

# Tanfield Association

President: Ted Brabban



Association Secretary and Newsletter Editor:

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## Newsletter No. 56

## Summer 2023

Hello, everyone! This year we are pleased to announce that we will be holding an AGM on the school's 111<sup>th</sup> birthday, Monday October 16<sup>th</sup>. The venue will be Tanfield Lea Community Centre, just along the road from the school.

Business will start at 12 noon and will be followed by lunch at 1pm, with a chance to renew old acquaintances and meet new ones. There will be time to socialize after lunch, with the possibility of games! (Beetle, bingo and dominoes have been suggested so far). The venue is booked until 3pm.

Acting President Joyce Charlton has volunteered to do the catering, with the main course being Pie & Peas, (a good old Geordie favourite) followed by a selection of cakes and biscuits.

We hope that you would like to come to the AGM, as it's nice to see old (and new) friends. Please get in touch if you intend coming, and we can send you details of lunch, parking etc. We will put updates of information on our Tanfield Association Facebook page and on our website [www.tanfield-association.org](http://www.tanfield-association.org).

**We have also organized a tour of the school on the morning of the AGM, from 10.30am till 11.45am. Please let us know if you would also like to take part in this tour.** Numbers may be limited, depending on the response. Applications will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. **Booking form is on page 16.**

If you have any questions or wish to inform us of your intention to come to the AGM, and, if you wish, the tour, contact us as follows: Email: [secretaire@tanfield-association.org](mailto:secretaire@tanfield-association.org)

Phone: 07905191977

Mail: see secretary's address above

We'd love to hear from you!

### Editorial - AGM

Congratulations to Herbie  
**Amy Bilton's memories of junior school**

Hill-walking Trip

**Life After Tanfield – Cheryl Caine (née Nicholson)**

Miss Thornton – Jean Simpson

**Portrait of Ted**

Joan Charlton – eulogy  
**49ers?**

New Music Block

**Brenda Craddock**

Tanfield and Athletics

**Reminder: AGM and tour of the school - details**

The Committee & Working  
Exec Members

**Lunch at the Hilltop**

**Booking form for AGM and Tour of the school**

### Congratulations to Herbie



Tanfield School was proud to congratulate year 10 student, Herbie, on being selected as an award winner for the Schools' Physicist of the Year 2022.

The University of Durham, in partnership with the Ogden Trust, hosted the event to celebrate the talent of exceptional students studying Physics.

The Tanfield Association would like to add its congratulations to Herbie, who is following in the footsteps of scientists of great talent who were also pupils at Tanfield.

### **Memories of Annfield Plain Junior School**



July 1952

Valerie Rutherford, Amy Seccombe, Lilian Turner, Marian Rogers, Gwynneth Armstrong, Brenda Wilson, Elsie Metcalfe, Joan Wanless.

Andrew Peart, John Storey, Harry Baxter, Norman Kitto, John March, Alan Raine, Tommy Down, John Robson, Harold Reay, John Daglish, Brian Chester.

One September morning in 1950, the headmistress of Stanley Board School marched three of us with August birthdays out of our classroom and upstairs into the form room of the year above us. No explanation was given as we were deposited amongst a sea of new faces - and the nauseating smell of tiger lilies on the window ledges. Who remembers those double desks attached to a bench? I had to sit in one next to a girl who repeatedly made me stand up every time the teacher turned her back. Nightmare. Maths lessons were the most daunting, as decimals and fractions were totally new to us. Then came long division sums which I copied down back to front. I still occasionally do mirror-writing when stressed. The teacher couldn't work out why I was getting wrong answers when I used

the correct method of working them out. I became a bundle of nerves so my mother finally took me to the doctor's & he said "Take her away from that school." So I was sent to Annfield Plain Junior School at the beginning of January 1951. Every morning I caught the bus from Stanley - and I had lunch at Victoria House, New Durham Road, with my mother's sister Eveline and her husband. Bus fares had to be paid and finances didn't run to school dinners.

