



The New Stocktonian



2003 - 2004



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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 £2.00

(Advance subscriptions for two, five or ten years would be welcomed!)

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'Old Stocktonians' Association'

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first message as President of the Old Stocktonians and I have been looking back at previous messages to see what my predecessors have said. One thing that past Presidents have mentioned every now and then is the precarious state of the Association. I am not talking about the financial state but the future role of the Association when so very few people take an active part. The Yearbook has been the main method of seeing what other members are doing and perhaps once in a while seeing an item about your contemporaries. The dramatic rise in email and various Internet sites such as Friend Reunited has certainly taken over in this respect, particularly for those who left school and college in the past 10 years. At least email has resurrected, in some form, the art of letter writing. The Association does have a web site at www.oldstocktonians.org.uk, as well as links from the web sites of both the Sixth Form College and Grangefield School. We have yet to produce a page for leaving messages for others but that may come if we survive. All of these do help to keep members in touch and occasionally we hear from someone who has stumbled across the Association while surfing the net. However, the electronic age and the increasing age of the active members mean that the future does not look too bright for the traditional role of the Association. I do not have the actual numbers to hand but I can guess that very few, if any, members that have joined in the past 10 years were less than 30 years old when they joined. I would be very surprised to learn that the number of people under 20 who have joined in the past 10 years is anything other than zero. The Committee Meetings of the Association are now down to about two per year plus the AGM and the main topics of discussion seem to be how poorly attended the last dinner was and what should we have on the menu of the next one. Of course such an enthralling agenda is not likely to appeal nor will it entice others to join the committee so we need to do something to address this. We can let the Association wither and die or do something to rejuvenate it; so if anyone has any ideas at all then do get in touch. We need new ideas and new blood or rather different blood because we do not want to suffer from inbreeding. Of course some may ask if anyone would notice if the Association disappeared. As Aldous Huxley said "Most human beings have an infinite capacity for taking things for granted." Don't take the Association for granted. Do something to stop the Association withering away. Get involved, come to the Dinner, the AGM or simply contact us by the web site or email me with your views (keithchemist@ntlworld.com). If you are reading this magazine then you must have some interest in the school or college that you attended so whatever you do in 2005 think about the Association. To paraphrase JFK "Ask not what your Association can do for you, ask what you can do for your Association."

Have a Happy New Year

Keith Turner

COLLEGE NEWS

In the last edition of the New Stocktonian Howard Clarke wrote about handing over to his successor. I am pleased to start my first College News by paying tribute to both my predecessors as Principal. As Howard said, I started as a young teacher at the College back in 1977. The then Principal, Arthur Carr, was very supportive and interested in his staff. He set the ethos of the College in terms of excellent relationships between staff and between staff and students. His belief in the education of the whole person has continued to this day. I was pleased that I was able to meet his widow, Marjorie, just before her recent passing on.

Howard Clarke took the College forward through many major changes. It does seem to me that education has coped with constant change during the last 30 years. Howard's leadership since the removal of local authority control was highly regarded, both locally and nationally. The Principal's role changed markedly, so that in addition to being a head teacher, the functions of being a Chief Executive of a fair sized business were taken on. Back in 1993 many experts thought sixth form colleges would struggle to survive in the brave new world of market forces.

It was due to the work of Principals such as Howard that the gloom mongers were proved wrong. Despite a different picture in Middlesbrough, in Stockton and most other areas of the country sixth form colleges have prospered as independent institutions. During Howard's time the College has virtually doubled in size and results have continued to improve year after year.

I am very grateful for the legacy that Arthur and Howard have given me and hope that I can build upon their achievements.

Talking of building, the Spring and Summer of 2003 saw firstly, an extension to the College Dining area and secondly, a very well appointed block of 10 new classrooms housing the Mathematics and English Departments. Summer 2003 also saw yet another round of major investment in IT. Virtually every classroom has a state of the art computer desk and multi-media projector. This enables teachers, when it is appropriate, to switch easily to using the Internet, the College's highly acclaimed Intranet, or any other computer programme.

In the summer of 2004 the College continued to develop the library into a Learning Resource Centre (LRC), and amongst other things, some remodelling of the walls. The most important work, however, had taken place the previous July 2003, with the appointment of the College's first ever full-time fully qualified Librarian, Lynne Robson. Lynne's enthusiasm is infectious and the use of the LRC by the students has grown tremendously.

The College's results continue to be excellent. An A Level Pass Rate of 97% (98.3% for 3 A Level Students) in 2004 rising from 96% in 2003. 20 subjects had a 100% pass rate in 2004, rising from 19 subjects in 2003. The College not only attaches great importance to its examination success. Since September 2003 the opportunities for students to enrich their time at the College have been extended enormously. Staff responded magnificently to the idea of providing lots of enrichment activities at lunchtimes and spread throughout the College timetable. The students have 60 activities to choose from, which range from Young Enterprise to Sport, to taking part in the College Play.

The College Play, (the first for a number of years) was 'Can't Pay Won't Pay?'. It was a great success with some fine comic performances. The cast and crew worked very hard, and particular praise went to Nicola Mejia, for her excellent direction and for cajoling staff and students. In December 2004 the play will be 'The Importance of Being Ernest'; please come along.

Students continue to take part in many extra-curricular activities and visits - to mention just a sample:

5 A2 Chemists took part in a Problem Solving Project Day; 2 History students visited Auschwitz and then made presentations in local schools; Modern Language students took part in exchanges to Aix-en-Provence, Troisdorf and Avila; Sports Students went to Askrigg for Outdoor Pursuits,

Travel and Tourism students visited Barcelona and went with Art and Geography students to New York, and Government and Politics students went to Washington.

In October 2003, Russian Cosmonauts visited the College, as did Vin Garbutt, Teesside's world famous folk singer. Using the College's excellent Video-Conferencing, Biology students were able to witness live and interactively a dive in Australia's Great Barrier Reef. I was astonished at how many students were willing to get to College before six in the morning for this. There was, once again, an excellent exhibition of artwork by the students and, past work continues to brighten up all areas of the College and to celebrate the work of outstanding students. Caroline Thomas won the Banerjee Award and received a book token for being the most improved student in Biology and for working very hard towards gaining a C grade at A level in the subject.

Sporting Achievements for the academic year 2003-2004

- Phil Milburn won the Banerjee Award for being 1st team captain and for his excellent organisational skills for football.
- Michael Broadway won the Banerjee Award for the most improved all round player at hockey.
- Lucy Dale and Roberto Cecere won the Ian McGregor Memorial Award for sports personality of the year
- The Athletics team, comprising 28 students, entered the BCS event on 5th May.

Badminton/Table Tennis/Cross Country

- 10 students went through to the BCS National Finals at Loughborough on April 2-4, after winning regional events.

Basketball

- The Mohawks have coached all season and played friendlies and cup games.

Football - Boys

'A' Team

- Finished 3rd in the league.
- It reached the semi-final of the County Cup, losing to Middlesbrough 'A' team. The team lost in the 2nd round of BCS National Cup, to East Durham Academy.

'B' Team

- 2003/04 was another extremely successful season in which the 'B' team retained the Division 2 Championship, by virtue of some outstanding team performances. The team had the luxury of knowing that the league was won before the last league match. This was just as well, as it turned out, because their previous 100% league record was ruined by a 3-2 defeat!
- In the first round of the County Cup the team was drawn away against Division 1 opponents, Darlington Q.E. 'A'. After coming back from a two-goal deficit to draw level, they were unfortunate to concede goals in the last three minutes and, therefore, denied the chance of further progress in the competition.
- Overall (including friendlies and County Cup) the record for the season was: won 9, drew 0, lost 2. Goals scored: 56. Goals conceded 14.

'C' Team

- The team finished 5th out of 8 teams in the 2nd division of the league, but were the highest placed 'C' team (all those above were 'B' teams).
- Scores including friendlies and cup matches: played 10, won 3, drew 3, lost 4.

Golf

- 6 students played in the BCS North East event in Scarborough in September.
- 10 students to play in the Cleveland Schools Competition at Whickham for Durham.

Hockey – Boys

- The team were entered in the U18 Sixth Form and Tertiary Colleges Cup. They played pool matches against York, Franklin College and John Leggott College, but did not qualify for the next stage.
- They played in the British Colleges Boys Tournament against Greenhead, York and Huddersfield, but were not strong enough to win through to the National Finals.
- Most of the boys played, at some stage, in the mixed friendlies and National Sixth Form and Tertiary Colleges Mixed Cup.

Hockey - Girls

- The team were entered for two national events this year.
Monarch Cup The team won in round 1 but lost in round 2 to eventual finalists.
British Colleges Cup The team won in round 1 against Darlington Q.E., in round 2 against Tyneside and lost in round 3, against Yale College.

Hockey - Mixed

- The team were runners up in the BCS North East mixed 7s National Cup. They played against York, John Leggott, Franklin colleges, but unfortunately, did not progress.

Netball

- The team attended the British Colleges' North Sport Tournament at South Shields in October 2003. They came 3rd and narrowly missed qualifying for the North East tournament, which was held in Huddersfield.
- They were beaten in the 1st round of BCS KO Cup, losing to Thomas Rotherham 45-35.

Rugby

- Unfortunately, the season got off to a really bad start when Mike Turner (the coach for the last few years) had a heart attack in late summer which, although he is making a recovery, meant that he had to withdraw his involvement with the team. Consequently, the team only managed to play 5 matches, progressing through to the second round of the Colleges cup at Thomas Rotherham College.
- On a positive note, we were runners up to Middlesbrough College at the British Colleges (North East) 7's tournament in October at Guisborough. With 8 existing second years and good recruitment of first years a much stronger performance is expected in 2004/2005

Other Achievements

- 4 Design Technology students, Sarah Abbey, Katherine Middlemas, Stefan Hodgson and James Hall made it through against hot local competition to the regional final of the prestigious Audi Young Designer of the Year 2004 Competition.
- Jannine Walker, 1st year Health & Social Care student, won 1st prize - £50 in the Accident Day Quiz.
- June Clarke one of the College's Adult Students on our Wednesdays for Women Course (run in conjunction with Durham University and Stockton Adult Education) won Stockton's Learning Towns Adult Learner Award.
- John Wightman, Head of Geology was shortlisted for FE teacher of the Year - well-deserved recognition for an inspiring teacher who has enthused and entertained generations of students. John retires in July 2005, but his replacement is already in post: Dr Chris Griffiths. Chris was one of the students inspired by John to love Geology so much so that he took part in the British Antarctic Survey and has now returned to teach at the College.

