



JANUARY 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Dear Old Stamfordian

2023 is upon us which means that our next Reunion will soon be here! The timetable of events for the day is currently being finalised and we will send out an update with the details in the coming weeks.

A very special event that we have coming up in April is a service in memory of Miss Tennison. When the news of her passing broke, we were inundated with such lovely stories and memories of her. [More information can be found here.](#)

The latest edition of the annual OGG Magazine is also in production, and if you have a story or memories that you wish to include, then please contact the [Development Office](#).

May Christ Us Spede

[The Old Girls' Guild Committee](#)

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NEWS

Old Stamfordian Talk To Sixth Form

On Thursday 5 January we had the pleasure of welcoming ten Old Stamfordians back to the Schools to talk to our current Sixth Form about life after Stamford.



With the OS being recent leavers between 2019 and 2022, the talk covered topics such as further education, a placement or gap year, finances, student accommodation and future opportunities. Our Old Stamfordians also shared their words of advice and things they wished they had known when they were at Stamford, which received with much interest from the Sixth Form, many of whom stayed behind to chat one-to-one.

Thanks to all those Old Stamfordians that kindly gave their time to speak.

FAREWELLS

Hazel Pollard (OS 66)

Hazel's brother John (OS 60) shared the sad news in late 2022 that Hazel passed away on 2 November 2022.

An extract from her obituary, written by John and his brother David (OS 73), about Hazel's time at SHS can be read below. [The full obituary can be found here.](#)

Hazel went to Welland House, probably in 1953. Progressing to SHS she attended no other school and left in 1966 to read English at the University of Bangor in Wales, a location quite inaccessible from the parental home and as such not chosen by accident! Her contemporaries and friends included Jeanne Swingler, Ruth Oakes, Dilys Gray and Julia Grundy, names familiar to her much younger brother David from tea-time table talk.

"Polly" (or, if in a hurry, "Pol") did English. She is remembered as strong-willed and a leader in various scholastic escapades, for example an analysis of the internal rhyming scheme of a long poem by Tennyson. She apparently never became a prefect. Obituarists frequently refer to their subject as "not suffering fools gladly" and the description certainly fitted Hazel.

Towards the end of her time at SHS the School made a block entry for a national poetry writing competition set up by the then very widely-read humorous magazine 'Punch'. The English mistress organised the pupils' efforts, and she made it quite clear that the poetaster was not wanted. Those who knew Hazel will remember the impish irascibility that was ever-ready to surface, and which she incidentally never lost until the final year or so. So it would have come as no surprise that her theme would pass ironic comment both on the idea of

“competitive poetry” and the idea that she of all people would be tempted by the “chocolate box school of precious verse”.

Her poem – 'Lyrics on Spring' - may be found in the 1965 edition of the SHS magazine. The punctuation and spelling are her own. It was obviously written to be read aloud in a strong Stamford accent.

No written records of the outcome of the competition seem to exist but the writer has always believed she won. I have a copy of the 'Punch' annual for the relevant year signed by the editor so she must have been picked out for something.

An image of the aforementioned poem, 'Lyrics on Spring' can be seen below. To read the poem in PDF format, [click here](#).

SPRING SONG

Lyrics on Spring are out (she said)
We don't want no lyrics on Spring.
Emotion is best expressed in verse
So take a pen and do your wors (she said)
I ain't a flipping Poet Laurel you know, I
mean from what I've done so far you
can tell that;
I haven't got what it takes to write a
Really good bit of expressive stuff like
some people
I know who'll get inspiration in the middle
Of the night and write all over the
bedroom Wallpaper about depths of
souls and suchlike.
Then there's your hopeful young moderns
Imitating their favourite bohemians
(Gawd help us)
And none of it any sort of sense which-
ever way you hold it,
Upside down or otherwise;
Would be Picasso's all about bombs and
atoms

