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2000 - 2001





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THE NEW STOCKTONIAN

2000 - 2001

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

Greetings, and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope this year, 2001, sees our loyal band of subscribers fit and well and that since I last wrote to you, I trust that you have prospered. Seeking inspiration I have re-read the past few New Stocktonians and I must admit I really enjoyed the exercise. Usually they get read and stored away in the depths of my study, hardly ever to re-appear, but this time I spent several hours looking back at the past decade. Most interesting. Anyway on with the message.

Over the past year, I have become acutely aware that we need extra members on the Committee. (Not again I hear you mutter over your cornflakes). There have been times when we have not been quorate and at other times it has been touch and go. Because of this I am making this appeal at the beginning of the message rather than the end. Being a member of the Committee is not an onerous task. We meet about four or five times a year and meetings rarely last for more than an hour and a half. I can assure you of a warm welcome, so do please come along and give us a hand.

In my last message I mentioned that we were moving towards establishing a Web Site for the Association. Well that has now come about, so if you log on to www.oldstocktonians.org.uk you should be able to catch up with some of the latest news and, who knows, you may be able to send us a message. We look forward to hearing from you. More conventional methods for reaching us will be just as welcome.

You may be interested to know that I now have a second string to my bow. I am now also the Dinner Secretary, having taken over from Brian Brand. I thank Brian on your behalf for many years of stalwart service. Thank you Brian !!

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of The New Stocktonian and would like to thank Doug Harris for chasing up all the adverts, which make this edition financially viable.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank the Office bearers and Members of the Committee for their help and advice. I would also like to thank the Stockton Sixth Form College who provide facilities for our meetings.

My best wishes to you all.

Roz Prichard

COLLEGE NEWS

The college was a hive of activity through the July and August holiday period, as an army of contractors and sub-contractors worked to complete alterations and refurbishments to a number of areas throughout the building in time for the start of the September 2000/2001 academic year.

The majority of the work involved the first phase of a two-year major revamp and reconfiguration of the college facilities. This included the installation of a modern kitchen and new food serving area, better suited to the tastes of today's students (who no longer demand meat and two veg.), and the conversion of part of the hall (we no longer have regular assemblies) into a dedicated dining area and common room.

The Student Forum — which has replaced the old Student Council and operates very much as a focus group, was consulted over the redesign and refurbishment of the communal facilities and has put its particular stamp on the choice of colour, fabrics and materials.

The second phase of the project will be undertaken during next year's summer holiday, when the main office will move into the old student common room and there will be a new reception area for visitors leading directly from the car park. This will free up the existing office space for conversion into an additional common room, next to the phase one development, and so providing one large student dining and communal area.

Over the years the college building, although originally designed for around 500 students, has proved to be a robust and serviceable structure, relatively easy to clean and maintain. It also has been capable of adaptation to cope with the various innovations in the sixth form curriculum and accommodate the steady growth of student numbers, with 890 full-time students on roll in September 2000.

Flexible and adaptable although the building has been, the point has now been reached where it can no longer easily accommodate further growth in student numbers or indeed the second year of the new system of Advanced Level qualifications.

We, therefore, have decided to include the construction of 4 new large teaching areas in the second phase of the revamp. This will enable us to add 2 more IT laboratories to the college network, thus continuing to meet the demand for the use of computers in teaching and learning. Together with the elimination of most small teaching areas and the enlargement of other rooms through a series of internal modifications to the building in recent years, this will provide the college with teaching areas which are better suited to present day need.

The overall revamp and reconfiguration project, when completed, will provide an up-to-date environment which sets the right atmosphere for both learning and student relaxation, and will also provide some much needed improvements and a better welcome to the college for visitors — who will no longer have to negotiate a busy student thoroughfare between the main entrance and the reception and general office and administration areas.

These refurbishments, alterations and new build, have been possible as a result of the continuing success of the college and the strong financial position which has been achieved since Incorporation in 1993. The financial health of the college was recognised in the second FEFC Inspection Report, published last May. Inspectors praised the open manner in which Governors carry out their business and monitor and respond to the college's needs. They concluded that the college is well managed and that its communication systems are good; praise was given to the well-established links with partner schools and the collaborative arrangements with other agencies and educational providers in Stockton-on-Tees. The Inspectors reported that the quality and teaching was good overall and particularly good in Science, and recognition was given to the good quality assurance system which includes effective staff development and support for new teachers.

In the judgement of the FEFC Inspectors, the overall achievements of students between 1996 and 1999 was good and compared very favourably with both the local and national benchmarks. The examination results last summer endorsed the Inspectors' judgements. The 1998/2000 Advanced Level cohort of full-time students produced the best ever GCE Advanced Level results. These not only maintained, but outstripped the steady progress made in recent years, with an outstanding overall pass rate of just above 95% and with over 61% of all passes at grades A, B and C. Students on Advanced Level programmes and those on our popular one-year GCSE and GNVQ courses once again achieved good results which compared very favourably and in most cases exceeded the national averages.

These examination results provided an excellent start to the new academic year and set a fine example to the record number of Advanced Level students enrolling at the college in September. As I explained in last year's College News, these students have the benefit of the new Curriculum 2000 Advanced Level qualification structure and are all taking at least 4 subjects, in addition to lessons covering Key Skills in Communication, Information Technology and Application of Number. This has not only enabled students to maintain some breadth in their studies, but in the summer of 2001 they will be able to adjust their study programmes, with some continuing with 3 or 4 Advanced Level subjects and others switching to new AS Level subjects in order to support their career plans and entry to university.

The flavour and the diversity and range of the college activities over the past 12 months are well documented in this year's edition of the *New Stocktonian*. The excellent record in sport continues and students achieved particular success on a national level in the British Colleges' National Finals. Over 400 colleges were eligible to take part in this competition and for the third year running Stockton teams came home with trophies. Last year we celebrated a double victory. Our Boys Hockey team won the Under 19 National Hockey Final and in the Badminton Girls Double Final, Michelle Jones and Jetta Hamilton beat off strong competition to claim the gold medal.

There have also been some notable individual successes with several students selected to represent national teams. Kenneth Beattie was selected for the British Colleges' Rugby squad's spring tour of South Africa. Zoe Bayne represented Great Britain in the World Ice Hockey Championship in Hungary. Helen Moiser, Sarah Cain and Zoe Bayne travelled to Holland where they represented Britain as part of the British Colleges' National Hockey Team.

We have also had some successes in local competitions. The Football A Team once again won the Cleveland County League and the C Team reached the final of the Eric Bell Cup. Our Netball Team retained the Under 19 Cleveland Open trophy for the second year running.

Outdoor fixtures in the Autumn Term 2000 have been hampered by the weather. Once again, however, the college is competing successfully in the British Colleges' National Events and both the girls and boys Hockey Teams will be travelling to the national finals in Somerset later this term and are hoping to at least equal the performance of last year.

This autumn we persuaded Brian Turner of Middlesbrough Rugby Club to act as coach for the college team, with Peter Limon, one of the Vice-Principals, looking after the arrangement of fixtures. The team has played 5 matches so far — a welcome increase in the numbers secured in recent years, and all with confidence and some success.

Soccer continues to be very popular and we are again fielding 3 teams who are still in contention for local and national trophies.

In March, Geography, Leisure and Tourism and Art students got a taste of the Big Apple when they visited New York. Steve Rickerby, Head of Geography, reached the pinnacle of his career when he taught a lesson from the top of the Empire State Building! The Geography students used the visit to study the urban structure and ethnic neighbourhoods of New York. The highlight was a guided tour of Harlem by one of the residents. Leisure and Tourism students researched

the tourist development of the city and Art students visited the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum. Despite a packed schedule the staff and students managed a tour of the key landmarks including a visit to the Statue of Liberty.

The start of the academic year saw the largest influx of new teaching staff since the early years of the college. This was a response to the additional teaching groups needed in order to deliver the new system of Advanced Level qualifications. Regrettably, a small number of members of staff left the college at the end of the summer term. Rachel Brydon, the Head of History, returning South to teach at Peter Symonds' College, Winchester and Steve Wilson, Senior Tutor and teacher of Psychology (and manager of the Rugby team), for promotion as Head of Sixth Form at Ponteland High School. We wish them every success in their future careers.

For a number of years the college has been developing its own Web site and this now includes full details of 16-19 full-time and adult courses. There is also an increasing amount of information about activities within various teaching departments, items of college news and links with other providers. Please take time to visit the college Web site at www.stocktonsfsc.ac.uk during the New Year.

My best wishes to Stocktonians old and new for 2001 and the new Millennium.

Howard R. Clarke

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES 2001

Art	
<i>February</i>	London trip by 2 staff and 25 A1 and A2 students to: National Gallery, British Museum and Millennium Dome.
<i>March</i>	2 students to visit New York with the Geography and Leisure & Tourism Dept. Fashion and textile students took part in the Grangefield School Fashion Show. They contributed with a number of 'fantasy' garments and hats.
Business Studies & Economics	
<i>February</i>	London visit by staff and Business Studies students to: T.U.C., Advertising Standards Authority, Bank of England, Parliament, Millennium Dome. GNVQ Intermediate students doing research on unaccompanied visits.
<i>Summer Term</i>	Day in Leeds for 4/5 students: Understanding Industry Presentation Skills Challenge.
Careers	
<i>January - ongoing</i>	2 Students on work placements at North Tees Hospital. 21 GNVQ Business Studies, 23 BTEC Sports Studies and 10 French students undertook work placements at various companies. 58 students on Community Action.
<i>May/June</i>	The department ran visits for students to the following universities: Leeds University, Leeds Metropolitan University, Sunderland University, York University, College of Ripon and York St John, Teesside University and the University of 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.
<i>July</i>	Students and staff attended North Tees Hospital Careers Convention.
<i>October</i>	Work Experience - 20 Leisure & Tourism students undertook work experience.
<i>Autumn Term</i>	14 Health and Social Care Advanced students undertook work experience. This included placements at: Teesside Airport, Evening Gazette, South Cleveland Hospital, Greg Middleton Stockbrokers and Grange Veterinary Surgery. 2 students undertook work experience for one afternoon per week at primary schools.