Over the last two years there have been a number of staffing changes. I will highlight just a few where long serving members of staff have retired. Firstly, Peter Limon, Vice-Principal, took early retirement in Summer 2003. Peter was the face of the College in local schools and his stalwart work in recruitment and in adult education was a major reason for the great success in these areas. His charm and wisdom is much missed. Anita Hufton, Head of Modern Languages, also retired in July 2003. She had been deeply involved in foreign exchanges. I know she was very pleased to be handing over to Linda Metcalfe and was very pleased at the investment that has taken place in a Melissa Language Lab and for the work of Foreign Language Assistants.

Retiring in summer 2004 were Jenny Burgoyne and John Hillier. Jenny as Head of English was known for quiet but tenacious determination for the English Department to succeed. She has left a strong department to her successor, Fiona Kirby, in their superb new facilities. Many of you will know John "the Doc" through his work with students on University and Careers Applications. John had particularly pleasing success this year as Eloise Poole and Tom Dye appeared on Tyne Tees news following their successful applications to Oxbridge.

Martin Clinton

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES 2003/4

Business is Booming at Stockton

Stockton Success nets cash Payout for SSFC

Enterprising Stockton Sixth form College students with an eye on stock market trends have scored success twice over. A team of first year 'A' level Business Studies students, who made a "paper" £16,000 in an intensive three month investment exercise, are celebrating winning a local competition sponsored by accountants Wise-Speke.

The three, Darren Walker, David McCowan and Chris Iredale, shared a prize of £120 and the College received a cheque for £980. The group had initially 'invested' £100,000 on the stock markets in December and finished off with a staggering £16,000 extra in the bank in March. Another talented trio, who aptly call themselves Sixth Sense, competed against 5,500 teams in the prestigious national Department of Trade and Industry Proshare competition, and got to the quarter finals. The three are Jonathon Petch, Paul Latherton and Catherine Dillon.

When rock music is enterprising

Enterprise culture hit the high note at SSFC thanks to an innovative group of eleven students who have gone into business this year and launched a successful rock band - so far several gigs and one TV appearance. The Young Enterprise Company, H30, which got off the ground in September as part of the College Enrichment programme, raised capital and drew up a viable business plan in its quest to get rock band Enflame up and running. Via sale of shares, enough cash was raised to give Enflame's 5 musicians the opportunity to cut a CD and these were sold to staff and students. The students are grateful for the expert advice and support they received from the Business Development Manager of Five Lamps. The musicians then used Media Studies practical coursework as an opportunity to promote the band - producing a music video for their assessed coursework.

'Can't Pay, Won't Pay' - curtain rises on drama

In December the College common room was transformed into a theatre to allow students to stage a modern classic comedy: Dario Fo's 'Can't Pay, Won't Pay.' The plot centres on the desperate attempts of two cash-strapped Italian housewives to conceal an accidental shoplifting spree from their husbands. Staff and students made the sets, which altered the common room into a fully equipped kitchen and a main road with an eight-foot high lorry menacingly approaching a brick wall. A term of gargantuan effort by all involved, culminated in a three hour, highly entertaining, farce. The production played to a packed house every night for a week just before Christmas 2003. We are looking forward to the next extravaganza and auditions for parts will be taking place in September 2004.

Self Portraits that said it all - 'Visual' Amnesty Petition

The College's Amnesty group has run a number of lunchtime stalls to raise the issue of human rights. Over 60 students have contributed to a 'visual petition' against gun-running by drawing a self portrait, to be displayed on the Amnesty web-site. The students have been part of the Amnesty campaign in favour of gun control, calling on the government to tighten controls on the international arms trade 'and to put an end to guns falling too easily into the wrong hands.' At Christmas over 40 students and staff took part in the Amnesty Greetings Card campaign by sending messages of goodwill to political prisoners.

Fund raising to combat cruelty to animals

The Animal Welfare group have been busy throughout the year raising money and also raising awareness of animal cruelty. So far they have raised over £400 for rescue centres for abandoned pets by organising stalls and raffles in college and also a sponsored dog walk in Preston Park. They have collected over 500 signatures on petitions against intensive farming, the live export of animals for slaughter, and against the use of dogs and monkeys for research.

Keying in to the high-tech world of Disneyland

Forty ICT students took a hi-tech look behind the scenes at Disneyland Paris and incorporated their new-found knowledge into coursework preparation for their A level and vocational exams.

The group took a close-up look at how technology is used to bring the world of fantasy alive. They found out how computers aid the design of roller coasters and how software is used to test g-forces, speed and suitability of building materials. They attended lectures given by Disneyland IT experts who explained how they had helped engineers design rollercoasters, which are ever higher, faster, and steeper. And of course they also went on the rides!

A substantial number of the College's ICT students go on to study computer graphics, and the visit helped them decide on the right university course for them.

European Links

Linguists have been given plenty of opportunity to practise their language skills this year on exchanges sponsored by the British Council with the aim of increasing understanding between Europe's young people. French students were guests of the Lycee Georges DUBY, an international college on the outskirts of Aix-en-Provence in the South of France. The British Council provided our students with a grant to subsidise the undertaking of a research project comparing the cultural heritage of Provence and the North East of England. This involved visiting the beautiful towns and attractions of the region. In February, our Spanish students went to Avila, near Madrid, as part of a ten-day fact finding mission relating to drugs awareness and youth culture. Built into the trip was a visit to a drugs rehabilitation centre, and on the lighter side cultural visits to Salamanca and Madrid. Our German students visited Troisdorf, near Bonn and they met young people, actively involved in German political parties including the Green Party.

We are always happy to host the return visit and enjoyed showing all the European students our cultural heritage during visits to York, Durham, Whitby etc. These exchanges give our students a wonderful opportunity to use and build upon their language skills, enhance their knowledge of European culture and make new friends.

The College looks forward to welcoming students from China next academic year. Any family willing to host a Chinese student, please contact the College.

From Harrow to the Saatchi Gallery

Closer to home, 60 Business, Sociology, Art and Media students took part in the College's annual visit to London. Business and Economics students went to 'The City' and visited key financial institutions including The Bank of England. Sociology students visited Harrow, one of the UK's most famous public schools, and were given a guided tour by their sixth formers. Unfortunately they didn't have time for a game on the school's golf course. Media students quizzed the censors

about their decisions at the British Board of Film Classification and bumped into 'Blue' at the BBC studios where they were rehearsing for that night's Top of the Pops. Art students were able to engage in the 'but is it art?' debate when they visited the Saatchi Gallery, home of the Damien Hirst shark and Tracy Emin's unmade bed.

Lest we Forget - a Trip to Auschwitz

Claire Travis and Stephanie Wallace, two of our A level History students, took part in a visit to Auschwitz organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, and saw for themselves evidence of the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis. They visited the gas chambers and saw cabinets filled with personal items (such as human hair, artificial limbs and shoes), which brought home the fact that the victims of Nazi atrocities were not just statistics but real human beings. Following the visit, they returned to London to see the Holocaust exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

Theatre Visits set the scene

The English Department organised a number of theatre visits this year. Highlights have included a surprisingly frightening experience at Billingham Forum watching 'The Woman in Black'. English Literature students had the opportunity to see 'Othello' and 'The Merchant of Venice'. Our own Drama and Theatre students have staged productions at the Arc. The AS students performed and directed themselves in plays written by them. The Northern Stage Company's production of 'Animal Farm' provided the stimulus for one of these performances. The actors' physical depiction of animals was the inspiration for a student performance in which they were all toys. The A2 students directed and performed in their own versions of 'Playhouse Creatures' by April DeAngelis. Our Theatre Studies students have also had the opportunity to see the work of other students. Sunderland University undergraduate drama students used Brecht techniques to stage 'Our Country's Good' by Timberlake Wertenbaker. As well as enjoying the outstanding performances, it was also an opportunity to catch up with old friends, as some of our past theatre students are studying Drama at the university.

Trips over the pond provide insight into America - past and present

For the 5th year running students of Geography, Travel and Tourism and Art and Design visited New York City in March.

During the visit Geographers studied themes of international migration and multi-ethnic societies (part of their A-level). Travel and Tourism students researched New York City as a tourist destination and Art and Design students visited galleries and used the trip to inspire their examination work on Rituals and Icons.

Head of Geography, Steve Rickerby, gave his now well-rehearsed lesson in the sky from the top of the Empire State Building. One of the highlights for the Geography and Leisure and Tourism students was a visit to Harlem. Local guide, Neal Shoemaker, has become something of an old friend over the years and always provides a fascinating insight into this vibrant ethnic neighbourhood. The Art students also took in the Guggenheim and the Metropolitan Museum.

Despite a busy schedule, there was an opportunity to relax. Evening entertainment included a dinner on Broadway with singing waiters, a view of the lights of Manhattan from the Brooklyn Bridge and there was also an opportunity for a spot of retail therapy on the last afternoon!

As these students touched down again in Manchester the Politics students took off for Washington. Their trip combined political and cultural activities and was a great experience for everyone involved. Students were able to see the White House for themselves, visit the US Parliament and they also saw the original US Constitution and Bill of Rights at the National Archive. Cultural activities included a visit to the International Spy Museum, to see how real-life James Bonds operate, and also a trip to the Air and Space Museum where students had the opportunity to fly in a flight simulator and see the actual spacecraft that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin returned to earth in after stepping onto the moon. This was the first trip to Washington, but Head of Politics, Mark Barrett, plans to make it a regular feature of the course.

Visitors from Another Planet

Two Russian cosmonauts visited College in October to talk to our students and also to pupils from our 11-16 partner schools about their experiences. Alexandre Alexandrov has blasted into orbit on two missions; firstly on the Space Station Salyut in 1983 when he made a space walk, hovering above the earth for nearly six hours to install a solar panel. Then, four years later, he flew on Mir for six months. He was accompanied on his visit to College by Alexandre Martynov, who really is an expert in rocket science. From 1968 until 1992 he was directly responsible for landing spacecraft on the surfaces of Mars, Venus and the Moon.

