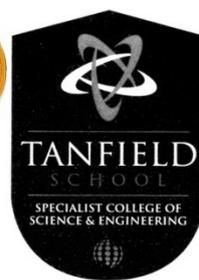


TANFIELD ASSOCIATION

President: Prof. Bob Harrison



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Newsletter No. 42

Editorial

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat and all kinds of other things are happening at the end of the year. Not least in our minds at the moment is the Association 'School Dinners' calendar. What a mammoth task that has been, as usual piloted by Elizabeth who must have endless energy. The calendar is a 'Tour de Force', made so by the excellent photography of Duncan Davis. I'm assuming that you have bought one (All proceeds go towards the help we give to our old school), but if you haven't, then shame on you and get ordering now!

We had our last AGM recently. It's not that we have given up on business meetings, but that AGM sounded far too formal for the way we do things. In future we will be having Annual Reunions, and hopefully getting through the same business. The result of this one is that we have the same team running things for another year. A report will follow.

Howard Bott is playing a blinder as the Association's Web-Master. The Association website is a mine of information these days. Be sure to have a look at tanfield-association.org and be impressed. He has also set up Pay Pal to enable a more easy transfer of payments.

Winter 2018

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Finally, I am offering this edition of the Newsletter as the 2018 Xmas Bumper Edition. I am pleased to say that I have an almost embarrassingly large number of articles to include, and may be tempted to hold onto the odd one until Easter 2019. What a great situation to be in, so thank you to all of our contributors - it doesn't often happen!

Ted B.

Annual Reunion

Formerly known as the AGM, our Annual Reunion was held at the South Causey Inn on Saturday 20th October. As is usual, it was a convivial mix of business with good food and chat, and a chance to meet up with old friends.

For another year we have the same team running the Association. Each of the Officers had prepared their reports in written form, and they are presented in this Newsletter. Following recent legislation we now have a Data Protection Officer. That responsibility has been taken on by Susan Donkin, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Our fund-raising calendar, 'A Taste of Tanfield - Memories of School Dinners', was presented by Elizabeth at the meeting. Elizabeth has done a mountain of work to pilot this through, and a cracking job it is too. One of the features of the calendar is the professional quality of the food photographs. These were produced for us by Duncan Davis free of charge, and they are, as someone said, "M and S quality photos". For the time and expense which Duncan had freely given the Association, at the meeting he was awarded the Tanfield Glass to hold for a year.

A fundamental change to our arrangements was agreed at the meeting. Elizabeth pointed out that traditionally the Annual Reunion was being held close to the School's birthday in October. Other events were happening around the same date and the calendar was becoming crowded. It was proposed and agreed that our Annual Reunion should be moved to the Spring. The next one will be in May 2019.

The business concluded, we drank a toast to the School, and then tucked in to the subsidised buffet.

Ted B.

TANFIELD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been a busy year for the association, as we have continued to support the school's activities and organise social events for our members.

- Colleagues have continued to support the Accelerated Reading Scheme and the association has donated £500 to the purchase of the Lexia computer programme designed to encourage and improve reading
- The executive and individual members have continued to fund the Big Band appeal
- Annual awards have been made to students
- Members have participated in a number of school events, the Tanfield Through Time roadshow presented to Year 7 pupils and the very moving Remembrance Day assembly are examples
- The association is now fully GDPR compliant and has appointed a Data Protection Officer in line with regulations. (Post to be ratified by the membership).

Thank you Susan.

The web site development continues with a Facebook page accessible to the parents as well as association members. We have a portal of which we can be proud. Thanks to Howard! Overall 500 recipients "like" the site and participate; we have never been so popular.

The monthly lunches continue to be a great success, we met on ten occasions this year and visited a wide range of eateries and have had some vigorous conversations as well some nice meals. We round the year off with lunch at the South Causey Inn.

The newsletter continues to be a great success, with two new issues going out. Thanks again, Ted!

Finally we are all excited about the school dinners' calendar. They are going fast. I have pre-bought three so get your orders in. But Elizabeth and Amy will tell us more about that.

Kind regards and best wishes to you all.

Bob Harrison

President

Oct 2018

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since last October we have continued to target the association's twin aims of supporting the school and bringing together our members via monthly lunches, meetings, the termly Newsletter, Facebook and the website. Not only our members have access to the online communications, but also former pupils and staff, as well as parents of past and present

students. The lunches are for members only, and have been much enjoyed, as well as raising £400 for the school through a monthly raffle. A big thank you to those who have donated the prizes and those who have bought tickets.

