The Presidential Address

Hello! I cannot express how humble I feel standing here before you some 53 years after Ayton School and I parted company. Never in my wildest dreams did the 15 year old boy contemplate the possibility of having the honour of being elected President of the Old Scholars Association. For this great honour I thank you! I would also thank Sue for her excellent year as President, and wonder at the great differences between our school careers. Sue was a model pupil who enjoyed every minute of her association with the school, and I was not!

I came to be educated at Ayton School, although Barnard Castle was considered, because my sister, Beryl, was already established. An application was submitted and I was offered a place by Mr Carr. I attended an open day for prospective pupils, and I was interviewed by Mr Carr in his study; he called me Alan and explained the workings of the establishment including the fact that there was no corporal punishment. As someone who had had the cane or the slipper at least once a week at my previous place of education (always fully deserved) this came as an incentive. Following the interview I was sent to inspect the school and the school grounds. The only thing I can remember was being allowed, in the company of two older boys, to row a boat on the lake, as, it was explained to me, we did not have lessons on an afternoon (it must have been Wednesday.) I thought I had hit the jackpot, very few lessons, a rowing boat and no cane.

Miss Harwood and I fell out early in my school career, over socks! One wet afternoon, after games, I was unable to find one of my grey socks. Being resourceful I attended class, a little late, in wet games socks. I was admonished and sent out to find my grey ones. Now anyone who knew the boys’ changing rooms would know that a ten year old boy had no chance of finding anything, let alone one grey
sock, so, I returned to class with no socks on. Miss Harwood was not pleased, back to the changing rooms I was sent to locate the missing sock until I finally returned wearing my wellingtons. Poor Miss Harwood went ballistic. I was told not to be impertinent, however the bell went and I escaped having avoided two periods of English. The sock turned up stuck inside my trousers, but I had, unfortunately, placed myself on the wrong side of Miss H.

The first term passed with an uneasy truce between the staff and me. This changed at the start of my second term at Ayton when a new person arrived on the scene, and it was not long before I was in his study for one of his many lectures on my behaviour. The poor man was under the misunderstanding that he ran the school whereas I knew it was me. Perhaps with hindsight I should have offered to share the burden and form a partnership, but I missed that opportunity. Had I taken it, the school might still have been operating today. It seemed that right from the start of Mr Reader’s Headship, I was a marked pupil, and it wasn’t long before I was issued with a report book, which had to be signed after every lesson and activity along with a comment by my teachers. I had to report to Mr Reader’s study every Saturday after lunch, with my book. Although I turned up every Saturday, I don’t remember Mr Reader keeping our appointment.

To run my side of the school I needed capital, and it was Jimmy Shaw who advised me not to put my trunk in the loft at the start of term, but to pawn it and redeem it at the end of the term. I didn’t take his advice, because I didn’t know where the pawn shop was, and I could not carry my trunk. However Jimmy was my first business advisor.

In the entrance to what was then the woodwork shop there was a glass fronted notice board. On this board there were hundreds of rules and instructions. It was to provide me with many happy hours of
entertainment seeing how many rules I could break on a summers evening. Anyway I noticed one of the rules was that all 1st form boys had to write a letter home every week. I also knew that most didn’t. First and second form boys had duties to attend to, which included post, renewing toilet rolls, and tidying the changing room, handing stray items to lost property. These duties were displayed on a roster in the new block. Being a devious 10 year old I realised that if I removed this roster I could make the tasks my own on a regular basis. Post was the cash generator. Every letter in the post box had the name of the sender in the top right hand corner, and my duty was to empty the post box, collect the money from the sender during form period when pocket money was handed out, buy the stamps from the Bursar, and post the letters. Easy cash, I just collected the price of the stamp from every 1st year boy, even if he had not sent a letter, cut out the Bursar, because he went home at 12’o’clock, bought the stamps at the Post Office, posted the letters that had been sent and kept the surplus. I suppose it was an early form of a protection racket as any first form boy who had not written home dare not admit it. A side benefit was having a reason to go in to the village at odd times.

The toilet duties consisted of changing toilet rolls when needed, keeping the place free of litter, and reporting any faults to the caretaker. Even this activity had it benefits. Beryl was training as a teacher and needed toilet roll inner tubes for her various projects. I collected the tubes and kept them on top of my Cage. One day it was announced at lunch that every child had to proceed to their locker or cage which was to be searched; it appears a large quantity of cutlery was missing from the dining room, and instead of buying new ones, Big J. and his gang decided to criminalise their customers. I don’t know how much cutlery was found, but I had none, not belonging to the school anyway, but I did have this hoard of illegal toilet roll inners.
This resulted in three interviews with Big J. who was convinced I was about to gain world domination by collecting cardboard tubes.

I worked hard running the school doing lots of little duties, one of which was Meeting House boy, a position I held until third form when Mr Reader decided to ban me from the Meeting House. I had already been banned from everywhere else, and most activities, but not lessons. It did therefore, give me great satisfaction when I was called out of class one day, and asked to arrange the Meeting House for The Friends’ Thursday Meeting, as no one else knew how to do it. The benches were of different sizes and would not fit the required arrangement if the right benches were not in the correct position. I resumed meeting house duties after this, and, I presume, Mr Reader retired hurt.

In January 1954 or 1955 someone had the idea that a skiing trip to Austria would be a good idea. This was a brave thing considering the Second World War had finished only ten years before. If it was a brave thing to take 30 children across Europe by train, then it was suicidal to include me in the party. I apologise here and now for any stress I caused any pupil or staff member on that trip as I was always leading children astray and was never where I should have been. The hotel we stayed in was a pleasant Austrian hostelry serving typical Austrian food; however, the price of bottled water (we were advised not to drink water) was I think, about one shilling and three pence, whereas a similar sized bottle of beer was about eleven pence. The saving cheered the holiday along nicely, but as we only drank beverage at meal times no serious damage was done. I know I carried ice skates all the way to Austria and back again for Nancy Thomas, and was rewarded with a kiss on Victoria Station. Brief Encounter, eat your heart out.

There are dozens of other escapades, most legal, including bike rides to Stokesley at night, with bikes ‘borrowed’ from fifth formers
who were allowed them after G.C.E; playing tennis on the red courts at four in the morning. (Honestly, to see the sun come up over the hills is a sight too wonderful to describe); having breakfast in the cricket pavilion, afterwards, with milk cooled in the beck, and back into school breakfast at seven thirty. The great dab-it-off business, manufacturing chocolate sherbert (which put most of first and second year boys in the San); collecting and selling tennis balls from roofs and gutters after dark; regular cash generating trips to the chip shop; almost being sent home for getting caught behind the tennis courts with a group of boys who were smoking (I wasn’t smoking but was returning from the chip shop by the scenic route, but I couldn’t tell anyone that, and, I lost my chips that night as I had to hide them under a bush!

You most probably have noticed I have not mentioned any school work or achievements,- well, frankly, it just got in the way. I remember music lessons with Mr Porter. He was droning on about something, and playing music on the DECALION, anyway we had to listen to the music and put our hands up when our nominated instrument played. I was given the Cor Anglais, perhaps if I had listened to anything that had been said previously, I might have known what one was. As far as I was concerned it might have been a French apple or a delivery truck. As usual I was in trouble, and did not make a friend of BJP. Just as well as I am tone deaf and have no sense of rhythm.

On the other hand Mr Coates and I had a cordial relationship, as I kept my shoes clean and my hair cut. In my second year I asked him to pass a book called ‘Teach Yourself Physics’, and considering that was his subject he must have been amused. One night I turned the fire hydrant on beside B Dorm, and couldn’t turn it off. I was like the sorcerer’s apprentice, with water everywhere. Mr Coates arrived and turned the water off, asking me what I was doing. I tried to claim I had just leaned against it, to which Spigg replied, ‘Come on now, that
won’t wash!’ to which I replied, "No, but that did!" Spigg actually smiled, and all I received as punishment was one hour playground sweeping.

I seemed to court trouble wherever I was. One memory I have was sitting in class busying myself stuffing match heads into airgun pellets, to make cracker bombs. Unfortunately I compressed the matches too tightly, and there was an almighty bang, waking everyone up and silencing the teacher. As usual I denied all knowledge of the explosion, but sitting in a cloud of smoke with a blackened face resulted in another sojourn outside Mr Reader’s office.

I left Ayton with one formal qualification, that of Bronze Medallion Life Saving Award. (I might have achieved the next award up, but I was banned from the swimming baths at the time of the examination.) I do, however, still have my school report,(no classified information), my catapult and my bag of marbles to show for my career. Other valuable assets I gained from Ayton, was a thoroughly good grounding in most subjects, an independent spirit, and total confidence in my own abilities, so much so, that after attending night classes I gained a post at Sunderland Technical College teaching plastering, skill and practice, at the age of eighteen. When I was twenty-four I won a Scholarship to attend a management course in London, coming top out of 30 delegates, so Ayton must have taught me something. I am also excellent at sweeping playgrounds and classrooms, patient and able to stand for long hours, these along with duties as meeting house boy, newspaper boy, post boy, cobbler’s trolley, toilet attendant, and a brief spell in the games cupboard all set me up for a happy and varied career.

I became area secretary for the Old Scholars Association, and worked hard raising money for the ill-fated house block at the mill. I ask each and every member to seek out other old scholars and
encourage them to join our association, especially the latter day pupils who can keep the school memory alive for the foreseeable future

My final duty is to ring Spigg’s bell, in memory of those bells for breakfast, bells for shoe collect, bells for lessons, bells for post, recess, meals, the list is endless. Is it any wonder when the school was finally put to rest I determined to acquire the bell known as Spigg’s Bell at any price. I have fond memories of my sister Beryl in her regulation summer gingham dress dutifully tolling the bell for various functions. I have put a muffler on the clapper of Spigg’s Bell just in case a ghostly Mr Coates returns to ring it.