Computing

March

A1 Computing students attended a Faraday lecture entitled "Time and Place in the Communications Age".

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.

Design Technology

November

Students attended two sessions at the CAD/CAM Centre, Middlesbrough. This included an overview of development of CAD/CAM with demonstrations of 3D modelling for industry.

English/Media Studies/ Theatre Studies

February

A-Level Mixed English students saw 'Measure for Measure' at Middlesbrough Little Theatre.

A1 Theatre Studies students went to see 'Our Country's Good' at Billingham Theatre. Theatre Studies students attended a workshop on Brecht and Stanislavski at Middlesbrough 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
October*

Students and staff visited Granada Studios.

A1 Literature students went on theatre trip to see set text play "The Rivals" at Newcastle. Group of AS/A2 Theatre Studies and A2 Literature students went to see "A Dolls House" at Leicester, Haymarket.

November

AS/A2 Theatre Studies students saw "My Mother Said I Never Should" at the Arc.

Geography, Leisure & Tourism

March

3 staff and 14 students visited New York.

April

Visit by Year 2 Advanced GNVQ Leisure & Tourism students visited the 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.

November

GNVQ Intermediate Leisure & Tourism students went on a field trip to Whitby. GNVQ Advanced Leisure & Tourism students held a Christmas Party at Fairfield Social Club in aid of the Butterwick Hospice Charity.

December

GNVQ Advanced Leisure & Recreation students visited the Riverside Stadium.

Geology

April

A2 fieldwork visits to : Tynemouth, Shap Fell, and Ingleton.

A1 fieldwork visits to : Horton-on-Ribblesdale and Appleby.

October/November

A2 fieldwork in Ingleton and Teesdale.

November

Geology students gave a brief presentation to a Geologists' Association Masterclass at the University of Durham. Three students attended, two of which gave the presentation. All three students were given a tour of the Geology Department at the University at the close of the meeting.

History

April

35 History students attended a conference in Newcastle on "The Third Reich" run by Sovereign Education.

September

2nd year A-Level History students attended Teesside History Conference "Women and Power in Modern Europe".

Mathematics

Summer Term

Students and staff attended Durham University for the 10th Grubb Parson lecture on "The Expanding Universe", given by Professor R. Ellis from Cambridge.

October

Informal group of Physics students attended a lecture on the "Hubble Space Telescope" at the University of Durham.

Modern Languages

February

French exchange : Visit by 10 students and a member of staff from the Lycée International des Pontonniers, Strasbourg. Students work-shadowed at various placements.

<i>March</i>	A1/A2 students and staff attended a German conference/workshop organised by the Goethe Institute, York at Teesside University.
<i>April</i>	German exchange by students and staff from Troisdorf. Exchange by A1 students and staff to Troisdorf (in conjunction with Prior Pursglove and St Mary's Colleges.) All 5 students from the College 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.
<i>October</i>	Student visit to Strasbourg to the Lycée International des Pontonniers for the annual French work-shadowing experience. 11 students took part from the College. This year the group went with 12 students from St Mary's College.
Religious Studies	
<i>February</i>	Trip to London by A1 and A2 students. During their stay they visited Regents Park Mosque, The British Museum and 'The Dome'.
Social Studies	
<i>February</i>	Trip to London by 23 A-Level Social Studies students. They visited the Old Bailey, Harrow Public School, the Millennium Dome and the House of Commons.
Vocational	
<i>March</i>	A2 and A2 Health & Social Care students took part in a 'Masked Bowl' at the Hollywood Bowl to raise funds for the RNIB.
<i>April/May</i>	St John's Ambulance visited the College to put GNVQ Health & Social Care Intermediate and Foundation students through a Lifesaver First Aid Course.
<i>December</i>	2 nd year AVCE students helped at the Grange Day Centre for the Elderly Christmas Party.
Sports Studies	
Football	
<i>"A" Team</i>	
99-00 season	<u>Cup results:</u> The team beat South Tyneside in the 1 st round of the British Colleges' Cup but lost 3-2 against Bamsley in January. In the British Colleges' 5-a-side tournament the team finished 3 rd in their group, failing to qualify to the next round <u>League results:</u> Defeated Q.E. 4-0, Bede 6-0, Hartlepool FE 2-0 and Teesside Tertiary College 5-3 and won the league championship. Unfortunately, the team lost 4-1 in the County Cup Final against St Mary's Sixth Form College.
00-01 season	<u>Cup results:</u> Unfortunately they were knocked out of the British Colleges' 5-a-side Tournament by South Tyneside College. <u>League results:</u> The 'A' Team has only played one game so far this season. They were beaten 5-1 by Scarborough.
<i>"B" Team</i>	
99-00 season	<u>Cup results:</u> In the County Cup the team beat Middlesbrough College "B" Team 2-1 but lost to Hartlepool SFC "A" Team 1-3. <u>League results:</u> Lost to Darlington QE. 1-3, lost to Conyers School 3-8, beat Hartlepool SFC 5-0, beat Middlesbrough College "B" Team 2-1, lost to Middlesbrough College "A" team 1-3, lost to Hartlepool SFC "A" Team 1-3, lost to Teesside Tertiary 0-3. Overall the team did well to finish in second place in their division. <u>Friendly results:</u> The team beat Scarborough 5-2 and drew with Darlington Q.E. "B" 3-3.
00-01 season	<u>Cup results:</u> <u>League results:</u> The 'B' Team made successful start to the season with victories over Darlington QE 4-1, Hartlepool SFC 4-2 and Scarborough SFC 8-4. They played Wilberforce SFC in a friendly in November and followed this by a visit to Darlington QE.

"C" Team

99-00 season Cup results: The team got through to the Eric Bell Cup Final by beating Darlington Q.E. "C" 6-1.

League results: the team lost to English Martyrs, Hartlepool 2-1, beat Yarm 8-1, lost to Teesside Tertiary 2-1 and beat Darlington Q.E. 'D' team.
Overall the team finished second in its' division.

00-01 season

Cup results:

League results: The team had played two games and had been beaten by Scarborough (8-1) and Middlesbrough (4-2).

Rugby

99-00 season

Once again this season Rugby failed to get properly off the ground. 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 this season. Phil Austin represented the College as a member of the North of England U-19 squad.

00-01 season

The college Rugby team has played 5 fixtures so far. We have recruited Mr. Brian Turner of Middlesbrough Rugby Club as coach to replace Mr. Steve Wilson. 5 students were nominated for the British Colleges' National Under 19 Rugby Trial, which took place in Penrith on 29th November.

Girls Hockey

99-00 season

The Girls Hockey team competed in the British Colleges' Finals at Blackpool which were of a high standard. Out of the 7 games played they won 2, drew 3 and lost 2, finishing in 5th place - which did not do them justice.

00-01 season

British Colleges North East Regional Tournament

The team won the group round, beating Prior Pursglove in the semifinals, then went on to beat Thomas Rotherham College in the final. This meant they represented the North East region in the national finals, for the second year running. This year the, finals were held in the Somerset/Devon area.

Monarch Cup

The team beat Teesside Tertiary in Round 1 and Prior Pursglove in Round 2. Unfortunately, they lost to Greenhead College in Round 3.

British Aerospace Competition

We have reached round 2 of the British Aerospace competition, and are due to play the winners from Northumbria/Durham.

BCS Regional Tournament

The team won the county round and went on to represent Cleveland in the Northern Counties finals against the winners from Northumberland and Durham. The event resulted in a tie between SSFC and Whitley Bay, who both beat Durham school. SSFC lost 2-1 in the playoff.

British College Trials for National Squad

The Head of Sports Studies co-ordinated the North East and East Midlands representatives. The trials took place at Leicester and Zoe Bayne and Kim Naylor were successful.

Mixed Hockey

99-00 season

The team started the season well with wins over York SFC and Teesside Tertiary College. They won in the regional round of the National Cup and progressed into round 2.

Boys Hockey

00-01 season

The team has not had the opportunity to play many fixtures so far but are training hard for the Blackpool finals in March. We reached the final of the U-19 National Cup which took place on 6th December at Bedford. We defeated Teesside Tertiary to go through to the British Colleges' Hockey finals in Somerset - to defend the title we won last year.

Badminton Debbie Penny and Joanne Middleton won Silver medals in the British Colleges' Ladies Badminton doubles at Blackpool in the Summer (2000) term.

Cross Country 3 students entered Cleveland Schools' race and all were selected to take part in the inter-counties match in February 2001. Two of these students were selected for the National Schools event, which took place in London in March 2001.

Netball
99-00 season The Netball team got through to the British Colleges' Northern Region Tournament. Although they did not get through their pool group, play was excellent. However the team did win the Plate Competition of the Jill Bainbridge Annual Tournament at Teesside University.

00-01 season There is especially keen interest from students this year, resulting in much stronger squads. Matches are played weekly against other sixth form colleges in Cleveland, Durham and North Yorkshire.

'A' Team

Results so far:

Stockton beat Middlesbrough College 21-1, beat Northallerton 52-27, lost to Darlington QE 30-16 and 23-16. beat St Mary's 30-16.

'B' Team

Results so far : Stockton defeated Middlesbrough College 10-3, lost to Darlington QE 36-6 and 35-3.

Two matches were abandoned due to the bad weather.

**Sport -
General
Information**

2nd year BTEC students successfully completed work experience programmes, with many obtaining high praise from their placement supervisors. These students are now starting BT Tops Sport links with local primary schools.
Outdoor Pursuits Week – October BTEC students and staff attended an outdoor education week at Askrigg North Yorks.

Student Academic Awards

Jenny Nicholas was awarded the Calor Gas Prize for achieving excellent modular results in Chemistry and Physics in her first year of the GCE A-Level examinations.

The University of Teesside Prize for Mathematics was awarded to Rachel Monkhouse for achieving excellent Grade A results in her first year of the GCE A-Level examinations.