What a difference being at that school made to my life: I just loved every minute of it. The headmaster was my father's brother, Harold Seccombe, and for years I called him "sir". Miss Blanche Russell was our form tutor and she put me next to Ruby Graver - such a lovely girl: many years later I discovered she was related to June Todd - whom we all miss so much. I soon realised that pupils sat in order of merit following tests every Friday morning. (During the early 80's I met Ruby again, at an SGS parents' evening as her daughter Amanda was one of my pupils.) We seemed to relish the competition and admired those who were always the top three, namely Harry Baxter, John March and Lilian Turner. I was determined to stick in and the first week I remember being ninth after the Friday tests.

Although the school was very strict, there was such a positive, happy atmosphere and it was a pleasure to learn there. I remember the exciting mental tests we'd have in the scholarship class with Mr Golightly in charge. And how we all loved Friday afternoons when he would read stories from various classics. During hot weather, what fun we had when we would occasionally be taken into the school yard to do country dancing. I remember being off school with a bad dose of measles when word came through that I'd passed the scholarship. I still have the congratulatory postcard sent by Uncle Harold signed in his distinctive green ink ! Nineteen of us passed that year, which was incredible as it wasn't a big school. During our final week we gave a concert for parents. Lots of us were involved but these are what I remember: Elsie recited "There lived a sage in days of yore", Harry and John March sang "I thought I saw a pussycat" - in funny voices- hilarious- and I played two piano solos- Fur Elise and a Brahms waltz.

We began at SGS in September 1952 and the assembly hall, biology lab and gym with showers were all just finished - brand new – ready for us. My uniform was bought at Raymond Barnes – opposite the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, as my aunt paid for some of it. It was pale brown and only Elsie and I in our year group wore this colour. Hers was from Isaac Walton's in Newcastle. The other girls' uniforms were much darker brown - bought at Doggarts or Shimelds in Stanley. I simply hated looking different!

Many years later, 15 of us "52ers" attended the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of our school and had photos taken together. Alan and Norma Jenssen asked if we'd like to meet on a regular basis and naturally, we agreed. We gave them our contact details and have enjoyed meeting on the first Tuesday of the month ever since. In 2012, 18 of us attended the Centenary celebration of our school - easily the largest year group present. Alan began producing booklets for us at Christmas 2002 and invited us to contribute articles, stories, puzzles and jokes. During Lockdown, he produced a booklet called "52ers at Home" virtually every week which kept us busy and was a wonderful lifeline. Now the booklets are smaller and renamed "Jenssen's Journals". He sends them via email or by post or delivers them at our monthly lunches. Our next lunch is on 18<sup>th</sup> May at the King's Head Lanchester, where 14 of us are meeting the 52er Lis Dawson who is coming to the NE on a visit from Vancouver.

Nine of us from our class at Annfield Plain school are still in touch and I am so glad that I was able to transfer to that excellent school so many years ago. Strangely enough, Alan Jenssen became Headteacher of that same school in 1982 until he retired in 2000. It's a small world, isn't it?

Amy Bilton ( née Seccombe)

### Hill Walking Trip – Stanley Grammar School



This photograph shows a party of pupils and their teachers from Stanley Grammar School and records a Hill Walking Trip, I think, at Easter 1965. We were based at a comfortable Methodist Guest House at Barmouth, North Wales. It was open to pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> Year upwards, hence the mix of pupils in the picture. The teachers include Mr and Mrs Watson, Mr Robson and Mr Underwood. There was at least one other there whom I do not recognise; and there was a French Assistant who came along. When we left Stanley there was a snowstorm and parents were a little concerned for our safety but in a short distance the snow had disappeared and the rest of the week the weather was quite good. However, on the first outing we climbed quite a distance and ran into snow and high winds, so some of the party descended sooner than was intended. I was one of those. The rest of the walks were more successful and overall, the trip was enjoyed by the party. On one day we ascended Cadair Idris. The other events that I recall included a football match on the beach with Mr. Watson's team defeating that of Mr Robson: the losers were given the washing up that evening. Also, Barmouth is situated on the Cambrian Coast Railway line so as a train spotter I walked across the famous footpath on its lengthy Bridge across the estuary as well as making a short rail trip by steam without telling anyone - though I did confess to a teacher afterwards without censor; but it is an experience I cherish to this day. One other snippet: we set off at the end of the week and some way on, Mr Atkinson announced that he had forgotten his walking boots so we had to return a few miles to collect. (Yours Truly – front row, second from right).

