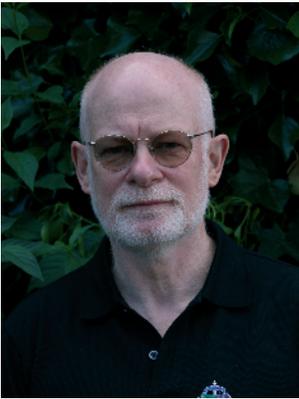




WOSA Newsletter 2014-15

125 Years Anniversary Edition



President 2014 -15
Tony Ferguson

President 2014 - 2015

Tony Ferguson

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Editor
Social Secretary

Malcolm Bell
Margaret Steel
Ann Fort
Marjorie Taylor
Patsy Castree

Committee

Mark Elliot
Max Friedheim
Fred Hall
Helen Morris
Jeanne Speed
Maurice Tate
Malcolm Teasdale
Fiona Waters

Editorial

This year we have two major events to celebrate as an Association. Two hundred years ago, in 1815, Wigton School opened at Highmoor. The school developed and expanded and in 1826 it moved to the larger purpose built site at Brookfield which we all knew.

The second event to celebrate is that one hundred and twenty five years ago a large group of old scholars met to celebrate the 70th birthday of Martin Lidbetter. At this meeting it was decided to form Wigton Old Scholars' Association. In 2015, thirty years after the school closed the Association is still going strong.

In 1985, when the school closed, the Association had to rethink how it was to continue, and changes in the annual reunion, previously held at the school, had to be considered. An Old Scholar, Desmond Fitzgerald (1937–40) analysed the membership and made predictions as to how the membership would change over the years. Based on his analysis he predicted that by 2016 the membership would have fallen from 255 in 1986 to 130 in 2016. In fact what has happened is that as many Old Scholars have reached retirement, or their families have grown up, they have begun to remember the times and friends they made at school. The use of the internet and on-line chat sites has enabled them to find WOSA and link up with their close friends once again. Over the recent years around four or five new members have joined each year so that there are now 335 active members, and a further 168 on our database who have attended year group reunions in various parts of the country. Several "younger" members now regularly attend the Annual Reunion and have taken up roles on the Committee, helping to maintain a strong Association.

In this year, when we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the school, and the 125th anniversary of the founding of WOSA we hope that many more of you will join together with your friends at the Annual Reunion in July

Marjorie Taylor

Dates for your Diary

WOSA Reunion 2015

Friday 10th July

2.00pm Unveiling of Plaque at Highmoor
(limited numbers)

Saturday 11th, July

Meet at 10.30am for coffee followed by AGM
at Foxy's Restaurant, Carlisle United FC
Buffet Lunch at 1.15

Dinner at Foxy's Restaurant

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Sunday 13th, July

10.30pm Meeting for worship at Carlisle
or Mosedale Meeting

1.00pm Buffet Lunch at Denton House
Hesket Newmarket

Presidential Address



Good Evening

I shall start with a question. Can anyone remember the time machine outside of room 2? The piano in gym corridor? Association? Laundered clothes delivered to the foot of your bed, jeans were ironed flat so that the flares on your loons resembled paddles. Do you remember bath night twice a week and clean sheets once a fortnight? Do you remember 'Going to cocoa' and once you had reached the steaming urn of hot chocolate at the foot of the dining room stairs you were 'At cocoa'. Steaming urn was not the nickname of a pupil but could have been...easily. There were some colourful ones. How about Room 14? The TV room? South Dorm landing? Taking table? The way the bugs drowned in the swimming pool and you had to swim through them.

I admit that some of those questions could be answered only by pupils in the 1970s and I ask them because a couple of evenings ago I retrieved my old school tuck box from the attic... In it are my diaries from 1973 to the start of 77; my years at Brookfield. It was a long time since I last leafed through them and I wanted to

research, to read what it felt like to be a teenager at Brookfield, not in hindsight, not as memories forty years on, but as I recorded it ...every evening before 'Lights out'.

Now those of you that know that you are featured in those pages worry not, it became apparent after half an hour that I could not share the *interesting* anecdotes, mainly to protect the not so innocent and in between the salacious, the gossipy, often melodramatic and sometimes humorous ramblings were pages of tedium peppered with the bizarre. Who remembers biddy patrol? You were lined up 'In Matrons'. You held your head over a white sheet of card whilst your hair was checked for lice. Remember the nit comb and the smell of Derback?

A school barber visited and it seems that Jackie Bass and I collected the sweepings of hair...and glued them into a collage. It sounds disgusting but I described it as 'lovely' Jackie recounted this tale at a reunion some years ago and I denied it but it was there, in the pages, in pencil and round hand.

