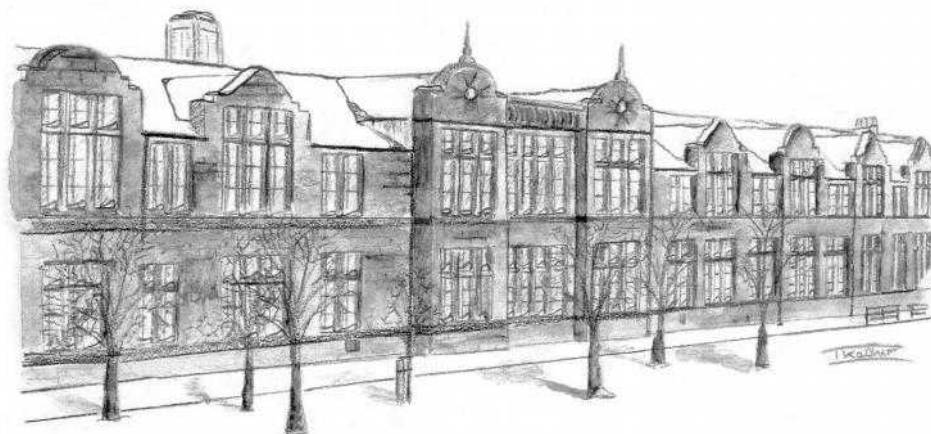


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Issue No. 9

Newsletter Winter 2005

Editorial

Happy New Year and Good Wishes to all members of the Tanfield Association in 2005. This year will see the end of another era in the story of our school at Tanfield - Head Teacher Archie Howat is to retire at the end of August. He will be handing over to the new Head Teacher in September, a school that, over the past four years has:

- a) had almost 4½ million pounds spent on updating, improving and refurbishing;
- b) gained Specialist College status in Science and Engineering;
- c) in 2004 achieved the best academic results ever.

He will certainly be a hard act to follow!

2005 also sees the celebration of the ending of the Second World War, sixty years ago. The Association will be commemorating this occasion by holding an evening of good food, entertainment and 'Songs and Music' of the 1940s. (see article)

I have been asked to remind members gently about their £5 admin fees. If you were a member before 31st March 2004 please use the form accompanying the Newsletter with your payment. If you have already paid by cheque or standing order, thank you and please ignore this reminder. If you joined the Tanfield Association after 31st March 2004 you are paid up to 16th October 2005.

Thank you to all who have written letters or contributed articles, they are greatly appreciated and are seen as the members visible support for the newsletters. We need your help please keep the letters flowing.

Alan Ramshaw
Editor

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Second World War Commemoration Evening

Report on Cheese and Wine/AGM Evening Thursday 21st October 2004

The Cheese and Wine Evening was enjoyed by all who attended, from the youngest member Susan Donkin (pupil 1976-81) our Membership Coordinator/Joint Treasurer, to one of our senior members Barbara Churcher (pupil 1928 - 35) who was 88 years young in November and who is one of our most enthusiastic members.

The numbers of people who actually did attend could be considered as 'very poor' or a better phrase may be 'a dismal turnout' but as Jeff Piper (pupil 1964 - 69) was heard to remark "the lack of quantity does not effect the quality". A number of written and telephone apologies for absence were received prior to the meeting, and afterwards and these are much appreciated.

The first class catering of a scrumptious selection of cheeses with accompanying variety of biscuits and fruit as well as the diversity of wines both alcoholic and non-alcoholic was arranged by Susan Smith (pupil 1964-71) Assistant Head Teacher at Tanfield. Our grateful thanks are given to her for her effort and hard work which we appreciate is in addition to a very busy school day.

The actual business of the AGM only lasted about twenty minutes, and was very competently chaired by Eric Fisk, Deputy Head Teacher. Eric was deputising for Ken Dixon (Chair of Executive) who had apologised for not being able to attend. Eric continued to Chair the meeting after the re-election of Professor Warren Pescod as

President, who had also apologised for not being able to attend.

