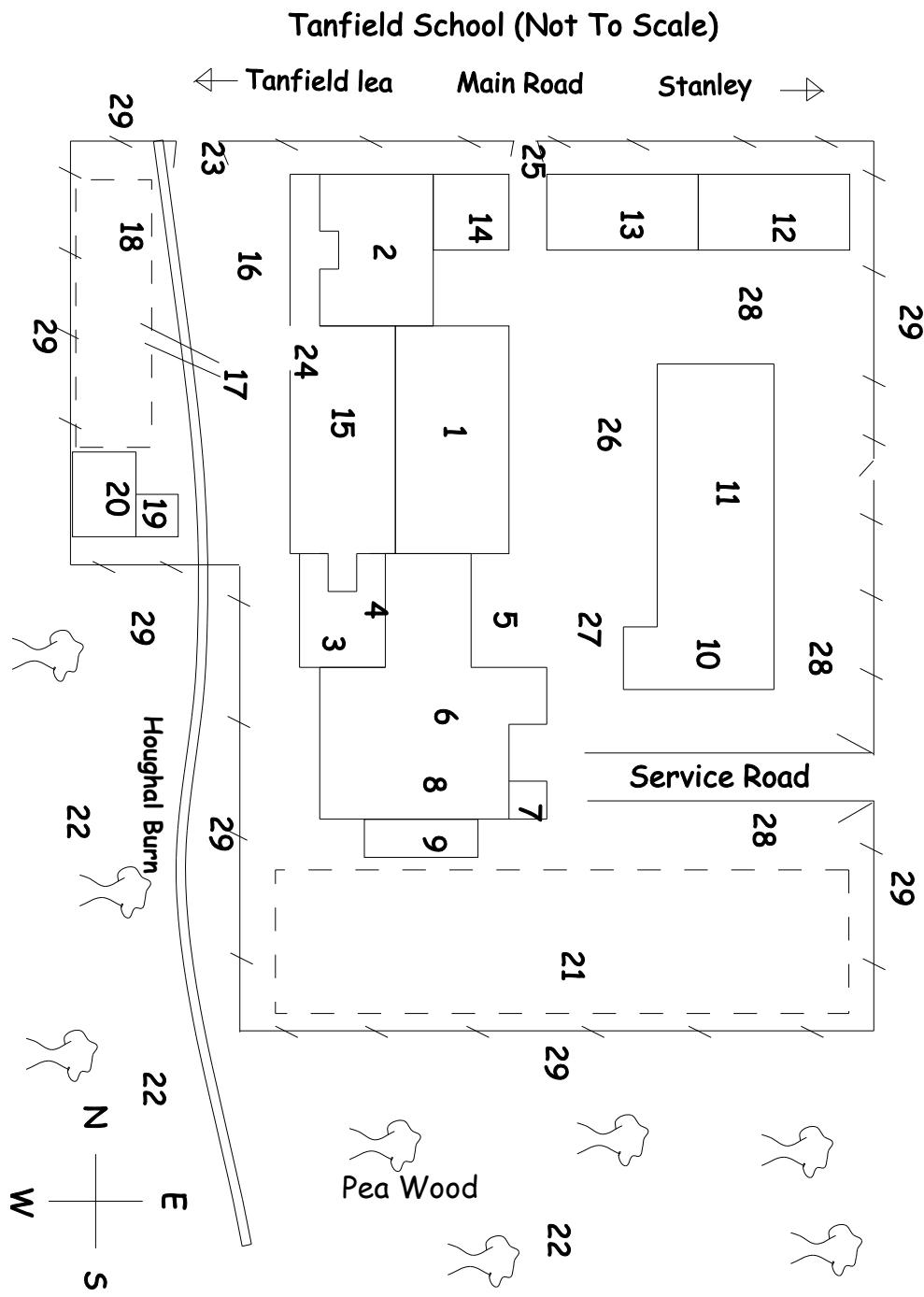
7. School kitchen with delivery entrances to rear.
8. Assembly Hall with large stage area.
9. Music room teaching area - equipped with latest technological advances in music, two music practice rooms.
10. Fine Art Building consisting of four areas for teaching, display and practical work.
11. Humanities Building - two floors containing teaching rooms for, History, Geography, Religious Education, Business Studies, French, German and IT.
12. Sports Hall - a very large building the same height as the two floored Humanities Building could cater for six Badminton courts or a full 5 a side pitch.
13. Gymnasium and separate Boys and Girls changing rooms with showers in each area.
14. House (former Caretakers house) now let to Social Services as office accommodation - providing income for School.
15. Main Car Park for all staff and some visitors, unloading area for Admin area.
16. Bus park and visitors car parking area.
17. Sturdy concrete and firm railed bridge across the Houghall Burn from bus/car park to all weather area.
18. All Weather Area, used for athletics and ball games.
19. Tennis Courts - two full courts (well used) also area used for school emergency gathering area (evacuation of buildings etc)
20. Flood-Lit astro-turf area size of a full 5 a side football pitch also hired out to community groups.
21. School Playing Field - playing field area given to school by first Head Teacher Mr Hardy used for cricket, football and general sports.
22. Pea Wood still the same wood recognised by generations of pupils at Tanfield.
23. Main entrance for all vehicles
24. Entrance to main school car park (through what was the original school boundary wall)
25. Main entrance for pupils (traditional school gates) pedestrians only.
26. Green area (grass and trees) between the two main buildings - except for paved area running right along the front of the 1912 building, still the promenade as it has been down through the years.
27. Paved quadrangle area used for pupils and outdoor events.
28. Eight foot high metal boundary fence around the perimeter of school grounds apart from security reasons also to stop people using and abusing the playing field and other grassed areas as dog's toilet etc. One local resident rode his horse across the field during a cricket match (against another school). The teacher in charge stopped the game and asked the rider what he was doing there the man replied "well I have to exercise the horse somewhere" and continued on across the field and back again!
29. Grassed areas around the school interacted with paths as required. In addition to the above the school has