Sometimes our nights featured séances, playing dares and even singing to each other...that's when we weren't breaking into the domestic science room or the school kitchen...remember powdered egg? I read that *occasionally* I used to nick the soft paper rolls from the staff toilets to distribute to others in my dorm, there was no soft tissue for the students we had Izal and Bronco. Remember? It was like shiny tracing paper. I was not alone in these Robin Hood escapades I had accomplices but they will be nameless. Izal and Bronco could have been nick names too

Talcum powder...I'd forgotten it existed but it featured in a lot of pages and appeared to be the weapon of choice to fling in dormitory fights, one entry read 'The fight was in full swing on the stairs above the coffee bar when Miss Durham caught us'. It seemed that I was behind the senior mistress and possibly could have escaped but I was paralysed with laughter at the site of one of my friends wearing nothing but a scented smattering of white powder whilst the other was wielding a tin of Yardley in just an anorak with a pixie hood. Re reading it made me laugh too...a hood? What was she thinking?

The hot sunny days of 1975 and 76 saw us lying on a flat roof outside one of the dormitories whenever possible. I remember the smell of Hawaiian Tropic tanning oil. It was 'lovely' but we made our own version by blending cooking oil from the raids on the kitchen with coca cola from the shop at Greenacres. I wore my bikini apparently '£3.99 from the John Moore's catalogue'. Sun burn and peeling featured ...a lot. One page read 'Went to Wigton with Jeanne and Fiona, bought magazines, lemons and deodorant. Went onto the roof to sunbathe. We read the magazines and ate the lemons.' Ate the lemons??? Well, the school food could be pretty iffy. I shared a holiday last month with both of the lemon eaters and the one that thought Cola was the ideal bronzing ingredient.

Although I have only recounted tales from the girl's side, the boys were there on **every** page there was a lot of 'getting off with' and 'being chucked by' going on in that school. I recorded very little about the lessons, however I wrote 'came top in biology. Everyone was shocked!'

What surprised me more than anything that I read was the amount of letters that were written during the breaks from term time. I would write and receive around five letters per week, on a quiet week. Sometimes I would receive that many in a day and would fret if I did not get them answered quickly. When budgeting wages from my holiday job I noted that stamps were 8p each and my wages were 80 pence a day. 'Nice note-lets' were a frequent expenditure along with records, posters, lip gloss and rings....so many rings.

When our previous president Malcolm Bell gave his speech last year he began with the words 'Do not be careless of your friends.' My mother said much the same thing; I think it was in the 1975 diary. She said 'these are the friends that will be around a long time, they'll be the ones that you share a flat with when you leave home. They'll be the bridesmaids at your wedding'. She was right about the flat sharing but I did not marry for another 31 years and bride's maids were inappropriate but there were Brookfielders at my wedding and over the years I have been to a few of theirs...sometimes twice.

There are around a dozen Friend's School friends that I see regularly although we are not all in the same country. However, what Mum said was not true of all schools or all friendships, she did not see her classmates again once they had attended each others weddings and started to raise families and I think that is the norm. Brookfield with its scholars and staff was unusual in that it still represents extended family to many and my experience of reunions is much the same as a large gathering of my own relatives. My relatives meet less frequently than the old scholars do, but it is a warm and fun occasion when they do.

Some of my fellow letter writers and recipients were here today along with some of the characters in my diaries. Nowadays I rarely put pen to paper apart from Christmas and birthdays although I still buy 'Nice note-lets' just in case. Social media, emails, texts and the telephone have taken over much of the role of the 8p stamp. It is so easy just to read posts from your class mates on social media and leave the odd comment or have a 'written chat'

A few years ago I dropped in on WOSA's annual general meeting; it was in our old meeting house at Wigton. June Walker was giving an entertaining speech about memories from her schooldays (a different era to mine). I listened and I realised that nothing changes; The pranks, the rituals, the memories, the warmth for Brookfield and the friendships made were the same as they were in my day and it was and still is 'lovely' to see friendships thriving, friendships started or rekindled, or just the Brookfield family enjoying each others company for that one day, in a blue moon.

I do not imagine that many of us or indeed any of us sailed through life at Brookfield. Sometimes I swam against the tide, sometimes I floated and there were occasions when I floundered like the unfortunate bugs drowning in the school pool.

My presidency is about to end and I shall hand my badge and all that goes with it to a man that figured a lot on those pages. He was the best friend of my boyfriend for some of those diary years and as such was not always on my 'favourite people list' but he is today. Our new president is Tony Ferguson and I am hugely happy that he accepted the role....and if anybody knows what the time machine outside of room 2 was please let me know; apparently I spent a lot of time there.

Helen Morris. (Lynne Morris)

WOSA Weekend July 12th - 13th 2014



Lunch at Carlisle FC

Maurice Tate, Paul Davison, Teresa Davison, Diana Robison, Ann Fort, Alison Hetherington, Mary Peile, Joyce Nanson, Malcolm Atkinson, Elaine Atkinson, John Taylor
Terrence Norman, Madeleine Norman, Cameron Walker, Robert Williamson, Jill Forrest, Max Friedheim, Kay Gilmour, Margaret Steel, Patsy Castree, Donald Dobson
Ken Bowe, Malcolm Teasedale, Russell Teasdale, Margaret Robson, Keith Robson, Mary Youles, Margaret Taylor, Michael Taylor, Peter Kurer, June Williamson
David Perry, Pat Brown, Kate English, Dorothy Pearlman, Judith Beeby, Greta Saul, Ken Duckett, Mary Duckett, Patricia Dobson
Tony Ferguson, Marjorie Taylor, Jill Kemp, Tony Kemp, Avril Solari, Malcolm Bell, Helen Morris, John Goldsbrough, Jack Baxter

2014 saw, if not a new chapter, at least a new paragraph in the history of our organisation. Our ever efficient committee, having sought our needs at last year's reunion, decided that this year all events would be at one venue and, as one of our number Andrew Jenkins is part owner of Carlisle Football Club, everything was arranged at Brunton Park. Unfortunately Andrew was not able to attend any of the events having been whisked away on holiday, the Saturday being his birthday. Let us hope that he will be available in future years - Deo Gratias.

