

TANFIELD ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: JOYCE CHARLTON



ASSOCIATION SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ELIZABETH HAWKINS, 15 THIRLMERE, BIRTLEY, CHESTER - LE- STREET, DH3 2JY
TEL: 0191 4103472

Newsletter No. 58 Spring 2024

First of all, a belated Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone!

The Spring term is almost over already, and it has been a busy time for the school, as you will see when you read on. All sorts of positive things are happening, inside the classrooms and out.

Some of our members have also enjoyed several convivial lunches in local pubs and have given their time to support things happening in school. We continue to give practical and financial support where we can, and are pleased to know that the County Council and several local businesses support specific needs, such as new shelves for the library or finance to send successful teams to the next round in competitions. We have just been told that two local businesses are supporting the VEX Robotics team to carry on the success they had at the National Championships in Telford. More of that in the newsletter next term!

If you would like to contribute memories, comments, photos to the next newsletter, we'd be delighted to receive them.

Elizabeth Hawkins
Editor

Editorial Contents

Christmas Lunch
Christmas Show at Tanfield School – Amy Bilton & Christine McGough
Memories of St Malo
Tanfield Young Reporters
Lewis Miley (and others) –
Professional Footballers
Futsal Success at Tanfield
Life After Tanfield – Margaret Talintyre
Library Latest - Daryl Smith
My Memories of Tanfield -Steven Harris
Athletics Success
A Gift from Joan Charlton
Our Next Anniversary Appeal
Alderman Wood School
Tanfield Through Time Quiz
VEX Robotics success
Jack Nelson
Betty Watson
Letters
Newsletter contact details
Donation details

Christmas Lunch at the Pavilion Chinese Restaurant, Iveston



Christine McGough, Amy Bilton, Steven Harris



Cheryl Nicholson, Margaret Jones, Mavis Brabban



Jack Nelson, Tom Cooper, Elizabeth Hawkins



Jean Stoddart, Judith Baker-Smith, Alan Tully

Twelve members enjoyed good company and delicious food at the lunch on December 13th. There was an excellent selection of dishes and more food than we could eat! Old times were recalled and, to coin a phrase, a good time was had by all!

Would you like to join us?

There is an open invitation to any of our members who would like to come along and have lunch once a month at a local pub. You can bring a non-member friend along, too, if you wish. We normally meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 12 noon. We usually go to a different pub each month, deciding on the next venue while we're all together. Details of the date and venue are always put on our website in advance, so that you can check where and when. We've recently been to the Three Horseshoes, Maiden Law, The Shepherd and Shepherdess, Beamish, The Church Mouse, Chester-le-Street, The King's Head, Lanchester, The Ox Inn, Oxhill, The Hill Top, Stanley and, of course, the Pavilion. If you live in the area or are visiting locally and want to join us, please let us know. Last year we were joined by members from Canada and Australia! If you'd like more information, please contact Elizabeth (see front and last pages for contact details). Do join us! We'd love to see you.

Christmas Show at Tanfield School



John Stephenson with band members



This is how it came about: some of Tanfield School governors, including our TA president Joyce Charlton, met to discuss ideas for fund-raising. A Christmas concert was one of the suggestions mooted but there did not seem to be enough time to prepare for this sort of event. However, the intrepid John Stephenson, Head of Music, was willing to take the risk. Students began to put forward ideas as to what they could offer, practising whenever they had time. The focus of the event changed and it was decided that the show would be less formal than was originally anticipated.

The Tanfield Association executive committee members were invited to attend and seven of us were able to come along to the show. The hall was beautifully decorated for Christmas and as it had been Christmas jumper day most of the students were still wearing their festive outfits. We were delighted that seats had been reserved for us near the front. There was an air of excitement when Joyce Charlton opened the proceedings by giving everyone a warm welcome to the show.

There was a wide range of musical offerings ranging from vocal performances, guitar, saxophone, brass, keyboard and rock drums- not forgetting the school band. The show went very smoothly and some wonderful talent was displayed that evening. John Stephenson, who always keeps an extremely low profile, did however participate with students in some of the performances, playing a variety of instruments. It was a most enjoyable evening.

