

WOSA Newsletter 2011-12



President 2011-12 Marjorie Taylor

Editorial

As Tony said in his editorial last year there needed to be some changes to the way in which Old Scholars keep in touch.

During the past eighteen months there have been several reunion events, each targeted at former pupils who were at Brookfield at the same time. These one-day events proved to be very successful, attracting large numbers of members who had not previously attended the WOSA weekend in July. I hope that many more of these events will be arranged, and that these events will act as a catalyst to encourage more members to attend the WOSA weekend. In fact several members who had attended these reunions came to the reunion weekend in July.

The address List has also been thoroughly overhauled. Many former scholars have been traced using the internet, and in addition we have been able to update details of the members who attended the reunions. I have decided to produce the newsletter in A4 format. I hope that you will like the new style, and would welcome your comments.

President 2011- 2012	Marjorie Taylor
Chairman	Archie Rankin
Secretary	Barbara Dodd
Treasurer	Ann Fort
Editor	Marjorie Taylor
Social Secretary	Patsy Castree
Webmaster	Bill Sykes
Committee	Peter Kurer
	Fred Hall
	Kaye Gilmour

Dates for your Diary

WOSA Reunion 2012

Saturday 14 July

Lunch at Aspatria Rugby club 12.00 for 12.30

AGM follows the lunch

Dinner at The Hallmark Hotel Carlisle
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Sunday 15 July

Meeting for worship at Carlisle or Mosedale Meeting .

Lunch at Denton House, Hesket Newmarket 12.30 for 1.00pm

After lunch a walk is planned in the Calder Valley area

Trans Pennine Reunion

5th May 2012 Knutsford Cheshire

contact Donald Dobson (01565632649) for further details

Southern Reunion

12 May 2012 Oxted, Surrey

Contact Ann Fort (01883714760) for further details

Address List update

Over the last year we have tried to update the WOSA address data base. However there were some people we couldn't check. To help us keep our database up to date can you please send us details of any changes in your contact details to m@rjorie.com, or to Marjorie Taylor, 3 Cotswold Road, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE29 9QJ

In addition could I ask any one who has their email details on the WOSA website to check that it is still up to date.

Where are these WOSA members?

Some people's address details have been out of date for a few years. Do you know where they are?

David Cockerham (left 1984)
John Watson (1952 - 56)

Presidential Address



Mr Chairman, old scholars, friends and as they would say in Glasgow, to be all inclusive “Jocks and fellow carters” greetings.

Many presidents speeches, including my own, relied heavily on the Pavlovian reactions of the audience to key triggers words and phrases. Were I to say “Baggy” I could confidently expect a sigh, the fluttering of a few handkerchiefs and perhaps a stifled sob. To fill this nostalgia slot I could continue with ‘Tosh’, ‘Freddy’, ‘Fluff’, ‘Froggy’ and the listeners would be in a softened up condition for the ‘remember when’ selection. Tearful farewells on your first day tearful farewells on your last, the buzz of the dining room the smack of leather on buttock. All prepared now for the vaguely salacious? The remembered connotations of bonfire night, (you know who you are), the gas house yard, girls summer house. You by now are all having glazed expressions and look slightly down at the corner of the mouth.

We can all hang our memories on the pegs provided..

As you can see anything more from me would be surplus to requirement so I would be justified and you relieved if I were to say at this juncture good night and thanks for listening.

However! I have an obligation, it appears, not to mention a sadistic compulsion, to fritter away fifteen or so minutes of your life’s – but with what. I cast around for something that might be of interest and got to wondering about the lives of the ‘old’ old scholars who lived, moved and had their being at Brookfield before WOSA provided an early day ‘friends re-united’. We all know probably more than we would wish to about our fellow members. Some of us after all have known each other for in excess of sixty years and our respective triumphs and failures are but a click away on Facebook or Twitter or the on-line version of the Police Gazette. The Old Scholars lists however unless we have some personal connection are ‘terra-incognito’ and give us only name and date and hometown of each entry. It is into this unknown territory that I make my way.

Researching Brookfield on line brought some minor muddles including mixing up our school with the Irish Brookfield. This was established as a school with

a heavy emphasis on agriculture and with one master at least a unique ‘take’ on discipline when he advocated, if a cold shower was not available that pupils be ‘picked up by the ears’. The pupils were marched to and from meeting a round trip of eight miles, twice a week. Another ‘rugged’ which I originally ascribed to Wigton but happened at Moira concerned the visit of a dignitary who reported that he ‘encountered a Samuel Ely (in excess of eight years old) who was probably the ‘first man in Europe’ to have signed the temperance pledge mind you eighty years of dangling by the ears and would sign anything.

Back to our Brookfield

In the early years, unfortunately, the girls are defined by the doings of their husbands but I pursued a policy of following the unusual name so started with Elizabeth Boadle a foundation pupil from 1815. ‘Bingo’ she proved to be the daughter of a ship owner from Whitehaven. Sea was very much in her blood and her brother John, another eighteen fiteener named his daughter Oceana as she had been born aboard the family ship ‘The Helvelyn’ in the Indian Ocean.(for the punctilious LAT 00.20°N, Long 65E, sorry don’t know at what o’clock).

Who knows anything of Hannah Sergeson 1819 of Carlisle even with the might of the search engines all I could find was membership of Fylde-Preston monthly meeting in 1827 and the rest is silence – but wait ‘stop press’ she married in 1839 in Eccles – I hope she lived happily ever after.

Sarah Harris 1874 was snatched up by Isaac Gray Bass, ‘Gent’ who held patents granted for improvements on the manufacture of nails and spikes and displayed at Sheffield on ‘imposing collection of Ram centrifugal portable fore pumps. What maiden could resist? Isaac was also the prime mover in the establishment of the Cockermouth-Penrith and the Cockermouth-Workington railway and I like to think that as he and Sarah boarded the train at Braughton Grass they would pass the time of day with Sarah’s brother Ponsonby, the station master.

