

# The New Stocktonian



Lit & Phil Building [circa 1950]

## 2010 - 2011

Produced by the  
Old Stocktonians' Association



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Lord, behold us with Thy blessing,  
Once again assembled here;  
Onward be our footsteps pressing,  
In Thy love and faith and fear!  
Still protect us  
By Thy presence ever near!”

Rev. H.J.Buckoll

At morning assembly on the first day of every new term we sang this hymn; it was no.162 and after all the years it still floods my memories. But “nostalgia” is yearning for the return of past events - almost a kind of homesickness – and many of you are at the threshold of experience and should not have time for such contemplative reflection! Nevertheless, please remember that your Association would appreciate news of your adventures, exploits and success (or other), and this year book is based on the information provided by all our members regardless of which decade they attended.

Your Association has still not fully recovered from the loss of Paul Graham who worked so hard for us. Fortunately, Brian Brand (a contemporary of mine) has spent much effort and time behind the scenes and this yearbook is just one example of his involvement.

As a navigator I am not doing too well. Last year we set a course for the www, but somehow we got delayed in the Sargassa; faint messages reached us from Face book and Twitter(?) but two-way communication was not a great success. I am living in hope for next year, but our own web home-page will be vastly improved soon.

May I quote from the 1948/1949 yearbook: “We lament the fact that Old Boys ...seem to have developed a shyness which is surely to be regretted. Please take up your pen and write and let the rest of us share the thrill of your achievements and success”.

Remember, “Words fly, writings remain” (Littera scripta manet).

Finally, to me the poignant tones of hymn no.164 are more upsetting though it was rendered with perhaps greater enthusiasm, being on the last day of term.

“Let Thy father-hand be shielding  
All who here shall meet no more?  
May their seed-time past be yielding?  
Year by year a richer store;  
Those returning,  
Make more faithful than before.”

Again, I extend my best wishes,

Peter B. Braney

## Editorial

My thoughts are with the future of the Association and an article of that title follows.

Year after year the Committee has been reducing and we have tried to attract new blood. The only "new blood" stayed on the committee for three years and then left as he felt that the only way forward was via the World Wide Web and social interfacing. Maybe he is correct that this is the only way forward, in which case the current way of running affairs is dead as there is no one to deal with the correspondence [email, telephone or snailmail] or organise a Year Book, whether in print or on line. My daughter Tracey [85-88] was editor for "Nursery Education Plus" run by Scholastic, an American company. Scholastic decided to cease printing the magazine and only have an on-line edition. The editorial staff was made redundant except for one person who maintains the on-line edition. Material still has to be submitted, on-line, to this person.

Drawing parallels, the OSA would still have to have at least one person to receive and correlate material for an on-line version of our Year Book.

As I see it, ordinary social networking does this without the need for an editor and reunions are organised as and when one enthusiast is moved to do so. I know of several reunions organised via the net and I have organised three myself, for my year group, via email and snailmail.

Whatever happens at the AGM, I hope that contemporaries still meet together to maintain or renew friendships.

If the OSA is dissolved, a final "newsletter" will be sent out to give members the result of the vote at the AGM and information concerning disposal of assets.

Below is a list of what is currently available from the OSA on a first come first served basis. Postage is included in the price.

Association Ties:	Ordinary ties	£6.50	Bow ties	£8.50
Tom Sowler's History of the Association [1896-1992]				£2.00
Back issues of Year Books [where available]				£1.50 per issue

Applications to :- Mr R Ward, 18 Commercial Yard, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8FE

Please make cheques payable to: "Old Stocktonians' Association"

You can also contact Mr R Ward by email at: <robert185@btinternet.com>



## The Future of the OSA

Following up the article for the 2009 – 10 Year Book, I prepared a discussion document for the Committee itemising what possessions the OSA had and listing suggestions for their dispersal and safe keeping. The document was never discussed at committee or the AGM where it should have been raised under Any Other Business. Time ran out at the AGM and the meeting ended when the site manager arrived to lock up.

I have investigated the various points in the document which would have to be addressed if the OSA ceases to exist.

### Cash Assets

Prize Funds :- The fund at Grangefield School stands at around £1800 and currently pays out £60 a year. The present Head Teacher, David Litchfield, would welcome a Trust fund that would supply the King, Armstrong and Rattenbury prizes for the foreseeable future.

General Fund :- This stands at around £3500. After this year's expenditure the residue would be between £2500 and £3000. The present Principal, Martin Clinton, would welcome a fund for one or more prizes at the Sixth Form College.

