

TANFIELD ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter No. 52

September 2022

Editorial

CELEBRATION DAY IS NIGH! IMPORTANT [UPDATES](#) INCLUDED

Time is moving EVEN FASTER towards Tanfield's 110th anniversary Celebration Day, which will be held in school on Saturday October 15th, from 11am till 3pm. That leaves **just under a month** to get everything organised.

Just in case you've been side-tracked or you've been putting off buying your buffet ticket or reserving a copy of the book – which is nearly 300 pages of facts, photos and memories of Tanfield – we thought we'd send you a reminder of what's available for you. All of the information you need is in this newsletter and on the Tanfield Association website:

www.tanfield-association.org

If you've already made your bookings – great! If you still need to do so – here's what you need to know.

Read on for information about:

- Buying buffet tickets
- Ordering or reserving a copy of the book
- Parking on the day (inc Blue Badge parking)
- Sponsoring the school
- What is happening on the day
- How you can help
- Life After Tanfield

[ALL UPDATES ARE IN BLUE](#)

**CELEBRATION DAY – OCTOBER 15TH AT SCHOOL
11am – 3pm**

Editorial

Celebration Day

Buffet tickets

Parking on the day

The Book

Sponsoring the school

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How you can help

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Moira Bryan's Life After
Tanfield

Planning the Celebration Day

We hope it will be a lovely opportunity to renew old acquaintances and see your old school as it is now. There is a lot that you will still recognise and some places that you have never seen. Now's the chance to catch up.

THE BUFFET

SERVED FROM 12.30PM IN THE DINING HALL

PRICE £8.50

INCLUDES A MAIN COURSE, DESSERT AND DRINK

Option 1

'Voulet-Poulez' Seasoned Chicken Drumstick with Paprika-dusted Potato Wedges and Slaw

Option 2

Veggie Hot Dog with Paprika-dusted Potato Wedges and Slaw

Option 3

Chicken Rogan Josh with Rice, Naan Bread and Tomato & Red Onion Salad

Option 4

Spiced Sweet Potato & Bean Stew with Rice, Naan Bread and Tomato & Red Onion Salad

There will be a selection of desserts to follow. (traybakes/cakes/biscuits/muffins)

A choice of drinks is included: tea, coffee or a cold soft drink

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To order tickets online, use the Tanfield Association website (www.tanfield-association.org) where you can pay by Paypal or by credit/debit card.

To order tickets by post, send: the names of the people, their buffet choices, an address for us to send the tickets to, plus a cheque made out to Tanfield Association to:
Tanfield Association, c/o Mrs S Donkin, 19 Lindon Avenue, Chester-Le-Street, Co Durham DH3 3PP. **Remember to bring tickets to the event!**