The audience was able to partake of snacks and soft drinks which were kindly supplied by local firms. It was good to know that some of the performers' parents who had been pupils at Tanfield School were in the audience. Steven Clough, headteacher of Tanfield School, closed the proceedings by thanking everyone for attending. He spoke warmly of the talent displayed during the show. It will be interesting to follow the future development of some of the performers.

Amy Bilton and Christine McGough.



Memories of St Malo

A school trip to St Malo in the early 80s. David Eccles and his girlfriend Janice had just got engaged so the staff were drinking a toast to them. Left to right: Rodney and Elizabeth Hawkins, Janice, David Eccles, Jean Stoddart, Alan Mills, Ruth Vardy and Patricia Bates. Alan Mills' wife Chris took the photo.

St Malo was a great place to go – a walled town, surrounded by beaches and islands with castles on that you could wade out to at low tide. It was close enough for a day visiting the Mont St Michel. The kids loved it and so did we. It was worth the long journey to get there. Some of the boys wanted to look 'typically French' so they bought berets and black & white striped jumpers, which amused French observers a great deal!

Tanfield Young Reporters

As some of you may have seen, since the start of the academic year, several Tanfield English students have been working in the local community as part of Tanfield's "Young Reporters Scheme". These articles require students to report on issues, raise awareness and promote businesses in Tanfield and Stanley and is a great opportunity for students to go out into their local community and develop their own voice on topics important to them.

These articles are published monthly and are currently being published by the Northern Echo and are available nationally.

Please join us in continuing to support our young people and champion their voices by reading and sharing their articles. All articles can be found on The Northern Echo website under "Young Reporter" or alternatively you can simply follow the link below: <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/topics/young-reporter/>



**Young Reporters -
Tanfield School Library -
Daisy Reed Tanfield
School**

An example of what you will see if you access the Northern Echo website. It is highly commendable that the school motivates its students in this way, encouraging them to get to know their school and local communities and to hone their communication skills. Nice one, Tanfield.

Lewis Miley (and others) – Professional Footballers



One of Tanfield's former students hit the local headlines recently when he scored his first goal for Newcastle. Lewis Miley is only 17 but is already making his mark. His brothers Jamie and Mason are also United players, as is Nathan Carlyon – all four boys went to Tanfield School and the school can be very proud of what they are achieving. They are following in the footsteps of players like John Maughan, who played for the Oxford University team 'Pegasus' and was a member of the FA Amateur Cup-winning side at Wembley in 1951; Ronnie Batty, who played in Newcastle's FA Cup-winning side in 1955; Barry Venison, who played for Newcastle and Sunderland and also for England; Carly Telford, who played for Chelsea and England; Brian Tinnion, who played for Newcastle before moving to Bristol City, where he is now Academy Director; and Derek Wright, who played for Arsenal and, after breaking a leg, went on to train as a physiotherapist, coming to Newcastle at the age of 26 and staying there as physio for 38 years!



And this is where the talent is developed...



HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

A huge well done to our Y8 Futsal team after recently winning the Derwentside tournament. The squad won all 4 fixtures, conceding only 1 goal and scoring 13! We now progress to the next round against schools from Washington and Chester Le Street. Good luck in the next round!



LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

**NAME MARGARET TALINTYRE (NEE WANLESS)
PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1949 TO 1956**

MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

After leaving Stanley Grammar School (Tanfield), I went to King's College, Newcastle, part of Durham University (now Newcastle University) to read Mathematics.

After graduating I worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in the Maths Department, as a Scientific Officer – a part of the Civil Service. The Maths Dept was a 'service' department, so the work was very varied.

Farnborough was an exciting place to be when I was there. It was the time of the 3 'V's – the Victor, the Valiant and the Vulcan aircraft; and of the beginning of vertical take-off and of rockets. My friend was involved in work on the Blue Streak rocket which was based in Australia. The predecessor of Concorde was being developed, too.