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 £15, 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 £15, for **excellence in History at Grangefield School.**

2000	History Prize	Carleton Hudson
	English Prize	Owen Clark

DEGREE RESULTS 2000

Name		Subject	Degree	University	
Graham	Beadnall	Environmental Science and Geography	BSc	2.2	Bradford
Matthew	Dale	Geological Sciences	BSc	2.2	Leeds
Jennifer	Dinsdale	Psychology	BSc	2.2	York
Stephen	Dyson	Politics	BA	1	Essex
Ben	Edwards	Economics	BA	2.1	Newcastle
Catherine	Hiley	Medicine	MBChB		Liverpool
Karen	Ireland	Law	BA	2.1	Oxford
Louise	Irving	Medical Microbiology	BSc	2.1	Newcastle
Graham	Keys	Business & Management Studies	BSc	2.1	Bradford
Dawn	Little	Neuroscience with Industrial Experience	BSc	1	Manchester
Simon	McLone	Geography (Science)	BSc	2.1	Liverpool
Helen	McNabola	Business Studies/French	BSc	2.1	Hull
Trina	Outhwaite	Business & Management Studies	BSc	1	Bradford
Lee	Savage	Politics	BA	2.1	Essex
Rachel	Skerry	English	BA	1	Nottingham
S	White	Engineering Science	MEng	2.2	Durham
David	Wightman	Chemistry	MSc	2.1	Nottingham
Paul	Wrigglesworth	History	BA	2.1	York

FRONT COVER

This year's photograph shows the Green Dragon Public House in Green Dragon Yard, just off Finkle Street. Those members who have not been to the town for many years will probably not recognise it ! The yard has the Georgian Theatre at the opposite end to the photo and the alleyway there leads through to the Museum and thence to the footbridge over the riverside dual carriageway.

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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 'party piece' 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 McHendry (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

GRANGEFIELD CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service was held on the 18th December at St. Peter's Church. As usual it was very well presented with the choir and soloists excelling. Graham Benzies [1954- 61] led the prayers and like the congregation applauded the final item, the Hallelujah Chorus. This item has become a highlight of what is a delightful experience and Pat and I would be very disappointed not to be able to start Christmas properly with Grangefield School. Well done School!

Brian Brand

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The service was held on Friday 10th November at Grangefield School. Ken Whitfield, Brian Braney and Paul Graham attended on behalf of the O.S.A. Ken laid a wreath on the 1914 - 1918 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 Head teacher, Mike Hills, made us very welcome and we thank him and the representatives of Year 9 for inviting us.

P. Graham

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"!

OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

(founded by Evan Baldwin 24th January 1913)

LIST OF OFFICIALS for 1999-2000

PRESIDENTS :-

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

VICE-PRESIDENTS:-

Miss L. Waring*
Mr. B. P. Brand
Mr. P. Graham

Mr. J. Ingham
Mr. R. Ward

(* denotes Senior Vice-President)

OFFICE BEARERS :-

Hon. Treasurer : Mr B.P. Brand
Members' Correspondence Secretary : Mr R. Ward
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Minutes Secretary : Mr. M.F. Peagam
Dinner Secretary : Mr R. Prichard
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
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

1999 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

This was held on Wednesday 22nd March in the Staffroom of Stockton 6th Form College with Mr. P. Graham in the Chair for the Association President Mr. R. Ward.

Present: Mr R L Prichard (Chairman – President), Miss K L Waring, Mr P Graham, Mrs M Bradley, Mr B P Brand, Mr D Harris, Mr M F Peagam (Secretary), Mr R Ward

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr H R Clarke, Revd. Mrs J M Thomas, Mr M R Gillespie and Mr P B Braney.

2. MINUTES OF THE 1998 AGM

The Minutes of the 1998 AGM held on 24 February 1999 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING None

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Membership Records Secretary, Mr Graham, reported that:

- there were currently 256 Members of the Association, of whom 172 were Life Members and 84 Annual Members;
- subscriptions were owed by 14 Annual Members (10 for the year commencing 1 January 2000);
- one Annual Member had paid subscriptions until 2027;
- of the current membership, 21 (18 of whom were Life Members) reside overseas: 5 in Australia, 5 in Canada, 3 in South Africa 2 in USA, 2 in Eire, and 1 each in Denmark, France, Germany and Ghana.

5. YEAR BOOK EDITOR'S REPORT

The Yearbook Editor, Mr Graham, reported that:

- 400 copies of the Year Book had been printed and distributed at a total cost of £400.92;
- the cost of printing by Teesside Tertiary College had been £305.50;
- Postage costs had been £55.24 (230 copies in UK costing £43.70 and 21 overseas copies costing £11.54);
- consumables costs (ink, sticky labels and envelopes) had been £40.18;
- the anticipated income from advertising was £395, so the overall loss would be £5.92 (compared to £253.33 in the previous year);
- 10 copies had been sent to Grangefield School, 70 copies to Stockton Sixth Form College and 20 to advertisers, whilst he held another 46 copies.

Mr Graham paid tribute to the efforts and success of Mr Harris in increasing advertising income by more than £300 on the previous year.

Members complimented Mr Graham on the layout and contents of the Yearbook, but suggested that consideration should be given to the size of the typeface used given the age (and declining eyesight) of many Members of the Association.

The President thanked Mr Graham for his efforts during 1998/99.

6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr Brand, presented the audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 1999, and highlighted key features:

Life Members and General Fund

- the balance at 30 June 1999 was £3559.67 (compared to £3485.74 at 30 June 1998);
- the surplus had reduced to £73.93 (compared to £187.14 in 1997/98);
- subscriptions income £109.50 (£174.25 in 1997/98), donations income £152.14 (£161.83) and stock sales income £8.80 (£21.68) were all reduced whilst the net income from building society interest increased, being £97.54 in 1998/99 (compared to £73.67 in 1997/98);
- the net cost of the Yearbook had increased from £203.81 in 1997/98 to £256.45 in 1998/99 whilst the Annual Dinner had broken-even;
- officers' expenses and the costs of engraving the Presidents' Board totalled £37.50 (compared to £54.33 in 1997/98).

Evan Baldwin Memorial Fund

- this was closed following the decision of the 1998 AGM.

CW King and GG Armstrong Memorial Fund

- prizes totalling £24 were paid out and donations of £35 received;
- the surplus for the year was £15.98 (£17.31 in 1997/98) and the balance at 30 June 1999 was £183.74 (£167.76 at 30 June 1998)

The Treasurer expressed concern at the time taken by the Building Society to raise interest rates on savings accounts following the increase in the base-rate and suggested that consideration be given as to whether the Association's interests were best served by an account with a mutual building society.

Members agreed that the Treasurer should examine the various options open to the Association and put proposals to a future committee meeting.

The President thanked Mr Brand for his efforts during 1998/99.

7. BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

On behalf of the trustees of the Old Stocktonians Benevolent Fund, the *Convenor*, Mr Brand, reported that:

- no loans or grants were made during 1998, a donation of £12.00 had been received, net interest of £50.92 had accrued and the balance at 31 December 1998 had been, therefore, £2018.44;
- during 1999, the trustees had made a substantial donation of £250 to enable a student to undertake voluntary service overseas (in Tibet) - the donation had been made only after the trustees had given careful consideration to the interpretation of the word 'necessity', given the fact that the trustees had no clear instructions as to their duties but relied on notes of guidance from a solicitor.

8. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Members present unanimously re-elected Mr R L Prichard as President of the Association.

9. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Members noted that, due to the recent death of Mr J G Rattenbury, there was a vacancy for a Vice-President.

Members present **unanimously** elected Mr R Ward as a Vice-President.

Members present re-elected as Vice-Presidents: Miss L Waring, Mr B P Brand, Mr P Graham and Mr J Ingham.

10 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected as Officers of the Association:

Treasurer: Mr B P Brand *Secretary:* Mr R Ward

11 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members received advice that :

- Mr Braney wished to be relieved of any duties of the Committee for a period of one year
- Revd. Mrs Thomas had resigned from the Committee, whilst offering her continued support for the activities of the Association.

Members present acknowledged Revd. Thomas' resignation and agreed that Mr Braney be granted leave of absence from the Committee for one year.

Members present elected the following as Members of the Committee:

Mr M Bradley; Miss J Farnaby; Mr M R Gillespie, Mr D Harris; Mr T M Ripley; Mr K Turner.

12 ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Members received advice that Mr Brand no longer wished to fulfil the role of Dinner Secretary.

Members agreed the assignment of responsibilities as follows:

- Membership Correspondence - Mr R Ward
- Membership Records - Mr P Graham
- Meetings and Minutes - Mr M F Peagam
- Dinner Arrangements - Mr R L Prichard (assisted by Mr R Ward)
- Yearbook Editorial - Mr P Graham
- Yearbook Advertisements and Publicity - Mr D Harris
- Sports Extravaganza - Mr T M Ripley

13 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.

14 COMMITTEE ISSUES

The Annual General Meeting noted a number of issues to be addressed by the Committee:

- Membership Recruitment Drive
 - consideration should be given by the Committee to increasing membership of the Association, in particular through promotion to pupils of Grangefield School and students of Stockton Sixth Form College.
- Image
 - consideration should be given by the Committee to improving the professional image of correspondence by the adoption of a suitable letterhead.
- Web-Site
 - the development of an Old Stocktonians Association Web-Site should be progressed, the site to incorporate a bulletin-board allowing Members of the Association to share correspondence and exchange addresses.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND

The funds remain sound and have been audited for the year ended 31st December 1999. On 1st January 1999 the credit balance at the Darlington Building Society was £2,018.44. One grant of £250 was made to a former student of the Sixth Form College who was travelling abroad to do voluntary work and one grant of £50 was made to a student of Grangefield who was unable to afford the full expenses of a Music Tour to Spain by a local orchestra.

No donations or repayments were received and interest of £24.14 net [tax paid £6.04] was earned. This gave a credit balance of £ 1,742.58 at the Building Society on 31st December 1999. Thanks once again to John Ingham for auditing the accounts.

