

# TANFIELD ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: JOYCE CHARLTON



TANFIELD  
SCHOOL

ASSOCIATION SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

## Newsletter No. 59 Summer 2024

As I write this, England are losing to Slovakia in the European Cup so I hope that by the time I'm finished, they at least score an equalizer! It's quite appropriate, therefore, that there are four mentions of football in this issue, along with a variety of other news and memories that I hope you find interesting. Any time you feel like adding your bit to the contents of a newsletter, please get in touch!

There is important information about the AGM next term and about our appeal to help Tanfield's current cohort when they need support in all sorts of different ways.

We hope you enjoy the mix of articles and photos dealing with the distant and recent past. That's what the association is about –

*Remembering the past, supporting the future.*

### Contents

Editorial

#### Tanfield Litter Pick

Life After Tanfield – Derek Wright

#### Jack in 'The Chair'

52ers enjoy lunch

#### Monthly lunch reminder

Miss Whitfield & War Memorial

#### Revision sessions 2024

Fenwick Lawson

#### Lawrence Whittle

AGM 2024

#### Good News

Mementos of School Life

#### Speaking of our archives...

John Maughan – Footballer  
Supreme

#### **A Tenner for Tanfield!**

Letters

#### Donation details

## Tanfield students past and present work together for a good cause

At least three former pupils from Tanfield School and two members of the current cohort joined together to do something for the local district in March. Litter picking is not most people's idea of a treat, so all the more credit to them all for making the effort!



The group of volunteers, left.

Sarah Donnelly, right



Phil and Janet Atkinson, left.

Thea Caine and Angel Chambers, right.



### Terrific Turnout for Local Litter Pick

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 25 volunteers of all ages picked up a whopping 55 bags of rubbish in Harperley Woods, Tanfield Lea Park Woods and surrounding areas. Organised by Tanfield Lea Countryside Group (TLC) these local residents of Tanfield joined forces to look after their local woodland, to make it better for nature and better for people.

12-year-old students Thea Caine and Angel Chambers, from Tanfield School, took part in the litter pick and encourage others to join in future events. Thea said, "I don't know why people drop litter, there is absolutely no need. Litter is harmful to our environment, dangerous to wildlife and destroys the natural beauty of an area." TLC hope by raising awareness of the problem this will encourage people to take more responsibility and take any litter home with them.

Established in 2008 Tanfield Lea Countryside group have gone from strength to strength and have raised a fantastic £55,000 for their local area. Sarah Donnelly, former Tanfield student, is now the secretary of TLC and says "It was such a lovely spring day to be out with fellow litter pickers as part of the Big Spring Clean. A chance to get some fresh air, meet new people and help improve our local area for people and wildlife."

TLC work to improve the local environment in a whole host of ways by organising practical conservation activities such as this litter pick and pulling Himalayan Balsam.

[To see an extended article on the TLC, please look on the Tanfield Association website.]

## LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

NAME **DEREK WRIGHT**  
PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM **1970 TO 1975**

### MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD



*Derek with Malcolm Macdonald at Arsenal*



*Derek's retirement from NUFC in July 2022*

I left Tanfield in 1975 to start an apprenticeship with Arsenal Football Club. Leading up to my O Levels, Dr Sharp had made it quite clear to me that if I didn't achieve good grades, he would stop me going! I lived in London for two years playing for the Youth and Reserve teams but never made the grade. I was determined to make my way and always had an interest in Medicine. While at Arsenal I would always be asking the Physio, Fred Street, questions and I think he got fed up eventually and recommended that I train as a Remedial Gymnast. This was at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield and I then did further training as a Physiotherapist at Bradford School of Physiotherapy. The 'advice' from Dr Sharp certainly came in handy!

After working in the NHS at Northumberland Miners Rehabilitation Centre I was contacted by Fred Street. He had recommended me for an interview at Fulham Football Club for the position of Head Physiotherapist. Malcolm McDonald, the Manager, offered me the job and I spent a further 3 years living in West London gaining great experience and making some great friends at Fulham.

