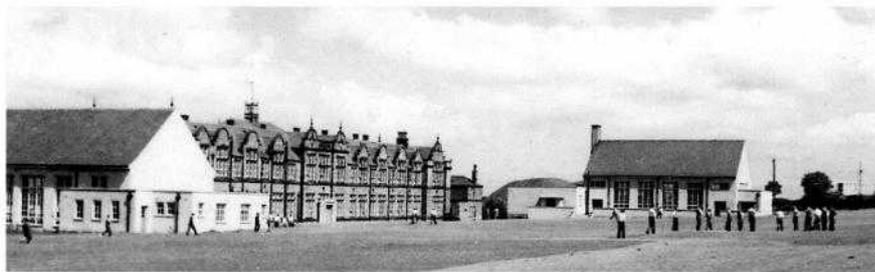


# TANFIELD ASSOCIATION



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## NEWSLETTER No. 22

## Winter 2011

### Editorial

Issue 22, Summer 2011. Well I hope that you had a 'summer'. Here in County Durham we have seen the sun, but not too often. However:

I'm pleased to say that we continue to generate response to our publication. After the Easter edition the feedback was sufficient to publish again almost immediately, but that would have been far too soon. I hope that you continue to enjoy what we have for this issue.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that Fred is beginning to take up the reins again. He extends his thanks to all of you who sent him messages of condolence.

Amongst other things he has persuaded Peter Brown (59-64) to develop and run an Association web-site. Look for [www.tanfield-association.org](http://www.tanfield-association.org) Peter is aware that he has taken on a monumental task in loading all the stuff we have accumulated, but he is approaching it with enthusiasm. I just hope that his new wife sees him occasionally! See item inside.

Elizabeth Hawkins is working Trojan-like at the 100 Not Out book (another monumental task). She is still gathering articles for the book, so get yours written now and send it on to her. We are still open to 'Page Dedications' for a minimum sum of £10 to help raise the cash to pay for printing etc. but don't leave it too late. We have a printer's deadline of October. Time is beginning to run out.

I had given up on finding memories of 'Fire Watching' at school during WW2, but as you'll see there are still some who remember those days.

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Sadly not all my feed back was happy. Issue 21 featured an article on Denise Holden (Gowland) who was *Victrix Ludorum* at each age group while at school. Shortly after publication her husband 'phoned me to tell me that she had died following a stroke. I am sure that you would join with me in offering our sincere commiserations to him and his family.

You will remember the article submitted by 91 year old Olga Reay in the last Issue. Well I am pleased to tell you that through that article she was contacted by a 'long lost' colleague.

Our Life Membership for £100 has been taken up by some members. It is particularly useful to those overseas. We did have one enquiry as to whether we could accept credit cards!! As Susan (our Treasurer) says: "We must give the impression of greatness". (Money Orders from abroad are acceptable!)

The photo of the school at the top was taken in 1953 showing the brand new gym and assembly hall/dining and kitchen. For those with sharp eyes it also shows the old Oakey's pit heap that was across the road. This panorama no longer exists - there are new buildings and trees in the way.

### **New Web Site**

The Tanfield Association will launch a new web site - [www.tanfieldassociation.org](http://www.tanfieldassociation.org) in early 2012.

The web site will be promoted through social media sites, it is hoped this will attract new members and consequently broaden the age range of the Association.

It must be stressed that for those Association members who have not or who do not want to embrace the internet - **NOTHING WILL CHANGE**

The web site and associated hosting space will provide other opportunities, particularly the digital preservation of school photographs and other ephemera; so that it may be shared with existing members and more importantly preserved for the future.

This archiving has already begun with School Magazines starting with Issue 1 of the AWS-onian from 1946, there are some gaps, Issues 5, 15-17, and everything after Issue 22.

Any issues of the Tanfield Gazette after Issue 1 in 1990 would also be appreciated.

Rather than being inundated with duplicates, if you have any of the missing Issues stored in the loft or any other papers/brochures/programmes you feel would be of interest to other members please send details to [webmaster@tanfield-association.org](mailto:webmaster@tanfield-association.org) so that collection and return may be arranged.

While you are in the loft, if you find any school related photographs please feel free to scan them and forward with the fullest details to [webmaster@tanfield-association.org](mailto:webmaster@tanfield-association.org)

Peter W Brown (1959 - 1964)

### **100 Not Out**

I recently read in the local press that Park View School, who also celebrate their centenary next year, had proudly announced that they had managed to find an ex-pupil who started there way back in 1932. I'm happy to say that Tanfield can do better than that!



Nora Brown, aged 105, started at Tanfield in 1917, while the First World War was still being fought. Her husband, Ernest, and daughter, Joyce Colledge, also went to Tanfield. Nora has written an article which will take pride of place in '100 Not Out', published next year. It will be the first of many articles which recall memories of one hundred years in the life of the school, celebrating achievements, friendships and events, and the day to day interaction of pupils and staff.

If you would like to add your memories to the mix, please do get in touch!

Cheers,

Elizabeth Hawkins

P.S. At the AGM lunch it was decided that 'pre-orders' for the book would be taken at a discount price of £10. Cash was paid over but subsequently the paperwork was found to be incomplete. If you pre-paid for a book at the event, please contact Elizabeth (01914 103 472) to confirm your order.