**Graeme Logan**



## LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

### MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

NAME: CHERYL CAINE (née NICHOLSON)

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1992 TO 1997



Hi, I'm Cheryl, after leaving Tanfield I went to college in Durham then to University in Manchester. I graduated with 1<sup>st</sup> class honours. BSc Biological Sciences specialising in Conservation. As part of my degree I spent 4 months studying and tagging lemon sharks in Bimini, Bahamas, which was incredible. I continued to study sharks, this time sand tigers, as part of my MSc in Biological Sciences at Hull University focusing on genetics and mating behaviours.

After University I returned to the Northeast and worked for the Department of Health. I then got my break in conservation, working as Regional Manager for the Northeast Wildlife Trusts urban wildlife project. Here we used infra-red motion activated cameras to show



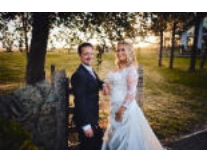
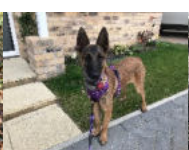
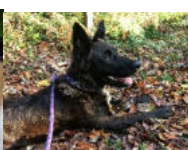
people across the region the amazing wildlife on their doorstep.

Next, I moved to the Northwest Wildlife Trust as their Marine Conservation Manager. My main role was to work to try and establish Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ's) in the Irish Sea, and I'm incredibly proud the first MCZ's were designated in 2013.



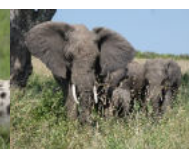
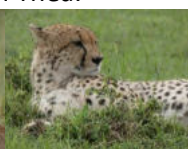
Following the birth of my wonderful daughter Thea, I moved back to the Northeast where I worked for the Marine Management Organisation for a number of years. In 2015, I began working for the RSPB as their Area Conservation Manager for the Northeast and Cumbria. This job was wide ranging and very rewarding with work including hen harrier protection and natural flood management. I then took an opportunity to work with farmers who work with wildlife and the environment across the UK to lead the development of their movement, the Nature Friendly Farming Network. I still work as a Director there today, at this critical time for nature and our climate we work to influence the future of farming through policy and farmer engagement.

In 2019 I married Paul Caine, who used to be in my class at Tanfield – although we didn't meet again till 14 years later. Paul, Thea and I have lots of pets, we love to rescue animals.



We love to

travel and see new places and wildlife, some of my favourite places are The Maldives, Egypt, Mexico and Kenya. I've also spent time in Botswana, filming, tracking leopards and reintroducing African wild dogs. I also volunteer locally with New Beginnings Cat Rescue and fundraise for The Born Free Foundation with Thea.



I still love to dance, (I'm a qualified dance and aerobics instructor), watch Star Trek and most of all spend time with my family and friends.

### Miss Thornton



Many puzzled over the source of the supreme Joyce Thornton's charisma. How could more than half the class achieve distinction under her distant direction? Difficult to achieve. Does the expert teacher 'lead out' according to the Latin derivation of the word "education" or did she just inspire the aspiring? Coaching for exams beyond the school syllabus with interviews during the Christmas holidays were nothing to her. After that week of exams at college, being called Miss – Doric columns beckoned. So began the hard slog for four years – enjoyable, honestly – just to trail behind such as the future renowned producer of Blue Peter and another, a future director, advising the government.

I had an enjoyable afternoon with Joyce, all to myself. When showing her around the new building at St Mary's College Durham, there in the Junior Common Room was a wooden board with her name as Senior Woman. She looked humbly pleased. She had never mentioned it or her family members who had studied at Durham. Her nephew said she was his favourite aunt. Anyway, flowers and delicious home-made orange cake came as presents. At one point she sat on a low bed, rocking with laughter. Was it because a former SGS pupil had just obeyed her instant command to put away the cake for next week in a high cupboard – or did she secretly fancy a piece? My room-mate came under her spell and I was very proud of her. Many years later a chance meeting with St Mary's College Principal obliged me to

write a magazine article about early years in the new building. Memories were jogged with the help of the now antiquated tradition of letter writing, and widely appreciated. Did I write that article really in honour of the memory of Joyce? Would she have approved? I like to think so.