Amongst the boys the unusual did not disappoint from 1849 intake William Moss Bowron of Stockton stood out. William Moss apart from marrying Mary Reeve along the way went missing, in what circumstances I could not discover but was found in 1858 not in Silloth or even far flung Sunderland, but living with the Maories in ‘Hokiango’ New Zealand..Having been ‘found’ he joined his brother in South Pittsburgh Tennessee, (a good move as his brother founded the town and lived to be 101 as did his brother.

He was of the same vintage as Edward Brantingham who with brother George and sister Mary would make the arduous journey from Aberdeen to Wigton at a time when it could take by train eighteen hours to travel from Leeds to Edinburgh. They were the children of another George who was born in Darlington but moved to Aberdeen where apart from starting a grocery business and being treasurer of the anti-slavery society founded an educational trust which still supports 21 schools bearing his name, not to mention a street named after him.

Perhaps the Brantinghams were part of the influx of Scottish pupils, actuated in by discounted fees or perhaps as John Hancock the naturalist posited “they sent them to rid the girls of their Scotch accents” How would that work? When they came home and informed their parents that “the tod yaw was biggin about the dyke?”

I also tried the most common name of the shape of George Smith of Dundee 1833, all I found was news of his death from ‘Water on the head’ and that he was interned next to one as the grave register tells us succumbed to ‘gravel’. How much they had to use not specified.

More cheerfully Fanny Packard Wolsingham (1847) came from Sunderland and developed an interest in the art of photography. Indeed Glasgow University treasures an album of hers kept between 1865-1875 containing

168 of the photographs interspersed with her poems. Many of her photographs were of the building of the 'Elephant Tea rooms' in Sunderland, run by her family, and many taken in Cumbria. One could speculate that they could feature the school and perhaps fellow scholars of her era.

Fanny wasn't the only poet 'on the block' Thomas Phillips Thompson 54-56 was born in Newcastle but dropping the Thomas he emigrated to Canada where he drifted into journalism not a bad drift as he at one time edited the Toronto Mail and the Globe and several other Toronto papers. His poetry particularly his humorous verse was much published both in Canada and the US and his poem 'cheek' was greatly admired. Of this poem I'll read two verses and wouldn't be surprised if you too wondered if there were memories of Brookfield in it.

In the interim 'Tom' married the girl with whom Phillips was in love and made a heap of money.

I've scoured the 1854 intake for a likely 'Tom' candidate. My money is on William Storrs Sutton – but of course could have been a Wigham!

Wigham's were like the 'golden cord' of the hymn close binding all mankind. Between 1815 and 1939 sixteen Brookfield girls married sixteen of the eighteen Wigham boys who came to Brookfield. The score might have been seventeen but the unfortunate aurally impaired Eleanor Lingford must have mistakenly said yes to a Brigham from Bishop Auckland.

'Let us now praise famous men' quoted David Reed in his school history and went on to name those he considered in that category. Certainly he mentioned Sir John Marks as Chairman of the Manchester Water Works at the inception of Thirlmere as a water supply and, sure, names Sir Benjamin Scott with no further information and acknowledges Sir Raylton Dixon as being an eminent engineer (of whom more later). These and their other unmentioned achievements were in David Reed's eyes as nothing compared with the fact that all three had been contemporaries of J E Brockbank and two of them broken bread with William Williamson.

To be fair J E Brockbank was one of the founders of Asphatria Agricultural College!

Dealing with the famous three Sir Benjamin Scott was six times Mayor of Carlisle and an all round 'good egg' the illustrious Sir John Mark was the first mayor of Manchester when it became a county borough, proposed a form of health service to be supported by the rates and did much to clear the dreadful slums in the city. He and his wife entertained Gladstone (whom he hated) in his official capacity. Visiting Boston, he noted, coming as he did from a fire plagued city that Boston boasted a force of seven hundred men, 189 horses and 50 fire engines at a cost of £170,000.00. Manchester on the other hand squandered the rate payer's money to the tune of £3,600.00 sustaining 51 firemen, 16 horses and 7 engines. When quizzed on his education he claimed to have been educated at an extensive educational establishment at Wigton.

Now for a 'biggy'

Which old scholar brought back Cleo's needle from Egypt?

Sir Raylton Dixon you all shout

No.....I riposte .

It was a Dixon, indeed two Dixons, both of them old scholars: brothers of Raylton who devised and carried out the project, John and Waynman.

John was probably the prime mover having already proved his worth building the first railway in China and famously finding water on or rather in the Rock of Gibraltar and had already installed some monuments in London. Brother Waynman ran the family shipyard in the Tees and constructed a compartmentalised cigar some 93ft long around the 'needle' fitted with a cabin, rubber and keels which was also sailable. On tow from Alexandria she was cut loose during a storm and thought lost, but was found floating serenely the following day by a rescue ship The Olga. Five volunteers manned a boat to take off the Cleopatra's crew but they tragically drowned

when their boat was swamped; nevertheless the monument made it and was duly placed in position under John's direction. John subsequently named his daughter Alexandria. If you are on the embankment you will find commemorative plaques to the drowned men at the base of the needle. Sir Raylton was knighted for his tenure as Mayor of Middlesbrough and judging by his photograph, conspicuous pomposity.

Jeremiah their great uncle sailed with Captain Cook to record the treatment of Venus in 1771 in Sumatra. It was a long way to go for nothing as the weather ruled out any observations and they were then taken by a French privateer but, "Toujour la Politeau", on hearing of their mission the Captain declared that "France does not make war on science" and released them, which was nice. Jeremiah made a chum of a surveyor on the ship and going with him to the Americas laid down the Mason Dixon line and a perhaps fallacious attribution of his name to the name of 'Dixie' Dixieland etc.

