



AUGUST 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Old Stamfordian

Welcome to the latest update from the Old Girls Guild. We are moving forward with cautious optimism as restrictions are lifted and we are hoping to be able to hold an event on 20 November 2021, full details and how to book are below.

Everyone loves to read your updates so if you have any news or photographs please feel free to get in touch with [Natalie Pretsell](#) or click on any of the links further down the page.

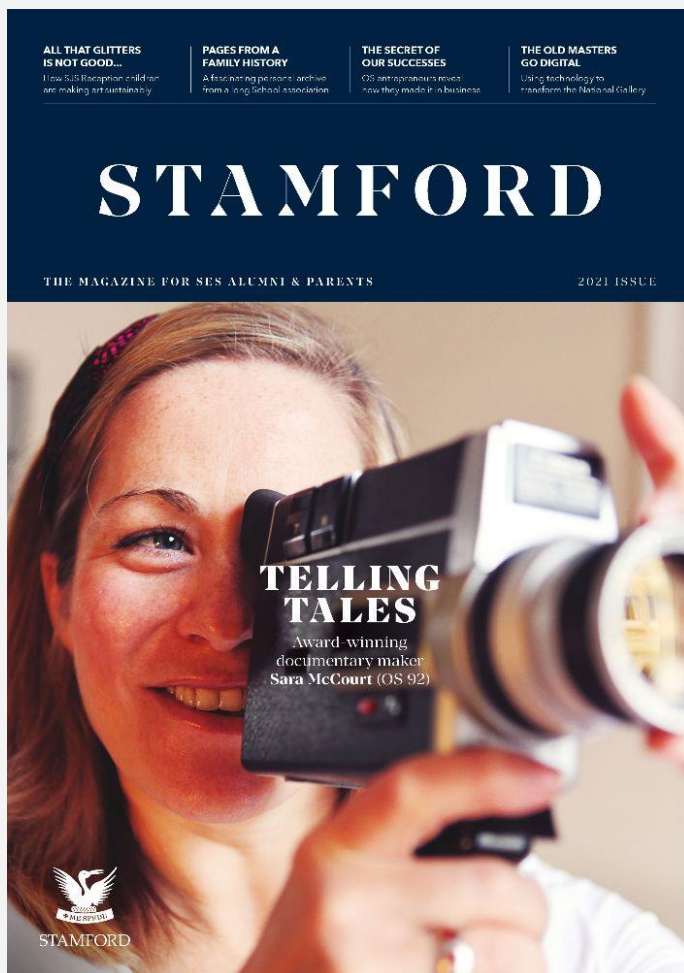
We have reached the end of another unprecedented year in the Schools history, I am sure I am not alone in congratulating the Schools on their fantastic achievements in difficult National times.

Jill Hamilton (OS 80)
Chair, Old Girls' Guild

NEWS

Magazines

We are delighted that our final publication of the year, Stamford Magazine, is now available for you to read on the Schools' website, along with past Stamford magazines, and previous editions of the OSC & OGG magazines.

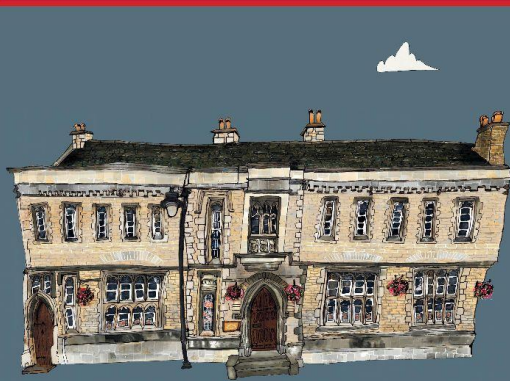


Stamford School




Old Stamfordian Club
Newsletter
2020-21

Stamford High School




Old Girls' Guild
Magazine
2020-21

The Principal's House

After [fire damaged the Principal's House](#) (formerly the Headmaster's House) on St Paul's Street on 12 June last year, the house is looking delightful again. Will Phelan and his family have since moved back in and were thankful for your words of support in the aftermath.





REMINISCENCES

Wartime at SHS (1942-45)

Doreen Stevenson (OS 52) writes:

I entered the High School in 1942 when I was eight year sold and I have vivid memories of what to me was an engrossing place.

Firstly, the lessons – the Greek World with Archimedes shouting, ‘Eureka, Eureka!’ as he leapt from his bath, which was to us an embarrassing story told by the very strict Miss Cook!

Then the wonderful poetry lessons with Mrs Stradling when every week we learnt by heart and said verses of Georgian poetry – Walter de la Marés, ‘the Listeners’, Thomas Hood’s ‘I remember, I remember the House Where I was Born’, Kipling, Allingham etc which bred in me a lifetime love of poetry.

Stamford at that time was visited by American servicemen stationed in villages such as King’s Cliffe. We would accost them with the words ‘Got any gum, chum’ and they appeared to have an endless supply of spearmint. Stupidly I chewed some in class and

was sent to the Headmistress, Miss Nichol, who, when she learned I had some more commanded that I bring it in to be confiscated!

We used some upstairs classrooms and would slide down the banisters – very Angela Brazil.

