



# The New Stocktonian



**1999 - 2000**



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# THE NEW STOCKTONIAN

1999 - 2000

## OLD STOCKTONIANS ASSOCIATION

(Founded by Evan Baldwin 24th January 1913)

An Association of Former Pupils of Stockton Sixth Form College and the Grangefield Grammar Schools, formerly known as Stockton Secondary School, and originally as Stockton Higher Grade School: and also to the Former Pupils of the Grangefield School and of the former Sheraton-Grange and the Grange Schools.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £1.50**

(Advance subscriptions for two, five or ten years would be welcomed!)  
Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to;

**'Old Stocktonians' Association'**

Communications should be addressed to :

R. Ward Esq., 66 Butterfield Drive, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, TS16 0EZ  
Telephone : Eaglescliffe (01642) 651342

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's almost Christmas and of course the New Millennium is nearly upon us as I sit in front of my computer seeking inspiration about what to write. It is a time to look back and also one to look forward. It seems only yesterday that I turned up at Grangefield Grammar School at the tender age of eleven (circa 1958) complete with short grey trousers, a smart new school blazer and a cap. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. About six years ago Brian Brand invited me on to the Committee of the Association and I began attending meetings. I was the "New Blood" then, alas no longer! Things have changed. You will note the new format regarding the Annual Dinner. This proved to be a great success. There was more time after dinner to socialize a fact much appreciated by the guests.

Talking of "New Blood", the social aspect of the Association has been invigorated by some of the younger members of the Committee with a Trip up the River Tees to Yarm and a visit to the Black Sheep Brewery at Masham. Both these trips were most enjoyable and I was delighted to see some new faces. Watch this space as more events are planned for 2000 when we hope to see more members coming along. I understand that Ten Pin Bowling is on the cards.

For me, one of the most exciting developments has been a move towards establishing a Web Site for the Association. All you Net surfers out there now is a golden opportunity to warm up the old computer and wax lyrical, we'd be very pleased to receive your e-mail so there should be lots of news to put in the next Year Book. Who knows, this may be the start of a renaissance in letter writing.

Please check for details of the Annual Dinner 2000. The first of a new century! This is the one to be seen at! Again the new format inaugurated last year will be in operation as it proved so successful last year. This is the main event of the association and the Committee would be delighted to have your support for it. As Bob Ward suggested last year why not contact your contemporaries and book a table at the Dinner. Let's make it one to remember!

Before I close may I ask for you to consider joining the Committee. Four or five meetings a year is the usual number and you are assured of a warm welcome. This is your Association, please give it your support. For more information contact the present Office Bearers.

May I take this opportunity to thank the help and advice that I have been given from the Office Bearers, the Committee and the Stockton Sixth Form College who provide facilities for our meetings.

My best Wishes to you all.

**Roz Prichard**

## COLLEGE NEWS

I was interested to read in last year's edition of the New Stocktonian about the difficulties that were experienced in 1973, in finding a suitable date for Mrs Thatcher (who was then the Secretary of State for Education) to open Stockton Sixth Form College.

It is ironic that since writing the last edition of College News we have experienced a similar difficulty in securing a date for a Government Minister to visit the college and commemorate our Silver Jubilee.

Dari Taylor, MP for Stockton South, had been working very hard throughout 1998 and well into 1999 to try to persuade a member of the Government to visit the college. We hoped that she might have been able to persuade one of the many senior members of the Government who have a constituency close to the college to visit in celebration of our anniversary. We were, nevertheless, very pleased that she had managed, in the spring of 1999, to secure a diary date for early October from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the DfEE with special responsibility for information technology. We completed our planning for the visit and waited to hear from the DfEE.

However, at the start of the summer holiday, the Minister received a promotion in the Government reshuffle and was transferred to another department. The DfEE was ominously silent on whether a successor would be able to keep his diary commitment to visit the college. The autumn term commenced in its usual busy way and we were preoccupied with ensuring a smooth and effective start to the year. Things had just begun to settle down when, at the end of September, we received a telephone call from a junior civil servant in Newcastle. She requested a map showing the location of the college and informed us that Jacqui Smith MP, one of the newly appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretaries at the DfEE, would visit the college on 7 October, 1999.

Before entering Parliament Jacqui Smith taught in a sixth form college and at the DfEE has special responsibility for the development of information technology in schools and colleges. This provided a very appropriate focus for her visit, as over the summer months we had completed a further round of extension and upgrading of our IT facilities.

The Minister visited the Computing and IT Department and talked with students working on multimedia projects, joined a Politics class accessing information on the Internet and spent some time with students who were working in the Sports Science Department's new exercise measurement and IT facilities. She also visited our excellent Art Department, which has consistently produced outstanding work since the opening of the college and whose students are now receiving added recognition for their work in Textile Design. There was time for the Minister and Dari Taylor, MP, to meet with a small group of students and discuss their concerns and answer questions about Government policies, including the adequacy of financial support for young people at college and university.

Before her departure, Jacqui Smith met Governors, the Head Teachers of our partner schools and Stanley Bradford, Stockton-on-Tees' Director of Education for a buffet lunch. This was a useful opportunity for colleagues in the schools' sector to talk directly to the Minister about some of their concerns and aspirations for the development of education in the Borough.

The visit to Stockton Sixth Form College was the first to any school or college in the country by Jacqui Smith since her appointment as a Minister, and students from the Media Studies Department presented the Minister and Dari Taylor with a short video recording as a memento of their visit.

College life otherwise over the last twelve months has proceeded very much in the way recorded in previous editions of the New Stocktonian and has been marked by continuing achievement on a variety of fronts.

The examination results last summer were very pleasing and in line with the progress made in recent years. We knew that it would be difficult to repeat the outstanding 1998 GCE Advanced Level results and we were delighted with an overall pass rate of 91% last summer. The total of passes at the top grades was the second highest of the decade and 15 subjects secured 100% pass rate. Students on the increasingly popular Advanced Vocational programmes once again achieved well above the national pass rates and there was a similar performance on the one-year courses.

Although there has been some improvement in employment opportunities for college leavers in the last two years and there are now more high-quality training places, especially in the rolling service sector across the Tees Valley, the majority of our advanced level students go into university.



In recent years there has been an interesting trend in these students' choice of university. There always has been a strong preference for courses in the North of England, and especially for the North East, but in recent years increasing numbers have decided to study at a local university and last summer the proportion of students continuing their studies in the Tees Valley increased to almost 50% of all university entrants from the college.

The growth of the Stockton Teesdale Campus of the University of Durham and the extension of the range of courses at the University of Teesside, have provided a richer range of locally-based opportunities in higher education. The introduction of university tuition fees and the replacement of students' grants with loans have discouraged students to undertake undergraduate study away from home, especially in those parts of the country with very high costs of living. We have also detected an increasing preference on the part of young people to have part-time jobs whilst at college which provide them with a particular lifestyle - cars, designer clothes, etc. Study in Tees Valley often enables students to continue working in their part-time jobs whilst studying for a degree.

Stockton Sixth Form College continues to grow in popularity and applications reached a record level for September 1999, and we expected a very healthy recruitment. Enrolment in September, however, was even better than expected and we welcomed 489 new students together with an additional 73 students who re-enrolled after satisfactorily completing a one-year programme at the college. Fortunately, we anticipated most of the staffing implications of this increased enrolment, but we had to work quickly in September to secure additional teachers in a number of subjects, including the increasingly popular courses in Psychology, Travel & Tourism and in Business and Information Technology.

On the sporting front, the college added to its long record of achievement in competitive team games. We continue to field three soccer teams, the 'A Team' winning the league, but sadly failing to clinch the double by losing to St Mary's Sixth Form College in the final of the Cup. The 'B' and 'C' Teams came second in their respective divisions. Hockey continues to be both strong and popular with teams reaching the British Colleges Final, with Sarah Cain, Helen Moser and Zoe Brown gaining places in the British Colleges' Ladies' National Squad. In Badminton four students reached the British Colleges' Final and Debbie Fennie and Joanne Middleton are to be congratulated on each winning a silver medal in the National Competition. The Netball Team continues to be very active and successful and won the Plate Competition in the Jill Bainbridge Annual Netball Tournament at Teesside University. Our Rugby team continues to find difficulty in securing fixtures with other colleges, but we are pleased to congratulate Philip Austin for his success in representing the college as a member of the North of England U-19 Squad and also Kenneth Beattie for gaining a place in the British Colleges' Team which will shortly tour South Africa. In September, we were very sorry to say goodbye to Ben Moorhouse who retired after eighteen years as Head of Biology. The department grew from strength to strength under Ben's leadership and has an excellent record of examination success. Ben had an overriding commitment to his students and had an infectious enthusiasm for his subject. We wish him well in his retirement. Both Ben's fulltime colleagues in the department secured promotion in the summer: Sam Butler at Northfield School, Billingham and Alison Wilkinson at the Parkfield Community School, Chester-le-Street. It was not easy to replace a strong departmental team in the summer, but we were pleased to secure Phil Yeomans from Derwentside College and are very grateful that June Byrom and Ann Oxley have once again come to our rescue, and have given time from their retirement to work part-time at the college.

Barry Guy, Head of Economics and Business Studies, left the College in the summer in order to take up an appointment as GNVQ Co-ordinator at Richmond School in North Yorkshire. He joins Keith Allen who is Head of Sixth Form at the School and was until recently Head of Geography at the College. We wish all these colleagues every happiness and success in the future.

I have written on a number of occasions about the frequent changes in Government policy and their impact upon the college. There seems to be no abatement in the speed of change and two very significant new developments will have important implications for the college over the next few years.

After many years of national discussion and debate important changes will be introduced in the structure of advanced level qualifications in September 2000. These changes (referred to as Curriculum 2000) will provide young people with wider and more flexible opportunities at the college. They will now be able to choose up to 5 subjects at enrolment and most will take the new Advanced Subsidiary (AS) examination at the end of the first year, before proceeding to the full A-level in 3 or 4 subjects in the second year. A revised structure of GNVQs will also be available and can now be combined more flexibly with AS in one year or the full A-level over two years.

All of this will help students to add breadth to their studies, adjust their courses as their career interests develop, whilst continuing the specialist qualifications which may be needed for university or employment.

The revised Curriculum 2000 framework will also include a new Key Skills qualification, which will enable students to demonstrate to universities and employers competence in communication, application of number and information technology.

Last July, the Government published a White Paper setting out its vision for post-16 education and training outside the university sector. It intends to abolish the Further Education Funding Council (which funds and inspects the college) and the national system of Training and Enterprise Councils. These will be replaced with a new National Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which will have a number of local arms - one of which will encompass the Tees Valley. The LSCs will fund all post-16 education and training and will work to secure a better co-ordination of provision which meets the particular pattern of demand in the locality. In addition to funding colleges and training providers they will also provide funds for the LEA Adult Education and, from 2002 or 2003, for school sixth forms. The legislation to implement these new changes is now passing through Parliament and the target for the establishment of the new LSCs is 1 April 2001.

The new Millennium (by whatever definition!) will certainly see interesting and challenging times for the college and we are determined to respond rigorously to the opportunities which will be presented through this latest round of change. Our priority however is, as always, to continue to work to increase educational opportunity and achievement amongst young people and the wider community in Stockton-on-Tees.

My very best wishes for the year ahead.

Howard R. Clarke

## COLLEGE ACTIVITIES 1999

### Art

March Fashion and textile students took part in the Grangefield School Fashion Show in March. They contributed with a number of 'fantasy' garments and hats.