Two of the biggest undertakings have been the ‘Tanfield Through Time’ road show and the production of a calendar to celebrate school dinners. This year’s ‘Tanfield Through Time’ was due to go ahead on October 16th, to celebrate the school’s 106th birthday by introducing this year’s intake of new students to the school’s history. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the show has been postponed, but we expect it to take place later this term. What will happen is that members of the association will mount displays of photos and memorabilia and will talk to all of the new Year 7 students, who have only been in school for a few weeks. It celebrates the school’s long service to the community and introduces the youngest members of the school to its history. An introduction by Ted is followed by browsing displays of photos, a quiz and chat sessions between students and our members, some of whom are former staff as well as former students.

The idea for the calendar began as a suggestion that we produce a recipe book to raise funds for the school. Instead of a book, we decided to produce a calendar which would celebrate school dinners from the war years to today. Such old favourites as Ginger Syrup Sponge and Manchester Tart are included, along with a modern favourite such as Pasta Carbonara and that perennial favourite, Corned Beef Pie. The biggest coup, however, was to find the recipe for the legendary salad cream made by Aggie, the cook who fed us from 1943 through the 50s and 60s. Most of the other recipes were provided by Irene Storey, a former cook at Tanfield, were cooked by a band of volunteers and photographed superbly by Duncan Davis, a professional who specialises in photographing food. Councillor Joyce Charlton helped us to apply successfully for funds from Durham County Council to get the project started and, much hard work later, the calendar is on sale today at the AGM. May it bring back happy memories to all who receive a copy. The money raised from sales of the calendar will support extra-curricular activities at the school.

Elizabeth Hawkins
Hon. Sec

Webmaster's Report for 2017-18

- Because of a sizeable increase in the number of 30-40 year olds (those I call youngsters) joining the Facebook group, the website was re-vamped completely to make it more user friendly for smart phone and tablet users. Many thanks to my daughter Lesley for her thorough testing of the new website.
- Sadly, I've had to devote a specific area on the website to obituaries. If anyone wants to submit a tribute to a former student, teacher or anyone involved with the school, please email me using the address at the foot of the page.
- I've made the Association's Newsletters for Summer & Winter 2017 available on the website.
- Ten photo albums of Amy's School French Visits were added to the website. After promoting this on Facebook, many of the participants joined our Facebook group.
- The Tanfield Association Facebook group now has 538 members.
- Much work went into ensuring the website conformed to the new GDPR regulations and a "Privacy Policy" was made available.
- Following the tremendous work involved in producing the "Taste of Tanfield" 2019 Calendar, the option to pay with PayPal was added to the website to make buying it easier.
- The website was updated to encourage people to join the Association and methods of paying by PayPal, Standing Order or Bank Transfer were detailed.

As always, I'd be delighted to hear any comments, suggestions, memorabilia or contributions you wish to make - email me at the address at foot of page.

Also, please visit the Tanfield Association Facebook page using the link on the Association's website main page - make sure you join us, it's free!

Howard Bott

Webmaster

webguru@tanfield-association.org

Newsletter Report – 2018

First I would like to extend a large Thank You to the school for producing the Newsletter for our Association, and especially to Joy for formatting and the Office staff for printing it. Without your assistance it would be a non-starter. Thank you all.

The feedback that we get, although limited, would suggest that the Newsletter that we produce is well received. I am also pleased to say that, although I am not overwhelmed with items to include, there always seems to be sufficient, and a diversity, to make for an interesting read. I did wonder about ‘The Last Train’ item as it didn’t really link to the school. However, it must have been read with interest as it inspired correspondence to me, and involvement is what we seek. So, if you have a similar topic, about the school and its history perhaps we could develop a theme.

Initially the cost of distributing the Newsletter ate up quite a chunk of our income. I am pleased to say that now more than half of our distribution is by email, and thus the costs are cut. It does, however, put a load of work onto the shoulders of Elizabeth who does it for us, along with most other business, so I, and you, owe a great big Thank You there too.

Finally, if you fancy your hand at putting together the Newsletter, the position is available without opposition. Yours truly is no spring chicken, (more like a scraggy, past his best, old rooster!) and can’t go on forever. Perhaps it is time for a fresh, younger, approach?