Coming together for coffee and biscuits on Saturday morning fortified us for the Annual General Meeting immediately afterwards and gave us time to meet those we hadn't seen since last year in Aspatia. The first surprise was to discover that Malcolm Bell was in the Chair having been co-opted at short notice to replace Fred Hall who had to withdraw from the post because his work load made him unavailable to attend meetings on a regular basis. (Who heard him on Any Answers on Radio 4 talking about Police corruption in the Met?) Malcolm filled Fred's shoes admirably and the meeting ran like clockwork. Lunch came hard on the heels of the AGM, in fact the hot food was brought in a while before we were ready to eat and, on the whole, many people were a bit disgruntled by the standard of lunch for the cost. This was the only blot on an otherwise very successful weekend.

Going our separate ways after talking and listening our way through lunch gave us time to prepare for the evening ahead. Convening again at Foxy's Restaurant, all spruced up and raring to go, we had time to

mingle over a leisurely drink and view the display of photos and memorabilia before taking our marked places at table. What a splendid idea to group contemporaries together. I, for one, was delighted to be dining with friends of long standing including Ralph Palim and partner Rose who were over from Brussels for the occasion. There was the hand over of the Presidency when the badge was passed to Tony Ferguson by Helen Morris who regaled us with an address full of reminiscence and humour. She then encouraged us all to order fleeces embroidered with the school badge which, at that time of the evening, sounded too good an opportunity to pass up. More raffle prizes were won or lost and the day concluded on a euphoric cloud.

Sunday morning gave us the chance to attend Friends' Meeting at either Carlisle or Mosedale. Our preference was Mosedale, a lovely ancient Meeting House on the fells. What better way to spend a sunny Sunday morning relaxing mentally. Then it was back to Hesket Newmarket for lunch at Denton House. It was a very small but select group that gathered for an excellent repast where we were joined by Evelyn Tickle in good form and looking just the same as when we last saw her. Let us hope she can come again next year.

Congratulations to the WOSA Committee for staging another great weekend and let us all look forward to the next time.

Tony Kemp.

Saturday Evening Dinner

It was 15 years ago that I last attended the Saturday evening dinner. When registering I wondered whether any of my age-mates would be there. I was not disappointed. Our round table of nine included seven old scholars, all having overlapped at Brookfield in the late '40s and early '50s. Of course there was much reminiscing but also a lot of talk about what we had been doing in the 60+ years since we left school. We really enjoyed ourselves and judging by the laughter drifting over from the other tables occupied by "younger old scholars", so did they.

Speeches were made. Helen Morris gave the main address and handed over to Tony Ferguson. She also sold several very attractive Brookfield fleeces.

A super evening. I won't let another 15 years slip by before returning.

Ralph Palim

Tea on the lawn outside Hillside



July 1957



July 2014

“Year of 1968” - Reunion 2

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th, October 2014
The Skiddaw Hotel, Keswick



WHO: Michael & Sheena (Chapman), John & Gina (Webster), Joe & Wendy (Henderson), Berry (Ess), Pam (Wilson), Sue (Williams), Robin (Wannop), Hugh (Routledge), Tom & Karen (Hughes), Dylan (Edwards), Judy (Prescott) & Geoff Litt, Jane (Pennie) & David Harries, Kate (Urwin) & Tony Adamson.

We all started to arrive during the Friday Afternoon, most booking into the hotel but others staying nearby including Tom in a campervan !

Once everyone had checked in we had a casual dinner in the bar when conversations from the first re--union 3 years ago were re--commenced. These continued on progressing to the resident's lounge until the early hours of Saturday morning !

SATURDAY: After a hearty breakfast, we all walked down to the lake, those who were up for it, took the launch down the lake for one stop to start our great expedition and take on Walla Crag, and those more sensible had a leisurely coffee and chat. For the brave walkers, the weather was, thank goodness, kind to us, the rain stopping as we started our ascent, and apart from a heavy burst of hailstones towards the end we had good sunny spells. The route was well planned by our local Guide John(Webster) and he had very kindly made sure we passed his house so we ended our expedition by having a sumptuous buffet lunch provided by his wife Gina. We gathered in the Gretna Suite of the Hotel around 7.00pm and the main entertainment was provided by Berry (Ess) who had badgered most of us into providing some fond memories of our times at Brookfield. She provided scripts to be read out by someone other than the author and the rest of us had to guess who had written it. There were some very revealing tales and some hilarious ones.