Dr Keith Beveridge, the Club Doctor at Newcastle United, contacted me in 1984 and asked me if I would consider going for a meeting with himself and Jack Charlton, the Manager at Newcastle. I agreed to come to Newcastle as Head Physiotherapist and started my new role in October 1984 at 26 years old. I was the only physio at the club and covered First Team home and away and all reserve games. In those days the physio also covered Sports Science, Massage, Strength and Conditioning and I organised hotel rooms and meals!

Jack Charlton left the club the next year and I would eventually work for 32 managers in my 38 years at Newcastle! I retired from Head Physiotherapist in July 2022 and I do still miss the day-to-day work and each one of my colleagues. CPD was an important part of the job, and I attended The University of Wales in Cardiff to complete a Post Graduate Diploma in Sport and Exercise Medicine. I am currently studying and training in Diagnostic MSK Ultrasound and work part time in my clinic in Jesmond, Newcastle.

I keep in contact with all my friends from school and now I am semi-retired, hopefully will see more of them!

I live in Stannington Village near Morpeth with my Wife Helen and 2 sons, Benjamin and James. My eldest son Jonathan lives and works in Abu Dhabi.

### Jack in 'The Chair'



Who could resist taking a photo of Jack Nelson in 'The Chair' which was made by Ted Brabban in the 1960s and appropriated to his own exclusive use by Dr Sharp!

The chair is still brought out on special occasions, such as the school's anniversary celebrations and the Tanfield Through Time quiz. A number of people have taken the chance of sitting on this hallowed seat, though you get the idea that they mentally look over their shoulder, to make sure Dr Sharp isn't hovering behind them in ghostly form, giving them "the look" that could turn knees to water!

Jack, to his credit, looks completely unfazed.

### The 52ers enjoy lunch together



Enjoying a very tasty lunch at the South Causey Inn in April, are 'The 52ers' who started at SGS in 1952 – of course. Amy Bilton said, "We were allocated pod 8 which proved ideal for us; the pod was heated & attractively

decorated. In the adjacent pod a lively hen party was in progress but it didn't bother us at all."

From the left: Euan Ross, Alan Raine, Harold Reay, Wyn Raine, Liza Morgan, Gwynneth Stephenson, Sylvia Buxton, Margaret Ledger, Gillian Reay, Joan Nichol, Elsie Harris Audrey Gardiner, Amy Bilton, Tom Nichol & Alan Jossen.

**Reminder:** the association also organises a lunch on the second Wednesday of every month at a local pub. Members plus guests are very welcome to come and join us. Notice of where we'll meet in any particular month is advertised in advance on our website, or just ring Elizabeth (number on front page) to get more details or to add your name to the list.

## Remembering the past ... supporting the future

### 1950...

This photo shows SGS pupils with former pupil Miss Whitfield (who went on to teach at Catchgate Infants' School) looking at a war memorial dedicated to Tanfield 'old boys' who had lost their lives in World War II.



### ...and 2024

YEAR 11 EASTER REVISION



HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

YEAR 11 EASTER REVISION



HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

The photos show one of the revision sessions put on voluntarily by staff during the Easter holidays for Year 11 students. We helped to pay for the snacks provided to keep them going. The Discretionary Fund supports and encourages groups and individuals in all sorts of ways. Thank you to those of our members who have already made a donation to the fund, enabling us to present an 'anniversary' cheque next October, when our school will be 112. If you would like to add a donation to the fund, you will be helping those of today's students whose families are struggling to support them. Details of how to do so are to be found on pages 12 & 13, under the title of 'A Tenner for Tanfield'.

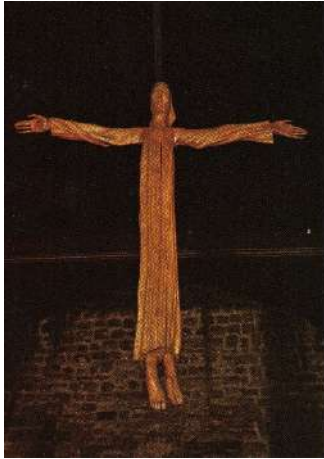
## Fenwick Lawson

Former Tanfield pupil Fenwick Lawson, ARCA, was recently honoured by Durham City by having a blue plaque attached to the wall of Bow Cottage, where he used to live. Fenwick, famous for his religious sculptures which adorn Durham Cathedral, Holy Island and many other religious sites in England, has enjoyed a long and illustrious career. Those of you who were at Tanfield when it was Alderman Wood School may remember the school magazine, 'Grammarians' – Fenwick designed the front cover of the Christmas 1949 issue, and those following.



