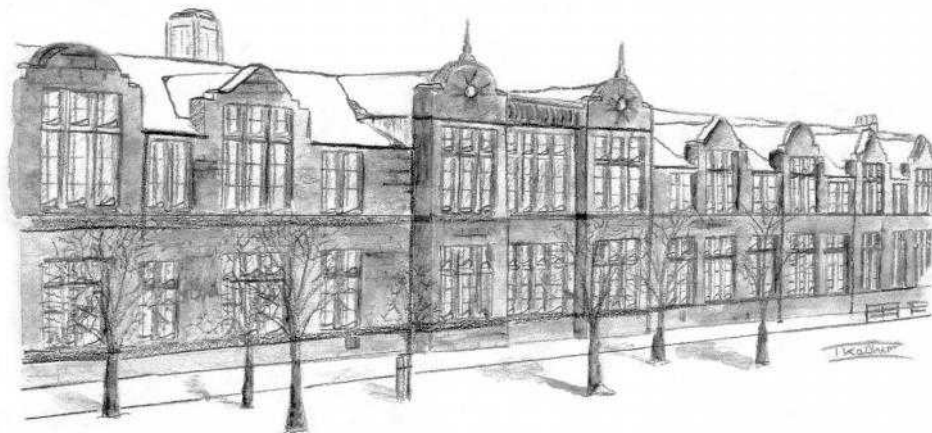


TANFIELD ASSOCIATION



c/o Tanfield School
Tanfield Lea Road
Stanley
Co Durham
DH9 8AY

e-mail tanfield@durhamlea.org.uk
Telephone 01207 232881
Fax 01207 282922

Secretary Mr Fred Westwater
10 Oxhill Villas
Stanley
DH9 7JT
01207 234548

Issue No. 13

Newsletter Autumn 06

Editorial and Contents

Thank you for all of the contributions to this Newsletter. Your letters are particularly welcome and we are grateful for your comments on the articles. Please keep them coming in.

This newsletter includes a feature we hope to build upon in future editions. Tanfield School has in the past produced a number of ex pupils who have gone on to distinguish themselves in the sporting arena. This edition features an interesting article by Alan Johnston (Out of Hours Learning coordinator at Tanfield) on perhaps our best known sporting former pupil, Colin Milburn. We have other people in mind for future articles but we would also be grateful if anyone could provide us with anecdotes or information about other successful sporting ex-pupils.

This edition also includes news about the school's recent improvement in GCSE results, news of our new honorary vice president and what we are planning for the 94th Birthday Celebration.

Lastly, can I encourage members to read the "Recruitment Drive" feature, and encourage all members to act as recruiting agents for the Tanfield Association.

Contents:

<i>Page 1</i>	Editorial
<i>Page 2</i>	Good News 94 th Birthday
<i>Page 3</i>	Recruitment Drive Tanfield Today
<i>Page 4</i>	School Awards Working Executive News
<i>Page 5</i>	Craghead Methodist Church
<i>Page 6</i>	AGM, Wine & Cheese
<i>Page 7</i>	Whose Legs, Whose Head? An Author in Our Ranks
<i>Page 8</i>	Honorary Vice President Barbara Churcher
<i>Page 9</i>	Colin Milburn
<i>Page 10</i>	Summer Spectacular
<i>Page 11</i>	Letters
<i>Page 13</i>	Annual Administration Fee
<i>Page 14</i>	Patrons of Tanfield School

Good News!

It is pleasing to report that the school's GCSE results have continued to improve, with 53% of students achieving 5 A*-C grades. We are not complacent; we are now ready to tackle the step challenge of raising this pass rate to beyond 60%!

On the second national measure of 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths, the pass rate increased notably to 43%, welcome recognition of the hard work of the staff and students in those departments.

97% of our students achieved at least 5 A*-G grades.

Well done Year 11 of 2005-06, and all the teaching staff of Tanfield School.

At a time when school rolls nationally are falling, Tanfield's has increased to 635.

2005-06 was a challenging year in the school's history. As always in testing times, Tanfield's staff and students have proved their resilience and will work towards yet greater achievements.