### Biology

January 50 students and staff attended BY01 revision conference Town Hall, Leeds.  
February 40 students and staff attended BY03 revision conference Town Hall, Leeds.  
October /November Students attended a series of lectures at Teesside University on: GM Foods; Forensic  
/ December Science; Microbes.  
Students attended updates conference - BY01 (first module) at Newcastle City Hall.

### Business Studies/

#### Economics

Jan./Feb. GNVQ A1 Business Studies students on 2 weeks' work experience placement.  
February London visit by staff and 20 Business Studies students to: Bank of England, Daily Telegraph offices, West Ferry Printers, Millennium Dome and Parliament.  
March Staff and Advanced Business Studies students attended update conference at Manchester.  
Staff and A1 students attended an 'Understanding Industry' conference at Teesside University.  
All A1 GNVQ Business and A-Level Business Studies students attended an industrial conference at the Phoenix Centre, Wilton.  
Exam conference for Business Studies students at Manchester.  
Day in Leeds for 4/5 students : Understanding Industry Presentation Skills Challenge.  
September Second year Advanced GNVQ students organised a trip to "Flamingoland", North Yorks as part of their coursework programme.  
November GNVQ Business workshop.

### Careers

January Students on work placements at North Tees Hospital.  
January / February GNVQ Business Studies and French students on work placements.  
4 students on Army Pathfinders course.  
39 students on Community Action.



May/June	The department ran visits for students this term to the following universities: Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan, Sunderland, York, College of Ripon and York St John, Teesside and Durham (Stockton Campus). A small group of students visited the University of Oxford in June and individual students attended College Open Days at the University of Cambridge in May, and June.
July	Students and staff attended a North Tees Hospital Careers Convention.
Autumn Term	Work Experience - Three students attended a three-day Army Pathfinders Course. Two students attended North Tees Hospital for one day placements in Speech Therapy. One student attended Middlesbrough General Hospital for a one week placement in the Intensive Care Unit. Arrangements made for nine students to attend placements during the summer holiday period. These included North Tees Hospital, Solicitors, Evening Gazette and Durham University laboratories.
<b>Computing</b>	
February	GNVQ Advanced first year IT students visited Safeway to investigate their EPOS system and talk to the System Manager.
July	All A1 Computing and some GNVQ and IT students attended taster workshops at the University of Teesside on Virtual Reality, Computer Graphics and Animation.
<b>English / Media Studies / Theatre Studies</b>	
February	A1/A2 Literature and A1 Theatre Studies students went to see a Master Class and "A Doll's House" at Middlesbrough's Little Theatre. Visit to London by Media Studies staff and students.
March	A group of Theatre Studies Students saw 'A Clockwork Orange' at the ARC.
April	Students and staff visited Granada Studios.
October	1st and 2nd Year Theatre Studies students went to see 'Blood Brothers' at the Darlington Civic Theatre. 1st and 2nd Year Theatre Studies students went to see 'The Glass Menagerie' at the Theatre Royal, York.
November	
<b>Geology</b>	
April	A2 Geology fieldwork Shap Fell, Tynemouth and Ingleton. A1 Geology fieldwork to Horton-on-Ribblesdale and Appleby.
October/November	A2 fieldwork to Ingleton and Teesdale. 2 A1 groups - fieldwork to Ingleton.
<b>Geography, Leisure &amp; Tourism</b>	
April	Visit by Year 2 Advanced GNVQ Leisure & Tourism students to Popular Music Centre, Sheffield, to study marketing strategies in a major tourist attraction. Geography, field trip to the Lake District.
May	Visit by Year 1 Advanced Leisure & Tourism students to Granada Studios.
September	2nd Year A-Level Geography Conference : Sunderland University.
November	GCSE field trip to Yarm.
December	2nd Year GNVQ Advanced event Bingo afternoon : Kiara Hall.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Students and staff attended Durham University for the 10th Grubb Parson lecture on "The Expanding Universe" given by Professor R. Ellis from Cambridge.
<b>Modern Languages</b>	
February/March	French exchange by 10 students and a member of staff from the Lycée International des Pontonniers, Strasbourg. Students work-shadowed at various placements and also visited York.
March	German exchange by students and staff from Troisdorf (in conjunction with Prior Pursglove and St Mary's College). A1/A2 students and staff attended a German conference / workshop organised by the Goethe Institute, York at Teesside University. Received and hosted the German students from Troisdorf.

April	Exchange with Troisdorf. All 5 students took part in the exchange and stayed in Germany for the first time and all enjoyed the stay. The exchange consisted of a combination of life in families, school experience and excursions around the Rhine, visits to Bonn and the Bundestag and Cologne.
October	Student visit to Strasbourg to the Lycée International des Pontonniers for the annual French work-shadowing experience. This year the group went with some students from Prior Pursglove College.(Guisborough)
November	A1 and A2 students studying French attended the play 'Cyrano de Bergerac', presented in French by a European travelling drama group at Teesside University.

## Social Studies

February	Trip to London by A-Level students. During their stay they visited the Houses of Parliament, the Old Bailey, Harrow Public School and The Museum of the Moving Image. They attended PM's Question Time, Q & A with Dari Taylor, MP and Peter Lilley MP. and "Parkinson" at the BBC. 2 students undertook work experience with Dari Taylor, MP, during the half-term week. They spent the week shadowing the work of an MP.
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## Sports

**Badminton** Four students have reached the British Colleges' National finals which will take place after Easter.  
Debbie Fenny and Joanne Middleton won Silver medals in the British Colleges' Ladies' Badminton doubles at Blackpool.

**Basketball:** The team played in the British Colleges regional event in Peterlee. They performed well but were narrowly beaten by the basketball academy side from Peterlee and therefore did not qualify for the regional finals.

### Autumn Term 1999

### Football

#### 'A' Team

1998-99 season The team narrowly failed to qualify for the national finals in the Grimsby 5-a-side tournament but beat Queen Elizabeth (Darlington) 2-0 in the County Cup.

#### League results:

Beat Teesside Tertiary 2-1 and Queen Elizabeth 4-3.

The team won the league (championship) but, unfortunately, they lost 4-1 in the County Cup Final against St Mary's Sixth Form College

1999-2000 season The 'A' Team have played one game so far this season and were beaten, 4-0, by Queen Elizabeth.

#### "B" Team

1998-99 season The team beat Cleveland Tertiary 9-2 in the County Cup and finished second in the League

1999-2000 season They are drawn to play against South Tyneside College in the British Colleges' Tournament.

The 'B' Team have played two games. They were beaten on both occasions; Middlesbrough College 4-2 and Conyers 8-3.

#### "C" Team

1998-99 season The team beat Hartlepool Sixth Form College 1-0 in the Eric Bell Trophy. They beat Queen Elizabeth 4-2 but lost to Conyers 7-2 and finished second in the League

1999-2000 season The 'C' Team have played one game and were beaten 2-1 by English Martyrs.

**Girls Hockey :** The team has reached round three of the British Colleges Knock-Out Cup having beaten Teesside Tertiary in round 1, Notre Dame College round 2. The next round is against Cardinal Newman College, Preston on 24 February.

### Spring Term 1998

#### British Aerospace Competition

Into round 2 of the competition, playing the winners from Northumbria/Durham.

#### BCS Regional Tournament

Autumn Term 1999 Won BCS regional tournament (organised by Stockton) held in Sunderland. Beat Sunderland in semi-final and Sheffield in the final. The team have now qualified to go forward to the National Championships to be held in Blackpool next year.

The Head of Sports Studies co-ordinated the BCS NE region to take trialists for the national squad to Leicester. Over 50 students attended from England and Wales. Sarah Cain, Helen Moser and Zoe Brown were successful. This is the 2nd year running that the college have had a good representation in the national squad.



<i>Boys</i>	The team played in the NE regional championships and beat all the opposition (including Sheffield, again). They now go to the national trials, along with the girls' team, in Blackpool next year.
<i>Hockey :</i> Autumn Term 1999	
<i>Mixed</i>	Two girls were selected for the National squad and have played in three matches so far – Bradford, Birmingham and Cardiff. The final event is a short tour to Holland at Easter.
<i>Hockey :</i> 1998	
<i>Netball :</i> 1998	The Netball team won the Plate Competition of the Jill Bainbridge Annual Netball Tournament at Teesside University.
Autumn Term 1999	Matches are played weekly against other sixth form colleges in Cleveland, Durham and North Yorkshire. The team recently played the NE round of the British Colleges' Netball Competition. They came third and have made it through to the next round of the competition to be held on 8 December at Huddersfield. Stockton will also be entering the Cleveland U-19 Affiliated Tournament on 1st December.
<i>Rugby :</i> 1998	Once again this season rugby has failed to get off the ground properly. A small but dedicated group of college students have been keen to play rugby. However, due to fixtures being cancelled at the last minute and fewer schools and colleges playing rugby, there have been very few games.
	Phil Austin represented the college as a member of the North of England U19 squad.
Autumn Term 1999	There is a squad of twenty students who enjoy playing rugby on Wednesday afternoons. The team has already played a number of games, unfortunately, narrowly losing all of them. The players, however, remain keen. Eight students were selected for the North of England Colleges' trial held at Penrith on Wednesday 17th November. The students will be informed in the near future if they have been selected for the squad.

### **Sport – General Information**

January	The college is taking part for the first time in the British Colleges' event. The 1 <sup>st</sup> round takes place on February 4th against Yarm School and Teesside Tertiary College. 2nd Year BTEC students completed 3 weeks work experience, mainly in local schools The feedback from schools was excellent. 2 BTEC students worked on a Barclays Bank partnership with Abbey Hill Special School on a communication and literacy project. This arose from links with Abbey Hill students during the College's Friday afternoon sports projects. A programme of visits to 11-16 schools to speak to groups of Year 11 students was arranged. The purpose of these visits was to familiarise pupils with the three courses on offer in Sport and sport in college generally.
March	Staff and 18 A-Level Sports Studies students attended a revision conference in Manchester
Autumn Term 1999	The Sports Studies Department are regularly, asked for volunteers to assist in many local sporting events for both able bodied and special needs groups. The students attending this year have received letters of commendation from all events so far, including: letters from the local Sports Development Officer and Westlands School Special Needs Co-ordinator, commenting on their attitude and enthusiasm. The link with the Development Officer has led to many further requests, including the local and national millennium games.

Barclay Futures - Due to the link with Abbey Hill Special School, the department was approached to see if any students were interested in linking up with Abbey Hill and Cleveland College of Art, to begin work on a two-year project. Abbey Hill School has received a grant to assist in the development and delivery of the project, which will ultimately be a visual display of work opportunities for their students. The Head of Department attended a training day with Barclays Bank Futures and Abbey Hill School. Three students from the BTEC programme have just begun their project

*Tops Sport* - Following the Head of Department's training with the Youth Sports Trust last term, the 2nd year BTEC students have begun their training to become deliverers of Top Play, Top Sport and Top Sportsability (disabled children). This will involve forging links with local primary schools and the Sports Development Officer in order to put their skills into practise during term 2.

