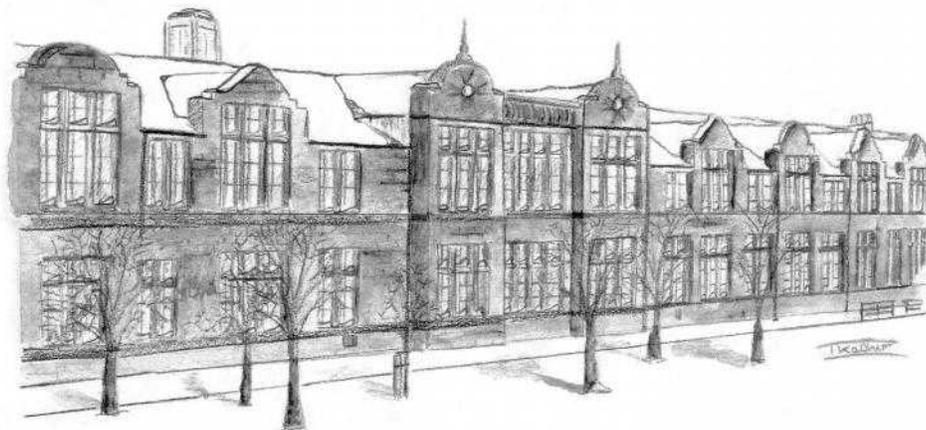


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Issue No. 15

Newsletter Summer 08

Editorial and Contents

Thanks for all the contributions to the newsletter, however, we could still do with more. We have tried to put more of your old photographs in this issue, mostly related to various sporting activities of the school. Other features this time include an article about one of our most travelled ex head boys, the usual letter features and a history of education in Tanfield. We held a very successful 95th birthday party last October and are looking forward to the 96th later this year. Please attend if you can.

Finally, if you, or know of anybody who started SGS in 1958, Elizabeth Hawkins is trying to arrange a 50th anniversary re-union in September/October this year. Please contact Elizabeth at 15 Thirlmere, Vigo, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 2JY.

School Reunion 1950 - 57

A get-together is being planned for the weekend of 19th/20th September 2008. If you attended Stanley Grammar during these years, or if you know the whereabouts of other ex-pupils from this Teddy Boy era, the organisers would love to get in touch with you. If you are interested please contact John Evans 50 Tintagel, Great Lumley, Chester-le-Street, DH3 4NF. Telephone 0191 3886885.

The organisers are looking to provide a memorable re-union, including school photographs of the time, a nostalgic kick-about with a tennis ball in the school yard, a tour of the school, evening meal at the Harperley County Hotel and afterwards drinks and chin-wag in the Harperley's private function area. If anyone has any photographs from 1950 - 57 or any memorabilia - school programmes of events, prize giving programmes or any school uniform or badges, please telephone or inform John at the above address.

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John Hogg

It was reported in our last newsletter that John accepted the position of Assistant Secretary of the Tanfield Association, and this he has done with great success. He has already been a very positive presence in the meetings of the Working Executive and its administration. The newsletter article also said we hoped to give an in-depth profile of John, and detailed below are some of the important events in John's career and life to date.

He was born in 1942 when the Second World War was at its height and his home was at Duffy Terrace, Annfield Plain. Full-time education started in 1947 during the austerity years of post war Britain, commencing at Annfield Plain Infants School, (Head Teacher Mrs Rutter), and going on to the Junior School, (Head Teacher Mr Secombe). It was here that John claims to have learned how to play football. During this Junior School period he also went to St John's Methodist Church and was enrolled in the 1st North West Durham Company of the Boy's Brigade. The Life Boys (Junior Section) was under the leadership of the renowned Thompson Robson, and the seniors and whole company was led by Captain Bill Cruddace, and Lieutenants Harry Ramsay and the well known Hall family. John remembers holidays under canvas at Stanhope, the sports, the Bible classes, the leadership and the friends, all of which helped to shape the future. He left the Boys' Brigade at 16 years of age while he was in his 5th year at Stanley Grammar School. This was also the period when he was attracted to the social evenings and dances held in the 2nd Annfield Plain Scout Hall. He also joined South Moor Youth Fellowship which met in South Moor Greenland School under the leadership of Mr Ken Bell. (At the time South Moor youth Fellowship was considered to be one of the top Youth Groups in the North East). John entered the Sixth Form at Stanley Grammar School and during this time was captain of the school football team and took a prominent part in school athletics. He remembers running with

Alan Mells in the relay team at the County Championships at Durham Johnston School. During this time at Tanfield John reminds us that we don't always remember the every-day lessons but we do remember other highlights, such as taking part in the school play "The Happiest Days of Your Life", whilst in the second year, the many sporting trips and other school events.

When asked how his time at Stanley Grammar School influenced his adult life he replied, after some thought, it taught self-confidence, to think for oneself and the ability to question. Dr Sharp (Head Teacher) told sixth formers to have their own opinions and not to follow without question. His time at Tanfield was greatly enjoyed and he tasted success and achievement, John was appointed Head Boy in 1960-61 while in the second sixth form, and we are informed from other sources that he performed this position with great credit. Apart from school football, John also played in Northern Junior League for Dipton Juniors and Catchgate Juniors.

