



Old Stamfordian Club

OS Update, January 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Old Stamfordian

At the time of writing this we are moving into yet another pandemic lockdown but this time there does appear to be some 'light' and the end of the proverbial 'tunnel' in the form of vaccinations. I am working as a volunteer at the Vaccination Hub at the Lincolnshire Showground. From first hand experience so far the operation is both impressive and effective. Long may that state of affairs continue! I sincerely hope that by the time you are reading this, the inoculation programme is in full swing in your area of the country. In the meantime, as we have said before, if you need the help of the OS Club in these challenging times please get in contact and we will do whatever we can.

Many Old Stamfordians have run the extra mile during the pandemic and continue to do so, including those involved in agriculture and food industries, the care sector, distribution and logistics, manufacturing, the NHS front line, the pharmaceutical industries, supply chains, refuse, scientific research and development to name but a few. We pay tribute to you all.

I hope that all recipients of this Update know that if any help and support is required from the Old Stamfordian Club in these strange times, then please lift the 'phone or send an e mail and we will do whatever we are able.

My very best wishes to you and yours for 2021.

Take care.

[Phillip Hoskins](#)

Chairman

07889980058

www.stamfordschools.org.uk/stamford-community

Please do take a few minutes to look at this site.

Thanks to Natalie, Dale and all other SES staff involved in producing the alumni section of the website - a positive step forward.

EVENTS

OS Reunion Weekend

Provisional plans for the Reunion Weekend on 11-13 June are rapidly taking shape and we will be sending out an update in the near future.

Stamford Lecture – Kevin Fong (29 January 2021)

The Stamford Endowed Schools first 2021 Stamford Lecture goes digital with Dr Kevin Fong!



Kevin Fong is a consultant anaesthetist at University College London. He holds degrees in astrophysics, medicine and aerospace engineering, has worked and trained with NASA, and is an award-winning BBC presenter and author.

Over 50 years ago, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin successfully landed on the moon for the first time in the history of our species. The final 13 minutes of their descent were riddled with hazards, as the astronauts wrestled with communication problems, navigation errors, computer failures, the limits of fragile technology and dwindling fuel reserves. Although those watching around the world might not have realised it, the mission teetered on the

brink of failure.

In his lecture, Professor Fong will unpick that 13 minute descent, and examine how the processes for making decisions in that extreme, time-pressured environment averted disaster and made that historic mission a success.

Join us on Friday 29 January live online at 7pm. [You can register for the Lecture here.](#)

BURSARY SCHEME

The Bursary Scheme is now open for applications.

Details of the Scheme and the Application Form can be found by [clicking here](#).

The Old Stamfordian Club sees its support of OS Club Members and students currently in Year 13 through the Bursary Scheme as an important part of its activities and encourages applications from as wide a constituency as possible.

When you have completed your application, please send or e mail to be received by 5.00pm on 26 February 2021

Editors Note: This scheme is also available to Stamford High School leavers, contact to be made with the [Old Girls' Guild committee](#) for further information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We have been contacted by Theresa Bradshaw on behalf of the Mailley family, as John Mailley, who taught at Stamford School, is cycling for charity on behalf of his late wife Sue Mailley, who taught at SJS:



“My wonderful dad is cycling next year from Land's End to John O'Groats. All at the age of 74! Not surprisingly, he's raising money for Cancer Research in loving memory of Mum. Any donations would be massively welcome, you lovely people. Much love and thanks”.

[Click here for more information and the justgiving page.](#)

REMINISCENCES

James Stephen Mettam (OS 59) writes:

Graham Briggs' Article in OS Update November 2020

The Art master whom Graham could not remember was Walter Douglas and his car was a Singer dating from a year or two before or after 1930. I think it was a Singer 8 but there was also a 7 and a 9 and a Junior at about that time. He kept the bodywork in super condition but seldom used it; he did have a rather large family for such a small car.