Back to the distaff side do you remember having seen a pink cupped daffodil with white perianth? We owe such a manifestation and many thousands of like hybrids to Elizabeth Dodgson 1866 intake who married Robert Ormiston Backhouse of York devoting the rest of a long life to plant hybrids with considerable success and much recognition by the horticultural world. Google Mrs R O Backhouse and you will find ninety nine thousand references to her skills and the illustrations of the narcissi and lilies she propagated. The couple moved to Sutton Court in Herefordshire and it was reported that plants 'were their whole life' after that is, hunting, archery (at which Robert represented England at the 1908 Olympics), photography and breeding cats. Mrs R O was reputed to have a particular predilection for 'short red asians' which, not whom, she cultivated in her extensive garden. During a second wave of Scots came the Grays of Glasgow.

William, Woodville, Albert, Margaret, Edith, and Mary Ann. The first four being children of John who founded the biscuit empire of Gray-Dunn. The boys as the saying goes 'done good' William took over the running of Gray Dunn. Woodville played football for Pollockshields and Scotland and was capped in 1886. Albert or rather Dr Albert was a well know physician who attended as required on the Royal family and fathered Donald Gray a much revered Head at Bootham.

Mary Ann a cousin snapped up young Fred Rowntree of the York Rowntrees (though not the chocolatiers). He moved his architectural practice to Glasgow. "The main reason for the move is not quite clear" says his biographer – who is he kidding! Perhaps it became clearer as Fred's first commissions were associated with Gray properties nepotism was not unknown in the nineteenth century!

What of Elizabeth Cumming Dearing Palmer of St Austell – zilch, of Margaret Ann Bryson from New York – similar, of Hy Fearon Moncrieff of Bolton nothing but the odd name of Hy as in William Hy Williamson.

The mysterious Altham brothers Robert and Dudley who came to school from British Guiana and never went back there and of their sister only ever called "daughter".

Now let me finish with a mystery. In 1841 a pupil Peter Whinney Hall died at school. It is always poignant to see such an entry but I was intrigued by a book for sale on Amazon written by J Hall and entitled 'Some account of the last illness and death of Peter W Hall aged nearly fifteen years at Brookfield School nr Wigton the fifth of the third month of 1841' Published in 1842 it ran to two editions in that year. I tracked a copy down to the British library and had arranged a trip to London but unfortunately illness intervened.

So who amongst you can solve the mystery? And if you do please let me know

Cameron Walker

President 2010-2011

Otterburn Reunion - 17th. May 2011



*David Pringle, Margueritte Ugland, Margaret Nichol
Margaret Ferguson, Ann Fort, Betty Bell*

complete with badge, and a school tie complete with a Cash's woven name tape, she proudly announced that she still uses her school rug and has kept her school trunk! The heroic efforts of Marjorie Tulip Taylor and Patsy Wilkinson Castree to track us all down and organize us deserve more than a medal. The work of the camera crew, John Taylor and June Williamson Walker, now provides us all with a vital treasure for the future. The table flower arrangements in school colours created by Annette Hall Reynolds; the display and sale of memorabilia and the Teasdale prints of Brookfield were all most appreciated. Moreover, the idea was aired of forming a Facebook Group for some future networking. The *end of term chant* was enthusiastically shouted out to round off the reunion:

“... No more Algebra, no more French
No more sitting on a hardboard bench.
No more spiders in my tea,
Making googly eyes at me....”

Margueritte Ugland (Thiebauld)

The “Dream Team” has done it again! We were invited to play another round of that ever important game called “*Do You Remember?*” at the Brookfield Reunion on 17th May.

Like last year, we travelled from near and far to the Northumbrian moors where we were ensconced in the bastion premises of the historic Otterburn Tower Hotel. The tone for the reunion event was definitely set by old scholar and owner, John Goodfellow, when he jauntily introduced himself as “King of the Castle”.

Memories were triggered off in that auspicious gathering of over 70 former pupils of Brookfield. Smiles, giggles and laughter abounded. Looks of disbelief were exchanged between still recognizable seniors. Quizzical and thoughtful frowns provoked surprising responses. Stories and anecdotes raced around the air as emotions were set into swing. There was a general atmosphere of bustle and curiosity, urgency and quest – so little time, so many to seek out!

First prize for thematic attire is awarded to Kirsty Coppin Matthews who entranced the room upon arrival wearing a brown school beret,



*Kenneth Ashford, Ian Pringle, Hedley Redpath
Jeanne Speed, Helen Morris*



*Arnold Snowball, Lindsay Martin, Helen Snowball, Diana Martin, Ivy
Graham, Paul Graham, Tony Kemp, Hazel and Dave Taylor*

Southern Reunion

We always enjoy our trek south in May, and Surrey is always a lovely county at that time. This year was unusual since we had already been to the North Reunion earlier in the same week. On Saturday 21st we made our way to Claygate, the home of Hazel and Dave Taylor. Another bright warm and sunny day where all those hardy annuals were out under the big table umbrellas enjoying a pre-lunch chat. Arnold and Helen had also made it from their earlier presence at Otterburn. One solid anchor attendee was missing – Heinz Hershmann. He was in fact having a heart operation that day in London. An excellent lunch was served, all 11 of us were well fed and wined. Sadly Ann Fort had to rush off as she was double booked running an RSPB stall at Westerham Show over in Kent. A happy confused photo-call was marshaled in the pleasant garden. Tony Kemp, the master photographer (with tripod). Then all seemed to volunteer for the walk. Off we followed Dave round country paths, leafy Surrey woods and finally back past the stockbroker mansions. Then an apology! It seems we had done his “A” walk! An overshoot oversight. Dave rushed home for his car to collect the less fit. No-one was lost. Then back again to enjoy another great tea! Well worth the walk. Another very happy gathering.