The Prize Fund at Grangefield and the General Fund could be totalled together and divided equally between Grangefield and the College

I have had discussions with the managers of Halifax Bank, Barclays Bank and the Darlington Building Society. The suggestion is that Trustees could be appointed to oversee payments each year. The Principal and Bursar of the College could be trustees of the College Fund and the Head Teacher and Bursar at Grangefield could be trustees there. These trustees would change as and when new appointments are made.

Benevolent Fund :- This is independent of the Association and would continue in its current form. The Trustees could administer the prize funds at the College and Grangefield.

### Other Assets

President's Regalia :- The chain of office with its bars would be acceptable to Preston Park Museum. I spoke with the Mayor's Office about the chain going on display in the Town House [something Tom Sowler once intimated]. The suggestion was that I contact Preston Park, which I did, and I was told that the chain would not go on permanent display, but could be displayed at special exhibitions. This needs exploring further if the OSA does close. It would be a pity if the regalia could not be on permanent display.

Lectern :- Martin Clinton is quite happy for it to remain in the library at the College.

Stock :- Ties could be sold as "last chance" with two, perhaps, being framed for display at the College and Grangefield.

The "History of the Association" :- Copies are available on Ebay at \$50 and a former pupil saw one in a York book shop at £9. We have about 90 and are asking £1.00 + p&p!

Past copies of the Year books could be given to members for p&p [There are about 200 to 300]. Old OSA magazines [pre 1939] could be stored in the lectern.

Dinner Book :- This was started by Gordon Rattenbury in 1967 when Horace King was our guest [He was the Speaker of the House of Commons]. This could be stored in the lectern.

## Former Student News

There is little news reported via letters, emails or telephone. To be precise, Bob Ward had only five or six communications in the last year and the Editor has received nine positive replies as a result of the last year book. I say "positive" as there were six year books returned as "addressee not known" and I class these as negative. I am listing these below and if anyone can give an up to date address please contact me at :- [brianbrand3@btinternet.com](mailto:brianbrand3@btinternet.com) or at 2 The Sidings, Christon Bank, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3HR [Tel: 01665 576273].

D.J.Johnston [Canada]; R.T.Reed [Godalming]; J.T.Marriott [Stockton]; P.H.Rigg [Stratford]; A.L.Bartlett [Southampton]; P.D.Wimberley [Denmark].

I had two telephone calls soon after the Year Book was posted.

**Peter Gordon** [54-59] rang to say "thanks" and that his cousin Chas. Willoughby [47-54] and wife Joyce were on a cruise. He asked what happened to some notes he had sent a couple of years ago which haven't appeared in print. He will send a copy if he can find it on his computer. As nothing has arrived I assume the copy wasn't found.

**Ian Brown** [45-49] rang to say that he was surprised to get the Year Book, the first for many years. Paul Graham had noted his name in a message from Stan[?] Watson and knew Ian's address which we had on file was not valid. Ian had moved from Norton to Redcar and fortunately the Redcar address we were given was correct. Ian is still involved with Billingham Rugby Club, mainly with "colts" at National level and this takes up most of his time. **Lewis Ayers** [66-71] sent this email. "Enjoyed the latest newsletter". Clearly it was laden with messages about the possible demise of the Association. From my perspective the lack of involvement is not surprising. It reflects what I have experienced in other societies and professional associations. People generally are not now very interested in clubs and societies, many of which are peculiar to the UK. Old schoolmates find contact by other means and news of what is happening in Stockton is readily available. I would be happy to see the OSA continue, but would not mourn its death.

Living in the Stockton area I often meet former classmates. I work with **Ian Basford** and recently met **Arthur Dodgson** when at a concert in Newcastle. I had an email from **Brian Hedley** who obtained my email address via Friendsreunited. I live in Longnewton where neighbours include **Bill Stewart** [a couple of years older than me] and **Harold Reay**, who taught my daughter to drive. [Editor: Is this Harold Reay who was a member of staff?]

**Barry Wiggins** [Wing Com.][40-46] was delighted to receive his copy of the Year Book, which proved he is still on the list of members. He writes about **Gordon Rattenbury** [Staff 32-73] and how he found himself in places where Gordon had served in the second World War. Gordon spoke little about his wartime experiences



but I knew it included Madagascar. Barry served in Madagascar in 1966 where the language spoken was French. Even more interesting was that Gordon served with the Kenyan Kings African Rifles and Barry was seconded to a senior post in the Kenyan Air Force for two and a half years in the 1970s, overseeing the building of a modern Airbase at Nanyuki [on the equator]. Barry comments that the common interest he and Gordon had at school was chickens! of which Gordon was a successful breeder. [Ed. I knew Gordon well, but I didn't know about the chickens!]