Graham also mentions Bartle Frere's Rolls Royce. There was reference made to it in an earlier newsletter and that it had recently sold for about £28,000. I remember him purchasing this one. He paid £700 and needed to stay with the owner for two weeks in order to be judged worthy of owning his (the vendor's) beloved Rolls. I expressed surprise at the time and remarked that Bartle could have purchased a new car, perhaps a small family saloon - "Oh no, I have only ever driven a Rolls!" Up to that time, and I remembering him purchasing several Rolls in the time that I knew him, dating from Remove B as my form master to the end of my five years in Byard as my housemaster.

Before his £700 purchase he bought a Rolls about one per year and usually paid between £25 and £50. One of these often flattened its battery at attempts to start it. At that time the CCF used several Model 18 and 38 radio transceivers, ex WW2. Each used two batteries, one low voltage and one high. The HV one expired before the LV so that there was a surplus of LVs. I acquired these on their way to the refuse bin and re-soldered the many big cells to make batteries for my electric model boat and also to power the detonators for my 'bombs'. It is remarkable that we had easy access to so many chemicals in the labs but this was before the phrase "Health and Safety" had been invented. These cells I also soldered up into 12V packs to start the Rolls which often flattened these too.

Graham also mentions Bartle's brother. I met him on one occasion and before this I knew of him from one of his pupils of my age who I had met in Libya where I lived during vacations in my last three years at school. This younger brother was then a teacher at Lancing, a school that both he and Bartle had attended.

Living abroad had the big disadvantage that parents could not take one out at weekends (at that time three 'day-out' weekends were permitted per term). Bartle was very kind to those of us whose parents were too far away to visit. He sometimes would take four of us at a time for rides in his Rolls and buy us 'tea and buns' in some very respectable café.

Graham wonders if he was the only boarder to possess a car whilst at school. No, but Graham was a year ahead of myself so this info may post-date himself. I knew of two boarders who kept cars at friend's homes in or near Stamford and any passengers like myself always kept our heads well down when in or near Stamford!

Wishing a Happy New Year to all of you!

Ed Dolby (OS 64) writes:

I recently came across a list of members of the London OS that was distributed by Arthur Henderson, then Chairman of the London Old Stamfordians with an invitation to a dinner at the Honourable Artillery Company to be held on 7 June 1973. The cost of the dinner with sherry before hand was £3.50 per head. The list begins with those who left School before 1914 and ends with my generation. It shows addresses where known-long before GDPR!

James Thomson (OS 66) writes:

Reading the contributions by Harvey Clegg and John Hatton brought back so many memories for me. I think Harvey must have started in Miss Ennals class at the same time as

me and John was in the year below. The old changing room, to which John refers, was pretty spartan. I remember the two flights of concrete stairs, which took you down to the changing area. There was a strict rule that boots must be removed before going down. In my haste to catch the bus home, I decided to ignore the rule one day and slid from top to bottom on my backside/elbows, which resulted in my finding out what 'water on the elbow' was. I got into a few scrapes like this.

Another, concerned a game which we used to play, which involved throwing stones in the puddles in the car park behind St Peters. The trick was to run away quickly before your opponent could unleash his missile. On one such occasion, Andy Kluz proved that his aim wasn't so good, totally missed the large puddle and hit me just above my right eye... stitches in the hospital. Another 'health and safety' nightmare, which wouldn't ever see the light of day nowadays, was a game called splits, which we played with knives. The object was to throw the knife so that it stuck in the ground within one foot of your opponent's foot, who then had to move his foot out to that position, repeated until someone fell over. This once resulted in a knife through Tim Hailstone's foot. I don't know if Matron ever believed that he cut it on a milk bottle.

Living in a tiny remote village, I grasped every opportunity to partake in school trips. With various teams, (Rugger, Hockey, Tennis, Chess) I went to Uppingham, Kimbolton, Ely, Radcliffe, Nottingham G.S. (they slaughtered us at Rugger), The Perse Cambridge, Oakham etc. All great fun.

CCF camp was just as good. I was in the army section, pictured below at Thetford camp, I think.



Many guys I remember here and Messrs Chapman, Wolfenden and Riley from the staff.

