



Old Stamfordian Club

OS Updates, November 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

While activity is of necessity limited at present, some good work is going on.

The Membership Survey project is in full swing. It is one of the most important initiatives undertaken by the committees in recent years. Finding out what you think of being an Old Stamfordian and the opportunities available to you will give us a good platform from which to drive activities in the future. Thanks to all involved.

John Smith is hard at work on the Reunion Weekend 2021. Please see John's article below. We are hopeful that we will be in a position to go ahead with this event on a near normal basis and welcome a really good contingent of Old Stamfordians. We will keep you in touch with developments. Please be assured that we will not be taking any risks whether measured against common sense or the regulations as in force at the time. Thanks to John.

It has been a real joy putting this Update together such, is the number and quality of contributions. Thank you all. Hopefully you will enjoy reading the Update as much.

Finally, best wishes to all. If any of you require any help and support from the Old Stamfordian Community as we enter another lockdown, please do lift the phone.

Phillip

07889980058

EVENTS

OS QUIZ – round two! Following the success of the last quiz held in August, our next quiz will be held on Friday 27 November at 7pm. If you would like to join us then [click here](#) to sign up. We look forward to seeing you there!

SECTOR GROUPS - PROPERTY

The Old Stamfordian Property Group met on a Teams Call recently to introduce new members to each other, discuss the overall goals for the Group and share “market chat.” Whilst it is felt within the Group that face-to-face catch ups are preferable, having regular discussions even via Zoom or Teams has merit and we plan to continue these until we are allowed to meet up once more...probably in a hostelry in the West End.

As a Sector Group we are keen to engage with Stamfordians at all levels including those still at School who are considering a career in our field and would like some guidance, those at any stage of an active career or our more experienced members who have finished or retired and have wisdom to bestow. Anyone with links to property is welcome, so please reach out if you would like to be included on the invite list for the next event or to join the WhatsApp Group.

Thank you in advance.

Cameron Park (OS 07)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Our Remembrance Day service this year was held in the Oswald Elliot Hall with the Year 13s in attendance and was streamed live to classrooms around the Schools. Wreaths were laid by Dale Harrison (OS 03) on behalf of the OSC and Holly Naismith, staff at SHS, on behalf of the OGG.



THE OS AND THE ARTS

We are delighted to announce the formation of another Sector Group under the leadership of Oliver Thorley (OS 01).

[Click here](#) to find out more.

Sincere thanks to Oliver for taking this initiative.

ONLY CONNECT

Richard Ivett (OS 68) is keen to put an Old Stamfordian Team together for the [BBC 2 Quiz Show Only Connect](#). This is an excellent idea. If you are interested please [let us know](#).

Sincere thanks to Richard for the vision. All ideas are always welcome!

OLD STAMFORDIAN REUNION WEEKEND (11 - 13 JUNE 2021)

Despite the disappointment of Reunion 2020 being cancelled and the continuing Covid-19 Restrictions, the Old Stamfordian plans for Reunion 2021 are well advanced. Plans are being made on the basis that Covid restrictions will have been lifted to allow the weekend to take place. Government guidelines are continually monitored and plans will be kept under review with you being kept advised throughout and everyone's safety being of paramount importance.

Reunion 2021 will see the introduction of an all day cricket match on Friday 11 June 2021 with the Old Stamfordians playing the Old Oakhamians in Stamford. Max Sawyer (OS 70) has agreed to manage the OS team and our thanks go to him. This match will be completed in time to enable players (if selected!!) to participate in an evening 8 a-side cricket tournament on Mainfield being organised by Dean Headley (staff). Participation will be open to teams from the Old Stamfordian Club and the Old Girls' Guild.

For the OSC, on Saturday 12 June 2021 registration will commence at 9.30am in the Atrium. A chapel service will commence at 10.00am followed by the AGM at 11.00am.

A buffet lunch will commence at 12.30pm in the Oswald Elliot Hall. There will be speeches by the Headmaster and a Guest Speaker. School tours will also be available throughout the afternoon. Afternoon tea will be available in the marquee on Mainfield.



Touch Rugby, organised by Cam Park and Tom Gulland, will take place late on the Saturday afternoon. Thanks to Cam and Tom for that. The day will be completed with a hog roast on Mainfield held jointly with the Old Girls Guild.

On Sunday 13 June 2021 there will be the Rev. Wright Memorial cricket match between the Old Stamfordians and Tolethorpe. This will be played at Tolethorpe and everyone is welcome to join.

Full details and a booking form will be published in due course and you will be advised of where to find these.