Donations to the Benevolent Fund are always welcome and can be sent to Bob Ward with other money 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 1999-2000

The funds remain sound and have been audited for the year ended 30th June 2000. There was a 50% increase in subscriptions over last year giving £144.75. This is still down on the 1998 figure but is an upturn. The donations remain steady at around £ 150 - £160 giving an income from members of around £300. Building Society interest was down from £122 to £72 although the balance in the book remained around £3,500 as in the previous two years. The most pleasing aspect was producing a Year Book which virtually paid for itself ! Doug Harris is to be thanked for bringing in advertising to the tune of £395. The accounts do not show this as the cheques arrived after 30th June and included £40 above the 'Debtors' shown in the accounts. Well done Doug.

The Dinner, in its new form, was a success once more and hit its target of 40 guests. As we do not have the expense of a speaker we are able to price tickets at just above cost to us and still make a small profit. [All the hard work by the organiser is free!]

We arranged two trips during the year, a River Trip and a Brewery Visit. Although a small loss was incurred for publicity to local members, the trips were a success and further visits are planned for 2001. The King / Armstrong Prize Fund continues to increase because of donations and is healthy for the foreseeable future. The two prizes are worth £12 each and it is proposed to increase the value of each prize to £ 15.

We are now out of ties but a new stock is on order and will include bow ties for the first time! Stocks of 'History of the Association' are not selling and although the publication costs have been recouped, we need to realise the profit tied up.

Finally may I thank Peter Fleck, our Honorary Auditor.

**BRIAN BRAND
HON. TREASURER**

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74th Annual Dinner

The dinner followed last year's format and was informal - no guest speaker, just a forum for friends to meet and chat

Various members brought old school photographs, both formal and informal, these were perused and debated, leading to questions which needed research in some cases. If only Gordon Rattenbury could have been around to settle some of the arguments. I suppose it is only normal for two people to be in the same year and yet hardly meet. With our old "Sec" ways we had "M" and "Science" and after 50 years who remembers exactly the form we were in when we joined together to play Rugby ! I am often accused of being Science ! What would Tot Munday think' [Magister optimus]

Once again our table comprised mainly the 47- 52/54 brigade with Dave Nash, his wife Kath along with Don Moses, his wife Dorothy and Peter Gordon with Rosemary.

Joining "regulars" Chas and Joyce Willoughby, Tom Shield, Brian and Pat Brand. We certainly had a few tales to tell, mainly old ones !

Present at the Dinner :

Roz Prichard, Carole Prichard, Elizabeth Prichard, Nancy Finch MBE, Agnes Sowler, Tom Shield, Dave Nash, Kathleen Nash, Don Moses, Dorothy Moses, Charles Willoughby, Joyce Willoughby, Brian Brand, Pat Brand, Peter Gordon, Rosemary Gordon, Paul Graham, Janice Graham, Derek Graham, Linda Graham, Colin Mustard, Ted Cooper, Geoff Ward, Alan Haile, Doug Harris, Howard Russell, Brian Reed, Dave Owen, Ian Ross, Keith Turner, Peter Sowler, Bob Ward, Kathleen Ward, Martin Peagam, Janice Peagam, Ray Gillespie, Anne Gillespie, Martin Gillespie, Joanne Gillespie.

Brian Brand

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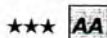
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Captain Cook's Remains

Monday 14th February 2001 marked the 222nd anniversary of Captain Cook's death, and one Cook enthusiast thinks the time relics of the famous explorer should get a decent burial in England.

CLIFF THORNTON (1958-65), former Middlesbrough museums' curator, believes he has traced one of Captain James Cook's bones to an Australian museum. If he can prove its authenticity he would like it to be returned to England for a decent burial, preferably in the grounds of the church where the great explorer was baptized - St Cuthbert's, Marton. Cliff, president of the Captain Cook Study Unit, is best known as the curator who turned the idea of a Captain Cook Birthplace Museum into a reality. Now at 53, he's a community services manager with Basildon Council in Essex.

"Though I left Teesside a long time ago I'm a Teessider and I've never quite been able to shake off Cook's influence. In fact my interest has grown rather diminished and I'm now president of the Captain Cook Study Unit, an enthusiasts' organisation with 400 members worldwide."

"I think we've tracked down one of the bones of Captain Cook. If we can prove it and the Australians are prepared to return it, what I really want to know is where it should come back to". "Should it be to Marton, the parish of his birth, Marske where his father is buried, Great Ayton where there are many Cook family graves, or should it go to Cambridge to be placed next to that of his wife Elizabeth who died in 1830?" Despite all the research since his death on February 14, 1779, there's still a great deal to be found out. "When Cook first visited Hawaii in November 1778 it was during the festival of the fair skinned god Lono, whose return was prophesied. He was regarded as the personification of Lono and revered."

But when he returned the following year, the islanders stole one of *Resolution's* boats. So Cook, using a ploy which had worked before, tried to take a chief hostage but instead he and four marines were left dead on the beach.

"When Cook was killed his body was divided up among the chiefs and some days later they brought some of his remains to the *Resolution* wrapped in palm fronds. "These were buried at sea." Cliff believes that those bones, which were not handed back to his crew, were retained at the Lono temple and carried around the islands as part of the festival. In 1824 King Kamehameha II and his wife visited England, apparently bringing Cook's bones to return to the nation or his family, but they died before they could hand over the bones.

"There is then a gap of some 50 years before we hear of the bones again." said Cliff. "In 1878 they were reported to be in the possession of a leading London surgeon William Adams. "It was approaching the centenary of Captain Cook's death and there was a lot of interest. "He is understood to have handed over one bone - a fibula - to the Agent-General for New South Wales and that he, in turn, passed it to Australia. "It is supposed to be somewhere in the Australian Museum in Sydney.

"It is not on display but the keeper of anthropology has confirmed that they have a bone which is, allegedly, Cook's. "If DNA can be taken from the bone and compared with Cook's hair - there are two locks in the NSW State Library - it should be possible to establish if the bone is indeed Captain Cook's."

"Cook's sister Margaret married a Redcar fisherman called Fleck, and on that side there are many descendants. So I'm trying to contact members of Fleck family who are, properly, the people who could request the bone's return." says Cliff.

His own preference is that if the bone exists and is proved to be Cook's that it should be buried at Marton Parish Church.

OUR SPORTING LIFE SPORTS EXTRAVAGANZA - 2000

In 2001 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.

The 47 - 52/54 YEAR GROUP – by Brian Brand

Hard to believe that it's a year since I sent a circular. What's happened?

January - Paul Dee called in to the Parkwood and met up with Jim Coltman, Jack Candlin, Walter Howells, Jack Gilliland, Tom Shield, Jim Durrant and me. It was good to see Walter and he and Jack Gilliland had a good "natter". I believe it was the first time since the Sec. that Paul and Jim Coltman had met! Jim Durrant, as always, was welcomed as teacher and friend. Don and Paul reminded him of the hiking trips he had organised and how much they had enjoyed them.

May - Several of us met up at the OSA dinner, forming our own table. Don & Dorothy Moses, Charlie & Joyce Willoughby, Dave & Kath Nash, Tom Shield, Pat & me. Charlie's cousin Peter Gordon and his wife Rosemary joined us. As last year the chat went on until late and many an old yarn was given new life. As Charles said, it's like opening an old filing cabinet! Part of the fun was to listen to [and add to] the contradiction. It's amazing how one event can be seen in so many different ways after 50 years! It was all good fun and the wives enjoyed it too, I think!

August / September - John Walton called in during a short visit to Stockton. As usual a meet was arranged at the Parkwood and Jack Candlin, Tom Shield, Eddie Pinder and I were able to fill in the odd thirty years since John left for Canada. Don and Dorothy Moses had met up with John and his wife, Margaret, a few weeks previously at their home in Grimsby [Ontario!]. Don and Dorothy returned home as John and Margaret left Stockton! Incidentally, I discovered John and Margaret were celebrating their ruby wedding whilst in Stockton. Belated congratulations!

What happened next? Well I organized a table at the OSA dinner in April 2001.

FORMER STUDENTS HERE AND THERE

LET'S HAVE A SPECIAL EFFORT FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM !!

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 !!

It's amazing what you can start with a simple (?) phrase. In the 99/00 magazine Harry Rhodes' mention of "gym-slipped lovelies" prompted ANNE BROWN (nee SEAMAN) (1941-47) to reply with a letter in June 2000. Ann who now lives in Suffolk had been sent the article by Don Smith and commented that "it did this mature lady no harm at all" to be remembered thus. She and her husband DAVID TERRY (1942-49) met at a VJ Party at St Peter's in 1945 and were married in 1953. After taking a commission in the RAF Terry joined the staff of the 'old Grammar School' as Head of Maths and left after 15 years to do the same job at Grangefield Girls. Anne, after having four children, taught at Mill Lane School before they moved to Suffolk to take up new teaching posts. Having been in there for 30 years they have lost touch with SSS people they knew but do 'bump' into them on occasions. They met JERRY BUTLER (1942-49) at a concert at Audley End

- a stately home near them - he was playing piano at a Jazz Concert ! Their daughter **HEATHER ANNE (1965-72)** was at Grangefield when her mother's first form mistress, Miss Stevens, still reigned. Heather is still in the North as Head of Modern Languages at Newcastle Royal Grammar School. Anne is sorry to have to add that although she remembered the name 'Harry Rhodes' she couldn't put a face or location to it. Her husband also remembered Harry but they couldn't spot him on any of the photographs they have of sport teams. The other names mentioned by Harry are on a photo Anne has of form VA (1946) with their form mistress Miss Precious. The late **JEAN HATTON**, who married **KEN SHERATON**, is also on the photograph and Anne expressed her sadness at hearing (from **ALLAN THOMPSON** in October '99) that Jean had recently died.

