



The New Stocktonian



2004 - 2005



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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!)
Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to;

'Old Stocktonians' Association'

Communications should be addressed to :

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

Or via website :

www.oldstocktonians.org.uk

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is that time of year again and naturally the Editor, Paul Graham has given me a tight deadline to produce this year's message. As usual I have left it to the last minute to produce something. Someone once said that if it wasn't for the last minute very little, or was it nothing, would get done. The past year has been a traumatic period time for my family and as a result I have done virtually nothing for the Association. Looking back over my message last year I asked you to think about what you can do for the Association. Well if your year has been anything like mine then I can quite understand why you not have done anything. I did actually get an email from one of the younger members of the Association with some suggestions for improving it. Unfortunately this arrived shortly before my son was diagnosed as having a brain tumour and so I never managed to get around to doing much; my apologies to the sender for not following up on his ideas. Hence my own involvement with the Stocktonians over the past 10 months has been virtually zero. I know that there have been very few meetings of the Committee this past year and even then I have been unable to attend any of them. Therefore I would like to thank all of the other members of the committee who have tried to keep things going. I hope that there is someone out there who can help keep the Association going and I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Keith Turner

COLLEGE NEWS

Old Stocktonians will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that the Old Stocktonians family of schools is thriving. Both the College and the schools achieved excellent results. Stockton schools gained the accolade of the best improvement in GCSE results in England. At the College the students' A-Level pass rate was yet again above the national average and their highest ever at 97.4% (98.3% for those taking 3 A-Levels). In 20 A-Level subjects and 5 Advanced Vocational subjects the pass rate was 100%. For the tenth year in succession the value added analysis show students overall results to be significantly better than would be predicted on the basis of their prior achievements. Credit must go to staff and students for all their efforts.

You will read in the next section on College Activities that students continue to be involved in a wide range of extra curricula activities. We do believe in the development of the whole person so that the students leave College as "well-rounded" individuals with the skills and qualities that will enable them to work hard and contribute to society. Meanwhile, they have plenty to include on their CV and UCAS applications. One reader felt it would be good to know more about Higher Education applications, which I am pleased to include here. On average 70% (approx.) of second year students apply to Higher Education and the vast majority 97% (approx.) are successful, showing Advanced Level study is a major determination of students' future success. In line with government policy most students (two thirds) now stay in the locality or region i.e. attending Teesside, Durham, Newcastle or Sunderland.

We have good links with each of the local Universities. Two of our students, Pulane Ramotala and Chris Douglas won Passport Awards at Teesside University this year. The Stockton Campus of Durham University has been a major benefit to Stockton, helping transform that part of the town and providing a very local place to study such disciplines as Medicine and Economics. Another 25% (approx.) study in other parts of the North, with only 8% going on missionary work to other parts of the country, including Oxbridge. All students (and their parents) are supported with a wealth of information about courses, institutions and finances. A programme of visits and talks takes place. In terms of subjects studied at University, our students generally follow the national trends in the growing popularity of the Arts and Humanities, but you will be pleased to know that around a quarter of the students enrolled on Science, Maths, Engineering, Medical or IT related courses.

This leads me very neatly to tell you the pleasing news that Science numbers have risen at the College. In fact, recruitment is buoyant, so much so that we had to turn some applicants away from full courses. The College has the highest number of 16-19 year olds since it opened, so next year we will be having to look at expanding the accommodation again, which I will be pleased to report on then.

Martin Clinton

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES 2004/5

All in a Good Cause - Red Nose Day Success

Enthusiastic staff and students raised more than £1000 on Red Nose Day, and another £500 from the sale of Red Noses!

Fund raising events included a 'slave auction' in which several brave students offered themselves to the highest bidder. Adnan Sarwar, our Student Council President, raised £150 in sponsorship by having his head shaved. He raised another £45 on the day as the privilege of being the barber went to the highest bidder. Lots of students took the opportunity to dress up even more flamboyantly than usual and it was entertaining to see the College invaded by pirates and hippies! Staff also entered into the spirit of the day. Peter Fleck our Director of Finance had his head hennaed while Psychology teacher, Lucy Crabtree, dressed as a Sumo wrestler and was sponsored by her students to go to the supermarket and buy a diet yoghurt.

Who wants to be a Millionaire? Enterprise in Action at SSfC

A group of enterprising students, under the guidance of Business Studies teacher Steve Earnshaw, have teamed up this year to launch a management company for organising college events. The company was the brainchild of Jennifer McHale and Jessica Latham who persuaded friends, students, parents and staff to invest £10 each in shares. Events this year have included a five a side football competition, a pub style student quiz, a 'Battle of the Bands' contest and a College 'Stars in their Eyes' competition.

The students have done everything from start to finish including organising the dates, finding the venues and doing all promotional work and publicity. The shareholders have already received a sizeable return on their investment and there are more events planned. Richard George and Ant Thurston, two members of the winning band 'Defty', which also had Chris Pratt on drums and Dan Reeves on bass guitar, impressed the judges with their showmanship and music - described as punk rock/alternative.

Curtain Up on Stars in Their Eyes

Ten acts competed to win the £100 prize money. The musical talent on offer ranged from pop, through grunge to jazz. It was a memorable night for the audience and stars alike. Compere, ICT teacher Martin Youngman, introduced the acts with pre-recorded interviews and helped the students organise the event. Our Principal was a good sport and supported the event by stepping into the shoes of the late jazz legend, Louis Armstrong. However despite this bravura performance, Andrew Laing was the worthy winner with his rendition of 'Wherever You Will Go' by Alex Band.

The Importance of Being Earnest was a Showstopper!