Barry continues that he suspects he is one of the missing five in "Nobby" Morris's photo and that Harry Rhodes should remember that the toilets at the Ropner playing fields were not suitable for smoking! He also assures the Editor that Nobby did administer the rugby team, although its success was not great. A couple of years ago an X-ray machine in Leicester found that Barry had lost the cartilage in his right knee. He suggests that this was the result of a particularly rough scrum in the 45/46 season.

Barry comments that it is a very sad situation if the Association has to be dissolved and he has been involved in similar situations. He suggests that as we sponsor three "arts" prizes, we should sponsor a Science/Engineering prize at the College. [Ed. This will certainly be borne in mind]

**Wilf Hume** [23-29] sends a little "hello" to everyone. He is sorry to read of the falling off of interest in maintaining contact with what he considers something of such interest and value and hopes that the many reading the reports in the Year Book may show a new spirit and a new desire to belong to as fine an institution as that which transformed their early lives and gave them a good set off into later life. Wilf was delighted to receive a framed badge of office of the retiring Chairman of Durham County Council, one of ten awarded to mark contribution while at work, and after, to the good of Weardale. Wilf ends with his thanks for the work the Committee has done to keep the Association alive and at 98 is Frosterley's oldest man and still proud to be a committed "Old Stocktonian"

**Graeme Dewison** [47-54] is still in Pool in Wharfedale, Otley and sent a top up to his life membership! **Roger Mason** [54-61] sent us a top up of his subs. Roger pointed out that there were no members' lists in the 2009-2010 Year Book. He was correct. The Ed. doesn't have the information on file for "subs up to date" and "years at School/College". This is printed in the 2008-2009 Year Book and information was taken from that list. The address lists were provided by Tim Graham [Paul's son] so that address labels could be printed. Roger suggests that if the OSA comes to the end of its natural life, a website where former students can contribute and read about each others deeds would be a viable option. He suggests that the prizes should continue to be awarded. He agrees that the Benevolent Fund should continue to be available to give financial help to students in need. [Ed. The Committee have struggled to create a website which would function in the way you suggest, but our

expertise is limited and funds insufficient as well as having no one to oversee it. The current website is up to date, though not interactive. All the signs are that students have enough social networking sites to keep in touch.) **Ian Gorrell** [69-76] let us know that his subs are paid up to 2013. Thanks for that Ian.

**John Whitmore** [60-67] writes to say he might be in arrears with his subs. He says there's not much about the "class of 60" – they must all be hiding! He had just returned from holiday with **Richard Wilson** [60-67] and that they had been reminiscing about Grangefield and the "best education possible" it gave. Richard has now retired from community pharmacy and his own shop "Salmon & Atkinson" in Yarm Lane. John's career was in hospital pharmacy ending up as chief pharmacist at Ipswich Hospital, before returning north to locum for two days, supervising robotic dispensing. John asks how he could get involved as he now has a bit more spare time. Where do I start with that offer? I just wish it had been a few years earlier. John says I won't remember teaching him [and Richard]. [Ed. I can't say more than "do you want me to go through your homework and exam marks in your "A" level Physics? I still have all my mark books for my career!]

**David Rayner** [55-63] occasionally meets up with a very good friend of mine who started life in Ashington [and played in the same Northumberland Boys' team as Bobby Charlton]. David says he has been catching up with some old colleagues from Ealing Rugby Club. He says the league set up means there is less fun in the game. A club, Newbury, which was quite good when David was playing, was beaten by 130 points by Ealing. "What sort of fun is that" he says. David is now quite keen on photography of birds and other wildlife. He and his wife spend time in West Somerset near to his wife's sister and he sees a fair bit of his brother **Graham** [62-69].

**Paul Vittles** [78-80] writes from Australia to give his latest news. He has been busy writing articles and having several of them published. One of them entitled "Intuition works. Here's the evidence!" appeared in last April's edition of Research News in Australia, another on "Effective Listening" appeared in the global Survey magazine. Paul is pleased that his professional speaking business is developing slowly but surely. He was keynote speaker in two Australian Marketing Institute conferences and ran workshops for CORNA [Corporate Responsibility Network Australia], Executive Women Australia and Sydney City Business Network. Paul is certainly busy and lists other coaching and consultancy assignments. One which interests me and my generation is a social enterprise to help people with age-related disabilities to forge new careers! Paul says Jacqui is doing well too. She is writing her second book and doing promotional work around her first book "Dyslexia: An Amazing Discovery". She now gets asked to speak at seminars on how to get published and hosts book launches for the NSW Writers' Centre. In between, she is a volunteer tour guide at the ABC studios and teaches English as a Foreign Language. Paul ended with "Must



dash. Fireworks are shooting up in the air over Sydney Harbour. What's the occasion? Who knows – they celebrate the opening of a letter here!"

