

# Old Stamfordian Club



**OCTOBER 2021**

## **SWANSONG FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Dear Old Stamfordian

The Changing of the Guard takes place on 20 November 2021. As I step back from the Committee, thanks go to the many who have given help and support over the past three and a half years and best wishes go to all for the future, especially the Committee for 2021/2022. I have every confidence that the Old Stamfordian Club will be in good hands and commend the 2021/2022 Committee to you.

We all look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to Stamford on 20 November 2021. Bookings remain open both online and in person until 8 November. If you prefer to book in person, please 'phone Natalie Pretsell on 01780 750359. For all those who have booked to attend the Autumn Get-Together, Natalie will be in contact in due course with further information.

With best wishes to all.

Phillip Hoskins

Chairman

07889980058

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# NEWS

## MEETING @ 11.00am

20 NOVEMBER 2021

One of our Members has pointed out that the current Rules state:

*The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be on the Saturday of Reunion weekend.*

That is a significant point:

- The Rules provide a framework for the Old Stamfordian Club to operate in a lawful way
- The Rules form a contract between the members, the Committee and the Club

It is important that there is compliance.

Against that background the meeting on 20 November 2021 will become an **Old Stamfordian Status Meeting** with an agenda as follows:

- Minutes of 2019 AGM
- Chairman's Report
- Case for Rule Changes Moving forward
- Election of Officers and Committee 2021/2022

The aim of the Committee is always to comply with the Rules and to act with integrity and transparency. On the one hand Election of Officers and Committee is an item for the AGM under the Rules, but on the other hand the Committee owes an over-riding duty of fairness to all members and all members have a right to expect a certain degree of formality in the way in which the affairs of the Club are managed.

There is something of a conflict here. Applying the principles of reasonableness and common sense and given the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic the Committee feels it right and proper to bring the item of Election of Officers and Committee forward for consideration on 20 November 2021. This decision is based on pragmatism, but I believe that it can be justified in the current circumstances. The alternative would be for the Committee to appoint an Acting Chairman and to co-opt individuals etc. This is not really desirable given the ethos of the Old Stamfordian Club.

I would hope that the stance being taken will be underwritten by the members, but you have my e mail and phone number if any points arise and of course as always there will be an opportunity to raise any points on 20 November 2021. In any event when nominations closed in September 2021 none of the posts either for Officers or Committee positions were contested.

Thank you for your support.

Phillip

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### Championship Debut



A huge congratulations to James Peachey (OS 17) who made his rugby Championship debut for Nottingham at the weekend.

Although they lost to Ealing Trailfinders, James said after that match "It's not the result we were after but always good to challenge yourself against the best."

We wish you all the best for the season and the future James!

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### RSBA Rome Scholarship 2022

We have received the following from the Royal Society of British Artists, inviting our alumni to apply for their Rome Scholarship.

## FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ARTISTS!

The Royal Society of British Artists' Rome Scholarship 2022



CALL FOR ENTRIES: ARTISTS AGED 18-35 WHO LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN THE UK

We are offering prizes that include:

- One month, September 2022, staying at Sala Uno, a highly prestigious gallery and international arts centre in the heart of Rome
- Financial awards for the 3 finalists, including the opportunity to show their work alongside members at the RBA's Annual Exhibition in 2023
- Forty Semi-finalists to show their work at the "RBA RISING STARS" exhibition at the Royal Over-Seas League in Mayfair, London

Further information is available at:  
[royalsocietyofbritishartists.org.uk/rome-scholarship-2022](https://royalsocietyofbritishartists.org.uk/rome-scholarship-2022)



Closing date for applications is 1 January 2022 and [you can apply, and find further details, here.](#)

## REMINSCENCES

Following on from David Denney's (OS 74) rugby photo from 1973 (click on the photo to the right to enlarge), Steve McCombe (OS 75) has written to us to say: "Neil Ricketts & John Decamp to the left in the photo of the Masters v 'Boys' game?"



Adrian Hobbs Bowes (OS 74) has written to say: "Re the photo of "Juggins" Shelford in Rugby Referee mode I'm fairly sure it made the cover page of an early 70s Stamfordian .....in any event I still have an original copy as Phil Boyden and myself were in a photo club at the time and took and processed lots of black and white films ... "

Andrew Storm (OS 75) also confirmed the names of the boys in the photograph and, with reference to Mr Shelford's unique umpiring technique, recounts a story that when faced with an obvious dismissal the Master himself appealed very loudly before raising his finger!