Achievement at sport

A good set of results for our football teams this season. The 'all-conquering' B team won their league for the second year running. The A team finished 3rd again and the C team were the highest ranking 'C' team in their league. Our hockey, netball, rugby and basketball teams have played well this season in competitions and also in friendly matches.

We have also had some strong individual performances this year.

Although we didn't come away with any medals, a number of students beat stiff local competition to represent the College at the British College's Finals at Loughborough. Roberto Cecere secured a place in the tennis singles. Faye Dale and Michelle Hannan qualified for the badminton girls' doubles, and Lucy Dale, Emma Greenwood and Janine Brown qualified in singles/doubles at table tennis. Scott Lawson and Mathew Wilson represented the College in Cross Country.

At the College sports awards, Dr Amit Banerjee presented the Banerjee Awards, in memory of his son who was a student at this College. The award for hockey went to Michael Broadway for his outstanding performances this season, and Phil Milburn won the award for football for his excellent organisational skills as captain of the 'A' team. The Ian McGregor Memorial Award for sports personality of the year went to Lucy Dale for her all-round contribution to college sport, including representing the College in two national finals, and to Roberto Cecere for his contribution to running the hockey team and his performance in the British Colleges' tennis finals.

BTEC Sports Science students spent a week at Askrigg Outward Bound Centre. The packed programme of sporting activities was not for the faint-hearted; it included caving, mountaineering, canoeing, and abseiling down a waterfall. The week forms part of the practical assessment for the BTEC qualifications and all passed with flying colours. Also, as part of their practical assessment for the Higher Sports Leaders Award, second year BTEC students organised a sports day for pupils from Abbey Hill School. The pupils, with learning difficulties, joined in games, relays and athletics with participants receiving certificates and medals.

Maths & Science to the fore

Congratulations to our eight maths students who won awards in the UK Senior Maths Challenge, which tests the creative use of mathematical skills, and covers lateral thinking and the solving of mathematical problems. Five students, Kathryn Hutchinson, David Johnson, Mathew Lambert, Stephen Roe and Carl Wright scooped silver medals putting them in the top 20% of all entries. In addition three students were placed in the top 40% of entries and won bronze awards; Donna Baldwin, Dean Coyle and Mathew Yeaman.

Congratulations to Caroline Thomas who won the Banerjee Award for being the most improved student in Biology. Caroline won the award for consistent hard work and never giving up. Her knowledge of Biology will continue to be useful, as she is going to study Applied Psychology at University in September 2004.

Six Further Maths students attended a residential course at the University of Leeds during the Easter holidays. Neil Baker, Dean Coyle, Catherine Dillon, David Johnson, Paul Latheron and Philip Wood joined students from around the country. The course provided an insight into how mathematics develops at degree level, as well as giving a taste of life as a university student.

Five talented chemists were given a science-industry based problem to solve at an event organised by the Teesside Chemical Initiative. Angela Pacitto, Kayleigh Husband, Cheryl Midgley, Ben Tucker and Umair Siddiqui worked alongside students from other colleges and academic backgrounds and a 'mentor' from local industry. They were able to appreciate the wide range of skills needed by industry and also to see that project work requiring innovative ideas can be fun!

Congratulations to Design students Katherine Middlemass, Sarah Abbey, Stefan Hodgson and James Hall who all reached the Regional Final of the 'Audi Young Designer of the Year' competition. They were amongst 20 talented students to reach this level and presented designs ranging from a new logo for Norton School to a new design for Billingham Forum.

Congratulations to Chris Law and Steven Bilton, both Advanced Computing students, who gained prestigious Gold CREST Awards for researching and creating a database for the Great North Forest Information Centre. The students obtained a grant for 'gifted' students to work on the project at the University of Durham.

Congratulations to June Clarke, one of our adult learners, who won Stockton Town's Adult Learner Award 2004. At the age of 64, with no qualifications, June embarked on a 'New Start for Women' course, progressed to 'Wednesday for Women' and has now discovered a talent for creative writing.

To find out about adult courses at SSFC, ring Jane Clark on (01642) 610777.

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 £20, 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 £20, for **excellence in History at Grangefield School.**

J.G. RATTENBURY MEMORIAL PRIZE

Founded by Old Stocktonians to perpetuate the memory of J.G. Rattenbury, B.A., AKC, PGCE [Kings College, London] Senior French Master and Deputy Head (during the period 1931-73) at the Secondary School and Grangefield Grammar School for Boys. The Prize is awarded annually, in the sum of £20, for **excellence in Modern Languages at Grangefield School.**

2003/4	History Prize	Jonathan Beasley
	English Prize	Man Leng Sui
	Modern Languages	Michelle Dunning

The prizes are currently £20.00 each.

DEGREE RESULTS 2003-4

Name		Subject	Degree		University
Jonathan	DOWNING	Mechanical Engineering	MEng Honours	2.1	Imperial College
George	GEORGIU	Politics	BA Honours	2.1	Leicester
Briony	GRIBBIN	Sociology	BA Honours	2.1	Leicester
Graham	LEGGETT		MA Honours	2.1	Glasgow
Adam	MALOYD	Electrical, Electronic & Computer Engineering	MEng Honours	1	Newcastle
Neil	POLLOCK	Archaeology	BSc Honours	2.2	Leicester
Darren	POSTHILL	English	BA Honours	2.2	Leicester
Arfan	SARWAR	Law	LLB Honours	2.1	Leicester
Kia	WEALLANS		MA Honours	Merit	Glasgow
Katherine	WILD	Sociology	BA Honours	2.2	Leicester

FRONT COVER

Our thanks to Keith Turner for the front cover picture this year. If you don't recognise it then you haven't been to the Sixth Form College buildings on Bishopton Road West. For those not 'in the know' this is the main (student) entrance to the College, which is now served by automatic/push button doors to allow for disabled access. The photo was taken in Autumn 2003 and, in colour, captured, perfectly, the leaves just as they were 'on the turn'.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The service was held on Tuesday 11th November at Grangefield School. Brian Brand attended on behalf of the OSA and Martin Clinton, one of our Presidents, attended on behalf of the Sixth form College. Ken Whitfield was not there due to an oversight on the part of the School who had not contacted him. He was most upset to miss the Ceremony.

The wreath for the First World War Memorial was laid by Mr Morton, an Old Boy who had travelled from Coventry for the Service. Mr Morton's brother, E. Morton, was killed just four weeks before the end of the Second World War and his name is recorded on the 39-45 War Memorial. As it is every year the moving service of readings and hymns did credit to the School's Year 9 who had organised the occasion.

As always we thank Mick Hill, his staff and the pupils for looking after our memorials and making us so welcome.

Brian Brand

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

The School would welcome attendance by any former pupils at the ceremony (usually held on 11th November each year) but would prefer to be contacted in advance on 01642 353637

GRANGEFIELD SCHOOL SPEECH DAY & PRIZE GIVING

This took place on the evening of 23 June 2004. The format was changed from previous years. Year 1 [5th form] from 2003 had an evening in November to meet and receive their certificates. A buffet was served and it took the form of a "prom". Other schools in the area are adopting this approach; the idea being that it is exclusively for them.

The school prizes normally awarded for achievements in GCSE, including our own Old Stocktonian prizes, are now awarded to Year 10, to serve as encouragement as they enter their final GCSE stages. Along with the subject prizes were the school prizes for Years 7, 8 and 9 and

the sports awards.

The guest speaker was Martin Clinton, Principal of the Sixth Form College and one of the OSA Presidents. Ian Basford, a former student, is Chair of Governors at Grangefield and he presented school colours to the outstanding sports players at the school. The Mayor of Stockton presented "whole school prizes" to reward personal attributes and service to the School.

The evening ended with parents, pupils and guests enjoying refreshments in the main school hall – originally the "boys' hall" in grammar school days.

BRIAN BRAND

OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

(founded by Evan Baldwin 24th January 1913)

LIST OF OFFICIALS for 2002-2004

PRESIDENTS :-

Mr. R. Prichard (Association President)
Mr. E. Baldwin (deceased) (Founder President)
Mr. M. Clinton (Principal)

VICE-PRESIDENTS:-

Miss L. Waring*
Mr. B. P. Brand
Mr. P. Graham
(* denotes Senior Vice-President)

Mr. J. Ingham
Mr. R. Ward

OFFICE BEARERS :-

Minutes Secretary : Dr K. Turner
Hon. Treasurer : Mr B.P. Brand
Members' Correspondence Secretary : Mr R. Ward
Membership Records' Secretary : Mr. P. Graham
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 P. B. Braney
Mr. M. Gillespie

HON. AUDITOR :-

Mr. P. Fleck F.C.A.

THE OLD STOCKTONIANS BENEVOLENT FUND :-

Convenor : Mr. B.P. Brand

Trustees : Mr H. R. Clarke, Revd. Mrs J.M. Thomas, Mr P. Graham

Hon. Auditor : Mr. J. Ingham

2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

The meeting was held on Monday the 7th April 2003 in the Staffroom of Stockton Sixth Form College with the Association President Mr R L Pritchard in the Chair.

Present: Mr R L Pritchard (Chairman – President), Mr B P Brand, Mr P B Braney, Mr M Clinton (Principal), Mr P Graham, Mr K Turner, Mr R Ward, Miss L Waring.

The meeting was opened by the President of the Association at 7.43 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2001 AGM

Apart from an error in reporting the 2000 AGM as the 200 AGM the minutes of the 2001 AGM held on 15th April 2002 were read and confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr Graham reported that the membership of the Association comprised the following : Life Members 163 (down 4 from previous year), Yearly Members 91 (up 2 from last year). Of these, 12 Life Members were overseas and one has a BFPO address. Of the Yearly Members 4 are overseas and one has a BFPO address.

Of the Yearly Members 25 were in arrears one member who is 5 years in arrears has been removed from the membership; the figure for the previous year was 20. One member has paid up to 2025.

5. YEAR BOOK EDITOR'S REPORT

The editor, Mr Graham, reported that, as previously, 400 copies were to be printed and distributed. The book would have 28 pages and was under preparation. Some copies were to be given to the Sixth Form College and also to Grangefield School. The costs for printing would be £328 and it is zero rated for VAT.