The famous Farnborough Air Show took place in September. All the top guns from around the world were there to witness the first 'vertical take-off'. It went up – and came straight back down, much to everyone's embarrassment. The groundsmen had cut the grass so everything looked good. Unfortunately, the thrust for vertical take-off sucked all the bits of grass into the engine!

My first job at Farnborough was for the Met. Office and when they discovered I had never flown, they arranged for me to go up with them. As I was not trained to use oxygen, we could not go above 10,000 feet. I had to be 'kitted out' for the flight. The women in Supply were in fits trying to find a flying suit for me under 5 feet tall. I wore the smallest available, plus a parachute and a 'Mae West' lifejacket. (see photo)

When I came back to the North to get married, I taught at Dame Allen's Girls' School before moving to Leeds. I taught at Allerton High School and became Head of Sixth Form.

My husband and I did a lot of walking when we retired and after his death I became a volunteer for a local charity and still spend one morning a week doing telephone support.

Library Latest



Last term, Tanfield sent out a request for help in buying new books for the recently re-opened School Library. Several of our members responded, buying multiple books which had been requested by students. A big thank you from us to all who answered the call. And below, a thank you from the school.

On behalf of all staff and students at Tanfield School, our Reading Ambassadors would like to thank everyone who donated to our Scholastic Wish List. We would also like to express our gratitude to [Tanfield Association](#) for their generous donation of books. We have some excellent new additions to our library!

[#teamtanfield](#)



Tanfield's Reading Ambassadors with some of the books which were donated. [New library shelves were funded by our president, Joyce Charlton, in her role County Councillor.]



as

Daryl Smith, Business Support Assistant in charge of the Library, describes her experience:

I am delighted to report that the recently donated books have been very well received by students and staff alike.

It is really lovely to see how the library has gone from being an empty room and has developed into a quiet(ish) and calm study space. Several students use the library at break and lunchtimes. Whilst some come in to choose a book, many come in to complete homework and /or just spend time with their friends. Small reading classes also take place several times a week, so the library space is certainly being utilised. We held a literary-themed bake sale recently to celebrate World Book Day and we raised almost £220. This money will go to buy even more books for the school library.

I was so grateful to Amy, Elizabeth and Maureen who spent many hours helping me to get the library up and running. They had all had a huge amount of 'school library' or public library experience and were able to pass on their knowledge and expertise. I guess "once a teacher-always a teacher"!

In actual fact, Elizabeth was once my form teacher and also taught me French for the first 3 years when I was a pupil at Tanfield in the 1970's. Mr Wainwright continued to teach me French for the next two years. (I always remember Elizabeth and her turquoise ink pen. I must have been impressed by this as I got my Mam to buy me a bottle of Quink turquoise ink too 😊).

Little did I know that I would end up back at Tanfield many years later! It is certainly nice to be back here as I loved my time here as a pupil and have so many fond memories. I made many friends and had some amazing teachers. I also have that scary memory of 'The Doc' walking...well almost gliding ...along the corridor and hoping he didn't want a word with me!! Overall though, I can sum up my time at Tanfield as "Happy Days" and think that most people would probably say the same.

My Memories of Tanfield by Steven Harris

My most abiding memories of my time at Tanfield relate to Dr. L.E. Sharp and I'd be willing to bet quite a lot of money that many other people feel the same way, not only pupils but teachers too. Some fell into both categories in the fullness of time, so they got a double dose. Ha ha! I'd be the first to admit that I wasn't the best behaved pupil, however, if I could start over again things would be different.