Once again our Common Room was transformed into a theatre for this year's play 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. The production took place in December to a packed house each night. The plot revolves around the central character, Jack, who

was found in a Gladstone bag and has to prove his worth and his heritage in order to marry lady Bracknell's daughter. We were delighted by the response from local theatres and amateur dramatic groups who lent us costumes and props, but the hunt was really on for the Gladstone bag. Miraculously, the play's director, Nicola Mejia found one in a skip. We were less lucky when Nicola was laid low with a bad back the week before the production. However, Theatre Studies student and assistant director Heather Broadly stepped into her shoes and 'the show went on'. Heather is hoping to become a professional actor and has a place at Northumbria University to study Drama. She has also beaten off competition this year from over 3,000 entrants to win a place with the National Youth Theatre.

'A' level French students went to the beautiful city of Aix-en-Provence on a fact-finding mission. They joined linguists from Prior Pursglove College and were funded by the EU to examine issues relating to racial integration. The students spoke to immigrants, asylum seekers, educationalists and fellow students to investigate the impact that the increasing popularity of the 'Front National' is having on society and race relations. They also visited the mosque and discussed the banning in French schools of all religious symbolism, including the hijab.

Seeing Drama Close up

The English Department has organised a number of theatre visits this year. Theatre Studies students have seen two plays influenced by Brecht, 'The Good Person of Szechuan' at Sheffield and 'Oh What a Lovely War' at Middlesbrough. They were able to use techniques from these productions in their own end of course performances. Literature students also saw the West End production of 'Journey's End'. These plays were selected to help the students reflect on the theme of War for their synoptic 'A' level exam paper. AS literature students saw 2 male actors take on 13 characters of all ages and both genders in 'Stones in his Pockets.'

A Visit to the Big Apple - New York, New York!

For the sixth year running, students of Geography, Travel and Tourism and Art visited New York City and stayed in the centre of Manhattan, under the shadow of the Empire State Building. The itinerary included a visit to the NYPD Museum, where a retired police officer told them about crime in the city and zero tolerance New York style. They examined areas of urban regeneration in the city and took in the new development around Ground Zero. The Artists went to the Guggenheim and the Metropolitan Museum. Despite a busy schedule, there was an opportunity to relax and of course indulge in a spot of retail therapy in New York's famous department stores. ICT students took a high-tech look behind the scenes at Disneyland Paris this year when they looked at how technology is used to make dreams come true. A lot of our ICT students go on to study Computing at university and so were interested to find out how computer software is used to help design the roller coasters and aid engineers in testing G-forces, speed and suitability of building materials. They were able to use the knowledge gained in their coursework and 'A' level exams. Such preparation obviously pays off as the ICT Department at SSFC has been rated the overall best school for AS ICT by the prestigious 'Good School Guide', which features schools and colleges across the country.

Other visits

Media, Sociology and Religious Studies students took part in the College's annual visit to London. As well as the usual educational excursions to Harrow Public School, Bow Street Magistrates' Court, The BBC and the Hindu Temple, the visit this year was memorable for celebrity-spotting, and mobile phone technology enabled our students to record their sightings which included Rachel Stevens and Bill Nighy.

Geography and Geology students visited beautiful Chamonix in the French Alps. The trips gave the students an opportunity to see glacial features they have only seen in textbooks. They visited an ice cave to take in the full glacial experience, and their packed itinerary also included the glacially-fed river of Chamonix and the stunning peak of the Aiguille du Midi.

Geography students visited Upper Teesdale to investigate river features including High Force

Twenty-eight BTEC Sports students were outward bound in the Yorkshire Dales for a week, abseiling down a waterfall, rock climbing and mountaineering. The team, based at Low Mill Outdoor Centre in Askrigg, took part in a packed 4-day itinerary. The week forms part of the practical assessment for the BTEC Sport qualification. Second year students were involved in even more challenging activities. They took responsibility for navigating a route and spent two nights camping outdoors in tents and one night in a barn.

Sports Roundup

A good set of results for our football teams this season. The A team improved on their performance last year and finished 2nd in league Division One having only lost two matches all season. Our B team only just failed to retain the Cup as Division 2 league champions, finishing second in their league. Our hockey, netball and basketball teams have all played well this season.

We have also had some strong individual performances this year.

Cross-country runner, Andrew Wiles, competed against students from all over the country in the British Colleges national finals at Loughborough University. Andrew finished fourth in the regional event, but went one better in the national final and came home with a bronze medal.

Congratulations to swimmers Shane Hassal and Jane Usher who beat off competition in the regional heats and qualified for the national final. Five a side footballers Lee Farrington, Mathew Martin, Chris Stephenson, Scott Lawson, Gareth Dent, Chris Oliver, Nicolas Pearson and Craig Purkiss came fifth in the national competition.

Stockton Sixth Form BTEC Sports and Exercise Science students have given up their time this year to help primary school youngsters across the borough to keep fit - and stay happy. As part of the Stockton Healthy Schools 'Fitzbodz' initiative, our students worked with primary school pupils, delivering sports activity sessions. Our students put a lot of time and effort into the activities tackling issues around fitness and obesity.

Students compete in the Outside World

Second Year BTEC students, who have also been working with local schools, organised a sports event for over 320 primary school children. The athletic events, which are designed to promote sport in schools, took place in mid-May when pupils from 16 primary schools competed in a variety of races and athletic events. The winners then took part in an area final on 25th May at Thornaby Pavilion. Organising these events is part of the practical assessment for the BTEC Sports Science and also counts towards their practical assessment for the Higher Sports Leaders Award.

Twelve Maths students have 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 - Ben Wright, Andrew Tallentire, David Johnson, Philip Wood and Michael Sherwood - achieved Gold Awards, which puts them in the top 6% of the country. Claire Stevens and Paul Latheron won Silver awards and five students - Fiona Woodmass, Chris Sherwood, Matthew Buckley, Dean Coyle and Samantha Stokes achieved a Bronze Award.