A re-confirmation of his Cheshire address and a most generous donation was received from **NORMAN CARR (1939-44)** together with the following news. Having renewed contact with **BILL CHARNLEY (1939-44)**, who is now living in Kent, and mention of him by Harry Rhodes last year prompted Norman to send him the report of Harry's letter. Bill responded quickly saying that he was unable to recall the incident of the German incendiary bomb (and neither can Norman) - and added that if it is not a case of mistaken identity they both 'have cause for concern'. [Does anybody else out there remember the incident ? - Editor]

A generous top up of subs (which should 'see him' well into his 90s) but no other news from 'Dick' **CHAPPELL (1931-37)**.

SYLVIA CLARK (nee BEST) (1956-63) confirms her address and adds that her daughter **LORRAINE CLARK (1986-89)** is currently working in London testing new drugs (on volunteers !)

A short reply from **TED COOPER (1957-62)**, together with a willingness to participate in the 'trips', but no other news for the moment.

PAUL DEE (1947-54) sent us a brief note soon after receiving the last magazine wherein **DAVE NASH (1951-54)** reckoned that they were the only two still working from their era. He states that he formally retires from the University this Summer (2000) but is travelling to Norway to do locum jobs in Kristiansand and thence to Bergen for 4 months. Later he hopes to fix up a six-month locum job in New Zealand in 2001, so he couldn't really say he's stopped working - despite his "academic career being over". "As a swan song", he adds, "the 3rd edition of my text book on chest radiology will be out in May (2000) - the price will be over \$250 a copy!". Which makes the British price some £200+. Such books, he concludes, only sell a few thousand copies and at 1000 pages with 1800 high quality photos of X-ray & CT images are enormously expensive to produce. This edition will definitely be his last !

Together with his address confirmation and a top up of subs. **GRAEME DEWISON (1947-54)** adds that his photo of the "year of '47" now has pride of place at home and he sends good wishes to all his friends of that era.

After a brief 'disappearance' we were pleased to get a Canadian address update on **MALCOLM DUNCAN (1948-52)**. Malcolm is the brother-in-law of **KEN WHITFIELD (1932-37)**, who was the source of our 'update'.

KEN DUTTON (1962-69) recently made contact with **KEITH TURNER (1962-69)** via a somewhat circuitous route and was directed to the OSA website from which he made contact with the Association. Having escaped paying a membership for 31 years Ken now "feels duty bound to actually join OSA (a small 50th birthday present to myself) - sad or what !". Ken was sad to notice in the magazine that the only name of his era he noticed was **TERRY WILSON (1962-69)**. Having ordered several back copies of the Magazine Ken has duly paid for 11 years subs and hopes to get a table of contemporaries for the Dinner in April 2001 - we look forward to meeting him !

Another response to Harry Rhodes letter about "gym-slipped lovelies" came from **MAVIS PUGH** (?) (now **ELLIOTT**) who was sent the article by the daughter of an old friend of hers. Mavis and 12 of the girls in the photograph had a 'get-together' in early 2000, as they had all reached the age of 70, and Mavis took along the article. Unfortunately, because Harry was in a lower year than them, they couldn't really remember him. They reckoned that at that age they were more focussed on boys *older* than they were. [Funny how tastes change as you get older – Editor] Mavis was kind enough to send us a copy of a photo taken at their get-together to show us "how some of the girls have 'weathered' ". [I believe that Bob Ward has passed the photo onto Harry – Editor] Mavis' Aunt Florence (Pugh) attended SSS and gave Mavis a copy of a photo of the teachers at the school in about 1929; Mavis was amazed to see how many of them were still there when she started in 1941 ! In addition to her aunt, Mavis' cousin and father attended SSS and her daughters Jacqueline and Sandra went to Grangefield in the late 60s. To complete the connection Mavis' husband, Tom, was taught at night school by the late Tom Sowler.

It was nice to get a note from **JOHN ELLIS (1940-46)** together with a confirmation of his Preston address and a donation to funds. "Like Virgin Trains", he adds, "I proceed, but only slowly, aided by a miscellany of pills supplied by the local hospital". Despite these problems John manages frequent visits to Scotland and occasionally to Europe but finds the long haul journeys too much of a strain. John was pleased to see, in our last magazine, that his old friend **BARRY WIGGINS (1940-46)** is still going strong and fondly remembers their long gone days of rivalry in maths topics.

We received an e-mail from **JOHN ENGLAND (1960-65)** very recently with news that, after ten years working for a large consultancy firm, he set up a town planning consultancy, England & Lyle, based in Darlington, with a colleague five years ago and they are now well established as one of the leading practices in this field in the North of England. John had started working on a PhD at Newcastle University on a part-time basis before setting up the new business and was awarded his doctorate in 1997, for research on assessing the impact of new shopping developments. Last year he completed a book based on the PhD thesis on 'Retail Impact Assessment: a guide to best practice', which has been published by Routledge. John said that he seems to have been moving gradually further away from the local area in recent years, first from Eaglescliffe to Darlington and last year to Scorton, but he is still a Stocktonian at heart. He sends best wishes to all those people from Stockton he remembers well and still sees occasionally. John also sent a most generous donation to the OSA which has, he feels, survived well through changing times since he was at Grangefield in the 1960s, and he hopes that we shall continue to thrive. [Many thanks for your good wishes and generous donation John – Editor]

PETER GORDON (1955-59) renewed his acquaintance with the Association at the Annual Dinner; we hope to have more news of his 'fortunes' in the next issue. Peter's mother was also a pupil at the SSS.

JOHN GREEN (1940-46) wrote to us early in the year from Perth to thank us for the magazine and to say that he met **JOHN A. SMITH (1946-51)** and his wife Pat twice in 1999. The first time was on his annual winter trip to Somerset and once on the train between Fort William and Rannoch – "the most picturesque line in the country". John had arranged to meet them on the outward journey the day before but had misjudged how long it would take to drive along the single track road to Rannoch – especially when following a low loader for part of the stretch and getting caught up in the 'annual' road repairs. Luckily he knew their return time from Fort William and so was able to make it there before the train arrived. John A. enjoys his time woodcarving and keeps fit with short local cycle rides. John himself had to sell his own bicycle on moving to Perth as he had had problems getting on and off safely. However it had served him well, having bought it from 'Billy' Eagling in Norton High Street for £19-12-0 (£19.60 today) in 1948 !

A change of address (duly noted) from South Gosforth to High Heaton in Newcastle from Dr. **JOHN GREENAWAY (1983-85)** but no news about how he has fared since qualifying in Medicine from Newcastle University in 1992.

DOUG HARRIS (1967-73) is a stalwart of the Committee and was instrumental in obtaining the advertising which enabled us to almost cover our costs for the Yearbook, something that hasn't happened for a number of years – for that alone he deserves our heartiest congratulations and thanks. At present Doug is Health (?) & Safety Officer at the County's recycling plant in Yarm Road and has had to get to grips with all the related legislation, not just for the present but also for the coming years – we wish him luck ! Now we have a re-designed tie Doug has become an early purchaser of both varieties !

JOHN HEDLEY (1951-58) included a substantial donation to funds when he confirmed his address. Although John has been most generous with donations over the years we have no real news since 1990 when he was working for a computer company based in Slough. At the same time he mentioned "Mad Margaret" and "the fiddler on Speech day" which I expected to provoke some reaction but, sad to say, no one wrote to say they remembered them or enlightened us as to the reasons for their 'notoriety'. [Perhaps this mention will – Editor]

We would presume that **PAUL HELLIWELL (1949-54)** ("class of '47") has, by now, stopped his globetrotting sorting out 'water problems' for communities; this was the last news we had from Paul some 10 years ago. Although he regularly confirms his address and adds donations – a most generous one this year – we like to have the newsprint too.

We welcome **RICHARD HORNE (1965-71)** as a new member and he has shown his faith by including ten years subs and purchasing a tie. Sadly no other news at the moment.

RICHARD HUMBLE (1980-87) writes to tell us that he had finished his first six months training in General Practice in Inverness, which he thoroughly enjoyed, and had returned to do his final two hospital posts (Paediatrics/Psychiatry), also in Inverness. After this he will be back out into practice again in 2001. Richard is still hill-walking and adds that, for the record, he finished the Munros in 1996, just before he went to New Zealand. However there are plenty of hills still to walk and repeat climbs to be done.

In adding a nice donation to funds **WILF HUME (1924-29)** comments that (at 87 ?) he is probably a bit too old for the trips we planned in 2000. It's always nice to hear from him on any occasion,

Last time we heard from **JOHN KITCHIN (1959-66)** [sorry about the G on the end of your name last time John – Editor] he was contemplating a move out of the pharmaceutical industry (after 20 years). Although we were very pleased to receive his generous donation to funds John didn't add any information to bring us up to date with his current 'movements'.

ALAN LAKE (1957-60) nicely topped up subs (to 2011) and enquired about Life Membership. I'm sorry to say Alan that we decided to stop such membership more than 20 years ago as rising printing and postage costs would have meant having to charge a prohibitive sum. Alan still keeps fit and, since retiring from Barclays, is now in his fourth season as the Operations Manager and Matchday Coordinator for Bedford Rugby Club. By way of apology for his handwriting Alan asked who was the member of staff in charge of that skill at Grangefield – they have a lot to answer for. [We've seen a lot worse Alan and it seems that perhaps you didn't come up through the 'Ken Whitfield school of handwriting, spelling & printing' – Editor]. Alan has had a Christmas card from **DAVE TINKLER (1955-61?)** during the last couple of years but didn't have a note of his address to respond and asked if we could help. Unfortunately we don't have Dave listed as one of our members and so cannot give Alan the details – can anyone out there help ?

No information to add from **ARTHUR LONG (1952-57)** but a confirmation of address and a nice subs 'top up'. The last we heard about Arthur's 'activities' was that he was working for Trinity House as a Chief Engineer – we presume he is now retired.

ROGER MASON (1954-61) still visits Stockton twice a year with his daughter who 'loves the dear old town' [There's not much of the 'old' part left now – Editor]. Roger, we gather, still lives in Chelmsford but we have not had recent news of 'activities'.