**Jean Simpson**

### **Portrait of Ted**



This portrait of Ted Brabban was drawn in 1995 by former Tanfield pupil Alistair Seccombe, a distant cousin of his. Ted's great-grandfather and Alistair's great-great-grandmother were brother and sister. Those who taught with Ted and those who were taught by him will remember the jaunty bow tie. Ted was a keen and gifted artist, as anyone who has seen his paintings will know. Alistair obviously inherited the same talent.

An Excerpt from the eulogy for Joan Charlton. The full eulogy can be read on our website.

## Eulogy for Joan

Joan was born in Stanley Co Durham where her father was a cashier at the local colliery. Joan's mother trained as a milliner and made the family clothes whilst teaching Joan sewing skills. Educated in Stanley Joan's abiding memories are of Alderman Woods Secondary, now Tanfield School where she developed her enjoyment of Latin and lifelong delight in literature, especially the Classics.

In 1939 a Presbyterian Minister encouraged Joan to apply for an open scholarship at Oxford or Cambridge University. In this mining community it was rare for anyone to go to University, particularly to Oxford or Cambridge ... and a woman at that!! So began her academic career gaining a place at Kirton College Cambridge.

Graduating from Cambridge with a BA Hons in English and a post graduate teaching certificate Joan's first post was at Heaton High School Newcastle then, 5 years later she became Head of English at Redland in Bristol. Another ten years passed and in 1958 she was back up North to take up a headship at Clitheroe in Lancashire before relocating to Carlisle County High School for girls to be nearer to her ageing parents..

Joan's final posting was at Queen Mary's a girls school in Lytham near Blackpool. It was at Lytham that she made the most progressive changes in educational and social opportunities. She created a proper advanced science course resulting in a 3fold increase in the number of students specialising in the sciences. Although a Chalk and board person, Joan was very keen on her staff using Audio visual aids to teaching, building an audio visual room at the school, with a projection booth and a screen wall. Modern technology was not for Joan though who described herself as uncomputerate, finding computers terrifying.

She herself taught Classical studies and told the students stories from memory including from Homer's Odyssey and Beowulf. A number of staff members and pupils who were taught by Joan have remained in contact, many remembering her story telling as quite magical for them, awakening an interest in the Classics.



### 1949 Starters?



This photo was handed to one of our members at the 110<sup>th</sup> celebration. It shows a class of junior school pupils who had passed for Tanfield. Some are named – Edna Bowes, Margaret Howerd(?), Dorothy, Audrey, Mavis, Margaret, June, Sheila, Margaret Dodds, Olive. Can anyone give us more information on which year this was taken and who the girls are? Please email Elizabeth on [secretaire@tanfield-association.org](mailto:secretaire@tanfield-association.org) or drop her a line. And if you're the one who gave us the photo, can you get in touch? Thanks.

### New Music Facilities at Tanfield



Amy Bilton and Elizabeth Hawkins with Head of Music John Stephenson and a Year 7 student at one of the many unofficial 'openings' of the new Music rooms. Each class and all visitors who went for the first time to the brand new Music block were invited to cut the ribbon and 'open' the new facilities - a self-contained block with a spacious teaching area and practice rooms, located on the border of the school yard and therefore well away from other teaching areas so that the sound of music won't disturb other learners.

John Stephenson has dreamed of this for 20 years and at last his dream has been fulfilled. He watched the building work in progress and finally moved in on February 8<sup>th</sup> (when we



presume there actually was an *official* opening!) and now has space to teach, store instruments and music books, and direct students to practise and improve their skills. (photos: below left, work in progress; below right, the new Music block prior to opening)



Above: the spacious new teaching area

### **Brenda Craddock**



We were saddened recently by the death of Brenda Craddock, former Head of RE at Tanfield from the late '70s to the mid '90s. Brenda was a well-liked and well-respected member of staff. Her last visit to the school was on the school's 110th birthday celebration in October 2022. The photo shows her with Cheryl Caine and Amy Bilton.

Following her visit to see the school, Brenda wrote an article for her local village newsletter, Lanchester's 'Village Voice,' as follows:

'Last Saturday I witnessed a total transformation when I visited the comprehensive school where for the last 18 years of my teaching career, I was Head of Department, for the teaching of Religious Education. The school building when I taught

there was not very attractive and badly needed a lot of updating. It is over 20 years since I retired but I was asked back for the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school, which was built in 1912. It was formerly called the 'Alderman Wood School', then Stanley Grammar School and later Tanfield Comprehensive School. Today it is known as Tanfield School.