**Brian Brand** [47-54][62-70 on Staff] has little news this year. **Paul Dee** [47-54] was over from the States for his usual stay in York and trips to Norway and the South-West of England. He called in to Christon Bank for a chat whilst visiting Bamburgh Castle with a group of his former Medical class from Newcastle. **John Sharp** [47-52] and his wife Barbara called in whilst in the area caravanning. **Don Moses** [47-53] and his wife Dorothy stayed with us for a few days in May and we visited the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh and Rosslyn Chapel [one of the places mentioned in the Da Vinci Code]. Most recently we met up with **Ron Jackson** [48-53], **Arthur Dodgson**, **John Still** and **Colin Waller** [49-56] at Stockton Rugby Club when my local team Alnwick were playing Stockton in a league match. Alnwick won and virtually sealed the second spot in the league which gave them a play-off for possible promotion. Stockton finished third in the league. Pat and I ended up at supper with Colin Waller and his wife Anne, which rounded off the day nicely. **John Heron** [50-55?] secretary of the Friends of the D.L.I. and a retired Lieutenant Colonel, was in the news receiving medals for the D.L.I. Museum. The medals were awarded to Lt. Col. Nathaniel Cohen who served in the D.L.I. in World War 2. Lt. Col. Cohen was born in Stockton in 1908 and probably attended the Secondary School or the Grammar School. I've met up with John when attending the Remembrance Day Service at Grangefield.

### Corny Writings

Continued from last year!

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

If you don't pay your exorcist, will you be repossessed?

If a clock is hungry does it go back four seconds?

The man who fell into the upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Without geometry life is pointless.

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

## Obituaries

**Raymond Gedling** [29-36] was noted in the 09-10 Year Book, as dying on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011, but without details of his achievements.

In 1969 Raymond, then third secretary, HM Treasury, appeared in the New Year Honours List under the heading "Order of the Bath". He was a regular correspondent to the Year Book and I can summarise a few of his comments. He wrote of his involvement with the School Chess Club, where he was champion five times and played so late in one semi-final against Eddy Shields that they were locked in and had to break out! He was a member of the first School Cross Country Team and an accomplished 880 yards and mile runner. School trips to Rievaulx and Housesteads and walks on the Cleveland Hills led him later to the Lake District and the Alps. He was a passionate debater and took part in the debates for the Spark Cup organised by The League of Nations Union. He and Hamilton Coates, in 1935, routed some quite elderly "Young Liberals" to win the Spark Cup. He noted that after World War 2, the United Nations hosted a debating competition for a Rose Bowl, which was presented by the same John Spark who donated the Spark Cup.

**Bert Race** [30-36] We received a letter from Bert's daughter to say that Bert died in 2009. Bert and his twin brother Harry were stalwarts of the School Rugby team as Stand-off and Scrum half. They carried this on with Stockton Rugby Club and Bert was Brian Brand's stand off when he played scrum half in the mid 50s. Bert became a teacher and was Senior Science Master at Stainsby School when reorganisation took place. Bert was a Senior Moderator for Science with the North Regional Examination Board and Brian Brand met him regularly in the early 70s. In retirement Bert was a regular at the Masham in Hartburn village and met up with friends in their special corner. Bert was a true gentleman and a pleasure to meet up with for a chat about teaching, rugby or matters of the day.

## College News

The students' results at College were once again excellent and above the national results. For students taking Advanced level courses 99% of them gained pass grades, that of course built on the good work in local schools. In 29 subjects 100% pass rate was achieved. 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. Northshore Academy students achieved 79% 5 GCSEs at A\*-C and 32% including English and Maths and Thornaby Academy achieved 95% and 44% respectively.

In June we had the opening ceremony of the College's new Science and IT block. We were privileged to welcome Professor Chris Higgins, Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University to conduct the ceremony. He is a distinguished scientist himself so it was very appropriate that he cemented the excellent partnership between the College and the University with his kind remarks in his opening address. They built on the links with Teesside University that I mentioned last year when Professor Graham Henderson, their Vice-Chancellor, conducted the ground breaking ceremony. The two VCs nicely "book-ended" this important addition to the College Estate.