94th Birthday Celebration

On the 16th October 1912 our school at Tanfield opened its doors to the first students to attend 'Tanfield Higher Elementary School and Pupil Teacher Centre'. The site for the school was chosen because it is central to the area it was to serve, namely Burnopfield, Dipton, Annfield Plain, South Moor, Craghead, Stanley and Tanfield. The name changed as the years went by to Alderman Wood Secondary School, then Stanley Grammar School, Tanfield Secondary School, Tanfield Comprehensive School, Tanfield School, to its present title after achieving Specialist School status of 'Tanfield School Specialist College of Science and Engineering'.

As members of The Tanfield Association we are proud to be associated with our school at Tanfield, which after two World Wars, major upheavals in social and economic issues, great changes in political and educational fields, the school has carried forward from 1912 the great tradition of providing educational excellence. Now in 2006 under the leadership of Head Teacher Graeme Lloyd Tanfield School can now claim to be one of the leading schools in County Durham.

To mark the 94th birthday of the school, the Working Executive has organised a celebration event to be held on the evening of Saturday 18th

November 06 commencing at 7pm in the school hall. A menu of mouth watering first class food will be provided by South Moor Golf Club catering and the entertainment is to be given by Carole Clegg and Speakeasy, an excellent band led by former Tanfield pupils Carole and Eric Clegg (both members of the Tanfield Association). Although locally based the band is very well known throughout the North of England and has performed with acclaim in other parts of the UK. Listen and really enjoy.

A bar will be provided for the sale of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at very competitive prices. It was also decided to hold a raffle instead of Tombola, and the 1st raffle prize will be a bottle of 'House of Commons Whisky' provided by our new Honorary Vice President Kevan Jones M.P, who will also present the prize.

While we appreciate that many of our members will not be able to attend because of distance, it is our policy to let everyone be know of the Association activities. We would also appreciate once again messages of support and good wishes from members who would wish to be there in spirit. These messages will be read out on the evening.

Tickets are £10 each and can be obtained by contacting the Secretary.

Recruitment Drive

We invite all members to assist us in our recruitment drive to attract more members into The Tanfield Association.

Most members will know someone who, although a former pupil of Alderman Wood/Stanley Grammar/Tanfield Secondary, is not a member of the Association.

All you have to do is to send their names and addresses to the secretary by letter or telephone

and he will send out information about the Tanfield Association inviting them to join us.

There is no restriction on the number of names and addresses in fact Professor Warren Pescod has promised that all members who send in ten or more names, will receive a special prize of a replica 'treat' from their schooldays.

Tanfield Today

The Governing Body of the School elected Mr Len Broxson as Chair of Governors from September 2006. He replaces Mr Jim Brown who has served with merit for a number of years and has now retired. Len is a Parent Governor and an active and enthusiastic worker for the school and a most suitable person for this position. We look forward to seeing him at the Working Executive meetings, which are held every two or three months, from 6.45 pm till 8.00pm - unless the President starts to ramble then it may go on to 8.06 pm.

A new second Deputy Head Teacher was recently appointed. This has filled the vacancy left by Graeme Lloyd when he was appointed Head Teacher. Her name is Maryssa O'Connor and in the short time since her appointment she has made quite an impact on the school community, but a very positive one. We hope to have a more in-depth article in our next newsletter after Tom our Editor has interviewed her.

Following the continued improvement in the number of pupils achieving A* - C grades at

G.C.S.E level, Tanfield School has kept its position as top school in Derwentside and high in the County table of secondary schools. The school is enjoying the support of parents, who are voting with their feet and bringing their children to be educated at Tanfield. The Local Education Authority at County Hall sets a limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted each year. At Tanfield however most year groups are above this set limit. This situation is because of parents appealing against the decision to refuse their child a place at Tanfield and winning their appeals. This means that the school is, to quote by a 'senior person in education', "Tanfield is bucking the trend of most schools in County Durham", which means that whilst other schools may be suffering from falling rolls, Tanfield does not have this problem.

So on behalf of the Tanfield Association members, and indeed all who have an interest in children's education, may we say "Well done pupils and hardworking staff at Tanfield School. We congratulate you, and keep up the very good work you are doing."

School Awards Sponsored by The Tanfield Association

Over the past few months the Working Executive together with the School Management has been exploring the provision of a School Award sponsored by The Tanfield Association. The Head Teacher and the School Leadership Team suggested two areas which they felt were not covered by the present School Award system. As a final result of this prolonged discussion and deliberation it was passed at the September meeting of the Working Executive to have two trophies.