After leaving Tanfield with 8/8 G.C.E '0' levels and 3/3 G.C.E 'A' levels, his higher education was at the University of Sheffield 1961-64, achieving a B.Sc (Hons) Zoology Degree, and at the University of Nottingham 1965-66 achieving his Post Graduate Certificate of Education. In between his University courses he taught at Whickham Secondary School 1964-65, and after Nottingham University from 1966-68 teaching Biology, Chemistry and R.E. at Dame Allan's Boys School in Newcastle.

In 1966 John qualified as a lay preacher in the Methodist Church, this was also a momentous year for John in other unforgettable ways, as he married Anne Thompson of Annfield Plain in July, on the very Saturday that England beat Germany 4-2 in the final of the World Cup (would you believe it?).

He commenced his African Teaching and educational experiences in 1968 employed by the Government of Kenya as Head of Biology at Thika High School and the Tutor at Kenyatta University College. During 1975 John came back to study for a year at The University of Newcastle, gaining a M.Biol and this was followed by two years teaching with Gateshead and Newcastle Education Authorities.

The period from 1978 to 1981 saw John and Anne back to Africa, this time in Malawi as Head of Biology and Sixth Form at St Andrews High School, Blantyre. John's next U.K. break was spent teaching Biology at Ripon Grammar School 1981-84, In 1985 The British Council sent him to Southern Sudan as Inspector of Schools but this was cut short after one year for security reasons.

In 1987 John went for mission training at Selly Oak College, Birmingham, and then back to Africa to teach Biology for two years at the Protestant College, Bali, Cameroon. From 1990 he was employed by the Methodist Church in Zambia as Head Teacher/Development Officer at St Andrews Schools Project, Ndola. 1997 saw him appointed Projects Secretary by the Methodist Church/United Church of Zambia.

2001 was another memorable year seeing John and Anne finally back home from Africa to live at Annfield Plain. The next four years were spent teaching for Durham County, G.C.S.E. Science ending his full-time teaching days at Deerness Valley Comprehensive School.

The above list only gives an outline of John and Anne experiences. There is much more that could be written, however, here are some further details in brief. Daughter Beverley born 1970; son Michael born 1973; both John and Anne gaining Durham County Youth Leadership Certificates; from 1969 Setting, Marking, and Moderating 'O' and 'A' level Biology Examinations for East African and Cambridge Examination Boards, and from 2001 to date Examiner/Trainer in Biology for Cambridge International Exams/O.C.R. During his time in

Africa John was responsible for very high profile mainly educational projects which involved communicating and working with many different important people ranging from Government ministers to senior officials of Church and non-governmental organisations, which meant he had to establish good working relationships at all levels. It involved showing positive leadership, personal initiative, decision making, being extremely flexible and adaptable, particularly in response to inadequate funding.

Over the years John has been a keen sportsman participating in tennis, athletics, football and basketball. He has also enjoyed choral singing from his early days at Stanley Grammar School and with the Methodist Church Choir. At present he is a member of a male voice choir (Stanley Forum Gospel Choir) who are requested to perform throughout the North East of England.

It must also be said that Anne has been greatly involved with John in his work in Africa, as well as being mother to Beverley and Michael. She also did valuable work in both Church and educational fields, including being a Matron of a school in Malawi, and running a dispensary in Cameroon. A very versatile and able lady!

John was not unfamiliar with potentially dangerous situations during his time in Southern Sudan and being in Kampala, Uganda, during the take-over by Idi Amin. Taking on the task of Assistant Secretary of the Tanfield Association must seem like very small-fry to a person with John's qualifications and experience, and we are very grateful that he feels so strongly about the Association and wishes to serve on the Working Executive.

The above information is a result of an interview with John and also research from other sources. It is only a small part of the whole story of John's experiences, but as previously stated, time and space restrict any more writing. However if any member wishes to contact John or Secretary Fred please don't hesitate to do so.

The Move! After 45 Years at Oxhill Villas

As readers will observe from the heading, our secretary Fred Westwater has moved to a bungalow at Lanchester, after forty five very happy years at No 10 Oxhill Villas.

He claims that the large house and garden, as well as the stairs, were getting too much for him. (Poor old man) Editor Tom Harpe asks the question, "Does this mean the tone of Lanchester has been lowered?" Fred and Delcia are both very happy in their bungalow as it has the advantages of being just a few hundred yards walk, on a level road to the village shops and to the Methodist Church, and they seem to live in a thriving community.

They have asked to express their sincere thanks for all the letters, cards etc. wishing them good

luck in their new home. A special thank you goes to Alan Johnson (pupil 66-73 staff member at Tanfield), for being there on the day of moving. They reckon they could not have managed it without him; he carried the piano in almost single-handed and he was a tower of support and strength. (And Alan bought the fish and chips).

Just for the record, if any member forgot Fred's move to Lanchester, and still communicates through 10 Oxhill Villas don't worry, because Fred and Delcia's eldest daughter Anne, son-in-law David and granddaughter Eleanor bought the family home, so it can still be regarded as a Tanfield Association post box.