Fenwick unveiling the blue plaque, accompanied by two of his former students, Sir Brendan Foster, founder of the Great North Run, and retired international architect, Alan J Smith.

Fenwick's works are internationally known, but many of them remain in the North, including (below): Christ, now in St Paul's church, Jarrow; Beda Bede and The Journey, both in Durham City.



Left: The front cover of the Grammarian magazine, designed by Fenwick for the 1949 issue. The school magazines can be seen on our website.

Right: Fenwick's 'Pietà' which can be seen in Durham Cathedral



### Laurence Whittle

We were contacted recently by Ethan Siou, whose relative Laurence Whittle went to Tanfield in the 1930s when it was still Alderman Wood School. Ethan wrote as follows:

“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 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.”

We sent details of the WW2 memorial board to Ethan, who is writing a book about Laurence. Photos of Laurence’s time at AWS are below.





Laurence  
(above) with  
a friend on  
Sports Day



## This Year's AGM

Our school will soon celebrate its 112<sup>th</sup> anniversary. October 16<sup>th</sup> 1912 was the date when the school first opened its doors to pupils, and every year we hold the AGM as near to that date as possible. **This year the AGM will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October.** We will be using the same venue as last year, Tanfield Lea Community Centre, which is a couple of hundred yards along the road from the school. **Business will start at 12 noon (election of officers, presentation of the Tanfield Star and of the cheque for the Discretionary Fund) and will be followed by lunch and time to socialise.**

Lunch will again be pie and peas, followed by tea or coffee, biscuits and a slice of the celebration cake. A small charge for lunch of £3 will be payable on the day.

We will need to know numbers so that we can organise seating and lunch, so, if you would like to come along to the AGM, please let us know. The deadline is October 7<sup>th</sup>. Put the dates on your calendar!

We will send details of parking arrangements plus a map and any other necessary information to those who have told us they are coming.

We will be holding the inevitable fund-raising raffle, so if anyone would like to donate a prize, we'd be very grateful.

### CONTACT DETAILS



To let us know if you're coming to the AGM, contact secretary Elizabeth Hawkins:

Email: [secretaire@tanfield-association.org](mailto:secretaire@tanfield-association.org) or [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com) ( there's an underscore \_ between hawkins and 15)

Phone or text: 07905191977 or Phone 0191 410 3472

Write to: Mrs E Hawkins, 15 Thirlmere, Birtley, Chester-Le-Street, Co Durham DH3 2JY

We look forward to seeing you!



## GOOD NEWS!



Some of the books bought by our members for the school library after the school launched an appeal recently.



Tanfield Yr 7 girls' successful futsal team won the CLSWD Central Venue League



Tanfield's VEX Robotics team at the World Championships in America. They were the top team from the UK.

They came 147<sup>th</sup> out of 420 teams from all over the world. The team have been invited to the competition in China in 2025.