_The grey muffler was removed and the bell was rung._

‘Ah I see you found the sock,’ Commented Lou.
A.O.S.A.  Minutes of 122nd. Annual General Meeting

Held at 2.00pm on Sunday 27th June 2010 in the Meeting House.

The chairman, Diz Dexter welcomed everyone to the AGM. She asked all present to share a short silence to remember those Old Scholars who had died during the preceding year and also to send loving thoughts to those members who are experiencing difficult times.

Diz then welcomed the 2010 President Alan Goodfellow, who gave his Presidential address. Alan had a colourful time at school and we all enjoyed his address, which is printed in full in the 2011 Magazine, and well worth a read! Diz Dexter thanked Alan for his intriguing address.

1. Greetings and apologies for absence were received from: Chris Vodden; Lil Pearson (Wrightson); Kathlyn Tonkin (Bearby); Jan Sinclair (Hall); Anne White(McCune); Douglas Horn; Jean Hewitt (Smithson); Margaret Shaw (Wearmouth); Adi Lavender(Johnson); Christine Meyer (Gent); Sheila Howd (Dent); Mary Banks; Dorothy Newby (Danby); Jane Campbell (Bye); Richard Wood; Mike Allen.

   Gill Jackson had the following message from a telephone call with Frieda Dennis on Thursday last – Frieda sends her apologies as she and her son Edward will not be able, as they had hoped, to attend the Memorial Service for Dick (held in The Meeting House earlier today). Frieda also asked me to thank everyone who sent her cards and letters of sympathy. She has been much moved and comforted by them.

2. The Minutes of the 121st A.G.M. were taken as read from the Magazine and approval was proposed and seconded by Barbara Clarke (Price) and Gill Jackson (Hinds) and agreed by all.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. Jill Wheeler (Rhodes) Hon. Secretary, made her 8th and final Secretary’s Report and she was pleased to report that the “Dilemma”
mail shot had been successful and new volunteers had come forward to carry the Association on. The Executive Committee had once more fulfilled its duty and is in fine order with representative from many eras.

5. **Fiona Campbell**, the Hon. Records Secretary, reported that the records have been updated and she has devised a system from which various reports can be accessed. There are 586 recorded members but in order to keep the list up to date Fiona needs to be given information like changes of address or changes of surnames; she has a list of lost Life Members and would appreciate any news of them and of course information regarding any Member who has died. Fiona instigated the web camera which enabled Harry Snalam from his home in Vancouver, to be present via the computer on the piano – such is technology in the 21st century.

6. **Geoff Miller**, Hon. Treasurer, distributed the accounts for the Association which showed a healthy balance in the bank, even though the expenses had been greater than the income by £1,368 which was more than usual because of the cost of the 'Dilemma' mail shot. The interest income has dropped dramatically because of the low bank rates.

7. **Gill Jackson** (Hinds), first joined the magazine some 20 years ago and for all that time she has been involved in one way or another, however in this her final year has been in sole charge after the death of Dick Dennis. Gill introduced Linda Hewison (Pearson), who agreed to be next Magazine Editor. Diz Dexter thanked Gill for her hard work and dedication.

8. There were no questions regarding the 4 reports which are recorded in full in the 2011 A.O.S.A. Magazine.

9. Retirement of Officers in 2010

   Diz Dexter       Chairman
10. Lou Trotter gave the following vote of thanks:

In recent years it has fallen to my lot to thank people for their periods of service on the Committee. This year we have a lot of people to thank and so, in case I should miss anyone out, I think I’ll start at the top and work through and I’d be grateful if, as I mention their names, the people concerned would stand and do the usual ‘’Twirl’’

So, to our new President, Alan Goodfellow, many thanks for taking on the role, thanks for your most humorous address and best wishes for your year.

To Sue Fox, Immediate Past President, thank you for what you have done over the last two years and for what you continue to do. To Harry Snalam, Past President, thanks again for your three years’ service, sorry you can’t be with us this year, but we hope to see you and Susan next year.

To Diz Dexter, Retiring Chairman. Very many thanks for your contribution over the past eight years to both the Committee and Nominations Committee.

To Jill Wheeler, Retiring Secretary. Once again, thanks for your eight years of service. You took on the role with gusto. Thanks are also due to you for managing the ‘’Dilemma’ ‘project over the last twelve months which, despite a period of ill health, you did so well.

Our thanks are due to Geoff Miller who has just completed his first year as Treasurer, for his input and for the expertise he brings.

Gill Jackson, Retiring Editor of the Magazine. What can we say about Gill? She has endeavoured to retire before but for one reason or another we have not allowed her to do so. This year, without Dick to call on and despite periods of ill health, Gill has produced another exemplary Annual Report. Gill, for your enthusiasm over the years you are to be commended, for your
dedication you are to be congratulated and for what you have achieved, on behalf of the Association, you are to be thanked.

Thanks also go to: - John Fothergill, who, despite not being in the best of health himself at the moment, is about to take on the role of Chairman. John, we wish you success and a full and speedy recovery.

To Suzanne Potter, who after a number of years on the Committee is to become Secretary, to Fiona Campbell for her work as Records Secretary, to Louise Seniscal, who having been co-opted on to the Committee, has done an outstanding job as Re-union Co-ordinator and has agreed to continue. Other Committee Members deserving of our thanks are Sonia Wade, Gillian Cloughton, Anne White and Andrew Vaux. May I say a special thanks to Linda Hewison who has agreed to take over from Gill as Editor of the Magazine. Linda, you have a hard act to follow but we do thank you and wish you every success. Thanks go again to Jane Campbell for her work on the Archives and the exhibition, and finally can I thank Wendy Smith for the work she and her helpers do with regard to the distribution of the Report and also for putting me in touch with her son, Daniel, who has agreed to take over as Web Master/Editor. Where would we be without the Campbells, the Foxes and the Smiths? Old Scholars, friends I give you, your Committee.

Diz Dexter then gave a very special thank you to Lou for all his commitment and dedication to the Executive Committee. Whenever reference needed to be made to the Constitution, Lou was always there to keep us right. His contribution has been considerable.

11. Officers due to retire in 2010 but willing to stay on: Sonia Wade

Nominations Committee Convenor  (for 1 more year only)

12. Re-election of officers willing to remain.

Treasurer (2009-2013) Geoff Miller
Records Secretary (2009-2013) Fiona Campbell
Executive Committee Members (2008-2012)
Gillian Cloughton, Anne White, Andrew Vaux
13. **Election of New Officers.**

- **Chairman** (Yearly basis) - John Fothergill
- **Secretary** (Yearly basis) - Suzanne Potter
- **Reunion Co-ordinator** (2009-2013) - Louise Seniscal
- **Magazine Editor** (2010-2014) - Linda Hewison
- **Web Master** (2010-2014) - Dan Smith

14. **Nomination of President Elect.**

   Sonia Wade told us she was pleased to be able to propose Linda Renwick (Knott) as the Association President Elect. Linda has already shown her dedication to the Association by her stint as Editor of the Magazine so we are happy that she has accepted the office of President elect. Sonia’s proposal was seconded by Gill Jackson and welcomed by all present.

15. **A.O.B.** Pauline Buchanan (Swanson) asked if the Treasurer would consider depositing money with the Credit Union, as this would help those less fortunate, but the cash would still be safe. Geoff said he would look into this and report to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

16. The dates of the next Summer Reunion are Saturday 25th Sunday 26th June 2011

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**Secretary’s Report 27th. June 2010**

Well, where did the time go? This is my 8th. and final Secretary’s Report and although at times it has felt like a lifetime ago when I took
over the reins, today it only seems like yesterday!! I am sure my contemporaries will understand that statement.

When I took over from Margaret Carnegie (Wilkinson), with whom I was at Ayton, I wondered if I would manage, but with the aid of computers and emails the job has been relatively easy. Secretaries before me, Barbara Clarke and Roy George to mention just two, remind me from time to time Secretaries in the past had to hand write everything including the envelopes for the magazines, and records were kept on cards to be updated by hand!! Three cheers for technology!!

This year we decided to contact all members of the A.O.S.A. and the photograph of the “Dilemma” was chosen with care, Oh yes, those were the days……The replies which came in, and in some cases are still coming in, all unanimously agreed that the Magazine was most important followed by the Reunion and the Web site. I am delighted to report that through the “Dilemma” we have a Magazine Team in hand, to be led by Linda Hewison (Pearson) from her home in rural France where she is in touch with the whole world with the aid of her trusty computer, and a promising new Web Master, Dan Smith, to keep both the Magazine and the A.O.S.A. Web site going. The Reunions now have a good format which can be fine- tuned by Co-ordinator Louise Seniscal (Fox, as was) and her family, so all is well with the Association. We have even managed a video link with Harry Snalam in Vancouver so he could be at the Committee meetings without having to travel 6000 miles! Your Committee has taken on board the 21st century and serves you well.

So, as I hand over to Suzanne Potter (Morgan), I am pleased to report that the A.O.S.A. Executive Committee is in good order, a cheerful bunch of Old Scholars from different eras meeting a couple of times
each year to keep the show on the road. It has been a pleasure to be on the Committee.  

Jill Wheeler (Rhodes) Hon. Secretary

**AYTON OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION**

**Receipts and payments. Year Ending 31 March 2010**

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**EXPENDITURE**

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**GENERAL FUND**

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<tr>
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**TOTAL**

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Receipts and Payments 9 months ending 31 December 2010

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**Expenditure**

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**General Fund**

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**Life Fund**

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**Hon. Treasurer** GEOFF MILLER

Independently examined by RICHARD BYE
A Profile Of Our President Elect
Linda Knott (nee Renwick) 1955-1963

Linda joined Ayton Friends’ School in 1955 from Red House and left in 1963. She was put into Swarthmore House as a Day Girl and enjoyed the journey out to the country every day. She slowly gained confidence in the caring and encouraging atmosphere, enjoying swimming, weaving Domestic Science, History with “Taffy”, tennis, life-saving, English, climbing in The Lake District with John Reader, and choir under Richard Addison, where her love of music began.