If **you** would like to take advantage of the offer (which helps us to pay the printer's bill in advance of post publication sales) send your cheques for £10 per copy, to the Treasurer:

Susan Donkin, 19 Lindom Avenue, Chester le Street. DH3 3PP

(Editor)

### **Len Broxson, Chair of school Governors**

Hello all,

I have a request to make from members. Could they please forward any amusing anecdotes or experiences they would wish to share in relation to governors serving at the School during the time of their attendance. These items would be for consideration to be included in the article I am preparing for The Centenary Yearbook you are publishing.

I would also appreciate any details of past Chairs of Governors as authority records would appear to be incomplete because of the timescale. I know this is a big ask but if you could include my request in the newsletter this would be a great help. My e-mail address is [lenbroxson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lenbroxson@tiscali.co.uk) for those who would wish to contact me directly.

I would also like to pass on the appreciation of the Governing Body of Tanfield school for the continued and valued support of the association.

Len Broxson, Chair of Governors, Tanfield School.

## Hazel Hill

When you are a pupil at school there are certain characters who stand out and attract your notice. Some of them stay in your memory long afterwards. One of those for me was a girl (not surprising I suppose) who I used to see around. As I remember she had dark hair, and glasses. The thing which was memorable, however, was that she could often be seen at lunchtimes in leg pads, playing cricket with the senior boys. That was Hazel Hill.

My memory was awakened when I received a letter from her long time friend Jean Clifford (Pearson) letting me know that Hazel had died. They were classmates from 1941 until 1948. Hazel was the school's first State Scholar, and to celebrate the fact the pupils were given a day's holiday.

She graduated in English at Manchester, taught initially at Spennymoor Grammar School but ended her career as Head of English at a boarding school in Bournemouth, where she lived after retirement.

She played cricket for Durham County ladies team as a bowler and in later years she was a fantastic Scrabble player.

Sadly early this year she died of pneumonia.

Hazel was a 'milestone' in the history of Tanfield, and it would be remiss not to record her passing.

## Stanley Grammar School Crime and Punishment

By Duncan Davis 1962-1969

It's a surprising thing that so many of us cherish the memories of our time at Stanley Grammar School when we lived in fear of being subjected to a variety of forms of summary justice most of the time. We simply took this as part and parcel of life, we didn't dream of complaining to our parents, mainly because they would have taken the side of the teachers and punished us over again.

Looking back it is worth recording some of the ways that the different teachers had of keeping order simply because the like will not be seen again unless the revolution is successful and they make me the president. As a first year pupil in Mr. Watson's class in 1962 he made it clear on our first day that should we receive "lines" he would generously top up the amount we received by 50%.

Of course it wasn't long before a passing Physics teacher who considered our class was a little noisy in between lessons issued the whole class with 250 lines. With the automatic accumulator, courtesy of Mr. Watson, this spiralled to 375 and by way of a bonus I collected another 100 for some late homework gaining an extra 50 on the accumulator.

I well remember that night at home sitting at the table with more than the usual amount of homework and then 525 lines to plough through.

Even my crude effort at tying 4 biros together to make the job more efficient didn't seem to make much impression so in order to get me to bed the right side of midnight the whole family, sister, mother and father sat around the dining room table writing "I must not be noisy in the classroom in between lessons." All rather ignominious for my father a Detective Inspector who was currently running a murder hunt. In many ways it was more bearable simply to be beaten there and then.

The official flogging was done by 'appointment only' with the headmaster Dr Sharp.

This ceremony consisted of a brief hearing of the case by way of a token nod to the justice system. Dr Sharp sat in his black gown piercing the miscreant with steely eyes as he stammered some feeble excuse. Dr. Sharp said little; a technique with which he had reputedly broken many hardened Nazi SS Generals during his time with MI5.

Sentence was then passed in the form of a certain number of strokes of the cane. The cane was kept in a glass cupboard, which was unlocked with reverence and the weapon slowly and deliberately taken from its place and laid before the condemned man on the desk. The first 6 strokes were delivered to the rear end while bending and if the offence was serious enough to warrant it further 6s' were administered to each hand. Rather like hanging, drawing and quartering the grisly bit was left to the end.

The "Black Book" was produced from the desk drawer and the entry of punishment was made. The worst bit was then solemnly delivered. "The entry in the Black Book would be sent to any college applied to rendering the application useless. The very fact that the transgressor would not be able to gain a place at college meant that no respectable employer would consider him so any marriage plans may as well be cancelled because no wife should be subjected to a life of destitution.

Thus with no prospect of having children the family line would die out.'

So terrifying was the prospect of the population of Stanley dwindling that most teachers took pity on us and bypassed the 'flogging by appointment' system to beat us themselves.

They devised ingenious and creative ways to do this. Commonly a piece of well-aimed chalk would bounce off the head of a dozing pupil followed closely by the wooden blackboard rubber for any second offence. I remember one maths lesson when the maths master prowled down the aisles of pupils struggling with 'log' tables. He found one boy slacking and slapped him round the back of the head to chivy him up a bit. The force of the blow reduced the stick of chalk in the masters hand to powder leaving the boy in question with a 'badge of honour' consisting of white lightly powdered hair for which he suffered the taunts of his friends at break.

Well I remember as a third year having fallen asleep in the chemistry lesson, probably partly induced by the gas taps on the science benches which we constantly turned on and off. The chemistry teacher ordered me out to the front of the class made me bend over and walloped me with his hand. I went to resume my seat and looked at the silent scared faces of the class. By way of reassurance I smiled to allay any concerns that my chums might have had that I was badly injured but the chemistry teacher was watching. He hauled me back to the front for a repeat dose. I didn't bother with the smile on my way back the second time.