I was able to report to the many guests what the College intends to do with the vacated labs. The College has received a grant of almost £1 million pounds which together with £500,000 of College funds, will enable the complete refurbishment of Art, Design Technology and Media Studies. 6 new large classrooms will also be a great help for the very popular subjects. A new Pastoral suite will be created to enhance the important work of Senior Tutors in supporting students during their time at College. By the time you read this the work will be well underway and should be all finished by March 2012.

I have various sad bits of news to give you. Ann Gill who served the College as an Art Teacher and then Head of Art with great success for over 30 years has retired. Similarly Des Newton and Steve Earnshaw have taken early retirement. However, the saddest news is that John Hillier who many of you knew as "The Doc" and as a German teacher, Senior Tutor and Head of Careers died recently.

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



### Staff/Student Visits

History Society Visit to Leeds Armouries.

Philosophy Visit to MIMA as part of the 'Value of Art' unit.

Sport Department BTEC Team Building event at Castlegate Watersports centre.

In February, Spanish Students and Antonio Ronsano travelled to Madrid for a week for the annual exchange. They lived with their partners and their families, spent time in a Spanish School, went into Madrid and visited Segovia.

In February – Media, Business Studies, Sociology and Religious Studies students – trip to London. All students visit Parliament, Sociology students visit Old Bailey and Harrow Public School. Religious Studies students visit the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple and the London Central Mosque, with a ride on the London Eye. Media students visit the BBFC and BBC RV Centre.

March – New York Trip

March – French Students and Linda Metcalfe travelled to Aix en Provence for nine days to stay with families in our partner school, visiting Avignon, Nimes, the Pont du Gard and Marseilles.

March – Aiming Higher Learning Seminar on independent study skills for 22 H&SC students.

March – April – A2 Geology trip to the Lake District.

April – Business Studies students trip to Coca Cola and the National Coal Mining Museum.

### Activities/Achievements

- ❖ Fundraising for Pakistan Flood Appeal
- ❖ Children in Need Fundraising Event
- ❖ Participation in the Student Ambassador Scheme
- ❖ UK Senior Maths Challenge – 55 students took part

### Sport

#### **Cricket**

- Cricket Academy Students and Peter Fleck, College Finance Director undertook an Umpires Course (ECB Level 1). The students will then move on to take a Level 1 ECB Cricket Coaching Course which will include a first aid course.

### **Cross Country**

- Emily Fields came third in the British Colleges North East Championships which has qualified her for the National finals in Bath in April.

### **Football**

- 'A' Team Football beat St Mary's 7 – 2
- 'B' Team Football – the team has had a rather mixed season so far. In Division 2 of the Cleveland Schools U-19 league they have played 7, winning 4 and losing 3. There are two further league fixtures to be played in March. We were knocked out of the County Cup in Round 1 by our own A Team. We have also played two friendly fixtures, winning one and losing the other.

### **Golf**

- Hannah Mannion qualified for the National finals in the Golf competition after qualifying with a fine round at Whitburn Golf Club.

### **Hockey**

- Mixed Hockey Team results this term:  
SSFC v Bishop Burton 3 - 7  
Dearne Valley v SSFC 2 - 4  
Thomas Rotherham v SSFC 4 – 4  
Bishop Burton v SSFC 9 – 3
- Stephen Dunn went through to trials for the BCS National hockey squad in Crannock but was not selected. Blair Fotherham played for Scotland U18 in the European Indoor Championships in Prague.

### **Netball**

- The Netball Team has been playing in the British Colleges league, where they currently have a 100% success rate beating Hartlepool Sixth Form, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form and Gateshead College.

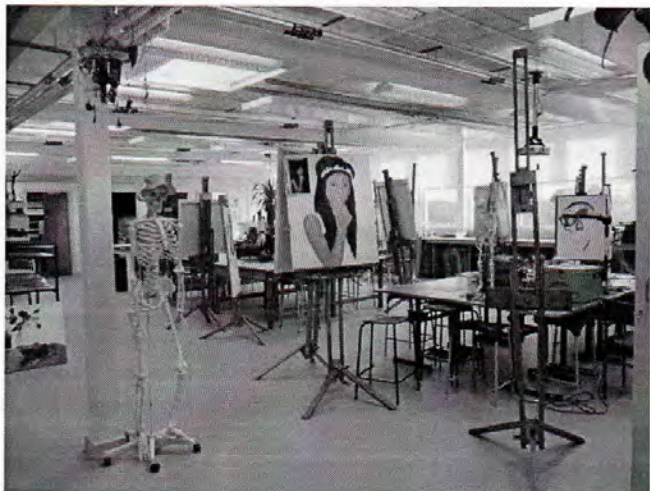
### **Table Tennis**

- Warren Pearson, Harley Gibb and Jon Pollard competed in table tennis but failed to qualify.