Presentation of "The Tanfield Glass"

During the evening of the very successful 95th Birthday Celebration in November, a presentation was made by Association Vice President Ted Brabban to Barbara Churcher (pupil 1928-35) of a very special commemorative glass bowl, which is engraved with the names of the School from 1912, the crest and the school motto "First Things First".

The bowl is beautifully engraved and donated by very talented Claire Humpherson (nee Flowers pupil 1953-60). The committee decided that The Tanfield Glass, as it should be called, will be presented each year to a member of the Tanfield Association who would be chosen because of their involvement with the Association, and some-one who would be regarded as a worthy representative of The Tanfield Association.

Barbara Churcher was chosen for a number of reasons to be the very first holder of The Tanfield Glass. She has supported the School

over many years, she never missed an association event, she was always one of the first to respond to any request or enquiry by the association, through the Newsletter. She has been a real stalwart of the association since it commenced in 2001. Barbara was 91 years of age just a few weeks before the presentation, so she and Sylvia Cheeseman (nee Craven pupil 1927-34) also 91 years young were requested to come forward. This was done somewhat reluctantly, because it was a total surprise to them. Two very smart and elegant ladies (looking at least 20 years younger than their real age) came forward and the whole company sang Happy Birthday, then Barbara was presented with The Tanfield Glass, to be held for the following year.

The Working Executive would welcome any nominations for future presentation of The Tanfield Glass. Any member wishing to do so please contact Secretary Fred.

96th Birthday Celebration - 3 Steps to Hebburn

We will be celebrating the 96th Birthday of our school at Tanfield on Saturday 8th November 2008, commencing at 7 pm in the school hall.

The entertainment for the evening is to be given by one of most acclaimed groups in the North of England, Three Steps to Hebburn, whose foundations were laid in the fifth and sixth forms of Stanley Grammar School. Two of these original members are still outstanding performers in the group; front-man and vocalist Chris Morrison (pupil 1962-69, who doesn't mind dressing up for the various characters he portrays) a very talented and professional entertainer, and, secondly, on the percussions, Duncan Davies - (pupil 1962-69) Drummer Extraordinaire - the ex-policeman who is on hand to deal with any trouble makers in the band. He is now owner of the Black Bull at Frosterley, where you are guaranteed a lovely meal, and, if requested, a rendition of the school song "First Things First".

The committee has had many requests for the return of Three Steps to Hebburn since they performed for the Tanfield Association two years ago, so we are most happy to oblige the requests, because we are certain that all attending will have wonderful evening of entertainment to suit all tastes.

The food is being provided by the Harperley Country Hotel Outside Catering, and a mouth-watering selection will be available. They come highly recommended by Association Members who have had previous experience of their high standard of catering, and we are confident the food will be as good as anything we have had on previous occasions.

Please book this date in your diary, tickets are £10.00 and will be sent on request by contacting secretary Fred at the address or telephone number on the Newsletter heading.

School Teaching Staff 1994

A very interesting teaching staff photograph of 1994, however, it should be noted that some members of staff did not appear because of school duties or being away on courses. One notable missing face is that of Eric Fisk (pupil 1961-63 Deputy Head Teacher from 1990). Members of staff who are active members of the Tanfield Association have their pupil and/or staff dates after their names.

Front row: - Lillian Flint - Domestic Science; Irene Smalby - English; Kerry Harris - Geography; Sarah Broadbent - English; Archie Howat - Head Teacher; Fred Westwater (Staff 1977-98) - Humanities; Brenda Craddock - R.E.; Dianne Bennett - German; Mary Westgarth (Staff 1970-2006) - History, Head of Year;

Second row:- Elizabeth Hawkins (nee Thirlaway) (pupil 1958-65 Staff 1970-2005) - French, English, Head of Year; Dorothy Moore - Science; Linda Taylor - Science; Amy Bilton (nee Seccombe) - French; Susan Smith (nee Turnbull) (pupil 1964-71, Staff 1974 -) - Special Needs, History, Assistant Head Teacher; Christine Stock, - Science; Ann Nelson (Staff

1981 - 2005) - Head of Fine Arts; Christine McGough - English, Assistant Head Teacher; Margaret Batty - English.

Third row:- David Wainwright (Staff 1975-94) French; Walter Peacock (pupil 1955-62, - Staff 1966-97) Senior Teacher, Head of Science; Andrew Peak - (Staff 1976-), Head of Technology; Chris Maughan - Head of Maths; Mike Butynski - Science; David Wilson (Staff 1966-95) Senior Teacher, Head of Geography; Alan Johnston (pupil 1966-73 - Staff 1977 -) Head of P.E.

Fourth row;- Allison Lloyd - P.E.; Keith Alder (Staff 1990 -); Technology; Graeme Lloyd (Staff 1992 -) head of English; (Future Head Teacher of Tanfield 2005); John Richardson - Technology; Roy Norman - Maths; Gerry Barker (pupil 1966-69, Staff 1970 - 2006) - Technology.

If any of our members have memories of being taught by any of the above staff at this time, we would welcome any comments from this more recent era of the school.



A Tanfield Dynasty

In its 95 years Tanfield School (in a variety of names) must have been the source of education for a few family dynasties. The following is one, of which we know. Are there others that you can tell us about?