In P.T. the teacher regularly heaved a heavy medicine ball at any dawdler while the woodwork teacher, mentioning no names, used the materials of his trade to maintain attention and discipline. Whilst gathered around his workbench anyone with the temerity to lean on it with their hand was subjected to a lightning fast crack on the head with a piece of 2 by 1.

When it came to punishment the creative element was best exploited by the biology teacher who used a cow's scapula to maintain order.

Although this all sounds very Dickensian I have to say I didn't resent any of the punishments I received. Stanley Grammar School ran happily and efficiently and still has camaraderie amongst its old pupils that I have not come across anywhere else.

How times have changed I hear that last month Dennis the Menace's dad stopped using his slipper on the lad.

Is this a sign of the times or is it just because Dennis is 60 this year?

### **Professor Richard Chambers**

I have spent most of my professional days (I'm now emeritus) in the Chemistry Department in Durham University and it is very pleasurable for me to read of the activities and whereabouts of others, who contribute to your columns, and your efforts on behalf of the association is much appreciated - even if you don't hear from some of us.

You may be interested to know that my predecessor was Professor Ken Musgrave, another product of Tanfield, and we both had the teaching of John Scott, albeit in different generations. Ken died recently at the venerable age of 94. My ex-colleague Dr. Euan Ross is also a product of Tanfield and he has also joined the ranks of the retired. I received a letter from Mr. Robinson 2-3 years ago, who taught me some Organic Chemistry before he married the Latin Teacher (Miss Arkless?) and they both went off to Bede Grammar, as it was then, in Sunderland. When we made contact again, Mr. Robinson was in his 90's and it was good to have the opportunity of thanking him for his efforts. On my return to Durham in 1960, after a post-doctoral year in Vancouver, I continued to see quite a lot of Mr. Scott. He gave me encouragement even after I left school and he and Mrs. Scott were extremely hospitable to me as an undergrad. At that time I was assigned to live in Lumley Castle, which the college was renting. Of course the castle is now a luxurious hotel but the college retains Durham Castle and several ex-Tanfield products have enjoyed the privilege of living there.

It was good to read about Denise Gowland and it took me back to very happy tennis days in South Moor park, where we had a 'club', which met on Saturdays and where there was strong representation from Tanfield. Denise was a much better player than I was.

I Have enjoyed my time at Durham and it has been very rewarding to be part of the growth in prestige of the University. I was fortunate enough to be elected to the Royal Society in 1997 and I often wonder what John Scott's reaction would have been. - A twisted ear?

Dick (Richie) Chambers. 1946-53.

### Robert Benfold

My father was Robert Routh Benfold born 1923 in South Stanley. He attended Stanley Infants in 1928, South Moor Elementary in 1930 and then Alderman Wood, Tanfield Lea in 1934.

I recently came across a photograph of him with some of his classmates. The photograph will appear in '100 Not Out' and shows the teacher, Mr Philips, flanked by Alan Ainscorth and Jimmy Turnbull, Joe Hole, Bill Allan, Tiny Wells (this amused me as he is so tall), George Saunders, and Ralph Stephenson. Sitting at the bottom of the photograph are Matty Bantock and my Dad, Robert (Bob) Benfold. I wonder what happened to my father's classmates when they left school.



My Dad left Tanfield in 1937 when the family moved to Coventry. In 1930 he joined the ARP First Aid Party and was involved in 14 November 1940 Coventry Blitz working on Ambulances and boxing casualties for mass burial - 17 years of age! He became an Apprentice Letterpress Printer in Feb 1940 and on his 18th birthday tried to join the RAF (hardly surprising) but was put on deferred service as his apprenticeship had commenced. In 1942 he joined the RAF and Qualified as a Flight Engineer/Instructor on Lancasters and Stirlings. In 1947 he was given the Freedom of the City of Coventry, completed his Apprenticeship and worked in the printing trade until he retired. If Mr Philips, in the photograph I sent, was his PE Teacher he

would have been proud to know that Dad took his Swimming Instructor's Certificate in the 70's and taught little ones for 13 years. He became Bournemouth Air Crew Association Standard Bearer in 1984 and was very proud of his role right up to his death in 2001. No doubt those formative years at Alderman Wood in the 30's gave those pupils entering the war years the strength of character and discipline they would require in the years that followed.

Gail Powell

(If anyone recognises any of the names in the article above, please let us know. Gail is doing a 'Miss Marple' trying to find out what happened to them all.)

### Judy Hurst (Jefferson)

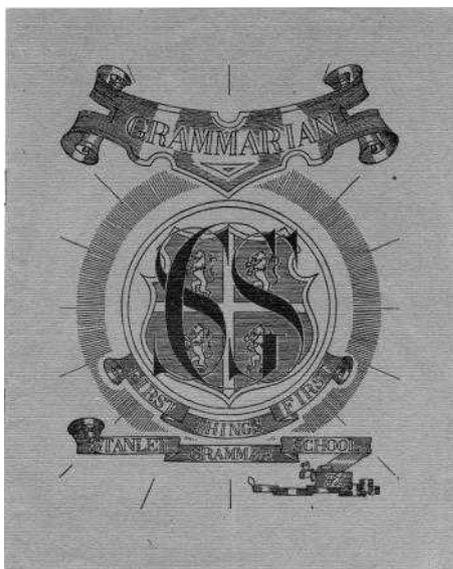
If you walk along the main corridor at Tanfield you will see, on one of the arch supports, a painting of Durham Cathedral. This was done by Judith Jefferson way back in the 60s. Judith was one of Mrs Jack's (Egglestone) star pupils. The star has continued to shine and Judy is now an artist with a growing reputation. She is currently Artist in Residence at Durham University.