The officials and members of the Working Executive were all re-elected with one further member Brian Hopkins (pupil 1959-64) from Sacriston being nominated and elected to the Executive Committee.

Apart from the eating of cheese and the drinking of wine there was a great deal of talking over school days and the examination of the photographic displays. There was the moment when Harry Atkinson (pupil 1940s from Dipton) on holiday from New York, USA was confronted by Harry Martin (pupil 1939-44 from Craghead) of Sunnyside, England. Both said "I know you!" and "I know you!" (this mutual recognition was after an interval of 60 years) and they both began recounting tales and stories about Craghead, Dipton and school days at Tanfield.

Harry Martin also produced two very interesting photographs of School Harvest Camps during and after the Second World War, but that is a story in itself. Bob Roxborough of Chester le Street (pupil 1948-55) brought some very interesting photographs from 1952-56 for display, and I am sure some will be for production in the newsletter.

The Working Executive wish to thank everyone who played a part in the evening and also those members who sent in nominations or letters of support for the event.

Memorabilia Request

Our thanks to George Fraser (pupil 1950 - 56) of Westbury, Wilts, for sending us a Stanley Grammar School prefects badge. It is the only Prefects badge we have, and is now, with other memorabilia of our school, at Tanfield for

future display. We would invite members to contact the secretary regarding any item of memorabilia they possess, and would like to find a good home for.

Tanfield School Today

It was predicted in our last Newsletter that the school would do well in the GCSE results and they certainly have! The best results ever! 54% of pupils achieving A* to C grades in the 2004 GCSE examination, and a significant number of the highest grades lower down the age group of pupils at Key Stage 3, the school again achieved particularly good SAT results with a significant number of pupils gaining Levels 6 and 7. An extremely good year all round, the result of great effort and focused work by pupils and staff with the support of parents.

The results now place Tanfield in top position of secondary schools in Consett and Stanley areas. Well done to all staff and pupils for this success and the maintaining of the high standards we have come to expect from Tanfield.

Before Christmas the school was awarded, along with other Educational Establishments, a cash award of £1,000 by Durham County for achievement in the county. The cash award was to be spent in any way the staff wished. There was quite a bit of discussion on how should the cash be divided Should a party be held with a slap-up meal? etc etc. The staff went on Christmas Holiday and came back to school on 4 January 2005. Their first day back was a training day and a decision had to be made regarding the £1,000. A vote was taken and the decision was that all the money was to go to the Tsunami Disaster Fund. In addition to this, children in school baked cakes and sold them to staff and friends raising £69.73. This money was added to the Tsunami Appeal.

Once again, well done to the staff and children at Tanfield

Archie Howat - Head Teacher to Retire

On behalf of all members of the Tanfield Association, the Working Executive give their sincere congratulations and very best wishes to Archie on the announcement that he is to retire at the end of August 2005 from the position of Head Teacher of Tanfield School Specialist College of Science and Engineering. Archie has led a dedicated team which has, over the past few years, achieved more than any comparable period in the school's ninety three years existence and that is quite a record to achieve. It must be also stated that the very best wishes extended to Archie are also tinged with regret and a touch of sadness at the passing of another memorable milestone in the history of our school at Tanfield. Ever since the new Tanfield Association had its first meeting in October 2000, Archie Howat has fully supported and been a tower of strength to all the Tanfield Association.

Archie came to Tanfield from Bradford in 1984 following a very happy and successful career teaching English and in Senior Educational Management. Archie served as Deputy Head Teacher until 1989 when he was appointed Head Teacher. During the past

fifteen years Tanfield School has seen many changes . Two of the most notable being:

- i) gaining Specialist School Status in Science and Engineering and all the advantages this brings;
- ii) in the past year 2004, achieving the best ever academic results, placing Tanfield top of all the schools in Derwentside.

He strongly maintains that the traditions of the school are important and firmly believes that the heart and values of the school through the years have been retained and should continue to be retained "the past supporting the future". All the achievements of the past few years and the continuance of excellence and quality of education for all who attended Tanfield School have established a very firm foundation for the next ninety three years.

