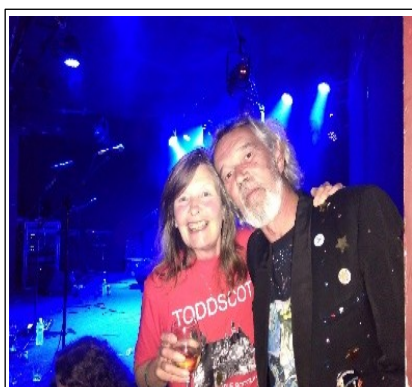


## **LIFE AFTER TANFIELD**



**NAME Mavis McEwan**

**PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1970 TO 1977**

### **MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD**

Hi Everyone,

To begin my story, I have to start with my time at Tanfield, which I remember with so much enjoyment and fond memories. Tanfield was still a Grammar School in 1970, and I must admit I felt thrilled to be going there with all my friends from West Stanley Junior School.

When I left in 1977, I began my three year teacher training course at Anstey College of Physical Education in Birmingham and qualified in 1980 with a BEd. Kevin Stoker, my boyfriend from school and then fiancé, was already teaching at a school in Birmingham. We were married in the summer of 1980 and went to Paris for our honeymoon by hovercraft - my first time abroad! He still mentions the fact that his French was much better than mine even though I passed and he didn't!

In 1980, I started my first teaching job at South Bromsgrove High School. We lived in a very grotty flat in Edgbaston, Birmingham for a year and then bought our first house in 1981 in Northfield, Birmingham. We still live in that house.

In July 1986, our daughter Polly was born, then in 1989, our son Jack. We were both working full time so life during that period seemed incredibly hectic. I carried on teaching PE and Biology and became a Head of Year up until 2013, when I took early retirement after having cancer treatment.

Since retiring, we have enjoyed travelling around the world seeing our favourite bands, which has taken us all over Europe, to America and Asia. We combined a trip to Australia to see my brother Alastair and his family with a Todd Rundgren music camp on Cockatoo Island.

Retired life carries on at a lovely gentle pace, filled with walking our three dogs: Lucy the Labrador, Millie the Golden Retriever and Eevee who is made up of all kinds of dog, plus gardening and reading. Hope to see familiar faces in October.

**Mave Stoker**