When the school opened in 1912 as a Pupil Teacher Training Centre one of the students at that time was one Warwick Hall Bolam. At the advent of WW1 in 1914 he volunteered for the army and was trained as a pilot. He had the misfortune to meet the infamous Red Baron in the air and was shot down. Fortunately he survived, wounded, and with shrapnel in his leg which was never removed. He recovered and after the war studied law at Cambridge. He eventually became a barrister and later a King's Counsellor. He left law and moved into education. In 1935 he was appointed Director of Education for Bootle (Liverpool). He was much respected and held the post until retiring in 1957. A school was named after him when he retired. He died in 1973.

He had three nephews at Tanfield, George Dennis Bolam, Warwick Hall Bolam and Kenneth Bolam.

George Dennis was Head Boy at Tanfield in 1938. He served in WW2 in the RAF in North Africa and Italy.

Warwick Hall Bolam became a Civil Servant after taking the Civil Service entrance exams at school. He went into the RAF in WW2. He trained as a pilot in the USA and Canada and received his 'Wings' in both USA and England.

He became a bomber pilot and was shot down over Hamburg in 1942. It was believed that, like many aircrew, he was killed on the ground in retaliation for the blanket bombing.

Kenneth Bolam was at Tanfield from 1947 until 1954. He subsequently studied medicine at King's College, Newcastle. He practised as a doctor in Norfolk until retiring and now lives in Tynemouth.

There are other Bolams, cousins of the above who were at Tanfield in the 50/60s. They are Derek and Keith. It is believed that they went into engineering and the customs service. Perhaps someone reading will be able to complete the picture.

Are you part of a family who have a history through Tanfield school? If you are we would be interested to know your family stories, and what happened after school days.

We have two photographs. The first is a group of students in 1912. We believe that the first Warwick Hall Bolam is in the group, but the only name we know is Jessie Gibson (3rd from left in 2nd row).

The second is a group on a school outing, posing in front of a bus. In the centre are two members of staff, Miss Thornton, who was Senior Mistress, and Mrs Pearson who taught PE. We think that Kenneth Bolam is in the group. Can anyone tell us what group they are, what the outing was all about, and possibly put names to the pupils?

A Tanfield Dynasty



Author in our Midst

We would highly recommend the book *A Pudding Full of Plums* written by one of our former pupils Jack Jeffery (pupil 1941-48). The Press Release gives an accurate description of the book, which we quote:-

“This book is as much a social history as a memoir. Jack Jeffery is impressively candid in his personal accounts, from childhood onwards. The years are absorbing and skilfully handled. The references to the mining village community in which he grew up, his schools and the way of life in general in County Durham in the nineteen thirties and forties will strike a chord with many readers. They give a tremendously accurate impression of working class life in the North East at that time. His account of his professional life, which after some years with the National Coal Board, was spent mainly in the Water Industry, is interesting and illuminating and he describes his family relationships frankly and honestly.

The Author puts all of this within a broader social backdrop, from The Spanish Civil War through the Second World War and the development of nuclear weapons to the ascent of Everest and beyond.

Mr Jeffery’s writing has a series of linked overall messages or themes that many books lack.”

Jack Jeffery C.B.E has had a very interesting life and the following are some of the highlights to-date.

- Was born and brought up in Stanley, Co Durham he now lives in Stocksfield, Northumberland.
- Attended Stanley Grammar School and Kings College Newcastle in the University of Durham.
- Started as a Chemist and Bacteriologist with South West Suburban Water Company in Middlesex.
- Became Chairman and Managing Director of its successor North Surrey Water Company.
- Is currently Chairman of Convocation at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.
- A Director of Durham County Waste Management Ltd and of County Durham Environmental Trust, and he was appointed Chairman of Northumbria Larder.
- Is Past Master of his Livery Company in the City of London.
- Is President of Chopwell Cricket Club.
- Is a very active member of the Tanfield Association Working Committee.

If any member is interested in purchasing this book, please contact The Memoir Club, Dartmoor Suite, The Courtyard, Arya House, Langley Park, Co Durham DH7 9XE. Telephone 0191 3735660. Price £17.50. Any member wishing to contact Jack, please ring Secretary Fred for further details.

Early History of Tanfield Grammar School

Many of you would have seen the recent copy of The Advertiser which included a 4 page spread on the splendid work on-going at Tanfield School Specialist College of Science and Engineering.

This prompted a contributor at a recent editorial meet chez Fred to delve into the very early history of Tanfield Grammar School. For this we have used as our main sources Fred Wade's work on local history and a most interesting dissertation compiled by Keith Blackburn whilst a student at Bede College 1975 titled The History of Tanfield Lea County Junior and Infant School 1891-1975.

The first mention of a school is by a will dated in 1762, whereby, Elizabeth Davison a spinster of North Bailey in Durham who bequeathed the sum of £500, the interest to be applied partly towards the support of a school or schools in the Chapelry of Tanfield. Another bequest set aside £6 per annum for the, Master of the Grammar School who "in consideration thereof instructed eighteen boys of the chapelry". The school was for the instruction of poor children in religion and in reading.