After “O” levels she went on to “A” levels in History, English, and French. As Head Girl for the Day Girls she continued to enjoy being a Day Girl despite Evelyn’s veiled persuasions. She was introduced to Quaker Work Camps in Europe where her love of travel developed.

She left to go to St. Aidan’s College, Durham University where she studied English. There she enjoyed three glorious years in one of the most beautiful cities in the country, making lots of long term friends, one of whom is her sister-in-law.

In 1965 she went to Tunisia under V.S.O. where she taught English in Kairouan and worked alongside Peace Corps volunteers. Then she went to Edinburgh University (another beautiful city) to do her Dip. Ed. where she gained a distinction. From there she taught in a Quaker school in Jamaica called “Happy Grove” at Hector’s River.

When she returned from Jamaica she married Arthur in 1969 and taught in a Secondary Modern Girls’ School in Reading which was a bit of a shock to the system!
Tom and Will were born in 1972 and 1974 and in 1973 they moved to Clevedon where she still lives.

Linda edited the A.O.S.A. magazine for three years before returning to full-time teaching at Clevedon Comprehensive School where she taught English for 25 years. During that time she and Arthur sailed a variety of dilapidated boats in the Bristol Channel and Cornwall and for 35 years she was a member of a local Choral Society, continuing the interest begun at Ayton. They also walked a lot in the Lake District as a family until finally they were unable to keep up with their own children!

When she retired in 2003 she became a Town Councillor in Clevedon as an Independent and has been ever since. In this role she has worked with the Allotment Association and has spear headed a move to improve the town centre. In the meantime Tom married a local girl, Emma, and they have a two year old son, Eddie, who is a delight, and a daughter, Esther, born November 2010.

Since her husband Arthur died in 2007 she has thrown herself into her Council work even more. She divides her time between Clevedon, Manchester, a cottage in Cornwall, visiting her 90 year old mother in Great Ayton, which is a lovely excuse to come back, and doing as much travelling as time and funds allow.

Throughout all these years Linda has loyally attended Old Scholars’ reunions and hopes that despite the sadness of the closure of the school, that tradition will continue for many more years.
SPONSORSHIP

We REALLY need your continued contributions towards reunion expenses, and to enable us to publish the magazine, and to pay for the website. PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU.

Very many thanks to all who have so generously contributed. Sponsorship is still available- all contributions are gratefully received, please contact GEOFF MILLER

garth.miller@newdur.ac.uk with your donations (made payable to AOSA)

LIST OF SPONSORS for the years 2010-2011

WESCHENFELDER & SONS Ltd.,
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12, Stokesley Road, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8DX
ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

MEMBERSHIP FEES £5.00 PER ANNUM (£2 EXTRA FOR PARTNERS) LIFE MEMBERSHIP £50 (20% discount for Life Membership for partners) Membership forms for Old Scholars, family and friends available from Geoff Miller (see Executive Committee list for the addresses)

MOVING HOUSE? CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES? PLEASE CONTACT FIONA CAMPBELL HON. RECORDS SECRETARY WITH YOUR NEW ADDRESS. We lose members every year because they forget to advise Fiona of their new address. (see Exec.Committee list for her address)
The weekend was one of those glorious June weekends we revisit when donning the rose coloured specs of nostalgia, but the Reunion weekend of June 2010 did not need the rose coloured hues of memory as the sun shone, and the activities of the weekend passed in a haze of laughter, gentle activity for the more energetic, or in meandering the village, indulging in the famous ice-cream and pork pies amidst reminiscing & remembering. The Meeting House is a welcoming central location for all Old Scholars, and above, is the room where amidst the wealth of wonderful photos, magazines, books and objects lovingly resourced, restored, organised and cared for by Jane Campbell assisted by her family, past times can be remembered and almost forgotten memories brought to life. It is indeed a wonderful meeting place.

Where better then, than in such a beautiful village, nestled in the Cleveland hills, could one prefer to be on such a weekend, and it was a pleasure to see on such a glorious occasion friendships rekindled, and new friendships formed. The Saturday walk, (organised by Wendy Smith (Arnold) and therefore fondly termed ‘Wendy’s walk’), amongst the gentle rolling countryside has always been a much appreciated event, and the walkers gathered in pleasant anticipation.

Twenty of us gathered outside the Meeting House in glorious sunshine and revealed to each other our names (some hesitation remembering maiden names!) and the date we left school (a range of 1949 (Brian Sayer) – 1992 (Tim Green). It was interesting but in some ways did not matter as Aytonians manage to have friendships across the years, sometimes sharing memories of another scholar or a teacher, sometimes just a (possibly mythical) story (was Lettuce Hall really thrown down the stairs in a laundry basket by Tanner Jackson?)

We braved the California traffic to enter Sir John’s fields, enjoying the shade of the woody bits and rejoicing that the story of Captain Cook’s Monument was unfounded—(we could see it still in place!)
Care was taken across the railway line as there are still trains running, and we climbed up to the path along Winstone Dyke. As this brought us to Aireyholme Lane, questions were asked and sometimes answered about the whereabouts now of OS who had lived here and in Dykes Lane.

The bottom of the sledging field is fiercely guarded by a gate and barbed wire but actually the shade of the trees through which the official path goes was most welcome. Just before Half Cook’s we pretended to admire the view, Pennines, a bit misty but Wainstones (any former rock-climbers?) were clear-really a ‘drinks and mints’ stop. Incidentally you will not find ‘Cooks’ on the map – it is Easby Moor.
Descending through the mining area we wondered how many tales Harry Snalam would have told had he been with us (some mines are still accessible but entering is unwise as the air is bad).

Where the road from Fletcher’s farm (now also a café) meets Little Ayton Lane at the bridge, Vivienne Flynn remembered that this was ‘half way round the island’.

Shortly before Evelyn Nicholson’s house, we cut along the path so as to cross the fields behind Top Field with a good view of Ayton village people using the fields and of the Pavilion.

The path comes out beside the re-sited pissoir and just opposite Suggits (with time for all to cool down with the familiar taste, if slightly smoother texture, before the committee meeting, or whatever.)
It might be time for a change of Saturday afternoon activity next year, but I would still be interested to hear if anyone has a favourite haunt these walks have not visited. (The viaduct and Bluebell woods?)

Stokesley Town Hall provided an excellent setting for the Dinner, superbly organised by Louise, as well as the venue for the inauguration of our President. Musing and cribbing over a light hearted quiz, for trying your luck in the raffle and for indulging in easy socialising is for all , but for some the evening incorporated a very special gathering, as Sonia Wade ( Dunn 1952-58) and Edna Bond (Clayton 1953-57) will explain.

“Following the great success of our year group’s get-together in 2007, when so many of us came back to commemorate 50 years since leaving school, despite the cramped conditions of the upstairs room at Whinstones we were allocated after the marquee had been flooded owing to exceptionally heavy rains, we decided to do it all over again this year to celebrate becoming 70.”

Where better than during Old Scholars Reunion weekend could ten Ayton School schoolmates choose to meet. Sonia was the motivating force behind both of these year group reunions, and suggested the Dinner was an ideal venue to cut the cake and light their sparkler candle, “As everyone heard we sang Happy Birthday to ourselves and had a lovely catching up and a really good
laugh.” “It was lovely to have the opportunity to reminisce over old times, and photos from school days passed around prompted many happy memories.”

William “Wimpy” Wade (1953-58), Melvyn Stewart (1952-58) from U.A.E. Wendy Newbold (Jones 1952-58), Jane Collins (Dunning 1952-55), Edna Bond (Clayton), Adrienne Micklethwaite (Hall 1952-58), Kathleen Wheldon (Hall 1955-57) from Canada, Sonia Dunn, Sarah Delamore (Brunton 1952-58), & Alan Goodfellow were all there.

In Gill’s words “Judging by the hilarity emanating from their table which adjoined ours, they were having a wonderful time, so much so that they forgot to take part in the Quiz, an important part of Saturday

Make the June 2011 Reunion weekend the moment to mix and catch up with friends from Ayton School. For more information please contact:- Louise Seniscal (Fox) (1991-1995)
loujfox@hotmail.com

JUNE 25th and 26th 2011. A date for your diary!
celebrations.”

The Winning Table!

Sonia continues…. “The previous day I had met up with Jen Wilson, now Dawson, and Christine Pacey, now Beckwith, in Helmsley. We try to arrange a meeting every six months, and as Christine Gent, now Meyer, comes over from the U.S.A. I meet up with her twice a year too. There are mini reunions going on all over the world.”

(20% discount for Life Membership for partners)
Throughout the weekend groups of Old Scholars meet around the area to catch up on news and to enjoy reviving friendships.

Here, Gill Jackson, who has been a tour de force as Editor, relaxes and enjoys the company of John Fothergill, our new Chairman, and his wife Margaret.

Thanks to Gill’s loyalty and unstinting devotion to the Association the Magazine has thrived and become a source of much pleasure for many people. Now, although she has laid down the Editor’s pen, she is still pursuing her role as roving investigative reporter with the same dedication she has shown for so many years.
Sunday sees everyone gathering on the village Green; for remembering and pausing for thought in Meeting.

Diz Dexter & Linda Hewison          Roy George & Barbara Clark

Andrew Vaux & Wendy Smith          James Slater & friends

Dorothy Dawson & Alan Hewison

Thanks again to the organisational skills of Louise Seniscal we enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch, which digested nicely whilst the Committee and our President took centre stage. A sad occasion to see so many devoted Old Scholars handing over the reins to the new comers, but,
again, thanks to their efforts and the ones before them, Ayton Old Scholars is still alive and kicking, and hopefully younger Old Scholars will soon step forward to realise the need everyone feels, to keep the School alive in our hearts, or simply to enjoy a wonderful weekend with wonderful people.