Four talented SSFC computer wizards gained Gold Crest Awards for developing new computer systems for the northern office of the Red Cross. They worked during the year on their ideas, which were initiated during a week at Durham University in July. Karl Pountney and Daniel Maxwell created a database monitoring comprehensive information about courses run in the North East. David Johnson and Tim Pickering streamlined an existing system designed to vet applications from Red Cross volunteers. They have improved its efficiency and it is now designed to prevent delays in the complex checking procedures.

Four talented Chemists, Kathryn Walker, Alice Bostock, Jenny Dunkin and Kevin Dieu, were singled out to attend an 'Aiming Higher' event at Teesside University named 'Chemistry for the Enthusiast' where they worked alongside gifted scientists from other colleges. They had an opportunity to use infra red and Raman spectroscopy instruments to help solve an analytical forensic problem.

Fifteen Chemistry and Physics students went on a site visit to Simon Storage and Imperial Tankers and were then given a science based problem to solve, alongside mentors from industry and students from other colleges.

The Chinese Connection

The College was the only College in the North East [in 2004-05] to be part of a regional consortium of six colleges to promote A-level education to the Chinese. There is a shortage of university places in China so learning at a foreign college is much sought after and studying for A-levels in the UK will give the Chinese students a better chance of a place at a British university. Martin Clinton (the College Principal) said that "the Chinese education system is terrific – certainly the school we are linking to is very well resourced and doing a terrific job". It is hoped that the agreement will lead to student and teacher exchanges.

A visit by David Hockney - hopefully

The Art teacher at the College (Ann Gill) was so impressed with a portrait by one of her students, Stephan Hodgson, that she invited the subject of the painting to fly thousands of miles to see it. The giant canvas is a double portrait in which Hockney, who lives in the USA, is seen painting the artist and the artist is painting Hockney. Ann said that the work showed a maturity far beyond the age and experience of the young artist and that she would love David Hockney to visit and judge for himself.

Higher Education Applications [2001 – 2005]

In the Arts, there seems to have been a dramatic fall in recent years in Modern Language applications whilst Media Studies has generally increased and History and English have remained steady.

The Social Sciences have seen a rapid growth in numbers applying for Psychology and, to a much lesser extent, Sociology whereas Business Studies (and related courses) have fallen rather alarmingly.

In the Sciences Computing/ICT numbers have been falling steadily whereas Maths has made a small, but noticeable increase over the last two years. The other Sciences have generally maintained their status quo and Sciences, in general, remain in-line with applications throughout the country i.e. much lower than Arts, Social Sciences and Vocational courses.

In the area of Vocational Degrees the most popular remain as Law, Sports, Nursing and Education. Medicine and Dentistry applications reflect the difficulty of gaining a place and the time and cost of completing the degree and setting up in practice.

[Please note that the above comments are in no way a reflection upon the departments in the College; they simply indicate the students' perception of what degree is most likely to be beneficial to them in their future career aspirations.]

FRONT COVER

Martin Varey, an Art student at the College produced the painting in response to a request from Peter Braney (O.S. Committee). Peter, very generously, offered a £25 prize to the best and most suitable representation of Stockton, as judged by him. The media used could be of any form; photograph, painting, computer art etc.. The winning entry is a painting done from sketches and photographs and from information gathered from some old books which Martin's Art teacher gave him. It is an oil painting on canvas and was produced very quickly, hence the sketch like effect. Martin is an ex Our Lady & St Bede student. His real interest is in landscape painting, some of these will be on display on the College Open Evening in November 2005.

OLD STOCKTONIAN PRIZES

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**

2005

History Prize

Harry Blakemore

English Prize

Lauren Mileham

Modern Languages

Katherine McDonagh

The prizes are currently £20.00 each.

GRANGEFIELD SCHOOL SPEECH DAY & PRIZE GIVING

This took place on the evening of Wednesday 6th July 2005 in what was the Boys' Assembly Hall.

Allan Mansfield welcomed and introduced guest speaker James Gaddas, one of our old boys and a speaker at the dinner some years ago. He gave some advice to the pupils about aiming at what they wanted and not being put off. He told them about his own experience at Drama School when the Principal asked him if he was any good at plumbing or fixing broken electrics. Thinking he was being offered some extra curricular work and knowing he needed the cash James was enthusiastic, only to be told that he may as well look for another career as he wasn't going to be any good as an actor! James was not deterred and has made a success in his chosen career of acting.

He then went on to present the prizes, all sixty-eight of them!

Achievement is rewarded in a large variety of ways. There are Whole School Prizes such as Outstanding Achievement, Bravery, Courage and Determination, then there are Year Prizes such as Progress, as well as subject prizes. Year 10 is where the major subject prizes are awarded and the Old Stocktonians' Prizes are awarded in this year group.

The School is officially called Grangefield School & Technology College. Its motto is reminiscent of the old Secondary School in that it involves an oak tree! EX GLANDE QUERCUS - From acorn, the oak.

As last year the evening ended with refreshments in the Dining Hall.

BRIAN BRAND

MINUTES OF THE 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

held at the Stockton 6th Form College on Monday 9th May 2005.

In the absence of Mr. K. Turner ((President) the chair was taken by Mr. R. Ward.

PRESENT: Mr. B. P. Brand. Mr. P. Graham. Mr. R. Ward. Mr. R. Prichard. Mrs. M. Bradley.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Miss L. Waring.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2000 AGM

Minutes of the 2002 and 2003 A.G.Ms were read and confirmed as a true record and signed by the Acting Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. P. Graham retorted that there were 152 life Members and 83 Yearly Members.

5. YEAR BOOK EDITOR'S REPORT

The editor, Mr. Graham, reported that 320 copies of the Year Book were printed, of which

241 were sent out. It was the usual 32-page format and cost £365 to print, with £20.99 for envelopes. 219 copies were sent inland at a cost of £76.93 and 19 copies were sent overseas at a cost of £27.97. There was no revenue from advertising.