A tremendous amount of money has been spent on the building in the last two to three years and to say it has been transformed is an understatement. It provides a wonderful environment for learning and developing the growth of every individual in the school. The well-being of all pupils is of paramount importance, of course, and the emphasis is on the 'whole' child, which means spiritual, physical, emotional, social and intellectual development are all part of the curriculum. The last paragraph could apply to both our village schools. We are so fortunate in this village!

Seeing a whole school transformed inside and out, made me think of the transforming power of Jesus. The New Testament of the Bible bears witness to this in providing a fund of references when people's lives were transformed through meeting Jesus.

Sometimes we can be complacent about being a Christian but developing our own spiritual journey day by day should be ongoing all the time and Jesus can transform every part of our life, if we truly acknowledge Him as the Way, the Truth and the Life.'

[A tribute to Brenda will be published in the 'Village Voice' this month.]

### **Tanfield and Athletics**

The school was very proud to announce recently that they had achieved great success in local athletics.

'We would like to congratulate the Team Tanfield students that recently participated in the Derwentside District Athletics.

Team Tanfield came first in Junior Girls, Junior Boys, Inter Boys and Inter Girls events, with a large number of students qualifying to represent the District and the County athletics.'

Well done, Team Tanfield!

#### **AGM and Tour of the School Reminder**

**Date: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October (Tanfield's 111th anniversary)**

**Place: Tanfield Lea Community Centre. Let us know you're attending, and we will send you a map and directions, plus any other necessary information.**

**Tour of the school: Time: 10.30am – 11.45am, starting at the school's Reception. If you want to take part, please tell us. We will contact you if there are any subsequent updates to details.**

**AGM: Time: 12 noon till 3pm. 12 noon – business, such as electing members of the committee, presentation of the Tanfield Star. 1pm lunch. 2pm Time to socialise, look at displays, play games if you wish. 3pm close.**

**Please tell us if you are coming to the AGM. We need to know numbers. We will contact you personally with any further details. See the booking form on the last page.**

## Tanfield Association's Committee and Working Exec

As you probably know, everything that Tanfield Association does is organised by the elected Committee and the co-opted Working Exec members. Since elections for the committee will be taking place at the AGM in October, it seems the right time to remind everyone of who's working on your behalf to keep the association going and get things done. We'll start with the **committee**:

Acting President Councillor Joyce Charlton



Pupil at Tanfield 1974-79. Joined the association as a member of the Working Exec 12 years ago. Joined the school's Board of Governors five years ago. Joyce took on the role of Acting President of the association at the beginning of 2023. She said, "I just want to say that I feel privileged to be asked to be president and that I'm saddened that I have to fill such enormous shoes, as, like many of us, I just expected Ted to go on forever! I hope to be able to fulfil the role without making any faux pas! Tanfield is close to my heart and I'm very proud of the changes that have been made and the improvements (which were long overdue), and of playing a small part

as governor and county councillor in helping encourage and support these changes, making the school an encouraging place to be for our young people and a safe environment. The staff are dedicated to our students, giving up their holidays and weekends to help them and encourage them to do the best they can. I would love the world to know what a fantastic team we have running our school and educating our students."

Vice President Professor Bob Harrison



Pupil at Tanfield 1955 to 1962, becoming Head Boy in Upper Sixth. He left with 8 'O' Levels and 3 'A' Levels. Went to Leeds University from 1962 to 1969 graduating with a BSc and a PhD in Physics. After completing his PhD he immediately started working as a lecturer at Sunderland Polytechnic, which later became University of Sunderland. Here he gained a Professorship in 1993 in Renewable Energy Systems. In 2007, following his retirement from Sunderland, he became Treasurer of the Durham Branch of the WEA. Soon after (approx 2008) he joined the Tanfield Association and became President in 2011, taking over from Warren Pescod. He stepped down from this role in

2019 when Ted Brabban took over. During his retirement he has also spent time on hobbies such as painting watercolours and wood carving.