- 1) The Tanfield Association
Specialist School Award
In Science & Engineering
- 2) The Tanfield Association
Specialist School Award
for Contribution in the Community

The two trophies will be made in school by the Technology Department together with a smaller duplicate which can be kept by winners. Each student will also receive vouchers to the value of £25.00, and later a framed photograph (with title and date) of the Trophy being presented. The school record of the presentation will be a "Specialist School Awards' Book or Folder, containing a copy of the presentation photograph, relevant information about the achieving pupil and citation which will also be read at the Presentation Evening.

The Working Executive would welcome members views and suggestions concerning awards in general, and the two above trophies in particular.

Tanfield Association Working Executive News

Earlier this year the members of the Working Executive elected Mr Ted Brabban (pupil 1945-51) to be Vice President of the Association. It had been recognised for some time that there may be occasions, events or meetings when our President, Professor Warren Pescod is unable to attend.

Ted was a member of the school teaching staff for many years and on retirement was Head of

School Technology and 6th form tutor. He is an enthusiastic and active member of the Association, and was felt by the executive committee to be an ideal person for the position of Vice President.

(Editor's note - We would be interested to hear from members regarding their views on this appointment)

Craghead Methodist Church

On Saturday 3rd September 2006 at 3 pm a Service was held to mark the closing of the Methodist Church building at Fawcett Hill, Craghead. The closure decision had been taken because of the poor state of the fabric of the church building and the declining membership at Craghead. The service, although tinged with sadness, was held as a Service of Celebration and planning for the future. Over one hundred years of service has been given by The Methodist Church to local people which was mainly a mining community until the closure of the pits in the 1960s

The Primitive Methodists met at their church on Durham Road and the Wesleyans at Fawcett Hill until the Methodist Union of 1932 when all forms of Methodism became The Methodist Church. The building at Durham Road closed in the 1960s and both congregations then met at Fawcett Hill where generations of Craghead families have celebrated many christenings, weddings and funeral services.

Many former pupils of Tanfield School (Alderman Wood or Stanley Grammar) have attended Sunday School, Wesley Guild, Choir or Boys Brigade through the Methodist Church at Craghead and have happy memories of their time in these organisations. At the Closing Service memories were relived through hymn singing and personal recollection. It was a very moving experience. However, in the eyes of many who attended to fill the Church building for the last time, the star of the show, (if one can be excused for putting it that way), was one of our senior and most respected members of the Tanfield Association, Barbara Churcher (pupil 1928-35).

Barbara, 90 years of remarkable experiences and still living life to the full, gave a short address of some wonderful times spent at Craghead Methodist Chapel her "Spiritual Home". It wasn't just the extent of her recollections, but also the way she presented her address that impressed and moved so many people. Her memories were not negative in any way but gave very positive thoughts on looking to the future by building on the past. As Barbara stood at the front of the church holding everyone spellbound with her words, one could not help thinking that it was typical of her to set the example by leading from the front like this. In recent years Archie Howat would invited Barbara to be on the top-table or the platform because of her expertise in educational issues, and she is often called upon to present awards on School Presentation Evenings. Since the Tanfield Association started in 2001 Barbara Churcher has attended every event organised, Concerts, Dinners, Remembrance Day Services or A.G.M. Wine and Cheese evenings. Her enthusiastic support can be always depended upon.

After the Service at Craghead Methodist Church, Barbara drove back to her home at Chester-le-Street. Yes! she is still driving her car). We were reminded by her parting words, that she is not 90 years old, but only 89 years and 10 months. Barbara Churcher of The Tanfield Association you are an outstanding example and inspiration to us all.

If there are any more memories to record by members of the Association of times spent at Craghead Methodist Chapel while you were still at school at Tanfield we would be very grateful if you could contact the secretary by letter or telephone - please don't leave it to someone else, we need your reflections.

Tanfield Association A.G.M, Wine and Cheese Evening

The Annual General meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 2nd November 06 in the Conference Room of the School, commencing at 6.30pm.

The actual business side of the meeting is envisaged to be very brief, and the main part of the evening to be taken with the consuming of a good variety of wines and cheeses, examining photographs and meeting and chatting to old and new friends.