Ted Brabban (1944 -1951)

TANFIELD ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS 4/9/2017 - 4/9/2018

Tanfield Association Accounts 4/9/17 - 4/9/18

Balance 4/9/17 £2359 Credit

Balance 4/9/2018 £2556.22 Credit

CHEQUES DEBITED TO ACCOUNT	Breakdown of Debits	POST/STATIONERY EXPENSES	WEB FEE	DONATIONS Made to school	2018 AGM DEPOSITS FOR FOOD	2017 AGM FOOD COSTS
100195 £59.99 Radio purchase						
100196 £1025.00 Big Band Donation (525) Robotics club donation (500)		45.00 62.99 31.46 59.35 17.40	33.55	59.99 RADIO 525.00 BG BAND	50.00	185.00
100197 £185.00 Peacock Pub AGM Buffet		19.25 79.00 91.38		500.00 ROBOTICS CLUB		
100198 £45.00 A Bilton Expenses						
100199 cancelled cheque						
100200 £62.99 T Brabban Post				20.00 CHILD AWARD		
100201 £71.46 E Hawkins Post including School Awards £20x2				20.00 CHILD AWARD		
100202 £50 Tanfield School Band donation E&J Miller				50.00 MEMBER DONATION TO BIG BAND		
100203 £59.35 T Brabban Post						
100204 £17.40 E Hawkins Post						
100205 £33.55 H Bott Web Fee						
100206 £69.25 A Bilton re South Causey Deposit £50 plus Stationery Expenses						
100207 £79.00 E Hawkins Post						
100208 £91.38 E Hawkins GDPR postal Expenses						

TANFIELD ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS 4/9/2017 - 4/9/2018

DEBIT TOTAL TO ACCOUNT

£1849.00

CREDITS TO ACCOUNT (Includes Membership / Raffles Monies/AGM Donations Received)

Total £ 2044

MEMBERSHIP 245

Accounts Confirmed

S Donkin Treasurer.....*S Donkin*

R Harrison Chairman.....*R Harrison*

E Hawkins Secretary.....*E Hawkins*

4/9/18

School Dinner Recipes

As we were developing the 'School Dinners Calendar' we thought that it would be good to let some current pupils know the dishes that we were served for lunch on a take it or leave it basis, to compare with the choice that they have now each lunchtime. We therefore arranged with the Headmaster to have a morning cookery session with a mixed group of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils (1st and 2nd year to us older folk!) to prepare some of the recipes that are in our calendar.

BBC Newcastle sent along a reporter to record images and recordings of the morning.



Those of us who went, and some of the produce!

The children were very enthusiastic, and worked diligently in groups with an adult, each group with a different recipe. My two girls kept me right and produced an apple and blackberry crumble (which was delicious!).



Our young helpers, and the wide variety of dishes that were made on the day.

We persuaded the school kitchen chef to send us a selected sample of dishes that would be available the same day. These included a pasta dish and other items that were unheard of in our day.

The morning concluded, as you would expect, with a tasting session. We sampled the old food and the new food. I think that the children were impressed with some of the dishes which we had prepared, and in some cases said that they would like to have them served for lunch.

It was a fascinating morning!

Ted B.



School Dinners, Stanley Grammar School, 1959-66

According to a recent straw poll of my family & friends, I must be the only person in the world to love *liver and onions*.

I know it started at school, as my Mum and Dad both hated it too, so I never had it at home. But I have very fond memories of the school's tender liver, juicy onions and thick, delicious gravy – just perfect with their creamy mashed potato (I could forgive the occasional grey lump!). After many years' absence, and with the purchase of a slow-cooker, I have now started doing it for myself. Every time I sit down to eat, I am transported back to the noisy school dining-hall, with the bottles of milk on the table.

In my 4th year I became a trolley-girl myself (trolley no. 2) and had the privilege of whizzing it up and down the aisle – there was always a competition to see which of the four could be back to the kitchen first after clearing the tables.

One of my other memories of school dinner-time was of Scotty delivering the Grace:

“Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to thy service”

Many years later, as President of a Dinner Club, this was my favourite Grace, which I often used as a tribute to Scotty.

So – liver and onions it is!

Sheila Parkes (née Wrightson)
SGS 1959-66

School Dinners

I remember lumpy mashed potatoes, hard processed peas and dry mince with rock-hard dumplings from my first year in 1956. I was the 'waiter' for our table and I had to carry food up to the teachers' table. One day I dropped a bowl of mash from a great height!! Dr Sharp commented that it was no great loss - but took the dish from our table instead!!! I can guess that had it been the sweet then I would have been lynched!!

My favourite of 1956 was liver, onion gravy, mashed potato and swede or cabbage followed by sago or tapioca.

Maureen Peacock

Editor: I was almost a decade earlier than Maureen and I cannot remember ever having liver. As for tapioca well, it was the dreaded frog-spawn!

Margaret Wilson (nee Dobson)

I did enjoy the 'Roondies' article It certainly brought back memories of coal delivery days!