Finally, the Old Stamfordian Club have been made aware that specific year group reunions are being planned by some years. Ted Stevenson is organising a “50 plus one” reunion for 1970 leavers and Julian Stedman is organising a “50” reunion for 1971 leavers. If you wish to make contact with either Ted or Julian, please [contact us](#). Furthermore if you wish to hold a Year Group Reunion as part of the Reunion Weekend, please contact Committee Member [Simon Richardson](#) (OS 84) who will be only too willing to help.

If you require any further details at this stage, please contact SES Community Engagement Manager [Natalie Pretsell](#). Otherwise, please note your diaries and we look forward all being well to welcoming you to Stamford in June 2021

John Smith

OS Reunion 2021 Chairman

OS Reunion Cricket 2021

The response so far has been excellent.

Current state of play:

OO match

Dean Cornish, Harry Carter, Jon Tizzard, Hamish Bell, George Harper, So only 6 more needed.

8 a-side - Dean Cornish, Jon Tizzard, Hamish Bell and Sam Edwards have very kindly offered to produce teams. In addition, Matt Murphy, George Hooper, Sam Wakerely and Ben Willbond are keen to play, so we could be looking at 5 OS teams in the competition.

Once the teams are full, I will be happy to have additional players as reserves - it is early days, so I appreciate that work/family commitments may well result in changes closer to 11 June.

Max Sawyer

CLASS OF '72-EARLY WARNING

In 2022, it will be fifty years since we left School and it would be good for us to meet up with partners and celebrate the milestone. Back in 1977 some of us spent the Saturday of the Reunion Weekend at the School and then met up with partners at the George for dinner in the evening in the London Room.

Martin Vink and I are happy to organise something for the Class of '72 at the Reunion Weekend in 2022. The purpose of this note is to give early warning and to ask those interested to give ideas as to what you and your partners would like to do to mark the occasion.

Martin Vink (OS 72) and Phillip Hoskins (OS 72)

Contact: philliphoskins@btinternet.com / 07889980058

OS GOLF

Autumn Meet - Saturday 17 October 2020

With due regard to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the 52nd Championship Meeting was held at Luffenham Heath Golf Club (LHGC) after the May and August meetings had had to be cancelled.

David Reading, although the third “left-handed” OS to be Captain of the LHGC, (Peter Medwell and Robin Riddington being the others) became the first LHGC Captain to win the “OS Major” Whitby Cup over 36 holes with 70 stable ford points-on count back from Geoff Holyoake.

The morning and afternoon rounds were also decided on count back with Robin Woodall winning the McKenzie Cup with 36 points from Geoff Holyoake and Ian Delaine-Smith. James Cowell won the Ferrier Cup with 35 points from Martin Jaffrey.

The end of a fine autumnal day was celebrated with a “socially distanced” outdoor beer on the veranda with hopeful talk of a return to a “normal fixture” in 2021

Geoff Holyoake

Old Pupils Salver - Thursday 22 October 2020

The Old Pupil's Salver was instigated by Luffenham Heath Golf Club to mark its centenary in 2011 and this year involved teams from Oakham, Uppingham, Ratcliffe, Loughborough and Stamford. The day started with a cold breeze and very wet underfoot conditions after solid rain the previous day. Each school had a team of three pairs playing better ball stable ford with the best two pairs' scores to count for each school. The scoring was tricky for all with the course playing long and the greens very slowly.

Richard James and Neil Nottingham got the Stamford team off on the right foot and posted a very good 39 points, which would have been a couple better but for bogey finishes on 17 and 18. Martin Jaffrey and Mark Walmsley came into the Clubhouse with a matching 39 points, but excellent pars on the final two holes to boost their score. Dylan Dronfield and Paul Ramm's 35 points were not enough to aid the team score, but Paul was keen to praise Dylan for a very solid round of golf and “carrying him” in points scoring terms!

All the teams then enjoyed a very well-deserved lunch under strict social distancing protocols. The Covid restrictions meant that there was no prize giving, but the next morning the full results were published by the club with the Old Stamfordians winning with a total of 78 points, beating the Old Ratcliffians into second place on 76 points.

Neil Nottingham

Editor's Note: Thanks to Geoff and Neil Nottingham for their enthusiasm and hard work. It is very worthwhile and greatly appreciated. Two unsung heroes-greatly appreciated!