From all who have been associated with Tanfield School a very big 'Thank you' is given to Archie Howat for all his hard work, caring concern and support during his twenty one years of management at Tanfield.

Report of 2nd World War Memorial Plaque Dedication Service

11th November 04

The service began at 10.20am and was attended by approximately sixty members of the Tanfield Association and representatives of the families of the young men, former pupils of Alderman Wood School, who gave their lives during the Second World War and whose names are commemorated on the Memorial Plaque. The school was represented by a number of older pupils, Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Senior Teaching Staff, and Chair of Governors Mr Jim Brown.

A welcome to the school was given by Head Teacher Archie Howat, followed by an introduction and explanation of how the Dedication Service had come to be, by Professor Warren Pescod OBE (pupil 1944-51) President of The Tanfield Association. The very moving service was conducted by Rev. John Maughan (pupil 1939-46), and included the handing over of the Memorial Plaque, Dedication by Joicey Craven (pupil 1932-37) who had served in the 2nd World War as a captain, together with a very smart and worthy assistant, twelve year old Shane, Oliver one of the youngest pupils of the school. On handing over the plaque with Shane Joicey gave the following brief statement - "Shane and I are highly honoured to be involved in the ceremony as we hand over this glorious Memorial Plaque, which records forever the names of thirty four young men who were pupils at Tanfield, many I well remember. They were all upstanding youths, they honoured our motto 'First Things First', and gallantly gave their all, sadly never to return. The Memorial Plaque will stand as a silent witness to our determination

To Honour Them

To Remember Them

To Thank Them

For the inestimable contribution to the World. Their names will live forever.

On receiving the Memorial Plaque by Rev. John Maughan, the thirty four names were read out, in turn, by pupils of the school. A citation in memory of Harry Carr (pupil 1935-40) was read by Vicki Logan (year 11 pupil 2004). The bible reading John 15 was read by Head of PE Alan Johnston (pupil 1966-73). The accompaniment to the hymn 'Make me a Channel for your Peace' was played by June Todd (pupil 1950-57).

After the Dedication Address by Rev. John Maughan a few moments of silent contemplation were experienced before the sounding of the Last Post by John Stephenson (Head of Music). The playing of the Last Post in the school quadrangle was extremely moving and very impressive, as selected pupils were placed around the area of the quadrangle to stand in respectful silence during the playing. As 11 o'clock struck, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, two minutes silence was observed by all, as lessons and all movement ceased and the school was still.

The Executive Committee of the Tanfield Association wish to express their grateful thanks to everyone who helped to make the Dedication Service a successful and memorable occasion. Three people deserve a special thank you - Head Teacher Archie Howat who was responsible for organising the service and the whole school to take part, Rev. John Maughan who led the service from his wheelchair with great dignity and sincerity, and Joicey Craven who sponsored the making of the plaque and whose idea it was to have a Dedication Service.

2nd World War Memorial Plaque Information

As a follow up to the making of the Memorial Plaque and its impressive Dedication Service, we would like to gather any information concerning the thirty four young men who are listed on the plaque. It has been suggested that a memorial book should accompany the plaque, giving some background of family, work, college etc. and War Service.

There is almost no background knowledge on most of the names. We would therefore be grateful for any detail at all concerning these brave young men who died in the war. Please send any information by letter or phone to secretary Fred Westwater. The following two photographs and information may be a guide.