## FAREWELLS

We are sad to report the passing of a number of Old Stamfordians and we extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

**Robin Maule (OS 61)**

John Pollard (OS 60) notified us of Robin's passing.

*John writes:*

Robin Martin Guerin Maule

The heading is always a good place to start. In the 1950s boys mostly did not address their contemporaries by anything other than their surnames or, if available, their nicknames. I can't remember ever being called "John", although close friends called me "Pol." So Robin was "Maule". The other two first names came as a complete surprise when I saw the notification of his memorial service, but there were sometimes departures from this convention as instanced below.

Robin came to Stamford School in 1953: we started to be chums only later, in the sixth form. He boarded, ending up as Head Boy of Byard as well as head of school in 1961. His father (and possibly his mother) taught at the London School of Economics.



Robin always struck one as larger-than-life: impossible to ignore. He was obviously sent here to run things and tell us all what to do. However, and it is a big "however", he never in all the time I knew him bullied or shouted people down. He was indeed gentle, tolerant and with good-humour ever bubbling below the surface: a delight to be on a project with.

He was a good friend at school even though we were in different years; I was a year ahead. But we came together most significantly on Friday afternoons for CCF army training. We were both sergeants in the Royal Signals. I think we supervised one private between us on rare occasions!

Being in a communications specialism we were encouraged to talk on the radio with others all over the UK using WWII vintage army sets. And, boy, did we do a lot of it! Re-visiting Stamford School for the 50th anniversary of the Kalkuhl connection in late 2010 I noticed that there was a 5.205 MHz dipole antenna

more or less in the same place as the one we erected to serve the sets housed in the small brick building in the car-park near Southfields! The wire was even on the same alignment! UK radio amateurs have only recently been given access to experiment with this part of the frequency spectrum and have discovered how reliable it is for contacting stations throughout the country. Indeed, as part of the nations training for military preparedness, recently UK radio amateurs have been helping cadet forces practise radio communication skills using almost exactly the same frequency we used over sixty years ago.

I guess that few of our contemporaries realised what we were up to and that the School had been allocated a call sign. This was 77 - "Seven Seven". Is it still? We had cards printed to send to other participants, on what probably is not referred to these days as the "Public Schools Net", to confirm a successful contact! I was pleasantly amazed after a visit with Nigel Sullivan to see Robin - at the time living in retirement in France - when an image of the Stamford School card arrived in my in-box as a reminder of how things were.

We entered the examination to become radio amateurs in May 1959. We both passed; being in „exam mode“ a month or so before A-Levels must have helped. Latterly he was very near the top of the list of long-time members of the Radio Society of Great Britain. I know he operated from Vietnam when the Americans, among others, were fighting the Viet-Cong, and as such was what radio amateurs call "rare DX" i.e. a DX - distant station - from a far-away country with very few radio amateurs. He told me he was sometimes in danger of being shot; not by the VC, but by trigger-happy 'friends' in Saigon who regarded anyone on the streets after dark as potentially an enemy. In his case the apparent intruder was only a radio amateur who had been too engrossed in operating on the airwaves. Fortunately there was usually an American with a fast Jeep to get him back home.

On leaving school he spent a year with the Voluntary Service Overseas charity (VSO) in Sarawak, after which he went to St. Andrews to read physics. There he met Minou, who came from what was then called Persia. After graduation and through the VSO contacts he got a job in Sarawak where he worked in the then undeveloped field of cell-phone engineering. We lost contact, but eventually Nigel and I effectively book-ended his life: knowing him in the school days and visiting him in his final years at home in the Dordogne, living in a property his parents had bought before the area became so fashionable.

His energy was limitless. Only a couple of years ago he emailed describing projects, mainly domestic upgrades, which he had completed since I had seen him. This was in response to my chiding for not doing more amateur radio. He was an admirer of Elon Musk and made at the time what seemed extravagant prophesies for the future of electric road vehicles. He owned a Tesla top-of-the-range model and when he demonstrated its phenomenal acceleration my sensory organs were all but dragged through the back of my skull.

The niceties of social convention in the 1950s seem laughable now. What follows will no doubt strike the modern generation as bogus or at best mistaken. But it is true. In term, town boys were not permitted to be seen out of doors after 18:00 hours (except for house activities) and for the boarders I am sure that was also

the case. What is even more unbelievable is that there was certainly to be no association with girls, even those of the Stamford High School at any time unless supervised. In some years there was a Vith form dance at which – I was told – the choice of music played was strictly censored for inappropriate content!