playing across the main road from the school, two full size football pitches. (On land reclaimed from 'West Shield Row Colliery site).

Over the boundary to the east (Stanley direction) overlooking the Humanities building is the residential area known locally as "Good Street

Estate". Over the boundary to the west (Tanfield Lea direction) is also a large residential area known locally as the "Brown Estate".

We hope the below sketch map and description are helpful but please telephone or write for more clarification or further information on any aspect.



David Brown - Sunderland AFC/England Youths Under 16's

David joined Tanfield School from East Stanley Primary in September 2002 having been involved with Academy football at Sunderland AFC for 4 years. Sunderland had recognised his ability at an early age and had subsequently enrolled him at the tender age of 8.

David had also played Youth Football in the Monkton Junior League for Silksworth Pumas having been awarded, in 2002, the League 'Player of the Season'. David left junior football a year later to concentrate on his Academy involvement.

In August 2006 David's ability was recognised by the England Youth Team selectors and after attending a training camp was called up for the England Under 16 Youth Team, managed by Kenny Swain. David made his debut at left

back, against a strong Scotland team, at Scunthorpe United's ground. England beat Scotland 2-1 and subsequently won the Victory Shield.

David continues to show great promise and in January/February 2006 was chosen to be part of the Sunderland Under 18 squad for the FA Youth Cup, playing at the Stadium of Light.

Currently, David has been offered a two-year Scholarship with Sunderland AFC followed by a one-year contract at the age of 18.

We wish David well and look forward to his first team debut appearance in the football league or better still in the Premiership.

Gemma Proud - Trampolinist - Great Britain

Gemma is in year 11 at Tanfield School and has been trampolining for about 5 ½ years. She currently trains 6 days a week at her club in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Gemma is currently a triple North East Champion, having gained the crown at under 13, 15 and under 17 levels. In 2006 she won the North East Championships as well as being rated 10th best at under 15 in Britain and 7th best at under 17. Gemma gained 2nd place in the National Schools' Trampolining Championships in 2007.

Representing the Great Britain team, Gemma finished 5th in the David Ward-Hunt Cup and in a recent International competition in Prague

finished 3rd. Gemma's trophy collection continues to grow and her 40th was collected in an International competition in Denmark (2006) where she finished 2nd in her age group.

Gemma's sights are firmly fixed on competing in the 2012 Olympic Games. In the meanwhile she hopes to continue to represent Great Britain and be selected for the World Age Championships in Canada later this year.

We wish Gemma well for the future and hope that she can gain a gold medal in 2012 in London.

Letters

Dear Fred

I was thinking the other day that it is sixty years since I began my school days at Stanley Grammar School (still affectionately called Tanfield - its old name) memories came flooding back as they do when you get old and I could not help but remember how much these years meant to me and how much influence that time had as my subsequent life.