6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds are still healthy. The audit had been undertaken and passed by Mr. P. Fleck and seen by the Committee. The Annual subscription is now £2.00. The Annual Dinner showed a slight profit.

7. BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

There were no calls on the Fund. One loan a £50.00 had been repaid. £17.32 interest had been earned by the Fund. The Fund had healthy balance of £2436.97. A grant of £200 had been asked for by the Principal of the 6th Form College. This had been approved by the Trustees. Our thanks to Mr. J. Ingham for auditing the accounts.

8. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

In the absence of any statement to the contrary Mr. K. Turner was re-elected.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. R. Prichard resigned from his position as Dinner Secretary, stating the lack of response over recent years to the event. Mr. B. P. Brand agreed to arrange the 2006 Annual Dinner. It is possible that this may be the last Association Dinner. Details of which will appear in this Year Book.

The following positions were confirmed

Treasurer	– Mr P Graham
Membership Records	– Mr P Graham
Membership Correspondence	– Mr R Ward
Meetings and Minutes	– Mr R L Pritchard
Dinner Arrangements	– Position vacant
Yearbook Editor	– Mr P Graham

Mr Brand pointed out to the meeting that he and his wife were shortly due to move to Northumberland and hence he would be unable to continue in the same manner in the coming year. He was willing to do the job of Treasurer by post for the next year. Mr Ward proposed that this offer should be accepted and reviewed in a year's time. This was accepted.

The President thanked Mr Brand for his work.

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members were elected to the committee:

Miss L. Waring
Mrs M Bradley,
Mr B.P. Brand,
Mr P B Braney,
Mr J. Ingham,
Mr M. Gillespie

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

The Annual Dinner is to take place at the Airport Hotel on Saturday 29th April 2006.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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

LIST OF OFFICIALS for 2004-2005

PRESIDENTS :-

Dr K. Turner (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 : Mr. R. Prichard
Hon. Treasurer : Mr P. Graham
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 : Vacant

COMMITTEE (with above)

Mrs M. Bradley
Mr. M. Gillespie

Mr P. B. Braney

HON. AUDITOR :-
Mr. P. Fleck F.C.A.

THE OLD STOCKTONIANS BENEVOLENT FUND :-

Convenor : Revd. Mrs J.M. Thomas

Trustees : Mr. B.P. Brand, Mr M. Clinton, Mr P. Graham

Hon. Auditor : Mr. J. Ingham

THE OLD STOCKTONIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

The funds have been audited for the year ended 31st December 2004.

On 1st January 2004 the credit balance at the Darlington Building Society was £2 396.65. No grants or loans were made during the year. Repayments of £50.00 were received.

No donations were received and interest of £17.32 net [tax paid £4.33] was earned. This gave a credit balance of £2 463.97 at the Building Society on 31st December 2004. Thanks once again to John Ingham for auditing the accounts.

Donations to the Benevolent Fund are always welcome and can be sent to Bob Ward with other money or direct to Brian Brand at the address below.

Appeals for assistance may be made in the strictest confidence to :

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

Brian Brand

TREASURER'S REPORT 2003-2004

The funds remain sound and have been audited for the year ended 30th June 2004. Subscriptions have increased slightly from last year to £172.00. The donations have increased dramatically from £371.99 to £751.13, but £607.50 of this was for the King, Armstrong, Rattenbury Prize Funds [£497.50 for the Rattenbury Fund]. This gives an income from members of around £923.13. Building Society interest was £65.67 (before tax) and the balance in the Life Members and General Fund £4 620.45, a decrease of £189.64 over the previous year. The Year Book cost £358.00 to print and postage & packing amounted to £91.35. Due to a lack of advertising there was no income to help defer costs and so the overall 'loss' amounts to £449.35. With a membership of about 250 the cost of production is fast approaching £2 per copy [the current yearly subscription] and the Committee may soon have to consider alternative formats to reduce such costs. The Dinner was not well attended, only 12 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 / Rattenbury funds with prizes worth £20 each are fairly healthy for the moment, with an overall total of £1840.67 (including interest). Stocks of 'History of the Association' are still substantial 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.

Paul Graham
Hon. Treasurer

79th Annual Dinner

This was held at the Claireville Hotel, Eaglescliffe on Saturday 30th April 2005. There was a slight increase in numbers from last year, John Scott and his wife joined the twelve who had attended last year!

It is rather a pity that more support was not given to an event that Roz Prichard had spent time and effort on.

Those who were there enjoyed a pleasant meal and humorous conversation. John Scott has spent time abroad teaching and has been involved in OFSTED work, in this country [School inspections!]. He knows Colin Sinclair from their Fishburn days and was surprised and delighted to find some round the table that could bring him up to date, or nearly up to date. Brian Brand was given John's address and e mail to pass on. The evening ended around midnight for the locals and after breakfast for the residents!, though we didn't talk through the night!

Those attending were Paul & Jan Graham, Derek & Linda Graham, Roz & Carole Prichard, Don & Dorothy Moses {from Cornwall}, Eddie & Alison Wood {from Nottingham}, Brian & Pat Brand {from Alnwick} and John & Scott.

Our thanks to Roz for organising the dinner.

Brian Brand

80th Annual Dinner [2006]

This will be held on Saturday 29th April at the St George Hotel, Durham Tees Valley Airport, Middleton St. George, meeting at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. The cost will be as last year £16.00. For those wishing to stay the night we have arranged a special rate of £37.50 bed & breakfast in a single or £55.00 bed & breakfast in a double room. You should point out that you are there for the OSA Dinner.