I was invited to a preview of her recent exhibition in the Lady Chapel of Durham Cathedral with Mrs Jack, Elizabeth Hawkins and other dignitaries! We were all impressed by the scope and quality of her work which is quite unique.



Judy is shown with Mrs Jack and A.N. Other. A piece of her work makes a halo for Judy.

At the preview I was able to talk to Fenwick Lawson who has sculpted work for the Cathedral. He tells me that the path into his artistic career all started with the cover design that he produced for the early school magazine, the Grammarian. Mighty oaks .....



I think that Fenwick would be about the 4<sup>th</sup> year when he did this, that would be about 1947/8.

## Fire-watching

I am sorry it has taken me so long to write to you about fire watching at the school during the Second World War. I suppose I have been putting off because much of what I know is based on recollection and general information gleaned from histories of the war.

It seems that because of the fear of the Germans dropping incendiary bombs a government order in September 1940 established that men could be compelled to do 48 hours per month of fire watching-particularly at night. Owners of factories and large building were responsible for providing and organising fire watchers for their own buildings.

At Tanfield there was certainly a firewatching rota involving male staff. I am not sure about female staff (probably not) or pupils, but I imagine that sixth form boys may also have been involved . They would be just below conscription age and at 16 or 17 would be considered old enough to take on this responsibility I remember my dad ( Bob Harrison ) coming home in the early morning after a fire watching stint. Presumably he washed and had breakfast and then went back to school! He seemed to talk quite enthusiastically about discussions he and his colleagues had during the long nights-- after all there was going to be a better world after the war was over!

I hope this is of interest.  
All good wishes  
Isobel Jenkins ( Harrison)=

## Mrs M. Clarkson - Firewatching

Dear Ted,

Whilst supposedly dusting, I came across my collection of old Newsletters and started reading. End of dusting!

As a Sixth Former in 1944/45 I was involved in fire-watching.

Two girls slept on camp beds with grey blankets. We were trained to use a stirrup pump, and had to have a bucket of water standing by. My partner was Joyce Athey, who possibly married J. Ledger, but I have no contact now.

We stayed in a room at one end of the school, and two teachers stayed downstairs at the other end. My best memory is of filling the beds with nettles for the two boys who would follow us! What a lark! Fortunately we were never called upon to douse a fire. I seem to remember Harry Nattrass and Eric Thompson being involved.

I remember Joan Charlton well. Her father was accountant to my father when I joined the school in 1939, and Joan was held as a beacon that I should look up to.

I am always amazed at how far-flung the students and their families get nowadays.

I would love to hear of anyone who was at school during my years of 1939 - 1945.

Best wishes,

Marion Clarkson (Barker)

## Snowstorm 1962 - 63

Following the reminiscences from John Cameron re. the long trek from SGS to Whickham, 1962-63.  
(Reference to Issue 21 - Ted)

John's memory is at fault. The party also included a large group of first year pupils.

A large group of us, including Duncan Davis, Alan Bell, Phillip Adamson, Fred Maudlin, John Armstrong, Ken Turnbull, Geoff Anderson, Andrew Grant & myself were also involved in this trek.

We too found ourselves stranded at SGS without transport back to Whickham. Stranded, there was no alternative but to walk home.

Although we started off as one large group, at some stage we split (an absolute no-no to anyone who has done a survival course!). The group that I was in, comprising Ken T, Geoff A, Andrew (Jock) Grant & myself walked down to Tanfield Village, over the top to Bobgins & then joined what was a working railway close to Marley Hill colliery. I well remember us asking the signalman in his cabin (at Marley Hill junction) which was the direction to Sunnyside. Yes, we were a group of lost 12 year old's and it was whiteout conditions. We followed the line to Sunnyside & from there the walk to Whickham was in known territory. I remember phoning terrified parents from Sunnyside confirming my existence & asking them to slip round to those without phones.

The group I was in arrived home about 7pm. The conditions were horrendous, whiteout, freezing and as 12 year old first years, we were in short trousers, cheap black school shoes, regulation (& useless) school macs, gold & black scarf & school cap. Fortunately there were no casualties. The life saver was probably the thick school blazer.

I believe the other group walked via Fellside Road (I may be wrong) & arrived home circa 8pm - 9pm. I have vague memories of a police search to be initiated for this latter group. I suspect confirmation will come of this.

There were at least four first-year girls from Whickham, who had the sense to stay overnight with friends in the Stanley area.

I did not attend SGS the next day (Friday) and then the following week Stanley was all but cut-off and road communications ceased for the week. Drifts the height of houses etc..

Fortunately no casualties, despite the seriousness of the situation. And, despite the seriousness of the situation, there were no questions asked by the authorities or parents: how did the teaching staff (& management) who lived in Whickham get home before their pupils? John Cameron mentioned Mr. Wood (aka the Bull) who was prepared to start a ski search. Why did management vacillate over the decision to send pupils home, to the point where there was no further road transport links? The press & general public often decry schools sending pupils home at the drop of a hat however such a situation would never occur in our safety conscious present times.

Incidentally, lessons were not learnt. I was involved in a similar trek home, in identical circumstances, in either my fifth year or lower sixth (tempus fugit & I forget when). This time we caught a service bus in the Byermoor area.