Secretary Elizabeth Hawkins



Pupil at SGS 1958-65. Lancaster University BA in English and French. Qualified as a teacher and returned to teach at Tanfield from 1970-2005, with a year or two off in the 80s to have three sons. Joined the Tanfield Association shortly before retiring in 2005 and was elected Secretary in 2012. Produced four books on Tanfield to celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.



Treasurer Susan Donkin



Tanfield 1976-81

Retired now but is a volunteer every week at St Cuthbert's Hospice, Durham.

Webmaster Howard Bott



SGS 1957-1964

I was introduced to computers in 1966 while attending Manchester University and it seemed to suit me ideally. My working life was spent in IT Technical support of one sort or another. Since retiring in 2006, I continued to dabble in computing so leapt at the chance to become Webmaster for Tanfield Association in 2014.

Minuting Secretary Amy Bilton



Pupil at Tanfield school 1952- 59. Qualified as a teacher which included teaching English in France 61-62.

1962-5 taught at St Joseph's RC sec school in Borough High St. London E1. Also in 65 married & had my first child.

66-67 taught part-time at St Saviour's in Poplar E14. Had twins in Dec 67 and left Roehampton with 3 little boys to return to the NE towards the end of 68. Between 68-72 I taught part time at the Upper Standards school, Towneley Memorial (known as the white elephant school) and Front Street School, Stanley.

In Sept 72, when my sons were all at school, I returned to teach at Tanfield.

Was appointed Head of Dept in 1984. Remarried in 1987. Retired from teaching in 2003.

2004 I taught part-time at Durham Johnston school for 6 months. Then at Thornhill, Sunderland for 3 months- finally retiring completely in 2005.

In 2012 I was invited to join the TA, having spent many months researching the life of Alderman H.C. Wood. Was asked to be Minuting Secretary.

I enjoy meeting up with the 52ers (former school friends) for lunch, playing classical music, attending immersive art exhibitions in London and trying to keep up with the exploits & careers of my 6 grandchildren.

### Elections for Members of the Committee

Acting President **Joyce Charlton** will stand for election as President.

Vice President **Bob Harrison** will not stand for re-election.

Working Exec member **Steven Harris** will stand for election as Vice President.

Secretary **Elizabeth Hawkins** will stand for re-election.

Treasurer **Susan Donkin** will stand for re-election.

Webmaster **Howard Bott** will stand for re-election.

Minuting Secretary **Amy Bilton** will stand for re-election.

## **Working Executive:**

### **Chair of Governors Christine McGough**



I began my teaching career at Shield Row Secondary School in 1975 and then moved to Tanfield in 1977 when the two schools merged. My main subject was English but the establishment of a new school brought timetable difficulties and I found myself teaching other subjects for a couple of years.

Noel Dawson was Head of Department and I worked with a great team. When Noel, and then Anne Dawson, moved to Derwentside College, I was appointed Head of Department. (1991) I really enjoyed this role. In 1996 I was moved to a Teaching and Learning role across the whole school.

In 1997 I was seconded to the LEA as a member of the Raising Achievement Team.

I returned to Tanfield in 2000 and in 2001 became an Assistant Headteacher.

Upon my retirement in 2013, I was invited to become a school governor. At the end of 2016 I was asked to consider taking on the role of Chair of Governors. I agreed and became Chair in January 2017. This was somewhat a baptism of fire since my first task was to organise the appointment of a new Headteacher. I have to say the job is much easier these days!

I have been very fortunate with the teams I have worked with and I very much appreciate the support I have been given over the years.

### **Professor Warren Pescod OBE**



Pupil at Tanfield 1944-51. Went to Durham University's Kings College in Newcastle, taking a Bsc, followed by a Master's in Sanitary Engineering at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Married before going to lecture in Sierra Leone, two sons born while he and his wife lived there. Back to Scotland for 3 years, working as a consulting engineer before being invited by the government to take up an appointment at the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering (SEATO GS) in Bangkok. Stayed in Thailand for 12 years, becoming Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology. Achieved an international reputation for developing country environmental technology and served as a

consultant to several Governments and United Nations organizations. Awarded the OBE.

Returned to the UK in 1976 to take up a Professorship at Newcastle, now the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. First president of the newly-formed Tanfield Association, still a member of the Working Exec.