REMINISCENCES

David Bowler (OS 69) writes:

Just a comment to John Hatton's remarks about Mr Tomlin, who also tried to teach me Latin. AH (Tony) Tomlin was definitely a pilot and not a mid-upper gunner, joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve and rising to the rank of Squadron Leader. He held the DFC and Bar and had flown with 619 Squadron which operated Avro Lancasters out of various Lincolnshire airfields during its lifetime. I recall that he bravely did over two tours of duty and that it is possible that he was also attached to the Pathfinders at some stage in his RAF career.

He was most certainly a nervous man displaying, not surprisingly, what today is known as PTSD; any pupil who banged his cutlery on the table at lunch in the Hall or at 30 St Paul's Street when Mr Tomlin was on lunch duty would be in for a pretty hefty number of "dates." It was explained to me once by my Housemaster that it reminded Mr Tomlin of anti-aircraft fire.

He was, of course, a "leading light" in the Stamford RAFA just a little way down St. Paul's Street.

Graham Briggs (OS 58) writes:

Is Jon Hodgson related to Brian Hodgson (OS 57 and former member of Staff?)

I remember riding in Brian's brother Lou's Armstrong Siddeley Sapphire. A very dignified vehicle with an early Rolls Royce automatic transmission. The transmission would somehow store a considerable amount of energy. At a red traffic light he would place both feet firmly on the accelerator and brake pedals as engine revs mounted. When the light turned green he lifted his brake foot and the car would rocket forward with squealing and smoking tyres.

Mark Allenby reminds me of a similar experience to his with a Whiskey Wainwright scout camp. He must have somehow attracted torrential rain. The camp was in Devon and this was in 1952, the year of the Great Lynmouth Flood. As in Mark's experience, we ended up with a stream flowing through the middle of the tent. But instead of going home early he found a local farmer with a large barn on whose wooden floor we spent the last couple of nights of camp. Alone among the campers, my parents had provided me with an inflatable mattress. It did me little

good-someone would always stay awake until I fell asleep, at which point they would pull the plug and I would be back on hard boards like everyone else.

Harvey Clegg reminds me of Bartle Frere's 1929 Rolls Royce. He actually let me drive it once. There was no synchromesh on the gearbox so changing gear without loud grinding noises was a challenge. Bartle and I became friends and one year he and his brother (an archaeologist) took me touring in Northern Europe looking at archaeological sites in his brother's 1932 Rolls. At one rather seedy hostelry the family dog started to urinate on the Rolls' front wheel. I expected him to explode in anger, but he laughed and said "aha, a Rolls to pee against!"

Bartle's whole family owned Rolls Royces and he had a picture of seven of them in the family driveway. The patriarchal Silver Ghost was parked at the end and six more antique Rollses were parked in the echelon, three on each side of the drive. On one occasion Bartle attended a garden party with an associated parade of antique cars, one of which was a non-running Rolls on a trailer towed by a Land Rover. Knowing Bartle's affinity with cars, the organiser asked him if he would like to drive the Land Rover in the parade. He reportedly responded that he had never driven anything except a Rolls Royce and he did not think now was the time to start. He kept his Rolls until well into retirement, but eventually the maintenance costs became unaffordable and he had to lower himself to bring a Volvo.

At that time the Art Master, whose name I forget, also owned an antique car. I am not sure what make, but it might have been a Crossley. Perhaps someone else remembers?

I wonder if I was the only boarder to have a car while at school. I was able to do so because I was learning to play the church organ and then as now sadly there was not one in the chapel. I had special permission to go into town after school to practice on one of the organs in town. Well sometimes I did and sometimes I went for a drive. The car was a 1929 Austin Seven that I bought in Peterborough for twenty-five quid. I parked it down at Stamford Meadows where at that time there was unlimited parking. Luckily it never broke down so I was always able to get back to school in time for dinner!

Editor's Note: I suspect that the Art Master was the legendary W.F.E. Douglas

Michael Savage (OS 52) writes:

Fascinating how old memories surface and events long forgotten come back into focus, given the right nudge. Mark Allenby's contribution re Whiskey Wainwright's Scout Camps brought back to mind my first trip to Yorkshire and to that saturated Scout Camp at Ingleton (circa 1950.) It was to me then virtually a foreign country having been brought up in the Peterborough/Stamford area, only moving north to Yorkshire in 1966. I still recall the train

stopping in Keighley then totally unknown to me, but now the town where I have lived for over 20 years in retirement (and I still have to correct the frequent mispronunciations I hear and inform people that it should be pronounced Keithley!) I pass Ingleborough quite frequently when travelling on the Settle-Carlise Railway, driving north on the A65 in the Yorkshire Dales or heading for the Lake District-it is one of Yorkshire's Three Peaks, a popular climbing challenge, which I must admit I have never conquered and now in my late 80s probably never will! But I did manage Hellvellyn in 2009, with family alongside-and coming down was a lot harder than going up!