As numbers have been disappointing for the last couple of years, Brian Brand offered to join the 47 - 54 Reunion to the dinner and the offer was accepted. For those who haven't worked it out, the 47 - 54 group are the rising "70s" and statistically 75% of them will be 70 by the end of April. Thirty eight of them met in 2003 at the St George and hoped to repeat the experience in "a few years". We have had "year groups" joining the dinner in the past, notably a group of rising 50s who were taught by Brian Brand. Jim Durrant hopes to join us, as he says "but it remains to be seen". He was 87 in May!

Menu

STARTERS

Cream of Leek and Potato Soup
Tuna and Green Bean Salad
Fanned Melon with Lemon Sorbet

MAIN COURSES

Steamed Fillet of Cod with a Prawn and Parsley Cream Sauce
Breast of Chicken with a Tarragon and Mushroom Sauce
Roast Leg of Lamb set with Mint Hollandaise
Vegetable Provencale Tart topped with Goats' Cheese

SWEETS

Butter Crepes filled with Praline and topped with Fudge Sauce
Lemon Chiffon Tart drizzled with Minted Raspberry Coulis
Citrus Syllabub served with Shortbread Fingers

The meal will be completed with Tea or Coffee and Mints.

Please send your menu choices on the enclosed form to

**Brian Brand, the Dinner Sec. at 2 The Sidings, Christon Bank, Alnwick NE66 3HR.
Tel: 01665 576273.**

Requests for tickets and menu choices must reach him by Saturday 15th April so that numbers can be given to the hotel.

IT'S THE 80th LET'S MAKE IT SPECIAL!

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

GORDON ANDERSON (1985 – 87) wrote in January and enclosed a top-up to his subs. Conscious that he had not 'brought us up to date' recently he added that he was married in July 2000 to Andrea, a German lady, whom he met when they were both studying on scholarships in Georgia, USA, in 1990/91. In 2002 he left Accenture, where he had been a management consultant for 11 years. Although he had found them a good employer and was grateful for the huge amount of experience he had gained with them he had decided that it was time to move on. In November 2002 a new addition to the family (Maximillian James) arrived and Gordon was able to take some time off to enjoy his new fatherly responsibilities before starting work as a business process consultant with T-Mobile in April 2003. In August 2004 a second new arrival (Julius Alexander) joined the family just as they moved out of Central London (where Gordon had lived for 10 years) to the "countryside" of St. Albans. The boys love their new surroundings and Gordon is enjoying the new challenges of his job, which are enhanced by the 15-minute commute to work.

With a 'minor' change of address **PETER CHICKEN (1959 – 64)** included his email address and a generous donation to funds. No other news at this time but the last we heard (over 10 years ago) Peter was Managing Director of a major door and partition company in Hull. Judging by his address we could surmise that he has now retired to his country 'pile' or he has been elevated to the 'peerage classes'. We hope to hear more in future.

In addition to a subs top-up **SYLVIA CLARK (1956 – 63)** informed us that **NORA ROSSER (nee REVELL) (1956 – 63)** recently retired as Head of a primary school in Hemlington, Middlesbrough. Sylvia's children, **RICHARD (1988 – 91)** and **LORRAINE (1986 – 89)** are (respectively) currently working as a trainer in a D.I.Y. store in Liverpool and a laboratory technician in a local sixth form. Sadly, she had to inform us that **JENIFER CROMPTON (nee FORSTER) (1956 – 63)** died in 2004.

A confirmation of (UK) address and a request for TWO (!) copies of the History of the OSA by **PETER COUPE (1957 – 65)**, but no news to add to the details of last year. We trust that his role as Director General of the University of Technology, Mauritius is progressing smoothly and feel certain that will now be fluent in French; much to the delight of Messrs. D'Arcy & Bell..

We thank **JENNIE DIXON (1946 – 48)(nee HANDLEY)** for her new address in Wales. No mention of correspondence from **HARRY RHODES (1941 – 46)** this time. [Which reminds me, neither have we ! – Editor]

An email address, top-up of subs and confirmation of address from **MAVIS ELLIOTT (nee PUGH) (1941 – 46)** but no further news to add to her 2002 letter.

We thank **DAVE GATHERGOOD (1957 – 64)** for yet another donation to funds and his address confirmation, but no travel news included this time. We thought that with Western Europe covered in 2004 it may be central Europe or Scandinavia in 2005.

JOHN GREEN (1940 – 46) is still enjoying life in Perth which seems to have a wealth of activities available in such a small area and where he is able to take advantage of the completely free local (bus) transport. John had a visit from **JOHN A SMITH (1946 – 51)** and his wife Pat in the summer of 2004 and was looking forward to a similar visit from **NORMAN CARR (1939 – 44)** and his wife Evelyn in 2005.

It seems that the magazine would not be complete these days without our regular (and most welcome) "missive" from **BOB HEATHCOTE (1934 – 40)** – and this year is no exception. This time he confesses his "jottings" are based around "memories from 1934-40". Bob remembers "Billy" Munday from the first day he took a lesson. Seeing a "new face" he asked "Which school?" I had been in the previous year – to the reply was "Portsmouth Secondary". Billy's next question was "Native?" – to which Bob's reply was "Yes": upon which he came and shook Bob's hand. [Bill Munday was also a Portsmouth man !] Bob has never forgotten that Messrs. Munday and Hall [the deputy head] persuaded the Head [Dr. Kinnis] not to put him down a year. Bob feels that Kinnis never forgave him for (presumably) having to reverse his "academic" decision. Billy Munday also took Bob under his wing to do Latin "subsidiary" in the sixth form to help him with his Oxford application; unfortunately the application was "all in vain". Bob goes on to say that the name **JANET MUFFIN (nee MANNERS)(1932 – 39)** rings loud bells with him. Janet was one of a firm threesome who adopted his sister **MOLLY HEATHCOTE (?)**. One of the threesome, **JOAN RUSSELL (?)**, had three brothers in the school and all the 'gang' of boys and girls went camping with Bob and friends at Ingleby Greenhow for the two summers before the war – "carefree days indeed". Bob had, for some reason he has now forgotten, had to contact Janet a few years ago but has lost touch since then. Bob apologises for this misreading of **ROLLO (as ROLDO) IRELAND** in last year's magazine. Rollo was a very strong rugby player in the First XV for some years and his nickname (Bob believes) was derived from his first name Roland – "though he did have a very rolling gait". The last season before the war Bob remembers as a golden one when only one match was conceded – to Middlesbrough 2nd XV. Bob asks after **DON SMITH (1933 – 40)**, as he has had no contact since 2004. [Come to think of it we have not had our annual letter either – Editor.] Finally Bob recalls that when the school was evacuated to Norton he often cycled there with "Jute" Armstrong from Oxbridge Avenue (where Jute also lived). Jute had spent much of the 1st WW in Mesopotamia and was most concerned that "his sixth form" should not follow in his footsteps. Bob concludes by offering best wishes to "Alma mater eruditrix".