## Vocational (not included in above)

- January GNVQ students visited local schools to give talks on various aspects of health and social care to different groups of comprehensive school pupils.  
Cleveland Aids Support Agency gave a talk to students on safe sexual practice and Aids.
- March A2 and A2 Health & Social Care students took part in a 'masked bowl' at the Hollywood Bowl to raise funds for the RNIB
- April/May St John Ambulance visited the college to put GNVQ Health & Social Care Intermediate and Foundation students through a Lifesaver First Aid Course.
- October **Sports Studies Outdoor Pursuits Week** : BTEC students and staff attended an outdoor education week at Askrigg, North Yorks. Students responded well and were praised by the centre staff for their behaviour and enthusiasm. The college now has a regular link with the centre for work placements for students on the BTEC National Diploma.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> year Advanced Health & Social Care students helped at two Christmas parties - at the Grange Elderly Day Care Centre, Middlesbrough, run by St. John Ambulance, on December 9 and 17.

## Student Awards

Robert Harper has been awarded the Calor Gas Prize for achieving the best results in Chemistry and Physics in the 1999 GCE A-Level examinations.

The University of Teesside Prize for Mathematics has been awarded to Paul Wainman, a first year student last year. Paul performed at A/A/A level in all first year module exams and demonstrated an enthusiasm for the subject. We are still awaiting notification of the students who have gained the CREST Gold Award for project work with industry.

## Cultural Exchange

A member of teaching staff is currently organising a cultural exchange of students between Italy and the UK. Two schools in Italy have expressed their interest and are awaiting approval from their school authorities. This exchange is likely, to take place after September 2000.

Recently acquired by WHSN GROUP of Hartlepool, The St. George Hotel is being sympathetically restored to it's former "GLORY DAYS" when it was the Officers Mess for Bomber Command in World War II.

Conveniently situated at Teesside Airport The St. George Hotel is the ideal venue for Business Travellers, Conferences, Weddings, Large and Small Functions,

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## Degree Results

Name	Subject	Degree	University
Amanda Burns	Physiotherapy	BSc	II ii Teesside
Jonathan Clark	Geography	BSc	III Leicester
Russell Delderfield	Modern Languages	BA	II i Bradford
Iain Dixon	Economics	BA	II ii Leicester
Ruth Dixon	History	BA	II i Leeds
Chris Downing	Business Information Technology	BTEC HND	Pass
Neil Duckling	Politics	BA	II ii Teesside
Stewart Elliott	Ecological Resource Management	BSc	II i Newcastle
Garry Flounders	Biological Sciences	BSc	II ii Lancaster
James Forbes	International Management and French	BA	II i Bradford
Emma Frost	French and Linguistics	BA	II i York
Robert Garside	Marketing	BA	Pass Teesside
Marie Gray	Modern Languages and European Studies	BA	II i Bath
Jon Paul Hartshorn	Geography	BSc	II ii Leeds
Andrew Howcroft	Physics	BSc	II i Durham
Sarah Jones	Education	BA	II i Durham
Rebecca Jones	Social Policy	BA	II ii Teesside
Sarah Kell	Business and Finance	BTEC HND	Pass Teesside
Matthew Kempton	Technology and Management	BSc	III Bradford
Stewart Kirton	Chemistry	BSc	I Leicester
Peter Laverick	Management	BA	II i Central Lancashire
Stephen Lochore	Political Science	BA	I Stirling
Joanna Moreton	Mathematics and Physics	BSc Joint	II i Leeds
Louise Nelson	Mathematics and Statistics	BSc	II i Newcastle
Helen Norrie	Chemical and Process Engineering	BEng.	II ii Newcastle
Marie O'Callaghan	Microbiology	BSc	II i Leeds
Siobhan O'Donoghue	Combined Arts	BA	II ii Leicester
Jonathan Pain	Business and Finance	BTEC HND	Pass Teesside
James Pratt	Chemistry	MA	I Sheffield
Stuart Pickup	Applied Geology	BSc	II ii Leicester
Ben Redfern	Theatre Studies	BA	II i Derby
Joanne Riddle	International Textiles and Surface Pattern	BA	I Teesside/CCAD
Alison Round	Geology	BA	II i Liverpool
Jenny Simpson	Sociology	BA	II i Durham
Helen Snaith	Theology	BA	II ii Hull
David Sudron	Theology	BA	II i Durham
Gemma Swanson	Communications and Society	BSc	II i Leicester
David Thomas	Electronic Engineering	MEng.	II ii York
Sarah Thompson	Bio-Medical Science	BSc	II ii London
Grant Weir	Geography	BSc	II ii Leeds
Mark West	Geology	BSc	II ii Leicester
Jonathan White	Business Information Technology	BTEC HND	Pass Teesside
Chris Winter	Geology	BSc	II i Liverpool

## FRONT COVER

This year's photograph was donated by Brian Brand and shows the new 'ARC' Arts Centre in Dovecot Street, Stockton. For those unfamiliar with the 'new look' Stockton the centre stands where the Hippodrome Theatre used to be, diagonally opposite from Roberts' (wet) fish shop. The Arts Centre has not had the best of starts with financial problems from 'day one' but, with a new manager, seems to be making a recovery at the time of going to press.

## C.W. KING MEMORIAL PRIZE

Founded by the Old Stocktonians to perpetuate the memory of C.W. King, M.A. Jesus College, Oxford and London; Assistant Master 1908 - 46 and Senior English Master for 23 years at the Secondary School. The Prize, now valued at £12, is awarded for excellence in English at Grangefield School.

## G.G. ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL PRIZE

Founded by the Old Stocktonians to perpetuate the memory of G.G. Armstrong, M.A., M. Litt., Armstrong College, University of Durham; Senior History Master 1921 - 48 at the Secondary School. The Prize is awarded annually, in the sum of £12, for excellence in History at Grangefield School.

1999	History Prize	Ruth Sweeting
	English Prize	Rachel Monkhouse

## GRANGEFIELD SCHOOL'S FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The venue was St Peter's Church, Yarm Road on Monday 13th December. Our President Roz Prichard and Brian Brand were invited by the School to attend what was a splendid Christmas service.

The readings were by members of the school from Year 7 to the Head teacher and a Parent Governor. The Reverend Canon Alex Whitehead took opening and closing prayers as well as quietly joining the choir for its 'partypiece' the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's "Messiah". The choir is formed by pupils, Teachers and Friends conducted by the Head of Performing Arts, Rupert Booth and ably assisted by Elizabeth Lincoln at the organ, apart from one solo rendition of 'O Holy Night' where we were treated to her fine singing voice.

The voluntary retiring collection was in aid of the Butterwick Hospice.

It was with a great sense of anticipation that I attended along with my wife Carole and Brian and Pat Brand the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols organised by Grangefield School at St. Peter's Church on Monday the 13 December. Brian had told us that we were in for a treat and indeed we were not disappointed.

The opening prayers were given by the Reverend Canon Alex Whitehead, followed by the Nine Lessons and Carols. Most of the readings were by pupils at the school and other readings were by Mick Hill (Head Teacher), Lesley Sweeting (Parent Governor) and Joanne McHenry (teacher).

The choir was in impressive voice under the baton of Rupert Booth who is head of music at Grangefield; we were particularly delighted by the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah". It was obvious that a lot of hard work had gone into the production, which was appreciated by the packed congregation of parents and guests. As Brian said to me before the start, "this marks the start of Christmas" and I couldn't agree more. It was wonderful!

Roz Prichard

## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The service was held on Tuesday 9th November at Grangefield School. Gordon Rattenbury, Ken Whitfield and Brian Brand attended on behalf of the O.S.A. Gordon laid a wreath on the 14 - 18 Memorial to start what was a moving service of readings and hymns. As in previous years the Year 9 pupils conducted themselves in a manner which belied their years.

Year 9 pupils study the World Wars as part of their curriculum and the presence of our two memorials serve to remind them that this part of History is not just words in books.

Grangefield's new Head teacher, Mike Hills, made us very welcome and we thanked him and the representatives of Year 9, especially Lucy Amos, for inviting us.

B.P. Brand

NOTE. Remembrance Sunday commemorates the dead of both world wars. It occurs on the second Sunday in November, that closest to November 11th, Armistice Day, the date in 1918 when the Armistice was signed to end World War I - "[The war to end all wars!](#)"



## Autumn Concert including RATS !

On the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1999 Grangefield School produced their Autumn Concert.

The first part of the Concert was a mixture of old and new, orchestra and brass ensemble together with vocal, wind and string solos. With representations of Mozart, Elgar, Strauss, the Theme from Eastenders, a Medley from Oliver ! and Les Miserables it would be true to say that there was something for everyone.

The second half of the evening was Rats ! This is not meant to be a comment on the offering (far from it !) nor was it the story the classes of 1931 – 1973 have been waiting for but a modern musical version of the Pied Piper of Hamelin !

With a solid main cast and a chorus which seemed to contain most of years 7 and 8 (with a soupçon of year 9) the effect was an excellent rendition of a rousing production and a credit to all who took part, both in front of and behind the scenes.

## Grangefield School Speech Day & Prize Giving Friday 21 January 2000

Sponsored by the National Westminster Bank of Stockton this annual event included the presentation of over 60 prizes to current and former pupils.

This was the first of such events for the new Headteacher Michael Hill (MA, MIMgt) and it was fitting that the Guest Speaker was the former Headteacher, Richard Nicholson (MEd), who had done so much to raise the standing of the school during his term of office.

### OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION



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**OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION**  
(founded by Evan Baldwin 24th January 1913)

**LIST OF OFFICIALS for 1999**

**PRESIDENTS :-**

Mr. R. Prichard (Association President)  
Mr. E. Baldwin (deceased) (Founder President)  
Mr. H. R. Clarke (Principal)

**VICE-PRESIDENTS:-**

Mr. B. P. Brand  
Mr. P. Graham  
Mr J. G. Rattenbury

Miss L. Waring\*  
Mr. J. Ingham

(\* denotes Senior Vice-President)

**OFFICE BEARERS :-**

*Hon. Treasurer* : Mr B.P. Brand  
*Journal Correspondent (Publicity Agent)* : Mr B. Braney  
*Members' Correspondence Secretary* : Mr R. Ward  
*Membership Records' Secretary* : Mr. P. Graham  
*Minutes Secretary* : Mr. M.F. Peagam  
*Dinner Secretary* : Mr B.P. Brand  
*Year Book Editor* : Mr. P. Graham  
*Advertising Manager* : Mr. D. Harris  
*Sports Extravaganza Co-ordinator* : Mr. T. Ripley

**COMMITTEE (with above)**

Mrs M. Bradley  
Miss J. Farnaby  
Mr. M. Gillespie

Revd. Mrs J. M. Thomas  
Mr K. Turner

**HON. AUDITOR :-**

Mr. P. Fleck F.C.A.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

None

**THE OLD STOCKTONIANS BENEVOLENT FUND :-**

Convenor : Mr. B.P. Brand

Trustees : Mr. A Carr, Mr H. R. Clarke, Revd. Mrs J.M. Thomas

Hon. Auditor : Mr. J. Ingham



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1999

This is to be held in the staffroom of Stockton Sixth Form College on WEDNESDAY 22nd March 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 1998 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Membership Record Secretary's Report
5. Year Book Editor's Report
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
7. Benevolent Fund Report.
8. Election of President.
9. Election of Office Bearers.
10. Election of other members to the Committee.
11. Appointment of Hon. Auditor.
12. Any Other Business.
13. Date and time of next meeting

#### Your retiring Committee's nominations for Office Bearers are :-

<i>President :</i>	Mr. R. Prichard
<i>Vice Presidents :</i>	Miss L. Waring, Mr. J.G. Rattenbury, Mr. P. Graham, Mr. B. P. Brand, Mr. J. Ingham
<i>Hon. Treasurer :</i>	Mr. B. P. Brand agreed to re-stand.
<i>Membership Correspondence Secretary :</i>	Mr. R. Ward
<i>Membership Records Secretary :</i>	Mr. P. Graham
<i>Minutes Secretary :</i>	Mr M.F. Peagam
<i>Dinner Secretary (administration only) :</i>	<i>Open for Nomination</i>
<i>Year Book Editor :</i>	Mr. P. Graham
<i>Advertising :</i>	Mr. D. Harris
<i>Sports Extravaganza :</i>	Mr. T. Ripley
<i>Members of the Committee for next year :</i>	Mr. M. Gillespie, Revd Mrs J.M. Thomas, Mr B. Turner, Mrs. M. Bradley, Mr. B. Braney and Miss J. Famaby.