The school, Tanfield Grammar School sometimes referred to as Tanfield Boarding Academy, was established in part of the Hall at Tanfield. As the school developed the curriculum included Latin, Greek and French languages, the use of the globes, mathematics and music.

Scholars attending this school came from all parts of the parish as well as some from further a field. Those from outside the parish resided in Tanfield Hall whilst the rest were day students.

The first school master was appointed in 1763 by a group of church members who were basically the local social elite i.e. property and land owners known collectively as The Twelve Gents of Vestry. The first appointment as school master was Joseph Mills of Marley Hill. His tenure lasted until 1782 when the Reverend Thomas Thwaite, curate of Tanfield, was appointed Master of Tanfield Grammar School. In 1860, with James Anthony Snaith as school master, Tanfield Grammar School closed.

The Education Act of 1874 introduced the National School to take our education requirements throughout the country. The rest is, as we say, history.

Photographs

Here are three photographs which might interest ex pupils of the late fifties, early sixties and those of you who attended the school during the time of the strange hairstyles of the seventies.

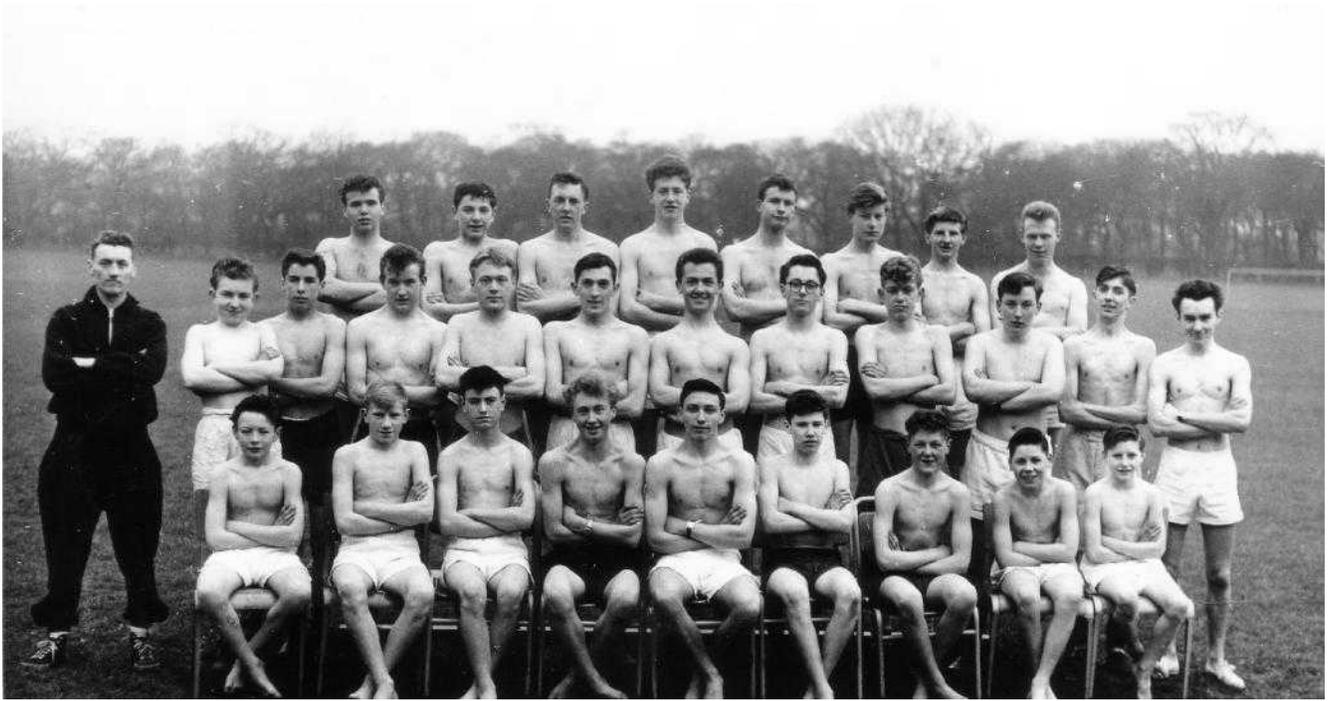
I have spoken to a few of the members involved in the naturist groups of autumn 1959. Apparently it really was as cold as they all look - and no-one remembers why they did it. Can you imagine this happening in 2008.

The picture of the 1974-75 under nineteen side shows a group of talented and successful

footballers who were, presumably all about to audition for lead singer with the Bay City Rollers.