Ah, school dinners! I can still almost catch the off-putting smell in the dining hall. A smell of one of the pastry pie, vegetable packed, main courses. This was wartime, of course, when meat was in short supply. I remember too trying to avoid having to eat the boiled (or were they steamed?) potatoes which always seemed to have a soapy taste and texture (and were laced with grey lumps! Editor).

However, on the weekly day when the dessert was Jam Roly - Poly and Custard the air was filled with happy anticipation. The senior boy servers must have had their sense of justice and fair play tested more keenly when having to share out this delicacy, than when sharing out other dishes.

Next 'School Dinner', 20th October at the South Causey. I hope that I can find it!

Margaret Wilson.

Peter Atkinson

I regret that I cannot contribute anything (to the calendar) in terms of recipes. I can't remember what we ate in those days, except for the lunch when I ate 32 prunes!! Most of the pupils at our table had been struck by colds or flu, and just 'weren't hungry', but we few able bodied didn't want the food to go to waste!

I also remember one particular grace - (homespun?):

"God bless us Heavenly Father, and keep us all alive; there are 9 of us to share, and only food for 5"

I hope you get a good response to the calendar.

Peter.

Mary Saunders

I have just received my calendar and am thrilled with the quality of the photographs, the attention to detail and the amount of information that is included almost subliminally. I hope that you feel that all the hard work was worthwhile.

Well done all.

Mary Saunders

Jean Simpson (Farbridge)

In September 1948 I joined Table D in the dining room which was occupied by varying age groups with two sixth form prefects. Older pupils were important to the ethos and cohesion of the school in running societies and sporting activities, their influence on the lower school being extended through social dining.

The trauma of the war years gave way to unexplored horizons, especially for girls; the needs of the post war birth rate bulge increased the number of intending teachers in the first year sixth. A level places in our year group were still 3 girls to 12 boys and only 3 out of 45 girls went to university. With free education and generous grants, the brave new world was within reach and the dining experience was an inspirational vehicle for socialising. Talk was of new horizons- cheap youth hostelling with Mr Gee, harvest camps with Mr Scott, projected continental cycling tours with Mr Dobbs and theatre excursions with Miss Allison.

Three hard working trail blazers managed to break into the ancient elitist precincts of Oxford and Cambridge, while two girls were to study Art and Music at well known colleges in a reconstructed London. Word of mouth was more important then, due to the lack of television, telephones and computers. The next 70 years have passed quickly like the fleeting smell of school dinners on a winter's day. However, the unique fellowship continues in the work of the Tanfield Association where memories of old friendships, shared over a meal, are still invaluable, thanks to our hard working officials.

A Moving Tribute

Tanfield School marked the centenary of the ending of World War One with a moving tribute to those who died for their country. Particular prominence was given to the 'old boys' of the school, many of them still in their teens, who lost their lives in the conflict.

The whole school was assembled outside, surrounding the memorial garden. After a short introduction, members of the school who are in local cadet corps, other students and members of the association, local council and governing body of the school laid crosses and wreaths in the garden. The Last Post was sounded by John Stephenson, Head of Music, and a minute's silence was observed at 11am.

The crosses that were laid were dedicated to the young men who had died, not so very long after leaving Tanfield: Peter Gillespie, age unknown, Calley Patterson, 19, Frederick Seed, 24, George Thompson Carr, 18, Harold Peadon, 25, John William Daghish, 19, Joseph Davison, 19, William Edward Richardson, 25, Ingram Thomas Elsdon, 19.

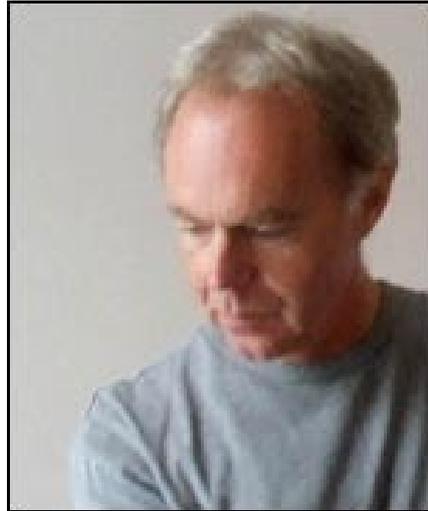
May they rest in peace.



Calley Patterson, Joseph Davison, Ingram Thomas Elsdon and George Thompson Carr as pupils at Tanfield.



Malcolm Wilson – Artist & Architect



It is always a pleasure to meet an ex pupil who has had a successful career. Several months ago I was enjoying a meal at the Miner's Arms, Medomsley, when a voice from across the room called my name. It turned out to be a former Stanley Grammar pupil from almost 50 years ago called Malcolm Wilson. He always excelled in Art, which he translated into his lifetime work.