It was a pleasure to receive a reply slip from **KAREN HUDSON (1976 - 78)** together with a top-up of subs. As regular readers may remember Karen was diagnosed with MS in 1985 and we trust that she is coping well with such an unforgiving health problem. We wish her well in her fight against this debilitating disease. Karen enclosed for our archives a copy of the prospectus for Grangefield School for 1990, which contained names that many 'older' former students may remember e.g. Ossie Stout, Gordon Lake.

RICHARD HUMBLE (1980 – 87) writes to tell us that his family is now settled in Perthshire and since his last correspondence they have increased to four. Hannah was born in August 2004 and with Rebecca, who's now 4, he is well and truly outnumbered by women in the household. Richard feels that his quality of life has been enhanced under the new G.P. contract, which has given him the opportunity to opt out of nights/weekends on-call, allowing him to enjoy valued time with his growing family.

A donation and letter from **W. A. 'Wilf' HUME (1924 – 29)** commented on the entries about staff at the old Nelson Terrace. All or most of them were known to him and he can't think of any one for whom he didn't have total respect. Wilf still has a photograph of most of the staff mentioned together with one of Form IV Modern (including Evan Baldwin). Wilf is still urging "lads of the 1924/29 era" to write in with their memories "before it is too late". He ends by saying how much he marvelled at the long life enjoyed by **PERCY BELL (1914 – 18)** and remembers him as a "star pupil". [Editor : Our oldest member is currently **S.E. HILL (1917 – 21)** who lives in Canada. Of Wilf's 'era' we have **JACK HAIGH (1921 – 25)**, **G.E. REDFEARN (1922 – 26)**, **RON FENWICK (1923 – 28)**, **R. PURNELL (1924 – 29)** and **FRANK BOWEN (1925- 32)**.

Along with a generous top-up of subs **KAREN IRELAND (1995 – 97)** sends an address confirmation and an email address but we have no news since she was about to start her law degree at Oxford. Having gained a good degree we assume she now works for an international law firm (judging by her email address !)

It has been a while since **JOHN KITCHIN (1959 – 66)** corresponded with us but on this occasion he only confirmed his address and included a generous donation to funds. The last we heard was that John was looking to move on after 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry and was considering "a number of options". Did he further his hobby (of woodcarving) and make that into a full-time activity ?

Just a short note from **ARNOLD MORTON (1937 – 41)** and an address confirmation to ensure we had details of his recent change.

Together with a nice donation to funds **DAVID NASH (1951 – 54)** gave us news of his "second retirement". Having retired from the Army in 1985 he finally retired from working in 2001. Dave apologised that he had not been able to attend a Dinner since 2000, when he was able to combine the event with a visit North. He did manage to get to his Year reunion in 2003, "which was a marvellous experience", and hopes to repeat the experience in 2006 when they hold their "sell-by date" gathering. Although he thought he had retired in 2001 the "freedom" lasted just one year. Dave was invited to sort out the finances of another international charity, the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation, again based in London. He worked for two days a week whilst he carried out the reorganization but, now that things are running smoothly, he just goes in for a couple of days each month plus the occasional overseas trips. He wished he had been able to follow such a civilised working regime all of his working life ! Cataracts in both eyes somewhat curtailed his travel in 2003/4 but these have now been corrected and he expects to be doing much more driving in 2005 and hopefully will see (literally) more of his friends then. Dave was sad to note that the Association had recruiting problems but was not surprised. He felt that two years in the sixth form is not long enough to allow for the formation of a large number of life-long friendships that had been the case in the old educational system and that there was little chance of a bricks and mortar loyalty such as had been fostered in the past. Perhaps "we should have followed the girls' lead and decided to wither on the vine of real education" he concludes. Dave promises to write again in a few years time when he may have retired again !

We noticed the following details about **BRIAN REEED (1967 – 74?)** when he was the subject of an interview in a local publication. Brian is the Managing Director of the Parkmore Hotel and Leisure Club in Eaglescliffe. Originally the hotel was started as a 15 room guesthouse by Brian's mother in 1967 and Brian took over running the business in 1979. In 1986 he oversaw a massive extension to the premises when a leisure club was added and the number of rooms expanded to 55. The leisure club has a well equipped

gym, aerobic studio, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna spa and sunbed all complemented by an extensive beauty treatment centre. Although his work in the hotel affords him little spare time he does play golf and squash and has a pilot's licence, which he puts to good use flying a Cessna Cardinal, of which he is co-owner (with a syndicate of nine others), based at Durham Tees Valley Airport [Teesside Airport for most of us - Editor]. Brian did not elaborate on any future plans he may have, other than a large property in the Algarve close to a golf course, but this is dependent upon a lottery win !