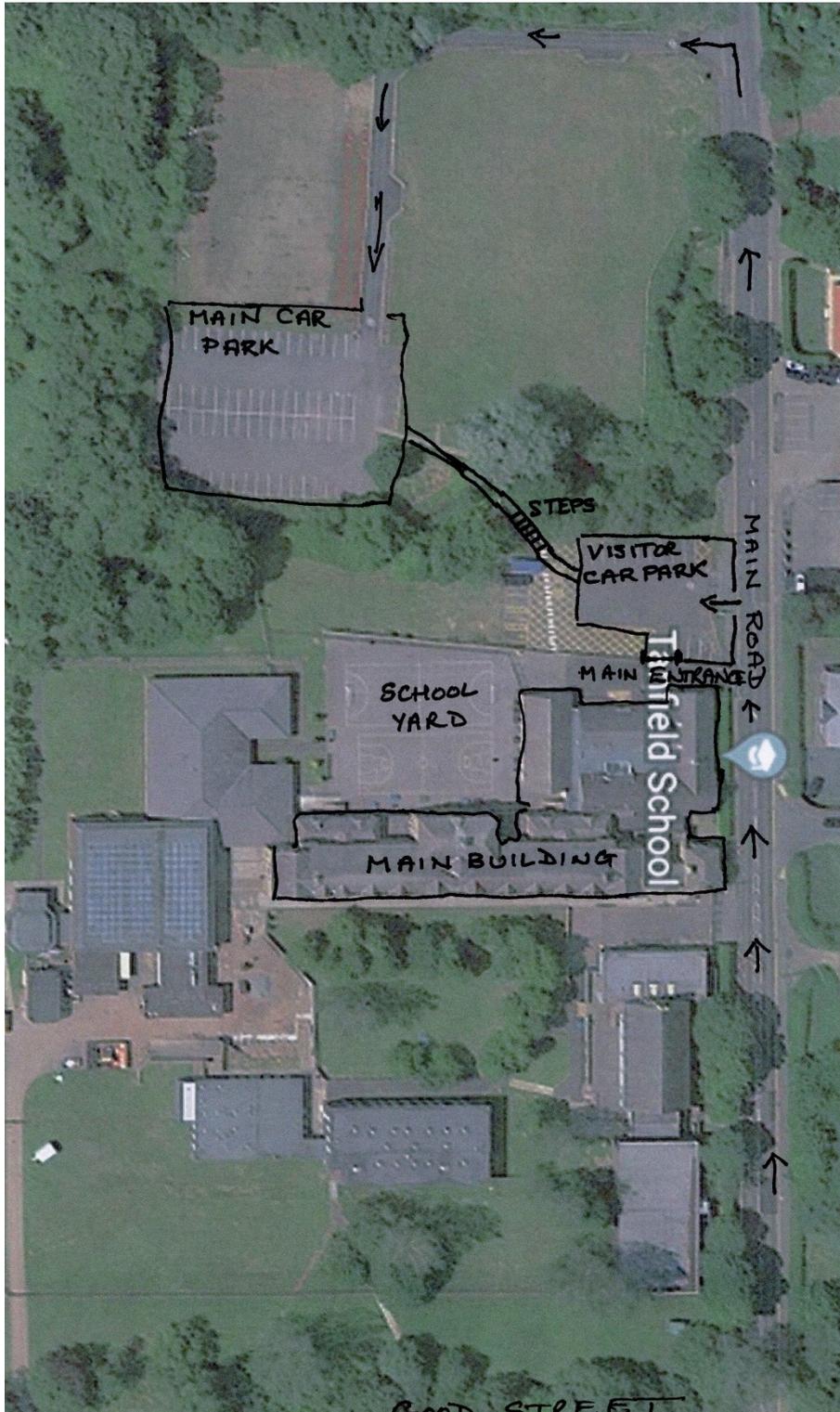
**The deadline for ordering tickets has been extended to September.
A limited number of buffet tickets will be available to buy on the day.**

!!! ADDITIONAL REFRESHMENTS !!!

For those who prefer a light snack to a full lunch, there will be the following on offer: **A bacon sandwich, a choice of traybakes, cakes, biscuits etc, plus a hot drink. Price: £3.**
Buy on the day with cash or card.

Celebration Day Parking

There are **two** car parks – the main staff car park and the small visitors' car park where parking is limited.



Main Car Park

If you are coming down Barn Hill, drive past the entrance to the visitors' car park, take the next left and follow the road to the main car park. A path leads from this across the bridge over the Houghall Burn, up some steps and into the visitors' car park, near the school's main entrance.

Visitors' Car Park

is reserved for Blue Badge holders and those with mobility problems. It is opposite the school's main entrance. Permits will be issued for this car park. See next page for details of how to apply for a permit.

All parking will be free of charge.

It would be useful to know how many people will need to use the small visitors' car park, so we are asking **Blue Badge holders and**

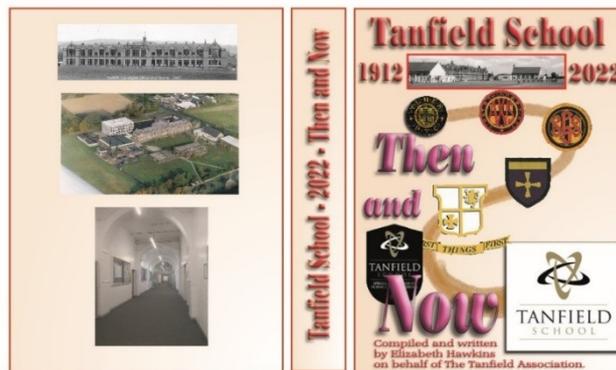
people with mobility problems to let us know that they require parking close to the school. Please contact Elizabeth and give her **the registration number of the car you will arrive in, the name of the Blue Badge holder and the name of the driver.** The school has asked us to log the registration numbers of vehicles using the small visitors' car park and the driver's name, in case we need to contact them during the visit.