Malcolm was born in a small mining village in County Durham and he grew up surrounded by the hills and valleys of the more remote parts of the County and has painted ever since. All his work revolves around traditional English Landscape and its changing weather, the backbone of Art History in this country. One of his mentors, Sir Hugh Casson, described his larger pieces as of National Importance.

He qualified as a Chartered Architect in 1979 and is the director of a Private Architects Practice in Carlisle, having worked most of his professional life in Southern England and London.

Malcolm studied art and architecture in Durham and Newcastle in the early 70s, winning a diploma in rendering and measured drawings by the Association of Northern Artists at only 16. This set him on a course of further education in architecture, to eventually become a chartered architect and to partner an award winning London Mayfair practice of over 14 designers.

He has contributed to several books on conservation in the Middle East and Southern England and has had past urban work nominated in the Aga Khan Awards, for excellence in architectural design.

He moved to Cumbria 17 years ago and having submitted work at the Royal Academy, The London Portrait, private galleries in the West End, Brighton and a forthcoming exhibition in Glasgow, has now concentrated on West Cumbria as a media source.

Early sea paintings of Brighton and Hove included sky and cloud studies and sketchbooks of over two hundred pencil and oil renderings.

He has since found the raw light of West Cumbria a fascinating source and has recently worked upon a series of twenty studies of which the example Allonby DM is one. Allonby DM is currently on loan to a private collector in Italy with more to follow.

He scooped the People's Choice award at the C-Art exhibition at Rheged in 2017.

Malcolm, of Black Box [Architects](#), showcased three pictures of Ullswater in the Cumbrian Artist of the Year exhibition, which finished on November 5, 2017.

I was extremely proud to hear that one of my ex pupils from the 1970s was so well received at the exhibition and has achieved so much.

He still practises in Carlisle but now combines architecture with wonderful seascapes and landscapes.

<https://www.malcolmwilsonart.com/>

Gina Jack

George Egleton

I had the enormous pleasure, recently, at a function in Romsey, Hampshire, to be introduced to John Caine. I discovered that not only did he come from Stanley, but, like me, he had attended Stanley Grammar School. I left Stanley in 1952 so you can imagine how we reminisced.

John has since sent me copies of your Newsletter and I have discovered your website on which I was amazed to see that my photo still exists - in the School Magazine for Summer 1949 in a picture of Sports Day Champions.

All this has brought back so many memories. Thank you. I will now go through the process of joining the Association.

Best wishes and every success.

George Egleton

THE TRAVELS OF A BOY FROM STANLEY

I left Stanley in 1952 when I was called for National Service after what I have always looked back on as a solid education at Stanley Grammar School. I still have my School Report Book in which I note that William Carr, the Headmaster, in his final report, placed more emphasis on my sporting achievements than any academic success.

I chose to go into the Royal Air Force and volunteered for a short regular engagement because I was keen to go overseas. I was sent to Belfast! But I liked the life and decided to extend my service and specialize in counter intelligence and special investigations. I then found myself in Blackpool for two years (yes, I know it was a hard life) before I was finally posted abroad in 1958. My posting notice read, "Posted to Ceylon ERTBA for duty GAN". I knew Ceylon (vaguely) but could not work out what the rest meant. It was then down to Southampton and embarking on Her Majesty's Troopship Nevasa for a month long voyage (it would be called a cruise today) calling in at Gibraltar, Malta, Suez and Aden before disembarking at Colombo. There I learned that "ERTBA for duty GAN" meant Eventual Route to be annotated for duty on the island of Gan, the most southerly island in the Maldives. A few days later I boarded a Valletta aircraft for a five hour flight to Addu Atoll and the island of Gan about 50 miles south of the equator where I was to remain for the next 12 months. I remember lying on the beach during my off duty hours, sending a boy up a tree for a coconut and thinking, "people would pay money for this". They do now! Gan is now a luxury holiday resort known as Equator Village.

Subsequent service saw me living and working in Singapore, Cyprus, Germany and most parts of the United Kingdom, including a second tour of duty in Northern Ireland at the height of the "troubles", when I was awarded an MBE (Military Division) and had the pleasure of inviting my father down from Stanley to attend the investiture at Buckingham Palace.

Following my RAF service, I began a second career with Shell UK, joining their southern North Sea operations based at Lowestoft, Suffolk. In addition to regular helicopter flights out to North Sea production platforms and drilling rigs, I spent time in London, Aberdeen and Shetland Islands as well as having to suffer business trips to Norway, Netherlands, Canada and the United States.