Finally, a short walk to the village fields where the sound of leather on willow revives the historic yearly Game of Gentlemen, village versus school. In the past, of course, it was School versus Old Scholars on this particular weekend, but as cricket is a great tradition in the history of the school as well as in the history of the village, (my grandfather Robinson captained the village team in a match against the School up to the year he died in 1953) it is a great reminder of the heritage of our School which is being kept alive by our cricket enthusiasts. Hopefully the tradition will continue for many years to come.

**The Team of June 2010**

Back row L. to R. James Teasdale, Rob Bezemer, Geoff Lewis, Tom Bicknell, Rolf McCullough, John Pearson, John Bridger.
Front row L. to R. James Girling-Budd, David Teasdale, David French.
The Brian Barrowcliff Memorial Trophy

David French (1964-1971)

The fifth annual Brian Barrowcliff Memorial Trophy cricket match took place in June over the Old Scholars Reunion weekend. Under clear blue skies around two hundred Old Scholars, families and associated cricket supporters descended on Leven Park, the home of Great Ayton Club for this increasingly popular event.

For many Old Scholars attending it had been some time since their last visit to Ayton, and whilst it would be difficult to mention individuals because of sheer numbers, it was pleasing for the organisers to see such a large turnout, in particular to renew acquaintances with a number of former members of staff including Albert and Val Hudspeth, John and Rosy Readman and Matthew England. Matthew had coached a number of the cricketers playing that day as pupils at Ayton, and commented that he was pleased to see many at long last now understood the meaning of a ‘straight bat.’

A lunchtime barbeque organised and very professionally delivered by William Wilkinson continued, with perfect weather providing a ‘carnival cricket’ atmosphere to the afternoon’s proceedings – we could have been in the suburbs of Bridgetown!
The limited overs cricket match between Old Scholars and an experienced team from the Cricket Club started shortly after lunch. On paper it appeared as a formidable gathering of cricketing talent even though a number were eligible for SAGA holidays and some for free bus passes.

I had been nominated Captain for the day, and I thought I had secured an advantage winning the toss. I decided to bat first on what appeared to be a very well rolled compact wicket conducive with the bright sunshine, to encourage scoring. That, unfortunately, was where the theory ended and reality cruelly interjected.

The Ayton Cricket Club team were Captained by David Moorhouse, who is, (and I choose my words carefully as David is a good friend) a wily strategist once he steps on to a cricket field, and had clearly realised that the ball was likely to swing later in the day as a cloud cover had been forecast. David had just returned from playing for England on the Senior Ashes Tour against Australia ‘down under’, having batted in all four test matches against the bowling of such Australian cricket greats as Dennis Lillie and Geoff Thompson. He must, therefore, have found it somewhat challenging to have spent that sunny afternoon working out how to deal with the leg breaks and disguised doesras delivered with unpredictable perfection by a certain James Girling – Budd.

The cricket throughout the day was of a high standard, with Jonathan Bridger and Tommy Bicknell producing excellent batting performances (S.R. 125 and 175 respectively), and Ralph McCullogh taking several wickets with a display of accurate and highly effective seam bowling (3 for 21). Geoffrey Lewis showed he could still play his textbook cover drive and Rob Bezemer was the usual ‘Mr Consistency’ with line and length in his opening bowling spell.
The event drifted on into the evening when the bar staff declared themselves exhausted and the Clubhouse was running out of ale. A substantial number of attendees had settled in for a prolonged stay reminiscing, and were clearly reluctant to start their homeward journey.

The cricket result seemed irrelevant, (did a Yorkshire man really say that?) It was apparent that the day had been thoroughly enjoyed by all and this is reflected in the number of emails and letters received in the days following. Thank you to our wives for pulling the event together, and to Ayton Cricket Club for granting us the use of all the Club’s facilities for the day.

Jon Bridger, Richard Durham, Geoff Lewis, Tom Bicknell, Phil Amer, Jamie Girling-Budd.

“Can anyone honestly tell me we have changed in the last 30 years? Mind you Phil has got a beer and he used to drink lager, but other than it took us 15 minutes to move after this pic was taken we are just the same!’ Jamie Girling-Budd.
Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th 2011
A weekend to be reserved in your diaries. Old Scholars Weekend

The Spirit Lives On
Albert Hudspeth (Staff 1970-74)

It was sad to see the demise of Ayton School (Friends’ School to most of us oldies), but it was a joy to experience the continuation of its special spirit over the Old Scholars weekend of 2010.

In particular it was good to see the camaraderie which still exists among those who were good friends at school and who have kept up a lifetime of relationships in so many ways. The Brian Barrowcliff (Barry) Memorial Cricket Match exemplified the closeness which an Ayton education helped to instil in its scholars (well, not everyone was a scholar in the purest sense of the word – now come, be honest), but it gave something of great value to all those who were educated there, and indeed to all those of us who were privileged to teach there.

I had a great time working with ‘my’ football teams and have many memories of great days on the fields of Ayton and elsewhere, even though we did not always win. A special place in my heart remains for the lads we took to Holland in 1971. Val and I plus our son Anton and a minibus load of enthusiastic late teenagers out to conquer the world - well the football world at least. Our trip organiser was thrilled to bits when we won a match as it was the first time he had had a team win a match in Holland. Mind you witnessing the standard of refereeing and line-running gave a new slant to the idea of being impartial.

As we watched the England team contrive to play appallingly against Germany on the Sunday afternoon of Old Scholars I was set to wondering whether in fact my 1971 team could have done just as well – even now. Although watching the slowness around the cricket pitch brought one back to reality on that one!
Val and I greatly appreciated being alerted to the weekend event and so enjoyed meeting up with so many familiar faces which were such an important part of our four years in Ayton. Our time in the school was not so long but it had a depth of meaning far greater than just time. The OS weekend merely reinforced our continued love of the school, of Ayton and of the people with whom we shared our time. It was all very special to us and still is today. I am sure that my time there helped me enormously in my career afterwards, and that included 27 years as a Head – something I never envisioned as I ran people ragged round the playing fields of Ayton.

Make this year’s Reunion a very sociable weekend to mix and catch up with friends from Ayton School. For more information please contact:-

Louise Seniscal (Fox) (1991-1995) loujfox@hotmail.com

JUNE 25th and 26th 2011
I went to Ayton in 1936 at the age of twelve at the same time as my brother Barry Davies who went as Art Teacher. It was not necessarily an advantage to have him there, but maybe he felt the same way about me being there!

I have very happy memories of being at Ayton; I belonged to Firbank house and remember names of many of those on the photograph.

**Firbank House 1938**


2nd Row L to R :-Joan Bagwell (staff), Noble, ?, Mary ?, Jean Harrison, ?, Mr. Coates.

3rd row L to R :- Hughes, ?,?,?,Pallister, Heather Davies, now Adams.

4th row L to R :- Martyn Gaudie, Joyce Dobbing, Hillary, Julie Lupton, ?, Leckie.

Some of my memories are of roller skating, sports, pork sandwiches from the butcher’s shop, with apple sauce and stuffing,
and fish cakes which I warmed up on the radiator in the schoolroom; cleaning our teeth with soot from the chimney, eating candle-wax – was I so hungry?! I had columns of figures to be added up when in detention, this seems to have been fairly often (and amazingly I later became a magistrate) and it didn’t help me to calculate in my head. Would they use calculators now or think of some other form of punishment?

My friends whom I remember well were Peggy Morgan, Hilda Brown (Ginge), Josie Richardson, (now Horner), Joyce Dobbing, and some others both male and female. Sadly some of these are no longer with us.

Much to my annoyance, and even more when I look back on it, I was taken away from Ayton where I was so happy, and sent to The Mount after only two years, where, because of the war, I only stayed for one year and went back to my old day school.

I was very grateful to Herbert Dobbing for allowing me to join the party going to La Rochelle to the International School even though I had already left Ayton.

Years later I was on the Ayton Committee briefly, as representative from Ilkley Meeting, where I met one or two O S whom I knew, including Martyn Gaudie.

A few months ago I sent an email to Josie Horner, (having taken a course in computing) and had an email in reply much to my delight. As far as I know we had not communicated since we were fourteen and I am now 87, a very Old Scholar.

Can anyone help with news of Viviane de lacy Taylor 1951-1958? Tim Browne is keen to find news of Viviane who is the sister of one of his contemporaries, sadly deceased, Arthur John de lacy Taylor (1949-1954)
Jane Braato (nee Boddy) (1955 – 61) remembers Ruth Harwood

In the gift of a unique, personalised gift of a table runner designed and crafted by Jane she recognises the fostering of her talents by Ruth Harwood.

“This runner is a gift to Great Ayton Friends’ Meeting House. To be used as they think fit. In memory of Ruth Harwood in grateful remembrance of all she taught me and for giving my life so much meaning and joy”

Jane Braato
Skaatoey, Norway
28th. September 2010
So Many Stories Behind Those Silent Grey Walls.


Middle row, 4th from the left in 1957 is John Hinton.

For one Old Scholar – absent for so many years – it was a pleasure to receive the welcome flyer about Friends’ School with its photo of the well-remembered old building overlooking High Green. Like many in recent years, I guess I have been somewhat in denial about the selling of the school and its land to developers in 1998.

The fact the façade still remains is a tribute to a careful development and for that we must be thankful. But so many stories lie behind those silent grey walls and will we ever hear them?

I attended Ayton from 1954 to 1960 and made many friends there but since moving south from the Wirral I have lost touch. Among my
friends – some of their names forgotten - were Ian Watt, Margaret Kendrew, Mike Mackay, Peter Ormerod, Dick Bye, Michael Neil and David Abakanowycz.