Derek Barron

— What I really enjoyed most was P.E. and I always felt that the subject really took off with the arrival of Mr. Barron, with new ideas and new sports, namely hockey. Looking back, I think he brought the well-behaved and the not so well-behaved into the competitive arena. He had a knack of being able to say a certain thing to spur somebody on to do better. I remember him saying to Terry Harrop (shot putt) at the track league, "It's Mr. Terry " I can throw two at once" Harrop". I also remember the day I had to take the county cup, which we had won, back to him. We had stuck "vote conservative" stickers all over it and let me tell you he wasn't amused but I got the hammer because I was captain. Here's another one for you, which he

probably hasn't heard to this day, unless someone else cracked it. It was when we turned up for the final and sir brought his son Martin with him. Martin was only a toddler then and someone, I forget who but it wasn't me, was moved to comment, "Well, Barron by name but obviously not barren by nature". It all seems so clear in my mind even now.

On the academic side the arrival of Miss Thirlaway stands out as a signal that meant many of us passed "O" Level when many of us were headed for failure because of a combination of staff shortages and our erratic behaviour. The situation notwithstanding, she brought some stability to the class. She wasn't much more than a slip of a girl herself then, ha ha!

It's just occurred to me while I'm sitting at my pc, I wish they'd taught typing because mine is shocking. Luckily, I can spot my mistakes. 'Bye for now.

Athletics Success

In January, 28 students represented Tanfield School at Durham University, in the Derwentside Sportshall Athletics. The students were fantastic and showed incredible teamwork. We are pleased to announce the results:

Year 7 Girls- 1st

Year 7 Boys- 1st

Year 8 Girls- 1st

Year 8 Boys- 1st

All 28 students who attended have successfully qualified for County. Well done, Team Tanfield!



A Gift from Joan Charlton



Joan Charlton

25th January 1921 - 5th February 2023

Joan Charlton left a gift of £500 to the association in her will. She stipulated that the money should be given to the school to support students whose families are struggling to provide for their children's educational needs. The money will go to the school's Discretionary Fund, where it can be used to fund such items as

uniform, shoes, equipment, transport and lunch costs on days of study, such as the extra exam revision sessions put on voluntarily by staff during the school holidays. In this way, help will be given to multiple students whose needs cannot always be met elsewhere. This gift was typical of Joan, who loved her old school (she was a pupil in the 1930s) and had previously funded an annual award to girls who wanted to pursue a career in science or technology. President Joyce Charlton presented Joan's gift to Head Teacher Steven Clough.



!!! Our Next Anniversary Appeal !!!

Tanfield School's people have always been supportive of pupils (students, these days) in times of need – from the 'Boot Fund' started by male members of staff in the school's earliest years to the school's Discretionary Fund mentioned above. Current school staff and former staff and pupils like us are still giving their support to students who are finding life hard in 2024.

A year ago, we were able to give £3400 to the school, and this has been well used to give support where it was needed, including a Breakfast Club to ensure that if food is scarce at home, the children will not go hungry. In these difficult times, with food banks and such being used by more and more needy people, and the local news reporting that 1 in 3 of the North East's children and babies are living in poverty, we are again aiming to give our support to those who need it. In October we will celebrate the school's 112th anniversary, and we would like to do that in a meaningful way by 'topping up' the Discretionary Fund.

If you would like to make a donation to the fund, you will find extra details of the things the fund will be used to provide, and details of how to make a donation, on the last page of this newsletter. One of the things printed on our banner at school is 'Tanfield Association – remembering the past, supporting the future.' Please help us to do this.

Alderman Wood School

Mariella Gillespie recently sent us photos of the school in the 1920s, taken by her grandfather, Patrick Gillespie, who was a pupil then. The 1912 Block is instantly recognisable but the more modern-looking building rings no bells at all. Does anyone recognise it? If so, where was it?



This type of gymnastic display was still popular in the 1940s as we have very similar photos taken in the school yard in about 1949.



Above: A wide open space in front of the main building in the 1920s. It wasn't until the 1970s that building began on this field, to provide accommodation for the extra pupils coming in as a result of the merger with Shield Row School to form Tanfield Comprehensive. Thus the 'New Block' was built.