Now - I live quietly in rural Dorset (I can't remember where I put my passport!) and ask myself "where have all the years gone?". Then, recently, when attending a function in Romsey, Hampshire, the hostess asked me to meet "someone else from the north". It was John Caine - born and bred in Stanley and a pupil of Stanley Grammar School. You can imagine how we reminisced. And from that meeting I discovered The Tanfield Association website on which I was amazed to find my photograph still existed - in the school magazine for Summer 1949 - Sports Day Champions.

It was like coming home!
George Egleton

The Madrigal Society

In answer to the query by Margaret Wilson in the last Newsletter; yes, I too can remember visiting Miss Allison's home. I believe it was in Rowlands Gill.

I remember a verdant garden in Summer. We sat on the lawn singing our hearts out. It was such a happy afternoon. Whether it was with the Music Society or the Madrigal Society I'm not sure, but it must have been 1947 or '48.

I do remember being intimidated by the military bearing of Miss Allison's father, but he turned out to be the most courteous, genial and hospitable gentleman.

The photograph captures one of the day's activities. What I am doing standing there is a mystery. I would never have the courage to sing solo, so presumably I am reciting or reading something. What that was, has vanished into the mists of time.

So pleasant and vivid are some aspects of that happy day that they are still retained in my 83 year old brain when other contemporary memories have long gone.

Perhaps someone can identify the year and recognise some of the other pupils.

(Editor: Here is the photo referred to above, retrieved and copied! It is dated 1947, and that is my era. I think that I can identify two or maybe three people. I stand to be corrected, but I think that front left is Rita Scott, the one boy (behind the narrator) could be John Williamson and perhaps behind him is Grace Steele. Margaret Dobson (now Wilson!) could be there too. Is



that correct Margaret? The identity of the lady behind JPB Dobbs is a mystery.)

Another visit with the Music Society was a residential one to Ormsby Hall. The owners of the Hall, Colonel and Mrs Pennyman, usually kept very much to their own wing so it came as a surprise when they asked, quite diffidently, if they could join us one evening in the garden for our regular 'Lawn Chorus'. (Forgive the pun, but we were very young!) The Colonel and Mrs Pennyman sat quietly, occasionally smiling and tapping their feet in time with our choral efforts.

Goodness me, but Margaret's article has prompted the little grey cells to regurgitate a host of happy memories that the effects of time had almost eradicated. Perhaps that is one of the main functions of the Newsletter, - and a very effective one it is too.

Shirley Hills (nee Henderson)

(Editor – There was a recent article referring to Ormsby Hall written by Jean Simpson (Farbridge)).

A Memory Trail

Every few weeks there is a well driven route I take which provides me with a lot of memories. It seems strange to me, that looking back to my early days at S.G.S. there were so many villages whose names were new to me. Until 1953 children who lived in Pelton, as I did, went to Chester le Street Grammar School. We knew the villages thereabouts! As you can imagine places like Quaking Houses, the Lintz and the Leazes were totally unfamiliar. Nowadays the wheel has turned and I now live at the Lintz.

My little memory trail begins there and takes me first to Tantobie and then down to Tanfield Lea. I wave to our old school as I pass by and on into Stanley. There I spend a couple of hours with the Silver Singers in the Masonic Hall. Afterwards I drive on to Oxhill, passing Eden Terrace and into New Kyo. I pass the site of the demolished Sandhole WM Club, sadly a piece of history now. I continue, passing the housing estate standing where 'The Uppers' used to be, and round the corner at St Aidan's. I drive along New Durham Road noticing that No.2 is for sale. I pass the end of William Street on the right, and the path to the Park on the left and then pop into Tesco for a few bits and bobs.

Then onwards towards Catchgate, passing Annfield Plain Library, (did you know that it's the only Carnegie Library in County Durham?), and pass the junction to Bethany Gardens. I pass through Catchgate and Harelaw, past the sawmill and wave to the Brabbans as I pass by. I call at The Burrow for lunch. (This used to be the Flint Hill Pub).

Afterwards it's down the bank to Pickering Nook and turn left at the old school site (remembering my first interview for a school headship) and then on and down the Syke and I'm home in a couple of minutes.

Some of you reading this will wonder what the point of this narrative can be. Others will recognise that the geographic points mentioned are in fact places associated with people who come to mind when I drive my little memory trail. I trust that you recognise yourselves and hope that you are well.