Day scholars with whom I was friendly included John Fletcher, who still lives with his family on High Green, and Michael Willis whose family has Snow Hill Farm at Newton under Roseberry. With Michael (guitar) and Michael Ross (drums) and myself on piano, we had a school rock band which played a concert for the Refugee Fund in 1959 in the green corrugated iron gym beside the school where the school dances were held.

Subsequently, a real blow came when John broke the news to me that Michael had contracted cancer of the bone. I managed to reach him on the phone just before he went into hospital for the last time. Aged only 40, he was typically cheerful and courageously resigned to his fate.

My memories of school are very sharp but my point of view of school life from 1954 – 60 is not necessarily conventional as it is a time of impending social changes, reflected in our attitudes to authority.

There was a rebellious streak among some pupils and their pranks must have been the despair of John Reader, the headmaster, senior masters including Spig and Taffy Morgan and Evelyn Nicholson, the headmistress. Probably the greatest event was a “strike” when the entire school got up from their seats in the dining hall and paraded out in protest against the food which was variable to say the least. Chips appeared on the menu soon afterwards.

The most outrageous prank of all was when someone climbed up the clock tower and stretched a very large corset over the bell, so instead of making its awakening clang in the morning, it uttered a stifled thud. At the time, we suspected one of the girls but no-one ever came forward. Are there any suspects reading this now?
I left school at 17 and despite warnings from our English teacher, entered journalism. After training in Birkenhead, I joined the Liverpool Daily Post & Echo’s reporting staff and by 1965 was in New York with TIME Magazine. Returning from New York because of the Vietnam War, I was then offered a position in Canada and returned home in 1971, joining Scottish Television as a reporter in Glasgow in 1972, then ITN in London.

There followed an interesting spell in public relations when I became director of Hill and Knowlton, an international consultancy. More recently, I have returned to journalism, writing obituaries for the Times and book reviews and columns for the Catholic Herald – though I have not become a Catholic, much as I respect their faith.

I have published two books and look back to Ayton for my love of words and literature. Gay, my wife of 34 years (I have a son and two stepsons) has an uncle, Father Patrick Barry, a former headmaster of Ampleforth, who came to Ayton as a young priest to teach John Reader italic writing which John enthusiastically taught us.

Ayton was great and I wouldn’t change anything, since my memories are bright and full of affection for the qualities the school gave me. Not least, and thanks to John Reader’s example, a lasting admiration for the Quaker approach to Christianity, and a belief He was with us even on wintry walks to Roseberry Topping.

Through this contribution, I would love the opportunity to meet with any old Aytonians who have found their way to London; the opportunity to establish occasional reunions here would be terrific. It’s certainly worth a try.

John can be contacted via the Editor. Send your email address to her and she will pass it on to him
1920s It was with great pleasure we received news of Jean Leake (nee Allison) (1923-1929), from her son Howard, who tells us it is always a pleasure for her to receive news of the School and the Association. We send her our very special regards and good wishes.

1930s In the early part of 2000 Gill Jackson and Dick Dennis felt there was a story subsequent generations ought to know. It was featured in the 2005 magazine and also on the Association website, and highlighted the events concerning the 40 or so children whom Ayton took in from Nazi Europe before and just after war was declared. Gill had written to as many as possible, few replied. But for those who did, there were some tragic and interesting tales. The actor Peter Gilmore was one who later phoned Gill Jackson to express apologies about not writing, but the memories of the traumatic events had still been too fresh in his and his family’s minds. Since this time the story has become the focus of a study of the role played by the Friends’ School in helping those who were lucky to escape from the Holocaust, written by an academic called Jennifer Taylor.

In early February 2011 Walter Wolff (1938-1943) contacted Gill Jackson……..”Yesterday I met Jennifer Taylor and others from the ‘Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies’ at a lecture at University College London where we discussed the progress made in documenting the Quaker involvement in the help given to refugees from Nazi oppression. Peter Kurer’s family was saved by Quakers and for a long time he has made it his mission to get public
recognition for the part that many Quakers and the Society of Friends in particular have played in helping the refugees. As you may know YAD VASHEM is the Israeli Organisation which has recorded everything about the Holocaust, not only the names and fate of the victims but also the individuals who helped Jews and others to escape from Nazi persecution, often at great risk to themselves. Most of this work was carried out by DR. JENNIFER TAYLOR. Ayton Old Scholars Association has been a key source of her work. Jennifer has now added “The Missing Chapter” to her original work. The good news is, that Yad Vashem has now agreed to accept the study as part of their archives and will publicise the work in their journal. Of the twelve Quaker schools who accepted refugee children, Ayton accepted the greatest number and thanks to our efforts, including yours, the in depth study was carried out on Ayton old scholars. We are delighted that the old school was chosen as the source of this important historical study. My brother PETER WAYNE (formerly DIETER WOLFF 1936-1937) and I came out individually before the Kindertransport evacuations took place… I approach my 85th birthday. Our highlight last year was to attend our son’s wedding in Australia to a lovely English girl. We look forward later this year to welcoming them over here together with our first grandchild.”

The excellent article referred to by WALTER WOLF, researched, written and edited by GILL JACKSON with the co-operation of the people involved in the story, was featured in the 2005 AYTON OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION 116th ANNUAL REPORT. It is a sobering story, and well worth re-reading. Past Magazines can be read during Old Scholars Reunion Weekend in the Memorabilia Room, and can also be found on the Association Website, run by our webmaster DAN SMITH.

And now on a lighter note
Sir Cloudesley Shovell Strikes Again!

After watching Adam Hart Davis’ presentation on BBC 4 on 3rd November 2010 of “A History of the World – The Clock that Changed the World” – the story of a 280 year old clock that changed timekeeping forever, Dorothy Newby (Danby 1934-39) rang Gill Jackson (Hinds 1950-55) for a chat. The programme dealt with a horrendous maritime disaster on 2nd October 1707, when 4 of the 5 ships under the leadership of Sir Cloudesley Shovell were sunk off the Isles of Scilly with the loss of 2000 men, Shovell himself crawled ashore only to be murdered for his ring. Maritime navigation at the time was inaccurate. Sailors used sextants and a system known as being wildly off course. The government decided something had to be done and in 1714 a competition named “The Longitude Prize” was launched. Brothers John and James Harrison from Barton upon Humber designed a clock for this competition which has since been recognised as the most accurate navigational clock ever made. The first model, built in 1727, remains on display in Lincolnshire. It is signed by James, who was an artist, but it was John who was the brains behind the enterprise. It was then and still is known as Clock No. 2 and is mainly built of wood, cogs and all. Ayton’s James Cook was asked to test a prototype on one of his voyages, and declared it more than satisfactory. The board who was to award the prize, a substantial amount of money, dragged its heels over many years despite the various improvements made by John Harrison. It was not until he was 80 years of age, 3
years before his death in 1776, that they finally acknowledged Harrison’s marine chronometer and declared him the winner, but only after the King, George 3\textsuperscript{rd}, put pressure on them. As this tale was inspired by the death of Sir Cloudesley Shovell, who had been the subject of much correspondence between Dorothy, the late Joe Tillott (1936-39) and George Sanger (1937-38) in the past, Dorothy thought it might be of interest to Gill.

Also from the pen of Dorothy Newby came this lovely anecdote sent to her by Hans Rienchenfeld (1938-’39) “One of my granddaughters asked me several years ago to join Facebook so that she could send me photos of my great grandchildren, but I seldom go to it and have forgotten how to use it! In a later email to Dorothy, Hans wrote:-“I have a confession to make! I don’t know, yet, how to use Facebook, and mainly joined it in a response to a message from Austrian Air offering to enter my name in a draw for 2 tickets to the major cities they serve as long as you send in your application by December 25\textsuperscript{th}.”

To Dorothy Kitching (Lewis 1937-1942) and her husband Bill (1925-1931) we send our congratulations on the celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 24\textsuperscript{th} June 2010, as did the Queen by the sending of a card. Gill Jackson seems to remember that they joined the Saturday Night ‘do’ in the marquee ten years ago and that their Golden Wedding Anniversary was on the very same day.

1940s In a kind letter from Ruth Sinclair (Coates 1940-48) to Geoff Miller she expresses her pleasure in reading the 2010 magazine. The route for Wendy’s walk reminded her of Sir John Fry’s fields, known to the villagers as the Hall Fields, whereas for the school and Meeting community they were Sir John’s fields, probably, as she says, because he was personally known to so many. “I remember him as a rather small elderly gentleman with a walking stick, who always sat up
at the front of the Meeting on the ‘Elders’ Bench’. That was in the ‘old’ Meeting House before it was enlarged. I still recall the dusty smell of the coconut matting.” Ruth reminisces too, on her school days “As a day scholar I never found my way around the innermost parts of the school buildings, but do remember an occasion at the start of the war when we all trooped down to the cellars. It was probably a practice run in case of air raids, but memories are hazy! Needless to say, wartime memories would fill a whole chapter to themselves, so we’ll not start now!” In John Hinton’s words, “So many stories behind those silent grey walls” We would love to hear them.

WANTED:- In these days of de-cluttering don’t throw away your Ayton School memorabilia, bring it to Jane Bye over Old Scholars weekend for the Memorabilia Room, where it will be conserved. Urgently needed is a Firbank small enamel 50’s badge, and photos from the 60’s.

Whilst on a visit to England in order to meet with the Committee in Ayton, I was fortunate to be able to attend a concert given by a young Russian pianist in Kirkleatham Church. The evening was further enhanced by being joined in the nearby seats by two entertaining gentlemen, Donald Petch, need I say famous to all Old Scholars, villagers and visitors for his pies! Donald is suffering severe health problems, but is still endeavouring to further his love of music and cruising. He is fortunate to be supported in these activities by an Ayton Old Scholar John Hopkinson (1944-’47). John was involved with the Association for many years, and it was a pleasure to listen to his accounts of his time there, and of his life in general.

