

# The New Stocktonian



Infinity Bridge - Stockton-on- Tees

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## 2009 – 2010

Produced by the  
Old Stocktonians' Association

# OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

[Founded by Evan Baldwin 24th January 1913]

## List of Officials for 2010 - 2011

### Presidents

Mr P.B.T.Braney [Association President]  
Mr E.Baldwin [deceased] [Founder President]  
Mr M.Clinton [Principal]

### Vice-Presidents

Mr B.P.Brand [Senior Vice-President]	Mr R.Ward
Mr P.Graham	Mr J.Ingham

### Office Bearers

Minuting Secretary : Mr R.Prichard  
Hon. Treasurer : Mr P.Graham  
Members' Correspondence Secretary : Mr R.Ward  
Membership Records' Secretary : Mr P.Graham  
Year Book Editor : Mr P.Graham

### Committee [with above]

Mrs M. Bradley	Dr K. Turner
Mr D. Harris	Mr M. Gillespie

### Hon. Auditor

Mr P.Fleck F.C.A.

### Old Stocktonians' Benevolent Fund

**Convenor** Mr B.P.Brand

**Trustees** : Revd Mrs J.M.Thomas [Chair] Mr P.Graham Mr M.Clinton

**Hon. Auditor** : Mr J.Ingham

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2010

"All are architects of fate,  
Working in these walls of time;  
Some with massive deeds and great,  
Some with ornaments of rhyme."  
H.W.Longfellow

The first president of the Old Stocktonians' Association, a Mr. Edmund Scholes, wrote in the 1947- 1948 year-book that:  
*"So many of you, indeed the majority, I have never had the privilege of knowing, and to you my name will convey nothing at all. But there are exceptions"*. Well there are not many in my case, but I do agree with his main reflection.

I attended Stockton Secondary in 1946, in scholarship days, actually the year he wrote the entry. Naturally, we never met and now I would surely benefit from his advice. There are very few contemporaries left from those Nelson Terrace days, and during the intervening years I never felt encouraged to revisit my alma mater to report on my career. My move to Grangefield proved unhappy and I left to go in the army, in the days of National Service. But I think many students feel diffident or reluctant to return to their old school. It's a shame because we need news of them; after all, what do people regard as failure? Success is relative and, they say, only an illusion. The Committee accepted my services because I try to represent those forgotten "failures".

Lecture aside; I'd like to tell you that my first school responsibility was as hymn-book monitor, a privileged role - allowed in early from the cold, school-yard. As the whole (Boys) school filed into the basement gymnasium for morning assembly, it was my duty to issue a copy of "Hymns & Psalms, arranged for schools by J.N.Downes". The quatrain at the beginning of my message is hymn no. 23 and we sang it regularly, so I know it by heart.

Moving on, tempus fugit; in the last few years the Association has suffered from a lack of interest. It is not alone, but your Committee struggled on like a listing ship navigating towards a mythical haven – the World Wide Web. This we were sure would give us the contact, communication and consummation of the association's aims – to bring together news of all scholars of the constituent schools.

Regrettably, something totally unexpected torpedoed our efforts: The sudden death of Paul Graham. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find recognition to his selfless sacrifice of time and work in the Association's interests. He will never be replaced because he tackled so much. Fortunately, my predecessor as President, Brian Brand, who collaborated with Paul so much and over many years, has thrown himself into the vacancy, manned the pumps so to speak, and we are still afloat. This magazine issue is one result.

I do not know what the future holds for the Association, but such individual sacrifices as theirs, and others, must not be in vain and we will continue. In 2013 we attain our centenary so we shall have to do something special. Have you any ideas?

So there it is. From hymn-book monitor to President of the Old Stocktonians' Association, perhaps I am now the success I never dreamt of those sixty odd years ago.

In paraphrasing Mr.Scholes again; "*the Old Socktonians have, in spite of all, been able to survive and with re-awakening energy look to a future wherein the will to keep alive the traditions of the past shall not fail*"

Maybe next year you'll hear from me again (DV) so...

*Build to-day, then, strong and sure,  
With a firm and ample base;  
And ascending and secure  
Shall to-morrow find its place"*

Please receive my best wishes

Peter Barrie Brancy.

### Editor's Message

First of all may I thank David Robinson for the last three magazines. The change in style and presentation was a breath of fresh air. I must add to what our President, Peter, says about the loss of Paul Graham. Paul and I have worked closely for many years and vainly tried to attract and keep new members to the Committee. Paul took on work when others dropped out and we often used the God Willing tag when each of us took on, or swapped, OSA positions. For Paul this was certainly true last year. Paul's widow, Jan, and his son Tim gathered together all the material for the magazine they could identify and passed it to me. They helped me open files and access the material Paul had prepared or was going to edit. I have endeavoured to complete the editing and completed the gathering of material that Paul had earmarked when he went to the USA in October. Inevitably the Year book is very late, and I apologise for this. The AGM will also be very late. I urge members to read the article concerning the future of the OSA very carefully, because Paul's death has thrown it into sharp focus. Paul, Bob and I had clearly stated at the last AGM that we couldn't go on beyond 2013. We felt then and I feel now that without new blood in charge, the OSA cannot continue in its present form. The question of an interactive website is still open but it would appear that interaction between former students will be informal, rather than directed. Many of the older ex-students have formed groups that meet up as "Year Groups" and even these are limited by "the body" i.e. willing to travel but restricted by health matters etc.

**Please** give the committee some feedback [positive preferably!]

We are privileged this year to have another CEO who is not only a former student, but one of my students from my early days at Grangefield. I remembered Geoff as a young lad in my mathematics class one year and my physics class another. He was bright then and always in the top half dozen [as I can verify from my dog-eared mark books of that era]. He is obviously still bright and one of those ex students a teacher is always pleased to meet, one who has developed his potential to the full. He played rugby at Billingham until he had a serious leg injury and I then lost touch until recently. His life has been extraordinary and still is! So over to

**Geoffrey P Cowley [60-65]**



Geoff with wife Irina and twins Charles and James

Where do I start to try and make this interesting? The beginning is probably the best place by saying that as I have grown older my admiration for good teachers has increased, and Grangefield certainly had a plethora of them during my stay (61-66). I only tried it once, when doing my PhD, teaching first year MSc Engineering students "thermodynamics" at Cranfield Institute. How I didn't end up being charged with GBH or using mercy killing as a defence is beyond understanding. I take my hat off to you guys who have spent your lives inspiring, educating, training and nurturing generations of students. For all my achievements this one eludes me.

Foremost amongst those, who have influenced me and stay fondly in my memory are Ron (Bull) Wright, whose English lessons were always too short, but who inspired us to read far beyond any book lists and inculcated a sense of yearning for greatness. The late Jim Durant, probably the best teacher I had the privilege of being associated with, who awakened an interest in science which still today remains unfulfilled. Brian Brand, whose influence on physics shaped my early studies in engineering which continues to this day, along with Jim Byrne who made maths an absolute pleasure. Peter (Rock) Hudson, whose hard fairness on the Rugby field is still imprinted as the standard to achieve. Jim Scott for making History come alive and guiding our emotions and values through the debating society. There are many more, but these stand out and I thank (you) them.

One final memory from my time at school was the year we had the first French exchange teacher Collette (I think that was her name). Never has French been so popular in an all boys' school. Fantasies abound!!!!

My life at Grangefield is one of fond memories, tinged with sadness having had to leave before I was ready to do so. But the influence of those former years was such that I was taught never to think "it can't be done" and always to know that there is nothing you can't achieve so long as you work hard and don't confuse the probable with the possible.

Leaving school at 16, I was lucky enough to work for the newly nationalised British Steel Corporation and being sponsored by them through college for a diploma in Metallurgy. After a few years in Teesside, I thought "there has to be a better song to sing than this" and so started my life of globetrotting. I had no career plan in those days, I just knew I couldn't stay in Teesside and there was so much more I needed to experience. I left for Africa in 1974 and arrived in Angola, just before the war started. Being evacuated to Zambia I found myself as a young

engineer on the Copper belt, which in those days was exacting and raw. We would spend our weekends swinging on rope bridges over rivers full of crocs...why?..... because we could I guess. Who would have thought that from this I would end up two years later running Anglo American operations in Zambia, before being sponsored by their associate company De Beers for my PhD back in UK? I have been fortunate that all my university has been sponsored firstly by British Steel then by De Beers. No students grants .....fortunately. I survived the PhD years and returned to apartheid South Africa, where De Beers ran its programmes despite the government. We were too important to the regime economically so managed to get away with our own emancipation programmes. Not wanting to bore you with the details but after 4 years of this and of acquiring over 40 businesses outside of SA for De Beers, I fell foul of the law and was summarily deported back to UK. No job, no house, little money, 2 children and a very angry partner. All because I had opened a college to train black African secretaries during the State of Emergency imposed by the apartheid regime. Timing was never my strong point, but principles were and have remained so to this day.

This was opportune also in that after 17 years in industry and mining it allowed me to take a breather and think about where I wanted to go. I was very active politically and came close to running for the European Parliament but realised that I could neither take the drop in salary, nor the lack of influence I would have as an MEP, compared to what I had enjoyed as the youngest director of De Beers since its formation by Cecil Rhodes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The next phase saw me working on the staff of the Sultan of Oman as an advisor on economic development, particularly on attracting inward investment to the Gulf. How I enjoyed this land of Sinbad and frankincense. If I could have stayed permanently I would have. It is still the closest place to paradise I have ever found and for those of you who haven't been there, I thoroughly recommend it.

The following years saw me involved in Europe having set up the European Development Corporation as part of the EU and getting involved in the rebuilding of Romania, the privatisation of British Rail engineering division, creating over 35 companies and selling them off, and working with British Energy immediately after privatisation in building its credibility as a global nuclear power generator. During this period I was also seconded to Kenya as part of the EU mission in charge of all aid going into the country. Kenya was magical, mysterious, beautiful and dangerous. My term there ended with being responsible for breaking the organised crime hold over EU aid distribution.

I am not going to run through my career for this is a big yawn, (and I must leave something for the book, which I am trying to write) but I have been privileged to be involved in many worthy causes over the years, culminating in being a senior advisor to the World Economic Forum and its annual Davis meetings. We worked behind the scenes in helping Nelson Mandela establish his civil service in post apartheid SA and then with Thabo Mbeki, his successor, in establishing NEPAD, along with President Wade of Senegal. After apartheid my SA credentials were reinstated and to this day I feel almost as much South African as English. The only time I have a conflict is when they play each other at Rugby and Cricket and my heart rules my head most of the day, cheering for England of course.

In 2005, I didn't know what I wanted to do having suffered a divorce. So I decided to indulge my other passion of sailing and took a one year sabbatical to sail the Mediterranean and Atlantic while qualifying for my Ocean skipper's ticket on a 70ft Swan sailing yacht. We crossed the pond twice and managed a trip down the west coast of Africa and across to Cape Verde, Azores, St Lucia. We were not allowed to use GPS and the satisfaction one gets from navigating a yacht across 4000 miles using a sextant and the stars and actually arriving at where one intended, is immense. But I missed the board room politics and the e mails so back to work!