Happy memories indeed!

Bill Turnill (OS 53) writes:

I am grateful to John Hatton for his hilarious memories of his time at the School. I left in 1953 but familiar masters of his time were there. In particular Major Algy Lamb with his magnificent green Rover. We also incurred his wrath by pouring remnants of diazo amino benzine down his beloved lead sink which stained it a remarkable shade of brown. A delightful man to whom I owe much in that as careers master, he steered me towards the RAF, where I continued my love of flying for free, nay paid to do it! The Jowett Javelin belonged to the Reverend Bang Wright of which we were very envious, since it was a huge improvement on all the old bangers that were still around. His ability to teach French enabled me with my O level pass to use it in all sorts of situations, and I reckon I could still have a garbled conversation with an understanding French person. The marble run in desks was great fun and I bored a hole in the bottom to receive the marble which would then be returned for a rerun. The Slingsby Glider was introduced in my time, and I did manage to get in airborne, much to the concern for his beloved cricket square by Bill Packer. As for the swimming pool, if we are talking about the school pool, Squibs Bowman rigged up a solar heating system consisting of a war surplus pump dribbling water over a blackened corrugated iron sheet. Remarkably effective I am told like all Squibb's "inventions." Geoff Aughton taught woodwork, I believe, but after I left. Woodwork was never my favourite class, and I spent two terms trying to turn a square piece of wood into a round one for a stool. Not sure what became of it, rather like my artistic efforts under Nungy Hoffnung and Walter Douglas, whose art room had long and smooth wooden floors which accommodated our dinky racing cars to perfection.

As for the Music Competition, since Cecil boys had to catch buses at the end of the day while Town House had to stay after School to practice, and usually did as well as the School Houses who had even more practice.

This is more than enough for now.

John Hartley (ex staff) writes:

Some may remember me as the last appointment of Basil Deed (I believe, someone will correct me if I am wrong, I'm sure, but tactfully!)-others more probably as I filled a gap with a Local Studies course in the LIV year-or perhaps other activities during my time as the (last) Housemaster of that long gone junior boarding house St Peter's House. Though I am now living just a generous stone's throw or so from the English Channel I still find myself "doing" a considerable amount of research about Stamford's past.

Recently-along with Professor Alan Rogers (still going strong in his late 80s)-William Cecil's quincentenary has led us to look at his relationship with the town of Stamford-surprisingly little work has been published about his relationships with the town grandees. What has emerged is a surprising picture of a town torn by political intrigue at the highest levels and lots of appeals to the Privy Council. All this deserves to be better known and more fully researched. Read more about this in *William Cecil's Survey of Stamford, 1595: A Town in Turmoil*

Very best wishes to all at SES-stay healthy as we grow older together!

FAREWELLS

Anne Timm, Widow of Former Headmaster Geoffrey Timm



Julian Timm (OS 86) writes:

"I thought some of the Old Boys would want to know that my Mother Anne Timm died in mid October 2020 very peacefully and calmly at her Care Home in Northampton. She had been living there for almost two years having been dealing with Parkinson's Disease-ironically the same illness with which Dad had suffered for many years. Until then she had been living in

Easton in the house that my parents had built for their retirement from School. Those who knew Mother at all will know that she was a massive and integral part of what kept Dad going through his time as Head, and she was directly involved in many aspects of the School."

Our deepest sympathy goes to the Timm family.

(Photograph above kindly donated to the SES archives by Matthew Shum (OS 97))

OSC Newsletter / OGG Magazine 2019-20

As mentioned in the previous Update, the two committees have this year decided to publish the OSC Newsletter and OGG Magazine as one publication in print.

Please click the relevant links below:

[OSC Newsletter 2019-20](#)

[OGG Magazine 2019-20](#)

A note from Natalie Pretsell, SES Community Engagement Manager



Hello everyone,

I hope you are all safe and well.

A short update from me this time. We have launched our improved website so do [click here to see your OS pages](#) including 'find a friend' and an improved publications section.

I have been contacting many of our OS by phone, postcard and email to 'check-in' and see how you are. If you haven't received a call but would like one, please do [let me know](#).

As always, we are keen to hear from you about anything you would like to see more of or any suggestions you have for things we could be doing so please feel free to contact me on oldstamfordians@ses.lincs.sch.uk.