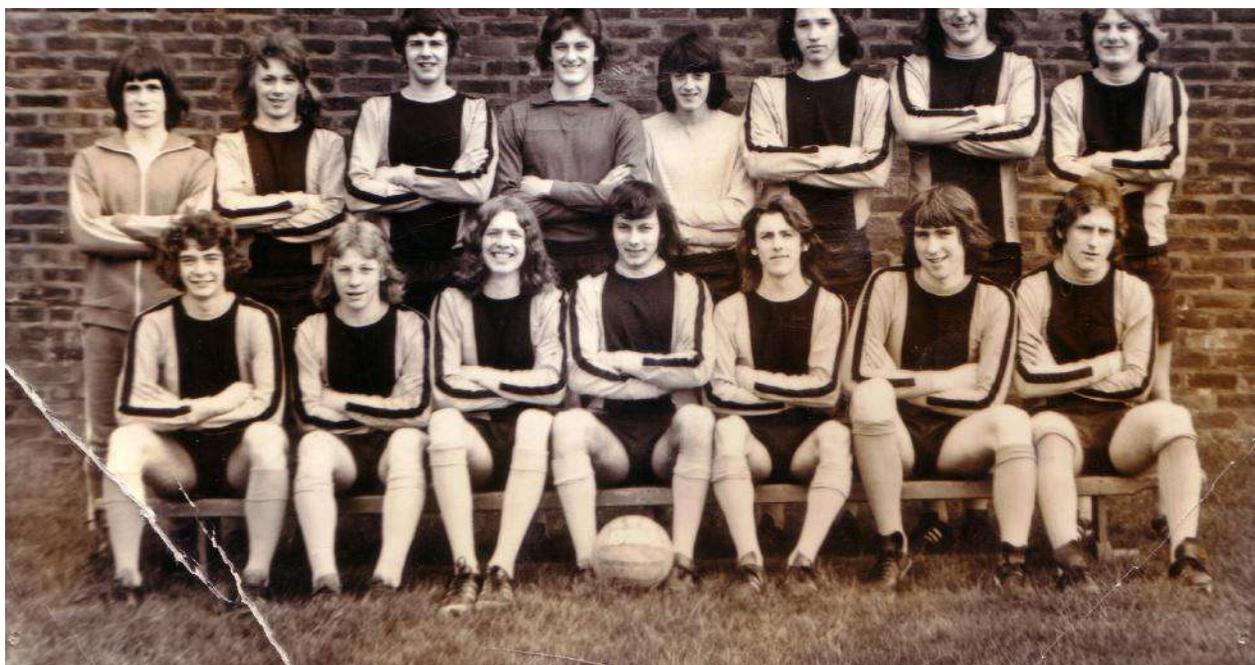
Front row right is Eric Tregoning, now a successful dentist in the Stanley area and front row left is Derek Wright a very good footballer whose playing career was cut short but who remained in the game as Newcastle United's Physio.

Next time you watch Match of the Day notice the contrast in Derek's present hairstyle.



Senior Football Team (above)

Harry Davison	Neil Baggot	?	Ian Young	Bill Hall	Allan Taylor	John Hogg
Terry Wiles	Alan Webb	?	Clifford Stubbs	Tom Fisk	Allan Mills	Billy Wigham



Sports Day

Do you remember the days when Sports Day was the highlight of the Summer Term? It must have been about 1945 when the new gym teacher, Bob Chapman converted the old Egg and Spoon events into a minor Olympics. Thereafter it was a serious business with much pride and ambition at stake.

The picture is of the finish of the 200 yards sprint in 1955. Winning is Bob Roxborough,

and behind him is Edgar Wilson, Eddie Eggleton, Alan Westwater and Bill Golightly (who appears to have crossed lanes).

Who is in the crowd watching the event?

Of equal interest is the background. The new assembly hall is on the right, and the new biology lab (now long gone) on the left. The nets of the old tennis court are just visible



Chess Club

In the post Second World War period intellectual prowess was equally important as success on the sports field. Here we have members of the School Chess Club in 1948.

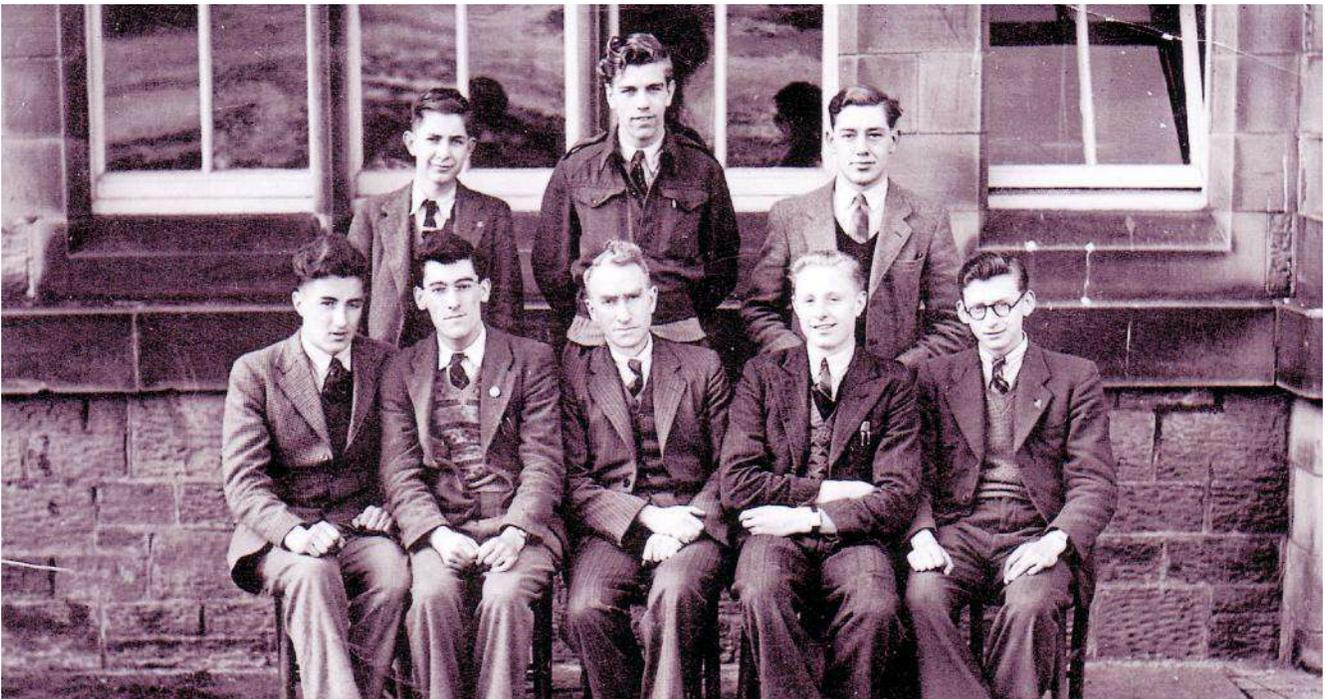
What do we know of the subsequent careers of these 'Chess Masters' pictured with Headmaster Wm. Carr.