We were brought fairly well 'up to date', by **COLIN MUSTARD (1955-60)** last year but true to form he still writes us a short note again this year together with a nice donation to funds. On his trip to China in 1999, he mentioned in his last letter, he managed to fit in a cruise through the Yangtze Gorges and later in the year visited friends in New York.

It was especially nice to see **DAVE NASH (1951-54)** at this year's Dinner and we thank him for his efforts to attend from the 'deep south'.

Another new member in the shape of **DAVID OWEN (1967-73)** who we anticipate meeting at the Dinner this year. No other news to add at the moment.

Having had his address changed for him **FRED PALLETT (1936-41)** made his own decision in early 2000 to make the change. Although still resident in South Africa he is now in Howick, which is a 'retirement village' in Kwa Zulu Natal province.

A nice donation from **R. PURNELL (1924-29)** together with address confirmation, but no news to report.

It is here that we pause to take breath. We feel lucky if we get one letter a year from a member we rarely get two but this year we have had three (!) from **HARRY RHODES (1941-46)**. Mind you, don't get us wrong we're certainly not complaining; in fact the more the merrier! Our comment about the 'boy with the cleft stick' prompted Harry to comment that such transportation is the 'property of the (Australian) Government'. We also owe him profound apologies for the line we omitted from the poem by D.O. Gerel [doggerel] which he penned to us last year – we repeat it this year when (as I write this) the weather is more apt! He offers apologies to any ladies who might have been embarrassed by having their names mentioned in print. [Far from it Harry, the only responses we've had have been quite the opposite. See above. – Editor]. Harry corrects a couple of errors that crept into the text in 'his section' last year. It should have been **OLWEN ROUTLEDGE** and not Olive and **GORDON SMITH** not Gordon Brown crossed the line in front of him in the '46 relay. Harry also speculates on the odds of two Stocktonians, at Nelson Terrace at the same time working in the same Marine Office at HM Australian Naval Dockyard; a fact that happened when **MIKE WILLIAMS (1943-48)** and he met up in 1969. Mike was an Engineer and Harry was in the Draughting Office. Mike went on to become the Manager of the Department. After 13 years of the 'Establishment' Harry got fed up and bought a farm in the New England Highlands of NSW. It was not all sweetness and light however there were times when his "arrow did not fly straight to the mark" – more like pinned his foot to the floor. He asks if anyone else has attempted to dig over a 25 acre field using a garden spade! He didn't manage to do it all but he did get a lovely tan and he did give hours of amusement to the hens and pigs. Eventually a small motorised plough made the job easier. His finances improved, he adds, when he opened a 'one man' drawing office in Gilgai – a village with one store, one petrol pump, one (wooden) church, a tennis club and a dried up creek bed. And the nearest pub? That was 12 miles away! Surprisingly the venture proved quite successful but, with a growing family, he decided he needed more 'stability' and moved back to "Civilisation" – and work in the Construction Department of Monsanto Chemicals, Melbourne, retiring as supervisor, which is how he now comes to live in Victoria. Harry adds that he wouldn't have missed his years in the "Australian Bush" for anything [Other than a Castlemaine XXXX? – Editor]. However when it came time to ship the pigs off for the last time he felt like he was selling off members of the family and perhaps he wasn't cut out for a farming life.

Fred Pallett's reference to HMS Tees had Harry reaching for 'Jane's Fighting Ships' for identification and details. Harry also echoes Fred's comments about those of the Association who keep so many in touch over such vast areas. His own 'house connections' to Stockton refer to 'Green Lane', which conjure up many romantic memories for him and his wife Pat.

Harry apologises profusely for the 'mix up' in respect of Bill Chamley (see Norman Carr entry above) and is desolated that he has 'hero-worshipped' the wrong person for 58 years !! He now thinks that it probably wasn't Bill who hoisted **ERNIE SOCKET's (?)** red prefect's cap to the top of the flagpole in front of the school. Before reaching for the tablets he would like Bill to confirm that he was really his "Bass" in 'B' Coy. 17th Battalion Para. Having heard before this publication that several of the 'gymslip lovelies' failed to remember him he adds that he shouldn't have been too surprised. In those days his main priorities seemed to be rugby, running and the ATC (266 Sqdn.), leaving him little time for other 'pursuits'. Mind you he was surprised, given that **SHEILA GLADDERS** was a guest at his wedding when he and **PAT (HYMER)** were married in 1955. And, he adds, how could **JENNY HANDLEY** forget the little chap who shared a desk with her in Miss Sanderson's class at Richard Hind Junior in 1941 ? Others Harry thinks might have remembered include **JOYCE SIDEBOTTOM & JEAN LACK** via Lightfoot Grove Baptist Church and **VERA DOBSON** who was on the receiving end of his "schoolboy poems". Finally he asks if **BERYL FINCH** was one of the ladies concerned and if so was she the one who lived in Bishopton Road next door to the "Griffiths". Harry asks if Norman Carr is any relation to **BOB CARR (1941- ?)** who he last met in 'The Maison' in March 1953. Bob said at the time he was emigrating to Chester, Pennsylvania in the USA. Does anyone have any information on Bob ? In August Harry and his wife visited Stockton only to be laid low by (we hasten to add) a 'foreign bug' which ruined their whole plans. However he did meet **LEN POPE (1927-31)** who wondered why, as a Life Member, he never received the magazine these days. [In 1979, after many reminders, the Association 'purged' those members who had not replied over a period of about 3 years and we stopped sending magazines. This effectively reduced Life Members from over 600 to under 200 and saved a lot of wasted postage – Editor] When we received Harry's letter in November he still had the remnants of the infection, we trust he is OK now.

By coincidence **GRAHAM ROBERTSON (1959-66)** and Andy Wilkins (see below) have ended up working together in the same section in NATO Headquarters at SHAPE. Thanks to Andy's persistence Graham has 'rejoined' the Association [You are indeed a Life Member, Graham, but we lost touch through your Hartburn address some time ago – hence our lack of contact. – Editor] On leaving school Graham joined the RAF as an engineer and spent the intervening years travelling around the world, with postings in Hong Kong, Norway, Belgium and shorter stays in exotic spots like Africa, Canada, the Far East, the Middle East and Falkland Islands. In between he managed a year as "a very mature student" reading for an MPhil in International Relations at St. John's College, Cambridge. Retiring as a Wing Commander in 1998 Graham now works for NATO in Belgium although he still spends much of his time travelling to all points from North cape to eastern Turkey. His spare time is taken up by sailing, skiing, walking (he still misses the North York Moors) and trying to catch up with friends like **DAVE RICHARDSON (1960-67)** who, he informs us, "hides just south of Edinburgh".

In response to our mention of his name in last year's Magazine **KENNETH SHERATON (1940-44)** wrote to say that he is one and the same and very kindly included a most generous donation to funds. Sadly, Ken had to report that his wife **JEAN ELIZABETH SHERATON (nee HATTON) (1941-46)** passed away in August 1999. Ken noted that the very last remains of the 'Old Sec' have disappeared. The buildings were demolished some time ago but the air-raid shelters were still there at the beginning of 2000. He notes that the school was evacuated to Ragworth Hall in Norton in 1940 until the shelters were built. Ken can remember them being used only once, and that was a false alarm. They trooped to the shelters one morning, pleased that they were missing a Latin lesson. But no! 'Tot' Monday soon turned up with his 'tickling stick' and had them reciting "Vis, Blank, Vim, Blank, Blank, Vi" etc.. Where are all those wartime "boys" now he asks ? Ashman, Bartlett, Bedlington, Bendelow and SNG Thomas – let's hear from you !

Ken's daughter **SARAH SHERATON (1972-77)** was attending a 'Computing for Beginners' course at Stockton Sixth Form College when she wrote to us in 2000 and commented on how helpful and rewarding it had been. We hope that she has now progressed onto the daytime CLAIT course and the Internet. Sarah mentioned that her mother had enjoyed a lifelong friendship with **MAVIS ELLIOT (nee PUGH)** and that Mavis now lives in Scotland with husband Tom. Sarah has a daughter, Dee, who is doing well at school (Year 3?) and is a keen member of

the local Brownie pack. Sarah would love to hear from fellow pupils who were at Grangefield with her from 1972 to 1977 in forms 1G, 2CO, 3NL, 4HA and 5??

We were pleased that **TOM SHIELD (1947-52)** could join us at the Dinner once again this year, sadly no other news.

The customary letter and donation to funds duly arrived from **DON SMITH (1933-40)** in 2000, but "nothing much to report this time" he says. He has been in touch with **JACK ROUTLEDGE (1933-38)** in Sandy, Beds. an address he notes as an "interesting juxtaposition" [I've thought that for a while Don - Editor. However the last magazine we sent Jack (in 1998) was returned marked 'Gone Away'. Perhaps you could give us his latest address.]; **DENNIS RUSSELL (?)** who lives near Banbury and **BOB HEATHCOTE (1934-40)** who lives near Abergavenny. Don enjoyed a weekend with his cousin **RAY COUNTER (1931-36)** celebrating his Ruby Wedding Anniversary in September 1999 with a pleasant meal in Castleton. From the hotel window they looked down on the field by the Esk where they had spent some happy pre-war camping holidays. The following day they went on a tour of the Moors : Osmotherley - Chop Gate - Danby - Helmsley (Sutton Bank top) and home via Bilsdale to Great Ayton. In one afternoon they covered a distance which had taken days in the 30s on their bikes. Don adds that he enjoyed the account of the river cruise and wished he could have been part of it, especially after his experiences of that stretch of the tidal Tees undertaken in a kayak in the 30s, which stranded him and his brother short of their campsite on the Leven.

A substantial top up of subs from **SUE SOUTHERN (nee FARRER) (1978-81)** but sadly no news to add to the last major correspondence in 1992.

A top up of subs from **KEITH TURNER (1960-67)**, who remains a stalwart member of the committee and organiser of 'outings'. Keith will have taken a 'party' down the Boulby Potash Mine in North Yorkshire (and back up we hope - Editor) by the time you read this and we look forward to his report for the magazine next year.