John S Thompson (SGS 1962 -69)

## Snowstorm 1962 - 63

Yes there was a police search. I can't remember how I got home, I remember we split at Tanfield Lea and our group set off for the Hobson. I suspect we were picked up by someone battling through in a car. When I got back the police coordinated the search from our house with my dad being the detective inspector and the only police house with a telephone albeit a party line.

I don't remember how everyone was finally accounted for but I do remember the panic amongst the parents and the seriousness of the police search.

The other time you refer to when we were older I remember reaching Pickering Nook in thick snow and a blizzard when skidding along behind us came Kenny Cousins on a motor bike looking like T E Lawrence. He wobbled up to us and as he overtook us lost control of the thing parted company with it and slid along on his backside into a drift. Oh how we chuckled.

Duncan

## Edna Shields - 'I Have Five Daughters'

I was contacted by Edna who sent me some photo's and a Stanley News report of their drama production, I Have Five Daughters, reproduced below, - a masterpiece of 'name dropping'!

Stanley News - Jan 27<sup>th</sup> 1955

'First Things First' is the motto of Stanley Grammar School and last year one of the first things done was to have a school play for the first time since the war. The play was '1066 and All That'. This year the school's choice is 'I have Five Daughters' the dramatic adaptation of Jane Austin's 'Pride and Prejudice', which starts a two week run in the school tonight. "We made a profit last year, so we decided to branch out this year", said Mrs R. Jones one of the producers at last night's dress rehearsal. Special sets have been designed and made by Art Master Mr R. Binks, and dresses by Miss E. Speed.

With such a wealth of talent our district can look forward to its dramatic art being maintained at a high level. The five daughters, Hilary Atkinson, Annie Wilson, Margaret Fisk, Arlene Elliot and Valerie Lynn were a delightfully balanced team. Demure, vivacious, gracious, flippant, and proud at times, they played with skill and understanding, moulding themselves into a period family, and in speaking and deportment revealed artistic talent.



Their mother, Mrs Bennet, played by Edna Shields, gave a first rate interpretation of the part and delighted the audience as she busied herself with the girls in her anxiety to get them 'fixed up'. Other performers were Merlyn Maddison, and Elizabeth Scott (Charlotte Lucas) whose poise and quiet confidence endeared her to all. Jean Maudlin played Caroline, and Missouri Harrison was tall, dignified and unbending in the role of Lady Catherine. Tom Hall as Mr Bennet was outstanding in facial expression and stage movement, while Charles Bingley and Fitzwilliam Darcy were cleverly interpreted by William Golightly and John Bantock. The difficult role of the Rector was satisfyingly sustained by Thomas Stevens. In the whole cast there was no weak link and high praise is due to the producers, Mrs R Jones and Mr. R. Proud, and to Stage Manager Miss S.O. Wilson assisted by Isobel Harrison and Cynthia Stoker.

Others who had a part to play in this successful presentation were Mr. W Seed, Harry Greener, Anne Sasbry, Shirley Dent, Margaret Watson, and Mr H. Robertson. Period furniture was loaned by Mr and Mrs Proud.

Dr Sharp, the Headmaster, will introduce the performance each evening.

### **Edna Shields - Other photo's :**

Looks like Mr. Livesey's form, but what year? They look like older pupils at the back, could they be a 6<sup>th</sup> form science group?



Miss Thompson (Fifi) in charge.

### **Form 5S 1959/60 (?)**

I am sending you an old photograph of the class of 5S from 1959/60 (?). Mr. Gee was our form teacher, and I am not sure exactly when the picture was taken. I remember the names of some of those in the picture, but not sure about the majority of them. Perhaps someone with a better memory can put names to faces. I am in the second row from the front, but I certainly have changed since that picture was taken, as I am sure others have. Our form-room was across the hall from Dr. Sharp's office, and next to the space that was the front entrance to the building. I seem to remember the "nurses' room" was also in the entrance area. Hope this is the kind of picture you are looking for. I may have more, but will have to search some stored boxes.



I do still have my Report Book. Wonder how many of those are still around.

Regards,

Barbara Davison (nee Dawson)