“One person thought they could conceal having a ciggie by smoking in the bath whereby the steam would hide the smoke, what she had not worked out was that steam has no smell but smoke does !!!! Enter Ma Bainbridge whereby the culprit used her barefoot to stub out her ciggie !!!”

“Someone laughed so hard that they ended up wetting themselves on stage at the end of a play in front of the whole school”

“Did Mr Davies really put a saucepan on his head and sing “Sospan Bach” ? “Mr Burns calling someone – “Your as daft as my dog and it’s a daft dog !”

“The death of Laurence Hepplewaite (Twib) heartbreaking”

“A downstairs music room with a tall male, (cigarette smelling) rather aged music teacher, chucking chairs around in fury”

"Missions Impossible 1 – 6?, which included up to 9 of us in trips to the girls' dorm, night time beck jumping, swimming in the coldest swimming pool in the world, and a visit to the fair in Wigton. (Tom Cruise eat your heart out!!!!!!) BUT it couldn't last and inevitably 9 members of the MI Group got caught by Froggy and were excluded for 1 term.

"Helen (Simpson) slamming a desk lid on my subbuteo goalkeeper, Dave Hollins, snapping him off at the ankles, he was never the same again !!!"

"Walking on a 24 mile midnight walk with Liz (Hughan)"

"Alan Bell shouting out in his sleep – There's Indians in my porridge"

"Robin (Wannop) reading the beano under the desk in a Latin Class"

"Being forced to wear shorts by my parents and having to endure the freezing cold standing on the wing in rugby matches, never getting a pass, and suffering the early stages of hypothermia."

"Somewhere

Between the six o'clock news

And the magic roundabout

Reality broke in

Cuba, Kennedy, the '66 election

We listened perched on pipes

The walls of our flimsy cocoon

Exposed

Eventually we emerged

Roughly ready for the world

Not brilliantly educated

Yet moulded by principle and example

And by the experience of a unique community

BROOKFIELD"

Obviously Joe (Henderson) has suffered the least amount of memory loss, because he won the prize for guessing the authors of 13 out of the 17 "Memories" read out.

During this we had a buffet, and of course copious glasses of beer, wine, gin (I now know where Gina Webster got her name from !!) and other appropriate beverages were consumed.

The reminiscing went on again until the early hours.



Sunday morning and a surprisingly very bright and cheerful group walked in the rain down to the lake and we had a departing coffee in the Theatre on the Lake Cafe.

To be continued in 2018

Robin Wannop

Southern Reunion



There is a pretty little village in Wiltshire called Atworth (population at the last census 1280) with all the appurtenances that we Northerners expect of such a rural idyll, Church, Manor House, Tons of listed buildings and a pub called The White Hart.

Ah yes "the pub" where at twelve of the Queen Victoria Jubilee clock some fourteen Old Scholars gathered to celebrate life.

Helen and Arnold had planned this day with their usual meticulous care and having dined very well the chattering party moved on to Great Chalfield Manor, a gem of a National Trust Property.

Arnold, who is a volunteer guide at the Manor, had arranged a private viewing and led us through both the building and the associated history in a masterly way. In modern times it has been well used by the film industry as a backdrop to such productions as "The Other Boleyn Girl", Cranford and in the new production of Wolf Hall.

Back then to the delightful garden at the Snowball's ' sitting in the beautiful sun which had shone throughout the day, enjoying hearing and seeing the aviary (sadly rather depleted recently) consuming more delectable food and exchanging news, views, (and ailments) until the inevitable dispersal to their various "roosts" split up this group of happy people.

A super day well constructed and presented ..

Our thanks to Helen And Arnold. From

"Trish" and Donald Dobson, David Cowan, Anita Webb, June and Cameron Walker, Sheila and Arthur Wood, Malcolm Bell, Hazel and David Taylor

Cameron Walker

Spotlight on Excursions

Excursions always played a big part in the Brookfield school year. In 1931, the big excursion went to observe the total eclipse of the sun at Southport. From 1939 the excursion stopped during the war, and was resumed in 1947

In the summer term we used to go to the Lake District for an excursion. The coach from Wigton picked us up - "quick everyone, the charabanc 'is waiting" - and we went for lunch in a whitewashed farmhouse somewhere out in the hills.

One year I remember the boys climbing Helvellyn and the girls climbing Haystacks, then on the bus home we would sing all the latest hits such as "South of the Border" and "An Apple for the Teacher".

Jean Hornsby (nee Murray, 1928-31)



The Charabanc is waiting



41. The Summit of Great Gable

E. Howard, x, x, Dick Hall, J. Noble, x, J. Schwarz, G. Williamson

At Easter 1926, the Headmaster David Reed led a group of senior boys climbing in the Lake District. They were joined by an Old Scholar, Dick Hall, from Cockermouth. It must be noted that one of the pupils is wearing his school uniform, including his cap and tie, and that he is carrying his lunch in what seems to be a school satchel.