For several years in the past we used to 'rib' **PAUL VITTLES (1978-80)** about the fact that as it was a new year he should have a new address. Paul had 'slowed down' such activities in recent years but he 'hit the trail' again in the Summer of 2000. Still in York, Paul, with four fellow directors, recently completed a Management Buy Out of his former parent company. He now has the "grand title of Chairman and Managing Director of RBA Research" in addition to being the leading shareholder. Despite such 'distractions' Paul still managed to fit in his stepson's graduation, several weddings/wedding receptions (including **DAVID GILLILAND (1978-80?)**) and 'acquire' the title of Chair of External Relations for the Local Authorities Research & Intelligence Association (LARIA). He promises to up-date us on 'other happenings' in 2001 !!

It was nice to see **GEOFFREY WARD (1955-62)** at the Dinner again this year, no other news to add however.

A 'new technology' letter (i.e. e-mail) from **MIKE WATSON (1949-56)** in sunny "Sar Thefrica", the first to be published in the magazine. Mike was reading the 1999/2000 edition of "The New Stocktonian" a day or two after it arrived, and noted the President's invitation to send an e-mail message. He searched for the e-mail address but without success and said to his wife "That is rather silly. The Association invite e-mails but don't give an address!"

His wife Elaine went rather quiet and disappeared for a few moments. She reappeared shortly with the shreds of the covering letter and application form for the Annual Dinner, which had been despatched to the waste paper basket. Elaine deals with the mail and thought there would be little need for the document! They jointly managed to put the letter together again and "bingo" the e-mail duly arrived ! To be fair it wasn't the first such mail we received but it is (in terms of alphabetical order) the first to be published ! [The others were also from the "W" section of the alphabet. Coincidence or what ? - Editor] Mike reminds us that they have been living in 'Sar Thefrica' for 30 years now, having gone there on contract for two years and not having got around to going back to England, other than for holidays. Both of their children returned to UK.

Son, Guy, is a pilot with KLMuk and daughter, Dawn, a chemist working near Manchester with a German-owned company, although she and her husband will shortly be moving on to pastures new in Australia. This year's edition is the first in which Mike found no names of pupils from his era of 1949 to 1956, although three of the then staff were mentioned - Gordon Rattenbury, Ken Whitfield and J.J.Durrant. "It appears", he adds, "that the teachers were made of tougher stuff than their pupils!" He also noticed in the analysis of current members that four are living in Africa. One is his cousin, **IAN GRAY (1958-65)**, but he is interested to know who the remaining two were and in which part of the continent they live. Mike was also interested to read of the cruise along the Tees and, apart from the "flashers", of people actually swimming in it. It reminded him of his brief sojourn as a member of the school rowing club. At the time he rather fancied trying his hand at the skulls and was fairly enthusiastic until one evening, when the crew were managing to pull together with unprecedented co-ordination, he caught a "crab" and was promptly hurled out of the boat into the river. In those days the river, which acted, he thinks, as the main sewer outfall for Stockton, was full of all sorts of things and certainly not salmon and nude bathers. In order that, next time he receives the New Stocktonian, Mike is not left with the feeling that he does not have too many years left on this planet he mentions a few names of those of his generation who, hopefully, are still around somewhere: **JOHN WISHLADE, KEITH BODDY, DAVE WELLS, DAVE ALLISON, DAVE MEEK, PETER DAWSON, MIKE HUMPHRIES, HUMPHREY WOOD, GORDON BELSHAW, DAVE WILBRAHAM, IAN BENZIES, TREVOR EDEN**. Mike was also a member of the cross-country team which operated under the supervision of **Ken Whitfield** to whom he sends his regards, together with **Jim Durrant**, who had the misfortune to teach Mike Chemistry until 1954. "No doubt", he adds, "with the passage of time, the great healer, he has forgotten!" Finally, Mike expressed his appreciation to those dedicated people who keep the Association alive and asked us to let them know that their efforts are not wasted. He, as he is sure do all other members, get considerable pleasure from the "Stocktonian" which keeps alive our memories of the past although we live so far away. Mike's father, **RICHARD WATSON (1914-19 ?)**, [We have 1916 to 1920 for an R. Watson in Great Ayton - Editor] was a keen member and registered Mike as a "Life Member" in 1956 for the princely sum of 30 shillings. Mike doubts that many investments could match the return which this one has given.

Many thanks to **AIDAN WHITFIELD (1971-78)** who, in addition to a subs top up, gave a nice donation to funds. Sadly no other news of recent 'activities' to add.

It was very good to see Aidan's father, **KEN WHITFIELD (1932-37)(Staff : 1951 - 1982)**, at the Remembrance Service held at Grangefield School in November 2000. Ken laid the wreath on the 1914-18 Memorial on behalf of the Association. The event was especially emotional for Ken as two of the names on the 1939-45 Board were classmates and long time friends of his. Ken himself had more than a 'passing interest' in the 1939-45 War. Training as a pilot in the USA his first posting was to Edinburgh and then to Biggin Hill, from where he flew 23 sorties over France and the Low Countries. Eventually his 'luck' ran out and after being 'shot up' he managed to land near Folkestone despite being wounded. Following his return to duties Ken was given the task of testing the new Spitfire IX, which was being developed to counter the threat from the German FW 190s. A posting to Gibraltar looked inviting but the operational duties were mainly concerned with low level patrols seeking out German & Italian submarines - a somewhat uneventful activity. With the attack on the Italian mainland Ken was then involved in providing air support at Cassino and Anzio. From then until the end of the War meteorological duties in North Africa became the order of the day and life was relatively unexciting. At the end of the War Ken joined up for a further year and was posted to Middleton St George (now Teesside Airport) where he was the Education Officer. On leaving the RAF he decided to take up teaching and spent 4 years training before returning to Grangefield in 1951.

Discussion of the RAF brings me nicely onto our next correspondent (**Squadron Leader**) **ANDY WILKINS (1968-73)**. Having 'lost touch' with Andy for several years it was excellent to receive a phone call and letter in late 2000. Since we last heard from Andy he has lived in Northumberland 1989-92; Cyprus 1992-94; Norwich 1994-97 and for the last four years in Belgium where he works at SHAPE. Andy is a fairly regular visitor to the area as he has two boys (aged 11 and 13) who are boarders at Barnard Castle School and he picks them up at end of terms etc.. However

on such visits he says he rarely sees anyone he knows apart from the usual SRUFC 'suspects' "Jugs Moore et al". He does however recall that he and Doug Harris "got into many scrapes together" particularly during the first year of the VI Form College "but more of that later" he adds. Andy would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers him and would like to get I touch.

An address confirmation and subs top up from **DAVID C. F. WILLIAMS (1959-62)** but no other details to add to those he gave us two years ago.

MIKE WILLIAMS (1943-48) writes to express his appreciation for the "99-00 New Stocktonian". As usual it prompted some vivid memories, none sharper than that triggered by Frank Bowen's mention of the King/Brooke musical appreciation sessions. 'Tashy' Lee joined T.B. for one session playing piano duets. The two seemed to develop into something of a competition, and the final crescendo of one piece was followed by the crash of a window as the sash cords broke. Both very determined gentlemen, and it seemed a fitting conclusion. But Mike also owes a love of country walking to T.B., which he stirred in outings to Osmotherly and over the ridge to Mt Grace Priory, followed by later class outings around Stainmore. 'Tot' Munday has been a life long inspiration in ensuring that the spare pencil (pen) was always there to replace the spare that had gone missing to the ablativo absolute. I regret the lack of names on the back of the one class photograph I still retain from the Nelson Terrace days, but some people still linger in the mind. Harry Rhodes of course I met again in my working days here in Australia, and also the late Michael Sizer. Where, I wonder is, Dennis his brother? I would also like to hear of the Walker twins whom Bryan Arthur mentioned.

An e-mail from **PETER WIMBERLEY (1955-62)** who sends warm greetings to John Ingham, who helped him on the road to a medical career. Peter is continuing his work as a Consultant Clinical Biochemist in the Hospital Laboratory of Aalborg Hospital, in the north of Jutland, Denmark. Peter suggests an idea, which we had already thought of, - the collection and dissemination of member's e-mail addresses. However we are not sure how we are 'fixed' under the Data Protection Act for the dissemination of such data.

Forty-nine years after he left Stockton Secondary School it was great to hear from **EDDIE WOOD (1946-51?)** [We do have a note of an R E Wood from York Crescent in Billingham who was a new member in 1951, is that the same person? - Editor]. On leaving school at 16, where he claims he "didn't have a glittering career" Eddie became an Mechanical Engineering Apprentice and served in the Merchant Navy as an engineering officer. He "got a few qualifications on the way", worked in a few small companies in Teesside in "dogsbody managerial jobs" and eventually joined an American Company in Newton Aycliffe. From there he 'emigrated' to the Nottingham area in 1970 where he worked in production engineering and production engineering management until 1976. Eddie then joined a London based company as a sales engineer before starting his own precision engineering company in 1979. In 1985 Eddie sold his company and became 'semi-retired', eventually he re-entered the 'fray' in 1988, where he has competed to date. Following a flirtation with Ireland from 1990 when he was also involved in the B & B business Eddie has now returned to live in the Nottingham area. Eddie has two daughters, one living close by in Nottingham and the other in Stuttgart, Germany where her German husband teaches English and History in a Gymnasium. Eddie's wife gained her degree in Politics with East European Studies from Nottingham University in July 2000 and now works in both a primary school and Citizens' Advice Bureau. From the recent Year Book Eddie received he noted several names who were contemporaries. In particular he remembers Graeme Dewison who was also in his class at primary school. Eddie knew **FRED JACKSON (1953-59)** from the days when Fred was Manager of the Bradford Property Trust in Billingham. Fred was a contemporary of Eddie's late brother Ron. Although he is now 'of retirement age' Eddie still works a 37½ hour week but feels that he has a little more time now for relaxation. He enclosed subs for 10 years as an "encouragement . . . to stay alive to get my money's worth". Eddie added the following footnote: "... despite wasting my time at school I realise that I have benefited from the kind of education I received. I think I have many more interests e.g. music, history ... than I would have had otherwise" [I think these are sentiments many of us have expressed over the years of this Association - Editor]

GORDON RATTENBURY - A Personal Appreciation by Brian Brand

My brother Ken was at the Sec. 1935-39 and like Gordon spent the Second World War in uniform.