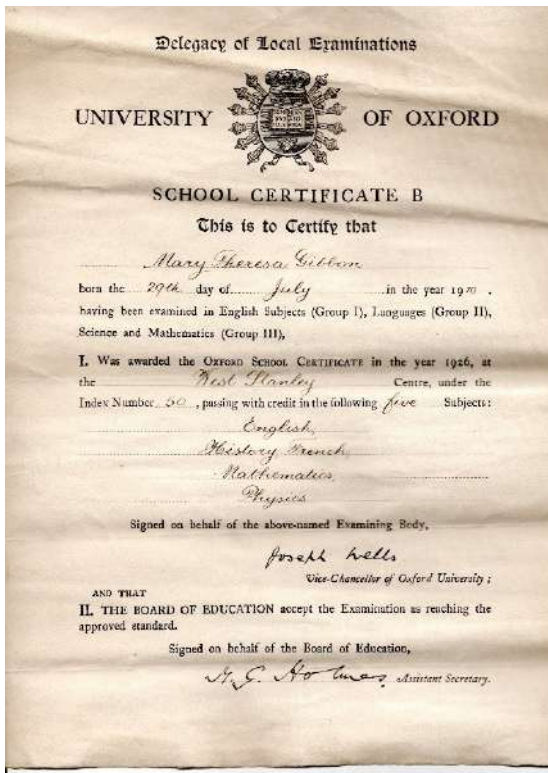
Abbie Urquhart-Arnold, former Head Girl, has just graduated from Newcastle University with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours in English Literature and History. She has also been awarded two Cowan, Johnson and Watson prizes for ‘Best dissertation in Literature’ and ‘Best overall performance in Literature and History’.

Mark Hodgson has won the W G Grace cup in a golfing competition.

Our congratulations go to all of these successful people. Tanfield has every right to be proud of them.



### Mementos of School Life



We have many mementos of Tanfield in our archives and this is one of the oldest – an Oxford examinations certificate from 1926, when Mary Theresa Gibbon was awarded credits in English, History, French, Mathematics and Physics.

Like many of you who are reading this, I still have my exam certificates from Tanfield, as well as my old school tie and report book. As a teacher at Tanfield, it was part of my job to write an English report for each pupil – a whole side of A4 for each one. Compare that to the reports I got from my teachers – “Very good” (or even “V.G.”!); “Can do better!” (this one from Mr Dolman in Physics); “Fair”, “Good” and my favourite: “Jennifer is too quiet in class”. Those were the days!

Elizabeth H.

### Speaking of our archives...

We do NOT have archives which catalogue everything, I'm afraid, but we do have two filing cabinets in school full of photos, books, papers and other diverse objects that come from the school's past. Quite a lot of these are recorded on our website, so that if anyone types 'Tanfield Association' into a search box, they will have access to a rich supply of memories of school. There are many photos, sorted by decade, many of the old school magazines and most of the association's newsletters from the last 22 years. We don't have a copy of the very first newsletter we issued, but someone may still have one somewhere... The website is definitely worth a look, and you may be surprised at how long you spend browsing the contents. We hear from people who have spent several happy hours of nostalgia reliving their time at Tanfield via our website. Do have a look – and if you have any photos or other things that could be added, we will welcome them whole-heartedly. Contact our webmaster Howard Bott on [webguru@tanfield-association.org](mailto:webguru@tanfield-association.org) . Please!

The following editorial comes from the 1962 edition of the school magazine, 'Grammarians', which can be found on the website, along with many others.

#### EDITORIAL

On looking back from the dizzy heights of the sixth form, my time at this school seems comparatively short beside the fifty years the building itself has withstood since it was founded in 1912 by Alderman Wood. Naturally this event warrants a special edition of the magazine and our thanks go to Judith Jefferson for our well-designed cover as well as to the former pupils and teachers who have contributed to make this magazine a memorable one. I think we tend to take for granted the amenities available to us now. Our predecessors were denied the luxuries of an Assembly Hall, Gymnasium and Biology laboratory since the school was first intended for ordinary secondary education. With its change in status the outward appearance of the school has changed also. So has that of the pupils! The modern schoolgirl would recoil in horror at the prospect of gymslip and thick dark-coloured stockings. Even so, the more progressive (?) amongst us insist on man-sized sweaters and bee-hive hair-dos. The school has seen numerous changes in staff and this year has added to its quota. At Easter we lost Mrs. Robertson, Miss Simpson, Miss Heslop and later Mrs. Baxter and Mr. Westwater. Also Mrs. Hardy and Miss Dixon left after holding temporary posts for a short while. We have been joined at various intervals by Miss Howles, Mr. Hewit, Mr. McArdle, Mr. Robson, Mr. Watson and Mr. Percival. We also welcome back Mr. Geddes after a year's absence. The past year has been successful both in scholastic achievement and in out of school activities. Of these various activities mention might be made of the three fourth form girls who visited Czechoslovakia and of a large party of senior pupils who invaded Holland and Belgium accompanied by a few braver members of staff. I am pleased to report that their disrupting efforts did not affect the Brussels negotiations. More seriously, congratulations must be offered to William Tyers, Eleanor Arnold and Keith Heron, who were each awarded a State Scholarship. Since this is the last year in which these Scholarships are available it seems fitting to end on this note of achievement. \*'!