My last overseas stint was in Russia which was incredible. 4 years of experiencing the highs and lows of that incredible country and its people. Realising what a lesson in futility we have all learned about fear and loathing of each other during the Cold War, when in reality the ordinary people are just that, on both sides of the so called Iron Curtain. On a personal note, I have two children, grown up and long since jumped the nest: My son being a lawyer and daughter a teacher. I have since remarried, 4 years ago, to a Russian woman, Irina, many years my junior and now I am starting a family all over again, having twin boys only 9 months old. What was that I said at the beginning ...not to confuse the possible with the probable! And now it's my turn to inspire, educate and nurture. So long as one of them is a Nobel Prize winner and one the Prime Minister, both playing for England at Cricket or Rugby. No pressure...of course.

That's about it I suppose, but would like to finish on a homily. My spirit of adventure and achievement was nurtured at Grangefield. The teachers were instrumental in creating an insatiable appetite for learning and achieving and for that I will be eternally grateful.

## The Future of the OSA

This formed the basis of a discussion document I submitted to the committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. There were only 4 members present and we were not quorate so it will be submitted in this modified form to the next committee meeting and hopefully we will have responses from the membership to consider as well.

It had been expected to follow an agenda item "website update" but the member of the OSA who was going to give it could not be present and sent his apologies. He said he had read my document and it seemed to him that the OSA is firmly in its death throes. This made him sad but he felt that older members are not attuned to modern methods of communication and the younger ones have carved their own ways.

I disagree with the word "attuned" as I know from corresponding with my generation [by e-mail] that they do not want to be involved in social networking and do not contribute to "Facebook" for example. I do agree that the younger generation like their blogs and all the other means of immediate widespread publicity.

The website will need a "human" input to keep it up to date if we want to put in Grangefield prize winners, advertise the benevolent fund with the correct information about who to appeal to etc. If we simply want to help ex students keep in touch or get in touch, we don't need a human input. Ex students will create their own means of exchanging news via Facebook or its equivalent.

The Association cannot fulfil its intended functions now, because ex students of the last twenty years aren't interested in organised activities. We are catering for the older ex students, in the main, and in general they are not able to help run the Association because of a multitude of reasons. Those who are keen to maintain contact with their old education establishment live out of the area and cannot join the committee in the "old" way. We could perhaps have a committee "at a distance" communicating via e-mail. The functions of the Association concerned with maintaining and renewing contacts could easily continue and input from the Sixth Form and Grangefield would complete the news function. The "human" input I referred to earlier could be achieved, even though the overseer might be anywhere in the world!

The Association as we know it would have to be closed down in an orderly and structured way. This raises several difficulties which were discussed at length by the committee in the late sixties/early seventies when we knew the Comprehensive system was going to be introduced in 1973.

There was an option to wind up the OSA, an option to join the new Comprehensive School on the Grangefield site, an option to join the new Sixth Form College and an option to simply stop recruiting and slowly "die". This latter option was taken by the Grangefield Old Girls' Association. The main advantage of this latter option was that we could have still used the funds legally!

It was decided then to join the Sixth Form College if the new establishment was willing, but to run the funds down by providing a bumper Year Book [the 1973 edition]. Members who were not in favour either resigned from the committee or just stopped communicating.

We sought advice at the time from Geoff Riddle, a past President, who was also a practising solicitor. His advice was that we needed the authority of the membership at the AGM to be able to dispose of the funds. We could distribute the funds to all existing members, before winding up the Association. We could also ballot the members to use the funds for Prizes at the School or College. We certainly need the authority of the members to say how any existing funds may be disposed of.

The current Prize fund, standing at around £1800, for the King, Armstrong and Rattenbury awards at Grangefield School can be tied into a Trust Fund to be used for prizes until the money runs out. One of our members, who donated £1000 to the prize fund a few years ago, has suggested that the prizes be increased in value. I did point out to him that Grangefield try to keep their prizes equal in value.

The Life Members & General Fund standing at around £3500 would be the main problem. If we distributed this we would need to allow for refund of years ahead paid for, postage and stationery before calculating the amount per member. As the Building Society will not issue cheques for amounts under £50, we would have to find a way of using a bank account, for instance. If a website needed to be funded we would have to allow for this.

If the OSA was wound up, the Benevolent fund would still be available to help current and former students, until it ran out. The Benevolent fund is independent of the funds of the OSA but it still needs a Convenor and Trustees. As I am the current Convenor, I can suggest to the Trustees that a younger ex student could manage the fund, even if he/she lived out of the area.

I hope that members will respond positively. The Committee now boasts just seven members and we need five for a quorum. We are also advancing in years and only one is not retired! Three have indicated that they wish to stand down in 2013 and with no new blood wanting to carry on the current format of the OSA, it seems to be the sensible thing to close down the current format at least, in a controlled manner.

Brian Brand



## Snippets from Stockton 2010

Jan/Feb



The historic Globe Theatre, located at the northern end of Stockton High Street, may have new life breathed into it following a multi million pound restoration planning application to Stockton Council. Ambitious new ideas by Jomast Properties could mean » live music will take place in the U venue which will hold 2,500 people. The Globe in its golden era hosted huge names including The Rolling Stones, Buddy Holly and the Beatles.

Renowned for its art-deco architecture, it was last used as a bingo hall before closing completely in 1993.

- The original Globe was Teesside's first purpose built cinema.
- It showed the area's first 'talkies'
- An ABC cinema from 1938, live performances continued including pantomimes, ballets and West End shows.
- The Beatles played there on 22 November 1963 - the night President John F. Kennedy was shot.
- It was rebuilt in 1927 and again in 1935
- The last film shown there was 'The Sting' on 15 June 1974.

### **Renovations to warm up the Parish Church**

For nearly 300 years, the impressive Parish Church of St Thomas has dominated the northern end of Stockton High Street. But, with time taking its toll, major renovations are needed to maintain the beauty of the church, which dates from 1710-1712. Recent months have seen work on various parts of the building,

including repairs to the external stonework and remedial work to stop water penetrating the walls. The roof and internal decoration have also benefited and the windows are now fitted with thinner, more attractive, mesh grills. A new heating system was due to be completed by the end of 2010. Other work involves renovation of the porch and toilets, new lighting, demolition of the old boiler house and redecoration of the youth room and vestry area. English Heritage has matched £50,000 from the Emily Elisa Stephenson Fund towards the work. The new heating system alone cost £93,000. Church funds put up £40,000 of this and All Saints Preston-on-Tees made a kind donation of £5,000. £65,000 is still needed for the heating but a loan from a friend of the church has enabled work to be carried out. It is hoped grants will be gained for the porch work and other work will be carried out by a task force from HM Kirklevington Prison.

March/April

### **A Bridge of Distinction**

One of Stockton's major landmarks, Victoria Bridge has gained Grade II Listed status from the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The bridge opened in 1887 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria and replaced an earlier bridge of 1771. Designed by Messrs H Haytor and Charles Neate and built by Whitaker Brothers of Leeds and cost £69,051. The money was raised by local councils with contributions from the Tramway Company, North Eastern Railway and the Water Board. The bridge has significant constructional interest as an increasingly rare survival of a wrought iron arched bridge with balustrade of cast iron. It also displays a high level of architectural quality in its overall design, detailing and use of materials.

### **Seven Centuries of Trading – Stockton Market**

Affectionately known as 'Queen of the North' the bustling Stockton market is at the heart of the town and has been a regular feature of the High Street for hundreds of years. Many Stocktonians will remember the market from their childhood and on Wednesday, 12 May, Stockton celebrated the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the charter allowing the town to hold its famous market. The Charter, signed by the Bishop Bek, Bishop of Durham, proudly proclaimed: "To our town of Stockton a market upon every Wednesday for ever". This effectively means that it can prevent rival markets within six and two third miles - as the crow flies - deemed to be as far as a man with a mule could travel to market in a day. An extract from the 1310 charter says, "We have ordained, granted and appointed, and by this our present deed we do confirm within the said town of Stockton, a market and fair at certain times in the year to be holden with all things which are known to appear unto the market and fair, namely market upon every Wednesday for ever." The market flourishes each Wednesday and Saturday with around 100 different stall spaces selling around 70 different types of goods. You can choose from top quality fruit and vegetable stalls to clothes and shoes, plus specialist items such as vacuum cleaner parts to cards and gifts. Casual traders often turn up hoping for a spot on the market and there's a waiting list for specialist traders. Many of the established market traders who have retail outlets or trade online still prefer to come and enjoy the atmosphere of Stockton. The market has been at the centre of the town's life for an incredible 700 years and remains a hugely important part of the lives of the people of Stockton. The market stalls are out there, come rain or shine. Some stall holders have been running their businesses here for years and know their regulars by name. This landmark anniversary was celebrated throughout the year with special events, farmer's markets and more.

[The Editor graced the market for several years, helping on the stall of "Sharps' Super Seafoods". He enjoyed it and always felt it was better than a paper round!]

## **A blooming good place to live !**

This summer, Stockton was proud to be representing the UK in Europe's biggest Environment competition - 'Entente Florale 2010'. The honour follows our national success in the 2009 Britain in Bloom Competition, when Stockton won the 'best city'. As 2009 winners, we are not permitted entry into this year's Britain in Bloom Competition and would need to be nominated in future years to represent our region. As such the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has nominated Stockton-on-Tees to represent the UK in the prestigious Entente Florale. The Entente Florale is not just about flowers but about working with communities and businesses to provide fantastic quality urban environments which, attracts shoppers, visitors and businesses. The local business community share our pride and sponsor the vast majority of roundabouts which helps offset minimal costs associated with being part of other competitions. Countries participating include Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovenia. The competition aims to improve quality of life for communities. So Stockton must show how it engages with its local communities to achieve a green, sustainable and colourful town and promotes environmental awareness

Stockton is celebrating after scooping two awards at this year's Northumbria in Bloom Awards - including the title of Best City for the seventh successive year. Stockton Council also received the award for Best Park in a town, for Ropner Park - restored in recent years to its full Victorian splendour following a £3.5m restoration using Heritage Lottery funding.

### **Freedom of the Borough**

Stockton turned out in force to salute a regiment close to its heart. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion The Rifles marched proudly up Stockton's historic High Street to receive the Freedom of the Borough. With historic links to the Durham Light Infantry, which has recruited heavily from the town over the years, it is little wonder Stockton holds The Rifles in high esteem. The Freedom was granted last year, but this parade saw the ceremonial acceptance of the freedom scroll. It was also a home-coming for troops who have just completed an arduous tour of Afghanistan, during which 30 Riflemen lost their lives and many others were injured. Addressing the crowd on behalf of the regiment, Deputy Colonel Commandant, Brigadier Justin Maciejewski DSO MBE, stressed the regiment's historical and current links with Stockton, saying: "We are yours and you are ours." He said they received such a "great civic privilege" with "gratitude and pride". The campaign in Afghanistan, he said, "remains a work in progress - and progress we shall". "Hard-won" progress had already been made in Sangin, in Helmand Province, he said, but admitted it has been progress at a high cost to the Rifles. "Families from this town, and among the wider North-east, are among the bereaved," he said. "We as a regiment will always remember their sacrifice and give thanks for their service."