Back row (L to R) is Jimmy Nicholson, Harry Jackson and Frank Pearson.

Front row (L to R) is Ken Smith, Roger Simpson, Mr. Carr, Ronnie Simpson and Colin

Milburn.

Incidentally, these boys were 15-16 years old. Teenagers were not then invented and they are very much young adults! (Spot the Headmaster!)



Sports Day Presentation

This shows the presentation of trophies on Sport's Day 1955. Bob Hardisty, the England Amateur footballer from Bishop Auckland is doing the honours. People recognised in the photograph are JEAN MAUDLIN, ELIZABETH SCOTT, CYNTHIA STOKER,

ETHEL GRAVEN, IRIS PEART, BOB ROXBOROUGH, (the senior champion), EILEEN HARRISON, PETER BAGGETT and DOCTOR SHARP.

Do you know who any of the other people are?



Letters

Hello Fred

I have just been reading a courtesy copy to the Tanfield Association magazine passed on to me by my lifelong friend Betty Tregoning and some of the contents have brought back such happy memories of my time at Alderman Wood Grammar School, later (during my stay) to

become Stanley Grammar School, from 1941 - 1947.

A great source of joy was the article written by Dr John Wilson, remembering teachers at Tanfield. I too remember with much affection

all of the names and nicknames listed and can add even a couple more, Miss Gillam the girls P.E. mistress - well known to the boys for her extremely short sports tunic! and Miss Lumsden head of Domestic Science, which during the Second World War years, was a challenge for any teacher to produce something edible from the depleted list of ingredients which she had to work with. Have you ever tried to make a pie from three quarters of an ounce of flour and half an ounce of fat, with grated carrot, swede, and onion as the filling? After two hours (double lesson) of mini-mixing and baking, one produced a totally uneatable pie the size of a jam tart, which was usually given to some poor little first year as a treat!

My second sojourn into the past was to recall with much affection John (Jonnie) Maughan and the lovely Sam Hunter, I am sure at the time I was madly in love with these two, along with several more during my six years as a pupil.

John (Jack) Dobbs was a delight as music master and composed the School song, which we gladly rendered at every concert. We had several very talented singers in those days and that included myself, who sang at every school concert, both with the school choir and also solo. One of my best friends at school was the late Elsie Tonks, well known in this area for her musical ability and who performed regularly during her post Alderman Wood days. June Cloiseau (nee Ross) was also in my year, and was made Head Girl the year that I left to start my career at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle General and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead. My career in Radiodiagnosis, Radiotherapy, and State Registration continued in many of the Teaching Hospitals during my NHS service spanning 42 years.

I moved out of the area after I married Harry Armstrong also a past pupil of A.W.G.S. and who moved to Chester Grammar School when his parents left South Moor to live in Chester-le-Street. Sadly he died in 1998, after forty two years of marriage. I had sixteen house moves with him in the course of his career with Hawker Siddeley and have lived in England, Scotland and Wales. When we retired in 1990 we moved back to where our roots were and lived in Picktree Lodge, Chester-le-Street, until 1997 when we moved to lovely Lanchester. I have been a member of the NHS Retirement Fellowship for 18 years since retirement, and have been Chairman of the Durham Branch for the past five years. I also serve on the NHS (RF) National Council, as a trustee, meeting in the London headquarters several times a year.

I hope this gives you some insight into my background, and would like to be considered as a member of the Tanfield Association. I know that you knew my husband Harry, and also we had a mutual friend Tom Charlton who died some years ago, I still keep in touch with his son Owen. Harry and I were god parents to Rose and Ray Charlton's two sons. Sadly Ray died two years ago but Rose still lives in Bognor Regis, Ray of course was Tom Charlton's younger brother, born and bred in Stanley.

I would be grateful if you could either supply a contact address, e-mail or otherwise for Sam Hunter and perhaps John Wilson, as I would love to get in touch, particularly with Sam as he is unable through ill-health to make a visit to the area. Recalling happy times might just be the additional therapy to add to his medicine - "A spoonful of sugar, makes the medicine go down".