As you can see from this wet excursion in the early 1960's we did not have the advantage of wet-weather outdoor clothing that we might have today. Most pupils probably climbed the mountains in ordinary laced up shoes. The plastic "Rain-mate" hat came in useful. Paul Wannop (far left) still managed to look cool on the mountain in his cream mac



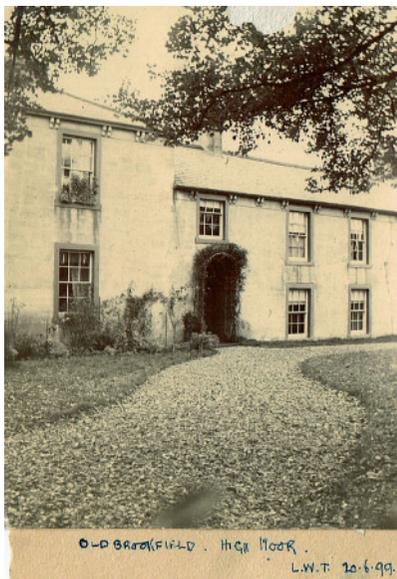
1815 - Wigton School opens at Highmoor



In the early nineteenth century education was rudimentary, and was often provided in Parish schools. The instruction given was of a limited kind and many adults could not read and write, especially in country areas where work on the land was considered more valuable. To attempt to remedy this situation Yearly Meeting encouraged Friends to set up schools in various areas of the Country.

Plans by a group of local Quakers to start a school in the area were mooted in 1812. The premises were located in 1814, when they leased the house at Highmoor and added a wing containing a long classroom with bedrooms above. (The wing comprises the right hand side of this picture). The main house was used to house the superintendant and the kitchens. Wigton School was opened on 4th September 1815 with a roll of 9 boys and 8 girls.

There are no pictures of the school while it was at Highmoor, the two early pictures here being taken some years later. The picture on the right was taken by a former pupil of the school in 1899. Lawrence Taylor went on to become the architect at Brookfield, designing several extensions and the main gate.



Highmoor as it is now.



The Beeby Sampler

Among the first pupils at Highmoor were Hannah Beeby and her sister Mary. They were at the school between 1816 and 1818. Hannah made this sampler at the school in 1816. The original sampler is in the possession of a direct descendant of Hannah's sister Sarah. In 1831, Sarah and her Irish husband



emigrated to Canada with their three children. The sampler was given as a gift to Sarah, and travelled with the family. It was never framed until 2002, and is in excellent condition. The Beeby family lived in Allonby on the Solway coast about 12 miles from Wigton. A copy of the sampler was made in Canada and produced as a self-sew project. Avril Solari made up the sampler which was in Wigton Meeting House until it closed. It is now in the possession of Judith Beeby (McKay), an Old Scholar.



This picture shows Avril Solari (Kemp) with her brothers in the Meeting House at Wigton in front of the sampler. When Avril had finished sewing the copy it was framed by Tony and hung in the Meeting House. Perhaps you can remember it from one of your visits

125 year anniversary of WOSA

This page announces the founding of WOSA in 1890

THE OLD WIGTON SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting held at Brookfield on August 21st, 1890 (see Appendix C), it was formally resolved that an Old Scholars' Association be formed, and the matter was placed in the hands of a committee of eight, who issued the following circular to all old scholars, whose addresses could be ascertained:—

PROPOSED "OLD WIGTON SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION."

Dear Friend,

At a large meeting of Old Scholars at Wigton School last August, the feeling was widely expressed, that much practical good might be done by an Association, such as already exists in connection with many other Schools,

The objects of such an Association are twofold:—To maintain or to create a common bond of good fellowship amongst hundreds of old scholars, who retain more or less happy recollections of their school days; and to give substantial help to all manner of good work done at the School, whether in Art, Natural History, or any manly sport. Following the precedent set by the York Old Scholars' Associations, we propose to secure the first of these objects by an Annual Meeting, the distribution of an Annual Report, and the maintaining up to date of a complete list of members with their addresses, &c.; the second, by spending the balance from income, on prizes for out-of-school work, the purchase of necessary apparatus, specimens, or models, and generally, in the promotion of culture amongst the scholars by such means as the members may think best.

The first meeting will be held at the School on WEDNESDAY, June 17th, and old scholars willing to join are invited to communicate with any member of the Committee, enclosing the subscription of 2/6.

We trust that many friends will much exceed this minimum subscription; and we will be very glad indeed to receive donations from any who do not care to become subscribers.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

J. WILL WATSON,
WALTER S. CORDER, } HON. SECS.

In August 1890 around 200 Old Scholars gathered at the school to celebrate Martin Lidbetter's seventieth birthday. They presented Martin with a purse containing 100 guineas and gave Eliza his wife a silver tea service as an expression of the warm feelings of love and respect that old scholars felt towards them. After the speeches there was discussion on the proposal to form an Old Scholars' Association. John Hall Watson of Cockermonth was president for the first 11 years. From 1902 - 04 Thompson Wigham was president, after which there was a new president elected each year.

The first two secretaries of the Association; Joseph W Watson and Walter S Corder compiled the first history of the school "A short account of Wigton School and its environs" Published 1892 and distributed free to all 170 members of WOSA.