Although I was in the army section, I also managed to sneak on to the RAF camp at Little Rissington, probably in the same year as John Hatton. We played the, just released, ' Can't buy me love' non stop on the NAAFI jukebox so it must have been 1964.



In the Upper 5th and 6th forms, I began to specialize in languages. Four exchange students lodged with us during these years. As well as two weeks spent at the Ernst Kalkuhl Gymnasium and various other trips to Bonn, I loved the school trips to Heidelberg and Paris.

I was so fond of Heidelberg that I spent a year there as part of my German degree course at UCL.

For me, there were some outstanding teachers, Mike Chew being the star. He really set me on my way in life. I wasn't really very interested or very good at any particular subject until he inspired the keen interest in German, which led me to a degree from UCL. I couldn't relate at all to teachers like Squibbs Bowman, whom seem to adore. In fact, I played chess with Pete Speller in his class that is, until he noticed and confiscated my pocket chess set.

The musical competition...don't think I particularly enjoyed it at the time but still know most of the words of The Vicar of Bray, In the Bay of Biscay, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Do you ken John Peel and a few other choice English Folk songs.

The Fact and Rep exam was another highlight for me. It involved learning by heart, a French poem, an English poem, all the Kings and Queens of England with their dates and quite a lot of other very dry information. There was a prize too and having achieved 98%, I thought it was mine. Unfortunately someone in Remove C got 99%. I wonder when the Fact and Rep was phased out?

Editor's Note: Fact and Rep was still going strong in Remove Year 1966 to 1967

Ben Locker (OS 90) writes:

I was glad to note that John Balaam (OS 61) and Peter Fawcett (OS 60) both have fond memories of Walter Douglas's car.

The car was indeed called Albert. It was a 1930 Singer Junior 'Eight'. Walter was my grandfather and he owned the car between 1947 and 1966.

I have attached a number of photographs of Walter and Albert, plus one of the car taken on the school playing fields. There is also a drawing Walter did of Albert. I have also attached wonderful story that Walter wrote about Albert, which may also be of interest to his former pupils. I believe it is going to be featured in an upcoming edition of the Singer Car Owners' Club magazine.

Albert was the first car that Walter owned. He subsequently bought a 1947 Rover called 'Jocky' with the registration JGX 895. This car previously belonged to Major Lamb, chemistry master at the school. I remember from my childhood the beautiful smell of Jocky's pristine leather interior. I've also attached a picture of Walter with this car as I'm sure many OS will remember it. Finally, in the 1980s, Walter bought a Citroen 2CV6, 'Héloïse' which his elder son (my uncle) Francis (OS 62) now has.

Some of Walter's enthusiasm for old cars rubbed off on me. When I was 17, we restored an old bicycle together, following the instructions in the back pages of Ronald English's 'Cycling for You'. Every step was done perfectly, methodically and the finished machine was better than new. He also taught me how to coach paint the bicycle and achieve a mirror finish without so much of a trace of a brush mark. I've recently been relearning those techniques as I've been painting my 1970 Triumph Herald Estate with Tekaloid coach enamel. Like Walter, I've been restoring the car as methodically as possible, using the original Triumph workshop manuals as my guide.

Mark Dexter (OS 74) writes:

Pont's car was a Rover, either a 12 or 16. He once tried selling it to my stepfather. It was in immaculate condition. Pont was a very eccentric but very wise old owl who was very good to me.

Pont used to smoke Senior Service, in front of the class, (what a different world) and if you asked him a question he would take a long inhale drag on his cigarette and say 'My dear boy!' He was related to scottish 'royalty' that had fallen on hard times apparently.

Jonathan Sharp (OS 64) writes:

Jonathan Sharp (OS 1954 - 1964, variously Jon, Jonnie or Seamus)

I have been following the recollections of Walter Douglas with interest, and can claim to have some 'insider knowledge' as my father, H. B. (Nobby) Sharp, English master, and he were friends and our families used to spend time together.