Roz Prichard

### 1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

This was held on Wednesday 24th February in the Staffroom of Stockton 6th Form College with Mr. P. Graham in the Chair for the Association President Mr. R. Ward.

**PRESENT :** Miss L. Waring, Mr. B.P. Brand, Mr. P. Graham, Mr. M.F. Peagam, and Mr. R. Prichard.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :** Mrs M. Bradley, Mr. B. Braney, Mr. H.R. Clarke, Mr. M.R. Gillespie and Mr. R. Ward. Mr Graham commented on the disappointing attendance and suggested that it might be the "smallest AGM on record".

## **2. MINUTES OF THE 1997 AGM**

The Minutes of the 1997 AGM were accepted as a true record, subject to recording that there had been 43 not 23 Life Members at 4 March 1998, and signed by Mr Graham.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr Graham reported that there were currently 257 members of which 177 were Life Members and 80 Annual Members. Subscriptions were owed by 23 members and 4 Members had been 'purged' from the records for non-payment of subscriptions, despite a number of reminders; not having paid since 1995.

Mr Graham informed the meeting that of the current membership 21 were based overseas and provided a breakdown of the countries involved: Africa 4, Australia 5, Canada 5, USA 2, Eire 2, France 1, Germany 1 and Denmark 1.

## **5. YEAR BOOK EDITOR'S REPORT**

Mr Graham reported that the Year Book had been published on time and was the same size as the previous year: 400 copies had been printed, of which 100 were sent to Stockton Sixth Form College for distribution to tutor groups. The cost of printing by Teesside Tertiary College, had been £251.45 (a reduction on the previous year), postage had cost £58.25, printer cartridge £20.99 and envelopes £14.64, resulting in a total cost of £345.33. Income from adverts was substantially less than in the previous year at £92, resulting in a loss on production of £253.33.

Members noted that the average cost of a Yearbook was 62p per copy. Mr Brand asked that Mr Graham send five copies to Grangefield School.

Mr Peagam complimented Mr Graham on the layout and contents of the Yearbook.

## **6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr Brand presented the Treasurer's Report for 1997/98, together with the audited accounts.

The Life Members and General Fund had generated a surplus of £187.14, helped by the Annual Dinner which had made a profit of £13.85, despite concerns due to the lower than expected attendance.

The presentation of a prize from the Evan Baldwin Memorial Fund meant that the balance in the account was now only £2.71. There had been two prizes awarded from the C W King and G G Armstrong Memorial Fund, but donations of £37.74 had also been received resulting in a surplus on the Fund of £ 17.31.

Mr Graham thanked Mr Brand and the auditor, Mr Fleck, for their efforts.

The meeting discussed the Prize Funds, commenting on their relevance to current students of the College and School and the possibility of replacing all existing prizes by a single prize awarded by the Association in response to recommendations by the College and School. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the next Committee meeting.

## **7. BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT**

Mr Brand reported that one grant of £40 had been made to the parents of a pupil at Grangefield School. There had been no donations or repayments during the year but interest of £40.47 ensured a surplus for the year.

## **8. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

Mr R L Prichard was unanimously elected President of the Association and accepted the Chain of Office.

Mr Prichard assumed the responsibility of being Chairman of the meeting.



## 9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected as Officers of the Association:

Vice Presidents: Miss L Waring, Mr J G Rattenbury, Mr P Graham, Mr B P Brand, and Mr J Ingham.  
Hon Treasurer: Mr B P Brand  
Membership Correspondence Secretary : Mr R Ward  
Membership Records Secretary : Mr P Graham  
Minutes Secretary : Mr M F Peagam  
Dinner Secretary : Mr B P Brand  
Year Book Editor: Mr P Graham  
Sports Extravaqanza : Mr T Ripley

It was agreed to discuss the vacant position of Advertising Officer at the next Committee meeting.

## 10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following were elected as Members of the Committee:

Mr M R Gillespie, Revd J M Thomas, Mr K Turner, Mr B Braney, Miss J Farnaby and Mrs M Bradley.

## 11 APPOINTMENT OF HON. AUDITOR

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Mr P Fleck as Hon. Auditor, acknowledging with thanks his efforts in the previous year.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.*

## THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND

On 1st January 1998 the credit balance at the Darlington Building Society was £1955.52. No loans or grants were made during the year.

One donation of £12.00 was received. Interest of £50.92 net was received £63.65 gross and tax deducted of £12.731. This gave a credit balance of £2018.44 at the Building Society on 31st December 1998.

Donations to the Fund are always welcome and can be sent to Bob Ward with other subscriptions or other O.S.A. donations, or direct to Brian Brand at the address below.

Appeals for assistance may be made in the strictest confidence to : Howard Clarke, Principal of the Stockton Sixth Form College or to Mike Hill, Headteacher of Grangefield School, or direct to Brian Brand. Convenor to the Trustees, 24 Ainderby Grove, Hartburn, Stockton TS18 5PJ [Tel :- 01642 583025]

**BRIAN BRAND**

## TREASURER'S REPORT 1998-99

The funds remain sound and have been audited for the year ending 30th June 1999.

The life Members and General Fund has increased by £73.93 [£187.14 last year]

The reduced increase was due to two factors, a reduction of nearly £85 in subscriptions and an increase of around £50 in the cost of the Year Book. The Dinner was self supporting, as usual. It is provided as a service, not as a source of profit. Donations, although decreased by about £10, continue to be a valuable source of income. Building Society interest was up by around £25.

We have a new Advertising Manager [Doug. Harris] to try and improve our Year Book financial state. He is reviewing current and possible new advertisers so if have you have any ideas, contact Doug.

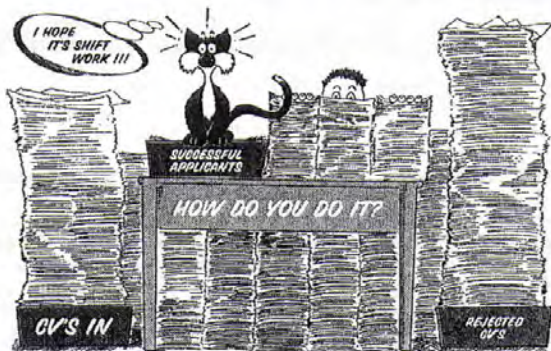
The Evan Baldwin Fund was officially closed at the A.G.M. and the King / Armstrong Fund paid out prizes of £24.00, whilst receiving donations of £35.00. With the interest paid this gave a surplus of £15.98. With a balance of £183.74 this fund is healthy for a few years yet.

There will be a need to buy a new stock of ties in the near future and as usual we will have to fund the outlay initially and feed back the money as ties are sold.

Finally may I thank Peter Fleck, our Honorary Auditor for his continued help.

**BRIAN BRAND  
HON. TREASURER**

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## 73rd Annual Dinner (two personal views)

The Dinner was held at the St George Hotel, Teesside Airport on Saturday 17th April. For the first time the Dinner was informal and members were invited to bring along friends and have a get together, not interrupted by speeches. As organiser, my first headache was co-ordinating the menu choices and with the help of the catering manager, Jacky Cooper, sorting out tables with the choices indicated so that the servers could work efficiently. That was the idea! I gave each guest his / her menu selector back as they arrived and reminded them "this is what you ordered". What I didn't anticipate was that the meeting of old friends would drive the thoughts of food from some heads. The poor waitress at my table was trying to serve when several people were in deep conversation. Next time it will be one selector per guest as a place setting! Then the waiters won't have to interrupt.

My table was really, a reunion of the year of 47. Some of us had met in November '98 to celebrate 50 years since some of us began playing rugby as the U13 team, coached by Ron Wright. Ron, sadly, died some 20 years ago but the nearest teacher we could find was Jim Durrant and he joined our table. One old friend I was delighted to meet again was Brian Crocker who I hadn't spoken to for 48 years. He and his wife Vivienne made the trip from the Leicester area to be with us. Chas Willoughby and his wife Joyce came from the deepest south whilst Jack and Barbara Candlin, Don and Dorothy Moses, Brian and Pat Brand and Tom Shield live locally. We didn't really catch up on news but a lot happens in 50 years and I suspect that most of the conversations around the table concerned school days rather than family news.

It was good to see Martin Gillespie back in the fold and a pleasure to meet Jo as well as renew acquaintance with Martin's parents Ray and Anne. I'm not sure who was in charge of the President's table! Apart from the Prichard clan [matriarch Elizabeth] there was the other year group - the year of '67, everyone a leader.

**Brian Brand**

I had looked forward to this Annual Dinner as this would be the first one with myself in the role of President. It would be the start of the new format and an added bonus was the fact that my brother John and his wife Lynn would be flying in from Canada and they would be present along with my mum, who is a regular guest these days.

I chatted to the guests as they arrived and soon the dining room was ready for us. Brian Brand asked myself and my wife Carole to remain at the bar while he oversaw the seating arrangements. A while later when the guests were in place Brian called us through. "What's going on" asked Carole, a lady who does not like a fuss. So together we walked into the dining room the assembled guests were standing and broke out into a spontaneous round of applause. I won't tell you what Carole (the lady who doesn't like a fuss) threatened to do to Brian. Being a lovely lady, she soon forgave him.

We were seated in groups at round tables which facilitated the initial introductions and the consequent cross-table conversations. My family were seated with Dougie Harris and several of his friends from school and we had a pleasant meal with them. Some of the lads had brought photographs and other mementos from their time at Grangefield and they shared them with us. I thought that this was an excellent way of looking back at former school days. The meal was very good and so was the company. After the meal I moved from table to table chatting with the guests. Many others followed my lead and soon it seemed that everyone was talking to everyone else.

I must admit that I preferred this more informal approach as it gave me more time in my capacity of President to meet and speak to the guests. I had a most enjoyable evening.

**Roz Prichard**

## Other Activities in 1999

The two activities suggested (A Summer Evening Cruise on the River Tees and a Visit to the Black Sheep Brewery at Masham) both took place and it is fair to record that 'a good time was had by all'.

Thanks are especially due to Keith Turner who organised the River trip and Martin Peagam who organised the Brewery trip.



## Old Stocktonians River Trip July 1999

Following extensive and detailed investigations a summer Social Calendar for the Old Stocktonians Association was organised by Martin Peagam and myself. The first event was the visit to The Black Sheep Brewery that, I understand had gone well, and the second was a cruise on the River Tees on the Teesside Princess. For this trip we were hopeful of at least a dry day.