It is more than 10 years since we last heard directly from **ANDY RIGG (1958 – 65)** but he now has a new address and has included a substantially updated CV. Andy's opening phrases provide "a salutary message for younger members". Having the advantages of teaching biology and games ("with of course the odd incursions into chemistry, physics & maths, which would amaze GGL and BPB!") at a small independent grammar school and stopping smoking 26 years ago Andy was diagnosed with C.O.P.D. (a combination of emphysema and bronchitis) in 2003. In December of the same year Andy suffered a heart attack and found himself in the hands of former pupils ! One of the paramedics attending was "a wonderful girl" and a former pupil, as was the radiographer in charge of imaging the angiogram – which led to angioplasty, with a stent, a few days later in Leeds. During this time Andy discovered that the sensations he had been experiencing in his upper lungs for the previous 10 years (which he attributed to exertions in cold air) were in fact angina. These revelations hastened his decision to retire early and downsize property – using the capital released to enhance his pension fund. He now looks forward to re-establishing some old links and proving the efficacy of modern thoracic surgery with vigorous hill-walking. In addition he hopes to maintain his links with Hipperholme Grammar School and assist former colleagues with their outdoor extra-curricular activities e.g. caving, orienteering & biology fieldwork. If this is not enough he expects his six grandchildren to provide plenty of opportunity for aquatic and countryside exercise. The "Cyprus move" that we reported in this magazine last year has been shelved for the time being whilst Andy assesses how far property prices and medical costs will continue to inflate – he will see what the EEC does for the island !

A brief note from **SARAH SHERATON (1972 – 77)** was accompanied by a top-up of subs, a donation to funds and an address confirmation. Sarah would be pleased to receive emails from past friends.

An address confirmation from **RICHARD SMITH (1958 – 66)** but no news to add to that provided in 1996 when he seemed to be looking forward to retiring from his haulage business and catching upon his reading and film watching.

JAMES ARTHUR TEASDALE (1942 – 47) found it hard to believe that it was more than 57 years since he left the old Sec'. He remembers that on his last day at the school he was met by his father and taken to a shop, where a set of drawing instruments was purchased for him to start in the Furness Shipyard, and thence to the cinema to see Charlie Chaplin in the 'Gold Rush' as a treat. Married for over 50 years to the girl that he met at the beginning of his apprenticeship they had 5 children and (so far) have 9 grandchildren. For many years they travelled up and down the country following his career as a Naval Architect, including periods in the Royal Navy, Atomic Energy Authority (Harwell), Chief naval Architect of Furness, senior lecturer at the university of Newcastle and chairman of A. & P. Appledore, Marine Consultants. Finally they have come to rest (in retirement) in Warkworth - back in a school again ! Jim still has his old school Report Book "which showed some ups (but mostly downs) " with some names of staff that may not be foremost in many students minds (J.R. Kinnis excepted) : they include Miss P. Fenwick (French), R. Gosling (Maths), H. Nicholson (Chemistry), R.L.G. Hart (Art), R.

Laverick (Geometry) and Miss S.G. Williams (French). Perhaps others have some memories of these (less frequently referred to) staff they may wish to relate in future magazines. Jim signs off with best wishes to all "Old Stocktonians" and included a generous donation to funds.

Our President, **KEITH TURNER (1960 – 67)**, has detailed in his Message that his year has been somewhat of an "annus horabilis" but we hope that things will continue to improve in 2006 and beyond.

We noticed another former pupil "in the news" in a recent local publication – **CLAIRE VAUGHAN (1973 – 80?)**. Claire started her legal career at Merritt's in Yarm then went on to become a lawyer at Tioxide and ICI, and is now European legal director for the medical company Smith & Nephew, based in near York. In 2005 Claire was named as one of the 50 most influential lawyers in Europe by the UK's leading legal magazine after a survey entitled "Masters Of Your Universe". Claire won praise for transforming Smith & Nephew's UK legal function into an effective team able to handle not only a large volume of internal work but also effectively managing the company's external advisors.

True to past form **PAUL VITTLES (1978 – 80)** has kept us well briefed about his (temporary?) move to Oz with a series of cards and emails (including photos of the views from his apartment in Darling Harbour). The first card (when he was three weeks into his new job!) showed a marvellous sunset over the Sydney Opera House and Paul casually mentioned that he drove over the Harbour Bridge to work each day, a journey that excites him in a way that the A1 never did! [We hope that you take every opportunity to tell the Aussies who designed and built "their" wonderful bridge – Editor] They have taken the maximum possible (two year) lease on their apartment but hope to stay there longer. As ever Paul promises more news soon.

With a top-up of subs **PETER WEBSTER (1963 – 70)** includes his email address but no other news. We did hear rumours of an early retirement at one time but perhaps they were exaggerated. [If you didn't retire this year Peter just think what a fabulous Ashes series you missed! – Editor]

Many thanks to **AIDAN WHITFIELD (1971-78)** for the obituary details for his father Ken Whitfield. Although he had no news of his own to add he did add to his subs and gave a nice donation to O.S. funds.

OBITUARIES

TOM KENNETH WHITFIELD ("Daddy Ken")

1st September 1921 - 11th February 2005



Ken was a lifelong Stocktonian who was a pupil at the Secondary School in the 1930s and a Geography teacher at Grangefield for 38 years. He was a man of integrity and discipline who will be remembered for his meticulous teaching and the keen interest he took in the welfare of his pupils. He died aged 83 after living in Stockton-on-Tees for the whole of his life, apart from 10 years when he served in the RAF and went to university. He will be missed by family, friends, colleagues and ex-pupils alike.

He was born in Stockton in 1921 and was called Tom after his father who was a plumber. His mother died when he was six years old so he was brought up by his grandmother. He attended Oxbridge School and passed the scholarship to the Secondary School in Nelson Terrace. School, Scouts and the Methodist church were the main influences in his life. He wanted to become a teacher but family circumstances dictated that he left school at 16 and worked for Stockton Corporation Transport Department for three years.