You can contact Elizabeth

- by phone or text message on 07905191977
- by email on secretaire@tanfield-association.org
- By Messenger on Facebook (Elizabeth Hawkins page)
- By post at the following address:

Tanfield Association c/o Mrs E Hawkins
15 Thirlmere, Birtley, Chester-Le-Street, Co Durham, DH3 2JY

THE BOOK
TANFIELD SCHOOL
1912-2022
THEN AND NOW



You can order the book to be posted to you or reserve it in advance to be picked up from school and paid for on the day if you wish. Advance orders will help us to see how many we need to have printed, but there will be enough copies (we hope!) for people who have not reserved one to buy on the day.

How to order and pay for a copy of the book, plus postage and packing.

You can order a copy through the post, paying by cheque, or online via the association's website, paying by credit/debit card or through Paypal. The book by itself will cost £10, with £3.50 postage and packing. **Total cost: £13.50.** www.tanfield-association.org

To order one or more books by post, please send a cheque for the required amount, plus the name and address to which the book(s) must be sent to:

Tanfield Association c/o Mrs E Hawkins, 15 Thirlmere, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 2JY.

Books will be posted shortly after the Celebration Day on October 15th 2022.

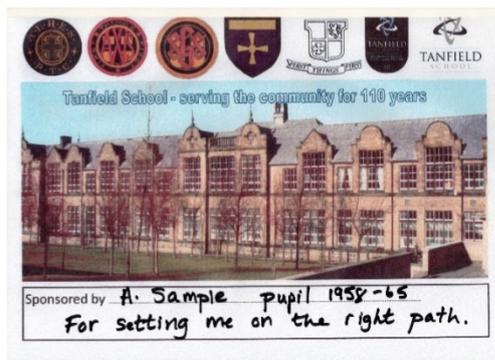
Alternatively, you can reserve a book in advance and can pick it up and pay by cash or card on the Celebration Day at school - or at some other convenient time after that.
Cost: £10 cash, cheque or card payment.

To reserve a copy of the book, please contact Elizabeth Hawkins at the address above or by sending the same information by email at secretaire@tanfield-association.org or by Messenger via Facebook.

If you have not ordered or reserved a book, there should still be books available to buy on the day or afterwards. Reserving just means you'll definitely have one put aside for you to pick up on the day or later.

Sponsoring the School for a Better Future

Tanfield did well by us – let's help it to do well by the present and future members of its community.



We have designed an A4 size sponsorship form to acknowledge the generosity of members who wish to make a gift to the school. (See sample, left). These forms will be displayed at school on the celebration day and on our website. Sponsors will choose what they wish to be written on the form, including, if desired, name, dates when at Tanfield, a dedication or a short statement. These will be typed up when we receive the donation with a cover letter telling us the desired wording. Thank you.

To become a sponsor, here are the donation payment options:

- **By Royal Mail. Cheque** made out to Tanfield Association plus a cover letter giving details of what you would like written on the sponsorship form. Post to our Secretary:
Tanfield Association c/o Mrs E Hawkins, 15 Thirlmere, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 2JY.
- **Paypal / Credit or Debit card** – see instructions on the Tanfield Association website. Minimum donation: £5.
- **Bank Transfer** – see instructions on the Tanfield Association website.

A cheque for all money donated by sponsors will be given to the school as soon as possible after the celebration day – October 15th 2022.

There is no obligation to take part in this – it is entirely voluntary.

What's Happening on the Day

- **The school will be open from 11am. Please sign in at Reception. You will be given a stick-on badge to write your name on. There is no obligatory charge for the Open Day but we would welcome a voluntary donation towards the school's 'birthday present'. Once the day is over and all donations have been banked, a cheque for the total amount will be presented to the school.**
- **There will be photo displays in the Assembly Hall and in the new Conference Room (near Reception).**
- **There will be a welcome in the Assembly Hall by Ted Brabban and Head Teacher Steven Clough at 11.30am**
- **The first tour of the school will begin at 11.45am**

- The celebration cake (made by Mrs Batty) will be cut at 12.20pm in the Dining Hall.
- The buffet/refreshments will be available from 12.30pm until 2pm in the Dining Hall.
- The second tour of the school will begin at 2.15pm
- The event will end at 3pm.

