



Dear Old Stamfordian

As we welcome the students back after a well-deserved Easter break, it does mean that Reunion is fast approaching and limited spaces are available for the lunches so be sure to **book your place**. Whether you are attending alone or as a group, you will always be amongst friends.

The lunch at Stamford School, especially, promises to be a lovely occasion as Mr Geoffrey Brown will be a guest on the day and it is a chance to say farewell as he retires at the end of this academic year, after 33 incredible years here.

In the evening there will also be the chance to play and watch some sport, with both a netball tournament and the Andrew Carter touch rugby tournament taking place. On the Sunday there will also be the traditional Rev. Wright Memorial Cup against Toilethorpe Park Cricket Club if you would like to play in any of these then please let the **Alumni Relations Team** know.

If you have any news that you wish to share with us for the next update, please **contact us**.

May Christ us Spede

**Nicky Lambert (OS 90)**

*Old Stamfordian Association Chair*

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## [News](#)

Earlier this month, Paule Constable (OS 85) became the most honoured individual in Olivier Awards history with 17 nominations! Paule, a renowned lighting designer, also won the Olivier Award for Best Lighting Design, her fifth in total, for her work on the musical *Oliver!*. The award marks a fantastic end to Paule's incredible theatre career, as she retires from new theatre projects to take on new challenges.

Alongside the Olivier Award wins, Paule has also won three Tony Awards as well as various Critics Circle Awards, and has worked on iconic productions such as *War Horse*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *Les Misérables*.

You can watch the winning moment below; congratulations Paule!

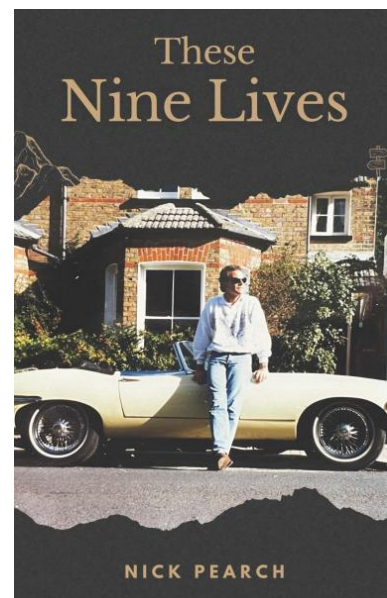


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Nick Pearch (OS 73) contacted us with the news that he has recently published his autobiography, *These Nine Lives*. Nick's time at Stamford had a big influence on his later life, particularly in the field of sport. His anecdotes from ten years as a boarder should resonate with many OS from the same era. More recent leavers may enjoy the contrast with their own experience.

The Stamford years are included in the free download sample, but if anyone wants to continue reading, [the full e-book](#) only costs £4.99.

The blurb: "Nick's story is one of survival against the odds. Not just once or twice, but nine times he has confronted a life-or-death situation and lived to tell the tale. Despite these narrow escapes, or perhaps because of them, he has led an exciting life of ups and downs, of adventures and challenges.



Driven by an insatiable restlessness, he has often walked away from his old life to head off in a new direction. *These Nine Lives* explores

beyond the everyday grind of the corporate ladder, enriched with amusing anecdotes and surprisingly honest revelations about his life and character. Even if you haven't met Nick, by the end you will feel you know him well."

[The e-book is available here.](#)

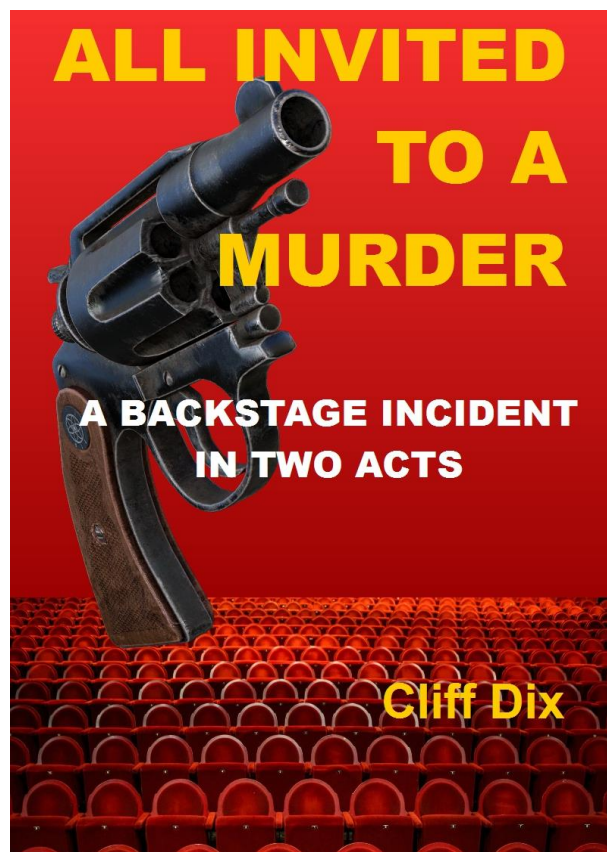
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Continuing with OS authors, Cliff Dix (OS 71) has contacted us with the news that his latest book, *All Invited To A Murder* has just been released.