Yours sincerely

Ethel Armstrong (nee Garthwaite).(Pupil 1941-47).

Hi Susan

Great to hear from you.

I left Tanfield in 1982, and have been in Hong Kong since 1996. For the first 7 years I worked around Asia-Pac managing real estate service businesses in places such as India, Thailand, Philippines, and Singapore etc. Last 4 years I have been running a company for the Hong Kong Government to develop their IT/Digital Content Flagship (www.cyberport.hk).

Dear Fred

I was glad to receive the recent edition of the Tanfield newsletter, as it contained so many names from my school days. I was particularly interested in the letter from Roger Clough, whose sister Joyce shared with me many break-time walks on the terrace, both talking hard! I would like to make contact again, but you did not include details of his address - could you let me know?

I'm surprised that there is no record of Mr Hardy's gift of the field - I was only in the first year when he returned, but I do remember how excited we were when we were told about it, and how indignant we were when part of it was to be planted with trees - he'd given it to us!

Even having known him for so short a time, so long ago, I still have a warm and affectionate memory of Mr Hardy - his gentleness and kindness, his quiet voice and occasional glint of

Dear Mrs Donkin,

Please find enclosed a cheque for £5 to cover the cost of my annual dues to the Tanfield Association for the 2007-2008 year. I guess I was off in Las Vegas losing some money when this should originally have been sent in. My apologies.

I hope to be in England for a short stay following a European cruise next August but doubt if I'll

I travel to North America and Europe quite a bit, but not really to the North-East. Would love to receive news.

Best Regards,
Mark Clift

Editor's note,
Susan passed your letter to the Newsletter Team, and it's good to hear from you Mark, perhaps you can let us know about your World-wide experiences since leaving Tanfield, and do you remember Secretary Fred while you were at School.

humour. We were indeed fortunate in knowing him and all our teachers, people of such high quality as individuals, besides their professional expertise. I remember most of John Wilson's list but am surprised that he did not mention Mr Foster (History) - had he returned before 1943?

I am sorry that I shall not be able to attend the anniversary celebrations - I still drive but it would not be sensible to have to drive so far on an October evening. However I look forward to hearing that it was all a great success! Meanwhile, I have sent the Newsletter on to Johanna Morison (who did not become a Doctor but married a minister and is now Mrs Robert Gray, living in Stonehaven).

With all good wishes
Joan Charlton.
(Pupil 1932-39).

have time to revisit the North-East. I'm fulfilling a promise my wife made before she died to show my 16 year old grandson, who is now my travelling companion, the salient sights of London.

Regards and best wishes,
Sam Hunter

Editors Note.

Perhaps next year you can bring your grandson to the North East and we can help to give him a very warm welcome.

Fred

The letter from Barry Coulthard reminded me of the homage I paid to Colin Milburn in 1960. I wrote this to demonstrate the ballad for English Language teacher Nova Williamson - please understand, I was only 14 at the time. I attended the first day of this match with my father and saw Colin score a century - Durham v India on 12 September 1959 at Ashbrooke, Sunderland.

Howard Bott (Pupil 1957 - 64)

Milburn's Debut

Milburn was picked to play cricket,
'Gainst the Indian touring team.
He was picked for his county,
The County of Durham.

Dear Fred

I was interested to read Ken Bragan's letter in the Summer Newsletter. Some years ago my wife and I were touring New Zealand and ended up at Wanaque. We went to see Ken and Isabel. Ken was in Bill and Tibby's class at school (my brother and sister). After Ken qualified at Edinburgh he went to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness where we were living at the time. There he met his wife and Bill was the best Man at the wedding.

We spent a happy evening with Ken and Isabel and ended up playing bridge. We were staying in a Home Stay in Wanaque (the equivalent of our Bed & Breakfast) and got lost in the dark on our way back to the Home Stay but eventually found it at 3am !!

An interesting co-incidence occurred at the Home Stay where the hosts always have breakfast

He opened the batting for Durham
Against India's best
But, after the first over was bowled,
He had overcome his test.

After the first overs were over,
The runs came thick and fast
And, at forty three not out,
They went in for their midday repast.

After lunch he aquired his fifty,
A fifty which he deserved,
And, when Gaekwad put on the spin bowlers,
He was far from being reserved.

When Colin reached his century,
He was cheered loud and clear,
And, when he was stumped for one hundred
and one,
He was the hero of the day.

with the guests and tell them about interesting places to visit in the vicinity. The host was an elderly man in his eighties. He asked where we lived. I said it was a small village near Edinburgh. He said what was its name and I said Gifford. Oh, he said, he knew Gifford. During the war he was a Spitfire pilot in the New Zealand Air Force and he was based only 10 miles from Gifford. He used to come to the Goblin Ha Hotel in the village for his pint.

I enjoy reading the articles and letters in the Newsletter. My aunt, Miss Nichol, was the English teacher and headmistress when I was at school from 1936 to 1941. She joined the school in 1912 and remained there until she retired in 1952.

Yours sincerely,
Sandy Boggon (Pupil 1935-41)