



## **NOVEMBER 2022**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Dear Old Stamfordian

We will soon be waving our students away for the Christmas holidays - oh, how time flies! What this does mean, however, is that arrangements are underway for next year's Old Stamfordian Reunion Day, as well the 2023 edition of the OGG Magazine.

If there is anything you wish to see from the OGG or if you have any news to share, [please let us know.](#)

May Christ Us Spede

*The Old Girls' Guild Committee*

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## NEWS

### [Second Novel for OS Author](#)

Back in April of this year we wrote about Danielle Redding (OS 06), who published her first novel, *Spiritchild*. Our ER Intern, Caitlin Brown (OS 21), caught up with Danielle earlier this month to celebrate National Author's Day, held annually on November 1, to discuss her journey after Stamford and her upcoming second novel, *Earthchild*.

After leaving Stamford with fond memories in 2006, Danielle had the goal of becoming a vet.

“When I was a kid, I used to watch all of these tv shows with vets and I thought, that’s what I want to do. It wasn’t until I was in my final year at university, and we were doing placements, that I realised the job didn’t fit with me, so that’s when I started branching out and trying new things.”

Danielle has always enjoyed writing, but when she committed to becoming a full-time writer, “it was quite scary because it was something that doesn't necessarily pay off straight away, they take a lot of effort to start seeing the rewards.”



Reflecting on her time here at Stamford, Danielle recalled how her school experiences help her to write today; “the sport tours, the world expeditions, DofE – all these other things that you have the opportunity to do, are experiences that you draw from when you write.” “One thing I find hilarious though”, she added, “is I hated English, it was my least favourite subject, and I gave it up as soon as I could. Yet here I am. The biggest thing I would say to students, is what you choose to do at school does not necessarily shape your whole life. I did veterinary medicine, and I now write fantasy books.”

*Danielle’s debut novel, Spiritchild, is an adult fantasy set in a natural world of lush forests populated by elves. It is available to purchase online, with stockists listed on [Danielle’s website](#).*

## FAREWELLS

### Joyce Fray (née Butt) (OS 45)

We have been informed by Joyce's daughter, Helen, of Joyce's sad passing on 20 September 2022. Our thoughts go out to Joyce's family and friends.

*Helen writes:*

During the Blitz in 1941, her family was forced to relocate from London to a farmhouse near Uffington. She attended Stamford School for Girls from that point on and made many lifelong friends. She also met her future husband and life partner, Gordon (OS 47), whom she married in 1953.

Joyce trained as a teacher at Clapham and Streatham Hill Training College, and on completing her training, taught primary pupils at St. Nicholas School, Fleet, and then at St. Helen and St. Catherine, Abingdon.

Later, she and Gordon moved to Sandhurst where their children were born, moving to Portishead in 1963.

Returning to teaching, she worked briefly at Gordano School, and High Down in Portishead and St. Mary’s Portbury, before joining the staff at the Downs Preparatory School, Wraxall. Here she specialized in helping children with their Maths and English on a small class basis, a job she loved.

Joyce was an enthusiastic gardener and took great pleasure working alongside her husband, Gordon, transforming their gardens into peaceful places to sit and enjoy nature. Together they made a wonderful team celebrating 69 years of marriage in August.

A funeral and celebration of her life was held on Tuesday 11 October at St. Peter's Church, Portishead.

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### Miss Tennison

We are extremely saddened to report the passing of Miss Tennison, a lady of great importance in the lives of so many of us. We sent out a mailing earlier this week, including a tribute by Miss Bland, which can be read [here](#) if you missed it.



We are sure you will join the committee in sending condolences and sympathy to Miss Tennison's friends and loved ones.

*Miss Bland finished her tribute to Miss Tennison with a sentiment which we are sure you will echo:*

"She was a person of faith - may Christ speed her to the place where there is neither weakness nor pain but only joy and light."

## UPDATES

### OGG Magazine 2023

We have reached that time of the year again when planning has begun on your annual OGG magazine and, as always, the team are looking for your input. If you have memories of your time at the School that you would like to share, and/or just like to share where you are now and what you are up to, and would like to share these with us to be used in future publications, [please email us](#), and feel free to include any photos as well.

Depending on responses, some material may need to be edited and we may not be able to use all submissions for this year's magazine, although we will try to publish as many as possible while any that may not fit may be used in the future.

To see memories shared in past magazines, [previous editions are available on our website](#).

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Old Stamfordian Reunion Weekend 2023

**Friday 9 June - Sunday 11 June 2023**

Further information in due course

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