Tanfield Through Time

For several years, we have gone into school to organise a quiz about the school's history for the latest intake of students in Year 7. This year was no exception and on March 19th we did Tanfield Through Time yet again with about 180 students. They were divided into 6 classes and the quiz took up the whole day. We had plenty of volunteers to work with the kids – Joyce Charlton, Steven Harris, Christine McGough, Amy Bilton, Walter Peacock, Cheryl Nicholson, Jack Nelson and myself. We had put up the 16 large display boards the day before, done any necessary repairs, and had the quiz sheets printed by the school, who also organised lunch for us. The quiz day was very busy! Luckily, we had a 20 minute break mid-

morning and a 30 minute break for lunch, but the rest of the time it was 'all go!' The students were very enthusiastic, especially with the promise of prizes in the offing for the highest scores, and scurried around looking for all the answers, as well as looking keenly at the photos to see if parents or grandparents, uncles or aunts could be found. Those who did find family members were suitably thrilled – "Miss! I've just found a photo of my grandma!" We were all *very* tired by the time the last bell rang, but it was definitely worth it!



Some of the many display boards which gave the answers to quiz questions and a lot more besides.



(The students were very surprised when they were told that most of the adults there had been pupils at Tanfield. It was quite amusing to see jaws dropping when, in my introductory speech, I said that I had once been in Year 7, like them! Elizabeth)

Hearty CONGRATULATIONS on Tanfield's team's VEX Robotics Success!



Tanfield sent three teams to Telford earlier this month, to take part in the National Championships sponsored by VEX Robotics, after success in the local competitions. They were accompanied by Paul Carr, Head of

Technology, who had this to say of the teams:

"Three teams from Tanfield School went to the VEX UK nationals. Two teams took part in the VEX VRC Over Under competition, one in Brunel Division and one in Lovelace Division. They both battled well during the event but unfortunately got knocked out in the round of 16. Team 6493A did really well in robot skills, finishing 12th overall, but 4th in their age division. One team took part in VEX IQ Full Volume, making it to the Teamwork finals and finishing 7th, and finishing 12th in Skills. As a result of their success in Skills, team 6493A have received an invitation to the **VEX VRC Over Under MS Division World Championships in Dallas, Texas** from 27th-30th April 2024. This is the first team from the North East to qualify for VEX VRC World Championships."



Jack Nelson 1963

The photo shows Jack in Ted Brabban's Woodwork class.

I met Ted again in 2018, "Hello, Sir, how are you?"

He replied, "Hello Jack, how old are you?"

"67, sir."

"You don't need to call me sir."

"Yes I do, Mr Brabban, sir."

I was only in his class for 62 and 63 and was useless at Woodwork, however I shall always remember his politeness and help.

Betty Watson

TANFIELD ASSOCIATION

was represented at the funeral service for one of its loyal members

ELIZABETH WATSON

(18 December 1929 – 14 January 2024)

held in 2024 on 31 January 31 at 12:15 in Brunswick Methodist Church [NE1 7BJ]

Some fifty mourners attended the Church service, which followed a Committal that morning attended by close family members.



Betty Watson, born Betty Needham, spent her primary-school years at Bloemfontein, the County Durham village, near Stanley, where her parents kept a grocery shop. At the School, Betty began to form a lifelong admiration of the teaching profession. The sewing she learned from Miss Hilda Ferguson was an enduring element; Betty was to plant a tree near the School in the Woodland Trust's Fox and Parrot Wood at Craghead in 1998 to commemorate Hilda's life. Secondary education at what was then Alderman Wood School qualified Betty for entry to teacher training. With training completed in 1947, Betty returned to Stanley to take up a teaching post at Shield Row Secondary Modern School. Betty's Christian faith

had become strengthened by attendance at Brunswick Methodist Church and in the late 1950s, a summer holiday, which the Church sponsored, introduced Betty to William Hope Watson. They married in 1958, and Betty left her post at Stanley in the following year. With their only child Ian (born 1962) at primary school and the family settled at Ouston, by Chester-le-Street, Betty committed to voluntary assistantship at Brunswick Methodist Church. Her enthusiasm for work, attentiveness and warm smile made her an instinctive networker. The substantial range of community activity to which Betty contributed there was appreciated widely. It included encouraging undergraduates as they learned to live in Newcastle on low incomes from developing countries, maintaining the Church's Christian

Study library - where all were welcome to share their problems with Betty over a cup of tea - and representing the community's interest in the natural environment, such as the Woodland Trust mentioned earlier. Betty and Bill became trustees of Brunswick Methodist Church and were still going strong in 2015. Ian's university career as a science research supervisor settled him in Scotland from 1998 yet he commuted to Ouston on days of urgent need.