This is the earliest photograph of Old Scholars at the Weekend Reunion



Wigton Old Scholars' Reunion, 1902.

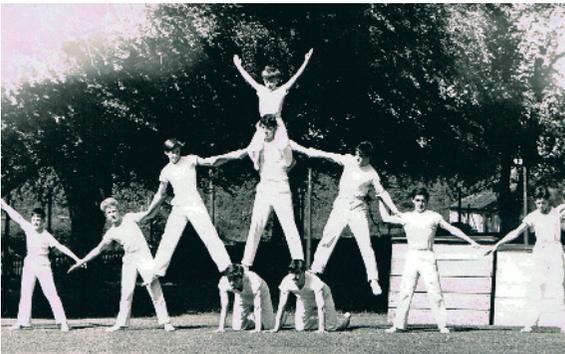
Where are they now?



This tree planting ceremony was to mark 150 years at Brookfield. It took place in 1975 and the tree was planted by John D Hinde, J Harris and the Headmaster with a group of pupils who dressed up in the costumes of the year 1825, the year Wigton School moved from Highmoor to Brookfield.

Where are these pupils now? If you know please write or email and tell us

Where are they now? From 2014 Issue



This was one of Fred Bell's annual displays for GM Day in 1963.

From left: Robin Wannop worked in an Estate Agency and now lives in Whickham. He played Rugby for Ryton, and now holds a Senior role for the England Rugby Union. Derek Lishman still lives in Hexham and ran car dealerships in the area. Peter McVitie still farms at the Whigham Farm in Coanwood. Ian Blyth played rugby for Tynedale FC and is a former President. He owns and runs Knights Cafe in Hexham.

On his shoulders: Jonty Hampson lives in Brampton with his wife Maureen.

Kneeling: Kenneth Ashford, worked in Hospital Laboratories in Edinburgh and now lives in West Lothian, Duncan Hughes farmed and lives near Carlisle.

Right: Glyn Thomas is retired from a career in local government and lives near Carlisle.

David (Titch) McVie lives in British Columbia, Canada. He recently visited Scotland with his family to attend a gathering of the McVie Clan.

Michael (Mosser) Thompson is Master of the Blencathra Hunt and still lives in Bassenthwaite.

Has any one got any decent photographs of activities from the seventies and eighties?

Congratulations



Congratulations to Kate English who married Kevin Rayson on 30th September 2014 at Carlisle Registry Office. They had the wedding reception at the Halston Hotel. They married on Kate's birthday, and it was Kevin's birthday the next day. They are planning a honeymoon in Las Vegas and Bermuda to coincide with their first wedding anniversary. Kate's best friend at Brookfield, Joanna (Coulthard) Leighton was at the wedding. Kate has been an active member of WOSA since leaving school in 1980.

Mark Powell was pleased to be offered a role as driver for the Press Car for the Orlen Team in the 2015 Dakar Rally in South America. Just before the race started the team co-driver had to withdraw and Mark was delighted to be asked to deputise, and so was able to perform as a full competitor. Mark is an experienced rally driver and you might remember that we featured him in the 2013 issue of the magazine. The 2015 Dakar Rally crossed three countries in South America. The only way to complete the Dakar is through a combination of endurance and determination. The competitors had an additional problem to resolve on the 9,000 kilometres to be covered in Argentina, Chile and Bolivia, due to the changing terrain. Mark finished 23rd. out of 67 finishers in this gruelling race. Well done. Since the Dakar rally Mark has competed in several other events including The Emirates Desert Championship



New website at wosa.org.uk

WOSA

Home Join Us Gallery Members Area News Recent Events Blog Contact Us

Committee & Officers →
Links →
History →
Find a member →
Recent Events →
Upcoming Events →
Newsletter →

Wigton Old Scholars' Association
We seek the truth

The Wigton Old Scholars Association is a former pupils group for individuals who attended the Friends School, Brookfield, Wigton, Cumbria. The purpose of the Association is to provide a means for former pupils to contact each other. It also runs an annual reunion in Cumbria in July of every year. WOSA also promotes the numerous regional and class specific reunions that Old Scholars of the school run throughout the UK. Membership is open to all who have been associated with the School as a former pupil, teacher or other member of the school staff. Details of past and future reunions can be found by clicking on the links above.

WOSA is mainly a social organisation dedicated to putting old school friends together at friendly social gatherings. So if you went to the School why not join WOSA and find out what your old school friends are up to and meet them at one of our numerous social functions.

To join WOSA fill in the on-line membership form or email membership@wosa.org.uk. Life membership of WOSA costs £20.00 and includes a copy of the school's history as well as access to the members section of the website and an annual newsletter.

Latest news
2015: 125th Anniversary of WOSA

The WOSA website has been completely rewritten. The main change concerns the members area which was not secure in the old web-site. It now contains address cards for every member. This facility replaces the printed address list which will no longer be sent to members. To access this area you must be a member of WOSA and have registered your email address on our database. When you first go to the members area page you should log on with your email address using the green log-on box, and request a new personal password. The new password will be emailed to you. Subsequently you should press the button "Access members area"

whereupon you will be directed to a log-on box to enter your email address as user name, and your new password. This will give you access to the index and allow to to search for any individual member. If you have any trouble accessing the members area go to the Contact us page and fill in the on-line form. We will get back to you asap.