Paul Graham

Paul wrote this report in November 2011 and sadly he died in January 2012

WOSA Weekend July 9th - 10th 2011



Lunch at Aspatia Rugby Club

John Goldsbrough, Heather McKintosh, Greta Saul, Michael Taylor, Liz Sismay, Beryl Risino, Ann Fort, Mary Peile, Paul Graham, Mary Youles, Jean Yates, Malcolm & Elaine Atkinson, Archie Rankin, David Yates, Robert Williamson, Henry Ridley, Liz Clark, Jim Clark, Margaret Coulthard, Wendy Bell, Betty Stronach, Margaret Swithenbank, Harry Wilkinson, Mollie Oliver, Marjorie Taylor, Jack Baxter, Margaret Steele, Margaret Taylor, Patsy Castree, Malcolm Bell, David Perry, Kaye Gilmour, Jill Forest, Dorothy Pearlman, Peter Kurer, Jim Swithenbank, Avril Solari, Ronnie Robinson, Joan Urquart, Barbara Dodd, June Walker, Hans Kurer, Irving Coulthard, Judith Beeby, Sheila Rankin, Joyce Nanson, Cameron Walker, Mary Robinson, Heinz Herchman, Tony Ferguson, Max Friedheim, Jill Kemp, Ken Duckett, Sandy Bell, plus photographers Tony Kemp, John Taylor, and Sandy Urquhart.

It was the first time that many of us 'young uns' had attended a WOSA weekend, indeed it was the first time in about 30 years we had been called young uns!! The wonders of Facebook meant that many of us had already been in contact on line, and a most had met up with a few ex pupils so it was slightly less daunting than it might otherwise have been.

On arrival we met with old friends and were all amazed at the immediate connection we felt with each other. Many hours were spent reminiscing about happy times at Brookfield. We all agreed that it gave us a great grounding socially. It was extraordinary to be with a disparate group of people, most of whom you hadn't seen for 30 years, and to find how easily the conversation flowed. We strayed beyond reminiscing, and still we all got on fabulously. It was interesting how many people were in public service; police, army, health and social care.

It was also a great pleasure to meet the 'older' old scholars: The warmth was palpable, and we were made to feel so welcome. Once again it was like being with friends and family. The WOSA meeting was strikingly well run, concise and effective. Co-opting us in to engage in various activities was done deftly and expertly by the existing WOSA members!!!

The dinner in the evening was fabulous; the speeches funny and touching. Everyone looked great in their finery!! And still the conversation flowed. It felt like a new beginning as well as being a time when we looked back, and YES, we will be there again next year!!

Dorothy Pearlman



President, Chairman and Treasurer at the AGM



The young uns!!

Class of 1950



Back: Pat Dent, George Cuthbertson, Donald Dobson, Colin Walker, Arnold Snowball, Keith Robson
Front: Alwyn Baty, Angela Taylor, Jocelyn Tully, June Williamson, Sandra Tomkinson, Diana Robison, Edith Smith, Helen Gillies, Hilary Bolton, Elizabeth Goddfellow

Keith Robson 1950 - 55

On leaving school, not knowing what else I might do, I joined the family road haulage and garage business. So, I was enrolled into Skerry's (secretarial) College, Newcastle for six months, to learn bookkeeping, commercial English and typing. Then, at Gateshead Technical College, I did four years of a five year City & Guilds Motor Vehicle Technology course (I was allowed to miss out the first year on account of my 'O' levels. Thank you, Brookfield). On passing the exams, I also gained admission to The Institute of Road Transport Engineers. I stayed on to do the course and exams to also gain admission to The Institute of the Motor Industry.

I married Margaret, a triplet, in 1967. We have a daughter and a son. They are both married with families of their own. We have five grandchildren.

After several years as a partner in the business with my father, he eventually handed it over to me. The rest of my working life was spent running it, with the help of my wife. Our family weren't interested in joining us, so we allowed them to pursue their own career paths. Before I was 60, an opportunity arose to sell the site to a builder, so we sold off the stock, workshop equipment and vehicles, and the site was sold for a small housing development. This enabled me to take early retirement.

I was, for over 30 years, on our local Parish Council. I have served as a committee member of our village hall for about the same, being chairman for over 12 years, a position I still hold. I don't know how I found time to work.

I was adopted when I was 2 and have known since I was 4. After the death of both my adoptive parents, I began to wonder about my birth family. I obtained a copy of my original Birth Certificate and search was done. It hit a dead end. About 10 years later, out of the blue, a lady (who happens to be married to a distant adoptive family relative), heard of my situation and offered to do a search for me. Genealogy is her hobby. This was just over 3 years ago. The result is that I have a younger half-sister and half-brother who did not know of my existence.

Sandra Little (Tomkinson) 1950 - 56

Brookfield for me is a long list of happy memories (interspersed with the odd hiccup!) where, as an only child, I enjoyed being part of a 'large family' without the parents in tow, and also I made many good friends for life!

The staff recognised our innate talent and developed them to the full. I remember well learning the piano and cello with Peter Iliffe and playing in the School orchestra with Helen Gillies. Gwen Bagwell (Geography), Mr Joachim (Eng. Lit) and Mr Watson (Maths) were really great teachers.

However my main delights were English Lit. and Musical Society evenings, the monthly walks (instead of lessons), Friday Hobbies night, Sunday lunches (always hungry), swimming in the icy pool, sports sessions and finally, setting the breakfast tables with Matty (Ann Fell) in order have the best bacon for our table - that is until

'Boss' complained to Kitty that her cooking wasn't quite up to its usual standard!

When I left school I trained as an Occupational Therapist, married John Little in 1965 and produced a daughter and son in 1967 and 1970.

However, looking back is fun but seeing everyone again after what seems like 100 years, was really great and will hopefully be repeated again next year.

Angela Bourn (Taylor) 1949 - 1956

I was visiting Northumberland in May 2011 so managed to attend the Otterburn Reunion. It was a great day that I'm sure was enjoyed by all who were there. It was fun to see some people that I hadn't seen for 50 odd years!!