Claire Humpherson (Flowers 53-60)

Elizabeth - Roondies

I had a laugh at the 'Roondies' article - it brought back memories of words that I haven't heard in years, alas! The Geordie dialect seems to be disappearing. Strangely enough, just

after I had read the article, I visited the Durham Cathedral Open Treasure exhibition on mining - and there was the last roondie to be mined before one of the local pits was closed. It's funny how a word will appear more than once after a long break.

Another coal-related word I remember is 'chinleys'. I think these were pieces of coal smaller than roondies(?) I remember shovelling them onto the fire to make a nice blaze, and sometimes putting a 'bleezer' on the front of the fire - a square iron sheet with a central handle on it - to encourage a draught and brighten the fire. If the bleezer wasn't handy, a sheet of newspaper was used instead. As you would expect, it often went up in flames and either disappeared up the chimney or caused panic by collapsing onto the carpet or rug. I must be going back 60 years here! Things change, but all it takes is a roondie to jog your memory, and you realise that you haven't forgotten what life was like then.

I do hope that 'Geordie Lass' will jog our memories again soon.

Elizabeth Hawkins

Joan Charlton

We all know that our school has a long and proud history. Over its 106 years hundreds of pupils have passed through, and been taught by many teachers. There are many who recall that it was at Tanfield where they were given the basis and the ambition to 'reach for the stars'! It is always good to hear those stories.

I received the accompanying letter from Joan Charlton, a lady well into her 90s who still has sharp memories of her school days and what they meant to her.

Joan's mention of Palgrave's Golden Treasury certainly rang a bell with me. We weren't given a copy from school, but I (a lowly woodwork teacher!) was inspired to buy my own copy, and it still sits on my bookshelves for reference.

Ted

Hexham,
Northumberland.

July 18th

Dear Ted,
Like many others, I have greatly enjoyed the shared memories of former Tanfield staff - a remarkable group of people whom it was a privilege to know. Who could fail to remember Mr Binks? or Miss Mortimer? Or Deaves in the glory of his scarlet gown on Speech Days? Mr Keyel's terse, random comments - or the wicked tumble on Miss Nicoll's eye? But I have also been conscious of gaps in the roll. Does anyone now remember gentle Miss Jeffrey? Miss Lewis who conjured up such lively performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operas? Mr Westgarth, who startled and challenged us to think and defend our own judgements of literature (and much else)? Is my generation drifting into

the past, those few still in touch begin to see how fortunate we were to know such people in our formative years.

Two others I remember with great gratitude, though I never knew them. One was the person who put into the Library a copy of Leonard Woolley's 'Life of the Chaldees' and sparked off a lifelong interest in archaeology. The other (or was it a Committee) made a rare and unorthodox decision - when at the beginning of our fourth year we were issued with textbooks as usual, to be used, misused, handed back at the year's end, one English textbook was not lent but given - actually given to us to keep as our own (perhaps for some of my contemporaries the first book they had ever possessed). The book was Palgrave's 'Golden Treasury of English Verse' (I still use mine, some eighty years later) and it changed the whole feeling of what we were doing. I can really know what education really means - thank you!
Joan Charlton (1932-39)

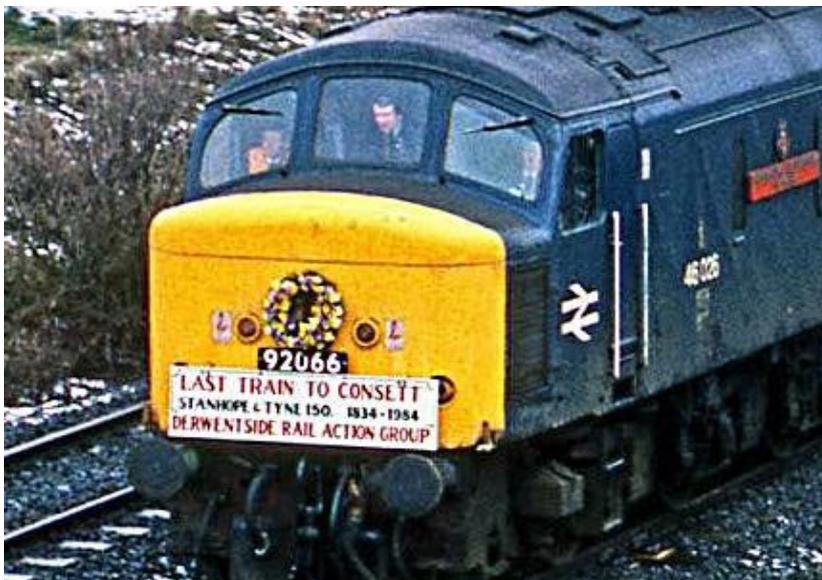
Dear Ted,

I sent the photo of the train to Elizabeth. My husband and I reckon that they sent a passenger train down the line when it closed in 1982.