On the business side, the Working Executive will be seeking general approval/disapproval of how they have conducted the Association affairs over the past year. The officers of the Association will need to be elected/re-elected/sacked, and they are President Professor M.B. (Warren) Pescod O.B.E.; Vice President Mr E (Ted) Brabban; Joint Treasurers Mrs Karen Scott, and Mrs Susan Donkin; Secretary Mr Fred Westwater; Membership Secretary Mrs Susan Donkin; Newsletter Editor Mr Tom Harpe.

The Working Executive also has a number of vacancies on the Committee and will be seeking nominations for the forthcoming year. The present Executive Members are:-

Mr Gary Preston, Newcastle - Mr Brian Hopkins, Sacriston.

Mr Graham Comer, Greencroft - Mrs June Todd, Chester le Street.

Mr Chris Morrison, Chester le Street - Mr Jack Nelson, Hexham.

Mrs Dawn Hodgson, Stanley - Mrs Astrid Reeve, Dipton.

Mr Michael Loome, Washington - Mrs Marjorie Whalley, Durham.

Mrs Joicey Craven, South Shields - Mr Malcolm Webb, Burnopfield.

Mr Cecil Johnson, Flint Hill.

Members of the School Teaching Staff also serve on the Working Executive and are as follows:-

Mr Alan Johnston, Stanley - Mr Keith Alder, Washington

Mr Alan Ramshaw, Consett - Mrs Susan Smith, Knitsley

Mrs Catherine Hanson, Consett.

Head Teacher Mr Graeme Lloyd; Deputy Head Teacher Mr Eric Fisk; Chair of Governors Mr Len Broxson; and Honorary Vice President Mr Kevan Jones M.P. are all ex-officers at all meetings of the Tanfield Association.

The Working Executive has no regular meetings, but meets as required, usually every two or three months with smaller sub-committees (e.g. Events Committee and Newsletter Committee) meeting in between these times, again as required.

May we stress that this is an important meeting for the business side as well as the social side, and we would urge all members (and their husbands/wives who may not be members) who can attend to come along to this event. It is very informal - lots of cheese and wine and plenty of chat.

Whose Legs, Whose Head?



The above photograph is unique in a number of ways, and not just because of the human element lying on the grass of the Sports Field.

In the background, (and we apologise for the reproduction in the Newsletter) of the photograph immediately to the Left of the figure, is the scaffolding and building work of the new School Assembly Hall, and behind to the right of the figure is the half finished building of the new Gymnasium. The year is 1951, and this is the only record we possess of this building work, so it is a very important photographic record.

An Author In Our Ranks

Members may be interested to hear of a book 'The Sum of Two Squares' which is described as a work mainly of fiction but with a very generous sprinkling of fact, presenting a fairly light-hearted impression of life in a typical County Durham pit community in the first half of the twentieth century.

Although many of the names of people and places have been changed for very good reasons, the reader may quickly recognise the Annfield Plain area and surrounding district. The title of the book refers to the remaining streets of two squares of houses known as, 'High Square' and 'Low Square', and the stories about the people who have lived there are rather cleverly called 'The Sum Of', hence 'The Sum of Two Squares', which again are described as examples of the diversity to be found in the warm-hearted people of all pit villages, as the author says 'my Ain Folk'.

The smiling cheerful face is of our new Association Vice President Ted Brabban (do you think he looks more handsome without a beard) of Harelaw, Stanley. Those athletic looking legs belong to Bob Patterson now living in Bermuda and one of our overseas members. The two young men were 18 years old and in the last term of their 6th form at Tanfield, having a laugh on Sports Day and never dreaming that they were such a unique photographic record. Can anyone remember these two cheerful young men in their 6th form days? Please let us know! (We are sure Bob is smiling just as broadly behind Ted).

Do any other members possess unique records of their time at Tanfield, perhaps you may not have realised the true significance until someone else examines your photograph. We would be very grateful for any photographs of your time at school, giving as much information as you can, names, places, situations and dates. Please send to the secretary copies of valued photographs or we can take copies and send originals back to you.

The author Cecil Johnson B.A. Dip Ed. F.R.S.A. FSSA/Scot. is well known in the Stanley area. He was born and brought up in the Annfield Plain area, attended Stanley Grammar School before going to Leeds University where he studied French and Latin, and then at Durham University for his Dip Ed. He took early retirement after serving as Headmaster of Stanley Comprehensive School for twenty five years; he also served as a member of the District Council for nine years.