I was married on October 4th, 1958, so this year David and I will have clocked up 53 years together! We have a son and a daughter and five lovely grandchildren. Due to David's career in aviation we had to leave our beloved Northumberland in 1967 and we lived in Cheshire for 17 years. We then moved to West Sussex to a little village called Slinfold which is convenient for both Gatwick and Heathrow. We have been there in the same house for 27 years although we were away from home, living in Sri Lanka, for three of those years. British Airways retired their pilots at 55 then (not anymore!) and David was not ready to retire, so off we went to work for Air Lanka. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being a proper ex-pat. rather than a traveller/tourist. I have been fortunate in being able to travel rather extensively but now I am quite happy to stay closer to home.

We are still connected to the aviation world through our son, Julian, who followed in his father's footsteps and is a long-haul Captain with British Airways. He often brings messages and greetings from older pilots who, when younger, were trained by David!

We regard ourselves still as Northumbrians and try and get back "home" to re-charge our batteries at least once a year. I hope I will be able to make another WOSA Reunion before long.

Christine Doran (Saunders) 1950 - 55

Since the news included in the 2001 newsletter, Christine has continued to work in support of Cystic Fibrosis. In June 2010 she was awarded an OAM (Order of Australia Medal) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List "For Service to the Community as a fundraiser for organisations assisting people with Cystic Fibrosis" Our congratulations go to her (pictured here wearing her medal with The Governor of Victoria after the presentation).



Class of 1950 ...continued

Margaret Malkoun, (Lawther) 1950-55.

I went on to grammar school, then teacher training. I taught in Surrey, Italy, then Lebanon, where I met and married a Lebanese hotelier. Lived in Nigeria for two years till the Biafra war, then to Dubai which was super in the seventies. Two sons. Back to Beirut till the civil war there. I was held up at gunpoint so had to leave a very dangerous place. Left absolutely everything behind but felt lucky to get out 'to safety. Back to Dubai with Hilton Hotels. Now I live alone in a village in the beautiful peaceful South Downs after a very eventful life.

Anne Sheldon nee Bowness 1950 - 55

Five wonderful happy years at Brookfield
Friendships formed then are still going strong, just sadly missing Marjorie Mann. Many good years being part of Young Farmers movement after starting at school in the Brookfield YF Club. I gained a wonderful trip to Australia in 1964 for Young Farmers Clubs from a P & O scholarship. Married Bob in 1966, we have two sons, two lovely daughters in law, and two special grandchildren. We farmed in Lincolnshire for 44 years, but love coming back to Cumbria to visit friends and relatives. Enjoyed meeting many old friends at the 2010 Reunion at which Ann Skelton was president.

Fiona Dingwall (Scott) 1950

I started Brookfield as a twelve year old boarder in September 1950 and was only there for the Autumn term as my family were home on leave for a few months from Southern Rhodesia. Although my time at Brookfield was short, I have many vivid memories of that time and I also kept a small tartan diary about the experience!

We lived in Rhodesia until 1952 when we returned to settle in Edinburgh where I have lived ever since apart from a year in New Zealand as an exchange teacher in a primary school. I married Iain a Principal Maths teacher in 1969 and we have two sons, one a Reader in Criminal Law and the other a Principal Town and Country Planner. We have two granddaughters and enjoy a very happy retirement. Amongst my interests are Art and Crafts, reading, gardening, Bridge and travel.

Hillary Barnfather (Bolton) 1949 - 57

Graduated from The Guildhall School of Music. I acted as accompanist for Ballet Rambert and Los Angeles Opera among others. I wrote music with Marian Montgomery recorded by her and Richard Rodney Bennett. I married David Barnfather (1943 - 54) in 1962. We have lived and worked in Rome, LA and San Francisco, Trpoli, Libya, Dusseldorf and London. David was Vice President of Finance for Occidental Libya. We have four daughters and twelve grandchildren. We live in Surrey but spend some of the winter months in Florida.

London Reunion



Saturday 8th October 2011
Venue - The Flask Pub, Hampstead, London

A thoroughly jolly evening was had by all at the Flask. A private room was at our disposal and we enjoyed good bar meals and drinks. Friends came from as far afield as Bristol, Manchester and Northumberland. Unfortunately, Andy Carr was unable to attend and our thoughts were with him.

We all had a fantastic evening meeting up with friends old and new - it was lovely to meet Suzanne Whitting for the first time - and catching up with everyone's news.

Juliet, Sheenagh, Marjorie, Patsy and Suzanne left about midnight so the rest of us continued til the small hours back at the dorm! (hotel room 113 this time).

I think we all managed some shopping and sightseeing over the weekend. Indeed, Jill, Max and Tony enjoyed the afternoon at Camden Market on Saturday and Fiona and I tramped over Hampstead Heath on Sunday after a long, leisurely breakfast with everyone - 'bleary-eyed' comes to mind! Meeting in London also gave some of us the chance to meet/stay with friends or family at some point over the weekend.

Grateful thanks must go to Dorothy, Jill and Tony for organizing the evening and for choosing such a wonderful venue. Here's to the next one!

Jeanne Speed

Transpennine Reunion

A dozen Old Scholars enjoyed the hospitality of Tony and Jill Kemp's Chester home and garden in lovely sunshine on July 30th. The brothers Kurer were there and Tony's sister Avril restrained my new black Labrador puppy from entering the pond. The most distant visitor was David Perry from Tyneside, and David and Jean Yates descended the Pennine slopes from Blackburn. I had not seen Donald Dobson since school days. The merit of the occasion was measured by virtually no-one leaving the garden to listen to the critical radio coverage of the second test against India on the kitchen radio. Old Scholars are pretty focused when chatting! A happy sequel was that two months later, Peter Kurer returned to West Cheshire to give his moving talk on "What Manchester Quakers did for Jews in Nazi Germany". Robin Greaves and her daughter Deborah were among the audience.