### **Tennis**

- British Colleges Competition (BCS) in Leeds – James Bradley/Andy Daniels completed won 2 and lost 1, they failed to qualify.

## The new Art rooms at the College



New building at the College includes new art rooms. The layout is light and airy. There are also new Maths rooms which are state of the art [to add to the rooms next door!]. The “desk” at the front includes a computer console linked to a screen so that the teacher can demonstrate without having to resort to chalk board or white board or overhead projector.

The Principal, Martin Clinton, gave the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund a tour after our meeting last year,

I wonder if the skeleton in the photograph came from the Grangefield Biology Lab!!

The new College building which had been planned and ground work started on the tennis court / car park area, has been halted. The change of government meant a change of policy and the College project was a casualty.



## GRANGEFIELD SCHOOL ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING

This Celebration took place on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup>.of July in the Main Hall.

Over two hundred parents and friends, governors and staff assembled to observe, recognise and congratulate the 66 proud recipients – sixty year-group prizes and eleven whole-school awards together with the presentation of eleven sports colours.

After a warm welcome to all from Mr. David Litchfield, the head teacher, he went on to describe the hard work and enthusiasm shown by this wide range of students over the year and forecast that, through their strong motivational and varied skills, they were very likely to achieve successful and satisfying careers.

The Head introduced his guest speaker- Mr. Paul Cookson -a well-known local poet and performer. After five or more of his football lyrics he had the audience so excited that they all felt compelled to participate by clapping and singing to their (and his) delight.

Our Speaker then shook hands with 6 prize winners from Year 7; Year 8 had seven; the Year 9 produced seventeen and Year 10 boasted no less than 31; all of whom, enwrapped in the enthusiastic applause of parents, relatives and friends, marched up to the front to receive their own enveloped award.

The School Colours were conferred on five competitors – athletics, tennis, rugby, and football were the recognised sports. The 11 Whole-School awards were both impressive and inspiring – achievement, bravery, determination and initiative - all received school acknowledgement.

In Year 10, OLD STOCKTONIANS ' ASSOCIATION awards went to:

The KING prize for English - Chelsea Gibson-Riley

The RATTENBURY prize for Modern Foreign Language - Connor Richardson

The ARMSTRONG prize for History - Josh Haley

After a vote of thanks the Assembly moved to the dining hall to enjoy light refreshments blended with some convivial conversation.

## Remembrance Day Service 2011



President Peter Braney [right] and Brian Brand with members of year 9, who conducted the service.

The service followed the pattern of previous years with readings by the pupils combined with hymns by the whole year group.

Headteacher, David Litchfield, gave the address after a wreath had been laid on the First World War Memorial. The readings were "Remembrance Day" [Levi Fox, Emma Lowry and Lauren Downing], "News from the Front" [Terence Green, Nathaniel Jones, Craig Dawson, James Miller and Adam Fenby] and "The Aftermath" [Stephen Whitmore, Cameron Long and Sophie Peacock]. The final reading by the Headteacher was followed by the laying of a wreath at the Second World War Memorial by Matthew Richardson.

After the service we were entertained to light refreshments by the year 9 pupils and the head boy and girl, Daniel Smith and Ezme Johnstone.

Old Stocktonians may be interested to learn that another memorial is next to ours. I quote "In Memory of Joanne Gillespie 1977 – 1993 and Lee Walker 1980 – 1993. Brave Hearts. Pupils of Grangefield School"

## GRANGEFIELD SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

As your President, I was kindly invited to attend *Carols around the Tree* on 12<sup>th</sup> December in the Media Centre next door to the School. Suitably armed with the service booklet, it provided another opportunity for me to participate and reminisce. After a warm welcome from Mr. Litchfield to the forty or so parents, friends and guests – and 24 choir – we enjoyed eight carols (joyful hymn or song) starting with “Once in Royal David’s City”, and concluding with a trumpet lead through “O Come All Ye Faithful”. Pupils gave the six readings, but I regrettably, can only recall 1. John 4 (7-14), and “the Meaning of Christmas” (Ross Henderson). It was all very enthusiastically delivered by the performers and received by the proud parents with even more gusto – I was deafened by the clicking cameras! Afterwards, it was wine and mince pies; something to look forward to next year – if invited. PBB

### Christmas Past

Brian and Pat Brand remember fondly the occasions when they attended the School’s carol services when he was President of the Association.

Originally they were held in Holy Trinity Church, until it was gutted by fire, then in St. Peter’s Church, Yarm Road. The Rev. Graham Benzies [54-61], a former teacher at Ian Ramsey, often officiated at what was always a warm and welcoming occasion on a cold December evening. It was worth the trip from North Northumberland.