The new web-site contains some new features:

It is possible to join WOSA on-line and pay the £20 fee by credit card. There is a new blog where you can leave comments for other members. There are reports and photographs of all reunions held during the previous three years. There is a History section which also contains a gallery of vintage pictures. There are photo galleries for: Buildings, Boys teams, Girls Teams and Miscellaneous pictures. In the section for upcoming events you can download event flyers and booking forms. Newsletters can be read on-line or downloaded as pdf files. We hope you will make more use of the new site to find out what is going on and keep in touch with your old school friends.

John Taylor

WOSA Financial Report

Income and Expenditure for year ended 31 st . December 2013				2012	
Reunion	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Receipts	Payments
Income	£1958.50			£2142.00	
Aspatia RFC		£78.00			£56.40
Home Baking (Lunch)		£712.00			£744.00
Hallmark (Dinner)		£665.00			£1078.00
Denton House (Lunch)		£130.00			£285.00
Refund		£29.00			
Total	£195850.00	£1614.00	£344.50	£2142.00	£2163.40
Owing: Badges					
General Fund					
Subscriptions	£80.00			£60.00	
Donations	£35.30			£291.35	
Sales	£16.00			£17.00	
Investment Income (Consols)	£36.24			£36.24	
NS & I Interest	£5.84			£42.20	
Printing		£382.00			£369.00
Newsletter postage		£158.32			£207.09
Stationery etc.		£14.98			£85.30
Envelopes/labels		£46.00			
Plaque		£243.60			
Carlisle Meeting house fees		£30.00			£15.00
Committee expenses		£48.00			
Secretary's expenses		£17.25			
Treasurer's expenses		£15.40			
Gift to Webmaster		£40.97			£32.98
Donation - Stroke Association		£50.00			
Hallmark deposit for 2013					£300.00
Badges 211					£13.03
Postage: August 2011					£2.61
Total	£223.38	£1046.52	(£823.14)	£446.79	£1025.01
Owing					
Gift to Editors wife 2011					£8.50
Postage: School histories		£2.60			£4.90
Overall Total	£2181.88	£1046.52	(£823.14)	£446.79	£1025.01
Bank balances at 31st December 2013		2013	2012		
HSBC		£84.78	£32.66		
NS&I		£7305.44	£7849.60		
Cash		£1.23	£1.23		
Total		£7391.45	£7883.49		
Owing		(£2.60)	(£13.40)		
Total		£7388.85	£7870.09		

For Sale



Brookfield Fleece

These are a heavyweight fleece jacket with full zip. It is Forest Green with an embroidered badge bordered by the words 'Brookfield' and 'We seek the truth' it has two zippered pockets and an up or down collar. It is long length and the sizes are XS-35/36 S-36/38 M-38/40 L-41/42 XL-43/44 XXL-45/47 They cost £35.00+£4.00 UK P&P. £6.00 airmail P&P for rest of world.

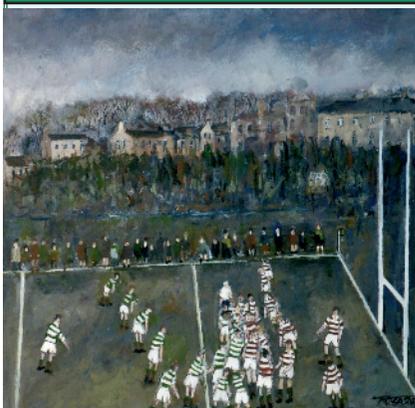
We have several Panorama Photographs including
1956 in frame
1948, 1951, 1953, 1956, 1958 1960 unframed
We have many other sports and group photographs. Contact us if you would like to purchase a particular photograph.

Telephone Marjorie Taylor on 01912595689

If you have any school memorabilia you no longer want such as School Histories, scarves, caps, ties, or any thing else such as these spoons, please donate it to be sold for WOSA funds.



House match



Malcolm Teasdale is a former pupil and artist whose work is now exhibited in many galleries around the country and has been included in "Best Of British", a collection of some of the best of 21st century British Art.

This painting was also originally commissioned by an old scholar

Malcolm's work is very collectable and you can see examples at www.panterandhall.com/Artists.aspx

Malcolm has produced signed limited edition prints size 40cm x 31cms which are for sale at £30. The proceeds will be used to fund future reunions.

To order one of these prints contact Marjorie Taylor
☎ 01912595689 or email: m@rjorie.com

All proceeds to WOSA funds

School Memories

My favourite teacher was my piano teacher Anna Bennington, who was great friends with Miss Twigg, the school secretary. Miss Bennington was from Ireland and she retired to the Lake District. Piano students had to take turns accompanying the hymn at Evening Reading and we had hymn singing in the Library every Sunday evening for an hour.

There was a Scottish lad who, to our amusement, always requested "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder I'll be There".