Other expenses for producing the year book area as follows, with last years figures in parentheses:

Envelopes	£7 (£15)
Labels	£3 (£3)
Ink cartridge	£15
Postage	£45 inland, £25 overseas for 16 books (£70)
Total costs were	£408

The delayed publication of the yearbook had meant that a circular had to be sent to members about the dinner and AGM. The additional costs for posting this were:

Postage	£42
Envelopes	£5

The President thanked Mr Graham for his efforts in the production of the Year Book.

6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon Treasurer, Mr Brand, reported that the accounts had now been audited by Mr P Fleck. Mr Brand pointed out some key aspects of the accounts for the meeting.

1. A donation of £1000, received from an overseas member in the USA, was to be allocated to the G J Rattenbury Fund.
2. Donations had risen from £283.00 to £371.99 with £150 specifically given for the production of the year book.
3. The year book is not shown in the accounts since it was not ready by the end of the accounting year on 30th June 2002. The delays in the production of the book had amounted to £72.
4. The advertising income for the previous two issues of the book have been clarified. The balance of the account shown in the bank book was checked by the President who thanked Mr Brand and Mr Fleck for auditing the accounts.

7. BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

Mr Brand, the Convener of the fund, reported that these accounts had been audited as of the 31st December 2001.

The balance on 1st January 2001 was £2015 and one grant (of £100) had been awarded during the year. The final balance, after including interest, was £1931.72. Mr Brand thanked Mr J Ingham who had audited the accounts.

Mr Brand reported that there had been changes in members of the fund committee. Following the death of Arthur Carr, Mr Paul Graham had joined the committee and the new Principal of the College, Mr Martin Clinton was also to be asked if he would like to join. Mr Brand was thanked for his report.

8. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

After his extended term as President, Mr R L Prichard stepped down and Mr K Turner agreed to take over. Mr Turner said that he would let Mr Prichard continue in the chair for the remainder of the meeting and he would complete the minute taking role.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members agreed the following responsibilities:

Treasurer - Mr B P Brand said that since he was no longer living in the area he would continue until 30th June 2003, but no later. The position of Treasurer was to be resolved at a later meeting after potential candidates had been approached.

Membership Correspondence - Mr R Ward

Membership Records - Mr P Graham

Meetings and Minutes - Mr R L Prichard

Dinner Arrangements - Mr R L Prichard

Yearbook Editor - Mr P Graham

Yearbook advertising and publicity – Mr P Braney

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members were re-elected to the committee:

Mrs M Bradley, Mr P B Braney.

11. APPOINTMENT OF HON. AUDITOR

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Mr P Fleck and thanked him for his efforts in the previous year.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mr Clinton reminded the committee that the College was celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2003 and an event was to be organised. Details of the content and the date were to be discussed within the College at a later date and the OSA would be very welcome to participate. This would be discussed at the next ordinary meeting of the OSA in May.
2. Members were reminded that the deadline for tickets for the annual dinner was 18th April 2003.
3. Mr Graham proposed that the subscription fee for the Association should be increased to £2 per year and this was seconded by Mr Prichard. Mr Graham said that this was the first increase for 10 years. Mr Braney argued against this increase and pointed out that the Association had surplus funds that were not allocated for other uses. Mr Graham said that the need for an increase was mainly due the increased cost of producing and distributing the book. The proposal was put to the meeting, and approved by everyone apart from Mr Braney, who abstained.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.

2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

The meeting was held on Monday the 10th May 2004 in the Staffroom of Stockton Sixth Form College with the Association President Mr K Turner in the Chair.

Present: Mr K Turner (Chairman – President), Mr P B Braney, Mr P Graham, Mr K Turner, Mr R Ward.

The meeting was opened by the President of the Association at 7.43 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs M Bradley, Mr B P Brand, Miss L Waring,

2. MINUTES OF THE 2001 AGM

Apart from a few minor alterations the minutes of the 2002 AGM held on 7th April 2003 were read and confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Mr P. Graham noted that the position of Treasurer had not been properly appointed. It was decided to do this at a later date. It was reported that only 4 members of the Association had attended the 30th Anniversary of the Sixth Form College. Mr P. Graham said that he was disappointed at the turnout. No new O.S.A. members were attracted.

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr Graham reported that the membership of the Association comprised the following : Life Members 160 (down 3 from previous year), Yearly Members 91 (no change from last year).

5. YEAR BOOK EDITOR'S REPORT: 2002/3

The editor, Mr Graham, reported that, as previously, 400 copies were to be printed and distributed. The book had 32 pages and some copies were to be given to the Sixth Form College and also to Grangefield School. The cost for printing was £358 and it was zero rated for VAT.

Other expenses for producing the year book area as follows, with last years figures in parentheses:

Envelopes	£8.99 (£7)
Postage	£82.36 inland, £24.04 overseas (£70)

Total costs were £ 473.39

The President thanked Mr Graham for his efforts in the production of the Year Book.

6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr P. Graham thanked the retiring Hon Treasurer, Mr Brand for completing the accounts and arranging for their audit by audited by Mr P Fleck. The accounts were circulated to the Committee for their approval. The treasurer proposed that the Committee should look at ways of improving the Year Book given the healthy state of the funds.

7. BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

Mr B P Brand was not present to deliver this.

8. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr K Turner was elected for a second year in office.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members agreed the following responsibilities:

Treasurer - Mr P. Graham

Membership Correspondence - Mr R Ward

Membership Records - Mr P Graham

Meetings and Minutes - Mr R L Prichard

Dinner Arrangements - Mr R L Prichard

Yearbook Editor - Mr P Graham

Yearbook advertising and publicity – Mr P Braney

The position of Sports Co-ordinator was abolished

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members were re-elected to the committee:

Mrs M Bradley, Miss L Waring (Senior Vice President)

11. APPOINTMENT OF HON. AUDITOR

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Mr P Fleck and thanked him for his efforts in the previous year.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr R Prichard said that menus for the 2005 Dinner would be presented to the September Committee Meeting in time to be included in the Year Book.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND

The funds have been audited for the year ended 31st December 2003.

On 1st January 2003 the credit balance at the Darlington Building Society was £1939.45. No grants or loans were made during the year. Repayments of £450.00 were received.

No donations were received and interest of £7.20 net [tax paid £1.80] was earned. This gave a credit balance of £2396.65 at the Building Society on 31st December 2003. Thanks once again to John Ingham for auditing the accounts. During the year Martin Clinton accepted our invitation to become a Trustee, replacing Howard Clarke.

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 : Martin Clinton, Principal of the Stockton Sixth Form College or Mick Hill, Headteacher of Grangefield School or direct to Brian Brand, Convenor to the Trustees, 2 The Sidings, Christon Bank, Alnwick, Northumberland. NE66 3HR {Tel: 01665 576273 }.

Brian Brand

TREASURER'S REPORT 2002-2003

The funds remain sound and have been audited for the year ended 30th June 2003. Subscriptions remain about the same as last year giving £148.75. The donations have increased from £230.85 to £371.99, but £150.00 was a donation specifically towards the Year Book. This gives an income from members of around £370, as last year. Building Society interest was £49.93 and the balance in the Life Members and General Fund £4 862.39, an increase of £525.97 over the previous year. The Year Book was not produced by 30th June and is not shown in the accounts. The costs to be shown next year will indicate a loss of about £175.00 in spite of the £150.00 donation towards it. This is due to a lack of advertising as the current financial climate forces our supporters to withdraw. Once again we had an extra expense because of delays in printing the Year Book, a mailing to members notifying them of the AGM and of the Annual Dinner. This cost £72.09 and once again we must thank Paul Graham for taking on the extra work involved. The Dinner was not well attended, only 24 managed it, but in the new form, no expense was incurred and the dinner paid for itself. [All the hard work by the organiser is free!]

The King / Armstrong Prize Fund is now the King / Armstrong / Rattenbury fund and the prizes are worth £20 each. A prize for Modern Languages in memory of Gordon Rattenbury was added last year. A very generous donation of £1 000 was received and other donations totalling £43.50 make the prize fund a healthy £1238.09. Stocks of 'History of the Association' are not selling and although the publication costs have been recouped, we need to release the money tied up and therefore the price is now reduced to £1.00.

Finally may I thank Peter Fleck, our Honorary Auditor.

Brian Brand
Hon. Treasurer

78th Annual Dinner

This was held on Saturday 17th April 2004 at the Clairville Hotel, Eaglescliffe.

Although numbers were very small, at just twelve (six of whom were from the 47-54) contingent we were able to talk easily around the table! And despite the lack of numbers we enjoyed our meal and the company; the 'crack' going on until well after midnight.

Those making the effort to attend were: Don and Dorothy Moses from Cornwall, Eddie and Alison Wood from Nottingham, Brian and Pat Brand from Alnwick and, locals, Paul and Jan Graham, Derek and Linda Graham and Roz and Carole Prichard.

The 47-54 Brigade continued their chat at the breakfast table, after staying the night at the hotel, before making their way back home on the Sunday morning. Our thanks to Roz for the organization and smooth running of the event. We hope for greater numbers next year.

Brian Brand

Menu for the 79th Annual Dinner [2005]

To be held at the Claireville hotel, Eaglescliffe on 30th April 2005.

7.30 for 8.00

Cost of tickets £16.00

For those who wish to stay overnight at the hotel the association has arranged a special rate of £45 for a single, £55 for a double, inclusive of breakfast. Please mention that you are part of the Association Dinner party in order to qualify for this rate.



STARTERS

Chilled fruit Juice

Melon & Prawn Cocktail

Pate Maison with Mango Chutney and salad

Vegetable Soup



MAIN COURSES

Breast of Chicken in Garlic Cream

Fillet of haddock with Prawns & Seafood Sauce

Sirloin Steak in Brandy & Mushroom Sauce

Pork Fillet in Cointreau & Orange

Vegetarian option

All served with a selection of vegetables and potatoes



SWEETS

Various Ice Creams

Sherry Fruit Trifle

Mandarin Meringue

Peach & apple Pie with Cream



The meal will be completed with Coffee or Tea and Mint Chocolates

Please send your menu choices (preferably on the enclosed form) to the Dinner Sec. at :

5, Theakston Close, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees. TS18 Tel: 01642

to reach him by Saturday 16th April 2005

THE 47 – 54 BRIGADE

The group that started meeting in 1998 as a result of Brian Brand's urge to re-form the U13 School rugby team had a formal reunion at the St George Hotel, Teesside Airport on Saturday 27 September 2003. The group long since ceased to be just the rugby squad and most of those who had been located over the last five years came along. We also had "old" girls, mostly wives of "old" boys! Most remarked that it was enjoyable meeting someone you had wondered about for years and old photographs tested the memory cells and revived the past in no uncertain terms. Paul Helliwell, who often wielded a camera in his old school days, put up a display of old black and white photos of trips or holidays from the fifties. Wives were not sidelined – as if they would be – and apprehension I know was there before the event, soon dissolved. The non-Stocktonians, like my wife, shared our enthusiasm and enjoyed a comparison with their own schools. The web sites like "Friends Reunited" are flourishing and every week there are notes in the papers about year/school reunions.