Robert Reay

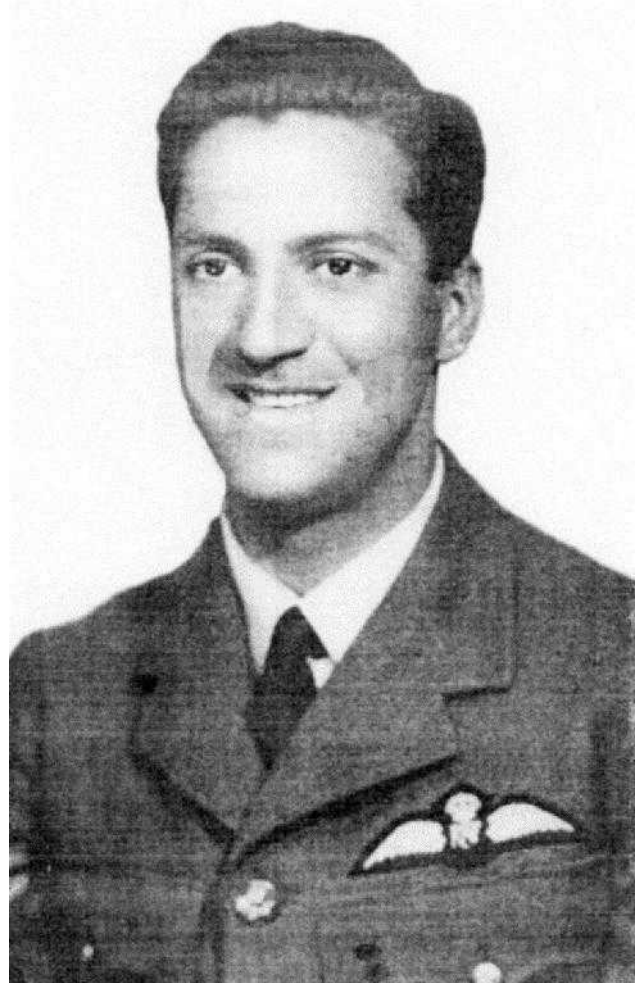
Born in Queens Parade, Annfield Plain on 10th April 1916, one of a family of five children. Attended Alderman Wood School, Tanfield from 1927 to 1935 together with older brother Arthur. He died from wounds during the Battle of Anzio, Italy on the 6th February 1944 aged 27 years, while serving with the Duke of Wellingtons Regiment.



Robert Reay

John Blight

Son of Lily and James Blight of Annfield Plain, married to Frances E Blight. He was a school teacher at Whickham before being called upon from the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve to active service. He was serving with 224 Squadron, Royal Air Force as a Sergeant Pilot, flying Hudson Bombers. It is believed he was shot down off Brest, on the coast of Brittany on 56th February 1942 aged 29 years.



John Blight

92 Years of Educational Memories at Tanfield

The birthday of our School at Tanfield on 16th October, celebrated ninety two years of young people spending between five and seven years of their young lives undergoing an educational and social experience, unique to each young person with long reaching effects that could touch their future lives in many different ways.

It should also be remembered that a smaller group of people also share in this educational, and social experience - The Staff of the School! Every member of the staff has an important role to play in providing this unique and personal experience. Many people when thinking of staff often forget the large number of people who play their part in often unseen but very important jobs of building maintenance: cleaning; catering; providing heating and lighting; as well as outside ground maintenance.

The teaching staff are the ones who have face to face and often decisive contact with the young people's experiences, and are of course the main ones remembered by the pupils. The vast number of memories by pupils of their teachers concern mainly the particular teacher's personality, their methods of teaching, and quite often, their particular eccentricities. But most frequently it is the relationship developed between pupil and teacher that is the main part of the memory that is carried over the years.

The subjects taught often take second place. Very rarely are the scholarship and depths of educational qualification of the individual teacher discussed by pupils, past or present, or even the merits of one subject against another. It is often the manner of teaching that is the most important to pupils: how can the teacher bring the subject to life; make it so interesting; engender enthusiasm; or perhaps even make the lesson really enjoyable. Teachers may even be role-models for many pupils, an example of the kind of person they would wish to become when they leave school.

In the ninety third year of our school, Alderman Wood, Stanley Grammar, Tanfield Secondary, or Tanfield Comprehensive, we ask everyone who reads this article "do you have memories of school staff?" Did your teachers have specific qualities that made you think they were wonderful? Did they have eccentricities which really irritated you or endeared them to you? It is also reasonable to assume that school staff, including teachers are only human, and may have had faults which annoyed you. Were they weak? Were they over-bearing? Did they take advantage of their positions?