John Carruthers (1949 - 58)

John has been appointed to the board of the Dresden Trust, which has raised over £3,000,000 in the UK towards rebuilding and reconciliation in the city. He has been involved since 2000



David Yates, Donald Dobson, Peter Kurer, Avril Solari, Jean Yates, David Perry

Keswick Reunion

Class of 1961 – 68

30th September – 2nd October 2011

I have been tasked with providing a report on our reunion. I have written this from my own personal perspective, recalling events leading up to and during the reunion weekend.

Reunion Birth

The idea of a reunion to celebrate the start of our year group at Brookfield had been brewing for a long time amongst the small circle of friends I was still in contact with. This was discussed whenever we met, ultimately leading to the decision to get on with it and make this happen 'sooner rather than later before we all fall apart'.

By this time the 'self appointed' reunion committee had been born (Colin Carr, Tom Hughes, Paul Dugdale, Hugh Routledge and myself). The next and most critical task was to appoint a fearless leader and in Michael Chapman we found the perfect fit. We actually appointed Michael to this role at least 2 years before we notified him of this honour. When I contacted Michael in early 2010 about this, he accepted the role without hesitation and from that point onwards, our reunion was going to happen.

Under Michael's command, the date, location and venue were quickly agreed and the long process of contacting old scholars and confirming attendees started. The solicitation of 'life stories' and publication of a Xmas 2010 newsletter was a great enabler for the reunion, providing fascinating reading, emphasising the many different paths we have followed since our school days and whetting the appetite to meet once again. Remarkably quickly, the reunion was upon us.

Reunion Memories

Thursday – Arriving in England and driving to Keswick through the Lakes District in surprisingly good weather reminded me how beautiful the area was and convinced me that we, 'the unelected reunion committee', had chosen our reunion location wisely. Arriving a day early enabled Wendy and I to catch up with our fearless leader, Michael, his wife Sheena and Bill Hopwood, who had travelled over from Canada. The aim was to finalise the plan for the weekend but I don't recall that ever happening. I do remember having a thoroughly enjoyable evening however which involved visiting a number of pubs in Keswick before settling down in The George for a good chat and a most enjoyable meal. A great start to the reunion.

Friday – In the morning I went for a drive around Ullswater, down to Windermere, back up to Keswick via Ambleside and Grassmere. How beautiful is the Lakes District and where did the great weather come from, must be global warming! Must come back again. Wendy went shopping in Keswick for shorts. Was expecting arctic conditions and packed accordingly. Had lunch by the lake at Ambleside. How good is this! Those that were coming for the weekend started arriving from late afternoon. We randomly bumped into Paul and Hugh in Keswick's main street and others gradually emerged after booking in at the Skiddaw Hotel. An ever growing group formed, initially decamping at a nearby coffee shop, then relocating to the Skiddaw Hotel. To meet old friends again after all this time was a great experience. No name tags were required and conversation picked up from where it was previously left. The Skiddaw Hotel opened the dining room for us and we spent the rest of the evening there, enjoying each others company.

Saturday 'Excursion' – Following a hearty breakfast and lazy morning it was time to relive one of the iconic features of Brookfield life, 'the excursion'. The weather was good, all 18 of us who had gathered the previous night honoured their commitment to participate and off we went. Our guide, Michael was well prepared for the elements but despite his threats, there were no signs of crampons, ice axes or oxygen tanks! We snaked out of Keswick and gradually climbed up the lower foothills of Latrigg stopping at every photo opportunity. The gradient increased but we kept going, talking all the time. As if there had been any doubt, we eventually reached the summit and stopped for a well earned breather to admire the views of Skiddaw, St John's in the



Some of the group reliving Summer Excursions!

Vale and Derwent Water. An unsuspecting hiker was hi-jacked to take the official excursion team photo for the record and then it was time to move on. We eventually descended using a different path returning to Keswick after about 4 hours via a disused railway line, spending the rest of the afternoon at leisure in small groups scattered around the village.

Saturday Evening Main Event - During the day and early evening more old scholars and partners were arriving, swelling overall numbers to around the 50 mark, with year groups both above and below our class of 1961 – 68 now represented. Many more friends from the past were meeting again for the first time in years. The bar at the Skiddaw Hotel was unable to cope with the numbers and it was time to move to the main conference room which had been prepared for the occasion. Introductory speeches were made, food and drink was at hand, a photo display cycled continuously and a most enjoyable evening was enjoyed by all. More photos were taken. Group photos taken in our school days were able to be re-enacted with the majority of those in the original pictures in attendance at the reunion. The concern that we should have the reunion 'sooner rather than later before we all fall apart' may have been beneficial in motivating the reunion cause, but in truth everyone was remarkably well preserved and long may that continue.

Sunday – Luckily, no one appeared to suffer any lasting damage from the previous evening and there was a healthy gathering in the hotel dining room for breakfast. Many staying at the hotel had to leave us at this time but there was still a good number left to have one more adventure. So once more a group of us snaked out of Keswick on a pleasant walk down to Derwent Water where photo opportunities were taken at Friar Cragg, after which the Lakeside Tea Gardens was invaded, followed by final farewells. The reunion had been blessed with good weather but it was raining now but no-one seemed to mind. Following a bout of tourism during the afternoon, Wendy and I stayed with Michael and Sheena overnight in Borrowdale, an area of outstanding beauty. Bill stayed too, cooked our dinner and we drank the Canadian whiskey he brought for Michael. Who said Australia is the lucky country! This was a great way to end a great reunion.

Absent Friends

The 1961 – 68 year group was made up of 44 old scholars, 23 of whom were present at the reunion. We remember our 6 friends that we know have passed away (Laurence Hebblethwaite, Michael Smith, Marion Grindley, Neil Wilson, Drummond Percy and Andrew Dockeray). Some of the remaining 15 were unable to attend the reunion but the bulk of these we have no contact with. Hopefully those missing in action can be found and attend any future reunion we may have.

Final Words

A special reunion, long in the planning and living up to all expectations. A worthy celebration for 50 years of friendship.

Joe Henderson

Where are they now?