### **The Rollercoaster Bridge**

On the evening of Sunday, 2 May the town marked the coming of spring with an exciting event to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the iconic Infinity Bridge [See Colin McLurg's photo on the cover.]. Starting at sunset the bank holiday event saw the Borough's school children and community groups lead local people in a magical lantern parade from bridge to bridge via the Riverside, culminating in the release of biodegradable, Chinese style, sky and river wish lanterns. Starting from the Princess of Wales Bridge the procession carried homemade lanterns, big and small and made out of willow, tissue and glue, to the Infinity Bridge and beyond.

The bridge has yet another award, as one of five regional winners in the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Awards 2010. It now goes forward to the national finals later this year. In Las Vegas during May, lighting architects Speirs and Major Associates won the Excellence Award for their work on the

bridge at the International Association of Lighting Designers awards. Last year Infinity Bridge defeated more than 100 global entries to land the Institution of Structural Engineers' Supreme Award for Structural Engineering Excellence. The bridge was built by Stockton Council and Tees Valley Unlimited with support from regional development agency One North East, the Homes and Communities Agency and local firm Balfour Beatty.

### The write people from Stockton

Two very different local writers have seen their work published. Keen poet Janis Landless, 53, lives in Stockton and her book '*Verse Variations*' touches on human emotion of the heart - lost love and wanting love as well as spiritual poetry about angels. If you would like a copy email <janislandless@hotmail>. 78-year-old Jim Haggas is from Yarm and reflects on how he feels his generation was fortunate to be born in the right place at the right time in his third book '*No Ordinary Man*'. If you are a child of the 40s or 50s this book will bring back many nostalgic memories. For a copy, contact Atkinson Printers on 01429 267849 or call Jim direct on (01642) 784357.

### Stockton's 'Hall of Fame'

Last year a virtual hall of fame was launched on the Council's website to celebrate and acknowledge people from the Borough's past and present who are worthy of special recognition. Local people were asked to nominate deserving people who had a link to the Borough and these ideas went before a commemoration panel.

The website [www.stockton.gov.uk/halloffame](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/halloffame) shows who currently features, these include:

- Brass Crosby, Stockton's own Dick Whittington
- Harold Macmillan, former UK Prime Minister
- John Walker, friction match inventor
- George Stephenson, engineer of the Stockton to Darlington Railway.

If you can think of anyone who should be in the hall of fame, please get in touch. Email your nominations to [halloffame@stockton.gov](mailto:halloffame@stockton.gov). 3 or post them to Hall of Fame, Room 66, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, TS18 1LD.

**Heritage Strategy** The Council is also seeking to develop a Heritage Strategy for the Borough, based around the following five heritage themes, which will be published online providing a framework for the work of various Council services, community groups and heritage agencies:-

There are five Heritage Themes:

- \*Early Stockton, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon Stockton;
- \* Railway and Engineering Heritage, including Petrochemicals Industries;
- \* Our World War I and World War II contribution;
- \* Plaques, Trails and Interpretation in the Landscape;
- \* Recent/Living History and Community Interest in Heritage

Part of the Council's website will also allow people to add comments and pictures that will contribute to an ever increasing body of information on Stockton's heritage and living history.

Further information on the above can be obtained from the Head of Culture & Leisure. Any nominations should be emailed or faxed to the Hall of Fame contact details found under the "Contact Us" heading on this page.

May/June



John Green (ex-Grangefield Grammar Staff, 1962-69) received an award from Paul Thompson, GB Senior Lightweight Rowing Coach. Last year Stockton Council and NHS Stockton-on-Tees funded a number of projects to help over 50s enjoy the outdoors, get fit and meet new people. They successfully funded projects included a sensory garden, gardening courses, rowing, running, bowling, croquet, mobility walks, short walks and themed scenic walks. One coach who has received national recognition for his work with the over 50s is John Green (pictured). He was named Development Coach of the Year in the British Rowing Coach Awards for all his work in providing opportunities for new groups of people to get involved in rowing. To enquire about existing courses for the over 50s or to find out about courses starting in the summer call Andrea Hogg on (01642) 524598 or email [andrea.hogg@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.hogg@stockton.gov.uk)

### **Revamping of Preston Park**

The first phases of Preston Hall Museum and Park's £7 million redevelopment are well underway with visitors able to make the most of new shops on the popular Victorian Street.

The street has three new businesses- Lamb's Toy Shop, Manship & Galvin, Violinmakers and J Walker, Chemist & Druggist - they join an increasing number of traditional craftspeople in the Victorian Street, including blacksmiths and tinsmiths.

If you've ever wondered how the complex shapes of the violin were formed you can now see for yourself after Sean Galvin and Chris Manship set up shop in Preston Hall Museum's Victorian Street. The cousins are the street's newest addition, making new violins, cellos and violas at the Manship and Galvin workshop, where they also restore instruments and repair bows. Both have played the violin since childhood, so it seemed a natural step after they completed a four-year course to learn the art of creating traditional handmade violins. The famous son of Stockton, John Walker, traded as a chemist in Stockton's High Street from 1819 and invented the friction match in 1826. Visitors will be able to browse around the shop and learn how the chemist made a discovery which changed history.

### **The Olympics come to Stockton !**

The upgrading of the Tees Barrage is well under way and is expected to be completed later this year. The £4.6 million improvements to the existing white water course will ensure an international standard facility, attracting world class athletes and events. The site is already confirmed as a pre-Olympics Training Camp

ahead of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games. As part of the improvements four 12m x 3m diameter Archimedean screws are being installed. The project is the only installation in the world where the screws are used as both pumps and generators of electricity, providing the UK's first fully sustainable white water course.

Funding for the multi-million pound project comes from Regional Development Agency One North East, Stockton Council, Sport England and British Waterways.

### **It's good news for Billingham**

Many of our readers will remember when Billingham Town Centre was first built and the stir it caused with its (then) avant-garde layout and 'corkscrew' walkway. The Forum Theatre and Sports complex was the first in the area and always seemed packed with users. Of late the Theatre has been the only large venue between York and Sunderland but the whole complex needed repair and refurbishing. Sadly the Town Centre too has become rather shabby of late and does not attract good shops or the large numbers of shoppers that it used to.

It was therefore great news for Billingham residents (and all the people of Stockton) that Stockton Council formally agreed the Masterplan for the town's redevelopment. Richard Poundford, the Council's Head of Regeneration and Economic Development, said: "This is another step forward for the regeneration of Billingham and we look forward to working with the developers to provide facilities and a shopping area the people of Billingham and visitors to the town will enjoy."

### **A once proud church has its day!**

One of Stockton's most famous landmarks unlocked its doors to the public for a special open day. The local community were able to step back in time to learn about the rich history of the site and building. The open day was so popular that organisers, Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Parkfield and Mill Lane, hope to run more events in the future. Built in 1838, **Holy Trinity Church** stands proudly on Trinity Green on Yarm Lane. The church was used for worship until the early 1980s when it fell into disrepair and became redundant before losing its roof and internal features in a serious fire in 1991. In 2007 English Heritage and Stockton Council secured £550,000 funding to carry out refurbishments to make the building safe.

### **New Academies Open**

Stockton's two new academies opened for the first time in September - North Shore Health Academy and Thornaby Academy replacing Blakeston, Norton and Thornaby Community schools. NHS Stockton-on-Tees is the lead sponsor of the North Shore Health Academy which has a science specialism with a focus on health, well-being and sport. It is the first time an NHS trust has been the lead sponsor of a UK Academy. Thornaby Academy, sponsored by Teesside University, specialises in business and enterprise with a focus on digital media. Stockton Council and a consortium of Stockton Riverside College and [Stockton Sixth Form College](#) co-sponsor both academies. North Shore Health Academy opened in the former Blakeston School building and Thornaby Academy is based in what used to be Thornaby Community School. Both buildings received a summer make-over, students helping design the new uniforms and logos.

### The 47 - 52/54 Year Group Reunion

The reunion, to celebrate our free TV licenses during the next few months, took place at the St George Hotel, Teesside Airport on the weekend of October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010.

Twenty seven attended, travelling from all parts of the UK, but none from abroad this time. Paul Dee had been around until September, when he had to return to Virginia as his 91 days were up! Malcolm Duncan had been forced to spend 10 days in London earlier in the year due to volcanic ash and wasn't able to justify another trip over. John Walton isn't scheduled for a UK visit this year and Dave Pilbrough had the best reason for not coming as he and his wife Inis were giving lectures on the cruise ship "Rhapsody of the Seas" between Sydney and Honolulu [Can't be bad!].

Those who passed on good wishes and "for an evening of past memories" to quote Harry McEwan's wife Anne, were Avril Foster [nee Gibbs], Paul and Ann Helliwell [Ann had a second knee replacement just a month before], John and Ann Hutchinson [somewhere in France!], Dennis and Jean Foulger [Jean had five weeks in hospital recently and Dennis didn't want to over burden her], Jim and Norma Coltman [Norma had a hip replacement just three weeks before], Tom Bellis, John and Barbara Sharp.

Those who were able to come were :-

Brian & Vivienne Crocker, Jack & Barbara Candlin, Ray & Monica Davis, Graeme & Marion Dewison, John & Valerie Franks, Jack & Marian Gilliland, Don & Dorothy Moses, Dave & Kath Nash, Jean Bell, Eddie & Angie Pinder, Chas. & Joyce Willoughby, Eddie & Alison Wood, Geoff Kenyon & Anne Collins + Yours Truly & Pat.

We met up from 2.30pm until around 6.15 when the last of the "locals" arrived so that by the formal part at 6.45, most people had been able to chat with each other. I had asked one of the staff to take a group photograph and it was like trying to herd sheep or a class of youngsters but he did manage it, brave man!

The meal was served without too much difficulty as menu cards with the choices of each guest was displayed by each place setting once the guests had chosen their places. There was no seating plan! This was deliberate as was the seating, a large rectangular arrangement of tables so that everyone was facing inwards. I think this prompted Jack Candlin to ask me if I could identify everyone, and ask them to stand up! I did do this between courses, but if there is another reunion I will give out name tags! Jack got Barbara to read out a series of questions and answers from actual American court cases. They were all taken from the internet and were amusing. One example I can remember - Prosecutor: "Was the person dead when you carried out the post mortem?" Medical Examiner: "If he wasn't when I started, he was when I finished!". I thought American TV was fiction, but now I wonder! As many of the wives were "old girls" I found some realising that they knew each other at school and they were sharing memories of times past.

The one name that kept recurring was "Bull" Wright [Ron Wright on the staff list!]. Bull .

had been Form Tutor to the Science Form for several years and he was our Rugby coach for U13, U14 and U15. There were many stories which showed how this one man had influenced so many in our Year group, and no doubt many other Year groups.

The chat went on until around 12.30 am when the "last standing" went to bed!