Please write or telephone your memories of school staff (non-teaching and teaching) from when you were at school. We would very much like to build a memories bank of School Staff at Tanfield.

Tanfield Pupils in the Boys Brigade

At Stanley Grammar school at any one time there were a number of boys who were in the Boy's Brigade. The organisation had a strong presence in Stanley and Consett and was organised into companies based on the chapel where they met. The North West Durham Battalion was represented by the following companies

1 st Annfield Plain	2 nd Consett
3 rd White-le-head	4 th Stanley
5 th Blackhill	6 th Leadgate
7 th Annfield Plain	8 th Kyo Laws
9 th Greencroft	10 th Consett

11 th Oxhill	12 th Allendale
13 th Stanley	16 th Grove
17 th Beamish	

Boys joined for many difference reasons. The opportunities for various activities in the Boys Brigade were quite varied within the individual companies. Inspection and roll call was normally the first activity of the evening where uniforms had to be clean and all metal components well polished and shining. Following this came drill practice. All companies were required to practise drill, never the favourite activity of most boys,

especially the uncoordinated. Excuses to miss drill were as many and varied as those for being absent from school.

After drill the pace was more relaxed with some boys working at various activities towards gaining badges such as first aid, wayfaring (a combination of expedition work and wildlife studies), fireman's and arts and crafts. Towards the end of the evening indoor games such as table tennis were enjoyed. Bill Moiser and I were among the first boys to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme and gained the Gold award in 1963 and 1961 respectively.

Some companies had an active band (bugle and side drums). The band was always in demand, needed at either Boys Brigade parade or joint youth organisation parades.

Competitions of various kinds were always being organised. Football teams played against other companies in the battalion on a regular basis during the winter months. Cup League finalists were awarded medals in true Cup final tradition; an annual sports day was organised every year, usually at Lanchester Secondary Modern School. Competition was very keen between the companies. Winners of the various events were selected to represent North West Durham battalion at the North of England District Annual Athletic meeting which was normally held at Gateshead Youth stadium. A detailed programme was produced for this and included past record holders. The 1959 programme named two Stanley Grammar school students as winners for the previous year (1958).

- a) Over 16 100 yards sprint A Westwater
10.7 seconds. (11th Oxhill)
- b) Over 16 Discus J Burrows
97 feet 5 inches. (6th Greencroft)

Other competitions where the winners went forward to competing in North of England events were First Aid and Drill competitions. The 11th Oxhill First Aid team, after winning the battalion competition, competed three times at District level captained on two occasions by John Iceton with Ed Carrington, Bill Moiser, David Love and Jack Finlayson

(all SGS pupils) as team members at various times.

An important event in the Boys Brigade calendar was the annual camp. This was organised at Battalion level with between 60 to 80 boys and 20 officers including a full time cook and assistant. The camp was traditionally held every second week in August and usually involved travel to a holiday resort such as Whitby, Ayr or Keswick. These camps were well organised, planning often starting in the winter months even to the extent of boys having "camp fund cards" where an amount of money would be saved toward the cost of the camp and for pocket money. The annual camp was often the first opportunity boys would have of visiting places outside the reach of the usual family holiday to relatives or the nearer traditional holidays at Whitley Bay and the other Northumbrian coastal holiday venues.

In addition to the battalion camp some companies held their own small camp. 11th Oxhill Company travelled for a number of years to Croxdale near Durham usually for a long weekend over Whitsuntide bank holiday. These were very informal affairs with a minimum of organised activities.

All the above programme of events meant that boys were involved in activities outside of school, and were meeting boys from other schools and other districts. Those not successful at sport in school often found an outlet in sporting activities in the Boys Brigade.