The Quadrangle was surrounded by sandbags and there were two adjoining nissen huts outside where lessons could be easily interrupted as there was no sound-proofing.

We would often play Cowboys and Indians in break-times, no doubt influenced by the current popular films of Gene Autrey.

Camden High School pupils were evacuated to our school and I recall the words, ‘Go home Camden’ splashed in white paint on the wall of the passage way between Broad Street and North Street.

We performed, ‘Peter Pan’ and I was the crocodile saying ‘Tick Tock’ as I crept along the back curtain on the stage.

At breaks we had a half pint bottle of milk and could buy a sticky bun. My chief delight was either Horlicks or Ovaltine tablets which I brought from home and shared with others as we sat on the grass in the summer sun.

Those of us who lived in or around Stamford were hardly affected by war-time bombing, unlike London and big cities and coastal towns. However, I do remember one night when the drowning of Luftwaffe bombers could be heard heading for Coventry. I found a tiny metal shell in our yard which the Home Guard claimed and gave me sixpence for it!

Looking back we had a really good education and a lot of fun, with nothing like the pressure children began to be under in later years.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW...?

On the back of the hugely positive responses to our membership survey, one of the suggestions is that we update our community with the latest news about our Old Stamfordians and what they are doing now.

If you would like to participate in this and possibly feature on social media and in the next annual OSC magazine, [please feel free to contact us](#), with a picture if possible. We would

love to hear from you about your time since leaving the Schools, and what you are doing now.

FUTURE EVENTS

Old Stamfordian Autumn Get-Together

20 November 2021

In the absence of being able to host a formal Reunion Weekend for 2021, we are pleased to be able to announce a one day event for Saturday 20 November 2021 (subject to government guidelines).

[Booking for this event is now live and you can find schedule of events and ticket information here.](#)

Contact: [Natalie Pretsell, Community Engagement Manager.](#)

Old Stamfordian Reunion Weekend 2022

Friday 10 June 2022 to Sunday 12 June 2022

Contact: [Natalie Pretsell, Community Engagement Manager.](#)

FAREWELLS

We are saddened to report of the passing of two Old Stamfordians and we extend our sympathies to their family and friends.

Mary Orton née Butler (OS 39)

Mary's daughter has informed us that Mary sadly passed away on 30 January 2021, aged 98.

If any of you or your relatives know of Mary and have any school time stories or information, we would be love to pass this on to her daughter, so [feel free to contact us](#).

Rose (Rene) Irene Bartsch née Tilley

The following obituary appeared in the Stamford Mercury on 23 July 2021.



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Mercury Obituaries

RENE BARTSCH

Rose Irene Bartsch, known as Rene, died peacefully at home in Wilkes Gardens, Uppingham, on March 11, 2021 after a long battle with her illnesses. Her four children were by her side. She was 89-years-old.

Rene was born and bred in Rutland to parents Frederick and Ivy Tilley.

Rene went to Stamford High School for girls and later when she met and married Ged, they both worked on the farm.

They had four children and then settled in Uppingham, where Rene did book-keeping for a local garage and later in life, she worked for the yarn market in Uppingham.

Rene became a widow in 2000, just after the couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

After retiring Rene enjoyed bowls, walking and meeting with friends for coffee and a chat. She also enjoyed visits from her numerous friends and family in the comfort of her own home.

She was a contributor to numerous local and national charities and a member of Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club.

Rene leaves schildren Margaret Bailey, Robin Bartsch, Alan Bartsch and Jacqueline Chapman.

Family mourners at the funeral were: Robin and Diane Bartsch, Margaret Bailey, Jack Lewis, Alan and Beverley Bartsch, Jacky and Gary Chapman.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the family were representing other family members: Mollie, Lucy, Kelly, Martin, Eoin, Kian, Nicole, Darren, Angi, Paul, Matthew, Kelvyn, Naomi, Andrew, Tammy, Emily, Sharon, John, Michael, Jamie, Abii, Skyla, Sophie, Karina, Lennon, Nicola, Jack, Michelle, Sanja, Asha, Harper, Shaun, Josh, Charley Tommee, James, Harvey, Colin, Daniel, Becky, Dominic, Bethany, Zoe, Annabell, Cian, Lily, Wayne Lee, Rachael, Stephen Gemma, Ryan, Sophia, Ann (sister) and family from Canada, Pauline, Jean an husband. Friends represent were: Kim, Jim, Jerry, June Pat, Yvonne, Derek, June Joll, Jim Gray, Tina, Sylvia.

FREDERICK SYMONDS

Frederick Symonds, of Trinity Road, Stamford, died at Peterborough City Hospital on June 23. He was 79.

Born to Frederick and Evelyn Symonds, of Emmet, Norfolk, he was educated at Secondary Modern in Upwell, Norfolk.

Frederick completed his national service between March 1967 and March 1989 in the Royal Air Force. He served in the UK and Germany and worked for 14 years on Harris aircraft, before going on to become a wood machinist.

Frederick's hobbies included golf and green bowls. He belonged to Wittering Bowls Club for more than 40 years and used to play for the county. He was also a member at Greetham Valley Golf Club and Blackstones Sports and Social Club.

Married to Jean

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