I remember his wife, Eugenie I think, as a lovely, smiling, no-nonsense lady and there was always a welcome in their St. Leonard's Street house. Albert the Singer car did indeed live in a garage at the back of the house, and as this gave on to a very narrow lane, it was always a challenge to get the car in and out, especially without power steering! I remember some excursions in Albert and I think we even went to Norfolk in it once. My grandfather lived in Hunstanton and we went there on holiday while the Douglases went on to stay in Wells.



The photo shows HBS in true style standing by my grandfather's houseboat The Pilot at Heacham, Norfolk. I guess this must have been taken in 1951 or 2, as the houseboat was washed away in the Great Flood of 1953.

My brother Tim went to Stamford before me (1948? - 1958?). His claim to fame was as hooker in the Rugby 1st XV and as a trombonist. He was in the 'orchestra' for a school play production, and I remember the musicians breaking into a trad jazz number after a performance, swiftly silenced by the director, Richard Chapman I think! Tim spent most of his life in Thailand and sadly died there suddenly when he was only 64.

My sister Bridget still has two original Walter Douglas artworks, one of the aforementioned houseboat in grey and blue chalk, and the other a precisely executed watercolour of a church pulpit and steps, in Norfolk I think.

I have been living in south-west France for 31 years and have recently set up the Sombrun Forest Garden Project. [Further details if you are interested here.](#)

I can still claim to be the record-holder for the Mile in Athletics (Sports Day, 1964), as the following year the event was changed to the 1500m!

Roger Gooch (OS 57) writes:

I also was reminded of my time at the Ingleborough scout camp, but my only reminiscence is of struggling up Ingleborough! Climb, reach a flat ledge, climb again, repeat several times. I recently climbed it again with my 70+ year old friends. In the meantime, however, I have lived in Scotland for over 50 years and have climbed all the Munros, some more than once.

Cliff Dix reminds me of an 'incident' involving myself and two other pupils at the school. Strange as it may seem in this time of overdependence on health and safety, we three six-formers were given responsibility for running the pool. This involved stopping and starting pumps, changing chlorine cylinders, operating the 'break-point chlorination' system for pool water sanitation, back-flushing the large sand filter tanks, etc.

Now comes the 'incident'. Come end of swimming for the year, we decided to check that the water supply to the pool was shut off. This involved getting out the pool plans and finding that the water valve was buried in a flower border. We dug in, found the valve and proceeded to turn it until it stopped turning. Next morning, before we went into lessons we were summoned to the Headmaster's office. There we learned he had been woken up by a call at three in the morning from the police (or it might have been just the water board) to say that people in the street nearby had reported that their gardens were flooded and cabbages were floating down the road! It seemed that the water board used underground valves which closed by turning opposite to normal taps. Naturally the the pool overflowed and flooded The Dell and drained through the gardens to the road. After this embarrassing interview no further action was taken and we slunk off late to our classes. Of course, by this time, the story had leaked around the school. My lesson was maths and the joker (sorry, Bruno Brown) was taking it. His opening remark was "Ah, Gooch, turned any good screws lately?" As I hid behind my desktop lid, my face must have been redder than it was in the Headmaster's office.

FAREWELLS

John Hale - Headmaster, 1997-2000



As we were compiling this newsletter we were sadly informed that John Hale, former Stamford School Headmaster and OS VP, passed away on Monday 18 January. A funeral will be held on Thursday 4 February.

Our Archivist, James Buckman, has written an article to be published on the Stamford Schools website and [you can read it here](#).

Before his passing, we were contacted by John's son, Edward Hale:

"John has suffered with dementia for many years and is currently very poorly in palliative care. He will be 80 on 05 January 2021 and, for his birthday, we are fund raising for Dementia UK charity in view of the fantastic support carers have given Dad over many years."

Our family wanted to enquire if Old Stamfordian members who knew John might be able to help achieve our £500 target by 28 February (we are currently at £400). [Click here for more information and the justgiving page](#).

Adam Jones (OS 07)

From the Parents of Adam Jones, Phil & Deb, and his brother Matthew:

We would like to let you know that our son Adam passed away on 7 November 2020. Adam

attended Stamford School from 2000-2007 having completed A levels in History, English and German alongside being the Captain of the Rugby 1st XV.