My wife Anne and I had decided to go and at 9.00 am on Saturday it was clear that it would be a hot sunny day so things looked very promising. At 9.30 Anne was having a relaxing breakfast surrounded by the morning papers and I asked if she was getting ready. When she asked what for I said the boat trip. I had told her the date but forgot to mention that it was a 10.15am sailing and she assumed that it must be an evening cruise! Panic and black looks for me. Worse was to come when I had to wake our daughter Rachel and ask her to drive us down to the Quayside. The bright start was clouding over!

Anyway we made it and found Martin Peagam resplendent in his sun-hat. He had said beforehand that he would look distinctive if not distinguished. Altogether there were 23 people from our group plus there were a handful of other people for the trip. This meant that the boat was hardly busy and it was easy to wander around at will.

We set sail and because it was a lovely sunny day I think most people went up on to the upper deck. Some stayed in the shade while the rest of us others were exposed to the full force of the sun. This later proved to be a mistake for me at least. As we set sail, the kitchen staff on the boat started to barbecue a large number of steaks. Now since it was 10.30 in the morning I was not sure if I was ready for this. They finished cooking and then disappeared with the food. It turned out that there was a wedding reception later and the steaks must have been for them.

This was the first trip on the river for many people and it was fascinating especially seeing things from a totally different perspective. As anyone who has looked at a map of the river Tees will know it meanders an awful lot. When standing on the boat this means that one minute something you recognise is on one side then the next moment it is straight ahead and then soon it turns out to be on the other side. I have a poor sense of direction at the best of times and this completely threw me.

Some things can be seen better from the river and the giant hogweed which seemed to be everywhere was quite spectacular although apparently it is quite a problem and many people are seriously allergic to it. Other things are just not seen when not on the river which makes it all the more interesting. As we approached Preston Hall it looked very impressive and we stopped there to pick up a few people and deposit others. On a hot sunny day it is a pleasant way to travel from Stockton to Preston Hall especially since the bar was open on the boat for alcoholic and other refreshments.

On the trip towards Yarm we spotted a couple of heron and then coming into Yarm we spotted another form of birdlife. As the boat was passing a block of flats, just past Teesside High School, a young woman could be seen standing on the veranda of one of the top floor flats looking towards the boat. With a mischievous smile on her face she suddenly turned her back to the boat lifted her dress to reveal a naked posterior and then ran inside the flat. I don't know if she makes a habit of this but it may increase sales of tickets on the boat.

We then pulled into Yarm where we stopped at the back of 'Safeways'. Again some people boarded while others disembarked here. Roz Pritchard jumped off the boat and ran around quickly taking photographs of us all on the boat to record the historic event. He managed to get back on board without injuring himself and we set off back to Stockton again via Preston Hall.

On the way back we disturbed a group of young people who had been swimming in the river. They were getting dressed without a care in the world until the boat appeared and they were seen rapidly snatching for their towels. Was it the sun that was causing this type of activity bringing them out or does the river do this to people?

When we returned to Stockton the boat went down to the impressive Tees Barrage past the incredible transformation on the south side of the river at Teesdale. It is difficult to imagine that Head Wrightson's was once there and that it was a place of noisy heavy engineering

equipment. How things have changed. The barrage is a most impressive structure and for those who do not know it has a fish weir where salmon can be seen on their way up the Tees to spawn. On a separate visit since then I did see an enormous specimen that probably weighed in excess of 35 lb. Apparently salmon poaching is on the increase on the river. Who would have thought it 10 years ago that salmon would be seen in the River Tees again.

On the north bank just before the barrage we saw about 10 children jumping into the river and swimming about and having a great time. These were suitably clothed but Roz recognised them as current or ex members of Tilery school where he teaches. He did not seem surprised at who they were.

We then turned around and returned to the Quayside at Stockton. It was clear that everyone had enjoyed the trip and we were discussing the possibility of holding the annual dinner on board. This was generally perceived to be a good idea and will probably be discussed at our next meeting so await developments.

When we disembarked at Stockton my face felt a bit hot and later on that afternoon it was as red as a beetroot. Those people who stayed under the shade of the canopy clearly knew what they were doing. Anne and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and would recommend it to anyone. Obviously the lovely weather helped so perhaps we will have another trip sometime. For those of you who missed it do go sometime. We all enjoyed it and found something different in a place where many of have lived for years.

**Keith Turner**

## **74th ANNUAL DINNER**

*The Date: Saturday 6 th May, 2000 at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.*

*The Venue: The Parkmore Hotel, Eaglescliffe.*

As last year the dinner is being organised simply as a get-together for former students and their guests. The host will be our President, Roz Prichard, and there will be no guest speaker. As you will see elsewhere in the Year Book last year's format was judged to be successful and we hope this year's dinner will be equally enjoyable.

The cost will be that of the meal, including room hire, etc. We have also negotiated special prices for overnight or weekend accommodation.

We hope groups will take the opportunity to book tables. The menu gives choice for each course! This is always a problem for the organisers and the hotel but the committee feel that it gives an important informal touch. It does mean that menu selections **must** be returned on time.

We ask that guests "tick" and return the choice lists enclosed with your magazine.

**Choices MUST reach the Dinner Secretary by Friday, 28th April**

Tickets priced £15.50 are available from the Dinner Secretary, Brian Brand 24 Ainderby Grove, Hartburn, Stockton TS 18 5PJ [Tel: 01642 583025 ]

Bed and English breakfast can be booked by contacting the hotel direct and quoting the Old Stocktonians' Dinner. The telephone number is 01642 786815. The cost for two sharing a double room is £58.00 and for a single room £41.00.

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Mothering Sunday	2nd April	Christmas Day	25th December
Easter Sunday	23rd April	New Years Eve	31st December

*For further information please do not hesitate to contact the*

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## **The 48-55 Reunion**

In February 1998 a photograph appeared in the 'Remember When' Section of the Evening Gazette; it showed the 1948 intake for the Girls' Secondary School. Jean Bell (née Brooker) was organising a reunion in September 1998 for all those who entered the school that year. Did you see the photograph? Do you wish you had? If so, would you have responded? Unfortunately we could not publicise the event because we didn't know in time for the last magazine. If you are planning such an event please let us know well in advance.

## **THE YEAR 2000 ( a former pupil's view )**

In Christmas 1907 The Stockton Secondary School published its first edition of a new magazine, 'The Excelsior'. The publication was intended to appear every term and had a yearly subscription fee of 1 shilling (post free) [ that's 5p in today's money]. In that first issue a young lady by the name of Daisy Green contributed an article which contained her thoughts on what Stockton would look like in the year 2000. We reproduce that article in full below and leave it up to the reader to judge how good her predictions were, but we do ask : "Could we do as well now if we made predictions for the year 2100 ?"

"Oh Mother! What do you think I dreamt last night?" said Connie Thornton, as after putting away her lesson books, she placed herself on the hearth rug and put her head on her mother's lap.

"You know I had been reading those fairy tales before I went to bed and father had been talking about that new electrical engine that he has charge of at his work.

Well, when I went to sleep I thought a fairy came to me and said if I liked to go with her she would show me Stockton as it would appear in the year 2000.

I thanked her and climbed into her airship and away we went until we came to the river. There, instead of a large number of vessels and boats of all sizes, as there is now on all sides, there was only a motor pleasure boat or two. And on both sides of the river instead of the wharves, warehouses and shipyards, there was beautiful shady gardens stretching away to large detached villas.

I asked how it was that there was no ships and was told that there was no longer any need of them as all goods are now carried by airships and the airship yards had been removed to the outskirts of the town.

We then proceeded on our way until we came to High Street, and here I noticed a great stillness prevailed. There was no traffic of any kind except an occasional motor car which glided along quickly without making any noise

But on looking upwards I saw a great number of airships of all kinds, some large, some small, some owned by private persons and some taking the place of our tramcars. I noticed also that the sky was beautifully blue without the slightest sign of a smoke cloud.

This, the fairy explained, was due to the fact that in all the works electricity was used and thus coal was not necessary and therefore there was no smoke. The middle of the High Street was also laid out as a beautiful garden.

We still continued our journey, passing on our way a handsome block of buildings in the centre of the town, taking the place of the old town hall. This was also surrounded by trees. We next came to a group of buildings which I seemed to recognise.

This, the fairy said, had been the Stockton Secondary School, but it has been altered and is now used as a warehouse. A new school had been built some distance away in the country and the scholars were conveyed there in airships specially built for the purpose.

I said I should like to see these new schools and accordingly the fairy directed the airship in that direction and, after travelling for some distance, reached some large gates through which we passed.

From here the school would be seen in the distance but before examining the school itself we explored the grounds, which extended for several acres. There was first football, hockey and tennis fields. In each was a pavilion for the storing of the appliances of the games.

Next were gardens carefully laid in which classes were instructed in botany and gardening.

Also there were lakes on which, during the lessons in summer, the scholars were taught the management of boats.

The school was a one-storey building. In the centre was a large hall in which the scholars assembled, and opening into it were the classrooms and laboratories. The classrooms were arranged along one side of the hall, each being similar to the others. They were warmed and lighted by electricity and each was provided with a balcony on which the scholars prepared their lessons on hot days.

From the other side of the hall, opened the botanical, chemical and physical laboratories, besides the drawing classrooms and gymnasium. At the end of the hall was the school library and museum. The library contained books of reference, besides story books by the best authors, and here the scholars were allowed to spend recreation on wet days.

The museum contained models of steam and electric trams, bicycles and sailing vessels, besides many other things mostly contributed by the scholars, though some were provided by the school authorities.

The school hours had been slightly altered. The morning sessions commenced at nine o'clock and finished at one o'clock; the afternoon sessions commenced at three o'clock and continued until six; the last hour-and-half being employed in private study and preparation, no work being done at home. After examining the school, the fairy said it was time for me to come home. Though there was a number of things which I should have liked to have examined, I was not allowed, but the fairy promised to take me on the journey some other time and just as she was leaving me, I awoke and found it was time to get up."

**Daisy Green**



## Why am I here ?

by D.O. Gerel ( aka H. Rhodes)

*Somewhere in Australia sipping ice cold beer,  
Sits an Old Stocktonian wondering why he's here.  
Wondering why he ever got the urge to roam,  
Seems to spend a lot of time dreaming of 'Back Home'.*

*Oh, to be in Stockton now December's here,  
Friends write that the temperature gets lower every year.  
Bitter East wind's driving, sleet against the pane,  
Hoar frost's on the hedges, puddles down the lane.*

*Wipers on car windscreens clearing off the mush,  
Morning's sparkling snowdrifts are turning into slush,  
Freezing in December  
Why am I here in sunshine ?  
Ah ! Now I remember !!*

## OUR SPORTING LIFE

### SPORTS EXTRAVAGANZA - 1999

The teams were well supported for all matches - Rugby, Football, Mens' Hockey and Ladies' Hockey.

### **In 2000 we anticipate the event being held on Wednesday 12 April**

Thanks are due to our overall co-ordinator **TOM RIPLEY** and all the College staff who give generously of their time to make this such a special day for all former students. Tom is also a former student who is now teaching P.E. at the College and so there should be no problems with organisation.

Tom can be reached at the College on 01642 612611 during the day. We still need all the support you can give if the events are to survive; they remain our last direct contact with the students at the College.

## **FORMER STUDENTS HERE AND THERE**

### COME ON LET'S HEAR FROM YOU !

I'm sure that it is not for the lack of news that information is scarce, more likely the lack of belief that others will be interested. We forever hear the cry "No one from my year ever seems to be in the magazine". That will remain so unless people are willing to, at least, return the slip with an address confirmation and just one or two lines of news !!