I still keep in touch with Margaret Little and Wendy Herdman and we meet regularly and of course reminisce about the old days. Margaret and I still remember clearly the madrigals and part-songs we sang in the sixth form as a group. Unfortunately we were both altos so the strange duet is without melody. It was good to hear from Nicholson recently (Head Boy 1952-53) who went to University to read Chemistry and I would enjoy hearing from anyone else of our era.

We are expecting my brother Ivan Hutchinson (1939-45) tomorrow to stay with us for a short time. He left S.G.S to go to South Shields Naval College and now lives in France. He kept in touch with Ramsay Hall from his school days (Ramsay became a Headmaster in Bournemouth) and Ramsay and his wife visit Ivan in France.

I think often of the influence from school. It's strange that in a life of over seventy years those seven years are so important and so indelibly printed on the memory.

Miss Allison was perhaps the greatest influence as she introduced me to classical authors and brought the words to life. As well as the 'greats' she encouraged me to read twentieth century authors (most of whom I had never heard of at the time) C.P Snow, L.P Hartley (not the fly-

fishing author!) we were taught so well by her that I still remember much of the fine detail of our set books and Shakespeare texts. Though Mr Dobbs taught me for only one year he was a great inspiration and even at the age of eleven I admired his enthusiasm and obvious erudition. It was good to have a letter from him and to immediately recognise his distinctive handwriting from my school report.

Another influence was a sixth-former, Head Girl (1946-47) - June Ross. June came from Dipton and befriended me a small first former. I greatly admired her and until that time did not believe that Oxford University was open to people from the North East. June went to St. Anne's Oxford to read English. I should love to know about her.

On a recent visit to the North East I went to Holy Island and saw the wonderful carvings in the Priory and in the Church. I was amazed to read in the accompanying literature that they had been carved by Fenwick Lawson I felt a real second-hand pride that the creator of those masterpieces had gone to 'my school' and that I had actually known him as a pupil. Mr Binks our very own imaginative though chaotic Art master would have been proud.

Thank You for the Tanfield news. I look forward to it coming.

**Florence Darby (Hutchinson)
(Pupil 1946-53)
(Editors Note)**

June Ross former Head Girl who had such an influence on Florence in her early days at Tanfield and is now on our esteemed oversees list as Mrs June Cloiseau is living in France.



The above photograph was sent to us by Ken Coulson (ex Deputy Head Teacher 1960s/1970s) of the 6th Form County Dance Group.

Dear Fred

I want to say how much I enjoyed and appreciated hearing from you and how good it is to know that Tanfield School is doing so well. I guess it has come a long way since the 1940s. Maybe we started something because the three of us who got the crazy idea of going to Medical School not having any idea of the difficulties involved were the first to do such a thing. But of course others of that year did well at University too including good friends the Boggons and of course John Maughan. If you should see him please give him my very warm regards. He not only was a very good soccer player but remarkably good at throwing the javelin at least as I remember and a good companion on our Youth Hostelling. There are few others of that year that I know something about but of course we lost contact to some extent from having to go to Houghton-le-Spring to do Biology. I'm sure that would not be necessary now.

Just a little more about that. Houghton did have some experience of getting students into Medical School and although not the brightest of our class by any means we felt we could compete there and that started to make the dream something of a reality. The other two were Dave Haw and Keith Burtin. They both got into

Back row third girl from left Wendy Herdman and fifth girl from left Florence Hutchinson (Darby).

Can anyone name others on this photograph?

Newcastle. I didn't. When having an interview I said that I wanted to go to Edinburgh, which stupidity meant that I almost failed to get in anywhere (it was particularly difficult at the time as servicemen were just starting to return and get priority). However, at the last moment, I did get accepted at Edinburgh. It was the luckiest day of my life. Dave eventually went into General Practice in the north east.

I am sending off my application to become a member of Tanfield Association and I thank you once again for bothering to get in touch with me. I hope you are having a festive season and may I wish you the best for the coming year.

**Yours sincerely
Ken Bragan
Wanaka 29/12/2006
New Zealand**

Editorial Note

Ken Bragan's father was manager at Louisa Colliery Stanley as well as being Captain of Oxhill Boys Brigade. A man held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Dear Fred

I was recently contacted by a friend from my school days, who reminded me that in 2008 it will be fifty years since we came to Tanfield (Stanley Grammar School). She and some more members of my year group had talked of planning a reunion for the class of "58".

If such a reunion were to take place I'm sure the Tanfield Association would like to be involved. I am therefore letting you know well in advance that such an idea is being circulated, so that members can make a decision on whether, and in what way, they would like to be involved. I shall of course be contacting Graeme Lloyd to float the idea with him. Perhaps you might like to mention this matter at the next meeting of the Working Executive.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Hawkins (nee Thurlaway)

Pupil and Staff Member

Chester le Street

Co Durham

PS.