Without the enthusiasm and dedication of the men who committed themselves as officers to giving time and expertise for the benefit of all those boys who passed through the Boys Brigade at various times, none of these activities would have taken place. The best example of this was Captain William Hall (brother of Nancy Hall whose story appeared recently in the Tanfield newsletter) who ran the 11th Oxhill Boys Brigade an ex student of the Alderman Wood School Bill was captain for over 40 years and was honoured by a special presentation for his 50 years of service in the Boys Brigade as an officer and captain.

Ex pupils of Stanley Grammar School who were in the Boys Brigade were included:

Bill Hall (Alderman Wood School), Alan Chester, Ramsey Hall, Colin Tarn, Alan Westwater, Bill Collin, Ken Dixon, Rob Ward, Ted Spears, John Robson, Albert Fawcett, Dennis Lavin, John Sayers, Barry Simpson, David Forster, Jim Burrows, Michael

Parkin, Ed Carrington, Alan Donkin, John Gardner, John Hogg, David Love, Billy Moiser, Tom Stokoe, Billy Fawcett, Keith Moiser, Jack Finlayson, Tommy Harpe, Dennis Hind

And many more who escape memory

E Carrington



North of England Boys Brigade First Aid Competition held at Durham Technical College 1960. The 11th Oxhill team, representing North West Durham, Sergeant Ed Corrington and Corporal Bill Moiser being watched by The Duke of Edinburgh and other officials.



11th Oxhill Boys Brigade

The above photograph was taken outside a Bell Tent at a Battalion Camp at Keswick, summer 1959
Back row - Bill Moiser, Ed Carrington, Tom Harpe
Front row - David Love, Ray Edwards, Jack Finlayson, Derek Grey. All except Ray Edwards and Derek Grey were Stanley Grammar School pupils.

Letter from Sam Hunter (Canada)

Dear Sir

It was good to read Chris Harkness' article on the Madrigal Society in the latest issue of the newsletter and so thoughtful of Chris to remember Norma in that way. In reading the article, the "Where are they now?" paragraph was most interesting and reminded me that I had a photograph that might be of similar interest.

The photograph was taken between Christmas and New Year in 1974 at Consett Golf Club at an 'unofficial reunion' of a number of past pupils, organised by Harry Taylor at my request to coincide with one of our visits to England from Sarnia, Ontario where we were living then. I enclose three copies of varying density for you to select the best for reproduction should you decide to print this in an upcoming newsletter.

As you might imagine, after an absence of 18 years from England and 26 years away from school it was somewhat of a chore to put names to all the faces then and of course even more of a challenge now another 30 years later. However, some of them readily come to mind and included are the following:

Alan Gurkin and his wife, Joan (Fenwick), Norman Colin, William Wilson, John Hall,

Albert Hunter, and his wife Mary (Martin), Violet Miller, Doreen Bell, Jean Brabban, Joe Cool, Ray Newton, Beryl Waugh and of course Harry Taylor, Norma (Suddick) and myself. I'm sure if Norma had still been with us she could have filled in a lot of the gaps but perhaps some of your readers could help in this regard or maybe we could put our super-sleuth Chris to work again. As a footnote, for those who remember the school custodian Mr Jeffrey, his wife is also in the photograph, front right.



Might I say once again, what a pleasure it is to receive and read each newsletter and I eagerly look forward to the next.

Sincerely,
Sam Hunter, Canada.

Socialising in the 60s

As a teenager of the swinging sixties, I might have expected to have had a pretty wild time outside of school. Not so I'm afraid - good times maybe, but wild - never!!

Homework always took priority in our house and I wasn't allowed to do anything or go anywhere until all the tasks in my little purple homework book (remember those?) had been signed off by my parents.

In my first year (1961) at Stanley Grammar School, my social life was limited to 1st George's South Moor guide pack and playing tennis in the park. However, in my second year, a whole new experience opened up in the form of "The Saturday Club" which was held in Stanley Junior School. This was Stanley's answer to the Brian Matthews programme of the same name.

Here we danced away to the latest hits of Elvis, the Everley Brothers, Del Shannon etc. - this was pre Beatles, Stones et al !! The music was great but the biggest attraction for me and my friends was the 4th and 5th form boys who would turn up looking mean and moody in their drainpipe trousers and slicked back hair (think Grease!)