As usually happens at a reunion, Breakfast was a continuation of the night before and just as the Saturday afternoon had been a series of meetings-up, Sunday morning was a series of farewells.

Tot Munday would have said "Ave atque Vale" [Hail and farewell, evermore]

I'll finish with a comment from Ken Whitfield to Malcolm Duncan. "Retirement is like being young again - with pocket money"



Names from left to right

Ray Davis, Monica Davis, Anne Collins, Geoff Kenyon, Dorothy Moses, Don [Moses, Jack Gilliland, Marian Gilliland, Brian Crocker, Jean Bell, Eddie Wood, Vivienne Crocker, Pat Brand, Alison Wood, Brian Brand, Eddie Pinder, Angie Pinder, Jack Candlin, Valerie Franks, John Franks, Joyce Willoughby, Charlie Willoughby, Marion Dewison, Graeme Dewison, Barbara Candlin, Dave Nash, Kath Nash.



**Paul Graham [1958 - 65]**



**Paul in Boston USA October 2010**

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Paul Graham in hospital in Hillingdon on 18th October 2010. He and his wife Jan had been to the United States on holiday when Paul was taken ill. They managed to get back to London where he was taken to hospital.

Paul was born on 7th December 1946 in Norton and attended Norton High Street Nursery, Infants and Junior Schools.

In 1958 he passed the 11+ and gained a place at Grangefield Grammar School where he progressed into the Sixth Form and in 1965 won a place at Newcastle University to study Mathematics. Paul gained a 2:1 degree in 1968 and followed this up with a PGCE.

In 1969 he joined the staff of Middlesbrough High School as a Mathematics teacher. The High School became Marton Sixth Form College and Paul became one of the Assistant Heads. When the College became part of Middlesbrough College of Further Education he became a Departmental Director. He took early retirement but continued to work as a supply teacher at various 6th Form Colleges and as a private tutor to "A" level students.

In his private life, Paul married Janice Ludbrook, a former pupil of Grangefield Girls' School, in 1970 and they had two children, Tim and Nick. Paul was a great sportsman. He played rugby and was a sprinter and cricketer at school. He also enjoyed tennis and badminton and played rugby for Stockton Rugby Club 2nd XV as well as continuing to enjoy tennis and badminton until quite recently. Paul and brother Derek often went to Chester le Street to watch Durham County Cricket, where he was quite willing to share his opinion of the team's performance with the crowd!

When Paul returned to Teesside, he joined the Committee of the Old Stocktonians' Association and was a central figure from that time on.

I could give a chronological history of the posts he held, but this would not do him justice. He and Brian Brand persuaded the OSA to join with the Stockton Sixth Form College when Education was reorganised in 1973 and Grangefield Grammar School was no more. He has held every post in the OSA and most of them more than once. He made the "Members' Secretary" his own and organised the Year book and the Dinner for many years. He was OSA President from 1983 -88. At his untimely death he was Treasurer and Year book Editor as well as the Members' Secretary.

The Old Stocktonians' Association owes him a great deal and can never replace him. We send Jan, Tim and Nick our deepest sympathy.

## Charlie Gillett 1942 - 2010 (School,1953-61)



During the year we heard of the death of **Charles Thomas Gillett** [on 17 March 2010]. Charlie Gillett was a British radio presenter, musicologist and writer, mainly on rock and roll and other forms of popular music. He was particularly noted for his influential book *The Sound of the City*, for his promotion of many forms of "world music", and for discovering and promoting such acts as Dire Straits and Ian Dury.

Charlie was born in Morecambe, but was brought up in Stockton-on-Tees where he attended Grangefield Grammar School. As a teenager he developed a love of music as well as sport, before going to Peterhouse, Cambridge, to take a degree in economics. He was an exceptional athlete but had Colin Sinclair and Arthur Chapman in the year above and in the same House [Dunelm] which meant that he did not appear in the reports as many times as would be expected. After Colin Sinclair and Arthur Chapman had left, Charlie came into his own and was County champion at 440 yards two years running as well as being part of the county athletics team in the Northumberland & Durham Championships and winning the 440 yards title in a record time. In 1960-61 Charlie was appointed School Captain, Rugby Captain and Athletics Captain.

In 1965, after graduating and marrying, he went to Columbia University in New York to study for a Master's degree, taking as his thesis – unconventionally for the time – the history of rock and roll music.

After he returned to England in 1966, he taught social studies and film-making at Kingsway College of Further Education in central London, while also starting to turn his thesis into a book. He began in journalism in 1968 with a weekly column in the *Record Mirror*. His 1970 book, *The Sound of the City: The Rise of Rock and Roll*, developed from his Master's thesis, was a seminal history of popular music. It received excellent reviews in both *Time magazine* and *The New York Times* and enabled Charlie to further his music journalism career and to write a second book, *Making Tracks*. He wrote for a variety of music magazines including *Rolling Stone* and *New Musical Express* and contributed to *The Observer*. Writer Richie Unterberger said of *The Sound of the City* that it "was the first serious and comprehensive history of rock & roll, and remains one of the best."

Charlie began a weekly radio programme, *Honky Tonk*, on Radio London in 1972, leaving in 1978. He brought Ian Dury to public attention, and was the first DJ to play demos by Graham Parker, Elvis Costello and Dire Straits ("Sultans of Swing"). In the latter case, significant numbers of London's A&R men had contacted Charlie's studio by the time he had finished playing the song - sending Dire Straits on their journey to global stardom.

His second book, *Making Tracks: Atlantic Records and the Making of a Multi-billion-dollar Industry*, was published in 1974. The same year, with partner Gordon Nelki, Charlie launched the Oval record label with *Another Saturday Night*, a compilation album which popularised Cajun music in the UK. The duo managed Ian Dury's first group Kilburn & the High Roads, co-produced the first Lene Lovich album (including the hit "Lucky Number") and published Paul Hardcastle's worldwide number one hit, "19". More recently they worked with record producer David Lowe on the projects Touch and Go (including the pan-European hit "Would You...?") and Dreamcatcher.

After working at Capital Radio for ten years, Charlie was presented with the Sony Gold Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991.

Returning to the BBC, Charlie presented a weekly two hour show on BBC London 94.9 from 1995 to 2006 and a weekly world music programme on the BBC World Service from 1999. In 2006, Charlie was awarded The John Peel Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music Radio by the Radio Academy. In July 2006, after eleven years of broadcasting his regular Saturday night show of world music, Charlie had to end his weekend slot due to ill health, but until his death he continued to present his half-hour show, *Charlie Gillett's World of Music*, on Friday evenings. From mid 2007, he was on BBC Radio 3 in a rota of three DJs (with Mary Ann Kennedy and Lopa Kothari) presenting *World on 3*, regularly featuring session guests.

If Charlie had been born in the U.S.A it is likely that he would have been branded as "The all American Boy". We have lost someone who was bright, popular, good at sport and in spite of his success, modest.

## **D.B [Don] SMITH [1933-40]**

We had the sad news of the death of Don Smith at the age of 89 on 23rd October 2010. His daughter Marilyn wrote from Canada that Don died peacefully in Stracathro Hospital, Angus, Scotland.

Don moved to Scotland to teach modern languages after the second world war and was a regular correspondent to the OSA. He visited us some years ago, in 1990, to publicise his book "Cricket-stumps and Sticklebacks" [ A Childhood on Teesside], and joined us at our Annual Dinner.

Although born at Coatham, the family moved to Billingham and Don gained a scholarship to the "Sec" in 1933. He gained a County Scholarship in 1940 and a Bursary at Dalton Hall, Manchester, to study Modern Languages.

Don joined the University Air Squadron in 1941, knowing that he would be "called up" after his first year of studies. He gained his "wings" as a Sergeant Pilot in South Africa in 1943 and served as a flying instructor at Scone in Perthshire, Scotland.

This influenced him to make his career as a teacher in Scotland after the war. He completed his degree in 1946 then spent a year at the Lycee Champollion, Grenoble and was awarded his qualification as a teacher on the auspicious date of 1st April 1948, in Morgan Academy, Dundee. A keen supporter of the Dundee-Orleans Fellowship, during his 18 years at Morgan, he was awarded the Bronze Medallion of Joan of Arc by the city of Orleans.

On St Valentine's Day 1966, he sailed to Lerwick to take up the post of Head of Modern Languages in the Anderson Educational Institute, Shetland. After three and a half years he returned to the mainland to Forfar Academy, from where he retired in 1981.

In 1950 Don married a Scots girl and they had three daughters, one of whom, Marilyn, wrote to us about Don's death. Don had suffered ill health for the last few years and was an Alzheimer's sufferer. He forgot a lot of the OSA, though Paul Graham wrote to the Nursing Home asking was it appropriate to continue sending the Year book in the hope it might jog some memories. Marilyn, Don's eldest daughter, wrote that it was fortunate that Dad didn't forget the family. Don and his wife were in a Care Home at Kirriemuir from 2006. His wife died in 2008.

We send our deepest sympathy to the family and I feel Don's dedication in his book says it all. "----dedicated to our grand-children in Canada, great nieces and great nephews, throughout the world, to all old pals of school-days, whether mentioned or not and to their succeeding generations".

**Ray Gedling.[29-36]** We have just received word of the death of Ray on 5th February 2011. We will have a tribute in our next Year book.

## Former Students' News

It was nice to hear from **JOHN BRIAN CLARK (1945-50)** who still lives in Norton. John says that he remembers singing in the Friday Quire in the 1950s and now sings with Billingham Oratorio Choir of which **FERGUS McLELLAN (1944-49)** is the chairman. He adds that he regularly meets up with **ANDREW CHILTON (1945-50)**. Andy has just met **STAN WATSON (1944-49)**, **IAN BROWN (1945-49)\*** and **JOHN BRADLEY (?)** in recent years. John's Sister **STELLA (1951-58)** has now retired and plays golf and tennis and sings with a Newcastle Bach Choir. His daughter **JANET (1978-82)** is now head of faculty in the school at Enfield. His other daughter Helen looks after a family of six children and her eldest daughter Rachel has started studies (2009) in the Sixth Form College. Son **DAVID (1986-89)** looks after computers at Newcastle University, and is now married with two sons. [\* We have an I. Brown listed as a Life Member with the above years but have no confirmed address since he lived in Norton – Editor]

No personal news from **RICHARD CLUBLEY (1955-62)** but he did make a request for several back issues of the year book and Tom Sowler's History of the Old Stocktonians Association together with 10 years subscription.

As ever **PAUL DEE (1947-54)** made a generous donation to the Association though not for the Life Members' Fund this time but in respect of the Armstrong/Rattenbury fund.

**FRANCIS DOBBY (1931-37)** generously gave a donation and a subscription, despite it being a Life Member ! Unfortunately Francis gave no other news for the time being.

A generous donation and a request for Tom Sowler's History of the Old Stocktonians Association was made by **PHILIP GITTINS (1972-79)** but sadly no other information was forthcoming on this occasion.