Jane Klapper (Josephs 1944-49) contacted Chris Vodden (1961-67) in early 2011 in which she remembers George Sanger (1937-38) and Wolfi Bressloff staying at their house for Jewish Holidays, they were the same age as her brother, who was 11 years her elder. She also
recalls being evacuated to Red House School, where the Headmaster was a relative of the Bishop of Gloucester, who gave them his beautiful country home for the duration of the war. Upon revisiting the House two years ago, she discovered it had been established as a retreat in glorious surroundings, for mentally handicapped people.

Since losing her husband, Jane and her daughters have been involved with Guide Dogs for the Blind. She is the Veteran Volunteer of the centre having been with them since they started in 1990, and after 47 years it is the first time she has been without a dog. She has “made some wonderful friends through the dogs, to say nothing of the joy and fulfilment of seeing the blind becoming mobile and independent, and knowing that I have been part of helping them”

Audrey Davies (Seddon 1944-51) sent news to Gill Jackson (Hinds 1950-55) at Christmas…… In October I moved from Cardiff to Hertfordshire into one of a group of 12 flats and bungalows. The complex is run by and for local Quakers. ….Now I am more accessible to all the family and they to me….Shortly before moving I went to Canada to help my sister Doreen Seddon (1943-46), who lives in Mississauga, Ontario recuperate after a hip replacement.”

When he received his 2010 Mag. David Artiss (1946-48), who lives in Newfoundland, got in touch with Gill Jackson. He was most interested in the story told by Dorothy Newby (Danby) in the early years News section of her visits to the dentist in West Hartlepool as a girl. He remembered as a teenager driving what he thought was an ice-cream van for a Newby family in Sunderland, and wondered if they were one and the same. Gill asked Dorothy who said that as far as she knew they were the only Newbys in Sunderland, and they did not have an ice cream van. They had, however, owned a grocer’s van which was a part of the family’s grocery business, and did I know the name of the Old Scholar making the enquiry?….In the meantime Gill
had told David that there had been no Newbys in Sunderland who ran ice-cream businesses, this is what he said in reply…”Strange about the Newbys. I felt sure the family were Quakers and had some connection with Ayton, but my recollections are slim. We had a house in Great Usworth (near Washington) and my father drove down into Durham daily, where he was Chief Engineer at Adam’s Toffee Factory. Our only connection with Sunderland was that we attended Friends’ Meeting there...I do remember seeing a stuffed walrus in the Sunderland Museum – apparently the inspiration for Lewis Carroll’s walrus. (There is now a beautiful stone version in the Park outside the new Winter Gardens Museum.)...Eventually the lines were uncrossed and Dorothy realised she knew David and his family very well, and that he had indeed been the young man who delivered groceries for them during his University vacations. Hopefully he has been able to make contact with Dorothy, who is not in good health since then .... David went on to say how saddened he had been by the death of Dick Dennis (1944-52), whom he felt had been a giant with the Association, and supposed that he had met Dick during his last, and Dick’s first return to a Reunion in 1988... During that reunion David was to play his last ever cricket match for the OS and with Roy George (1937-44)...”it was,” he said, “an altogether unforgettable summer, Jan Sinclair (Hall 1947-56) took me sailing in Colchester. I then went on to give a Paper in September at an International Conference in Schleswig-Holstein only to meet a colleague there from Pretoria who was doing a Ph.D. in my field. After exchanging 83 letters that winter, and all in German, Grace and I decided to get married. I think we would have retired to South Africa but for the political instability.”

Chris Vodden (1961-67) received a newsy email from Peter Sanderson (1947-50).”I’m still doing a lot of miles visiting my twin boys in CA (and living there some of the time)- then skipping over to
Paris, France, to visit with other grandchildren (1 boy, 1 girl and yes, twin boys). I prefer not to do any living in France, too much tax and folks not too friendly. Each year I go to Switzerland to visit my eldest son who works for the Swiss Government, here I would not mind living, maybe because it is not part of the EEC!!! So I’ll continue and, when not travelling, stay in the sun of CA and FL. Age is creeping up, but I am pleased to say that I feel great with all my bits and pieces still working. I try to keep in contact with my class friend Granville F. Bell and also D.M. Scott, - Scottie — here I have more success and we talk once or twice each year. Unfortunately, I have no such pleasure from other close friends such as Gill Harker, Eric Bushnell & John Tulip — I suppose it is normal since in reality what have we in common, it all stopped in the 50’s!

While shopping at his local Costco near Vancouver, with his wife Susan in early January 2011 Harry Snalam (1946-’52), went to retrieve a buggy (trolley) from a lady who was loading groceries into the trunk (boot) of her car. The parking lot was extremely full, so he was also hoping to get her parking spot when she left! As he obviously had an English accent, she asked where he came from. Harry told her he was from Lancashire, near Blackpool. She said she had grown up near Middlesbrough in Yorkshire. Harry said that he went to a Quaker School at Great Ayton nearby. “So did I!” replied the woman. She is MAVIS WOODBURN KNOWLTON (Griffiths 1941-1945). She has never been back to a reunion and is not an AOSA Member. Mavis and her husband were invited to have tea with the Snalams on Friday 14th January. During the course of the afternoon Mavis told Susan that her closest friends from her days at Ayton were GENE ATHERTON (MARTIN (1940-’45), KATHLEEN COOPER (1941-45) and ELSIE BRADLEY (1940-45) and that she would love to know what had happened to them post their time at school. Susan, who has access to
many Family Tree tracing sites on the internet reckoned she had found ‘Gene’. She’skyped’ GILL JACKSON (HINDS 1950-55) for date confirmation. Using CHRIS SCAIFE’S (SCIENCESTAFF/DEPUTY HEAD/HEADMASTER 1965-94) wonderful Ayton Register, Gill was able to confirm their dates at school. She (Gill) then rang that amazing source of all things Ayton, MARGARET CUMBOR (pupil 1935-37 BURSAR 1958-84), who told her that Gene Atherton had been at last year’s reunion on the Sunday to meet up with her old friend and fellow contemporary MARGARET COX-WALKER (HUTCHINSON pupil 1941-43/Matron 1958-74), and was living in Little Ayton back in the same house where she had lived as a girl. Margaret gave Gill a contact number. Gill rang for a chat, Gene was delighted to hear about Mavis and the two have since had a long transatlantic phone conversation. Gene told Gill that she knew both JUNE DUNN (RHODES 1941-54) another contemporary, and her sister JILL WHEELER (1949-56) from their days at Young Farmers. She also knows our new editor LINDA HEWISON (PEARSON 1957-64), another Ayton girl. Margaret Cumbor it seems, is a distantly related to Elsie Bradley on her mother’s side of the family. When it comes to Friends’ School coincidences it really is a very small world. Unfortunately Gene had no knowledge of the whereabouts of Kathleen Cooper. So it was back to the drawing board for Susan Snalam who discovered that a Kathleen Cooper from the Middlesbrough area (of the right dates) had married a Robert Hooks, and they had a son Ian T.

We had an Old Scholar I. TIMOTHY HOOKS at school 1968-74. It could be just another coincidence but Susan was on the case. On 29th January Susan sent word to Gill that it was the right Kathleen, now living in Maidenhead, and that our Timothy Hooks was Kathleen’s son Walker with Gene Atherton & Margaret Cumbor and she, Susan, was off to let Mavis know the good news.
In February and via a similar route, Gill finally traced Elsie (married name LITTLE) who lives near Sleights. She too, was delighted to hear about Mavis whom she had lost track of years ago. Elsie and Gill had a long chat, some of it relating to their mutual dislike of compulsory bathing and the dangers of diving in the school pool. Since then Mavis and Elsie have been in touch with one another, also by phone. Hopefully this will be the first of many conversations the four friends will enjoy. Mavis is a very happy bunny! And all of this because the Snalams could not find a parking spot on their visit to a supermarket!....

Harry & Mavis

When the saga began, Harry and Susan had just returned from a three week trip ‘down under.’ Susan has been involved in genealogy for some years and has located living relatives on Harry’s side. They have had a busy time visiting the Sylvesters and Snalams, as well as Clive Olbery (1947-52) and his wife in Tasmania, followed by Christmas in Cambridge North Island, New Zealand with Mike (1945-54) and Barbara Adams.
Saturday April 24th 2010. Sonia Wade (Dunn 1952-58), Jill Wheeler (Rhodes 1949-56), June Dunn (Rhodes1942-47), Pauline Buchanan (Swanson1955-60) joined Vivienne Flynn (1954-61) and Dorothy Newby (Danby 1934-39) for lunch at Hartrigg Oakes. Dorothy writes, “Although the age gap was up to twenty years, we had many memories to share. Reminiscences included, cutting 5 Woodbine cigarettes in half to double the number from 5 to 10; having a quick kiss with one’s boyfriend when walking around the lake after Sunday Meeting; suet puddings; cabbage and Sugget’s ice cream. It was a very enjoyable mini reunion. Mary Kidd (McClure 1962-67) wrote to me;”“At a Music Fest of The High School of Glasgow, which we attended, Graeme in his capacity both as Lord Dean of Guild and as a former pupil, we met Richard Chester (1953-1959) who was the Adjudicator. Not having met Richard before but knowing he was an Old Scholar, and brother of Margaret Chester (1948-1955) - who is in my area as District Secretary and whom I know from Reunions – I introduced myself and enjoyed a short chat with him.”John Hinton (1954-60) wrote to Jill Wheeler (1948-56).....”Before the school closed I was in contact with the last headmistress to try and see whether I could join last minute attempts to save the school but it seems the sums didn’t add up. My brother Reginald Brian Hinton attended the school before me, from, I think, 1947-52 and has continued to attend occasional reunions in recent years”...... John went on to suggest, “I believe some artefacts might be good business to promote. I have long wished to have a school shield to hang on the wall as has my brother Brian, with either of the two mottos, MAGNA EST VERITAS and NIL SINE LABORE. I’m sure former pupils would love to be able to buy photos of their year group”
Several Old Scholars are trying to replace school memorabilia which has become lost during their lives. If you have some you wish to discard, bring it to Old Scholars Reunion Weekend and make contact with one another. Copies of some photos could be organised over Reunion - Weekend June 25th & 26th 2011

I was pleased to hear from Charles Nicholson, (1957-65), www.vimeo.com/user42072214143 shows some of his past life. He is still in touch with Anil Markandyi and Nicholas Makepeace, Robert Wardle and Roger Cawkwell. (Names and memories attached to the above photo would be appreciated, although I recognise Charles as 3rd from the left, and Roger Cawkwell on the right.