***** Please remember to sign out again whenever you choose to leave! *****

How You Can Help

- Come and join us on the Celebration Day.
- Order a buffet meal if you want one.
- Let us know if you have mobility problems and need a permit for the visitors' car park. (sorry, limited numbers so first come, first served)
- Let us know if you want a copy of the book.
- Become a school sponsor from £5.

Life After Tanfield – a reminder

The idea is to put together a file for display on the celebration day, letting people know what we got up to when we left school. If you think you'd like to share some of your life with us by telling us how Tanfield set you on the right path, and what you did afterwards, please fill out some details and send them back to me.

There is a **template** which will give you some guidance, a **blank form** which you can fill in and return to us if you wish, and a **consent form** which you should also sign and send back to us, to confirm that you agree to your photo/details being included in the folder and put on display. This is to keep us right with GDPR. Please email Elizabeth if you're interested in contributing a page to the folder. To give you an idea of what has already been done, we've included Moira Bryan's Life After Tanfield page in this newsletter.

The school is always interested in what former pupils have done with their lives, just as we are interested in what our members did after they left school. Please help. Our idea is to let today's students see what can be done with their lives once school is over. I'm sure they'll be inspired.

LIFE AFTER TANFIELD
NAME MOIRA BRYAN (nee NETHERTON)
PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1947 TO 1952
MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

Prior to leaving S.G.S -as it was then, in 1952 I had applied to the R.V.I to take up a nursing career & was accepted. In Oct of that year, I commenced working at the R.V.I' s Convalescent Wylam. I was excited & nervous at leaving home at 16 and a half, but being quite a confident lass, I was keen to start work & have some money. In those days, you were able to learn the Practical side of Nursing, prior to commencing your nursing training at 18. I loved it all made life-long friends. Looking back, my Nursing training at the R.V.I was exceptional, moving through the different wards to gain all



facets of Medicine & Surgery. We worked long hours in those days. We would save our money for holidays, which included back packing in Scotland, good fun. Going by boat from Newcastle to Bergen to Ulvik, on the Hardanger Fjord & returning by Stavanger. Good fun spending Midsummer- daylight all night at a party with students at an island across the fjord. Rowing there in a boat, 5 of us, no life jackets. We also went to Salzburg, all the way by train, 3 days & nights staying in Anif for 2 weeks in a pensionette, doing trips to Hellbron, a salt mine, fun, Black Forest & Badgastein in Germany & Hitler's bunker house & Eagles nest at Berchesgarden etc.etc.

After 4 years at the R.V.I I decided to do another year & become a Midwife. Did the 1st. Part at Middlesbrough Maternity Hosp. &



2nd part at Nc/Le General Hospital delivering babies on the District around Nc/Le & loved it. I also took another exam to become a Queen's Nurse, QIDNS. Queen's Institute of District Nursing. By this time I was engaged to be married & my fiancé Alistair had just finished National Service in Germany & decided to join the Metropolitan Police in London. When I qualified as a Midwife, we moved to London in 1959. I worked as a Midwife at St George's Hosp. which was then at Hyde Park Corner. The Mid. Dept. was on the top floor & had amazing views of London. Quite a few perks working there with free tickets at times to West End shows. We lived in a furnished flat in Battersea on the middle floor of a terrace house with a typical London land lady. Lots of stories there.

Eventually we saved enough money to buy a bungalow in Erith in Kent, on the edge of the Met Police District, Al still in the Met, & I, the local District Nurse.

Considering starting a family, but Australia was advertising that you could go to Australia for £ 10 each for 2 years. Alistair was very keen, so we applied, accepted & had a sailing date on the 'Fairstar' in a month. People we knew bought the house & took the dog. I was in tears when we left. Our families thought we were crazy leaving good jobs. etc. etc. They we're born in a different era.

In 1965 when we left the population of Australia was 13 million, the same as Greater London, it is still only 26 million.