Joy Drake (P.A. to the Headmaster)



Joy then sent me a second photo:



I believe that the sign on the front of the engine reads: 'Last Train to Consett' 'Stanhope and Tyne 150 1834 - 1954'

Who knows the details?

The line is now part of the 'Sustrans' cycleway/footpath network.

Editor.

Graeme Garnham

Dear Ted,

Many thanks for the Newsletter and updates on Tanfield.

I am the eldest surviving Garnham, losing Mum, Hilary, in 2000, and Dad, Ivan, passing in 2012.

I am sure that you will remember us. Younger brother Bryan is in New Zealand, and twin sisters, Lynne and Claire in Yorkshire and Lancashire respectively. Following Dad's lead I retired, last August, as a primary school Headteacher of 18 years, out of a 34 year teaching career in England and Scotland.

I noted the photo of the train with the school in the background and it made me reach for my anorak! I think that this picture is misleading as it is a passenger train on the Consett freight line, making it look 'pre-Beeching'. The coach colours and the locomotive are wrong for that era. I suspect it was the last train to go to Consett and back in 1984 before the line closed completely. It was pulled by a Class 46 Loco and was full of enthusiasts. My Dad and I went from home in Coniscliffe Road to photograph it in the snowy cold, a picture that he treasured on his mantelpiece until he died.

There is a video etc at <http://www.forgottenrelics.co.uk/films/consett.html>

Regards and best wishes,

Graeme Garnham.

Euan Ross

Every Newsletter catches my eye with an unexpected item and manages to cover a reasonable spread of interests. The latest edition is no exception, prompting the following comments:

- 1) Page numbers would help comments
- 2) Twelfth Page: I was pleased to read the contribution from Douglas Smith, my contemporary until July 1957 from September 1955, or earlier. I hope that he knows that about 25 former pupils of that vintage stay in touch with each other by sharing lunch - usually on the first Tuesday of the month - and would be delighted if he were to drop in through having contacted our co-ordinator (currently buxtonsylvia@gmail.com)
- 3) Thirteenth Page- Your interesting image suggests to me that the files of terraced houses running at right angles to the rail tracks between them and the camera are on ground now occupied by Hillside Gardens. The Gardens' first occupants took possession in 1954 or late 1953; one was my uncle. Shield Row station closed to passengers in 1955 (May 23). Might the photographer have captured the last train for Newcastle? The camera angle suggested by the bridge carrying the coaches and the incline in the foreground has me guessing that the photographer was near OS Grid

reference NZ204535 (nearest postcode DH9 0HN). That's the intersection of the View Wood footpath with the road linking Kip Hill to No Place via Shield Row Primary School.

My best wishes.
Euan Ross.

(Editor: It has been suggested that the photo in question was taken from Brewery Square, and that the terraced houses are in fact those at Sunny Terrace. Somebody put me right!!)

Billy Watson

Dear Ted,

Regarding the photo of the diesel loco in the last Newsletter: it was the last train to Consett Iron Works on March 17th 1984. The run was organised by the Derwentside Rail Action Group to commemorate the Stanhope and Tyne Railway. Passenger services had ended, so the Class 56 diesel in the photo would not be in mainline service.

After this final run, the tracks were torn up.

Best wishes,

Billy Watson.

Editor : If you wish a full version of the day, search on Google for 'Last Train to Consett'. Among the sites that come up select 'Last Passenger Train – South Pelaw Junction'. On this site is the complete history of the day plus lots of photographs (including those we published!)

I was intrigued by the March weather that is shown! At South Pelaw all is green, but as the line climbs to Consett there is more and more snow. Consett is white!

Muriel Guerrero

There is a name that not many will recognise. However, had I titled the piece 'Miss Grievson' then lots of you will remember a teacher of French and founder of 'The French Club' from way back!

Muriel recently contacted me with some sad news. She had maintained a connection with 'Miss Heslop' who taught French at Tanfield for a while, and was a co-founder of the French Club. Miss Heslop married and became Marie Smith. Sadly she passed away in July. Muriel had attended her funeral.

Chess Club

You may remember that In Newsletter 40 we did a piece about the school Chess Club, and included a photograph. It came to my notice recently that one of the team members on that photograph, Ken Smith, had died very recently in the USA. It would be interesting to know the historical progression from Chess Club at Tanfield to life in the USA. Does anyone know?

Dear Elizabeth

Thank you for the Newsletter. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

Mavis Stoker.