I also remember Mr Illiffe came from the town to teach violin. Perhaps he was music teacher Peter Illiffe's father? Miss Mann was Headmistress when I started at Brookfield, then when she left Miss Bagwell, the Geography Mistress, was appointed Headmistress.

Another memory is ducking for apples and telling ghost stories at Halloween Parties held in the Common Room.

Does anyone remember 'Fairy Common' off the Silloth road, where we used to go on some Sunday walks? Sometimes on our walks, but not very often, we were allowed to go into Jimmy's shop in Waverton to spend any pocket money we might have left - sixpence bought quite a lot!

Jean Hornsby (nee Murray, 1928-31)

Now living with her daughter in Australia

Warrick Snowball (1946-55) wrote from New Zealand to say thank you for the newsletter, and made the following comments: It was good to see mention of Miss Potter (Mrs Maxwell). I also remember the bikes being introduced to the GM display, but do not think the picture shows the

Raleigh Lenton Sports bike. The sports model had drop down handlebars and I would have dearly liked to have one!! As to the cyclists in the picture I have the following guesses. From the left: William James Graham, Robin Patterson, Tony Clerehugh, ??, ??, Tom Hewitson.

The picture of the boys spelling out Brookfield was in "The Boys Own" and Eddie Williamson was the letter i.

One of the regular features of the GM display was of boys diving through hoops, and Fred Bell had the uninspired idea that we could dive through the triangular part of the bike frame instead. The area was smaller than a hoop, and no-one was keen to try until I think it was Cameron Walker (under the mistaken impression that Miss Gunn was watching) agreed. Regretfully he did not make it through and was impaled on the small brackets designed to hold the bicycle pump.



Christine Luke (Theobald) 1952-58 remembers being awarded the John Harris Walker Craft Prize for Needlework in 1956 and again in 1957. The picture shows one of her embroidery pieces. She also remembers dressmaking with

Miss McNaught which she has continued throughout her life. When she left Brookfield in 1958 she went to Edinburgh to train as a nurse.

Link onto the WOSA Chain. It will hold wherever you may be.



The first chain was at the WOSA Reunion 1938

We recreated the chain 76 years later in the garden at Hillside



As WOSA celebrates 125 years, now is a good time for you to make the effort to catch up with old friends. They will support you now as they did when you were at school. We hope that you will come and join us at the weekend reunion in July



Peter Cannon took this aerial view of the Brookfield site when he flew overhead in July 2014. To the left of the picture, the former sports fields are now used to graze horses. The front lawn is overgrown with trees though some of the older trees are nearing the end of their lives. In 1843 it was hoped to create a set-down from the railway to serve the school. After three months of operation the plan was abandoned. In 1858 the narrow strip of land (shown enclosed in red) between the road and the railway was purchased by an Old Scholar and offered to the trustees in the hope that a set-down could be reinstated. Nothing came of this however and the land was used by staff families to keep chickens etc. The land has now been bought by Wigton Scouts for use in their outdoor skills training exercises.

The 2016 Newsletter will feature a spotlight on “Science”, so please send us your memories and photographs



In Memoriam



Olive Johnson	1936 - 41	Date unknown
Gordon Ward	1933 - 35	February 2012
Roland Robson	1945 - 48	22 nd December 2013
David Darling	left 1969	died 2013
John Duguid	1938 - 42	7 th January 2014 (USA)
Derek Haigh	1947 - 49	24 th March 2014
Mary Barrow (nee Ferguson)	1937 - 41	Spring 2014
Alan Palmer	1937 - 41	19 th April 2014 (USA)
John Short	1960 - 65	18 th May 2014
Ronnie Robinson	1944 - 50	15 th June 2014
WOSA President 1986		
Thelma Ennew (Lidgard)	1942 - 49	June 2014
Denys Hinde	1933 - 39	19 th August 2014 (Australia)
Audrey Jackson (Wilson)	1949 - 53	29 th August 2014
Joan Bell (Patterson)	1955 - 58	6 th December 2014
Donald Penrice	1937 - 45	16 th December 2014
Cameron Lockie	1951 - 57	24 th January 2015
Sarah Wilkinson (Miller)	1931 - 35	30 January 2015

Arnold Snowball sent this message:

Sorry to announce the death of Denys Hinde on Tuesday 19th August in Canberra Australia, aged 92.

He attended Brookfield from 1933-1939. (same form as Ronnie Taylor) and he came from a long line of former Wigton School pupils.

His father, John Hinde attended from 1896-1901, his Uncles; Robert attended from 1892-1896, and Wigham attended from 1894-1898. His grandfather William Shepherd Hinde attended from 1858-1863 and his great grandfather attended from 1820-1823 when the school was still at Highmoor.

Denys was full cousin to Edie Gillies, Mollie Peel (age 92) and Margaret Gillies (104 in 2014)

He was a regular attender at the Old Scholars Weekend.

Many thanks to those members who sent donations to help to defray the cost of postage of the newsletters. Their generous donations have covered all of the postage costs for this year.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. We are always pleased to receive contributions and would welcome text or ideas for the next issue. Please send your text by email to m@rjorie.com, or by post to: 3 Cotswold Road, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE299QJ