Cecil lives on his farm at Flint Hill within two miles of his native village of Greencroft. He is a keen and very supportive member of the Tanfield Association, a Working Executive Member, and a patron of Tanfield School.

Anyone wishing to purchase the book or requiring more information, please contact the secretary.

Honorary Vice President

At the May meeting the Working Executive Committee accepted the appointment of Mr Kevan Jones M.P. as our first Honorary Vice President. Professor Warren Pescod (Association President) has written to Mr Jones, extending a very warm welcome on behalf of our members on his accepting the position.

For those who are not familiar with Kevan Jones M.P. may we give a little background information? Kevan Jones came from Newcastle upon Tyne to be elected as Member of Parliament for the constituency of North Durham in 2001. The North Durham constituency takes in the areas of Chester le Street, Sacriston, Pelton, Beamish, Craghead, South Moor, Stanley, Annfield Plain, Catchgate, Tanfield and White le Head. Basically Chester le Street area and Stanley area, and geographically speaking our school at Tanfield is placed right in the centre of the Stanley area. This is of course why the site was chosen for Stanley's first grammar school in 1912, so we are proud to be once again at the centre of the Stanley side of the North Durham constituency.

Perhaps members may wonder why Kevan Jones, who has no links with Tanfield as a pupil, parent, teacher, governor etc.? Well politics apart, and Mr Jones is a Labour Member of Parliament and he is one of the best M.Ps. this area has had. He is an M.P. of the people, and if he feels that anyone has a genuine case he will

do his utmost to help and work for it. Mr Jones holds regular surgeries in Chester le Street, Sacriston and Stanley and anyone can approach him there. He also holds Street Surgeries where alongside Local Councillors he will knock on doors and talk to the people of that particular street. He is an invited guest at many organisations in his constituency. He is the M.P. for our school at Tanfield and the people of Stanley area, and even if we are now living outside the area, many members still have family and friends to be represented, and many are interested still in the affairs of the school and the Stanley area.

In considering the role of Honorary Vice President it was felt that we needed someone well known and respected in our area; someone who could speak for our cause if need be. We feel that Kevan Jones meets these criteria with ease, and we look forward to members meeting Kevan at some of our future social events as well as perhaps some Working Executive meetings.

We would be grateful if members would let us have their reaction to this Honorary Vice President position, by telephone or letter to the secretary.

Fred Westwater

Barbara Churcher

Barbara was a pupil at Alderman Wood School from 1928 to 1935 where she was a regular member of the School hockey team for 5 years. In 1938 she obtained a place at the Gymnastic Institute in Denmark, completing her training as a teacher of Physical Education. She taught PE for the next two years at Grove Park Grammar School in North Wales becoming active in the Guide movement. In 1939, a move nearer home allowed her the opportunity to develop

her teaching skills at Hookergate Grammar School. In 1943 she moved to Neville's Cross College where she lectured in Physical Education for 5 years. During this time Barbara played hockey for Durham County and because of marriage residential qualification represented Northumberland County until 1956. (Barbara later became President of the Northumberland Woman's Hockey Association remaining in office for 19 years until 1989).

Barbara spent the next 12 years (1948 -61) equally divided between two lecturing posts at St Mary's College, Fenham and Alnwick Castle College of Education.

In 1961 she was appointed Head of the Physical Education Department at the Newcastle College for Mature Students, which was later merged into Newcastle Polytechnic. During her 18 years at Newcastle College/Newcastle Polytechnic, she was elected a Fellow of the Physical Education Association of Great Britain & Northern Ireland in 1976, receiving her Fellowship from the Duke of Edinburgh - himself an Honorary Fellow - at Buckingham Palace the following year. (Barbara served as Chief Executive of the Association for 8 ½ months in 1980 at a time of great crisis).

By the mid 70s Barbara was a well-respected and esteemed guest lecturer and on occasions in 1977 was invited to International Conferences on Physical Education in both Paris and Israel.

In 1977 Barbara inaugurated and led through validation, the initial Newcastle Polytechnic Sports degree, which at the time was only the

second such degree operating, with Honours, in Great Britain.

Barbara's involvement, commitment, expertise, knowledge and innovation in the field of Physical Education culminated in her being honoured, in 1989, with the North East Sports' Personality of the Year Award for Services to North East Sport. An award presented to her by Glen McCrory, British Boxing Champion.