## Claire Humpherson

Dear Ted,

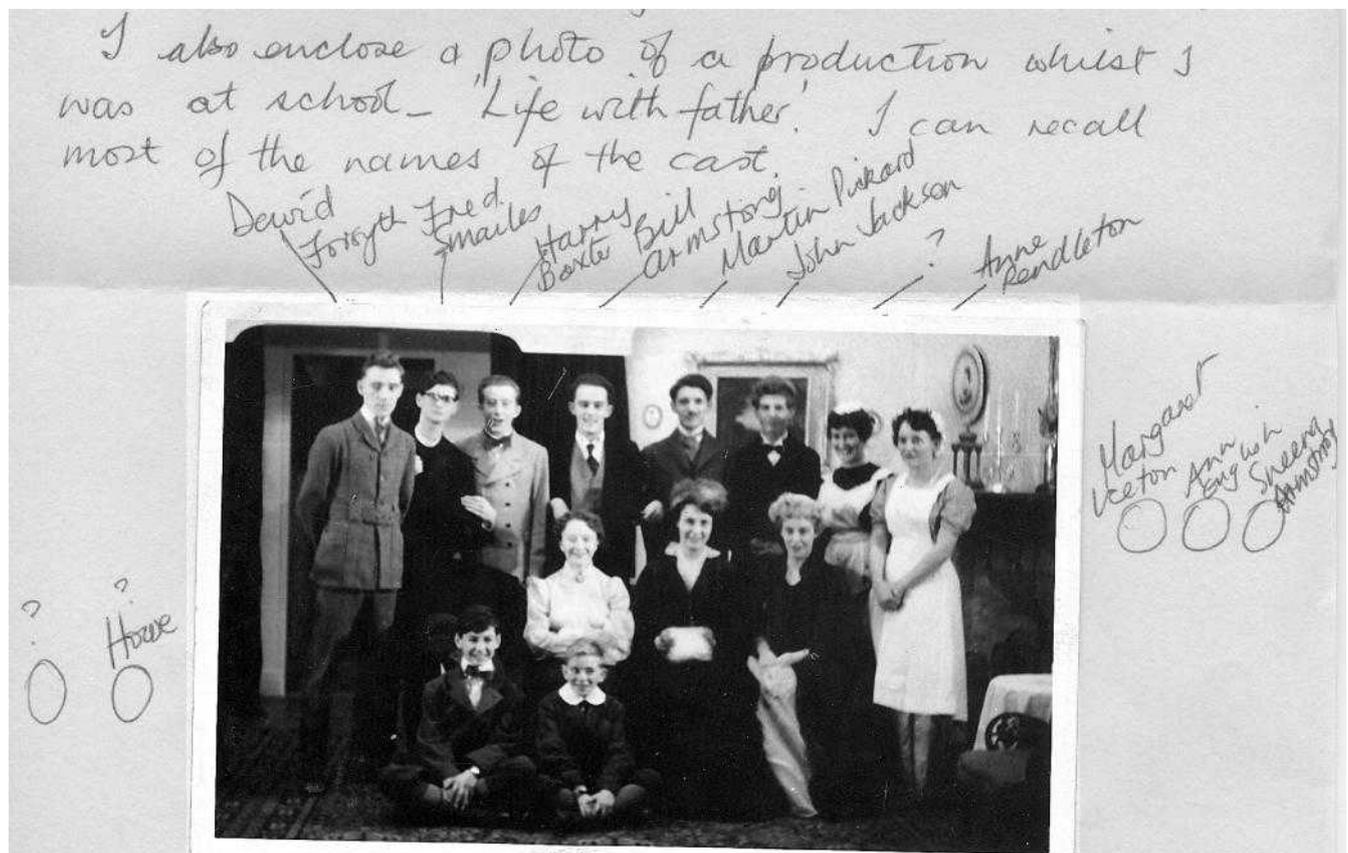
Thanks for the Newsletter. It is always an interesting read.

I was interested to see a photograph of some pre-war pupils. Two of them, Margery Sanders and Ethel Sample went on to Neville's Cross College in Durham. In the days of looking after new students, my mother was "college mother" to Margery Sanders and both of the names were familiar to me as a child.

I would like to have the photo returned - I need it to tease Ann English and Sheena Armstrong. I taught with both of them at various times.

All good wishes,

Claire Humpherson (Flowers)



## John Cameron

Thanks for the excellent Newsletter. Perhaps you might use the enclosed photo of Form 1B, 61-62, but sadly after half a century I can only recall a few names. It even took me a while to recognise myself (5<sup>th</sup> from left, back row).



I'm really glad to have made contact again 50 years or so after your Woodwork and Technical Drawing lessons. It amazes me how little I have forgotten of what you taught us - even now the smell of the local timber yard reminds me with pleasure of the woodwork room where there was a display of samples of all kinds of woods, beech, Japanese oak, redwood, cedar, walnut, etc. I can still do Isometric Projection too!

Sadly my copy of the 1962 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SGS School magazine has gone missing. It had a gold foil cover with the school badge and an introduction written by Dr Sharp, a great man whom I remember with awe and gratitude. He said that the cells in the human body replace themselves every seven years, which is quite like what happens in a school. On his theory my body has completely renewed itself seven times since 1962 so no wonder memories fade.

(John - if you can still do isometric projection then my living has not been in vain. -Ted)

Can you put names to the 11 year old innocents in the above photograph ?

### School Song - Malcolm Trewick

Can I say I am happy to receive correspondence ( but please not 16 /20 page newsletters!) by E-mail at [bridgeendbb@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgeendbb@hotmail.com) and to have my E-mail "distributed "

In issue 21, Sheila Parkes, nee Wrightson, who started in 1959 two years after I went to University, asked about the School Song. When we had a "year" reunion in September 2008, I seem to remember a spontaneous outburst of singing which went something like:-

First things first shall be our motto  
On the field and in the hall  
And together we'll uphold it  
All for one and one for all

Dunelm, Neville, Tanfield, Watling  
Each our own house will support  
But united we'll stand loyal  
To our school in work and sport.

I'm sure there were more than a chorus & 1 verse, but that's all my ancient head can recall. Does Tanfield School still have houses?

Malcolm Trewick 1950 - 57

A P.S. to my previous e-mail ( I was always much troubled by afterthoughts, especially in exams)

Sheila Parkes must have overlapped with my sister Ann Trewick (now Field) who attended SGS from 1961 - 1968 I think. She was followed 4 & 5 years later by my younger sisters Valerie (now Young) and Joyce (now Reeves). My dad Sam Trewick also attended the Alderman Wood School from about 1924 - 1928. Like many of his generation, he left as soon as he could and didn't sit the School Certificate, because his father ( a pitman) wasn't working, but he could get a job. It may in fact have still been the Tanfield Lea Higher Elementary School, because I can remember him referring to it as the Tanfield Lea Horse and Elephant Show! Certainly in the 1950's quite a bit of the cutlery in the dining room was stamped TLHES as well as AWS. I don't think any was stamped SGS.