School Play 1960/61 - Pygmalion

Were you involved in this play, either in the cast or behind scenes. If so we would like to hear from you. We will try to publish details about everyone in the picture in the next issue of the newsletter

Financial Report

Wigton Old Scholars' Association

Income & Expenditure for year ended 31st December 2010

Reunion	2010		2009	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
Income	£ 2,047.35		£ 2,035.00	
Aspatria RUFC	£47.50		£46.80	
Home Baking (Lunch)	£616.00		£545.00	
Greenhill Hotel (Dinner)	£1,080.00		£1,054.85	
Denton House (Lunch)		£ 288.00		£ 320.00
Refund	£34.00			
Badges	£15.50			
Total	£2,047.35	£2,081.00	£2,035.00	£1,966.65
General Fund				
Subscriptions		£ 120.00		£ 20.00
Donations	£10.00		£60.00	
Sales	£17.00			
Investment Income	£36.24		£36.24	
NS&I interest	£ 16.62			£ 23.36
Newsletter printing	£179.39		£465.25	
Reunion invitation printing	£71.22			
Newsletter postage	£217.90			
Web		£ 26.45		£ 28.00
Total	£199.86	£494.96	£295.10	£328.75
	Total loss	£328.75		
Bank balances at 31st December 2010				
	2010	2009	Loss	
HSBC	£128.30	£334.67	£206.37	
NS&I	£8,192.56	8323.94	£131.38	
Cash		£ 9.00	£ 0.00	£ 9.00

Class 5A 1944 Where are they now?

It does seem that the 1944 photo that was printed last year has aroused a lot of interest. Several people sent in their reminiscences and some old friends are now back in contact with each other around the world. We decided that we would try to find out what happened to the pupils in the photo.

Sadly three have died

Margery Reed, Jean Gillham, Mary Ditchburn

Katy Sparks lives in York, Sylvia White, Edinburgh; Margaret Furber, Ulverston; Ada Wilson, Whitehaven; Joyce London, Carlisle; Barbara Moreton, Carlisle; Bonzie Frisby, Switzerland; Peggy Owen and Vera Cottam, Manchester; Dorothy Gate near Carlisle.

Alfred Jefferson 1938-45

took over the family farm at Aldsey Cowper near Wigton and it became his career and hobby. Their son John and his wife now carry on the farm and their two grandchildren are Rebecca a primary school teacher and Robert who is at university. Unfortunately Alfred's eyesight is deteriorating but his wife read out the names from the photo and he remembered a lot of them.

Donald Penrice was their best man.

Donald Penrice 1937-45

I really enjoyed my eight years at Brookfield, most of the time during the war. We managed two summer excursions and two bonfire nights. I remember CBM making an announcement that people must stay in the circle of light from the bonfire or they would move into another circle of light in the dormitory! I also remember being elected MP for Brookfield in a mock election in 1945.

George Park 1935-44

I left Brookfield in 1944 and went to St Bees to take the Higher School Cert. and then went to medical school in Liverpool.. After qualifying I did National Service in Kenya during the Mau-Mau emergency. The next period of my life was spent in various medical roles until I married had two children and settled down in practice with my brother Tom(Brookfield 34-39). In 1975 disillusioned with the NHS we emigrated to a small town on the prairies in Canada .After a year we relocated 2000 miles to Ontario where I remained a GP until 1997, also serving 3 years part time as chief of staff at St. Catherine's General Hospital. We still live in St Catharine's in Southern Ontario , about 10 mls from Niagara Falls. We have hot summers ; winters are a little colder than UK and certainly not the cold, hard winters of Northern Ontario or the Prairies. Our daughter is a GP in a small town in Ontario and our son is House Master at a school in St Catherines.

In 2007 we moved into a town house condominium which is much more convenient and 5 minutes from the golf and tennis clubs and shops.

Margaret Clark (Owen) 1939-44

is in a retirement home since February this year. She did live all her married life on a farm in Marple, where her children were born and brought up. They had three sons. They were dairymen and had a milk round in Marple - P.H.Clark and Sons. They continued living there after retirement. When her husband died in 2005 she continued to live at the farm, but poor health and declining mobility eventually meant she needed permanent residential care. She had an unusual early life, being born in Australia in 1929, as Margaret Gillham, her parents having emigrated a few years earlier. However, her mother died very shortly after she was born, and her father was forced to return to the UK a while later with two baby girls - Jean and Margaret. After a short while back in the Manchester area, the two girls were brought up separately by two



*Back Roy Stephenson George Park Katy Sparks Sylvia White Margaret Furbur Mary Ditchburn, Ada Wilson
Joyce London Barbara Moreton Margery Reed Alfred Jefferson, Donald Penrice
Front: Bonzie Frisby, Peggy Owen, Vera Cottam, Olive Aird, Dorothy Gate, Jean Gillham*

local Quaker families - Jean went to the Nelstrop family (flour millers), and Margaret was adopted by Douglas James Jesse Owen and his wife Lil - Douglas Owen was a prominent Quaker, speaker, thinker and writer on temperance and pacifism. He was imprisoned during the second world war as a conscientious objector. As a young girl during war years she attended Wigton school. Later she married and became Margaret Clark. Her sister Jean, lived in London with her husband Arthur, and they had two sons. Jean died about twenty years ago.

Roy Stephenson 1941-44

I was at Brookfield from spring 1941 until I took the school certificate in summer 1944. After this I went to Leighton Park, Reading, for 2 years before taking the equivalent of A level. Then I had a "GAP" year doing the first year of a College apprenticeship at Metropolitan Vickers, Trafford Park, Manchester (a huge Company in those days with 20,000 people in the Works) I started a 3 year Honours Mechanical Engineering degree at the College of Technology (part of Manchester University) in 1947 and graduated in 1950 with BSc Tech (hons)

I came to South Africa in 1954 and got married in Bloemfontein to Brenda Gascoyne, who followed me from Sheffield; we have 4 children 3 girls and 1 boy; all now grown up and married, with 2 children each; the youngest 2 girls are twins, one living in Auckland NZ and one in Seattle, USA. although spread about we keep in regular contact

We love living in South Africa and have many delightful friends; have you been to SA; we like the superb climate and also the people and do not have the inclination to return to the UK; our greater family is dispersed around the world which is wonderful.