Perhaps the highlight of Barbara's career came in 2000 when, at the Albert Hall, she was presented with the Ling Award - the highest award of The Physical Education Association of Great Britain & Northern Ireland. She became only the 7th recipient of this prestigious award in the world! The citation reads: *'...in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Profession and the Association'*.

Barbara Churcher continues to be active in the work of the Tanfield Association and for some years has annually presented *the Barbara Churcher Award* to the pupil at Tanfield School who has contributed most to the Physical Education programme at the school.

Colin Milburn

Over its 94 years, Tanfield has produced many successful sportsmen and women. Many professional footballers, including an England International; International in swimming, canoeing and judo as well as successful gymnasts. The most famous of these sporting pupils is probable Colin.

Colin 'Ollie' Milburn joined the VIth form at Stanley Grammar School in 1958 having left Annfield Plain Modern - locally known as the Upper Standards. Already an established local cricketer with Burnopfield CC and the Durham County Schools' team, Colin moved to Chester-le-Street CC in 1959 with a career as a professional cricketer firmly in his mind. Following outstanding performances, including, while still a pupil at Stanley Grammar School, a

hundred against the touring Indian side, for Durham County, a move into First Class Cricket with Northants was inevitable. Colin developed as a formidable early order batsman and fast medium bowler, scoring over 1100 runs and helping the 2nd XI to the 1960 Championship. An initial brief but unfruitful spell in the senior side in 1961 perhaps came a little too early but, by summer 1962 he became a firmly established 1st XI member.

Colin soon became regarded as a tremendous hitter of the ball often amassing huge innings, quickly, scoring 4s and 6s at will. Such was his prowess and ability to score rapidly, he was selected to tour with the MCC into East Africa, achieving over 50 on 5 occasions.

In 1966 Colin took the step into Test cricket and quickly showed that he had both the temperament and technique to succeed at the highest level. Against arguably one of the finest ever West Indian sides of all time, he hit 94 at Old Trafford in his second inning of the first Test, followed by 126 not out at Lords.

Colin's jovial manner, enterprise and sheer love of both people and cricket allowed him to travel and winter in Western Australia (1966/67) where he became an immediate success, acclaimed by all who saw him play - on one occasion scoring 100 in 77 minutes at Adelaide. The following winter Colin toured the West Indies but was later omitted from the team to Ceylon and Pakistan. This did not phase him but allowed a welcome return to Shield cricket in Australia. Indeed, in a game at Brisbane on the first day, he scored 243, and before he was out in the first over after tea, having scored 181 between lunch and tea, had hit four 6's and thirty-eight 4's! Colin regained his Test place in 1968 and against Australia at Lord's hit a wonderful 83.

Many would say that Colin Milburn was a mere 'slogger' with little or no technical skill. Quite the contrary! He possessed a sound defence, could drive and play on either side of the wicket. However, it was his brutal cutting and pulling

ability that could tear apart any bowling attack no matter how good.

An accident at the age of 28, when he lost an eye, abruptly ended a short career of outstanding promise and there is no way of knowing what difference it could have made to England's batting potential at the time nor what heights Colin could have reached?

Nevertheless, statistics show that Colin Milburn made 13,262 runs in first-class cricket at an average of 33. He took 99 wickets at an average of 32 and took 224 catches. He passed 1,000 runs in 6 English seasons; scored 100 before lunch for Northants on 4 occasions. In his nine Tests he scored 654 runs with an average of 46.71.

Colin was and will continue to be remembered as one of Cricket's greatest characters.

If he had been performing 'in-context' in today's modern game, with the media circus coverage, with 20/20, ODI's and Pro-40 - all forms of cricket tailor made for him - he may have been regarded as a National hero together with the likes of Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff and Kevin Pieterse.

A truly great cricketer

Report of 'Summer Spectacular'

There is no doubt in the title we gave our Tanfield Association Summer Social Event on June 10th because it was truly 'Spectacular'. The two Rye brothers who make up Fiddling Fantastic gave a magnificent display of musical ability and talent. Their highly professional cabaret act consisted of music from 'Popular to Classical', something to suit all tastes. It was not however just the type of music or the title of the music, it was the outstanding performance of every musical number on so many different stringed instruments as well as keyboard and piano, alongside the vocal accompaniment of both brothers. The whole atmosphere was

charged with the exhilarating musical virtuosity of those two young men; the whole performance was 'Spectacularly Fantastic'. As M.C. Ted Brabban said at the end of the evening (referring to Elton John playing at the Riverside at Chester le Street at the same time) "those people at the Riverside don't know what they have missed, what a magnificent musical evening we have had".