### **Chris Morrison**



SGS from 1961 till A levels in 1969, man on the moon year.

Musically inspired by Mr. Norman Williams, inspiration which remains with me. Still performing, at present, when allowed. A remarkable fact is that I play golf, and socialise with Mr. Brian Slane, an ex SGS teacher of mine who supervised my limited creative ability to fashion a bent poker. He is immortal. The school motto, First Things First, has increased relevance with the passing of time.

Jean Stoddart



Pupil at Tanfield 1949-56. 1956-59 King's College, Newcastle, taking a Chemistry degree. Worked at Consett Iron Company for three years, then at Consett Technical College for a year before leaving to start a family. Returned to Tanfield in 1970 to teach Maths. Retired in 1993. Joined the Tanfield Association and has been a member of the Working Exec for several years.

Jack Nelson



SGS 1962-67. Left with 2 O Levels. Former branch manager Britannia Building Society; former Regional Manager Pearl Assurance. Have a law degree in trust law and had my own Will & Trust company. Consultant to Swinburne & Jackson solicitors. Lived in Hexham since 1978. Married, one daughter, two grandchildren.

Cheryl Caine



Pupil at Tanfield 1992-97. To see Cheryl's story since then, see Life After Tanfield on page 5. Cheryl was recently invited to join the Working Exec and, happily, she agreed.

Steven Harris



Hi everyone, my name is Steve Harris and I attended our school from 1968-75. If I could arrange it, I'd turn the clock back right this minute. I have grave doubts, however, whether the school would feel the same way about me! I remember the assemblies when Dr Sharp would announce, "Would the following pupils see me after assembly..."

I know now what the teachers were up against and the situation is worse now, for other reasons. Several things stick out for me: the hard time Mrs Stoddart must have had, trying to teach me aspects of Maths which I just couldn't grasp. Next I remember the arrival of Miss Thirlaway (now Mrs Hawkins) which resulted in some of us passing French 'O' Level, which we would have failed. Finally, Mr Barron arrived and many of us had a very enjoyable time in PE. The highlight for me was winning the County Cup and myself and Stu Nicholson winning county caps. I'm sure many people feel the same and we were and are very proud of our school. [Steven is another recent member of the Working Exec.]



## LUNCH AT THE HILLTOP, STANLEY

On the second Wednesday of every month, we organise a lunch at a local pub restaurant in or near the Stanley area. This month's gathering was at the Hilltop, in Stanley. We were pleased to welcome Barbara Davison, over from Canada on a visit to family and friends. If you'd like to come and join us, please do! Next month's lunch will be at The King's Head, Lanchester, at 12 noon on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Look for details on our website [www.tanfield-association.org](http://www.tanfield-association.org)



Barbara Davison, Jean Stoddart, Margaret Jones



Walter and Maureen Peacock



Steven Harris and Amy Bilton



Joan Vincenti and Cheryl Caine



Elizabeth Hawkins and Diane Hall



Christine McGough and Margaret Warwick

**Please** send contributions for the **next newsletter** to: [secretaire@tanfield-association.org](mailto:secretaire@tanfield-association.org) or to: Tanfield Association, c/o Mrs E Hawkins, 15 Thirlmere, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH3 2JY. Comments, photos, memories, memorabilia – we need them all!

**AGM**  
**Tour of the School**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**AGM**

I/we will attend the AGM at 12.00 on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, at Tanfield Lea Community Centre

Name 1 .....

Name 2.....

Lunch will be pie & peas, followed by cakes and biscuits. (**£4 per head, payable on the day**).  
Please tell us if you have any dietary requirements:

.....

**Tour of the School**

I/we would like to take part in the tour of the school at 10.30am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Name 1 .....

Name 2 .....

I/we will need to park in the main school car park    YES / NO

(Please let us know below if there are any mobility problems that will mean needing to park close to the school. Access to the school from the main car park involves a flight of steps. There are a limited number of places in the small visitors' car park near Reception.)

I/we will need to park in the Visitors' car park near to Reception. YES / NO

Vehicle registration number .....

Please return this form by post or you can send us the information by e-mail. If you have any queries, contact Elizabeth. Contact details are on Page 1.