We hope to meet again in three or four years to celebrate our various three score years and ten! Those who were able to join us included:

Brian & Vivienne **Crocker**, Eddie & Alison **Wood**, Dave & Kath **Nash**, Don & Dorothy **Moses** [nee **Jeffries**], Jack & Barbara **Candlin**, Paul & Ann **Helliwell**, Brian & Pat **Brand**, Tom **Bellis**, Denis & Jean **Foulger**, John & Valerie **Franks**, John & Ann **Hutchinson** [nee **Temblett**], John & Margaret **Walton**, Chas. & Joyce **Willoughby**, Monica **Davis** [nee **Benson**] Anne **Collins** [nee **Bolton**], Peter & Sheila **Williams**, Geoff **Kenyon**, Graeme **Dewison**, Jack & Marian **Gilliland** [nee **Thompson**], John & Barbara **Sharp**, Eddie **Pinder**, Jim & Norma **Coltman**.

Walter **Howell** had hoped to be with us but it was the last night of a Drama Festival and at the last minute felt obliged to attend as two plays that he had directed were challenging for awards [one was placed second overall]. Tom **Shield** failed to turn up as his new house was not finished – it is in Spain on the Costa Blanca! Paul **Dee** was in the UK at the beginning of September but had to return to the US for an exploratory operation on his knee. He had threatened to turn up if the operation was put off! He must be OK as a card at Christmas was from New Zealand where he was doing locum work! Malcolm Duncan sent his regards and a couple of photos on disc. Jim **Durrant** was absent sailing the fjords with his sister. He is still living at Middleton – one – Row and has frequent visits from his sons Chris and Peter as well as grand children Samantha and Simon. Simon entertains him on the drums – played quietly on request!

Brian Brand

A few clips from Brian Brand (former pupils beware !)

I came across some old newspaper clippings when we moved house a couple of years ago. My daughter, Tracey, considered the house at Hartburn a Tardis when we assembled all our worldly goods and chattels for transportation to Northumberland. The total could not possibly have come from the one house! True I have a tendency to keep all things. You never know when someone might ask who attended the OSA dinner in 1962 [the first year I organised it] or when I might need a spare "flick up" direction indicator [as fitted to my 1939 Morris Series E]. Well we have thrown an awful lot away or should I say we have thrown away a lot of awful stuff. I have kept my old mark books; so keep biting your fingers if I taught you. I can still give you your homework marks or Christmas exam marks for 1962 to 1970!

To return to newspaper cuttings. Here are a few examples remembered by me and perhaps by you.

1974 : An Evening Gazette photo showing the guests at the OSA dinner in 1974. It shows Mayor of Teesside Maurice Sutherland [not "Sir" then], Mr R E Bradshaw [Headmaster], Geoff Riddle [President], Mr P King [guest from ICI] and yours truly [Secretary at that time]. I then came across it again! Under "Remember When" dated 14 January 2002.

- 1963:** Fifty years of reunions. Twelve out of twenty past presidents attended the dinner along with around a hundred former pupils. The first President E Scholes presented a shield, showing all the past presidents, to Gordon Rattenbury the Deputy Head teacher. The Founder of the OSA, Evan Baldwin, Dennis Hardie, Norman Winn and Harry Ray looked on. The main speaker Borough Treasurer, Mr J D Jackson talked of a graduated Citizen's course in schools and that was forty years ago!
- 1944:** An Evening Gazette photo showing Lieut. C G McDermont, representing Lieut.General James Doolittle, Commander of the US 8th Air Force, presenting the Purple Heart to Mrs S E Leach. This, the oldest gallantry decoration of the USA, was awarded to her son Lemuel B Smith, navigator of a Flying Fortress Bomber. Lemmie Smith, a friend of my brother, was lost on a raid over Germany and officially presumed dead. His name appears on the 39 - 45 Honours Board at the school.
- 1986:** Paul Frost and his wife Joy celebrate the birth of their first son Alexander, a brother for Emma and Victoria. Alexander was born on cue, as his father would have been presenting the news [had he been there!]
- 1986:** Mark Whaley received his degree at Newcastle. He narrowly missed out on a place in the GB Windsurfing team for the Los Angeles Olympics. He and his brother Clive were both star performers on surfboards.
- 1986:** Claire Mallinson was chosen as vice-captain of the English Universities Ladies' Cricket team.
- 1916:** In "picture of the past" 1983, the SSS cricket team of 1916 was featured. The only member named was Horace King, later Lord Maybray King, former speaker of the House of Commons.
- 1923:** A gem appeared in the Evening Gazette of Saturday 14 May 1983. The staff of the SSS; probably at the retirement of the first Headmaster, J J Prest, after 27 years. The staff at that time was Gavin Kay, Bill Baker, Evan Baldwin, J W Eden, Cuthbert King, F Manners, L Lumb, L W Rhys, A Bremner, S Dumble, G G Armstrong, James Allan, Fred Upton, J G Taylor, J J Prest, Billy Ball and H Nicholson. My generation at the Nelson terrace building met several of these gentlemen, Gavin Kay who appeared to teach music i.e. One lesson a week to sing. For some he was a little more familiar if they were in the orchestra. "Creamy" Manners who started my group in 2M with French. "Taffy" Rhys who taught chemistry but was really a History and English teacher. He was "converted" to chemistry during the Second World War. "Pop" Bremner who taught Physics and started me on a ten-year stint to a degree in the subject. Sid Dumble, the deputy Head who started at the school after the First World War teaching "Physical Education". He had played rugby for Cumberland and Westmorland as scrum half. He taught us Maths from his "Brown Euclid" and respect with the strap he chastised us with! Jute Armstrong who taught us History by starting dictating as he entered the room and thankfully daydreamed occasionally as he gazed out of the window of the top floor towards the hills. I decided on this explanation after he took a group of us, on a Saturday, to the Cleveland Hills. We didn't have the luxury of a school bus, just met at the bus stop in the High Street and Jute turned up in old clothes with his dog on a lead [actually a piece of string!]. What a delightful man he was and what a loss when he was knocked down and

killed as he cycled to school one day. The person who sent in the photograph was Frank Baker of Baker and Collinson, Estate Agents in Stockton with Offices near the Trustees Bank along from the Parish Church. His father was Bill Baker in the staff photo. Cuthbert King and J J Armstrong are the two masters who are remembered by Old Stocktonian prizes, which are still presented annually at Grangefield School.

Comments which appeared in the Evening Gazette afterwards included a memory of travelling from Sedgefield to school by "steam train" in 1911 [Horace J Ward], a memory of Mr W Major, who had just joined the staff in 1924, travelling from Great Ayton on his "sit up and beg" BSA motor cycle [Ernest Taylerson 24 - 29]. Gordon Rattenbury identified the photo as 1923 because Frank Manners was appointed in '23 and Lewis Lumb died in '23. Lewis Lumb was replaced by Mr T B Brooke an old boy appointed in '24 and the first of around 14 old boys who became members of staff. Gordon commented that the pre 1900 staff wore high starched "butterfly" collars whilst the younger ones who had served in the First World War were wearing soft turned down collars. What would the comparison be now?!!

- 1984:** A picture of the old "Sec" building in Nelson Terrace appeared under "D-day for famous landmark". John Scott, the chairman of Stockton Planning Committee and a former member of staff, said that the building belonged to the county but he expected consultation with the Borough about future possibilities. As it was deemed unsafe for further education classes and would have cost a fortune to make safe, it was no surprise when it was finally demolished.
- 1984:** Tom Sowler and Jack Marriott appeared in the Gazette to promote their book, which included 20 pictures going back to the days when Stockton was a seaport. "It is not a history of Stockton, it's a collection of photographs which people would like to see without having to read pages and pages of text" said Tom. Tom was already working on his "History of Stockton" in mainly "words"!
- 1985:** Stockton and Thornaby Advertiser, Jan 15th. A big spread about Paul Frost, presenter of Northern Life on Tyne Tees television. I'll just bring out a few points, which I hope will make Paul chuckle and mutter "if only". "Fame and a modest amount of fortune he has certainly achieved. The large detached house, where he lives with wife Joy, who is a supply teacher, and two children Emma seven and Victoria ten months, bear witness to Paul's rise to celebrity status. Two cars in the garage, tasteful decor and expensive furniture complete the picture." The article then goes on to relate why Paul still lives in Stockton - family and friends mainly with a satisfaction that he is still accepted as "normal" when taking his dad for a pint or his wife, Joy, for a meal. Joy, incidentally, is an old girl of Grangefield, though Paul and Joy didn't really meet until after they left school and then became engaged within five weeks. Having known Paul since he was eleven and his dad had the Stork and Castle in Brunswick Street, where I occasionally had a pint, I followed his career with interest and know that basically he hasn't changed. I was brought up two streets away from Brunswick Street, in Prince Regent Street, and my father was born one street away in William Street.
- 1985:** "Shops centre on cards". Pengap Securities Limited wants to develop the site of the old Secondary School for shopping, with links through to both the High Street and Dovecot Street.
- 1986:** Ursula Smith, ex Stockton Sixth Form College, started her Fulbright Commission award for post-graduate studies at Ivy League university Yale. Ursula first came to fame in BBC's Young Musician of the Year playing her cello. She will be studying at

Yale under Brazilian born virtuoso, Aldo Parisot. "The course lasts two years but funding from Fulbright only lasts one year", her father, Bob Smith, commented.

1987: Librarian Leslie Still retired. Leslie was a pupil at the SSS before the Second World War and joined the Durham County Libraries in 1938. After War service with the DLI and the Queen's Royal Regiment he qualified as a librarian in 1948. He served with Durham County, Teesside and Cleveland libraries, as Assistant County Librarian with the latter.