The whole evening ran very smoothly under the direction of M.C. Ted Brabban, the Tombola stall was almost cleared of prizes, the bar was well attended with drinks at very competitive

prices, the food provided by South Moor Golf Club Catering was first rate quality, quantity and variety (as Mrs Joan Chapman - wife of Don was heard to remark "What a wonderful spread". A number of members have said that it was probably the best night we have had to date.

Once again a big Thank You to all involved in organising the event:- Eric Fisk Deputy Head teacher for organising School involvement, Marjorie Whalley for organising the Tombola, and Jane Westwater for manning the Tombola tables with Marjorie. A special thank you goes to Catherine Hanson of the School teaching staff, one of our most loyal members who organises the bar at all our social events and spends her evening serving drinks. She also organises the School involvement with Tombola prizes and all this after a very busy week at school. Thanks also

to those involved alongside school caretaking staff in setting out the School Hall on the morning of the event, and also the clearing away and putting back into a School Hall on the Sunday morning, Fred Westwater, Ted Brabban (our very able M.C.) and Alan Johnston of the School teaching staff, always a willing hard worker for the Tanfield Association.

The most important Thank You is to all those members and their families and friends who supported the event, without this support the Tanfield Association would just fold, and fade away, so thank you and keep up the good work and let us have even more successes for the Association.

Letters

Dear Mrs Donkin

A Friend of mine from our Stanley days, Joan Pütz (née Harrison) recently sent me a letter enclosing news of the Tanfield Association, which she had received from Mr Fred Westwater.

I should like to join, as I have very fond memories of my schooldays at Alderman Wood and Stanley Grammar School, always known locally as Tanfield.

My family came from South Shields, escaping to the countryside from the wartime bombing of the Tyne. My father worked in mining offices and was employed at Beamish, on the road from Stanley to Chester-le-Street.

I started at Alderman Wood School when I was eleven in the Autumn of 1941 and left after A Levels in July 1948. Being fortunate enough to be awarded a State Scholarship (I don't think this fact was ever acknowledged on the Record Board and perhaps it would be recorded somewhere)

I went onto Manchester University to read Honours English, after which I did my Teaching Diploma in Newcastle, then a branch of Durham University.

Though I started teaching at Spennymoor Grammar Technical School, the bulk of my career has been in Independent Schools, first at St Monica's in Clacton-on-Sea, a Church of England School and then in Bournemouth at Wentworth Milton Mount.

I used to spend school holidays in Stanley with my parents, but in 1985 had to bring my mother here, where I have stayed in retirement.

I may not travel to meetings but I should like to have the newsletter and support appeals from time to time.

Yours sincerely

J Hazel Hill (Miss)
(Pupil 1941-48)
Bournemouth
Dorset

Dear Editorial Staff

Another interesting Newsletter especially for the 'oldies'! I was especially pleased to read that Pat (Green) Stobbs is well and still playing and singing.

My vivid memories of her are when the 5th and 6th Form **GIRLS ONLY** were, in wet lunch hours, allowed to dance in the old hall. We couldn't do it if Pat couldn't play for us and she always seemed to do it cheerfully, playing all the 1940s hits. She was much in demand.

Dear Fred

Thanks for the Summer Newsletter, I was saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Archie Howat. Remembering that wonderful evening of a year ago - of his speech and presentation to him by Barbara Churcher and Joicey Craven on behalf of the Tanfield Association members, it was so obvious how he was loved and respected.

Dear Mr Westwater

Many thanks for the Tanfield Association Newsletter, with its news of so many ex-pupils whom I remember with happiness and gratitude. It was a great pleasure to read the article about John Maughan and to learn more about his multifarious activities and achievements - an example to us all.

I was delighted, too, to hear of the growth and success of the Annfield Plain Gleemen since the early days when I was their accompanist and conductor (1945 - 6). At that time a prominent Gleeman was Harry Fishburn who devoted much time to all the arts societies and individuals in the Stanley area. A fascinating character. So many lasting memories!

My home is now on Dartmoor, and I would welcome a visit from any ex-pupil who may be travelling in Devon.