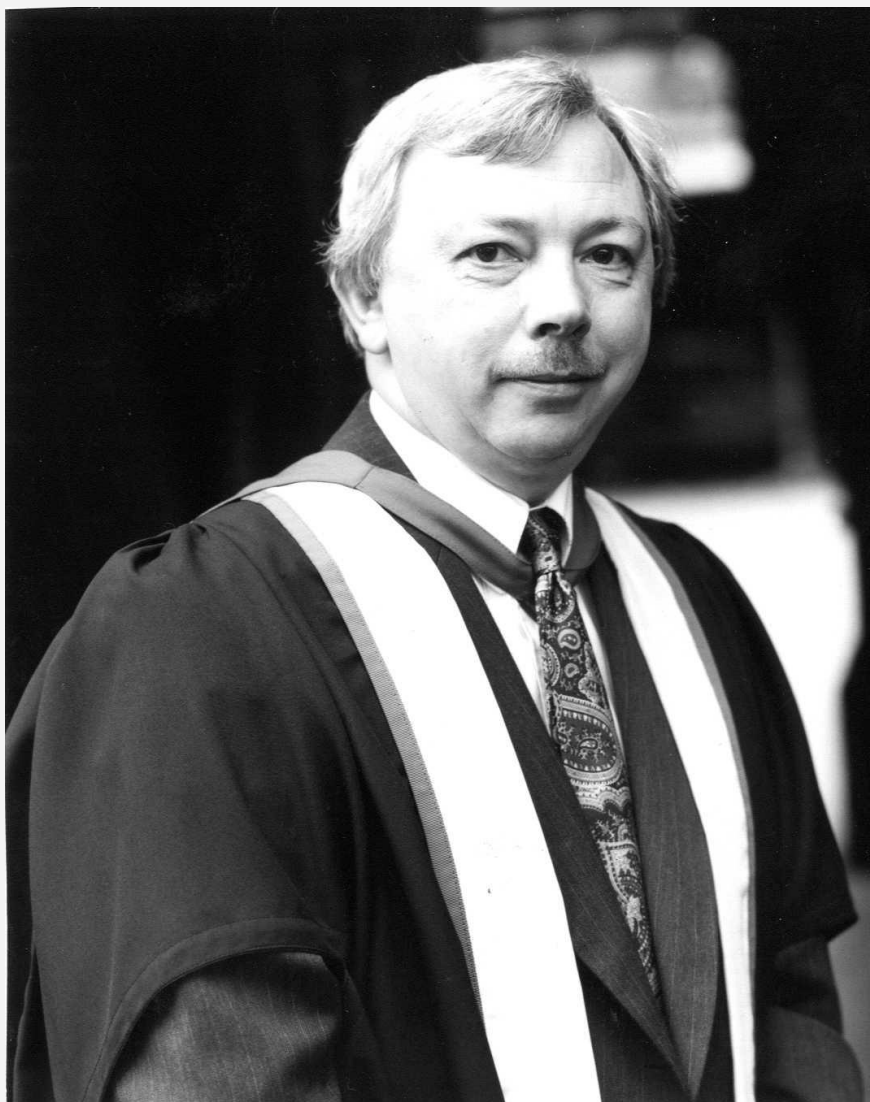
And sex and things no decent person
ought to read (I say).
We don't want no lyrics on Spring (she
says).
Then there's your spring lyricals, I mean
She don't give you a chance. I like a
nice little
Bit of something fancy, not too fancy
mind, plain,
But stylish.
About birds and that.
And spring.
Simple to understand like those Nature
poems in the paper,
Straight from the heart. (Wait till I get
my hands on that young Albert)
Something pretty, without any Death and
horror and war nonsense.
But stylish.
But she said lyrics on spring are out,
So I suppose I'll have to forget it.
She said Lyrics
Forget it.
We don't want no lyrics on spring.

H. POLLARD, L.VI.

Our condolences go out to John and David, the rest of the Pollard family and to Hazel's friends.

Dr Peter Mason

We are saddened to report the passing of Dr Peter Mason, Principal of the Schools from 1997 - 2008 on 16 December 2022.



Hailing from Rochdale, Peter Mason was Head of Chemistry and Senior Housemaster at Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, between 1983 and 1990, and then served as Headmaster of Reading School before coming to Stamford in 1997.

With the formation of the role of Principal in 1997, Dr Mason was the first person to assume this role at a time of several changes in the leadership; John Hale and Pat Clark were both promoted from Deputy Heads to become Headmaster of Stamford School and Headmistress of Stamford High School respectively.

On his appointment in 1997, Dr Mason promised 'to encourage greater co-operation and co-ordination between Stamford School and Stamford High School', especially at Sixth Form level. As the turn of the century approached, he introduced some changes for the Stamford Endowed Schools. Under this new plan, a Nursery section was established, Stamford Junior School became co-educational, and opportunities were open for joint Sixth Form teaching across Stamford School and Stamford High School. His plans also called for Saturday mornings to be used for 'a wide and attractive extra-curricular programme'.

The OGG Committee send their condolences to Dr Mason's family and friends. If you wish to send your own condolences, please [send them us](#), and we will share these with the family.

EVENTS

Miss Tennison Memorial Service

Saturday 15 April 2023



We are honoured to be hosting a memorial service to celebrate the life of Miss Tennison. The service will start at 10am in the main hall at Stamford High School and will be led by Reverend Phillips. We would like to extend an invitation to our Old Stamfordian community to join us for this service. Following this we will host refreshments in the Atrium where people are welcome to gather and share their memories. There will also be a book of condolence available for those who wish to share a message.

Booking is required, please [click here](#) to share your intention to attend.

Old Stamfordian Reunion Weekend 2023
Saturday 10 June 2023

Further information in due course



**Independent School of the Year for
Community Outreach**



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