KATHLEEN ROWE (Upper 6th).

#### **John Maughan – Footballer Supreme**

Since we are in the middle of watching the European Cup matches, it seems appropriate to think back to 1951 when ex-Tanfield lad John Maughan played for Bishop Auckland in the FA Amateur Cup. John started at Tanfield in 1939, and received great encouragement from PE teacher Mr Bob Chapman.



John left Tanfield and won a place at Keble College, Oxford, but before taking it up he had to do three years' National Service. He was posted to Egypt, where he worked at GHQ, playing football regularly in the GHQ team. Following his discharge, he took up his place at Keble to study theology. He played for his college, then for Oxford

University and then for a side called Pegasus, made up of the best players from Oxford and Cambridge. In 1951 they won through to the final of the FA Amateur Cup. John (on the right in the photo) was described in the match programme as follows: Maughan, right back, Stanley G.S. and Keble College, Oxford. Studying theology and will shortly enter the Ministry. Oxford blue for two years and played for Pegasus last season. A dour defenceman who kicks a long ball. A tenacious tackler. In the photo you can see John living up to his 'tenacious tackler' reputation in the cup final at Wembley. Pegasus won the cup!



## Letters

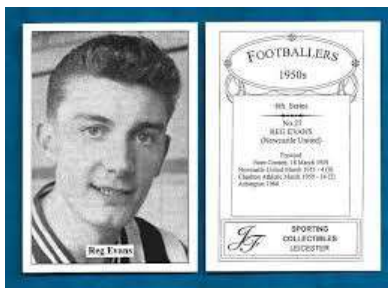
Please accept my congratulations to the newsletter's editorial team for a stylish publication addressing a wide range of interests. Well done!

**Euan Ross** [Student at Tanfield 1952-1959]

Thanks for the above (article on professional footballers in the last issue) which I found interesting and informative but I must point out, as I am sure others will also, that the reference to professional footballers does not include Reggie Evans (SGS 1950 to 1955) who played briefly for Newcastle United.

**Barry Hutchinson**

[ Since receiving Barry's email, I have looked up Reggie Evans online, and found the photo below. Glad to add Reggie's name to our football honours list! Elizabeth]



We would welcome any more memories of Tanfield's sporting heroes.

## **A Tenner for Tanfield!**

In last term's newsletter we asked members to consider making a donation to the school's Discretionary (Support) Fund which helps students whose families are struggling. To quote last term's details:

*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 112<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we would like to do that in a meaningful way by 'topping up' the Discretionary Fund.*

Several of our members answered the call by making very welcome donations to the fund. We give them our sincere thanks and can assure them that the money will be well used to help as many students as possible. This term we hope to see more members adding their contribution to a very worthy cause. So how about donating a tenner? It's enough to buy smaller essential items and when added to other members' donations, can make quite a difference! The details of how to make a donation are below. Please help!

**Can you give a tenner to this good cause?**

**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](mailto: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) [srdonkin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:srdonkin@yahoo.co.uk)    [treasurer@tanfield-association.org](mailto: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. Use the Ctrl button and click.*

[https://tanfield-association.org/W3/2024\\_PayPal\\_Donate.php](https://tanfield-association.org/W3/2024_PayPal_Donate.php)

Tanfield has over 700 students, most of whom are doing fine (as far as we know!) but some of whom definitely need support. This is your chance to give that support where it is needed most. The Discretionary Fund is used to support students with items of uniform, items needed for exams, food at out-of-hours revision sessions, food available at breakfast and lunch times, helping to pay for individuals to go on school trips, supplying sanitary items to the girls and any other needs that arise from time to time. A big thank you to everyone who answers this call!

**Many thanks!**