A brief note from **GORDON ANDERSON (1985-87)** who has now moved to London. No other details unfortunately. The last details we had he was working for a management consultancy group in Manchester.

**BRYAN ARTHUR (1943? - 49)** contacted us via the Grangefield School early in 1999. He was trying to organise a reunion for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form leavers of 1949 (possibly in the coming Autumn) and wanted to know whether we had any details on the whereabouts of some contemporaries. We were able to help in one or two cases but were later contacted by **PETER SAWYER (1943-49)** to say that Bryan had been admitted to hospital. We never did discover if the reunion took place and, if so, whether anyone kept a 'report' that the Year Book could use. Bryan did furnish us with the names of and, in one or two cases, details about fellow students. **ALAN WELSH** retired as a lecturer from Teesside University some five years ago; **LAWRENCE LLOYD** is currently co-authoring a book on 'Catalysis'; **CLIVE SHERRIES** - no details; **HARRY & ALAN WALKER** (twins); **DAVE BALMFORD** (he could not trace - our last address was Sherborne, Dorset but we had not heard from him since before 1980 - Editor); **JOHN BRUNT** (he could not trace - our last address was in Stokesley but we believe he may have passed away recently); **FERGUS McLELLAN** (he could not trace - our last address was Hartburn but we had not heard from him since 1992 - Editor); **TOM HARDING** (we had a note that Tom had passed away in 1984 - Editor); **DAVID OLIVER** qualified as a doctor at Edinburgh University and now lives in Australia; **KEITH MATSON** qualified as a dentist from Liverpool University;

**PETER SAWYER** spent most of his working life with English Electric; **OULTON (Oli) WALKER** retired recently as a Reader in Physics from Hong Kong University; **GRAHAM BROADBENT** passed away in 1993 but Bryan & his wife still keep in touch with his widow; **DOUGLAS HAWES**, Bryan thinks, went into banking in Stockton but cannot trace him ( we have no details – Editor); **JOHN SHORT** (he could not trace – we have no details – Editor); **ROBIN HOSIE** retired recently as Editor/Director of Readers' Digest; **RON ANGEL** runs Teesside Folk Music Society. Bryan himself became a patent agent. If anyone out there can help with details of those 'missing' please let us know and we can contact Bryan.

**MARK AYRE (1972 – 80)** writes to say that he is still with North Yorkshire police and works out of Boroughbridge. He still keeps in contact with **RAYMOND GILL**, who lives in Grange-over-Sands, and **PHILLIP GITTINS**, who lives in London; both of whom were at Grangefield. From his 6<sup>th</sup> Form College days he is in regular contact with **SALLY ADAMS** (nee **WALLER**) and **CRAIG MITCHELL**, who lives in London.

A great pleasure to receive an address confirmation from **PERCY BELL (1914-18)** who also includes a generous donation to funds. Percy (at 96 or 97?) is one of our oldest 'Old Boys' and we look forward to hearing of his 'century'.

A brief note from **JEAN BELL** (nee **BROOKER**) (1948-55) mentioned a contemporary of hers **MARGARET HOGUE** (nee **STOCKDALE**) who now reside in California and wanted to know more about the Association. We sent details but have not had a reply to date.

Mention of T.B. Brooke and C.W. King in the last Year Book prompted **FRANK BOWEN (1925-32)** to write and say how many former pupils owed their future love of music to this pairing. Both staff sacrificed free periods in order to run a voluntary class in musical appreciation for the sixth form. The class met on a Monday, he recalls, and sat on hard chairs in the Girls' Assembly Hall, note books balanced on knees, listening to records played on a wind up gramophone. C.W. dealt with the classical composers – Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms and Handel. T.B. introduced them to contemporary composers such as Dohnanyi, Chabrier, Borodin, Delius and Ravel. The attendees were also introduced to musical form - binary, ternary, compound ternary, rondo and sonata were all taught by Mr King who showed that serious music was not just an arbitrary sequence of notes but a structured work of art. Frank is happy to acknowledge the debt he owes to these two inspired teachers for his own love of classical music. We too are happy to acknowledge that special talent these two teachers had in their ability to pass on their enthusiasm and we thank Frank for reminding us and for his generous donation to funds.

A substantial top-up of subscriptions for **TRACEY (1985-88)** and **RICHARD (1983-85) BRAND**, courtesy of dad **BRIAN BRAND (1947- 54)**. Apart from a meeting at the dinner the only thing to report for the year of '47 is publication of an obscene photo ! A rogues' gallery of 20 of the year - Jim Durrant! The photos, which are all fairly recent, were compiled by Brian. The group comprised Graeme Dewison, Eddie Hardwick, Tom Shield, Geof Kenyon, Brian Crocker, Paul Dee, Tom Bellis, Jack Candlin, Brian Brand, Don Moses, Eddie Pinder, John Walton, Jack Gilliland, Alan Davis. Chas. Willoughby, Denis Foulger, Johnny Franks, Jim Coltman, Peter Williams, Jim Durrant and John Hutchinson. Each of the group has a copy so they have joint responsibility'.

Don Moses has been following "Dr Atkin's Revolutionary Diet" and has lost a couple of stones! Brian Brand and Tom Shield have copies of the book so we look forward to slim O.A.Ps in the new century'. Eddie Pinder is still "consulting" and has regular trips to India and China. Paul Dee expects to be in the U.K. in January so by the time this is in print there may have been a get together like January 99 when several of us met up with him in the Stockton Arms.



Brian and Pat Brand have taken up membership at the David Lloyd Fitness Club - 'A joint mutual present'. Apart from the bikes going nowhere and the treadmills for human gerbils it is a meeting place for Old Stocktonians! Peter and Liz. Hudson enjoy a couple of sessions a week, Arthur Blenkey seems to be there most days, David Hazeltine keeps fit by swimming the odd 2500 metres and Paul Frost uses the gym. As locals will have read in the Evening Gazette. Paul Frost suffered a heart attack towards the end of November. Thankfully he is recovering and by the column he is still writing it has jolted him but not robbed him of his sense of humour! To quote him loosely, "I was in hospital having tests after having had chest pains and I asked if I had had a heart attack. You are having one now they replied". He has been back to the gym - to show his daughter round.

Gordon Rattenbury is 90 this year! To quote him accurately in January 99, when he was only 88, he gave his age as "90 next year". Richard Brand has been working in Oslo most of 1999 and in the two weeks over Christmas and New Year visited three other capital cities, London, Zurich and Dublin. There may be others his dad doesn't know about! Berlin and Amsterdam come up at times. His company is contracted to International Computer Services, at the moment, which has offices around the world. Tracey Brand is still teaching in Leamington Spa and has recently moved house, so renovations and decorating have been high on the agenda. Dad Brian looked after her Border Collie "Pud" while she was on holiday in the summer. Look out for him in 'One man and his dog'. He says it was like coming out of retirement to take 52!

A confirmation of his Cheshire address from **NORMAN CARR (1939-44)** but no other news to report.

Together with a top-up of subs **SYLVIA CLARK (nee BEST) (1956-63)** gives us news of herself and contemporaries. Sylvia has been working as an E.A.L. (English as a foreign language) teacher in Linthorpe last year and, on her travels as a supply teacher, met **NORA ROSSER (nee REEVELL) (1956-63)** who is now the head teacher at Viewley Hill school. Sylvia also corresponds with **JANET SHARPE (nee HUMPHREYS) (1956-63)** who emigrated to Canada several years ago with her husband and is now also doing some teaching.

No news from **PETER DEE (1948-50)** other than an address confirmation, a subs top-up and a nice donation to funds.

Peter's brother **PAUL DEE (1947-54)** includes a nice donation to subs and a generous top up to the GG Armstrong CW King fund with his address confirmation. Paul brought us up to date with his 'activities' last year when he (and the Association) re-discovered each other.

We trust **GRAEME DEWISON (1947-54)** is still enjoying his retirement and thank him for his address confirmation and top-up of subs.

We were sorry that one of our 'regulars' **NANCY FINCH MBE (1931-36)** could not be at the dinner this year, it is always a pleasure to see and hear from her. In addition to her address confirmation we thank her for her top-up of subs and the donation to funds.

Revd. **JOHN FRANKS (1947-52)** writes with his new address (at least the fifth since 1979!) and his appreciation of the reunion of the 1948 (U13) rugby team, some of whom he had not seen since he left school in 1952. He'll be happy to attend such events in the future. John adds that he still 'keeps in touch' with the Queens Park Fellowship through the copies of the Church Newsletter his brother sends him. Queens Park, or more accurately, Norton Road Congregational Church was his 'home' church and he still retains a deep affection for it. It was during the Ministry of Garth Anders (1953-56) that John was called to the Ministry and began his training at the same College and University in Manchester that Garth attended. He doubts whether there are many at Queens Park who will remember him other than, perhaps, Jimmy

Wood and Rose Pearson who, at 80, still attends the Ladies Meetings (and occasionally the Church)

The name Gaddas may 'ring a bell' with some of our readers but perhaps they are not sure whether the first name is **CRAIG GADDAS (1971? - ?)** or James Gaddas, the actor. Well they are one and the same. James has been a regular on our TV screens in recent years in 'Medics', 'Backup', 'Grafters', 'Between the Lines', 'Heartbeat' and, some ten years ago, 'Coronation Street'. However those who tuned into 'the Street' over the Christmas period will have espied his return as barman Vinny Sorrell. In addition to his small screen roles James played opposite Julie Walters in 'Girls' Night' and has several stage productions to his name. However one of his more unusual locations was the Ape House in London Zoo. He and his wife to be (Debbie) decided that the Zoo would be 'something different' and duly 'tied the knot' there in August, 1998. Debbie currently teaches dance to children but was a ballerina in 'Phantom of the Opera' in Manchester when they met. However the patter of tiny feet will soon be audible in their own house as they are looking forward to a baby in 2000. [Our belated best wishes for both events – Editor]

In addition to a nice donation to funds **LAWRIE GALE (1928-35)** was able to join us at the Dinner this year.

A generous donation to funds and an address confirmation from **DAVE GATHERGOOD (1957-64)** but no other news to add to that provided in 1992 when he was Manager of Ironmaking Research at (then) British Steel. (Are you learning Dutch now Dave? - Editor)

It's been a few years since we last heard from **IAN GORRELL (1974-76)** but he sends us his latest news with a letter which details his new address and includes a generous donation to funds with the top up of subs – what more can we ask for !! Ian has been continuing his research at Sussex University, whilst undertaking some part-time teaching in their labs, since 1993. However after his partner, Alison (whom he met at Sussex), secured a lectureship in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Bradford University they both moved up to Shipley in May 1999. Ian is still doing his research in Bradford's Chemistry Department whilst Alison tries to come to terms with what she (as a theoretical chemical physicist) is doing in a Pharmacy Department. He concludes by adding that, just to prove what a small world it is, he and Alison regularly visit friends in Cyprus who are also friends of Gordon Rattenbury's daughter, who lives in Durham.

After several years of trying to move **JOHN GREEN (1940-46)** has now transferred to Perth in Scotland. We wish him well in his new venture and hope that the Scottish Dancing opportunities will increase by leaps and bounds. John was a dedicated and reliable member of the committee for many years and we thank him once again for his efforts on your behalf.