Adam then went on to Warwick University where he graduated with a BA Hons degree in History. At University, he became a black belt first dan in Judo at just 19, and in 2009 won the "Warwick Sport Most Improved Sportsman" award awarded across all sports. He won national medals in university judo competitions.

Adam's career took him down a path of data analytics which he very much enjoyed, and in the September OSC Update [he wrote this piece about his experiences as a Web Analytics expert for people looking to explore a career in data and digital analytics.](#)

He was loved by his friends and work colleagues and was known as entertaining, well-read and good fun.

We would like to share that Adam died of acute liver failure brought on by acute alcoholic toxicity and alcoholic liver disease. He was only 31. We had a choice: do we hide this, or do we tell people what happened to him and perhaps help others. In the end the decision was simple. We had to talk about this. Not simply for us, but for others and perhaps some good could come out of this.

The charity 'Alcohol Change' conducts research; they provide advice, they look at the whole person: alcohol use, mental health, and a person's complex needs. They run alcohol awareness weeks and campaigns such as Dry January. They believe serious alcohol harm, as happened to Adam, can be prevented. [You can read more about what they do on their website.](#)

For us, his parents and his younger brother Matthew, this is a great and tragic loss. We have been touched by the messages and conversations we have had with his close friends since his death. Adam was clearly loved and [a justgiving page has been set up in his memory.](#)

Anthony Parker (OS 43)

His son Andrew writes:

ANTHONY KEY PARKER 1925 – 2021

After leaving school, Anthony was sent to Trinity College, Cambridge, before being drafted into the Royal Navy, where he served as a Radar Officer in Home Fleet Destroyers. After two more years at Cambridge, Anthony took posts with the Zinc Development Association, Mond Nickel Company and Butterworths Scientific Publications, finally joining the Cambridge University Press, where he worked from 1957 to 1985. Initially, he was the editor for scientific publications but later moved to a research and development role which included involvement in the planning and construction of the Edinburgh Building to house the entire UK Publishing Division operations. It was opened by HM The Queen in 1981. He lived in South West Scotland from 1985 to 2015.

During his lifetime, Anthony became a firm believer in the truth of the Christian Gospel and of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

His interests included sailing, country walking, architectural history, railways and woodworking. He co-authored a book on the Fenland.

Anthony was married and widowed twice: first to Joanna Lloyd, who bore him two sons and a daughter and, secondly, to Alison Bagnall, through whom he acquired a large stepfamily.

Station Officer Binks

From Heather Mears:

Following the reminiscences of John Hatton I am writing to say it is lovely to read the happy memories of time spent on the Duke of Edinburgh's award with my father Station Officer Binks. I would like to inform all those who did their Duke of Edinburgh Award with my father, Station Officer Binks, that it is with great sadness I am writing to say he slipped away quietly and peacefully on January 5th 2021.

Philip Ennis (staff)

Died 14th December 2020. His family wanted to share the words of Martin Pearson upon Philip's retirement, feeling they make an appropriate tribute.

"Philip Ennis joined the chemistry department in 1996 as a part-time member of staff, and his unfailing good humour and strong commitment to the school quickly endeared him to his colleagues. He freely gave up his time to assist with trips to the British Museum, The

Science Museum, and to the Norfolk Coast Birdwatching. I was particularly impressed by his care and concern for the individual, and he was a thoughtful and cooperative colleague. His subject knowledge was first rate, and the department was grateful for his contribution. I am in no doubt that Philip will keep himself very busy – as an O.U Tutor, J.P., and someone with a passion of all aspects of the countryside. Cycling in from Uppingham everyday certainly meant he saw more of it than most! I hope he will keep in touch, and we wish him and Janet well for the future." MLP

As part of our effort to be as accessible as possible. please [click here to download a PDF](#) of this Update to enlarge as needed.

OSC Newsletter / OGG Magazine 2019-20

Please click the relevant links below:

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