Following a long and varied career in the theatre and following open-heart surgery at Papworth, during the recovery from which a former trainee said "You should write all this down, before you drop dead.", Cliff wrote *Up The Fire Escape And Through The Kitchens*, a biographical look at half a century of the backstage world of entertainment.

Fiction books followed, and to date there's a trilogy: *Theatre Wagon*, *In Which Case* and *And Burnt The Topless Towers*, which, despite each standing alone, traces a career of ups and downs. These have now been joined by *All Invited To A Murder*, just released. All these have a common setting of the world of theatre, a world strangely under exploited by the writers of fiction, at least since J B Priestley.

Cliff's selection of books can be purchased [here](#).





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Roger Kenyon (OS 59) has written regarding the the passing of Stephen Riley (OS 66) in October 2023:

“Although I didn't know Stephen at Stamford School, we were both cricket players in the only sports club, Reforma Club, Mexico City, where cricket was then played, and played many years together. We never ceased to be amazed by how small the world was. Stephen rose to a much-respected President of Reforma Athletic Club before he passed.”

The photo is of Stephen and Roger presenting prizes at the Club.



Roger also gives an update on his journey since leaving Stamford in 1959. Below is an excerpt from the update; you can read the whole text [here](#).

"I entered Stamford School in the Upper Fourths, in 1954. Unfortunately I missed out on physics and biology that had started in the Lower Fourths, as well as the opportunity to study either Greek or German. Despite this I graduated from St Andrews with a 2.1, and fenced for the University at épée, as well as for Scottish Universities, and was no 13 in the UK gradings in 1963.

When I left, I was then faced with finding a job. I hadn't really seen that far ahead, and my interview with Mr. Lamb, the then careers master, was rather unsuccessful. He asked me what I wanted to do and I replied, "plant the Sahara with cabbages". Lamb was dismissive.

Coming from a farming family, I really had no idea of what went on in the world outside, and my father, a successful farm manager, warned me that farming was not a career unless I owned a farm. Eventually, I started in an engineering company who were keen to recruit arts graduates. I worked in the buying department, controlling the flow of piston rings, pistons and other things. After two years, I went to Birmingham to a major British engineering group, that no longer exists. I became involved with new product development and launched, managed and sold a rather esoteric product, with very high gross margins. Unfortunately, the Managing Director, who supported me, left shortly afterwards and I had little support thereafter.

The group where I had previously worked asked me to return, and I became sales manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a wide range of products. The company trained me well, and I learnt Spanish. In 1979, I was transferred to set up a sales organisation in Mexico City, where I've been ever since. Eventually I was told the group was closing, and I was left to my own resources, so I was able to represent a variety of international companies that required

assistance. I won't list the companies, but I worked in the gas industry, the port engineering industry, the mining industry and others. I think my education at Stamford School was so good that I was able to survive and prosper. I was an all-rounder, good at understanding key aspects of the engineering products I handled.

I now live modestly in a rural area of Mexico, enjoying good health. My only regret is that my UK pension has not changed in the last 20 years, though I paid my National Insurance like everyone else."

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The Tournament Players Championship held at TPC Sawgrass is regarded as golf's 5th major. Golf's strongest field of the year gathered this March to take on the challenge featuring the notorious island green on TPC's 17th hole.

TPC (Tournament Players Club) courses, operated by the PGA Tour, host numerous pro-am golf events, including the Sawgrass Classic and Scottsdale Classic, offering opportunities for amateurs to play on world-famous courses and watch the final round of the professional championship. This year, the competition returned to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, for the 20th year.

Rory McIlroy prevailed for a record equalling 2nd time, buoyed on by the support of five OS golfers - Alex Glover (OS 05), Nick Glover (OS 02), Tim Johnson (OS 81), Willie Palmer (OS 81) and Julian Smith (OS 81) who flew out to watch the final day and to compete in the 20th anniversary Pro Am tour Sawgrass Classic, played over 4 rounds including a final round on the infamous Stadium course.



The team comprising Johnson (far right), Palmer (far left) & Smith (2nd right) put up a strong performance over all four days to claim the title with a winning margin of 8 shots supported by professional golfer Russ Chrystie. Another highlight of the week was a hole in one for Alex on the 2nd hole at the Dye Valley course.