**BOB HEATHCOTE (1934-40)** included a nice donation to funds when he topped up his subs recently. Bob was 'spurred into action' by Don Smith to give us some details of his 'past' for this issue of the Year Book. Having, as he thought, kept his head well below the parapet during his years at school, except for Rugby Colours and a County Exhibition; oh and "one whacking from Doc Kinnes for untidy French homework" – he also admits to. Bob was surprised to learn from a Stockton Grammar School boy, who shared his lodgings until they were 'bombed out', that he had achieved some notoriety for 'going native' and studying Agriculture. After the War and research at Rothamsted for an MSc (on Jute's suggestion) Bob settled for Estate Management in Yorkshire, Somerset and Monmouthshire where, in 1995, he won a European Architectural Heritage Year Award – for rehabilitating a hamlet. This last accomplishment would, he felt, have pleased 'Tibby' Brookes. Bob also correct some dates for **DENNIS RUSSELL (1932-37)**, **REGGIE GILBERT (1932-37)** and **BOB SHIELDS (1932-40)**. He thinks Bob took a degree in mathematics and then worked in aircraft design. (Can anyone add any further information please? – Editor)



A letter from **ERIC HINDLE (1965-70)** found its way to us via Grangefield Grammar School and Brian Brand. After the 5<sup>th</sup> form Eric's family moved to Carlisle and he lost touch with many of his contemporaries. He currently lives in Kent but would, through the pages of this publication (or the Internet), welcome contacts with Old Boys who may remember him. Brian Brand added that he certainly remembered the young man as part of his (1965) 1Y Physics class !

No special news from **RICHARD HUMBLE (1980-87)** this year as he is still doing his General Practice Rotation and has been (at the time of writing) working in Accident and Emergency. Richard and his wife have bought a house just north of Inverness and he is still hillwalking but we don't know whether the Munros are any closer to defeat !

Sad to hear read that the Evan Baldwin Fund was now no longer in existence **WILF HUME (1924-29)** was happy for his donation to the fund to be used as the committee felt best. Wilf feels that his 25 years of retirement from Local Government have flashed by but at 86 he reads with awe of the continued progress of the likes of Percy Bell. Looking at an old photograph recently of Form 4A (Modern), taken in 1927, he cannot help but wonder how many are 'still on the go' and if so where they may be. The master in the photograph, Bill (Tot) Munday also brings to mind echoes of the school song written (Wilf believes) by that master and put to music by Gavin Kay. Gavin served both the Boys' and Girls' Schools as Music Master and Wilf remembers being in the choir on Speech Day 1925 when the song was first sung. [ It's interesting what you say Wilf but the sheet music we have of 'Schola Stockonensis Carmen' has T. Crockett and Gavin Kay as its composers (see page ), although I must confess I was under the same impression as you as to who wrote the words. – Editor]

It's always a pleasure to hear from **COLIN MUSTARD (1955-60)** who once again includes a generous donation to funds with his letter. Colin became Chairman of his Union in January 1999 but his reign was short-lived; the members had voted overwhelmingly in favour of a merger with three other unions and he would be a Section Chairman by May. In addition Colin, in conjunction with a business partner, has opened a Children's Soft Play and Party Centre in Tanfield Lea – known as 'Tanfield Tots'. They hope that this venture will be the first of a chain of such centres – we wish him every success. Colin sent his apologies for not being able to attend the Annual Dinner in 1999 as he was on holiday in China, however he hopes to be with us in 2000.

Brian Brand's 'U13 team' article in our last Year Book prompted **DAVE NASH (1951-54)** to write and say how nostalgic the feature had made him feel. Although he did not play in that team many of the names brought back happy memories as he did play with them in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV's from 1951 to 1954. Dave only arrived at Grangefield in the Fifth Year from Cumbria and although he showed a good turn of speed he confesses that his skill level was somewhat 'below par' and consequently he moved between the two XV's with monotonous regularity. Over the intervening years Dave has met a good number of those mentioned, mainly at reunions of one kind or another, but not often, or recently, enough. "It certainly seems like a lifetime since I saw Eddie Hardwick" Dave adds, but he still remembers many of Eddie's sayings. Probably one of the more unusual meetings was with Mike Wilkinson, when Dave was at Loughborough in the 50s. He and his wife Susan took the 'Generous Briton', which was the College pub, and so they saw quite a bit of each other for a while. Dave also met Mal Duncan and his wife Jean, now living in Nova Scotia, when they were in London a few years ago. It seemed from your notes, Dave says, that most of that year are now retired and that Paul Dee and he are, possibly, the only ones still working ! Dave is still Finance Director of the Brooke Hospital for Animals, an international veterinary charity operating in Egypt, Jordan, India and Pakistan and he is often overseas. Because of such travels he has not been able to realise his ambition to attend one of the recent Dinners. However he is very much in favour of Brian's full year reunion and would make every effort to attend. He does ask however that the event be held where accommodation may be available, as it is a long way to come for just one night !



A new member **ANDREA NORMAN (1987-89)** has written to tell us that her future plans involve her training to be a solicitor.

Generous donations to both the CW King and General Funds accompanied a substantial letter from **FRED PALLETT (1936-41)**. Due to political reshuffling in South Africa the Transvaal no longer exists and Fred is now resident in Gauteng Province. His 'D.I.Y.' country cottage has been a great success and is well suited to retirement. The garden, with its indigenous trees, has become a great attraction to many species of birds. Many of the varieties of waxbills and finches he now sees at liberty had been kept by Fred as pets in his pre-war Fairfield aviary, having been purchased from Stockton market "in an era before ecology guided us to wiser ways of conservation". Fred's association with Africa began 55 years ago when he first saw the coast of West Africa from the deck of HMS Tees in late 1944. After his demob he was transferred by Ashmores (in 1947) to their Johannesburg subsidiary and has been there or thereabouts ever since. Despite the ups and downs in the history of South Africa Fred says that the ride has not been as bumpy as other African states and he and his wife Mary have been fortunate to travel widely, not only in South Africa but also Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana. On an overseas trip last year he was able to pay a visit to **MIKE JEWITT (1936-41)**, who has now retired from his medical practice in Newthorpe, Notts. Fred and his wife were en route to Canada to see their daughter and had stopped off very briefly in the UK and were not able to include a visit to Stockton in their itinerary. Their visit to Canada included a stay in Quebec, where Fred was able to indulge in some rusty schoolboy French (Mr Rattenbury please note) and thence to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Fred had always had a tinge of disbelief at the size of the waterways in Canada when drawing, and colouring, maps of such at school. However, having now sailed on an ocean-going ferry for hours without sight of land he admits – seeing is believing ! Fred closes by thanking all those who keep the Association going for the pleasure it brings to so many – especially those in the 'Last Outposts'. [Editor : We too note your ties Fred – your address still has 'Fairfield' proudly displayed]

How **MARTIN PEAGAM (1969-76)** escaped from being part of the Committee for so long remains a mystery. However, now that he has been persuaded to join us and take up office as Minutes Secretary, we are pleased to have him 'on board'. He still has many connections with former students, his wife **JANICE (nee WILLIAMS) (1975-77)** being the closest perhaps ! and her professional training will ensure he toes the line. A former colleague at Teesside Tertiary College, where Martin is Clerk to the Governing Body, was **PAUL GRAHAM (1958-65)**, **DEE PALMER JONES (nee PALMER) (1960-67)** is now one of the Governors and **GRAHAM RAYNER's (1959-66)** wife Maura oversees the A-levels and tutorial systems. If this is not enough Martin's dentist is **MIKE HEADS (1973-74)** ! Martin's daughter caused somewhat of a stir in the Peagam household recently when she came home with the news that her dad "knows my friend's mother". A few minutes 'grilling' revealed that the lady in question was **CAROL DORE (nee SCOTT)(1969-76)**. [We lost touch with Carol in 1995 – our last address was Staffordshire – Editor]. Martin maintains a website link on the Grangefield School home page for former pupils who wish to get in touch with the Old Stocktonians.

A letter from **HARRY RHODES (1941-46)** penned in May '99 prompts an apology from us in respect of mistaken overdue subs – sorry about that Harry ! Lines of communication are difficult out here in darkest Stockton and the boy with the cleft stick has broken his toe ! We are pleased however that your magazine arrived (eventually) and we trust that it was all the better for the wait ! Harry read Don Smith's account concerning Blubberhouses with great interest and well remembers the first time he heard of it, in 1947, when he and **JACK THORMAN (1941-46)** were hiking through it, heading wherever feet and friendly motorists would take them. He also remembers the Race brothers from Stockton Rugby Club days and believes they were brothers-in-law to **LEN POPE (1927-31)**. The name of **ANNE SEAMAN (now BROWN)** conjured up "the chorus line of gym-slipped lovelies of '41" for Harry. Whilst he admits that he sometimes forgets why he is looking in the fridge or whether it's Friday or Monday, he can "remember, with no effort at all, many of those young ladies who terrified him



speechless". In addition to Anne his role call from the 'Sec includes **OLIVE ROUTLEDGE**, **ALISON MUIRDEN**, **VERA DOBSON** (later Mrs **SKIPP**), **MAVIS PUGH** and **SHEILA GLADDES** (a friend and neighbour of Harry's wife Pat who became Mrs **PENKETH**). Add to these classmates **JUNE (Ginger) NEAL** and **MARGARET WEGG** from Richard Hind Junior School and Harry seems to have had a full diary, to go with his daydreams. 'Incidents' recalled by Harry from his youth included **DENNIS WHEATLEY (1940-45)** riding his bike into Norton duck pond; **BILL CHARNLEY (1939-44)** throwing a German incendiary bomb into an unoccupied air raid shelter at the rear of the 'Sec and the resulting explosion of both the bomb and duty yard master ('Jute' Armstrong) [Harry never did find out the result of Bill's deep and meaningful interview with Dr Kinnes !] As chance would have it Bill and Harry served together in the TA in 1950 but no mention was made about the incident, more so as Bill had a 'pip' on his shoulder ! Don's mention of Tiger Moths also prompted Harry to include a photo of himself 'up front' in such a model ready for a flight up the South Victorian 'Shipwreck Coast'. Apparently Moths are popular subjects for restoration in Australia and are a fairly regular sight around Victoria. Nearing the end of the '98-'99 magazine Harry had assumed his 'nostalgia fix' for the year was at an end when he espied reference to **LES THORNTON (1942-48)** and felt a gentle tap from the inside of his chest. Les and Harry had been friends throughout their years at the 'Sec and later at Stockton RFC and Harry remembers meeting him in the Co-op Café in Wellington Street the week before the one left for Canada and the other for Australia. 'Sadness' took on a whole new meaning for Harry when Alan Ayre gave him the news (in 1971) of Les's untimely death.

Harry added the following notes in a further letter written in November 1999. At the time they were preparing for summer and Harry was about to 'de-wildernise' his garden. Harry was pleased to see a letter from his old classmate **JOHN ELLIS (1940-46)** in the '99 Year Book and admired his forthright comment about Wagner (but didn't say he agreed !). Since his first letter of the year Harry had received good wishes from Len Pope and hoped to sample Len's coffee brewing at All Saints' Church in Eaglescliffe in August 2000. Harry enclosed a photograph dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 1946 (his last day at school) which showed the finish of the Inter House Relay with **GORDON BROWN (1940-46)** in the lead and himself in second place (A fact that did not stop Harry becoming Victor Ludorum and 'lifting' the Scholes Cup) Also in the photo are Mr. G. Rattenbury and **JOHN BRUNT (1942-47)**. Soon afterwards Harry began at Furness Shipbuilding at Haverton Hill, joining former classmates **STAN BASSETT (1940-46)** and **HENRY ('Flat') FLOUNDERS (1940-45)** – he still corresponds with Stan.