Malcolm Trewick

### **Peter W Brown (1959 - 1964)**

Ted.

My mother is still the proud possessor of a tray I made in my 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year - it survives not because of my dovetail joints but as a testimony to your glue.

(Who can beat an early 1960's tray - or whatever? Ted)

### **Memories**

I have dug out my copy of the '80 Years On' book and have been wallowing in nostalgia because I knew many of the names - some related to me. One report tells the story of my cousin Ossie Beck, who, on leaving Tanfield in the 30's, joined the R.A.F. and became a pilot. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1940 at the age of 22 years (and only very recently married) returning from action over Norway he and the crew were all killed when the damaged plane crashed, coming down in Rutland. He is buried in a military cemetery in Cottesmore and recently a member of my family brought photographs from there and, in this year, when an anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the bravery of "The Few" was remembered, it was very touching to see the inscription put on his headstone ( by the authorities?) "One of the First of the Few".

I am rambling again so will not mention a photograph of another cousin of mine - a handsome lad called Tom Collin - sitting in the front row of the school cricket team!!

Lenore Ewart

## Can you help?

I was sent this cutting from 'The Stanley News' with the query: "Does anyone know anything about my uncle?"

STANLEY NEWS, THURSDAY, 18 MARCH, 1943

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**Family Serving.** — Mrs Mary Wanless, 25 South View, Craghead, has received information from the International Red Cross that her second son, Squadron- Leader (Rev.) John Thirlwell Wanless, is a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands. He is 37 years of age. Joining the



R. A. F. as a padre two and a half years ago, he was in Singapore when it fell, but managed to escape to Java, where he was captured when the Japanese overran the country. Edu-

ated at the Ald. Wood Secondary School, Stanley, and Hartley College, he ministered at Motherwell, Chippen Norton and Cirencester before joining the forces. He was well-known in the pulpits of North West Durham as a local preacher previous to joining the ministry. His wife is serving as a corporal in the W.A.A.F. and is at present stationed in the West of England. Mrs Wanless has three other sons in the forces, L.A.C. Ernest Wanless, R.A.F.; Warrant-Officer Wm. Wanless, R.A.O.C., and Corpl. Tom Wanless, R.A.F. A son-in-law, Pte. Frank Taylor, is serving with the R.A.M.C. and a daughter is nursing at a military hospital.

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Vale,

Can anyone help? I think that Jack Wanless must have been at Tanfield in the early 20's. Maybe you know of the family.

## Can You Help 2

Ted,

Re the newsletter - someone asked me if we could ask if anyone has heard from Sheila Stoker, last heard of in London, Ontario 34 yrs ago.

Elizabeth Hawkins.

Well, have you ? Ted.

## More Photo's

Some other old photographs that I have received:



1.

Obviously a school drama production with Mr. Proud and Mr. Binks in the background. Joan Rooke is the caterpillar in the foreground. Who else is there?



2.

Another Harvest camp photo. With some SGS lads in the back row.

## Form 5 1952/53

Dear Editor,

I do enjoy receiving and reading the Tanfield Newsletter, and each time I say to myself that I must contribute to the 'memories', albeit that I am a more mature member. At last I have got down to committing my thoughts to paper.

I left school at the end of my fifth year, in summer 1953, to train to be a nurse. I was not at school during much of Dr. Sharp's tenure. I was grateful for this as I think that he was still feeling his way into the job when I became known to him. During Sports day that year there was a group of us who were not fully involved with the proceedings and consequently there was a certain degree of horse-play which ended with me having my foot spiked by Tom Bolam. It was not a serious injury and it was quickly and efficiently dealt with by Mr. Seed. I thought that that was that. It was not to be. Next morning in Assembly Dr. Sharp was 'critical' of a certain group of pupils - behaviour that was not acceptable and would not be tolerated. No names were mentioned, and after subsequently learning of his 'rules' and his way of dealing with any misdemeanours I am eternally grateful.

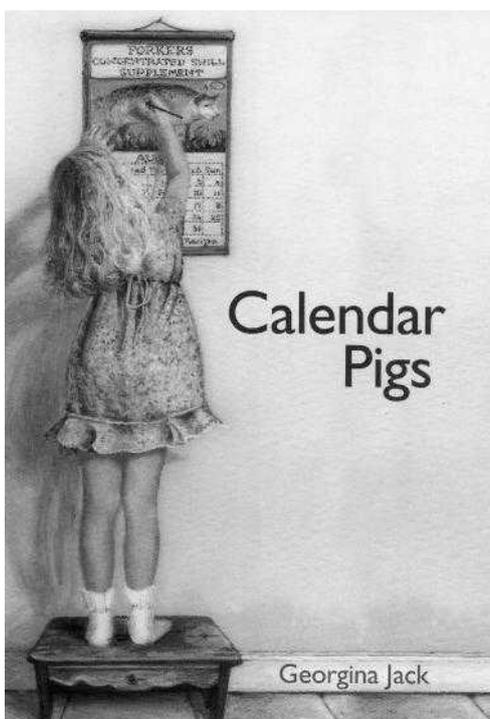


I am sending a photo of my Fifth Year form. I can't remember some names, and may have others wrong. I can only blame Anno Domini.

Margaret Leighton (Known as Pat Railton at S.G.S.)