In 1940 when he heard that the Germans had occupied Paris, he decided it was time to defend democracy so he signed up to join the RAF. His grammar school education and scouting experience gave him the maths and map-reading skills he needed to be selected for pilot training. By 1942 he was a Flight Sergeant and Spitfire pilot at Biggin Hill, flying sorties over occupied France. His worst moment was being shot-up and wounded by a Focke Wulf 190. He managed to fly back across the channel and crash land at an airfield in Kent. Six weeks later he was flying again. After a 10 month tour of duty, he was commissioned and as Flight Lieutenant was posted to Gibraltar, escorting convoys and hunting U-boats.

From there he went Italy in 1944, flying Spitfires in support of the bitter fighting at Casino and Anzio.

Exhausted after 2 operational tours of duty, he was given a safe posting to a meteorological flight at Benghazi in Libya for the rest of the war. He returned to Britain in 1946 as Education Officer at Middleton St George (now Teesside Airport), a sinecure until he was de-mobbed in 1947.

He decided to put the war behind him, to be known as Ken, rather than Tom, and to become a teacher, as he had wanted to do 10 years before.

He went to Newcastle University and became the first graduate in the family when he obtained a degree in Geography. In his final year he went back to visit Stockton Secondary school. The headmaster Mr Kinnis had been a soldier in the First World War and was keen to hear of Ken's experiences in the RAF.

Mr Kinnis said that the school was looking for another Geography teacher and suggested that Ken should apply. When Ken said that he would like the job, Kinnis pushed all the other application forms off his desk and into the waste paper basket! Ken joined the staff in September 1951 and stayed for 38 years.

Ken met Sheila Duncan through their interest in folk dancing. She had attended the Girls Secondary School (1943-48) and her younger brother Malcolm was one of Ken's pupils. Ken and Sheila were married in 1953 and moved into a newly-built house within walking distance of Grangefield. They had 3 sons who all attended the school and went on to university.

Ken was a dedicated teacher who took a keen interest in his pupils and expected the highest standards from them. By the 1960s he had achieved his ambition by becoming the Senior Geography master. He mentored a succession of younger geography teachers and was always honest with them, making it clear that he had no intention of leaving the school so they would have to look elsewhere to further their careers. Ken was also busy beyond the classroom, supporting the sports teams on Saturdays and leading innumerable Geography field trips. He was often accompanied by his sons and this soon earned him the nickname of "Daddy Ken".

His career changed completely in 1973 when the school went comprehensive and he was made Head of Lower School. He threw himself into this new pastoral role, establishing the standards of behaviour and discipline that would carry on through the whole school. He chose to teach the most difficult and disruptive pupils himself so that the younger staff could enjoy teaching the more able classes. He will be remembered for running the school tuck shop and organising competitions to keep the children occupied in lunchtimes - with Mars Bars as prizes.

He retired from teaching in 1982 and spent a long and happy retirement pursuing a variety of interests. He went to Adult Education classes in French and Music and he ran a folk dance band for many years, playing keyboard and accordion. He returned to the Grange School every year to attend the Remembrance Service in memory of his own classmates who had died in the war.

He was still active last autumn, feeding the ducks on Ropner Park lake every day and folk dancing with Sheila every weekend. In December he suffered a "silent" heart attack and he died at home of heart failure in February. His funeral was held in St Peter's Church, Yarm Road where he had been a sidesman for many years. It was typical that the Vicar and Funeral Director were both ex-pupils of his. He is survived by his wife Sheila, 3 sons and 6 grandchildren.

His eldest son Colin (1968-74) is a Sergeant in the Cleveland Police and is married to Gillian (née Erskine) (1969-76) who is a Pharmacist. They live in Stockton and have 2 sons, Alex who is studying at Newcastle University and Simon who is currently taking his A levels at Stockton Sixth Form College.

His middle son Aidan (1971-78) works for the Environment Agency, is married with 2 daughters and lives in Bedford.

His youngest son Gordon (1975-82) has followed in Ken's footsteps by becoming a Geography teacher, at the Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham. He lives in Allendale and is married with 2 sons.

DESMOND CROOKS (1933 – 1938) passed away on August 4th 2004.

We have been informed by his wife (Eunice) of the death, after a long illness, of the death of **J. W. LAWRIE GALE (1928 – 1935)** on 26th September 2004.

TOM SHIELD (1947 – 52) joined the Stockton Secondary School in 1947 in the Science form. As he was around 6 feet tall he stood out!

When we began playing rugby as a team in the under 13s, Tom was an obvious choice for second row or No 8. He could have played in the backs as, in spite of his size, he was very quick. He did indeed represent the school as a sprinter and helped us hold the Centenary Cup in matches against the Blue Coats Grammar School on more than one occasion.

He excelled at rugby and often played for the year group above his age group.

When he left school he embarked immediately on a career in the Merchant Navy. He progressed through the ranks and earned his Master's ticket. He enjoyed many years as a skipper including passages through the gulf carrying high octane fuel during the first Gulf War.

His stories were entertaining, particularly those about food and his Goan crew in the galley. Perhaps his memorable tale concerned his "medical" duties. When a member of crew reported sick he said he prescribed a pill, the colour depending on the ailment. The "pills" were 'Smarties' which he carefully sorted into colours! Even if it wasn't true he told the story convincingly!

When he retired after 42 years he returned to Teesside where he met up with other retired classmates. He enjoyed a group lunch every month and meeting up with the former S. S. S. Rugby squad, which Brian Brand had managed to contact.

In 2002 he decided to move to Spain and had a Villa built at Murla near Alicante. It was in Spain that he died in January 2005 after a short illness.

We have been informed by a neighbour of the death on 4th April 2005 of **GORDON STOTT (1932 – 1936)**. Qualified in 1938-9 at the Intermediate level as an Associate of Certified & Corporate Accountants Gordon retired in 1977. He was a member of the Association for almost 70 years.