Once I reached the milestone age of 13, I was allowed to join Park Road Methodist Youth Club - Tuesday nights in the chapel schoolroom and Thursday's in Greenland School hall. It was here that I honed my skills in darts, snooker and table tennis as well as having lively discussions in the merits of John, Paul, George & Ringo Vs Mick, Brian, Keith, Bill & Charlie!

For the next couple of years the Youth Club was pretty much the centre of my social life, except for occasional inter-school sports events which probably owed more to eyeing up the older lads in their shorts than any great interest in sport. There were also the school plays to look forward to - I remember particularly The Admirable Crichton and Our Town. Indeed, on that evening in November 1963 when all of us, old enough to remember, know exactly where we were when we heard the news of

JFK's assassination, I was on my way home from seeing a school play.

1965 was a momentous year in my social development for a number of reasons. First of all I discovered a hobby which continues to thrill me.....shopping!! What SGS girl of the early 60's can forget Saturday afternoons browsing through the make up in Woolies, choosing records from Herdman's in Stanley Market and parting with the princely sum of 3/11d in Shimelds for our must-have Aristoc stockings in the ubiquitous shade Brandysnap?

I experienced my first trip abroad in 1965 when I was fortunate enough to go on a so-called educational cruise to Madeira, Lisbon and Casablanca. It was a fantastic experience for a 15 year old away from home and on foreign soil for the first time. I don't recall an awful lot of formal education being involved but I did meet Cliff Richard, though that's a tale in itself!!

Another major event in 1965 was the opening of Stanley Youth Centre which took the concept of the youth club to another dimension.

This was a purpose built centre with its own coffee bar and lounge areas, a dance floor and the state of the art sports hall. The sign on the girls' toilet even said "Powder Room"!

The first leader of the Youth Centre was one Fred Westwater and so began a relationship which now spans almost 40 years during which time Fred has used his unique powers of persuasion to rope me into various projects, the most recent of which is this article!!

Many happy hours were spent at "the Centre", chatting to friends, drinking Pepsi and milky coffee and enjoying Mrs Jackson's special hamburgers. Then there were the Sunday night dances featuring local groups such as The Short Blues Line and the Beat Preachers (both included SGS pupils) as well as popular north east groups like The Jub Jub Clique Band and Mass Action.

Speaking of famous groups, I also went to my first pop concert in December 1965 - The

Beatles supported by The Moody Blues at the City Hall. What a Christmas present that was!

Probably the most seminal social event of the year was, however, achieving that highly coveted status of most 15 year old girls at that time - "going out with someone"

This is when I really started to struggle with putting homework before courting and the delights of the back row of the Essoldo on a



Saturday night with a certain Mike Looome.

We even had fun when the lights went up at the interval (remember the days of a "B" picture and a main feature?), spotting fellow SGS pupils with their beaux and belles - it was great gossip fodder for Monday morning in the cloakroom! Of course teenage romances rarely last, or so the grown ups used to tell us. But there must have been something about the boy/girl relationships at SGS as many of those back row couples, myself and Mike included, have now been married for 30 years or more.

For teenagers in the early 60's, our social lives may not have been exciting by today's standards but we managed to enjoy ourselves without drugs or alcohol, DVD's or X Boxes and we communicated with our friends without text messages.

Liz Looome (nee Handy)

Far left 1st Year 1961

Near left 5th Year 1966

Letters

Dear Association

Thank you for all the good work. The school is doing so well and is a great asset to the community. My sister and I wish we lived nearer so that we could avail ourselves of all the activities you have for past pupils. The regular Newsletters are eagerly read.

Yours sincerely

Freda Stephenson (Henderson)

1942 - 1948

Dear Association

I am very grateful for the information and memories provided in the Tanfield Association Newsletter. Living in France I'm unable to attend most of the organised events but enjoy hearing about them through the Newsletter and from friends and fellow Association members.