**J R GRANTHAM (1949-56)** confirmed his address but sadly had no other news to give us.

A new address was provided by **JOHN GREEN (1940-46)** indicating that he had moved from the wilds of Scotland to a slightly less remote address in Northallerton. John pointed out that Len Porter was not provided with basketball boots by him but rather by **JOHN GREEN (staff 1962-69)** who was closer to Lenny in terms of years at the school.

In addition to confirming his address and topping up his subs **ALAN 'Puddles' LAKE (1957-62)** regrets that the Magazine does not seem to have much about his year group (True – we need more correspondents Alan ; Editor). Alan is also keen to participate in any reunions which are in the offing.

**SARAH SHERATON (1972-77)** writes to say that her daughter Dee started Stockton Sixth Form College in September 2009 marking the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of the family who has attended educational establishments linked to the OSA. Sarah's father, the late **KEN SHERATON (1940-45)**, attended the Secondary School, as did her mother **JEAN SHERATON (nee HATTON)**.

A new yearly member (a rarity these days !) **DAVID WRIGHT (1976-81)** encloses several years of subs together with a few pertinent recollections. The names of Doug Agar and Harry Horsman in last year's magazine brought back "many good memories of my time at The Grange School". At the moment he does not have contact with many former pupils of The Grange but he has met a few on his return to Stockton to see his brother in Fairfield. David currently lives in 'deepest?' Essex but works in London at St. Barts Hospital. Although he was born and raised in Essex David has always regarded himself as a Stocktonian, having moved to the town in 1967 and attending Richard Hind Juniors. [You may find some contemporaries amongst this text, or in the email contacts in the Magazine, David. – Editor]

For **DAVID PILBROUGH (1947-53)** and his wife Ines 2009 was a year of cruises ! It started with a Christmas and New Year trip around New Zealand. Then they tried again for rough seas around Cape Horn. No luck!

As calm as a mill pond! A family reunion in Argentina was next, followed by a visit to the Iguazu Falls – easily the world's best, as the photo below shows.



Dave and Ines 2009-10 Iguazu Falls, Argentina

Ines then spent four months in Harare - trying to sell her property there. However, problems with boreholes, electricity, petrol, municipal water, telephones etc made it a difficult task for her. Meanwhile, David spent a month in the UK with his brother. He also took the opportunity of visiting several friends and toured the Lake District. Then it was off cruising again; this time 37 days through the islands of the South Pacific to Hawaii and return; David lecturing on "Everyday Science" and Ines resting after the stress in Zimbabwe. Finally they finished the year cruising around New Zealand again. In between all the above, they managed to visit their son Warren, Billie and granddaughters Astrid (4) and Lara (3 m) a couple of times. Warren should complete his PhD in Bioprocess Engineering at the end of the year.

**PAUL VITTLES (1978-80)**, who has been a regular contributor to these pages launched his new business in February 2010 [see [www.vittles.org](http://www.vittles.org) ] and is keen to have feedback from readers. He asks 'critics' to bear in mind that he has deliberately kept it simple and launched it initially as just an 'online brochure'. When he wrote to us Paul said that he had got a few other features, including a blog, to add in phase two. Since he last contacted Paul has attained dual Australian-British citizenship. He is still Chairman of the RSA in Australia and New Zealand. It's a three year term. He noticed in the last magazine that we had SRA rather than RSA and so we correct that here and apologise for the 'typo'. Paul hoped to make a couple of trips to the UK this year to see family and friends (in addition to one or two business commitments) but he has no plans to move back permanently.

The generosity of the general public and their predisposition for solving a problem never ceases to amaze me. A lady by the name of **PATSY HUGHES** who has no connection (as far as I know) to Stockton or the Schools affiliated to the OSA sent me (Paul Graham) the following email:-

*I wonder if you can help me. A few weeks ago I bought a batch of postcards from our local charity shop here on the Wirral and amongst them were some belonging to the family of Gordon Rattenbury who I believe was a teacher at Grange Grammar School in the sixties. They are mostly from the 1960's and a number were sent from Europe by Mr Rattenbury to various members of his family. I feel they should really be with their rightful family and would like to pass them on but have no idea where to send them. Could you be of any help? I don't want any payment for them I would just like the family to have them back as they are a nice record to keep for future generations.*

I replied saying that I would pass them on to Gordon's son.

Patsy had made the connection via Google - *by firstly typing in 'Gordon Rattenbury and Stockton-on-tees', the address on the postcards, which brought*

me to a site called [www. picturestockton](http://www.picturestockton) which had a photograph of him with the school staff of Grangefield Grammar School in the fifties. Someone had also commented further down the page that he had rejoined the staff after serving with the forces in the Second World War. I seemed to come to a dead end after that until I typed in 'Rattenbury Stockton on tees' which brought me to your site which mentioned a J Rattenbury and then I noticed your society also covered Grangefield Grammar School and therefore G Rattenbury so that gave me the connection I needed and luckily onto you. The postcards themselves are very interesting and they do seem like a happy and close knit family. I also noticed through the internet that his wife, Eileen was a member of a poetry society from the 60's to the 90's but then again came to a dead end.

I don't need any reimbursement as it won't cost much and I'm just happy to know that they're going back to their rightful owners. How they ended up in a charity shop in Wallasey, Wirral I'll never know but they were amongst a batch which had been donated to the charity shop maybe by relatives of a postcard collector/salesman who had died.....it's a mystery isn't it?

Having given her some information about Gordon and the J.G. Rattenbury Fund I sent her a copy of last year's Magazine to 'fill in the background' of the OSA. Patsy was intrigued by Gordon's language skills and the part he may have played in WWII, causing her, in her reply, to speculate - *Did you ever hear exactly what part he played during the 2nd World War. The reason I ask is because when I told my husband about his language teaching, the school trip to Europe in the summer of '39 etc he wondered whether he would have been assigned to the Special Operations Executive due to his knowledge of languages and the continent.*

Not knowing if Gordon had been involved such activities I forwarded her email to John Rattenbury and suggested he may be able to shed some light on any clandestine activities undertaken by his dad in WWII. The reply from John was: *Dad did apply to work "under cover" in Spain, but was unable to answer the question "Do you know Spain?" with an unqualified "YES" and so was not accepted. (Probably just as well for (post-war) me.) Anyway he was then sent to Kenya to learn Swahili and become an officer with the 11th King's African Rifles, subsequently serving with them in Madagascar, Ceylon, and Burma.*

So ended the mystery – unless someone out there knows more !

Out of the blue I received the following email in December 2009 from Keith Ritchie.



*I'm a relative of Cuthbert W King and was wondering if your CW King Memorial Prize is named after him. I know he went to Jesus College Oxford and graduated in 1908 with a degree in chemistry and that he came originally from Sunderland but I know very little else about him. I realise this is a bit of a stab in the dark as it may well be a very different CW King but I would be very grateful if you could help me clarify. I informed Keith that CW had been an English teacher at the School from 1908 to 1948 when he suddenly passed away. I was able to send him a comment about CW made when he started the School in 1908 but I am still compiling further information from old Year Books.*

*Keith said that he had learned that CW found his teacher's registration card which has him teaching at the 'Municipal Secondary School, Stockton-on Tees'. It also says that he has both a MA in Chemistry from Oxford and an MA from London in French and English. Further it suggests he studied for a time in France, probably Rouen. I'd be grateful for any information you may have on him particularly if he has any family in the area. A later email added Cuthbert was born on 2 December 1883; his father was George King Superintendent of the Sunderland Orphan Asylum. George was originally from Ditton, near Maidstone in Kent and was Superintendent for the best part of 40 years in Sunderland. George was highly respected by both the pupils and wider community having a life size portrait photograph commissioned by the Old Boys. His mother Sarah Matilda King was Matron at the same institution and died in 1893 aged 38, George appears to have re-married but I don't have any information on the second wife. He had a younger sister Winifrede Ella King more commonly known as Freda. Both children appear to have helped out at the Orphan Asylum. Cuthbert appears to have been quite musical playing piano in numerous performances in aid of the Asylum. I have included, for interest, a photo of Cuthbert aged around 10 and his younger sister. It was taken by Elijah Yeoman, in Barnard Castle where the Asylum took annual holidays while George was Superintendent. Cuthbert was educated at Bede School in Sunderland and was matriculated to Jesus College Oxford on 14th October 1904 and was admitted on 14th October 1905. While there he appears to have played football quite successfully. Oxford has provided me with a picture of him, they believe in a coaching role, from November 1907 with the Jesus College and Corpus Christi, Cambridge Association Football teams*

*(he is in the suit on the far left 2nd row down) the picture is quite clearly taken in one of the Quadrangles of Jesus College but I'm not sure which. Cuthbert Graduated with a degree in Chemistry in July 1908. From there my records are sketchy at best but I do have his Teacher Registration Card which gives further information about Cuthbert's education. I have no solid information regarding his death, if he was married and had any children nor what happened to the rest of his family.*

*Where I've excluded information it is most likely because I don't have it to give you so any additional information or even confirmation of the existing information would be greatly beneficial. As previously mentioned George King is my Great, Great, Great Uncle on my father's side, I don't know enough about family relationships to give you the exact relationship to his son Cuthbert but we are blood relations rather than being related by marriage. You are more than welcome to publish the pictures in your magazine or keep them for archival purposes. Let me know if you have any problems with the image files and I will attempt to convert them into something better for you, I can also send you larger files of the two photographs if needed. I am hoping to go to the Tyne and Wear Archive Service at the weekend which has, I believe, a picture of Cuthbert in France before WW1 possibly while studying in Rouen for his AF Diploma, if you're interested I will forward you a copy if it's him. Does anyone out there have any details they could let me have about CW - did he teach Chemistry as well, how was he regarded, what other activities did he partake in at the School (i.e. teams, societies etc...).*

**DOUGLAS VICTOR JOHN TEMPLE MATTHEWS (1950-55?)** emailed us in July to say he was a former pupil of Grangefield Grammar School, as it was then, when Dr Hall was headmaster. Doug asked about joining the Association and added that he was currently living in Scotland. Anyone out there remember him? If so he would like to hear from you.

We were contacted in August by **SARAH HILLIER (?)** about three diaries (from 1911-13) that the Thorpe Thewles History Group had recently acquired; of which Sarah is the Secretary. I replied to say that I did not know of any diaries kept by the School(s) but as they had been written by a Stockton Grammar School pupil it was likely that they referred to that (much older) establishment. I did send her a copy of the School's 1912 publication which Sarah showed to their associated genealogist and he in turn asked about some information in respect of the WWI War Memorial – details of the 1921 unveiling were duly sent along with a photo of the memorial itself.

We were recently 're-discovered' by **DENNIS J. JOHNSON (1945-50)** who we had 'followed' from Billingham to Chester-le-Street to Canada and back to the UK in 1967 (when we lost touch). Following 5 yrs in the R.A.F., where Dennis found himself in such exotic locales as Baghdad, Malta, Vienna and Pusan. He somehow found himself involved in the coatings and corrosion protection business, again on a world-wide basis. Fortunately the travel and stay was usually on somebody else's time.

In all these years, Dennis only ever came across three other Old Stocktonians - Dave Hamer in Malta, Dr. Ronald D. Richardson in Florida and Alan Wilson who he met and worked with in Ontario.