With every good wish to the Association,

Please pass on the enclosed cheque to the Treasurer. I've sent the Standing Order Mandate to my bank but it doesn't start till Oct 2006 and I don't think I paid last year - Sorry.

Best wishes and looking forward to the next newsletter.

Freda Stephenson (Henderson)
Pupil 1941 - 48)
Uckfield
East Sussex

Sorry I won't be able to attend the 'Summer Spectacular' but I will be thinking of you all, have a lovely evening.

Marjorie Curnow
(pupil 1938 - 43)
Chopwell
Newcastle

Yours sincerely
Jack Dobbs
(Music Teacher 1943-47)
Newton Abbot
Devon

Editors Note

We were so pleased to receive this letter from Jack Dobbs - who in his time at Tanfield was a most respected and loved music teacher, whom as was said in our last newsletter "an outstanding music teacher and the composer of music for the school song "First Things First" along with very able pupil Tibby Boggon who wrote the words."

It is very interesting to note that Jack was the accompanist and then conductor for the renowned Annfield Plain Gleemen during his music teaching time at Tanfield. I hope all this involvement with our school at Tanfield is in the Gleemen records.

Dear Fred

How fantastic it was to hear from you! I am indeed well and working hard as a project manager for an events company. We do conferences, award ceremonies etc. it gets me about a bit, which I love. I hope that you are also well and of course that Delcia is too. I was saddened to hear about Archie, I found out about him when I visited my mother, and it was in the news, so soon after his retirement too. I recall many very moments in my time at school at Tanfield and of Mr Howat.

The Tanfield Association sounds like it has done a great deal of 'Good Stuff' - you can be assured of my fiver annually, but I'm not sure how much I'll be able to attend events etc. The down side of my work is not 9 till 5 - I actually think that's the up side! It would be great to see you all again and 'catch up' so I'll do my very best to get to some of the Tanfield Association events.

Thanks once again for getting in touch - I was so delighted, please pass on my regards to all at School who may still remember me and see you soon I hope.

Gavin Frost

North Shields
Tyne & Wear

(Editors Note)

Gavin was a pupil at Tanfield from 1988-93. He was outstanding in a number of ways. As a pupil he was bright, intelligent and very outgoing, polite and well mannered in all his dealings with people, and most importantly well respected by his fellow pupils. He was extremely well thought of by many teachers. From his day as a pupil to his last day, Gavin assisted teachers to get things done; he was always regarded as a very reliable and trusted helper in the classroom. As he progressed through school, teachers depended more and more upon him for a whole catalogue of things - money raising, collecting paper, producing a school magazine, playing a major role in obtaining sponsorship for school events and for school fund, organising pupil groups, assisting in the organisation of school shows as well as performing in them, and the list goes on and on. "Gavin was truly an outstanding and remarkable young man while he was a pupil at Tanfield, but always in a way that was respected and welcomed by teachers and fellow pupils", said by a former teacher of Gavin, on hearing of his joining the Tanfield Association.

We look forward to hearing more from Gavin in the future.

Annual Administration Fee

Mrs Susan Donkin and Mrs Karen Scott our joint Treasurers wish to thank members for the very good response in completing the Standing Order Mandate forms.

For those members who are not paying by standing order, may we remind you that your £5 for 2006/07 is due on the 16th October. It can be paid direct to Mrs S Donkin, 19 Lindom Avenue, Chester Le Street, Co Durham. DH3 3PP, or to any Officer of the Association.

Patrons of Tanfield School

Specialist College of Science & Engineering

Joan Armstrong

Rosemary Black

Richard D Chambers

Barbara Churcher

GF Joicey Craven

Florence Darby

Audrey Drake

Bill Errington

Jim Errington

Valerie Fisher

George William Fraser

Elizabeth Hawkins

Margaret Davies Hibbard

Mevrille Hodgson

Samuel Hunter

Gina Jack

John Jackson

Jack Jeffery

Cecil Johnson

John S Nelson

Jim Nicholson

Warren Pescod

David & Eileen Portsmouth

Gary Preston

Brian & J Price

Euan J F Ross

Andrew & Susan Scott

Ian & Karen Scott

Robert & Ann Scott

Esme Slattery

Harry Taylor

June Todd

Jenny Turnbull

Robert & Ann Ward

Delcia Westwater

Fred Westwater

David and Jean York

Maureen York