1995: A photograph from 34 - 35 appeared on Jan 17th in the local history section of the Gazette. It was sent in by Bob Thompson who attended in 1934 and who retired from British Rail after 44 years. Then aged 74, Bob had found the photograph in a suitcase. He remembered having to choose between Latin and Chemistry when he first attended and decided on Latin. He had the names of his classmates :- C Hadaway, Harry Ray, Doug Moore, Stanley North, Harold Rutledge, Fred Curry, Raymond Counter, A Bull, Trotter, Eric Brown, Dixon, L Brown, Peter Twiddy, Bob Thompson, John Ditchburn, Dinsdale, Charles Vickers, George Watson, Alan Still, Ken Sierwauld and G Wing.

From Bob's age he must have started at the Sec in 1931 or 1932 and the photograph shows a group of at least 4th year. I believe Alan Still was the brother of Leslie Still. Harry Ray was a stalwart of the OSA for many years and Eric Brown became a local councillor.

1994: Agnes Sowler unveiled a memorial to her husband Tom at the Sixth Form College. The memorial in the form of a hand made notice board eight feet by four was handed over to the College by Agnes, son Peter and daughter Marny.

Unknown date: A letter appeared in the press from Mrs Mary Jones (nee Ellis), who was 97 and had attended the Nelson Terrace building, I suspect when it first opened in 1896. She was concerned about an oil painting of the gym master Sgt Tait who was killed at Blomfontein after being called up as a reservist for the Boer War. Staff and Pupils had raised money for the oil painting, which was life-size and lifelike of the sergeant in full uniform. It was painted by the Art master, Mr Allen and had a broad gold frame made by Armstrong's of Finkle Street. The painting used to hang in the Gym and Mrs Jones wonders what happened to it. It is not in Preston Park, she says so did it go to the regimental museum [The DLI, she thought]. I don't remember any painting in the Gym in 1947 onwards but knowing what happens when redecoration takes place, was it removed and never replaced? From her age I would say that this cutting dates from around 1982.

FORMER STUDENTS HERE AND THERE

We still thirst after more correspondence !

We accept all forms of messages : - ordinary post (to Bob Ward), Email (to any of the Committee), parcel post (if you have that much to say !), pigeon post (if you haven't), telephone calls and even word of mouth; plus a host of possibilities we haven't thought of !

Paul Graham – Editor

SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE CONTACTED US ABOUT PUBLISHING LISTS OF ADDRESSES OF MEMBERS. WE USED TO PROVIDE SUCH LISTS, PERIODICALLY, IN THE PAST BUT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT 'FALLING FOUL' OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT. HOWEVER, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT (ON THE ENCLOSED SLIP) THERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS (BY DEFAULT) TO GIVE US PERMISSION TO PUBLISH E-MAIL ADDRESSES. WE KNOW THAT THIS WILL NOT MEET EVERYONE'S NEEDS BUT YOU CAN CONTACT US AND ASK TO BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH A MEMBER/MEMBERS AND WE SHALL PASS ON YOUR REQUEST. WE CAN (WE THINK), PUBLISH A LIST OF NAMES OF MEMBERS AND THEIR DATES (AT SCHOOL COLLEGE) SO THAT YOU MAY MAKE A CHOICE ABOUT WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CONTACT. FAILING THIS YOU COULD ALWAYS TRY 'FRIENDS REUNITED', IF YOU HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY.

A short note from **FRANK BOWEN (1925- 32)** in response to our March letter enclosed his apologies for the AGM and Annual Dinner due to "infirmity". He did wonder, however, how many of those attending were taught by 'Froggie' Eden, 'Creamy' Manners, 'Jute' Armstrong and 'Tutti' Munday. Although we can't be certain about those who were taught by the above we can say that of the 6 'old' boys attending the dinner all were at the School when Mr Munday was teaching, 3 were there when Messrs Armstrong and Manners were there but no one could claim to be a pupil when 'Creamy' Manners retired in 1931.

As a regular supporter of the Association and contributor to these pages it was nice to receive a letter from **PETER COUPE (1957- 65)** together with a most generous donation to be shared between all the Memorial Prize Funds. Although Peter was never taught by Gordon ("that was ably done by Messrs. D'Arcy and Bell") he had great respect for him. Gordon's influence was appreciated not only for the help he gave in School but for the work he did with the Scout Group in Hartburn [Graham Mellaby's ?], which Peter and many other Grangefield boys attended. Peter's 'schoolboy French' has improved much (since 2001) after he was appointed as Director General of the new University of Technology, Mauritius, where the first language is French ! Peter adds that, should any Old Stocktonians be taking a luxury holiday in Mauritius they can contact him at the University and he would be pleased to join them at their "gorgeous beach hotel". In the meantime he passes on his best wishes to all who may remember him.

PETER DEE (1948- 50) sends a nice donation with his subs 'top up' but gave us no further news to pass on.

Despite being disabled by "lots of heart problems" **IVOR DENNEY (1940- 46)** is still very busy – so much so that he finds that there are still not enough hours in the day. Having retired in 1986 Ivor's wife passed away in 1990 but he still manages to cope, in his mid-70s. We thank him for taking the time to write and send a nice donation to funds.

The name **JANET MUFFIN (1932- 39)** may not 'ring any bells' with many members but if we mention that her maiden name was Manners and that she went to SSS [for Girls, of course] then some of our [older?] friends may know her as the daughter of 'Creamy' Manners. Janet recently heard of the Association on a visit to **TONY BARBER (1931- 37)** and convinced herself that "even at this late stage, I ought to join". Her faith is such that she has subscribed for 10+ years and, although it is at least 60 years since she lived in the area she still has a great affinity for the area and sends best wishes to all her fellow Stocktonians. As a pupil at the Nelson Terrace building Janet remembers that the first form girls occupied the very top storey and that once "some of us climbed out onto the balcony outside the window, though this would have been frowned upon had it been known". In the sixth form their classroom was in a separate building, which housed the domestic science department, and this delighted them as it looked out onto the boys' playground – "we spent a lot of time watching the sixth form boys from the window". On one occasion the headmistress suddenly appeared in the classroom and said "If that little group are at the window in order to look at the boys, will they please move away." The group stayed where they were and the head said no more ! In 1939 Janet went to Durham University to read mathematics which, she confesses, may not have been a good idea. Although she gained a good degree she spent the rest of her (working) life devoted to the promotion of mathematics teaching before a 'voluntary' retirement from a College of Higher Education in 1977 and a 'final' retirement from the University in 2002 ! Janet recalls that although her father taught French at SSS he was a good mathematician who was dissuaded from doing that subject by the thought that he had to do chemistry with it; which he hated. When Janet's time came to make a choice of subject she reasoned that she could probably 'keep up' French after schooldays without formal study, but Maths would be impossible; therefore she chose Maths. Her own son faced a similar dilemma and chose French – he now works for the European Parliament in London.

We received a short missive from **KEN DUTTON (1962- 69)** to inform us of a change of address, involving a somewhat distant removal. Ken and his wife have decided on a permanent move from Scotland to Canada (in August 2004) but, as yet, we only have an initial landing address. We wish them all the best in their new life and look forward to more news in the near future.

A change of address and a nice donation to funds from **JOHN ENGLAND (1960- 65)** but no news to add to that he gave us a short time ago.

JOHN FRANKS (1990- 92) writes with several pieces of news and a top up of subs. John has changed his job at Marconi recently to a shift pattern of 2 x 12 hour days, 2 x 12 hour nights and then 6 [5½, really] days off. This leaves him with "loads of spare time" and "the shift money comes in useful too!". His new role is in management and he deals with queries / hassle / grief concerned with telecom customers [BT, NTL, Telewest etc.] network problems. We're not sure if this 'extra time' was put to use when John and his wife Kathryn toured Australia this year. Whilst in Australia they stayed for a week in Sydney with **POIYA PURI(1990- 92)** who is (was?) working as a pharmacist there for two years. Previously Poiya had spent 18 months in New Zealand, but wedding bills had meant that John and his wife were unable to visit on that occasion.

With travel through France, Spain and Portugal in their motorhome from February through to May in 2004 you would have thought that **DAVE GATHERGOOD (1957- 64)** would have met at least one Old Stocktonian, but he says not. When he wrote to us he was anticipating a hot summer tour in the UK [hard luck Dave !] when he might have better luck with chance meetings. In between his travels Dave still found time to write and include a nice donation to funds.

A huge top up of subs from **PAUL GREGORY (1968- 75)** but no other news for the moment.

RAYMOND GEDLING (1929- 36) feels that whoever invented his nickname 'Gink' as mentioned in the 2002-03 magazine deserves the Booker Prize. He says that the name was never known to him at any time when he was at school – perhaps we (and Raymond) could be 'enlightened'. In the meantime we thank Raymond for his generous donations to the Memorial Prize funds.

It's always a pleasure to hear from **MARTIN GILLESPIE (1979-81)** who, despite living in Kent, frequently makes great efforts to contact us directly on his visits north. He reminded us that there was not much news in the last magazine from those of his years at the College - who reached the '40 milestone' in 2003. Martin adds that he is kept busy by his sons Cameron (3) and Henry (6 months) as well as his job and voluntary work. We look forward to seeing him in the near future.

A short note from **JOHN GREEN (1940-46)** who sends us all best wishes.

JOHN GREENAWAY (1983-85) sends a generous top-up for subs and a confirmation of his local address but no other news, unfortunately.

As a regular contributor to these pages over the last few years we have come to expect a yearly missive from **BOB HEATHCOTE (1934-40)** and, I'm glad to say, he has not let us down this year. Bob says he was reminded to write to us when he 'discovered' the reply slip in the depths of his desk as he was clearing it out one cold day when it was "too cold for the garden or workshop". From his seat he can see a few crocuses, aconites and snowdrops and they remind him that a few years ago he would have been in the garden regardless of the temperature – even if it was just splitting logs. [See Bob's 'lament' in last year's magazine – Editor.] Bob came across a photograph recently of the 1937/38 rugby team which included "such stalwarts as **KIT URWIN, ROLDO(?) IRELAND, DOUGIE MOORE, HARPER, DON SMITH** and himself; the last two "enjoying our first year in the first team". Bob thinks that he and Don are the only survivors but would be most happy to be proved wrong ! [Anyone help ? – Editor] In a recent discussion with Don, Bob was assured that **DICK SHIELDS** and **DENNIS RUSSELL** were OK although Dennis was "not too fit". In closing **BOB** sends best wishes to 'the school' in its new role and hope that it "is still marching forward".