It became a thrilling tradition that teacher Elizabeth Coates sang “O Holy Night” and the school choir brought the evening to a wonderful conclusion with the “Hallelujah Chorus”.

Although the carols have now moved to a modern venue, we hope that everyone leaves the services with the same uplifting feeling that “Christmas starts here”, which we always experienced.



**A.G.M. of the OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION 18th May 2011**

Present P.B.T.Braney, Mrs M.Bradley, B.P.Brand, D.Harris, R.Ward.

Apologies for Absence R.Prichard

Minutes of the last A.G.M. The minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising

The President, backed by those present, proposed a vote of thanks to Paul Graham's widow Jan for the help she has given to the O.S.A. after the death of Paul. We could not have managed to produce the Year Book and carry on his duties of office, without her help and the help of her son Tim.

Membership Secretary's Report B P Brand, as acting Secretary, reported that membership was as stated in Year Book, 139 Life members and 81 Yearly members. One life member had been "found" after several years. [We had not received a change of address]

Several Year Books have been returned to us, D J Johnston [Canada], J T Marriott [no access], R T Reed [not at address used], P H Rigg [not at address used], P D Wimberley [Denmark].

No Year Books have been returned by Yearly members. Two have been in touch to give the status of their subs.

Year Book Editor's Report B P Brand, as acting Editor, reported that he had taken over from Paul Graham by using the material he [Paul] had gathered and carried on from there. Jan Graham and Tim Graham had been instrumental in providing written material, photos and computer files to enable him to complete the publishing, although it was late.

The financial facts are : Printing cost for 250 copies of 44 pages was £220.00 + £10.00 postage.

Postage to Printers of hard copy £1.32. to 215 UK members was £68.80 [2nd class]. Postage to 25 overseas members + 1 large UK £47.79 [EU £1.14 and outside Europe £1.98 ]

Cost of materials : envelopes, labels, paper and inks £26.96

This gives a grand total of £374.87 i.e £1.50 per Year Book.

Treasurer's Report B P Brand, as acting Treasurer, reported that the published report, in the Year Book had been prepared by Paul Graham and audited by Peter Fleck MA, FCA.

The main source of income was from subscriptions [£70.00] and donations

[£249.00]. The Building Society interest on over £5 000 was only £2.59 gross. The rate of 0.05% is ridiculous, but in line with other financial institutions for "societies", "clubs", "associations" etc, so we cannot gain by moving our assets other than to gamble!

So far, this financial year, income is £130.00 [includes 1 donation of £100.00] and expenditure is £387.59.

### Benevolent Fund Report

This is printed in the Year Book. No grants or loans were made and no donations were received. Like the Life Members' and General Fund the interest was pence [actually 76 pence net] on a balance of £1740. B P Brand, the Convenor to the Trustees, praised the help given by Paul Graham as a Trustee and said that he will be missed as a compassionate and knowledgeable member of the group. Martin Gillespie, a former officer of the O.S.A. now working and living in the south, had been approached by the Trustees and invited to join our group. Martin has accepted and will be a welcome addition.

One grant has been made during the current financial year and will be reported in the next Year Book.

### Election of Officers

The following were proposed, seconded and duly elected.

President P.B.T.Braney

Vice Presidents B.P.Brand [Senior V.P.], R.Ward, J.Ingham

Minuting Secretary R.Prichard

Treasurer B.P.Brand

Correspondence Secretary R.Ward

Membership Secretary B.P.Brand

Year Book Editor B.P.Brand

Members of the Committee Mrs M.Bradley, D.Harris,

M.Gillespie, K.Turner

Hon. Auditor

P.Fleck

### Any Other Business

The President invited Mr Harris to update us on the proposed new O.S.A. web site.

Mr Harris said he still could not fully access the current web site to update it. He had not been in touch with Owen Shepherd, the student [now ex-student] who had started work on the new format using his own facility. He would contact Owen to see if he was still available to work on the new format.

Mr Brand stated that as time had run out he would request that the future of the Association be a main item on the agenda of the next Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm and the date of the next A.G.M would be posted in the Year Book.



## **Treasurer's Report 2010-2011**

The accounts are printed in the Year Book. The Life Members & General Fund is reasonably healthy in spite of reduced income. The deficit is almost the same as last year mainly due to reduced printing costs of the Year Book. The postage continues to increase and I have purchased a stock of 250 second class stamps to ensure we can post the year books in the UK at current charges [a large increase is due on 1<sup>st</sup> May]. Subscriptions are well down, as you would expect with the uncertain future of the Association. We still received a donation of £100 from one former student. Grangefield School did not send an invoice for the OSA prizes within the financial year and £60.00 was paid in 2011. Building Society interest of £2.65 on capital of over £5000 remains a joke, but other clubs and societies are suffering the same fate.