I started at the Sec. in 1947 and was quizzed about the teachers at the end of my first day. I found that many of my new teachers had taught my brother and more importantly, from an 11 year olds view, he knew the teachers' nicknames! I had "Creamy" Manners for French for one term then "Snuzzle" Hughes for two terms. My introduction to "Rats" Rattenbury was in the second year and he was my French teacher for 4 years. I can't remember ever falling foul of him, or indeed anyone being given a hard time. I was fascinated by a foreign language that was being used, as opposed to my Latin that was part of History. French was never a drudge and although Gordon must have despaired at my attempts to pronounce in French rather than English, he was never impatient. I now realise that my nasal speech for English was an advantage with this new language. With Gordon's help I passed my "O" level with flying colours and moved on to the Science Sixth. I had two regrets at that time. I had been unable to go on the school trip to Paris and although I would have loved to have taken "A" French, I was "Science" and there was no "mixing" Arts & Science in Grangefield, as the Sec. had then become. It is a testament to Gordon that even after nearly 50 years I can remember the thrill of realising I was reading and understanding a French story and yet I was not aware of translating in my head.

8 years passed – University, I.C.I., National Service, University again, before I met up with Gordon again. As a new Physics graduate I was starting my first teaching job! I had George "Tashy" Lee as my H.O.D. and as he had been my teacher as a pupil I asked him how we should address each other. "I'll call you Brian and you call me Mr. Lee" he said! George was a dear man and taught me how to teach and helped me a great deal in those scary first weeks. With Gordon it was christian names from the start!

Gordon grabbed me and with that twinkle, which he used to disarm people, suggested I should come along to an O.S.A. committee meeting. The innocent to the slaughter! I should have remembered that Gordon had extracted 30 bob from each of the upper sixth when we were leaving, so that we became life members of the O.S.A. All O.S.A. committee members know that attending a meeting was the trap to then become co-opted and at the A.G.M. become fully-fledged committee members. Gordon and I attended O.S.A. meetings together for the next 38 years!, the last being in December 1999.

Gordon was Deputy Head during my 8 years on the staff and I got to know more about Gordon as a person. I found that he didn't seem to lose his temper, unlike me! He was always kind to me and two examples stand out. I had a dispute with a member of staff and Gordon called us together in a room away from everybody and suffice to say the matter was resolved. The other example was a little more embarrassing for me! I thought I had been successful in keeping wedding plans secret. I think it was the last morning break before Christmas 1965 when Gordon pounced and presented me with a wedding gift from the staff; I believe he initiated the collection! The clock no longer works but we still have it!

Gordon's teaching has benefited others. When I was a Senior teacher at Eastbourne School, Darlington, we had a crisis with our French exchange. We were twinned with the Jean Marc Laurent C.E.S. in Amiens and the teacher in charge could not continue! I agreed to organise and lead the exchange which involved our pupils staying with French families. I had a young teacher of French with me but, as my Headmaster said, I was confident enough to "risk" my French. I had just visited Paris, and France, for the first time the summer before! I led the French exchange for the next four years and made personal lasting friendships with five French families. So, some five years after he retired, Gordon was still able to help the teaching of French to some 80 pupils - via a scientist!

OBITUARIES



GORDON RATTENBURY (26th August 1910 – 7th March 2000)

He was educated at Kingswood School, Bristol, followed by four years at Kings College London, culminating in an Honours degree in French and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. Whilst there he proved to be a formidable chess player and captained the university team.

He began his teaching career in 1931 at the Stockton Secondary School for Boys, which later became Grangefield Grammar School for Boys. The Second World War interrupted his forty-two years at the school. He was called up in 1940 and did his initial training with the Coldstream Guards before Officer Training at Sandhurst. Commissioned into the West Yorkshire Regiment he was sent to East Africa where he transferred to the King's African Rifles. He served in Madagascar, Ceylon [now Sri Lanka], India and Burma, mainly on "mopping up" operations. He was mentioned in despatches and was wounded, though not severely, in Burma. On his demobilisation he returned to Stockton to resume his teaching career.

Whilst his career progressed to Senior French Master and Deputy Head teacher, he led several School trips to France. His interest in music, which was varied, led to a whole series of School productions. He was one of the driving forces behind several Gilbert and Sullivan productions and in the fifties wrote a series of shows based on the "Strange" theme, Alec in Strange, The Strange Worm, The Strange Sputnik. Countless boys took part in these productions. After retiring Gordon continued to support and participate in the local music scene.

He and his wife Eileen were life long supporters of the U.N.O. and promoted its principles whenever possible.

He was a supporter of the Old Stocktonians' Association all of his life and a Vice President at the time of his death, attending his last committee meeting in December 1999. For many years, whilst at the school, he edited the joint School / Old Stocktonians' magazine. He was a popular ex-master and former students would make a beeline for him at Old Stocktonian functions, to have a chat and reminisce about schooldays. His memory for events names and faces was prodigious and it was rare for anyone on the Committee to know more about students and the Association than Gordon. A measure of the esteem in which he was held by former pupils is that there was scarcely a letter sent to the Association, certainly in recent years, that did not have as a closing statement "give my regards to Mr. Rattenbury".

Married in 1937, he and his wife Eileen shared 58 years together. He is survived by daughter Margaret and son John.

A thanksgiving service for the life of Gordon was held at St. Peter's Church, Yarm Road after his funeral on Thursday 16th March. Those who attended began to appreciate the extent of his interests, knowledge and experiences and that we only knew "the tip of the iceberg". It was fitting that the title chosen for Gordon's Memorial Service was "Thanksgiving for the Life of Gordon Rattenbury", a statement with which many Old Stocktonians would heartily agree.

We have been informed that **JOE CARTER (1943-48)** died 20th December 1997.

We are sure that, like us, many former students will be saddened to hear the news that **Miss ALICE DUBBIN (Staff)** passed away in 1999. As a former Music teacher at Grangefield Grammar School for Girls Miss Dubbin exerted a quiet but forceful influence in the School and was regularly involved with joint productions with the Boys' School. Several years ago, as a mark of respect and gratitude to her skills, the Old Girls' Association presented a music trophy, in her honour, to the Girls' Grammar School.

It was particularly sad to hear the recent news of the sudden death of **NANCY FINCH (1931-36) M.B.E.** on 9th March 2001. In recent years Nancy had been a regular attendee at the Annual Dinner and we shall all miss her charm and graciousness.

Although we had not corresponded directly with **JOSEPH HEWITT (1923-27)** for several years we were saddened to hear that he had passed away on 7 Jan 2000. As a member of the police force for (we believe) more than 40 years Joe was Inspector at Malton in 1957, Commandant of the Police Training College at Newby Wiske, Northallerton, in the 60s and then Chief Superintendent at Bridlington, from which he retired to Scarborough in the late 70s. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Marie all his family.

RAY ICETON (1929-33) local councillor for more than 30 years on Sedgefield Parish & town councils. Village's first Mayor in 1974-75 and made first honorary burgess (freeman) in 1994. Royal Signals during the War met his wife, Jean in Brussels when she was a member of the FANY. For many years they ran a general dealers business in the village and were forerunners on the 'open all hours' policy. Ray had a great love of horses and racing and was closely associated with the local racecourse and show. Deeply interested in the history of the village, a keen cyclist in younger days and later member of the Northern group of veterans' time trials association, keen gardener.

STANLEY NORTH (1931-36) Died Oct 26 1998. Worked for the Civil Service in London before and during the War he returned to Stockton to join the family bakery business where he stayed until forced to retire by ill health in 1972. He resumed his career with the Civil Service in Stockton where he stayed until his retirement in 1984.

The members of the Association were most upset to hear the news that **AGNES SOWLER (nee WATT) (1926-31)** passed away on 15 November 2000. Always a strong supporter of the Old Girls' Association Agnes was also an ever present at 'The Old Boys' events when Tom was alive and maintained her close connections after Tom passed away in 1991. One of the first to join 'The Old Stocktonians' when ladies were allowed to do so, Agnes always took a keen interest in our fortunes and regularly 'formed a table' at Annual Dinners which, despite the longevity of the party, often outstayed many younger guests! Agnes will long be remembered as a quiet and courteous lady who generously gave her time for others and we offer our most sincere condolences to her children, Peter and Mamie.

Always a stalwart supporter of the Association **SIR MAURICE SUTHERLAND (1926-33)** died on the weekend of 10/11 March 2001 aged 85. Having gained his Higher School Cert. in 1932 soon after leaving school he became a Committee Member in the late 30s and following a break of war service once again joined the Committee in 1954. He began practicing as solicitor in 1937 in Stockton and during the Second World War he served in The Green Howards. A regular in the OS Cricket XI from the 30s to the 60s he was also a playing member of Preston CC from 1930 (when 15) where, as bowler, batsman or fielder, he held the office of Captain or Vice Captain for some 16 years before retiring in 1965. Elected President of the Billingham Rotary Club in 1957 Sir Maurice, whose service to local councils on Teesside spanned five decades, was first elected a councillor in 1957, when he took a seat on Stockton Council. He retired from local government in 1993. As a Stockton Councillor he became chairman of the steering group, which paved the way for the amalgamation of local councils to create the new Teesside County Borough Council. He was chosen to lead the Labour group on the new Authority in 1967. When Labour gained control of the Teesside Council for the last two years of its life Sir Maurice became leader and Mayor. He went on to be leader of Cleveland County Council as well as serving on the new Stockton Borough Council. Sir Maurice was knighted in 1976 and, shortly after his retirement from local government in 1993, he received an Honorary Masters of Law degree from Teesside University. He was also made an Honorary Alderman of Stockton. He served as a foundation governor at both the university and Teesside Polytechnic and held many other national and local positions including serving as a board member of Northumbrian Water and Tyne Tees Television.

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