Also from Miss Harwood’s class of 1957, I received a lovely long letter from Robert Stansfield and Helen Stansfield (1959-66). Helen, who is a past editor of the Old Scholars magazine, writes….“I imagine a great many Aytonians spend’ idle moments’ wondering what became of people to whom they were once close. I suppose the ever present problem is that we have too few moments which are literally idle. We did think the passing of years would bring oasis of calm but, as work recedes a little, grandchildren and extremely frail parents rush to fill the void. Not that I’d have it any other way.” Helen trained at Bretton Hall between ’66-’69 as an art teacher whilst Rob was studying for his Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyor’s exams whilst working in the Estates Management Department of the then British Rail. He joined the Estates Dept. of the Burton Group in 1973. After convalescing from a heart attack he started his own property business. Meanwhile, after retraining, Helen specialised in Specific Learning Difficulties, majoring in dyslexia. 15 years on she is still working in that field and still loving the job. Their eldest son lives near Paris and has followed Rob’s profession whilst their second son is busy climbing the management
promotional tree with Argos. Their daughter is a professional linguist. Helen writes….”Rob will be 65 in November, and it is a strange time in our lives with huge uncertainty surrounding the precise timing of finally calling it a day and retiring from work. On the one hand we don’t really want to stop doing something we are good at and which we enjoy. On the other we are conscious we are not getting any younger and it would be a great time to build new interests while we still have our health and energy.”

Margaret Varwell (Roberts 1957-’64) a classmate of both Rob and Charles, has made the decision alongside her husband Adrian, and will shortly be enjoying the new life as a retiree.

1960s Chris Vodden (1961-’67) has news of his family.” Dalton, aged 19 years, left for Israel in May for a year of service at the Baha’i World Centre, and 17 months later he is still there. He has applied to North Western University where he hopes to get a degree in Alternative Energy Studies. I have just taken up a new position as director of the Baha’i House of Worship [http://bahai.us/baha’i-temple](http://bahai.us/baha’i-temple) in Wilmette, Illinois, just north of Chicago. The family is in the process of moving up there, which will happen once we sell our house in Peoria, Illinois, about 170 miles SW Chicago. Devon, now 14, attended the local high school. He joined the marching band where he plays the saxophone, and participates in scouts earning merit badges and making his way up towards his goal of Eagle Scout. Lori will also be given a position in Baha’i National Office. Here is a link for your interest [http://www.sacred-destinations.com/usa/chicago-baha’ihouse-ofworship.htm](http://www.sacred-destinations.com/usa/chicago-baha’ihouse-ofworship.htm)

Here is more news of students from the sixties. John Pearson (1962-1967) married and living in Northallerton, has been farming since he left school. He has also built up a busy B&B business having converted his farm buildings to create 6 en suite rooms, and a self-catering cottage. When Middlesbrough reached the final of EUFA cup a large
group including a number of Old Scholars travelled to Eindhoven (Phil Amer, Maxine Copeland (Hopkinson), David French, and Tommy Bicknell). Taking their seats they turned round to find John sitting immediately behind them – small world.

**Mary Kidd (McClure 1962-'67)** sends news of herself and other Old Scholars...."Life for Graham and I in 2010 has continued to be hectic. His role as Lord Dean of Guild of Merchants House of Glasgow (and as such second citizen of Glasgow) continues until May 2011. We have attended a vast number of different and diverse functions—such as a Civic Reception to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, a Civic Dinner to celebrate the launch of Glasgow UNESCO City of Music and a Civic Dinner to mark the presentation of the Freedom of the City to Billy Connolly, to name just a few. The evening of the General Election in May – as the politicians were otherwise engaged—we hosted the Civic Dinner to mark the centenary of Girl Guiding in Scotland. In August we had pretty much the ‘best seats in the house’ with the City Party at the Papal Mass in Bellahouston Park to witness the Mass by Pope Benedict, a very special happening when so many people come together in harmony and goodwill.

**Old Scholars June 2010** – it was nice to see **Janet Schembri (Kidd 1961-’66)** over from Malta again this year staying at her house at Afton Hall where she very kindly invited me to stay. On the Friday evening Janet and I were joined by **Diz Dexter (1960-'65)** and **Suzanne Potter (Morgan 1960-'67)** and we had an excellent meal together and caught up on each other’s news over the past year. On the Saturday we were joined by **Helen Masterman (Morgan 1961 – ’65)**, and a group of us had lunch in the Royal Oak where we met **Geoff Miller (1963-’67)** with his wife Sandy, **Tim Crake (1961-’66)** with his wife and also **Neil Smeltzer (1961 – 1966)**. In the afternoon Helen, Suzanne and I went on Wendy’s Walk, a lovely day weather-wise, we all enjoyed the North Yorkshire countryside and the company of the other OS and their families. It was good to get up to date both on the walk and subsequently
in the evening with Alison Sykes (Purdie 1962-’69) and her sister Ailsa Bond (Purdie 1963-70). The evening at Stokesley Town Hall was, as always, a great success with a lovely meal. As well as Alison and Ailsa we caught up with Linda Knott (Renwick 1955-’62) Diane Neville Smith (Kidd 1964-’70) Tom Midgely (1963-’70) On the Sunday evening, a warm balmy evening Janet, Diz, Suzanne and I had a picnic in the grounds – sitting on travel rugs on the bank overlooking what was the pole vault and long jump areas. It brought back good memories of the times we had spent on bottom field – Janet playing tennis on the tennis courts, Diz throwing the discus, and Suzanne doing the long jump – and me – doing everything possible to avoid anything remotely classified as sport!!! On May 2011 hoping to meet up with Judy Thompson (Marshall 1959-’65). Sadly the reunion planned to take place in Janet Schembri’s home during OS weekend in June 1011 has been postponed until June 2012, due to Janet’s younger daughter’s wedding. However Diz, and Suzanne expect to be at OS in June 2011, and will be delighted to meet up with any of their contemporaries.”

Geoffrey Lewis (1964-1969) has taught all his working life and has recently retired. His friends will remember him as lead vocalist in the school band in 1969-the Hot Peppers. He was the Stones equivalent to Mick Jagger! Other band members were William Vodden (drums) Roger Neville-Smith (lead guitar) and Chokchai (bass guitar). William Vodden and Geoffrey both returned for the June reunion. William now lives and works near Beverley and keeps in touch with David Williams (1967-71). Roger is a GP and senior partner in a group practice at Skelton, which is only about 12 miles from Ayton. Unlike ‘Take That’ they have no proposals for a reunion tour! Those who had the privilege of hearing them will confirm that for a school band they were very good. What a shame! How marvellous to have the reunion weekend reuniting a school band! But instead, any photos around?
Paul Hindson (1964-71) has returned to the Middlesbrough area. His parents who had a printing business in Middlesbrough retired to Spain in the sixties. His father went to Ayton as did his two sisters. After leaving Ayton, Paul went to University in Spain where he studied Veterinary Sciences qualifying as a vet. He says that he has settled back into the area very well but that the much colder weather has taken some time to adjust to. He works for the PDSA in Middlesbrough. William Banks (1964-69) travelled down from Scotland for the June 2010 reunion. He now lives in the Dee valley just outside Aberdeen where he teaches fly fishing on the river Dee. It is many years since he left Ayton but he did comment that his contemporaries had generally worn well over the last forty years. He was staying with family at Askrigg. School footballers will remember that this was the home of Yorebridge Grammar School where Ayton always encountered a tough game. William did mention that if any Old Scholars want a few days in the fresh air learning to fish for salmon they should contact him. Jonathon Bridger (1965-71) is another who travels back to Ayton every June for the cricket match. John works for the Inland Revenue in their Capital Taxes office in Nottingham assessing how much Inheritance tax has to be paid. He is looking forward to retirement and to spending summer months at Trent Bridge. Hefni (1967-70) and Helen (Bowker 1966-70) made a visit to the UK last year to visit Helen’s father in Lancashire, and former friends in North Yorkshire. A meeting was arranged for all to meet at the Bayhorse in Hutton Rudby. Until recently Hefni owned and managed the ‘The Shady Tree’ garage on Long Island, New York. He ran the business until last year when he and Helen moved to Virginia. Hefni has now qualified as a teacher whilst Helen still has interests in music. Hefni’s brother Hussain (1968-71) is also teaching at a leading University in the States in computer sciences. James Girling-Budd
travels up from Sussex every June for the memorial cricket match as he was a close friend of Brian Barrowcliff and also best man at his wedding. James provides much of the humour in the dressing room and in the pub after the game. He is married and has two adult children, one of whom, Robin, has played in the memorial games, and was star performer taking several wickets. James owns a carpet retail firm in Cobham. He is proud after recently completing a half marathon in London in under three hours.

Jessica Ross (1972-78) has lived in New Zealand for a number of years where she and her partner run their own vineyard. She returns to Ayton every summer to see her parents who still live in the village. Her mother Frauke Ross taught German at the school and still attends Ayton Meeting. Jessica’s thriving wine industry was featured on James Martins T.V. show as a wine of outstanding quality. She was also selected last year to represent New Zealand at the world triathlon championship in Australia. Friends in this country monitored her progress on Sky Sports.