Once again may I thank Peter Fleck, the College Finance Officer, for auditing our accounts and for giving up his time and for his valuable advice. Peter has indicated that he is standing down after this year and if the OSA continues we will have to find a new auditor.

## **Membership**

There are 118 Life Members [10 living abroad]. Last year the report was that there were 139 Life Members but the postal lists showed 123 and I could find no other lists to account for the missing 16. It is probable that the missing 16 have moved house and we do not know their current address. I was able to "find" 1 and I know of one other, Jack Milner, whose Year Book was returned some years ago and as he was my year group and a friend at school and university I have been trying to trace him.

There are 73 Annual Members paid up to 2009 or beyond [4 living abroad]. I posted Year Books to 95 members on the postal list and asked 12 if they would confirm their "subs" status. Only 2 replied to confirm they had paid outstanding subs.

## **Benevolent Fund Report**

The accounts have been audited for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 the credit balance at the Darlington Building Society was £1616.67. One grant of £100 was made during the year. No donations were received and interest of £0.64 net [tax paid £0.16] was earned. This gave a credit balance of £1517.31 at the Darlington Building Society on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

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 [brianbrand3@btinternet.net](mailto:brianbrand3@btinternet.net).

Brian Brand



## OLD STOCKTONIAN'S ASSOCIATION

## BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2011

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<u>STOCK ASSETS</u>		£
Total Stock Assets		185.96
<u>CASH ASSETS</u>		
Cash at Darlington Building Society		5060.10
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>5246.06</u>
<u>LIFE MEMBERS &amp; GENERAL FUND</u>		
At 1 July 2010	3636.40	
Deficit for year	244.64	
		3391.76
<u>C.W.KING , G.G.ARMSTRONG &amp; G.J.RATTENBURY MEMORIAL FUND</u>		
At 1 July 2010	1853.55	
Surplus for year	0.75	
		1854.30
		<u>5246.06</u>

B.P.BRAND [Hon. Treasurer]  
10th July 2011

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Auditor's Report for the year ended 30th June 2011

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

P.G.Fleck [Hon. Auditor]

OLD STOCKTONIANS' ASSOCIATION  
BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2011

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<u>INCOME</u>	<u>L.M.&amp;G</u>	<u>K/A/R</u>
Subscriptions	18.00	
Donations	112.00	
Building Society Interest	<u>1.71</u>	<u>0.94</u>
	<u>131.71</u>	<u>0.94</u>

EXPENDITURE

Year Book 2010	374.87	
1 copy of the History of the Association to Paul Graham	1.14	
Expenses - Membership Secretary	-----	
Expenses - Minuting Secretary	-----	
Expenses - Correspondence Secretary	-----	
Expenses - Treasurer	-----	
Prizes to Grangefield School		-----
Tax	<u>0.34</u>	<u>0.19</u>
	<u>376.35</u>	<u>0.75</u>
<b>SURPLUS</b> for year		0.75
<b>DEFICIT</b> for year	244.64	

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KEY

L.M.&G	-	LIFE MEMBERS & GENERAL FUND
K/A/R	-	C.W.KING , G.G.ARMSTRONG & G.J.RATTENBURY MEMORIAL FUND

**Agenda for the Old Stocktonians' Association AGM to be held on  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in the Stockton Sixth Form College at  
7.00pm**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Membership Report
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report
6. Benevolent Fund Report
7. Special Resolution – Dissolving the Association.

The following resolution has been submitted.

The Association is dissolved on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013, the centenary of its formation. The assets, after all debts are settled, shall be distributed between The Stockton Sixth Form College and Grangefield School to be used for annual prizes until the funds are exhausted. Trustees will be nominated to administer the funds.

Other assets such as the President's regalia, the lectern and remaining stock shall be offered for display or disposed of at the discretion of the Committee.

8. Election of Officers.

*If the above resolution is accepted the officers would be elected until 24<sup>th</sup> January.*

- [a] President
- [b] Vice –Presidents
- [c] Treasurer
- [d] Correspondence Secretary
- [e] Meetings and Minuting Secretary
- [f] Year Book Editor

9. Election of Committee Members
10. Election of Hon. Auditor
11. Any Other Business

**This AGM is important and we hope that as many of you as possible will attend or send your comments.**