Betty entered residential care at Ouston's Lindisfarne Home in August 2021; Bill passed away aged 88 at his Ouston home three months later after a short illness. Betty's stay in care was peaceful and largely uneventful: Ian's visits in most months recorded her two overnight hospitalisations in December 2023 for successful treatment of pneumonia. After



Betty's uneventful day on January 13, staff at Lindisfarne on the following morning found that she had died in her sleep.

Euan Ross

(Betty was a regular attender of events and monthly lunches put on by the association and by the school until ill health overtook her. She loved taking photos and could usually be seen snapping away with her beloved camera.)

Letters

I lived in Craghead, as did Betty Watson. She was a delightful person. May she rest in peace.

Sincerely,

Pat Henderson-Pickersgill



Dear Elizabeth,

This might ramble a little, and my memories jump around. I just needed to contact you!

I have just finished reading your latest Tanfield book and have thoroughly enjoyed it. You said that it was the sort of book that I could dip into, but I have read it cover to cover. I loved the history, then being taken through my era at Tanfield (1987-1992), but the last part was strange to read - a history of something that was a future of what I remember. Does that make sense? Needless to say, I am delighted that Tanfield has gone from strength to strength.

I am thrilled that Tanfield has flourished as I have nothing but the fondest and most positive memories. I am delighted that so much more has been made of the 1912 block. It is such a beautiful building and I always thought that it was a wasted area when I was a pupil. I can't help feeling sad that the beautiful painting of Durham cathedral has now gone as it won't match the new modern decor. I always loved that painting. I remember being absolutely mortified when I walked underneath it one day and saw that someone had stuck chewing gum on it. I'd love to visit Tanfield again one day and see all the changes. And probably get lost as it's changed so much!

I am sad that the tower block is no more! I think most of my lessons were in there. What a horror of a building it was, but that was the main part of the school then and I loved it! Your book has ended some long-running arguments in this house, such as the water dripping

from the lightbulbs on the top floor of the tower block, and Take That visiting (they never believed me). I was in Biology that day, ground floor lab, right side of the tower block, Bryn Wilson attempting to teach us...

I was so sad to read of Mr Howat passing so early in his retirement. I remember Mr McKie, but Mr Howat was 'my' headmaster. He got so much respect from everyone. Standing at the front in assembly, he would grip his hands together, breathe in deeply through his nose, head trembling, and bellow in his deep voice, 'Fifth forrrrrmmmm!!) Gulp. The last time I saw him was in the car park at County Hall, Durham. I was with Fiona Lightburn and he saw us and came running over, calling for us and waving his arms. He just wanted to catch up on what we were up to. Such a kind, caring and fair man.



I love the new school uniform; it is so smart. I am also pleased that I would still recognise a Tanfield pupil from the tie - I am 47 now and

still have mine!

Emma Bridge (formerly Emma Mann)

Dear Elizabeth,

Nova (then Williamson) was my excellent English teacher 1961-1963. I've often thought of her since and wish I'd written to her.

She taught me English Grammar, managing to make the subject interesting ('walking' in 'walking stick' is a gerund, not a present participle) and each term we read a Shakespeare play - 'As You Like It', 'Twelfth Night', 'Merchant of Venice' etc - sixty years later, I can still recite speeches such as 'All the world's a stage...' and 'The quality of mercy...' Nova was young and laughed a lot with a good sense of humour. She and Muriel Grieveson produced a 1963 (?) French play 'Meutre Chez le Dentiste'.