From Jenny Summerfield came news of Stephen Weighell (1979-’86). He writes…… “After leaving Ayton I studied for a Degree in Agricultural Technology & Management at Silsoe College in Bedfordshire. After that I worked at Armstrong Richardson in Stokesley for a couple of years. When I was made redundant I took the opportunity to travel and went on a working exchange to Canada, where I spent 10 great months working on a large grain and beef farm in the Province of Manitoba.

On returning to Stokesley I found work on a farm at Seamer where I worked for 8 years. I tried unsuccessfully to persuade the family to sell the farm and move to Canada, but after I met a Canadian girl online I emigrated to Manitoba by myself, where I now work on the same farm where I was on exchange. That relationship ended a few years later but
I stayed in Canada. I met Michelle, now my wife, 3 years ago and we were married in October. She is currently finishing her Nursing Degree and will qualify as a nurse in a couple of months. She plans on working in a local hospital and I continue to work on the same farm. We hope to start a family in a couple of years.”

**1980s** Matthew Truscott (1989-1993), gave a concert in Stokesley Methodist Church on 26th September 2010. The concert was attended by several old scholars including his sister Helen (and her 4 children.) Martin Essex (staff 1974-'94), Colin (1981-94) & Viv Rendall, Chris Thompson (1954-'61), David Sills, staff (1973-'81), Wendy Smith (Arnold). After he left Ayton Matthew went to Cheetham’s music school in Manchester, and then on to the Royal Academy of Music in London. His wife Becky is a cellist, and they have 2 daughters. He took part in the Proms in London last month playing the Brandenburg Concertos under Sir John Eliot Gardiner, and he is one of four leaders of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

**Staff News** We were contacted in 2010 by BOB HALL, tracing his family tree. “An ancestor of mine Georgiana Bessie Child (pupil 1890-'95, staff 1922-24) was one of only of a very few pupils in the first 50 years to come from the south of England. Georgiana died, aged 43, on the 7th of July 1924, and on her death certificate her occupation is given as “Teacher of English at the Friends’ School” and her address as Great Ayton, which was presumably the school.” Gill Jackson was able to confirm the accuracy of the information.

**Peter and Margaret Whittle**, in 2000, became BANBURY GUARDIAN MILLENIUM HEROES. For 13 years they have opened their house once a year to sell the crafts they made in aid of the Hospice. Since 2006 they have travelled to speak to groups and sell their crafts. They have now raised over £85,000 for the Hospice. “Cottage Crafts of Tadmarton is now on the road in aid of The Katharine House Hospice….Felicity is a Blue Badge Guide, and also works at the Palace of Westminster part time doing research. Deb is an education office. Jeremy works on young offender problems. Heyland & Whittle soap is Ursula & husband.”
CHANGED ADDRESSES since MARCH 2010
(Lines in bold indicate new members)

Area

LM 1  1923-29 Jean Leake (Allinson), Acomb Court, Maidens Walk, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1DR
      1 1940-42 Joan McKay, (Wrigglesworth), 21 Croft Court, Front Street
          Lanchester, Co Durham DH7 0JU
LM 1 1957-64 Margaret M. Varwell (Roberts), 19, Enrick Crescent,
      Kilmore, Drumnadrochit, Inverness IV63 6TP
      1 1964-70 Roger Neville-Smith, Geramount, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AE
2 1943-47 Keith Rogers, Tanglewood Manor, Garth Drive,
      Hartlepool,TS26 0LY
3 1961-66 Peter Miller, Townhead House, Great Asby, Appleby,
      Cumbria, CA15 6EX
6 1955-60 Mabel Parker, (Bainbridge) 34, Millfield St.
      Pateley Bridge, Harrogate, N.Yorks. HG3 5AY
LM 7 1936-38 M. Heather Adams, (Davies), 3, Broadway, Duffield,
      Belper Derbyshire, DE56 4BT
      7 1952-57 Edna Bond, (Clayton) 8, Frampton Drive, Willersey,
          Nr. Broadway, Gloucestershire, WR 12 7PY
      7 1952-58 Jane Collins, (Dunning) 19 Church Road, Dartmouth.
7 ex-staff Albert Hudspeth, 14 Fernham Road, Farington,Oxon SN7 7JY
7 1973-80 Linda Flockhart (Johnson), Flat 5, 5St. Georges Square,
      London, SW1V 2HX
7 1961-69 Katriona Jones (LcLean), Kates Cottage, Frilford,
      Abingdon, Oxon OX13 5NX
8 1978-85 Julian Bullas, 18,Longway Avenue, Charlton Kings,
      Cheltenham, Gloustershire, GL53 9JL
8 1944-51 Audrey Davies, (Seddon), Flat 2, Barn Close,
      Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6SU
LM 8 1975- 82 Maggie Turner, Primrose Cottage, Donnington,
      Nr. Morton on the Marsh, Glous.GL56 0XX
LM 9 1951-58 Ian Cornforth, 1, Lysaght Pl., Welcome Bay,Taranga, NZ
BIRTHS
To William Shanahan (1988-‘94), and Alison a son Finn Edward 22nd August 2010

MARRIAGES
August 6th 2010, Sylvia Taylor (Buckle 1947-’52) to Don Pagel.
Nov. 2010 Stephen Shanahan (1988-’93) to Miriam Sandeman-Allen

DEATHS
1930-1938 ALICE GODDARD (PRESTON) died 10th July 2010
1930-1934 DOUGLAS C HORNE, died February 2011
1943-1949 JEAN HALL (SWEET) died, July 2010.
1950-1952 ANN JEFFRIES (FISHER) died February 2011.
1955-1973 REG FALL (School Steward.) died January 2011
His funeral was held 7th December 2010, and was attended by old school friends. “We will miss him.”
1966-1971 HELEN BADR (BOWKER) died March 2011
1983-’85 MARGARET LOCKETT, Maths staff/Committee Member, died November 22nd 2009.

DON ZELLWEGER, Ayton School Estates Manager, died 2010.

Tributes: REG FALL 24-06-1908 to 15-01-2011.
Reg was steward at School from 1955-1973, and many Old Scholars will remember him. We, who knew him well, will always remember him with kindness. His attention to his duties was first class. He was always cheerful and never a cross word. He was a very special gentleman. His funeral was well attended by his many nieces and nephews, local residents and ex members of school staff. Margaret Herriman, Barbara Hannah, Jean Meikle. One could certainly say the “end of an era”. He reached his 102nd birthday and was married to Olive, who died August 201.

MARGARET CUMBOR
60
From her daughter Anthea came this lovely tribute to

Alice ‘Lally’ Goddard (Preston 1930-38)

“She started at Ayton as a boarder from her home in Sedgefield in the thirties. She thus experienced at first hand the build up to the Second World War as the school acted on its humane principles by taking in Jewish refugees from Austria and Germany. She was on the hockey team, loved swimming, walking, music, poetry and made life-long friends. She enjoyed learning, passed the National Certificate and went to London to train as a Norland nanny. Stories of schooldays abounded in the family. Dulling the fire of chillblains by standing in the freezing beck, watching in horror as an imperfect darn was cut out; the tedium of a long Sunday meeting on a sunny day, waiting for someone to pass food along, the inevitable rebuke for elbows on the table; characters, fun, friends. Although not an Association member Lally remained a loyal Old Scholar, attending as many annual reunions as possible usually with Margaret ‘Moggy’ Shuttleworth (Morgan 1933-39). Her uniform, hockey stick, battered sheet music were lifelong possessions, as were the prospectus photos of the school, (iron bedsteads in curtained rows, chintz covered chairs in the library), though they were not found until after her death. The war prevented her from achieving her ambition of working as a nanny on the P&O liners and seeing some of the world. Instead she worked at Stockton Nursery School until she married Reg who was employed by ICI Billingham. Her love of children was diverted into bringing up their four daughters and taking under her wing any waif or stray who needed help, any relative who needed care or any child who needed encouragement, training or entertainment. Together, she and Reg in a long, happy marriage shared their hospitality with a wide range of friends of all ages. Although she undertook little paid employment, she was always busy. All sorts of craft work from making clothes to gardening, decorating to flower arranging and later superb jewellery making occupied her. Eventually some of the world was explored as she visited daughters in Canada, Oman, Egypt, or joined Reg on business in
France. Age brought diminishing sight and memory, but never diminished her ability to recite long passages of much loved poems learnt at school. She is sorely missed by her daughters, their extended families and friends young and old.”

**Douglas Horne (1930-34) 21-09-1917 to 04-02-2011**

Douglas Horne, dearly beloved father of Patricia, Susan and Charles, died in Suffolk where he was living with his son, after a short illness, surrounded by all his family.

Douglas loved Ayton School, and embraced its ethos and values. He was an ardent supporter of the School and the Old Scholars Association throughout his life, working enthusiastically both as President and as a member of the committee. “During the 50s, 60s, and 70s in particular, he was very involved in raising funds for the Games Pavilion, and later the Sports Hall. Together with Arnold Hilary we managed to raise sufficient capital to complete the projects. Some years later, during the period I was Chairman, Douglas, with his knowledge of Banking, cash flows etc. was an excellent person to comment on the state of accounts at the A.G.M. We, the committee, were always prepared for his questions, short and to the point, but very necessary. His time and dedication to the work of the Association will always be remembered and appreciated by us all, and, of course, he will be sadly missed by both family and friends for his generosity and sense of humour.” He was a true gentleman.

A Thanksgiving service will be held on Friday April 14th at Great Ayton Parish Church.

Sue Cooper (Horne1964-71) Roy George (1939-45)
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Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the content of the
magazine. Your news, views, photos and memories are vital.
To our proof reader Suzi Scaife . Thank you!
To Wendy Smith and her team for working to send the magazines world-
wide. Thank you!
Please send your news, views, memories, photos and articles to me Linda Hewison
for next year’s magazine by December 2011.By email, editriceaosa@hotmail.com
or by letter. I look forward to hearing from you, and perhaps meeting you in June, at the reunion weekend.