Congratulations to the title-winning team!

Please note this year's OS Golf Meetings are:-

**Luffenham Heath Spring Golf Meet**

Saturday 10 May 2025

**Burghley Park Summer Golf Meet**



Friday 18 July 2025

## **Luffenham Heath Autumn Golf Meet**

Saturday 13 September 2025

Old Stamfordian golf events are open to all, whether you're a seasoned golfer or a newcomer to the sport. You'll find a welcoming and friendly atmosphere and it is a fantastic way to meet new people, improve your skills, and soak up the beautiful surroundings. Come join us and be part of our lively golfing community – we can't wait to see you on the green!

*Please contact us if you wish to take part*

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On Sunday 30 March, Max Sawyer (OS 70, ex-staff) had a letter published in the Sunday Telegraph:

SIR – The Countess of Macclesfield's letter ([March 23](#)) reminded me of the rhyme I was taught at Stamford School more than 60 years ago by Tony Tomlin (wartime Lancaster pilot, DFC and Bar) for Latin prepositions governing the ablative, which I still remember: "a, ab, absque, coram, de; palam, clam, cum, ex and e; plus supra, super, sub and in; when rest not motion they do mean."

He also disapproved of our "doing a Rupert" when translating Latin into English, i.e putting the verb at the end of the sentence without regard to style.

*If you have any memories or your lessons or time at Stamford that you wish to share with us, please let us know!*

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Have you started a new job, launched a project, won an award, or hit a big milestone? Whatever it is, we want to celebrate it! [Send us your news](#), achievements, and any great photos you have.

Your updates help keep our Old Stamfordian community connected and inspired.

[Contact Us](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Stamford Lecture - Poorna Bell**

*Wednesday 14 May 2025, 19:00 - 21:00*

*Stamford Sixth Form*

On Wednesday 14 May 2025, we welcome Poorna Bell – journalist, author, and motivational speaker – who will share her inspiring journey of overcoming grief and finding strength through powerlifting. She will also explore themes of body positivity, strength and resilience, and the importance of community support.



Poorna is an award-winning journalist and the author of several critically acclaimed books, including "Stronger" and "In Search of Silence". Her writing has been featured in prominent publications like The Guardian, Red, and Women's Health. As a passionate

advocate for mental health, she has used her platform to address topics such as grief, resilience, and body confidence.

In addition to her writing, Poorna is an accomplished powerlifter, winning multiple championships and breaking barriers in the sport. Her experiences have fuelled her advocacy for body positivity and diversity in fitness spaces. She frequently speaks on the importance of representation and creating inclusive environments.

Please note: Doors open at 18:15 for refreshments. The lecture begins at 19:00.

**Venue:**

Dora Abdy Hall, St Martin's  
Site  
Stamford School  
High Street St Martin's  
Stamford  
Lincolnshire  
PE9 2LL

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Poorna's powerful story and gain insights into the transformative power of fitness and resilience. Our lectures are free, but booking is essential to secure your place.

**Book Now**

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**Old Stamfordian London Drinks Reception**

*Thursday 22 May 2025, 18:30 - 20:30*

We are delighted to be hosting a drinks and canapés reception for all of our Old Stamfordians at The Farmers Club, London.

Kindly sponsored by Julia Peach (OS 83) and Stamford School, the event promises to be a great evening, and we look forward to welcoming Old Stamfordians from all year groups.



Due to the limited capacity of the club, there are a limited number of tickets available. Tickets are £30, with a subsidised charge of £20 for those who left school between 2019 and 2024. You can book at the link below.

**Book now**

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### **Reunion 2025**

*Saturday 14 June 2025*

Booking is now open for this year's Reunion! Tickets for the day can be booked using the link below.



# Old Stamfordian *Reunion* Saturday 14 June 2025

## BOOK NOW

✦ ME SPEDE



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### **Rev. Wright Memorial Cup**

*Sunday 15 June 2025*

Calling all cricketers!

The traditional Rev. Wright Memorial Cup that is played annually between the Old Stamfordians and Toilethorpe Park Cricket Club will take place on Sunday 15 June 2025. If you would like to take play for the OS team, Nick Webb (OS 15, current staff) is organising so please let us know either via [email](#) or [telephone](#).

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## MCC Cricket Match

*Wednesday 2 July 2025*

Join us for the prestigious annual Stamford v MCC cricket match on Wednesday 2 July.

Now a staple event in our diary, we look forward watching the talents of our students against representatives from Marylebone Cricket Club, the world's most active cricket club.

We will be offering the opportunity to purchase a pre-ordered lunch hamper to enjoy whilst you watch the game, or our Scoreboard Café will be open throughout the match should you wish to spectate with light refreshments.