A very generous donation to funds accompanied a short note from **PAUL HELLIWELL (1949-54)** who tells us that he has now retired after "a final 2-year fling in Jakarta (Indonesia)". Still in Southampton, where he now rattles around in the family house, Paul was pleased to be part of Brian Brand's Reunion event in September 2003 where he met many old friends – some for the first time in 50 years. Paul recently found out that **CHRIS SWAINSTON (1947-54?)** is currently in a residential home in Teesville and, though not in the best of health, would welcome contact from those who may remember him. [Contact his daughter Andrea Cox – 01740 630622, or Chris at Primrose Court Residential Home, 241 Normanby Road, South Bank, Middlesbrough. TS6 6SX – 01642 456806] For many who remember Paul in the Upper School and seem confused by the dates he quotes he reminded us that he didn't arrive at the school until the 3rd form (in 1949) and hence became part of the "year of '47".

Still in Scotland but on the move again **RICHARD HUMBLE (1980-87)** writes with his new address and to tell us that he is now working as a G.P. Principal in Blairgowrie, Perthshire

(since August 2003). The latest move puts him a bit closer to Edinburgh and Glasgow but is still a semi-rural practice. At the time of writing his non-working hours were consumed by 'settling in' and getting their new house sorted.

At 91, **WILF HUME (1924-29)**, thought he was "getting on in years" until he saw the reference to **PERCY BELL (1914-18)** in last year's magazine. Wilf adds that it was nice to see an entry for **RON PURNELL (1924-29)** in the last magazine and sends him best wishes.

A confirmation of address and top-up of subs from **CHRIS HUTCHINSON (1973-80)**, but no other news for the moment.

As the eldest of three brothers, who all attended the 'Sec, **J. KELLEY (1930-35)** went straight from school into the Merchant Navy, becoming First mate, before 'retiring' after the War in 1946. Subsequently he joined the Youth Employment Service (as it then was), which became the Careers Service and rose to Senior Careers Officer in the Eston-Guisborough-Redcar area until he retired in 1979. His war years were 'eventful', having been blown up by a magnetic mine ½ mile from Southend Pier; torpedoed in a Russian convoy near to Murmansk; beaching a ship, which had 5,500 tons of burning coal aboard, in Malta's Grand Harbour and adrift in the Northern Atlantic for three weeks without steering gear. However, throughout all these mishaps, he never got his feet wet! He may be better remembered in more recent times as an umpire in the North Yorks and South Durham Cricket League; only retiring recently, after 50 years of service. His brother **NORMAN KELLEY (1934-39)** also went to sea before becoming a Ship's engineer and then retiring to become a lecturer at Stockton & Billingham Tech. ["But I'll let him sing his own praises" !]

A nice donation once again from **DENIS LUDBROOK (1929-33)**, but no other news this year.

Just a short note from **ROGER MASON (1954-61)** together with a top-up of subs but no recent news to add.

A generous top-up of subs from **SANDRA MEIER (1976-83)**, who still lives in Cumbria, but no other news.

DIANE MORGAN-HARRIS (nee BARTLETT) (1955-60) writes to confirm her address, top-up subs and tell us that she is now studying Fine Art and Valeatious Studies at Southampton Institute. Two of Diane's five children are now married and she has her first grandchild (Elizabeth Rosie). With such distractions Diane still has time for sailing, power boating, painting and involvement with N.A.D.F.A.S. [National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies] She would love to hear from any ex Grangefield G.S. contemporaries.

ARNOLD MORTON (1937-41) sends us details of his new address (still in Coventry) but no other details.

FRED PALLETT (1936-41) writes from deepest South Africa to include a subs top-up, a generous donation to the memorial funds, a postcard/photograph of a school trip to France in August 1939 !! and some well drafted reminiscences. Fred begins with a quote ["Procrastination is the thief of time"] which, he thinks he first learned from Mr (C.W.) King and regrets that he has not responded to recent magazines. He adds that he feels

privileged to have learnt French under Mr Rattenbury and regrets not having paid tribute, before now, to his memory. Fred's reminiscences include a school tour to France in August 1939 (hence the photo) and adds that tours abroad in previous years had been repeatedly deferred due to the threat of War. However in 1939 with the reassurances of "peace in our time" the tour went ahead. Thanks to Mr Rattenbury the group began to appreciate country life in Normandy at Candebeac en Caux, notably café au lait and croissants (as well as la langne); later the group was photographed at Versailles (hence the above reference). Mr G.G. "Jute" Armstrong was in charge of the party of 24 staff and students. Sadly, as we all know, the "peace in our time" promise was short lived and the school was evacuated from Nelson Terrace to (completely inadequate premises) at Ragworth Hall in Norton – ironically much closer to a potential bombing target, ICI Billingham ! Ragworth was shared with the girls' school, so the classes were 3 days one week, two days the next, with the girls alternating to the same pattern. Off-school days were supposedly devoted to "private study", but Fred and Michael Jewitt found cycling on the North Yorks Moors much more to their liking.

A confirmation of address and nice donation to funds from **LEN POPE (1927-31)** but no other news to add.

We are grateful for the new address from **RAY REED (1950-57)** but he has no other news to add at this time.

We understand (from a reliable source) that **ANDY RIGG (1958-65)** may be moving to live in Cyprus.

New members to the Association have been 'thin on the ground' in recent years and so we are particularly happy to welcome **DAVID ROBINSON (2001-03)** to our ranks. David was elected Student Governor on the College's Corporation for two years whilst studying Law, English Lit., Government & Politics and Maths. After leaving College with three As and a B at A level he is currently studying Law at the University of Manchester and is just entering his second year.

With a promise of "news sometime" we welcome another new member to the Association, **JOHN SCOTT (1953-57)**.

With the help of Brian Brand we have tracked **TOM SHIELD (1947-52)** from Stockton to Alicante, where we hope this magazine will reach him.

A substantial top-up of subs from **JOHN SHORT (1942-48)** but no other news apart from an address confirmation.

At 82(?) **DON SMITH (1933-40)** is still able to do his daily bike run by Forfar Loch – weather permitting. He adds that over the last 15 months or so there have been very few days when he was not able to get out and finds it a "handy tool for doing local shopping, which can go into my haversack". Since he decided to stop driving bigger loads have to go by taxi. Don is still in touch with his cousin **RAY COUNTER (1931-36)** in Great Ayton and 'Heartbeat' is a regular 'must' on Sunday evening TV as the programme brings back memories of their biking days in the 30s when they explored North Yorkshire together.

Including a nice top-up of subs and donation to funds **KEVIN SMITH (1974-76)** writes to say that he is still living near to Hull, working for a large multi-national company. His work involves him in significant amounts of travel (mainly to the Far East), but he does not say whether his wife **DAWN (nee BURN – ex-GGS & SSFC)** gets to go with him.

With a nice top-up of subs and donation to the J.G. Rattenbury Memorial Fund **LILLIAN THOMPSON (1929-35)** writes to say how much she enjoys the magazine. She adds that she still remembers travelling to school on the same bus as **RAYMOND GEDLING (1929-36)** and that she was pleased to learn of the Ridley Scott's Knighthood. Lillian's late husband (Stan) was a friend of Ridley Scott's father when they all lived in Fairfield and hence knew how talented both Ridley and Tony were as students. She was astonished to realise that it had been 30 years since the Sixth Form College was first opened by Margaret Thatcher (the then Minister for Education) and sends them all best wishes for a continued successful future. In closing Lillian kindly adds her best wishes to the "old" team who keep the New Stocktonian going. [You don't need to put the *old* in inverted commas Lillian – anyone on the Committee under 55 is a youngster! – Editor]

I'm afraid our 'ribbing' of **PAUL VITTLES (1978-80)** over the years seems to have driven him from the country – Paul is off to Oz. Seriously though, he writes to say that he has a contract to work in Sydney for 4 years (lucky lad!) and he and his wife (Jacqui) will be going in 2005. Before going he is likely to be moving to a smaller property in the UK [he has been 'settled' in his present house for 4 years now] however he closes by saying that they may end up staying in Australia for longer than four years – he'll let us know.

JOHN WHITMORE (1960-67) writes to update us on his progress and tell us some news of **PETER TAYLOR (1960-67)**. Peter, now a Professor and Director of Pharmacy at the Airdale NHS Trust was part of the class of '60 (1Z) and has recently visited Buckingham palace to attend a reception for Pioneers of the United Kingdom. The reception was to recognise groundbreaking individuals who have changed or contributed something unique to the way people live, or set new examples for others to follow; Peter was nominated by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. John asks the question "who would have thought 1Z would have produced a Professor?". John, himself a pharmacist, is currently doing part-time locum work in the north east ("until a proper retirement job comes along"). At the time of writing he was "off to Florida soon with another 1Zer pharmacist" – **RICHARD WILSON (1960-67)**. He was pleased to note that **KEITH TURNER (1960-67)** [another 1Zer] was now Chairman of the OSA – "what a class that was!!" he concludes.

DAVID [D.C.F.] WILLIAMS (1959-62) has written to say that he has recovered well from a serious illness in 2000 and (at 60) now feels quite fit. He works part-time as a gardener and also runs Spanish classes at home. David married Natalia (who comes from Galicia, NW Spain) in 1992 – hence the acquired language skills. He also studies geology through the Open University and has passed three of their courses to date. These studies entail regular field trips in the North of England and Scotland with the O.U. Geological Society. David studied Geology in the sixth form (1960-62) at Grangefield under Les Thornton with fellow pupils **PETER WISHLADE, GARTH HOLLIGAN** and **B. (?) MELTON**. His gardening keeps him occupied "full-time" as he works on a big allotment in Ragworth, which he has made into a mini 'nature reserve' with wild flowers, herbs and some rare vegetables. He has just agreed to help with creating a children's wildlife garden nearby and would be pleased to hear from anyone with similar interests.