**Harry Rhodes [41-45]** sent us these photos from Australia. Can anyone confirm where the missing team members were? [Ed. I never knew that "Nobby" Morris had anything to do with rugby!]



The School 'Rugby' team – 1946

Back row: L to R Geoff Horner, Gordon Smith, Ashleigh Geipel, Colin Beadle, Harry Rhodes, Alan Coates

Front row: L to R William Willoughby, Arthur Willis, Peter Boldison, Joe Lowe.

"This was ten of them anyway. The others must have nipped off to the toilets for a quick fag!" wrote 'Harry Rhodes'. The photograph was taken by Mr [Nobby] Morris who taught Geography.



Harry Rhodes (front seat of Tiger Moth) Torquay Airfield, South Australia  
1997

#### Corny writings

Sent to **Don Moses [47-52]** by his son-in-law with a note "I think you wrote them!"

What's Irish and stays out all night? - PATio furniture.

Energizer Bunny arrested - Charged with battery.

What's a country called where everyone drives a red car? - A red carnation.

A pessimist's blood type is always B-negative.

A hangover is a wrath of grapes. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

Reading whilst sunbathing makes you well red.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before. A backwards poet writes inverse.

What's the definition of a will? - [Come on it's a dead giveaway!].

A soft boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it's two tyred.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

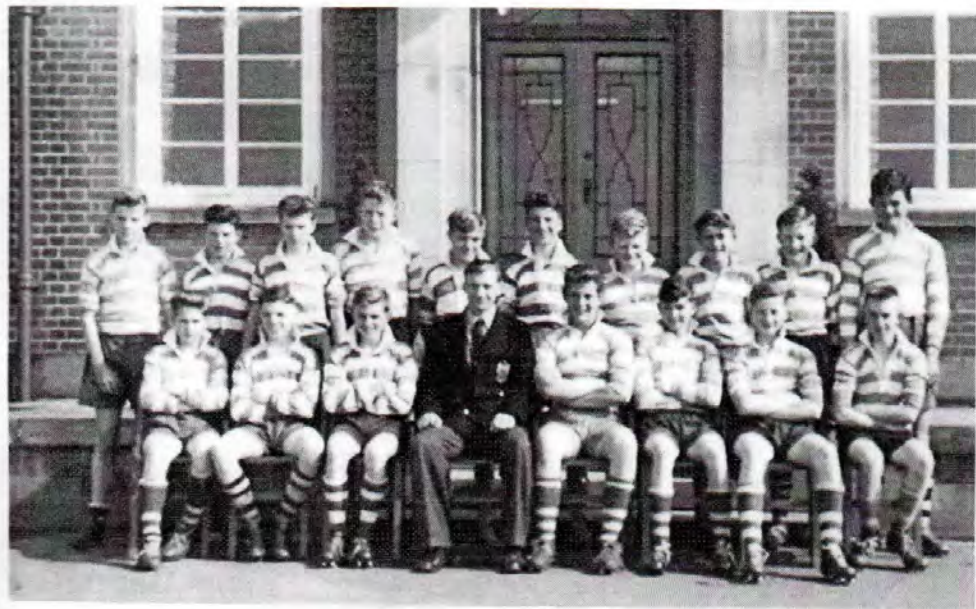
**Roger Mason** [54-61] saw the photograph of the School 1st XV in the last Yearbook and these are his comments:

### Every Picture Tells A Story?

My initial pleasure at seeing the photo of the 1960-61 First XV in last year's New Stocktonian quickly turned to Shock! Horror! - 'Where am I?' I started that season in the Seconds but after a couple of weeks was promoted to the Firsts - where I stayed all season - playing either second row or number 8. I recognise the following players in the photo: Standing - full back Ray (Ron?) Robertson (2nd left); winger Peter Wishlade (3rd right); stand-off Austin Mason (2nd right); Seated - forward (prop? second-row?) Taff Evans - a fearsome competitor in the mauls (4th left); then proceeding one-by-one from left to right - captain and winger Charlie Gillett holding the ball; centre Owen Turnbull - a fine hurdler in the athletics season; wing-forward John Macdonagh, a tireless runner; scrum-half Gordon Smith; and is that "Snagger" Turner on the far right - he of the crunching tackles? The traditional fixtures versus The Old Boys' XV took place during the Christmas holidays and just before Easter. Of the two played that season, the first was a hard-fought match on a wet and muddy pitch - I think that School scraped a narrow win (but I'm willing to be corrected). I have much clearer memories of the pre-Easter match. The pitch was hard and fast and the younger and fitter School team played a running game against which the OBs could not compete. Once again I cannot remember the exact score but I believe that School gained a convincing victory.

[Ed. The actual scores were 3-0 and 6-0 wins for the School, with Roger giving a try winning pass to Charlie Gillett in one of the games!]

Roger enclosed a picture of the U14 rugby team from 1957 which includes many of the players featured last year. Can you spot them?



Roger also recalls the cricket for that year.

### **School Cricket XI, 1961.**

As far as I am able to recall, only two of that season's rugby team went on to play for the school XI in the 1961 cricket season: John Macdonagh (captain) and myself. John was a stylish right-hand batsman whereas I was a not-so-stylish right hand bat (and stand-in wicket-keeper when the occasion demanded). It was a damp and dull summer with a thick sweater rather than sun cream being the order of the day. I have an idea that most matches were drawn. Our end-of-season fixture versus the Old Boys' XI was different in quite a few respects. First it took place on a mid-week afternoon (rather than our usual Saturday matches); second, the sun was shining; and third, we had some spectators (rather than the occasional dog-walker wandering past). In fact the whole school was assembled to watch start of play with School batting first. A shortage of players saw me promoted to first-wicket-down. I made an inglorious second-ball duck! In fact, School were all out for less than a hundred. I have a vague recall that our total was about 87. I have a much clearer memory of what followed. During the tea interval, which took place in the school dining hall, the Old Boys' captain made a jovial speech. He congratulated School on their score and then confidently predicted his side's victory. In the event, a tense and exciting finish saw the Old Boys' last man dismissed with the scores level: result, A TIE.

**Geoff Cowley [60-65]** put us in touch with **Michael Byrne [60-65]** whose father **Jim Byrne [ ? -73]** was a member of staff from the late fifties to 1973 when Grangefield Grammar School ceased to exist. Jim joined the staff of the new Comprehensive on the Grangefield site known as Grange Comprehensive at that time, now Grangefield School, a Specialist Technology College.

Michael graduated from Teesside Poly in Maths/Stats/Computing in 1970. He then worked as a statistician for the Ag. Research Council in Berkshire before returning to Teesside as chief statistician for Teesside Health until 1974 followed by two years as Senior Research Officer for Cleveland. In 1976 he moved to Saudi Arabia to work for the UN Physical Planning Program.

He returned to the UK in 1977 to complete his M.Sc. at Bradford University in O.R. and Information Systems. After Bradford he joined General Accident working in stochastic modelling until 1980 before being recruited by Nova Corporation [Oil & Gas] in Calgary, Canada, where he worked until 1992 as Manager of Consulting Services. From 92 to 96 he was CIO with an engineering consulting company before joining the University of Alberta as Director of Computer Services where he remained until 2002. He then became CEO of the IT consortium of Alberta Colleges until 2009 when he finally retired to pursue his passion for Organic Farming full time.

With a CV like that, where do you find time for a home life? Well Michael married Maureen in 1969 and they have two children, Matt and Michelle as well as two grandchildren, living in Calgary. Matt is a telecom consultant for TransCanada Pipelines and Michelle is Director of Administration for an Environmental Engineering Company.

Michael and Maureen now live on 14 acres of land in the beautiful Creston Valley, British Columbia, next to the Skimmerhorn Mountains.

Michael gives news of his father Jim, now retired and moved to Calgary in 1983. Jim taught until around 2004, the latter few years devoted to private tuition and gifted programs only. Although, at 86, he has heart problems, he and his wife still live independently in their own home in Calgary.

Michael still has contact with **Geoff Cowley [60-65]**, **Don Urquart [60-65]** and **Jennifer Heward [?]**. He would like to make contact with **Keith Fryer [60-65]**, who he thinks worked in Forensic Science with the police. If any one has any news of Keith contact the Ed. and I'll pass on the information.

I had news of Michael and Jim, just before Paul Graham went on holiday. Paul spoke with enthusiasm about the influence Jim's teaching of maths had on him and was one of the factors which determined his decision to apply for a mathematics course at Newcastle. [Paul gained a 2/1]

**WILF HUME (1924-29)** has included (see below) two very rare photos with his letter and very generous donation to funds. He sends greetings to everyone and adds that by the time he gets the next issue of the Magazine he will be 97 and will no doubt be one of our oldest current members – he is just 'pipped' by **JACK HAIGH (1921-25)** and **FRANK SAWDON (1922-26)** and has a contemporary in **RON PURNELL**. He says that one benefit of growing old is that rewards can often come your way. In November 2009, as the oldest member, Wilf was given the title of Honorary Vice President of the Weardale Railway Trust, a position he never dreamed would ever come his way. In addition to the title Wilf was given a lovely plaque, which is being framed for him by a good friend. Responding to a comment in last year's Magazine which mentioned that he had a photo of his Form Master at Stockton Secondary School in 1927 – one Evan Baldwin. As good measure Wilf added to his form photo a staff photo (see below) which highlights the fact that the School was all male, even down to the teaching staff ! We are grateful for Wilf's friend for putting them into digitised form to help with their inclusion in these pages. Wilf is now a great-grandfather (of nine youngsters), with the latest, Eva, being born in September 2009. He regrets that his late wife Ann did not live to see the last three as she doted on all their grandchildren.



**Form 4A Modern Stockton Secondary School 1927**

Green, Dunthorne, Davis, Emerson, Fletcher, Buckle, Beard, Stoddart, Benson, Hewitt, Scott, Moss, Craig, Dixon, Jackson, Fieke, Lonsdale, Hill, Day, Baird, Allison, Mills, Brown, Moore, Shields, Hume, Evan Baldwin (Form, Teacher), Sharrocks, Christie, Kitchin, Gawthorpe, Charlton.



### Masters of Stockton Secondary School 1927

**Back row:** Baker, Nicholson, Bremner, Major,

**Second Row:** King, Manners, Munday, Laverick, Brook, Armstrong, Reece,

**By himself (in the centre)** Baldwin,

**Front row:** Allan, Ball, Eden, Dr. Crockett (Head, Master), Dolly Simpson (Secretary),  
Upton, Dumble.



This photo was spotted in the Evening Gazette when the "girls" were about to have a reunion. A little research revealed it was sent in by Jean Bell [nee Brooker] [48-53] and was one of two photos. The second photo was of the other form which started at the "Sec" in 1948. Maybe next year we will have the other photo.

#### The girls of '48



All formed up in the first year at their new school, Stockton Secondary School in 1948 (sorry about our reproduction).

Jean Bell recalls the following names of those pictured.