Current running order for the day is:

Start: 11:30

Lunch: 13:30

Tea: 16:15

Finish: 18:30



If you would like to pre-order a lunch or come along to watch, please do [register your interest here](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!

## News from the School



*Oliver!* Nominated  
for National  
Theatre Awards



Y13 Receives  
Offer from The



Northampton  
Saints Offer Trial  
To Y13 Student

[Read More →](#)

Courtauld  
Institute of Art  
[Read More →](#)

[Read More →](#)

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## Award Win

On Thursday 6 March 2025, the Alumni Relations & Fundraising Team here at Stamford School won the Donorfy award in the 'Impact Beyond Fundraising' category. This award celebrates the incredible achievements of charities using the Donorfy database to support and enhance their work. Our nomination showcased the Stamford Card, Stamford Lecture Series, and individual stewardship campaigns.

To read more about the award, [click here](#).

Congratulations to the Alumni Relations & Fundraising Team for this well-deserved recognition!



### Partnership with Farewill

Legacies are a vital source of support for Stamford School and assist in securing the future of young people and their education experiences with us. A legacy gift, regardless of its size, can significantly impact the lives of numerous students.

We are excited to announce our collaboration with will-writing specialists 'Farewill' as we enter the New Year.

This service is complimentary, straightforward, and can be completed from the comfort of your home in approximately 30 minutes. [Please click here](#) to take advantage of this opportunity and remain a valued part of Stamford's legacy.



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To bring some joy to the end of April, the School's Marketing Team recently produced this wonderful video for Stamford Junior School, fantastically showcasing some pupils that will be Old Stamfordians in years to come. We hope you enjoy watching it!

If you have any queries or interest in admissions to Stamford, please contact our [Admissions Team directly](#).



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## Farewells

### **Margaret Parker (née Eady, OS 48)**

Margaret was both a day girl and a boarder at the High School during the 1940s. She passed away peacefully on 20 March, aged 94, after spending many years on her beloved Isle of Wight. The funeral service will be held on Monday 28 April 2025, at Peterborough Crematorium in Marholm at 14:00.

Margaret is survived by her older sister Noreen Scattergood (née Eady) (OS 44). The two of them are pictured here together, with Margaret on the left in both photos.



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### **Monica Dixie (née Williams, Hudson, OS 49)**



Monica, who taught at Welland House and the Junior School from 1965 to 1989, sadly passed away on 26 March. Monica, who was known as Mrs Williams when teaching at SHS and became Mrs Dixie later in life, was also an Old Girl who attended Stamford High School from 1942 - 1949.



The funeral service will be held at 12 noon on Monday 28 April 2025, at Peterborough Crematorium in Marholm and bright coloured attire is welcome.

En route to the crematorium, the hearse will be halted outside the SHS buildings, in honour of Mrs Williams' longstanding association with the School.

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### **Richard Knipe (OS 67)**

*Richard's son, Matthew (OS 98), writes:*

My father, Richard Knipe, passed away at home at the end of February at the age of 75. He attended the school between 1957 and 1967. He went to university in Liverpool before becoming a solicitor in Spalding between 1975 and 2012. He continued the cricket and hockey that he took up at school for many years, with Bourne Cricket and Hockey clubs. He was clerk of Spalding Town Husbands Almshouse Charity for around 25 years and a trustee for a further five. Through them he was on the national executive of the Almshouse Association for 24 years. Retirement involved golf, ballroom dancing and walking holidays.



He had two brothers, Andrew (who has sadly previously featured in the Farewells section) and Stephen, who both went to Stamford. I also went to Stamford as did my sister Stephanie.

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### **Caroline Dewsbury (née Letts, OS 76)**

Caroline sadly passed away aged 66 on 8th November 2024 after a long battle with cancer.

She leaves behind her husband Adrian and daughters Claire and Suzi.

Caroline followed her Mother, Anne Letts (née Moody, OS 51) to Stamford starting at Lady Annes aged 11 in 1969 and after progressing through the Nuns and St Martins where her achievements included the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award. Caroline left Stamford in 1976 for Westminster College, Oxford where she completed her Certificate of Education. She married Adrian in 1981 and had Claire in 1984, who is also a Teacher, and Suzi in 1987. After teaching for many years in the West Midlands, she worked as a Doctors receptionist in a local surgery.

She will be remembered for her love of travel, devotion to her family, complete kindness and utter selflessness.

The funeral was held on 2nd December 2024 and attended by some of Caroline's Stamford friends including Isabel Oswell, Kythe Beaumont, Louise Hewitt (Thornalley), Rachael Stoddart (Dickenson) and Janet Cox (Heughan).

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# STAMFORD

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