Incidentally, Dr Sharpe is still alive and well, living near Grimsby. He telephoned me not so long ago to talk about old times. I think he said he is about 18 months older than the school, which should make him over 95 years now. I don't know if he would want his address to be made more available generally, but if anyone would like to write to him, I would gladly forward any letters.

(Editors Note)

The proposed above mentioned reunion was raised at the Executive meeting and they have pledged to assist in any way they can.

Perhaps there are other members who would wish to organise a reunion for their school year group. Be the numbers you are thinking of large or small, get in touch we will be pleased to help.

Dear Mrs Donkin

I have enclosed a cheque for £10 for the annual subscriptions to the Tanfield Association for myself and wife June, both residing in Australia at the address on this letterhead. We would be happy to receive only one copy of the Newsletter.

Ernest Miller

Kallaroo

Western Australia

(pupil 1947 - 52)

(Editors Note)

This letter is being published not just for the fact that a cheque was sent all the way from Australia, but also because all communications are valued and we need people to write or telephone as to how they are getting on whether it be from Durham or Australia we welcome them all.

By the way Ernest and June!, it was requested that you send us the story of your being in Australia, some time ago, - and forgive us but, we would still be very grateful if you could let us have that information.

Dear Susan,

Sam Hunter

(pupil 1943-50)

Victoria

Canada

(Editors note)

Thank you for your good wishes Sam, sorry to hear that you have some health problems, but I am sure that I speak for many friends in the Association, in sending our kindest regards to you in Canada, and please keep on communicating with us.

Please find enclosed a cheque for £5 to cover annual administration fee for the Tanfield Association. Please also pass on my best wishes for a successful Birthday Celebration.

I wish I could be there in person but unfortunately my travelling days are somewhat limited due to my dependence on Dialysis treatments. However, keeping in touch through the Newsletter is a satisfactory substitute.

Best wishes

Dear Fred



Recruitment Drive

1. You can contact my brother - address
2. Family friend - address
3. Fellow Classmate - address

Chis Morrison should be able to provide some

more addresses of our final classmates.

Please pass on my congratulations to Ted Brabban on his appointment as Vice President of the Association. You can tell him the telephone bench I made in woodworking was

Reading the latest newsletter, it was interesting to read about Colin Milburn. In my 5th and final year Colin came to Tanfield and was allocated to Watling group for the sports categories. Lucky me! I too was in Watling House and as the 6th and 5th forms amalgamated during this period I had the privilege of being in the same team as him. He was awesome. Such power and I did feel sorry for the opposition teams. One particular shot does stick out in my memory. It was one evening game and Colin was facing the school hall. He hit this particular shot with such power the ball entered the hall about 6 feet below the tops of the windows. He also succeeded in one match to lose all the balls we had been provided with. He was also a gentleman and I feel so humble to have known him.

One other interesting thing that happened more recently; I had ordered an item of furniture over the internet and one morning the doorbell rang and the delivery man stood there. He asked where I wanted it and when I replied he said with what sounded like astonishment in his

used on a daily basis until my mother's death in 1999. I have attached a photograph taken by Ted when I was in 3B (1965), I can't remember the names of the two people immediately behind me but Terry Whitehead is the one farthest away.

Alan Pearson (Upper Sixth 1968/69) Centreville Virginia (Editors note)

The congratulations were passed on to Ted Brabban and he took a copy of the photograph reproduced above, but everyone was amazed that within days of the last newsletter being sent out, the first letter back was from Alan in the USA with three addresses to send information in our recruitment drive. It was also thought that if Alan, all the way from Virginia USA can reply it puts to shame most of our members who have not bothered to even telephone.

Dear Fred

voice, "That sounds like a good North East voice." You may feel that was not too strange but as I now live in Essex it was a bit different. We continued talking and it appeared he was born in Oxhill and as I was born in South Moor that was coincidence number one. Number two was when he asked which school I went to and when I replied Tanfield his eyes went all misty as he had gone there too. The difference was only a few years and he remembered a few of the teachers and our wonderful Head-master Dr Sharpe.

I felt I had to write to you to tell you all this.

Barry B Coulthard Clacton-on-Sea Essex

Editors Note:

Thank you for your two interesting points. Could you possibly send for some more furniture, and next time when it is delivered get his name and address so we can send him information about the Tanfield Association?