They are (from left)

**Back row:** Kathleen Peacock, Audrey Turnbull, Winifred Watson, Eileen Halliday and Margaret Allison. **Second row:** Pat McAvoy, Olwyn Dale, Elizabeth Gregory, Doreen Jones, Jenny Routledge, *don't know* and Pat Sidgewick.

**Third row:** Sylvia Welsh, Nora Evans, Sylvia Savory, Noreen Brown, Jean Pallister, Pauline Collins, Jean Brooker, Joan Walton and Joan Walker.

**Front:** Dorothy Ireson, Betty Walker, Jessie Richardson, Sheila Curry, Miss Nichol (domestic science), Miss Hogg (German), Sylvia Morgan, Jean Dobson, Marjorie Smith and Marjorie Burrows.

Can anyone fill in the *don't know* young lady?

## Brand's Ramblings

During this last year I've met up with or heard of :-

**Barry McWilliams** [46-53] who left Grangefield with a State Scholarship to study Geography at Newcastle. To quote his wife Rona "he never returned to Teesside, he just stayed in Northumberland."

My wife Pat organises speakers for her branch of the WI and had a recommendation for a Barry McWilliam to speak on gardening. Whilst speaking to Rona it emerged that Barry came from Teesside and had attended Grangefield Grammar School. Barry declined the chance to woo the Beadnell WI but we did visit him, first of all to chat about the old school and later to see his garden, which he opens to the public once a year as part of the annual National Gardens Scheme for charity. The "open day" coincided with an unexpected visit from **John Sharp** [47-52] and his wife Barbara, who were caravanning in our area. We all ended up at Barry's 5 acre garden "Ashfield" at Hebron, just north of Morpeth. The garden, which has won an award in the Morpeth in Bloom contest, is magnificent and contains some unusual plants from New Zealand, Australia, The Balkans, the eastern seaboard of the USA and the Rockies as well as a collection of alpine plants. Barry has always travelled and his interest in gardens led to him importing seeds from abroad and exchanging seeds with friends overseas. This is all done legally, I was assured.

Pat and I met up with someone at a lunch in the Alnwick Gardens who, in conversation told us her son had studied at Grangefield in Stockton. The son is **Andrew Wilkins**, who is a Wing Commander in the RAF and at that time [August] was serving in Norway. He lives in Northumberland with his wife and two sons, one of whom is Benjamin, studying for his MA at Durham, the other, Daniel is in his second year at St Andrews and hoping to join a Guards' regiment.

Peering out at me from my local paper, last December was a face to remember **Paul Frost**. The picture wasn't about Paul! It was a "Name the Year" with Alan Price, formerly of the "Animals" leading the singing as the Christmas lights were switched on at Newcastle Central station. Paul was in the background singing!

Those in the 47-52/54 year group, who couldn't make it to the reunion sent greetings. **Dave Pilbrough** and his wife Inis, were contracted to give seven lectures on "Everyday Science" on the cruise ship "Rhapsody of the Seas" sailing between Sydney and Honolulu 26 September - 16 October. Dave wrote that the roast beef and Yorkshire pudding on our menu looked attractive! Dave and his brother Lewis visited us in Northumberland earlier in the year.

**Paul Helliwell** wrote to say his wife Ann had just had a knee replacement and although she was progressing well, it wasn't wise to make the trip from Southampton.

**Malcolm Duncan** [brother-in-law of **Ken Whitfield** ] wrote from Nova Scotia that he wouldn't be able to make it to the UK although he did have an enforced stay in London en route between Portugal and Nova Scotia, courtesy of Icelandic volcanic ash. He had a 2000 km tour around the Quebec Gaspé region in August, in his Mazda Miata [ an MX5 to you and me]. Malcolm and I shared photos of our "toys", his Miata and my Eunos [another name for the MX5!] The Miata is the MX5 branded for North America and the Eunos is branded for Japan. Malcolm also sent a photo of his class at Constantine College in around 1955. Others in the photo are **Geoff Kenyon**, **Dickie Bambrough**, the **Stoddart twins David and John** and **John Walton**. **John Walton** wrote to say that he and Margaret wouldn't be in the UK this year.

**John Hutchinson** wrote earlier in the year from France to say that he and Ann wouldn't manage the reunion as they would be back in France.

**Dennis Foulger** sent his regrets at not being able to get to the reunion, but his wife Jean had had five weeks in hospital and needed to take things easy.

**Jim Coltman** wrote to say his wife Norma was due for a hip replacement at the time of the reunion and they couldn't make it. Norma had the operation just before the reunion and had some problems which needed sorting out. Hopefully all is well now.

**Paul Dee** had been around the UK most of the summer, visiting friends in Somerset and house sitting in Norway with his brother **Peter**. He also was expecting visitors from the USA, but didn't have firm dates. He sent a card from Bergen saying he would be back in York, where he has a house, for one day before returning to Virginia. He was hoping to visit us in Northumberland but time ran out for his visit [91 days?]. Paul will be back in the Spring of 2011 to "cruise" the Norwegian Fjords, as he did this year. It isn't a big cruise ship but a small boat which calls in at each port along the coast, both northwards and on the return journey. The boat used to be necessary for delivering supplies but now carries a small number of passengers.

**John Sharp** and his wife Barbara called in during June, while they were caravanning further north. As stated earlier we visited the garden of Barry McWilliam together. John and Barbara couldn't make it to the reunion.

**Harry McEwan** or strictly speaking his wife Anne, wrote to say they wouldn't be in the UK at the time of the reunion. Anne claims that Harry doesn't know how to switch the computer on! That seems to be a wily dodge to get Anne to do the communicating!

Last but not least **Tom Bellis** telephoned to say he couldn't manage the reunion.

All of the "absentees" sent best wishes and as Anne McEwan said "Have a good time and an enjoyable evening relating past memories" This last note reminds me that Dave Nash and I discussed when Junior Prefects were introduced. Dave said that there were only Prefects when we were there and I said we were Senior Prefects and there were also Junior Prefects. I invite comment to say who is right!

**Paul Helliwell [49-54]** was in touch, and Paul Graham wrote this for the Year book. In addition to a most generous donation to funds and an address confirmation, Paul wrote a short letter expressing his approval of the most recent Year books and went on to say " I have filled in the form sent out with this year's Yearbook; at least it proves I am still alive! I have taken the opportunity to put a cheque in with the form. The Association can use the money as it sees fit, for any purpose related to the Association. The last two or three Yearbooks have shown much improvement. Until then they had started to look rather sad offerings, engendering thoughts about how much longer the Association would struggle on. The recent ones are more optimistic in style, tone and presentation; it is splendid to see that school leavers are starting again to join the Association. This must be due to the renewed enthusiasm of the Committee, to whom the members owe a larger debt of thanks than normal." He went on to say that he thought he would write some news for next year's book, but can find little that would class as exciting news. Just retiring and getting older is hardly news, although the latter makes the journey to Teesside seem longer when contemplated. He goes on to say that it is two or three years since they were so far north, although married daughters in Leeds and Hessle [Hull] do attract them so far once or twice a year. On occasions they have used these trips as springboards for the final miles to Stockton or further on several occasions and they have stayed at the old officers' mess for functions held at that place that used to be an RAF airfield in his time. He finished with "Thanks again for keeping the Association running"

## Remembrance Day Service 2009

The Service was held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009. As usual it was conducted by Year 9 of the School and also as usual it was a moving and affecting tribute to those former pupils who did not return from the two World Wars. I cannot praise enough the conduct of those assembled and the respect they showed. It is, of course, a sobering thought that the current pupils are experiencing the sights of those returning from the conflict in Afghanistan and the fact that young men and women, like those on our Honours Boards, are dying in that war.

The service was attended by Paul Kirton [the Mayor of Stockton], Ian Basford [the Chair of Governors], Peter Thomas [representing the British Legion], Brian Brand [President of the OSA] and Governors and friends of the School.

The first wreath was laid on the 1<sup>st</sup> World War Memorial by the Mayor, followed by a minute's silence. Readings were given by the Year 9 pupils and hymns were sung as the programme shows.

### Remembrance Day And early days of war

John Nesbitt, Jaymee McDonald-Smith  
and Hannah Harbron

Hymn - When a knight won his spurs

### News from the front

Amy Bowes, Rhiannon Dixon, Samie Hutchinson,  
Connor Richardson

Hymn - He who would valiant be

### The Aftermath

Thasneem Hussain, Jack Munt, Becky Demoiloy

Hymn - I vow to thee my country

The final reading was given by the Head Teacher David Litchfield, followed by Year 9 pupil, James Lamb laying a wreath on the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Memorial and a one minute silence.

After we left the Hall, the Year 9 readers served us coffee and biscuits and we were able to talk with them and get their reactions to the service.

Once again our thanks to the staff and pupils of Grangefield School for helping us remember our losses in two World Wars.

If any of you would like to attend next year's service, contact the School in October and you will be welcome to join the guests.

Brian Brand

## Grangefield School Prize Giving 2010

The prize giving was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. David Litchfield, the Headteacher welcomed Parents, Students and Guests to the event and after giving a short resume of the school year, introduced the speaker Andy Seed who is an author of books for young people mainly aimed at teenagers.

He told a story of a young person he had taught at Primary School, who had major disabilities but who was determined to succeed. This young person had a growth disorder and had to have operations on his legs to lengthen them. He enjoyed football and in spite of his problems he took part in games with his friends, having persuaded them he could play in goal. As he grew and was recovering from his operations he played outfield and became quite skilful. As a teenager he was apprenticed to a major football club and eventually played for England. The moral of this story, Andy said, is never give up on ambitions. As long as you feel you can do it, go for it.

Andy then presented prizes to those in the school who had gained what are referred to as "whole school awards" such as "Outstanding achievement", "Bravery", "Initiative", "Courage and Determination" and "Special Education Achievement". This was followed by Year prizes for year7 to Year10, the latter as encouragement as they enter their final year. The Stocktonian Prizes in Year10 were awarded to:-

Ellie Puckering      The King Prize for English

Katya Pyrozhek      The Rattenbury Prize for Modern Foreign Languages

Lucy Fairhurst      The Armstrong Prize for History

School Colours were then awarded to those who had excelled in more than one sport during the year

A vote of thanks was proposed by Amelia Robinson, a Year 10 pupil and David Litchfield ended the proceedings by thanking the sponsors of the prizes and pointing out the enormous value that these links have in enriching the education of the pupils. He invited those present to enjoy refreshments in the dining hall.

For those who don't know it, the "title" of the school is Grangefield School & Technology College. Its motto is "Ex Glande Quercus" - "From Acorn the Oak". The school badge still incorporates the oak tree that was part of the SSS and GGS badge.

Brian Brand

## **Sixth Form College News from the Principal Martin Clinton**

I am writing this article at a very exciting time in the life of the College.

The students results at College were once again excellent and above the national results. For students taking Advanced levels courses the results were the best ever with 99% of them achieving pass grades That of course built on the good work in local schools. In 26 subjects every student passed. We were particularly pleased with the 14 A\* grades in Art and 8\* in Mathematics. We remain a major centre for Maths and Further Maths and visitors to College frequently comment on the stunning Art work. You will be pleased to know that Stockton Borough schools once again have improved their GCSE results with some schools achieving outstanding performances. The College is working even more closely with local schools in particular as one of the Sponsors of the two new Academies in the area.