It was about then that Mr Watson (affectionately known as 'Acker') joined SGS as a young Physics teacher. Clarinettist Acker Bilk, whose goatee beard resembled that of Mr Watson, had the biggest selling single of 1962 with 'Stranger on the Shore'. Mr Watson's arrival at SGS being about the same year, his nickname was inevitable. 1962-1963 was the winter of the 'big freeze', the ways deep and the weather sharp.

Nova went to the same Stanley Presbyterian (now URC) church as my family.

Best wishes,

John Cameron (SGS 1961-1964)

Rather a belated reply to the Autumn newsletter--(very pleased to receive it.)

My husband, Neil, and myself are both in the photograph of the French play--I am at back left and Neil kneeling in front of me!!

We were in the same form as Nova (Williamson) through to start of 6th. form but I was then in the science group (the only girl).

Nova and I were also in the Girl Guides together, and were close friends during our time at school but sadly did not keep in touch later.

Neil and I dated during Upper 6th. year then both went on to Birmingham University and married in 1959; went to live in U.S.A. for two years and have lived in Midlands since then.

We are ever grateful for our time at S.G.S. and are so pleased to still have the contact.

Very best wishes for continued success.

Doreen Baggett (née Ash) and Neil (Dr. Neil Baggett)

Hello,

I am making contact in regards to my family and its connection to the history of Tanfield school. Generations of my family went to Tanfield school. One in particular was called Laurence Whittle and he was there when it was called Alderman Wood School in the 1930s.

He died serving with the RAF in 1941 and a member of the family has told me there was a tribute in the school for all of the boys who died in the war. I'm curious if it is still there? I'm aware there was a fire many years ago which damaged much of the old campus and it may have been lost.

I also have many photos of him and his time at the school. If this is of interest to the school, I'm more than happy to send them over.

Many thanks,

Ethan Siou

[A selection of these photos will be in the next newsletter]

Dear Elizabeth,

Just watching the snow beginning to lie reminds me of the time when I had to walk home from school to Chester-le-Street. I was heavy laden with PE kit and wooden cookery basket. I was wearing ankle socks with stout walking shoes as well as my regulation school skirt. I believe we had the option of wearing grey woollen stockings. No tights and cosy trousers in those days!

Maureen Peacock

(Does anyone else have memories of bad weather causing you problems when you were at school? Let us know! The photo below gives you an idea of how the school has been affected by bad weather in recent years.)



Please send contributions for the **next newsletter** to:

secretaire@tanfield-association.org

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

DONATION DETAILS

Two years ago, two members of the association requested that their 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.

When we put this idea to Head Teacher Steven Clough, his 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." In the intervening two years, other important things such as food, footwear and sanitary items have had to be added to the list of needs. Here's how to make a donation if you wish to help to top up the fund:

Donating to Discretionary (Support) Fund by Cheque

Name and address:

.....

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to **Tanfield Association**. Please send the cheque and this completed donation slip to: Tanfield Association, c/o Mrs Susan Donkin, 19 Lindom Avenue, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 3PP.

Donating to Discretionary (Support) Fund by Bank Transfer, Credit Card or Paypal

Payment by Bank Transfer

Send your payment to Tanfield Association
Barclays Bank plc Newcastle on Tyne

Sort code 20 59 59 Account no. 20700908

Please contact the Treasurer separately by e-mail or post to tell her what the payment is for.

Subscriptions can also be made to Tanfield Association via **PayPal**. (NB You **don't** have to have a Paypal account to make a payment.) Log in to PayPal and send your subscription to:

treasurer@tanfield-association.org

Please contact the Treasurer separately by e-mail or post to tell her what the payment is for

Treasurer's Contact Details

(Preferred method) rdonkin@yahoo.co.uk treasurer@tanfield-association.org

IMPORTANT

Using the website link below, you can make a one-off or regular payment via PayPal, credit card or bank transfer into the Discretionary Fund:

https://tanfield-association.org/W3/2024_PayPal_Donate.php

Many thanks!