

LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

NAME: JOHN BOWES

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1949 TO 1956

MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

I left Tanfield in 1956 after a good education and decent A Levels. Four years at Birmingham University for a Geography degree and Education Certificate – all fully paid for by the government!

Five years working in a state grammar school in Norfolk and a comprehensive school in Coventry. Enjoyed living in Coventry during the opening of the New Coventry Cathedral by the Archbishop of Canterbury and seeing Moira Shearer and Lawrence Olivier on stage during the celebration when Coventry became a city of culture.

Moved to Kenya as part of British Overseas Aid, employed by the Ministry of Overseas Development. Lived on the Equator at 7000 feet. Kept out of sight during a couple of periods of political (tribal) disturbance against the government. Was an ideal life in many aspects: time for tennis, golf and many safaris, Serengeti, Uganda National Parks etc and climbed Kilimanjaro (19,000 feet), Mount Kenya and Mount Elgon.

Returned home with the family to live on the coast in South Devon in 1973. We were on the line of total eclipse of the sun in August 1999 – a strange but memorable event watched from our garden. Our youngest grandson cried his eyes out when everything went black and silent during totality!

Have travelled a lot since I retired 31 years ago. Mine was a lucky generation – able to pay off a mortgage after only 15 years.

Should anyone remember me and wish to make contact, you can do so via Tanfield Association.

JB