

SECRETARY'S REPORT
OCTOBER 2025 – OCTOBER 2026

In October 2025 the AGM was held in Tanfield Lea Community Centre and was attended by members of the association and by Head Teacher Steven Clough, who received a cheque from the association for the Discretionary Fund, and by Joy Drake, the Business Support Officer, who was presented with the Tanfield Star as a thank you for her support ever since the association was formed more than 20 years ago. Members of the association's committee were elected unopposed.

The monthly lunches, which all members are invited to attend, continued to be held at local pubs on the second Wednesday of every month. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

In December 2025, we again did the Tanfield Through Time quiz with the new Year 7, introducing them to the history of the school. Prizes were awarded to the students with the highest score in each class. The number of prizes awarded were the highest ever, and medals were also awarded to 19 students who had achieved full marks.

In the Spring of 2026, the school was honoured with a visit from Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, Kim McGuinness, Mayor for the North East, and Local MP Luke Akehurst, as a result of the school's good work in helping students to make progress. The association were asked to show them our Tanfield Through Time display. A group of volunteers did this and we were able to underline the fact that for most of its existence, Tanfield has been a very good school and worthy of our support.

As a follow up to Bridget Phillipson's visit, Tanfield's good work was included in a White Paper and Steven Clough was invited to attend the launch of the White Paper and a garden party at Buckingham Palace as a reward for the school's good work.

Our newsletter continues to be sent out to members each term, and our thanks go to members who have helped by sending us articles and photos. We welcome your comments, photos and memories and will be happy to include them in future editions. We were also able to continue reporting on current successes of the school and its students. It is good to know that the school which supported us continues to do its best to support current students, and has received national recognition.

Sadly, this year has seen the death of more of our members, including sculptor Fenwick Lawson and, most recently, our former president, Professor Bob Harrison. Bob's work for the association for many years was greatly appreciated, and he was a good friend who will be greatly missed.

We send many thanks to the members who have made donations to our recent appeal for the Discretionary Fund. A total of £1590 was donated and an additional sum from the association funds will be added. Our thanks also go to the members who keep the good work of the association going, and without whom it could not exist.

Elizabeth Hawkins
Hon. Sec.