A change of address, to Harrogate, from **SIMON ROBINSON (1970-77)** but no other news to report.

We had, via Martin Peagam, an e-mail from **ALAN ROONEY (1971-76)** who was in 1Z (form teacher Fanny Arther) and 2R (form teacher Bertie Bingham) "before we went comprehensive". He still keeps in touch with **GEOFF WREN (1971-76?)** who was in 1Z and 2A but would like to hear from or about others who were at Grangefield during his time. Alan currently lives in Byfleet, Surrey.

A note of address from **BRADLEY ROWSON (1930-35)**, brother of **LILLIAN THOMPSON (1929-34)**, but no other news.

**FRANK SAWDON (1923-28)** sent us a nice donation for funds with his address confirmation but, sadly, no other news.

Thanks to **PETER SAWYER (1947-49)** for his letter and 10 years subs for the Association. Peter stated in his letter that as it was 50 years ago since his year had left school Bryan Arthur (see above) was hoping to organise a reunion in the September – any more news of that (Editor)

A top up of subs and a nice comment on the Year Book from **SARAH JANE SHERATON (1972-77)** but no further details other than greetings from **KENNETH SHERATON (?)** and **JEAN ELIZABETH SHERATON (nee HATTON) (?)** [The only Ken Sheraton we have listed has dates 1940-44 is that the same person ? – Editor]

The customary letter and donation to funds duly arrived from **DON SMITH (1933-40)** in March 1999 and once again we are grateful for his stalwart support of the Association. Out of the blue Don had received a letter from **TONY BARBER (1931-37)** who had a copy of 'Cricket-stumps and Sticklebacks'. The moment he read the name Don was able to add it to a group photo of the 1936-37 1<sup>st</sup> XV [For those who have the picture, which contains the Race brothers, he is bottom right – Editor]. Following on that reminder Don contacted '**BERT RACE (1930-36?)**' on the phone, the first time he had spoken to him for 60 years !! [Don asks "Were there any other brothers who played alongside each other in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV?"] He had also spoken to Bob Heathcote recently and they reminisced about a forestry trip to Kendoon led by 'Nobby' Morris, their Geography teacher, and Stone, the maths teacher. He also recalls that two ladies, who were in Nelson Terrace a year or two before him, **EDNA TWINNING (nee DICKINSON)** and **IRENE GREEN (nee ARKLES)** have dropped him a line. Both ladies live active lives, Edna works in her Methodist Church at Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston and Irene at Green Dragon Yard in Stockton where she shows children how household chores were carried out in her childhood. The reason they had contacted Don was that they had all lived in the same area of Billingham during their schooldays (as did 'Bert Race)

**GEORGE THORNTON (1938-44)** is still at Nelson Terrace and, for him, the place has not changed much recently. Those who have visited Stockton lately may contest that last statement, seeing the devastation caused by the 'reconstruction' at the top of Dovecot and Wellington Streets. However George actually lives in Nelson Terrace in Redcar and hence has just reason to be thankful it is not the former site ! George had hoped to come to the Dinner this year but a small matter of his 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary took precedence – he hopes to do better next year. Many thanks for the top-up of subs and the generous donation to funds George.

Thanks to **JOHN MOORE (1959-65)** we have recently 'found' **DAVID TROTTER (1954-62)**, after losing touch in 1993. David explains in his letter that he moved from his Wolviston address in 1992 and spent the next 6½ years as Consultant in Dental Public Health to Shropshire Health Authority. In March 1999 he took voluntary early retirement and moved up to Melrose where he continues to work part-time for Dumfries and Galloway Health Board.

It may take us some time on occasions but we like to think that "Once an Old Stocktonian, always an Old Stocktonian". It was 25 years (or more) since we had lost touch with **JOHN WALTON (1948-54?)** from his address in Oxbridge Lane but in November 1998 we renewed our contacts and found from our records that John was a Life Member. John had moved to Canada some 34 years ago and, until recently, had not (knowingly) had contact with anyone from Grangefield Grammar School. His job as an engineer in the Iron & Steel industry had often brought him into contact with Teessiders but he never met anyone from the 'old school'. Brian Brand's rugby photograph was sent to John by friends and relatives from around the world and he ended up with about 5 or 6 copies ! John has now discovered that **DON MOSES' (1948-54?)** daughter lives about 50 miles from him and visited him in December 1998 – they had not seen each other for 45 years ! Although he frequently visits the UK most of his trips are to Scotland and his Teesside trips are restricted to a short family visit. He does hope that one day he will be able to have a visit coincide with the Dinner and hence make the acquaintance of more 'old' friends.

The Sixth Form College passed on an e-mail from **PAUL WARNOCK (1975-78)** who was surfing the net in the sunny Caribbean when he found their web page. His initial comment was to thank the College for getting him through the exams enabling him to join the Merchant Navy,



which is how he arrived in the West Indies. A different, but successful career, and a wife have since helped transform his life but he still returns to Stockton once a year and meets old College friends. Despite these mini reunions Paul would be pleased to know how others of his 'era' are getting on and looks forward to a possible reunion of such.

"I have not been very active during the last two years" wrote **BARRY WIGGINS (1940-46)** in August 1999. He then proceeded to qualify his statement by adding that he had been on three of the "World's Great Railway Journeys" (to the USA, India and Canada) and also been on an unplanned visit to Princeton, USA. As a Stocktonian he thought it natural to have an some interest in railways and he hopes to bring his grandson to the 'Millennium Cavalcade of Steam' planned by Stockton in August 2000 – if he can find out some definitive information on the event !

It was great to hear from **TERRY WILSON (1962-69)** once again, especially when he included such a generous donation to funds ! Terry writes that he has managed to survive the local 'privatisation' of the Careers Service – euphemistically referred to as "the cure for which there is no known illness". His metamorphosis has involved being transformed from an 'Area Advisor' to a 'Business Planning Manager' for Future Steps, the successor organisation to the Cleveland Careers Service. As his new job is an 'HQ role' he is not out and about in the local community as much as he used to be and hence is not able to keep up links he had with the many Old Stocktonians who worked in local schools, colleges and industry. However he does meet the Company Auditor, **STEVE COSSINS (1963-70?)**, who was the year below him at Grangefield. Terry adds that he is (finally) moving away from Hartburn to Norton to a new home which is, would you believe it, "within staggering distance of Stockton Rugby Club's HQ in Norton". His own ventures onto the rugby field are regular (once a year!) if not frequent and he is currently Chairman of Selectors – "responsibility without power", he says. There are still several Old Stocktonians involved with the club (which celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> season in 1998/99) and Old Stocktonians and former players will always find a friendly face and someone to chat with over old times, should they wish to visit the clubhouse.

No news from **KEITH WIVELL (1971-77)** other than a top up of subs and a slight change to his (Ripon) post code.

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## OBITUARIES

Barry Wiggins included in his recent letter the news of the death, on 4 June 1999 aged 96, of his aunt **IVY ATKINSON** (nee **LIDDLE**) who with his mother (Holly) attended The Stockton Secondary School during the 1914-18 War and afterwards. From School Ivy went to St Hilda's College, Durham University, where unusual for a girl in those far off days she obtained an MA in the Classics. Initially the reluctance of traditionalist headmasters to employ a bright young girl with an MA did not help her initiation into the teaching profession, however, by the 1930s she was established as a senior member of the Classics Department at the new Wellfield Secondary School. There she gained a County wide reputation for coaching prospective medical students through their pre-med. Latin examinations in record time. A long time friend of the Association's Vice-President, Gordon Rattenbury and, with her husband Ken, an active member of The Hartburn Lawn Tennis Club, she completed her teaching career at the Queen Victoria High School and its successor. In the 1960s Ivy retired to Cheltenham with her husband, who died soon after their move, and her daughter Pauline. She lived contentedly, but with many happy memories of Stockton and Durham. A dedicated teacher, who was admired and respected by all those she taught, it was very pleasing to note that the vast majority of her family were able to bid her a last farewell at a simple service in Cheltenham on 11 June 1999.

One of our oldest 'Old Boys' **GEORGE BRANN (1916-20)** passed away on 14 September 1999. He celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29 June 1999 and had been in Hawthorn Lodge Nursing home in Hartburn. George was a steadfast supporter of the Association for nearly 80 years and served on the Committee for some 10 of those years in the mid-20s to mid-30s. With an ever ready wit George claimed he had come as a missionary from England (Middlesbrough !) to Stockton in 1912 to civilise the natives but never claimed to be successful. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War he volunteered for the R.N. and was posted to Skegness where he was able to put the Petty Officer right that marching in threes, not fours, was the new order of the day. George reckoned this single act shortened the war by 10 seconds as the troops took up less road space ! Later he served on the Murmansk run (not a laughing matter), was involved at the sinking of the 'Schamhorst' and the transportation of gold and platinum from the USSR to Iceland for the Yanks and was in a support vessel during one of the (many) attempts to sink the 'Tirpitz'. Our sincere condolences go to all his family and close friends.

Surely **MARY LIVERSEED** was the oldest Stocktonian ever. She died in January 1999 at the age of 107. Her early school years were spent in Yarm but, in order to qualify as a teacher, she moved to Stockton Secondary School for a time and also worked as a student teacher at a village school. In 1913 she began her career as a fully Certified Teacher and in 1929 became Head of the (then) new Infants' School on Billingham Green. Her Reminiscences were printed at the time of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. In 1997 she appeared in a TV programme on Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, which she remembered and, shortly before she died, she was interviewed by Channel 4 on her recollections of the Boer War, about which her father used to read to her from his morning paper. Sadly she will not be here to see this programme. She commented 'I can neither see nor hear well, but I can talk' and talk she did to her visitors with wonderfully clear diction and many fascinating memories.

**HARRY RAY (1932-37)** was a man of ability and enthusiasm, human and humane in his approach to his work and, moreover, a man with a sense of humour. He was a Stocktonian of the 'old school' who spent all his working life locally and served the community in a multitude of ways right up until his, untimely, death in January 2000. On leaving School he obtained a job in the wages department of a local iron foundry and later worked for a Middlesbrough firm, leaving this after a few months to become a junior clerk, in 1939, in the Stockton Corporation Housing Department. Quickly earning promotion, he rose to the position of Housing Assistant, but in 1941 he joined the R.A.F., where during his five years service, at first as an instructor of navigation in Canada and later in Transport Command, he attained the rank of Flight Lieutenant. Returning to Civil Life in 1946, he began studying for the Institute of Housing examinations, and in 1949, he survived all the tests and became an Associate of that body. In the same year, he was promoted to Chief Housing Assistant, and in 1950, at the very early age of 29, was appointed Manager. This briefly was the career of (as a local paper described him) 'local boy who made good'. Harry became Hon. Secretary of the Northern Counties' branch of the Institute of Housing, a member of the Council of Stockton Round Table and a Trustee of the Hartburn Tennis Club. Despite his many other interests Harry was a staunch supporter of the Association and joined the Committee from school in 1938. After the War he rejoined the Committee in 1957, becoming a Vice President in 1959, Advertising manager from 1961-73 and President from 1962-65. A 'bricks and mortar man' Harry decided that he would stand down from the Committee when the Grammar Schools ceased to be; that said he still supported the Association 'at a distance'. We offer our deepest sympathy to all Harry's family and join with them in mourning a genuine 'friend of Stockton'.



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