## Calendar Pigs

Mrs Jack's book is out and on the shelves.



It is the story of a young girl who is evacuated during WW2 to a remote farm in Northumberland, and her experiences while there. It is a very good read and well worth looking out for. (Mrs Jack painted all the illustrations too.)

## A Brush with Glory

Have you had a brush with glory?

The photo shows Mary Storey (Brabban) at a Civic Reception for Brendon Foster during the 70s when



he was given Civic Reception by Gateshead Corporation.

Have you had a brush with 'Glory', - or perhaps you were the 'Glory' that was brushed.

Mary was at S.G.S. from 1950 -55, then went into the surveyors office with the N.C.B. followed by time in the surveyors office of Gateshead Corp. At the time of the photo she was doing some promotional work for – guess who – Lyons Maid!

When Mary came to an early Association meeting, she asked Fred if he was the Fred Westwater who had done National Service with her husband Clive. Both had served in the Green Howards but had lost touch. Fred was astounded that an old service friend was married to Ted Brabban's sister!

## Other Correspondence :

Dear Ted,

Many thanks for another very enjoyable Newsletter, even though it contained a few bits of sad news.

I was particularly sad to read of the death of Norma Hunter (Suddick) - Norma lived a bit further down Kyo Road in Catchgate then we did and I always remembered how she took me under her wing when, on my first day at S.G.S. I was a bag of nerves while I was walking up the bank to catch the school bus, with a satchel which felt almost as big as I was!. While I knew that she had emigrated to Canada, I had forgotten that her husband was Sam Hunter - was he of the Catchgate Hunter family who fried the best fish and chips in the area!!! or am I on the wrong track?

About the school song; you've probably received some more accurate versions than the one I remember but.....

First Things First must be our motto,  
On the field and in the hall,  
And together we'll uphold it,  
All for one and one for all.  
Dunelm,. Neville, Tanfield, Watling,  
Each his own house will support,

But united we'll stand loyal  
to our school, in work and sport.  
First Things First will be our motto,  
Proudly sing it here today,  
Let it through our hearts re-echo  
as we go? (march?) along life's way.

Staying with the theme of S.G.S. music - at this time of year I sometimes find myself singing Mr. Yockney's composition to accompany Wordsworth's "Daffodils". (Do I need to get out more?)

Finally, I don't mind receiving the Newsletter by e-mail (although I must admit that I do still like to see the Postie at the door!)

Irene Hardy (Stansfield)1950 - 55

Your memory is doing well Irene. School song is OK, and to remember a Yockney composition must be unique. (or am I unkind?) You have the wrong Hunters at the fish-shop however. That was Bart and Rob Hunter. (Rob was one of my class-mates at Tanfield) Ted.

Hi Ted,

Thanks very much for all the help you gave to my Aunt Olga in the publication of her pre-war school trip memories, I hope they were of interest, she has already had a response, and although it is hard even reading now , she made a very determined effort to literally put pen to paper for the cause.

If anyone has any recollections of her husband, and my uncle, Arthur, circa 1925-32, or his happy-go-lucky brother, Robert (Bob), circa 1929-34, who was fatally wounded at Anzio 1944, we would be very pleased if not surprised!

I would be happy for you to include my school details in the proposed 'Reunited' venture.

[reayharold98@btinternet.com](mailto:reayharold98@btinternet.com)

SGS 1952-59

Tel.01642 580898

Many thanks  
Harold Reay

Dear Ted

You should have already received the email I sent out about having changed the address of my website.

If I'd realised I was going to have to do this, I would have waited to advertise in the Tanfield Association Newsletter - thanks for that by the way, I've seen it. The mention only elicited one response to me directly, from John Cameron (am copying this to him, and to Elizabeth Hawkins).

Would it be possible to insert the updated website address into the next issue, if it's not too much trouble? That way, anyone wanting to have a look will not be greeted with a "*page not found*" error. I'm unable to redirect users to the new location from the old one, I'm afraid, for technical reasons.

I'm reproducing the bulk of my first circular about this below, mainly for John & Elizabeth's benefit, and in case you did not get it.

Thanks,

*Alan Hutchinson*

The old website address no longer works and should be replaced with:  
[www.alanhutchinson.webspace.virginmedia.com](http://www.alanhutchinson.webspace.virginmedia.com)

Mr. Brabban:  
Please publish my details

Allan Pearson  
6921 Confederate Ridge Lane  
Centreville  
VA 20121  
USA

(703) 631-0080  
[acepearson@verizon.net](mailto:acepearson@verizon.net)  
SGS 1962-1969

I have just sent an e-mail to Jack Nelson: we went to the Board School together before attending SGS.

I am also very happy to receive the newsletter by e-mail, which will save at least one overseas postal cost

Warmest regards

Allan Pearson

(Allan (Bill) Pearson would be pleased to be contacted. Virginia is a long way from Tanfield! He hopes to be over for the Centenary celebrations)

### **Ann Galliard (Temple)**

I am happy to receive e-mail rather than snail-mail at: [amngalliard@btinternet.com](mailto:amngalliard@btinternet.com)

I would also be pleased to have my details posted so that any friends who have slipped out of touch have the information to renew the link.

Ann Galliard (nee Temple)  
Glenshiel  
Pier Road  
Sandbank  
Argyll.  
PA23 8QH

Thanks for doing such a good job on the Newsletter - I know how much work is involved and really enjoy the glimpses into what was a very enjoyable time at school.

Best wishes,  
Ann