Olive Manix (Aird)1934-44

Being a day scholar I was not familiar with all the ins and outs of people. I myself am 82 and my husband Peter is 84 and unfortunately has Alzheimers, and is not really interested in anything. We have two daughters, Kathryn and Shirley, the formers is married to a school teacher at Highgate School and they have three sons, one of whom is in Australia until September, he is 19, the other two have just finished their university courses, Ben (22) did an engineering degree, and Sam (24) did a sports degree. our other daughter had learning difficulties, and lives with us, but she is able to work and does part-time at Starbucks coffee shop. She is a great help to me right now. I never worked, when I was first married one did not, just stayed at home and looked after the children. Shirley was in hospital for a long time, with bilateral dislocation of the hips. Peter and I used to come up to Wigton or rather Aspatria, for OS but now it is not possible.

Newcastle Gathering



Following success in exhibitions in London in the autumn Malcolm Teasdale's paintings also featured in the Newcastle Biscuit Factory's Winter Exhibition. Several old scholars visited the exhibition and some met for a pre Christmas lunch and get together.

One of the pleasures of convening in the Biscuit Factory in Newcastle, is to be surrounded by beautiful new objects. This offers a nice balance to being amongst a lot of old things, yours truly being, of course, a prime example of the latter genre.

Sixteen people turned up so the gallery cafe gave us an aerial cafe of our own in which to eat and make a noise. This provided an opportunity to compare and contrast the drugs we're on, consider their side effects, and bemoan the loss of "gilded(!)" youth. Alas, Alack, has life come to this.

Anyway, being ancient and in a hurry, a number of the gathering wished to squeeze out of the Newcastle visit as much as they could, and insisted on rushing off to inspect the Turner Prize shortlist at the Baltic. This unfortunately led to a premature disruption of the gathering who, by and large, would like to have carried on their deep discussions for longer.

Never mind, a note for the future, and here's a bit of useful advice - if you fancy a drink, follow that Marjorie, she knows the class watering holes.

Susan Watts

Congratulations

Congratulations to **George Telfer** who left Brookfield in 1979 and has enjoyed a successful acting career. In 2011 he won the best actor award at the Clearwater Film Festival in Florida for his portayal of Charles Wells in the film "*Innocent Crimes*". Do you remember seeing George in any productions at Brookfield?

Margaret Gillies (Hinde) 1921 - 26

Margaret is the oldest member of WOSA. This picture was taken on the occasion of her 100th. Birthday in 2010. Margaret still lives independently and enjoys shopping trips



Helen Morris left Brookfield in 1976. For the last twenty years she and her husband have run the internationally known Stencil Library from their home in Stocksfield Hall, Northumberland. Her first book ***The Stencilled Home*** was based on Stocksfield Hall. Over the years their stencil designs have been used by leading TV interior designers Linda Barker and Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen. Helen has also featured in Kirstie Allsop's Channel Four programme ***Kirstie's Homemade Home***. In her new book *Stencil It* which was published in November Helen shares 101 of her favourite ideas for stencilling everything in your home.

Walking Groups

Following the desire of some old scholars to relive their summer Excursion days a small group decided to walk the coastal stretches of the Allerdale Ramble last Autumn. The group plans to try other routes both in Cumbria and Northumberland in 2012. If you are interested to hear more of the walk plans contact m@rjorie.com or (01912595689)

A short walk in the Calder Valley is planned after lunch at Denton House on the afternoon of Sunday 15th July. Why not join us to walk off any of the excesses of the weekend?



A bright Autumn day on the Solway



Swarthmoot Hall Farm; Rob, Tom, & Roger Park were born here

This photo was sent by George Park. The family farmed here from 1920 - 26 and his brothers Rob, Tom and Roger were born here. Tom still enjoys golf and walks in the Dales at 88, George lives in Canada, Roger and Rob died about 15 years ago. Swarthmore Hall is now the location of The Brookfield Presidential War Memorial Chair, since the Chair was moved here following the sale of Wigton Meeting House.

Mark Powell trained as a marine Engineer at Portsmouth and South Shields after leaving school in 1977. He moved to Abu Dhabi in 1982. He has been in the UAE ever since apart from a 5 year stint in South Africa and the UK. Three years ago he set up his own business Saluki Motor Sport which allows him to enjoy his hobby of cross country Rallying and desert racing. He is married and has 2 daughters.



RAK Rally 2011



2011 UAE Rally championship - overall winners

For Sale

Panora Photographs 1956 in frame
 1958 unframed
 1960 unframed

If you have any school memorabilia you no longer want please donate it to be sold for WOSA funds.

All proceeds to WOSA funds

Telephone Marjorie Taylor on 01912595689 to make an offer

In Memoriam

- Stuart Leach 1941-1943 died 12th February 2012 aged 85
- Paul Graham 1939-1943 died 7th January 2012, Paul was WOSA President 1984
- Dr Walter George Siller 1940-1941 died 23rd October 2011 aged 86
- Tony Clereheugh 1949 – 1956:- died 16th July 2011 aged 73
- George Lowe 1933 – 1938:- died 25th July 2011 aged 90
- James (Jim) Bowness 1952-1956 died 9th February 2010
- Marjorie Fisher (Mann) 1950-1953 died 9th February 2011 aged 72
- Marjorie Davey (Walton) 1925 – 1928 :- died 2009 aged 96
- Mary Bryning (Ousby) 1940 – 1945 :- died 2009
- William Watson 1939-1943 died 2007.

Some Obituaries will be on display at the Summer Reunion