I enjoyed my time at Tanfield where I made lifelong friends and received a good education. School gave us values and standards and I'm sure most of its pupils will have benefited from their time at Tanfield.

As a lad I used to think teachers were divorced from real life - after 20 years as a Head Teacher myself, I realise how right I was!!

Please pass on my thanks to all who work for the Association and if anyone is visiting Brittany, please let me know.

I'll try to arrange a trip to the UK in 2005 to coincide with a Tanfield Association "event".

Best wishes

Alan Arkless

Brittany

France

Dear Association

Having just received The Tanfield Association Newsletter I read with interest the Head Boy and Girl list. I can fill a few gaps.

Head Girl 1959-60 was Jean Rowe and Claire Flowers (me) of Pelton was her deputy. The deputy Head Boy to Alan Taylor that same year was Alex Waggott of East Stanley.

Another item which was of interest was the First World War Memorial Plaque. If that is the illuminated one with manuscript writing,

then I should tell you that is not the original. That was damaged by a damp wall and Dr Sharp asked me to copy it. Mrs Jack provided the gold leaf and I copied the original as closely as I could. If it is still going strong then I am delighted.

Yours faithfully

Claire Humpherson (Flowers 1953-60 and later teacher 66-69)

Dear Association

On reading through the latest edition of the Tanfield Association Newsletter, I noticed the list of Head Boys and Head Girls and I think I can fill in two gaps.

The year 1953-54 saw the Head Boy to be Kenneth Bolam and the Head Girl Doreen Ash, both, incidentally, natives of Tanfield Lea and classmates of mine.

I also noticed with interest the letter from Sandy Boggon about his brother Bill and his sister Tibbie.

I well remember as a small boy watching Sandy and Tibbie walking from their home to "The Big School" and also their father, Harry setting off for work. Harry was a great friend of my father, Bob Chapman whom many ex-pupils will remember as the PE teacher at Stanley Grammar School.

Since joining the Association, I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the reunions and reading the Newsletter. Old acquaintances have been renewed, strangely, one actually occurring in Perth, Western Australia- but that is another story. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely

Don Chapman

Second World War Commemoration Evening Saturday 11th June 2005, 6.30-7.30 Start Music Memorabilia and Food

The above evening is an acknowledgement of the amount of interest in the ending of the Second World War in 1945. The media are recognising that this years 60th anniversary may probably be the last major celebration of the ending of the war. The Tanfield Association and school have recently held the Dedication Service of the Memorial Plaque, to remember the thirty four young men who gave their lives during WWII and ensure that their deeds and names should never be forgotten. 1939-1945 was a time of mixed emotions. From extreme sadness to great joy; from changing life styles to massive social changes. It is said that the majority of the British people were fitter and healthier despite food rationing and other war-time shortages. On the question of food, after many wild and wonderful suggestions it was decided to have the kind of food free of the restrictions of rationing and austerity, and have a really good meal which would celebrate the end of the war and looking forward to a new future.

However one of the most memorable things about the Second World War years, was the prolific amount of music produced patriotic songs, love songs, nostalgic songs, happy songs, humorous songs, songs about the Army, Navy and Air Force, in fact you name it and there

was a song about it. Many of these songs are still widely known and sung today by all generations. It was felt that if we needed a theme it should be "Music of the Second World War". We anticipate lots of WWII memorabilia, newspapers, posters, photographs etc of the Second World War years to be on display, and to this end, the evening will commence at 6.30pm for a start at 7.30pm. It is hoped that all the musical contributions, whilst still maintaining a professional standard, will be given voluntarily so that the greater part of the cost would be the meal, leading to an evening of really good value.

We would invite you to mark this date in your diary. The Second World War Evening, is of course, open to family and friends of members. Final details of programme and menu will be sent out later, the cost of each ticket will be not more than between £10 to £12, but certainly the most reasonable price we can negotiate without any loss of quality of food for a three course meal.

For further details and the reserving of tickets please contact Secretary Fred Westwater by phone 01207 234548