We are most grateful to **CHARLES WILLOUGHBY (1947-54)** for an extremely generous donation to the G.J. Rattenbury Memorial Fund. He adds that "Rats" was a great character and especially remembers how hard he worked to get Chas. through his O-level. Chas. asks if anyone can give him news of his ex Physics teacher **TOM DENNIS (1948-53)** who left to take up a promotion and then a headship. [The last details we had Charles is that he was the Head at Wellfield School (assume this was the one in Co. Durham) – Editor]

With a good subs top-up **KEITH WIVELL (1971-77)** adds that he is still a solicitor [and father to three daughters] in Ripon. Thanks to the Internet and the 1975 Grangefield leavers' website he continues to be in touch with a "vast number of contemporaries, some of whom meet for drinks about 3 times a year". He has heard that there is talk of a 30th Anniversary get-together in 2005.

A short note from **DAVID WINN (1946-51)** asking about the format of the bow ties - are they clips or 'backfastening' [The answer is - 'backfastening' - Editor]

A brief note from **EDDIE WOOD (1947-51)** with a top up of subs and a donation to funds. We can't really complain about lack of news from Eddie, given his contributions in recent years. We only hope that others will write to us as often with some news.

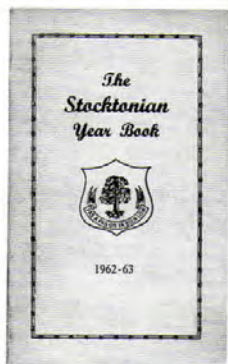
Old Stocktonians' Exclusive Offers



Bow ties - £7.80



Ordinary ties - £5.80



Back issues of Year Books - £1.50

All the above prices include postage & packing

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death (on 20th July 2004) of our oldest member, **PERCY H. BELL (1914-18)**. Percy Bell was the youngest of three children born into a farming family in Bishopton, Co. Durham. He attended the village school from which he subsequently obtained a scholarship to the Stockton Secondary School. In those days that meant a two and a half mile walk across the fields to Stillington Station then a train to Stockton, arriving home again at 7.30 in the evening. In bad weather the station master would let them leave their wet boots in his office and have them dry again when they returned. After leaving school he worked with his father on the farm and eventually took over when his father died. Farming during the war was difficult, with ever increasing demands and a shortage of labour. During this period he was enrolled into the Auxiliary Corps, the secret underground army, in which night time training was a common feature; but he was unable to tell even his wife about his activities. After the war he left the farm and joined the Ministry of Agriculture, initially as a field officer in the Ripon area; moving, with promotion, firstly to Horton-in-Ribblesdale, then to Chesterfield and finally returning to Ripon on retirement in the mid sixties. Percy Bell married Amy Charlton, a Stockton girl in 1924 and they had three children; Peter, who also went to the Stockton School, Margaret and Graham. Sadly they suffered a double tragedy when first Peter, then Graham died during the fifties. Despite the desperate sadness they experienced, they were never bitter and cherished their three grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Amy died in 1989. The reunion dinner he attended in 2001 was talked about for weeks: he said he felt like a star with so many cameras flashing in his direction. To the end of his 101 years Percy Bell remained a man of natural charm, courtesy and sincerity.

MRS M. CRAMNE passed away on May 24th at the age of 91. She taught at Grangefield (Girls) from about 1966, until reorganization in 1973 when she joined the new "comprehensive" school. She continued there until her retirement. One of her pupils in English / drama classes whom she always remembered was James Gaddas.

We were notified in 2003 of the death of **ARTHUR FENSOME (1928-32/3)** aged 87. Arthur worked as a Chemist at both ICI and British Steel

It was with great sadness that we heard that **RAYMOND GARDNER (1926-31)** died November 23rd 2003. After being a "silent member for 60 years" he sent us a goodly missive in 1992 from Sheffield to confirm his address and included a generous donation to funds. He was particularly interested in the picture of the presentation medals given to Stockton schoolchildren in Tom Sowler's History of the Association - he still had his 1919 Peace Medal but his 1925 Stockton & Darlington Railway Centenary Medal is at the National Railway Museum in York.

The presentation came about by chance when he noticed, on a visit to the Museum, that they only had a 'Darlington medal'. Now his medal and a 'Yarm medal' form part of the 'reserve display' at the Museum. Having had the medal presented to him by Leonard Ropner, the Mayor, in 1925 he was to meet the same man again some years later when, as an Inland Revenue official, he had to swear an oath of secrecy before a Commissioner of Income Tax - one, Leonard Ropner! A photograph in another of Tom's books, "The Town House, Stockton-on-Tees" also evoked memories. The picture was of the Proclamation of Accession in 1910. In the background are the shops of Althams and the Maypole Dairy and he has a graphic picture of an old man on the edge of the pavement in front of those shops selling boot and shoe laces from a hand-cart. The cry was "Good strong laces, 2 pairs for three-pence, leather laces twopence a pair". 'Times change!' he concluded. In the BBC TV series on

"Aristocracy" he was intrigued to see a feature on the Lord and Lady Londonderry of the 20's & 30's. The feature rekindled memories of Speech Day in December 1931 (according to past year books - Editor) when the Marquis of Londonderry gave out the prizes and Mr Gardner was amongst the recipients. [We assume this was for his First Class honours in the School Cert (with distinction in Chemistry) - Editor. A keen rambler in his youth he remembered Joan Fordy who was in the same rambling club as him in the early 40s. He remembers a particularly long "hike" when the group missed the last bus from Guisborough and had to walk home ! During his retirement of 22 years Mr Gardner was not idle; he estimated that he had attended some 1,250 lectures/classes at the local Polytechnic and WEA, in addition to accumulating some 3,500 slides through his other great interest of photography. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Joan.

DR J.M. JEWITT (1936-41) passed away on 24th January 2001. Born in Stockton-on-Tees he left SSS in 1941 to attend the University of Durham medical school at Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he qualified in 1948 - just one week before the NHS began. After national service in Germany and Austria he entered General Practice in the North East. He joined Dr W.C.T. Robey in Eastwood in January 1954 as his assistant and, later as his partner. When Dr Robey retired in 1957 (during the great 'Asian Flu Epidemic') he was joined by Dr Michael Sparrow and, together, they had a new surgery built. For 30 years Dr Jewitt was associated with Heanor Memorial Hospital and Heanor Maternity Home. He retired in 1989. He leaves a wife, Mary (nee Walters) and two daughters, Judy and Sarah, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

STAN KELLEY (1932-37) died aged 82 in November 2003. Brother of Norman and James Kelley Stan joined ICI from School in 1937 as a mechanical apprentice and served the whole of his working life there in various disciplines - maintenance engineering, Work Study (fellow of the Institute) and retired as Personnel Officer in Industrial Relations from the Wilton Division in 1978. In his retirement Stan devoted his time to fly fishing (Chairman of the Stockton Angling Association : 1973-87), sketching and painting, pottery, woodcarving and gardening. We send our deepest sympathy to all his family.

DR TERRY D. KINNIS (1953-60) died 24th November 2003. Terry was a keen rail enthusiast (especially steam). We send our sincere condolences to his son Albert and daughter Hilda.

ROBERT RAPER (1920-27) left the Sec' in 1927 (having passed his Higher School Cert in English, French and History) and proceeded to Manchester University to read English. Having passed his Part 1 exam he was awarded the Shakespeare Scholarship and graduated with First Class Honours. News thereafter became rather 'thin' until a change of address to 'Somerset House' in 1950 suggested that 'Bob' had joined the Civil Service. Regular address updates were forthcoming but no news until we heard from his wife of his death on January 2nd 2004. We extend to her our deepest, if somewhat belated, sympathy.

MARGARET STEVENS (STAFF 1935-71) died on 16th September 2003. She spent almost the whole of her teaching career in Stockton. At a time of great unemployment she arrived at the SSS to take up her first permanent post. The holder of a 1st class degree in Maths and Physics from London university she threw herself into all the activities of the School as well as teaching Mathematics, at which she excelled, not only with the gifted but also with those that found the subject difficult. Somehow they were cajoled or drilled into passing. She became deputy head mistress and was, for a time, Acting head mistress. Sadly, a few years before she died she was 'mugged' in the Yarm lane area. This hastened the decline in her health so that she had to leave her bungalow and, later,

move to Teesdale Lodge Nursing Home, where she died.

RAYMOND THOMPSON (1927-31) died aged 87 in 2003.

BOB TAYLOR (STAFF, 1955-73), known affectionately as "Tadge" by the many pupils he taught, passed away in September 2003 at the age of 95. As a teacher of woodwork and metalwork he often showed immense patience with the pupils whose 'ham fisted' efforts often resulted in 'still-life catastrophes'. Given such material it must be said that many students went on to produce excellent items in his classes and distinguished visitors to the School were often presented with marquetry bowls beautifully crafted by students (no doubt with some help from Bob). In his last few years Bob enjoyed a weekly visit to the Butterwick Hospice but, a few months before he died, he had to give up his home in Hartburn and move into Teesdale Lodge Nursing Home.

It is with great sadness that we record the death of **MAUREEN WOOD (nee JOHNSON [1943-50, staff 1958-93])** on August 14th 2003 at the age of 71. Maureen died following a four year battle against Motor Neurone Disease and is remembered with affection and gratitude by her many friends and pupils. Maureen was educated at SSS in Nelson Terrace and went on to King's College, Newcastle where, after graduating with Honours in German, she won a State Scholarship to the University of Oslo. On her return to King's College she was awarded a second Honours Degree in Scandanavian Studies with Norwegian. Maureen then embarked upon a successful career with The British Council in Vasa, Finland teaching English to adults; mostly businessmen. In 1958, when her father became terminally ill Maureen returned home to help her mother care for the young family and she was delighted to be appointed to the staff of Grangefield Girls' School to teach German to Advanced and Scholarship levels. She successfully entered pupils for the North East Modern Languages Reading Competition and many won prizes. From 1973 Maureen taught German at Stockton Sixth Form College until she retired in 1993. Maureen exemplified all that is best in the teaching profession. Always enthusiastic, she was an inspiration to all with her practical, linguistic intellectual and creative gifts along with her broad cultural background, including a passionate love of her garden, flowers, birds and all living creatures – especially cats. Maureen was wise, sensible, able to see all sides of an argument, possessed an infectious sense of humour and was a born organizer with a heart of gold. Her memory will live on in many hearts. We send our most sincere condolences to her husband Des.