The "Fairstar" looked huge, sitting there in the docks at Southampton. We had a cabin on our own, & enjoyed every minute of our cruise to Australia. Plenty of activities on the boat, great food bands & artists entertaining us, dancing.

The trip was great going thro' the Med to Pt. Said, traders coming to the boat to sell their wares. Coming thro' the Suez Canal, so fertile on one side & sandy on the other. We were followed by numerous boats from various European Countries all emigrating to Oz.

Next stop Aden where we bartered for cheap electrical goods, movie camera & equipment, binoculars etc. Across the Indian Ocean to Perth, where I met a nursing friend, hubby & 4 children, who had emigrated & couldn't settle & were going back.

We disembarked in Melbourne & had a flat waiting for us in Frankston, a beach suburb about 30 miles away & soon bought a new house. I got a job as a sister in a doctor's Surgery & Al joined the Police Force.

We started our family, Andrew was born in 1967 & Graeme in 1969. Our 1st trip back to the UK was in 1971 to visit family & friends.

In 1974, my hubby thought it would be a change to live in the country - good for the boys, so we moved to Bairnsdale- tears again leaving friends & a nice area.

Al now worked for the Country Roads Board & they gave us an old house to live in for a cheap rent. It was so bad compared with the new one we had sold.

However, this enabled us to buy a 51 acre property about 5 kms. from Bairnsdale where we still live. We became farmers rearing cattle which still continues.

In 1977 Colin was born which was great.

We have had lots of ups & downs in our lives & one bad incident where Alistair was badly injured in a car accident on his way home from work with serious injuries, including head injuries & brain damage. He was 46 at the time, Colin was only 6 at the time. Al did recover after a long time but had to leave his job, as he had short term memory loss. Life was never the same. He passed away in 1983 due to heart problems.

The boys have grown up & have families & they have built on the extremities of the property. I have 11 grandchildren, so we have helped to populate Australia.

I have travelled extensively - before Al died, we travelled to Perth by train, across the Nullarbor Plain to see The Americas Cup when it was held there- amazing experience. Also to L.A then UK to see family again, & Hong Kong. In the 80's we had a trip on the old Oriana around the Pacific, taking in Fiji, Tonga, American Samoa - all beautiful, New Zealand, Tasmania, most of the Capital cities. After Al died, I visited Italy, Switzerland, Paris, Bordeaux & vineyards in Loire valley, then to Barcelona, Istanbul, Izmir, Greek islands, Egypt, Rhine cruise, Prague, Croatia, Norfolk Island plus most of Australia, Outback & remote areas & all the Capital cities.

I feel so fortunate to have achieved so much in my life & feel that it's important to take any opportunity that arises, life is so short.

BREAKFAST PLANNING MEETING



If you need to have a meeting, having breakfast together is as good an idea as any! Ted Brabban and Elizabeth Hawkins met with Jonny Coates and Amanda & Kerry Moralee from Tanfield School to discuss the Celebration Day. We had an excellent breakfast, served by former students Marie Duff and Donna Price, and enjoyed a very productive meeting at the Bayberry Hollow café in Tanfield Village – a nostalgic trip for Ted, as he was both choirboy and Sunday School pupil at Tanfield church, but was born at Tanfield Lea, then lived

from 4yrs old to 15 at Sleepy Valley and walked to Tanfield from there.

One last thing to think about...

Two ladies who are members of the association have decided that they want their sponsorship of the school to be aimed at something specific. They have therefore requested that their generous donations be used to start a 'Support Fund' to help those students whose families are facing hardship at this time when so many things are going to be more expensive and money is going to be tighter than most people can remember.

We put this idea to Head Teacher Steven Clough, whose response was, "That would be brilliant. We will set up a support fund which will be used to pay for things like uniform, revision materials, trips etc for those students who are struggling."

So – if you are thinking of contributing to the gift we will be making to the school, and would like your donation to be added specifically to the Support Fund, please send a cover note with your donation, telling us. We'll see that your donation gets to the right place.

The ladies who came up with this idea remember how hard times were when they were at Tanfield. We honour them for their thoughtfulness.

(N.B. If you have already made a donation and would like it to be reassigned to the Support Fund, please contact us and we'll be happy to make the adjustment.)