I can at last write with justified confidence about new buildings. As I write in February 2011 the steel frame of a new building has been erected adjoining the "newish" Maths and English block. This building should open at the end of May 2011. It will provide excellent new facilities for Science and Information Technology students. We have for a number of years increased the number of Physics, Chemistry and Biology students anticipating a trend which is spreading nationally. We were very grateful that the Vice-Chancellor of the UK's University of the Year, Professor Graham Henderson was the guest of honour at the ground-breaking ceremony. As a mathematician himself he was very pleased to also award certificates to students who had just been awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze in the Mathematics Challenge.

A major change in the life of the College occurred at the end of the Christmas Term 2010 when Sue Knox who had been Vice-Principal for 20 years took her well deserved retirement. Those of you who know Sue will recognise that she was one of the hardest working and most capable administrators that it was possible to meet. She never missed a days work including walking miles into College when we had the severe snows in December and working through most college holidays. Her successor Rachel Angus has a lot to live up to, but in just a few weeks since the start of term is already having an impact. She gained the post against a very competitive field having had great success in other post-16 colleges before joining Stockton Sixth Form College

The college is, of course, concerned with more than passing examinations. Students continue to be involved in developing a wide range of skills and attributes.

### **Publicity and Staff/Students Visits/Activities/Achievements**

An Air Cadet is set for some high altitude adventures – but it won't be a jet taking him to the skies. Liam Moloney, of Ingleby Barwick will be making his journey on foot to Everest Base Camp. The 18 year old is due to travel to the Himalayas next August to take part in the expedition in the forbidding Asian mountain range. He said: "The thing I'm really looking forward to when I go is seeing the change of cultures, and looking at how the locals survive at such high altitudes." Liam is currently studying A-levels in maths, geography and RE at Stockton Sixth Form College.

A promising young artist turned down a sale for her painting after she learned it had won a special college award. Amy Dix, 19, had been offered £350 for her painting The Supermarket but when she discovered she had won Cleveland College of Art and Design's Joe Cole Award, she decided to reject the offer. She won the annual award, given in memory of Joe Cole, the college's former head of foundation art studies, after it was judged to be the best among works displayed by students at the end of term college show. As part of her prize Amy, from Stockton,

who recently completed her foundation diploma in art and design, received a cheque for £100 from principal Martin Raby. The three foot square canvas will now be hung with former Joe Cole award winners' work in the college.

With a diverse range of experienced staff delivering more than 36 different advanced level courses, Stockton Sixth Form College has something for everyone. The college caters for all types of student, whether attempting to gain entry into a prestigious university or retaking GCSE courses. It places the student at the heart of everything. All students are given a personal tutor, have access to learning support and leading edge ICT facilities. There is even a team of young graduate mentors providing positive role models to give help and advice about every aspect of student life. There is a comprehensive enrichment programme designed to foster outside interests and personal development and all the sporting teams are highly competitive. The specialist cricket academy is staffed by former professional players who have played first class cricket and the dance and performing arts facilities are also very highly rated. With free college bus services serving Yarm, Eaglescliffe, Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Wynyard, Billingham and Norton, the college is more accessible than people think. Stockton Sixth Form College is fast becoming the college of first choice for students in Stockton and surrounding area. Students in all subject areas have had opportunities to expand their horizons. Field trips, research work, company placements, conferences, seminars, exchange visits and competitions, whether carried out locally, nationally or internationally, have proved of great benefit to all participants.

## Sport

The College takes part in a wide range of competitive sporting activities against local opposition in the main, but travel further afield on occasions.

## Sports / Activities

Sports at the College include:

Basketball, Football [3 teams], Rugby, Hockey [mixed & girls], Cricket, Athletics, Dance, Cross Country.

Robbie Dent & Liam Maloney were selected for the N.E. BCS rugby squad.

8 students took a level 2 coaching course in cricket.

Students took part in events such as : SAQ and Disability Sport Taster session, Youth Sports Games, Sport Relief Mile and in the British Colleges National Finals Abbie Smith won Bronze in Cross Country, Joe Siberry won Silver in Swimming, Kath LeFevre won Bronze in Table Tennis and Morgan Stubbs won Silver in Trampolining.

In Rock it Ball, Hannah Jones was selected to represent England against Scotland and Wales and to represent Great Britain against Denmark.

Amy Teece received a £500 donation from the MARS Refuel Drink Fund to enable her to take her Level 2 Trampolining Coaching Certificate. She already coaches youngsters at her Billingham Trampolining Club and the Level 2 certificate will enable her to help coach children to do somersaults and more complex moves.

One final thing I should say is that any ex-students who want to come back and visit the college before the current building is demolished will be more than welcome and we are always very pleased to hear from ex-students.

## **Treasurer's Report 2009-2010**

The funds still remain sound with subs. down to £70.00 from the high last year of £175.50 and donations up from £160.50 to £249.00, with a £100.00 donation to the Prize Fund which offset the £120.00 paid out for prizes [2 years' prizes].

Interest rates dropped dramatically, giving a fall from £65.74 to £2.16 in the General Fund and £28.57 to £0.82 in the Prize Fund. To gain only 82p on a fund of around £1850 is disturbing, but all funds held by clubs/associations suffered similar fates across Building Societies and Banks.

Printing the Yearbook cost £299 which showed no change from last year, though postage increased from £85.77 to £95.79. Three items of expenditure during the year were "one offs" - a new website [£107.03], bringing the President's insignia up to date [£45.00] and a token to the College caretaker [£22.74] who is not paid for letting us in and out of the College for our meetings.

Once again may I thank Peter Fleck, the College Finance Officer, for auditing our accounts and providing his time and valuable assistance.

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

There are 139 Life Members [a decrease of 4] and 81 Yearly Members [a decrease of 8] of which 5 are in arrears of 3 years.

## **Benevolent Fund Report**

The accounts have been audited for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 the credit balance at the Darlington Building Society was £1740.24. No grants or loans were made during the year. No donations were received and interest of £0.76 net [tax paid £0.19] was earned. This gave a credit balance of £1741.00 at the Darlington Building Society on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

Our thanks to John Ingham for auditing the accounts.

Donations are always welcome and can be sent to Bob Ward, the correspondence secretary or direct to Brian Brand at the address below. Cheques should be made payable to "The Old Stocktonians' Association Benevolent Fund".

Appeals for assistance can be made, in the strictest confidence, to Martin Clinton, The Principal of the Stockton Sixth Form College or David Litchfield, Headteacher of Grangefield School or directly to Brian Brand, Convenor to the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund, at 2 The Sidings, Christon Bank, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3HR.  
[Tel. 01665 576273]. E-mail [brian.brand@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brian.brand@tiscali.co.uk)

Brian Brand



OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION  
BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2010

		<u>£</u>
<b><u>STOCK ASSETS</u></b>		
Total Stock Assets		174.38
<b><u>CASH ASSETS</u></b>		
Cash at Darlington Building Society		5315.57
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>5489.95</u>
<b><u>LIFE MEMBERS &amp; GENERAL FUND</u></b>		
At 1 July 2009	3881.16	
Deficit for year	244.78	
		3636.40
<b><u>C.W. KING, G.G. ARMSTRONG &amp; G.J. RATTENBURY MEMORIAL FUND</u></b>		
At 1 July 2009	1872.90	
Deficit for year	19.35	
		1853.55
		<u>5489.95</u>

**P. GRAHAM [Hon. Treasurer]**  
14 July 2010

Auditor's Report for the year ended 30th June 2010

I confirm that the accounts on pages 2 & 3 are in accordance with the books, records and information which have been supplied to me by the Treasurer of the Old Stocktonians' Association.



MA FCA

**P.G. Fleck [Hon. Auditor]**

OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION  
BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2010

**INCOME**

	<u>Life Members &amp; General Fund</u>	<u>King, Armstrong &amp; Rattenbury Memorial Funds</u>
Subscriptions	70.00	-
Donations	249.00	100.00
Donation from Correspondence Se., Bob Ward, re: Expenses	5.44	
Stock	3.00	-
Sales of old Magazines	4.50	
Building Society Interest	2.16	0.82
	<u>334.10</u>	<u>100.82</u>

**EXPENDITURE**

Remuneration of caretaker (wine)	22.74	
Expense for 'new' Website	100.00	
Year Book 2008/9 - Postage & Envelopes	95.79	-
Year Book 2008/9 - Printing	299.00	-
Purchase of badges & their engraving	45.00	
Cost of renewal of web address	7.03	
Cost of stock sold	3.43	
Expenses for Correspondence Sec. Bob Ward	5.44	
Prizes to Grangefield School	-	120.00*
Tax	0.43	0.17
	<u>578.86</u>	<u>120.17</u>

**SURPLUS** for year

**DEFICIT** for year 244.76 19.35

\* Payment for two years' prizes 2009 & 2010

## **Annual General Meeting for 2010 held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at 7.30 pm**

This started immediately after Committee Meeting.

**Present;** Mrs M. Bradley, B.P. Brand (Chairman), Messrs P.B. Braney, R. Prichard, D. Harris and K. Turner

**Apologies for Absence:** R. Ward, D. Robinson

**Minutes of last A.G.M.:** Passed without comment.

**Membership Secretary's Report:** In Yr. Book

**Treasurer's Report:** In Yr. Book

**Year Book Editor's Report:** A huge success according to e-mail feedback.

**Benevolent Fund Report:** In Yr. Book. Not a lot happening, only 95p interest on deposits of over £1700 at 0.05% .

### **Election of Officers:**

**President:** P.B.T. Braney.

**Vice Presidents:** No change except for the addition of Mr B.P. Brand.

**Minutes Secretary:** R. Prichard.

**Treasurer:** P. Graham

**Membership Secretary:** P. Graham

**Year Book Editor :** P. Graham

**Correspondence Secretary:** R. Ward

**Committee Members:** M. Bradley, D. Harris, K. Turner, M. Gillespie

Mr Graham stated that he was willing to take on the roles as above only until 2013 (assuming he was re-elected each year) after which time he wished to resign all his positions of office. He was however still willing to continue on the Committee, should he be elected.

**Any Other Business:** B.P. Brand said that once the OSA website was up and running, plans should be made to wind up The Association in 2013. This item is to be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

**Date of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 18th MAY 2011**

**Stockton Sixth Form College at 7.30pm**

**Please get involved with YOUR Association.**

**We need your involvement at this crucial time in our history or the Association becomes irrelevant.**

**To keep the Association alive we need new committee members with a commitment of at least five years to replace retiring members in two years time.**

Send any communication via post or email to :

Mr R Ward, 18 Commercial Yard, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8FE.

or by email to : <robert185@btinternet.com>

Tel: 01833 630163

Alternatively you can contact Brian Brand at :

2 The Sidings, Christon Bank, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3HR.

or by email to <brian.brand@tiscali.co.uk>

Tel: 01665 576273