Robin, as a senior prefect, was particularly assiduous in policing the rule forbidding association. Many would be the Sunday afternoon when a posse of School House prefects would set off into town with the declared object of catching offenders. Naturally this required liaison with their opposite numbers from SHS and I gather, from an exchange of emails within the last couple of years, that these (lengthy) meetings regarding inter-force police cooperation took place in the seclusion of the main entrance to Burghley Park. I asked Robin the obvious question: "quis custodet...?" and got the reply that the masters noticeably went to great lengths to ensure that they did not indeed know anything of these duties.

Presciently in view the way his career developed Robin had a plan to meet the pressing need to supplement face-to-face consultations by running a dedicated telephone line from the St. Paul's Street premises across the River Welland to SHS. A more mad-brained scheme I cannot imagine. It was probably this experience which made him take up the cause of "doing away with copper" as he put in in a learned presentation he gave in later life at an international convention. Now of course we all communicate "copper free" by using our mobile (radio) hand-sets for the first link.

Only recently was I told of the time a neighbouring girls school's head (not SHS) invited some boarders to a dance with "her girls". This was of course to be welcomed. But what if word of this betrayal got back to the chums at SHS? So the SS contingent decided to go incognito, dreaming up a most unlikely set of names. What I never knew was that Robin stole my rather distinctive middle name (it is French Canadian) to cover his tracks.... And once started on project 'choose an alias' they did not stop at one name. So afterwards Robin was quite often addressed as 'Reginald' by his Byard cronies, being one of his suite of noms-de-liaisons. Oh happy days!

Here is a tale that typifies Robin's readiness to accept responsibility. As a previous correspondent to this column (Roger L. Gooch) has indicated, running the School Swimming Pool was the job of the senior Vith Science, ultimately under the supervision of Squibbs (otherwise C.A.M. Bowman, scion of a well-known Stamford family (builders) who unavoidably had to leave SS for a brief interlude to get a degree at Oxford). It involved daily visits - or perhaps more in busy times - to check the pH and the chlorine levels, and that was where nemesis nearly struck. Entering the below-ground pump room it was clear that the place was contaminated by that dense gas. A cylinder had been connected cross-threaded and consequently had failed to mate with the seal. I remember hesitating, and freezing. Robin did neither, but having taken a deep breath jumped down the steps and put things right with a wrench. At all events he lived (obviously).

Robin, while a good swimmer, excelled at the one event which gripped the attention of the spectators at the annual July swimming sports: the "plunge". Robin was probably as good at that event as Pat King (OS circa 1954) whom older readers will remember. One year more than a few thought he (Pat) had held his

breath too long and had drowned.

We were told of an incident in Robin's career when he had a decision to take which some might have found difficult. A project arose because there was a non-functioning satellite in a lower Earth orbit. Robin's organisation bought the non-functioning satellite, paid for its retrieval, refurbishment and then re-launch from a site in the Far East: a risky but ultimately profitable exercise. Robin's authorisation was required for the re-launch and part of the procedure was a manual "disconnect" from the launch gantry. At the launch, when Robin asked, he was told that if the man who did the disconnection did not make it to safety before the launch that was too bad. Robin refused to allow the launch to go ahead until a launch procedure requiring the arrival of this character at shelter was confirmed.

His act was indeed in accordance with his ethical stance. It was not surprising to discover on our visit in 2016 that Robin had adopted his wife's Baha'i faith, one which emphasises gentleness. I understood that he had a long-term project to publish a history of the faith movement and had already spent twenty plus years researching and writing.

I will miss him.

From his initials we often called him "Rum Gum".

The summer evenings in my last full year at school, in 1960, carry special memories. In those days, generally speaking, boys mixed for the most part with others in the same house, for the good reason that many non form-room activities were organised by houses. So it was unusual for boarders and day boys to mix „after hours“. How it started I don't remember but that summer I would cycle the half mile to School and visit the studies along the corridor where Robin hung out with his Byard pals of an evening. All the names I do not now recall; but one I do recall was Eddie Beck who died a few years back. Now another one has gone.

This piece has been a long time in the writing. And there have been lots of emails to and fro. Well, at least, Robin will have been pleased with all the attention.

[John de Boyne Pollard SS 1951 to 1960 with Nigel Sullivan SS 1954 to 1961.](#)

Our Archivist has written a small piece on Robin [which can be read here.](#)

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### **Brian Matthews (OS 63)**

Geoff Cusden (OS 63) notified us of Brian's passing.

*Geoff writes:*

Brian joined Little School and Willoughby House and subsequently Ancaster House before leaving in



1963. At school he enjoyed playing most sports particularly rugby and athletics. He was proud to have been awarded the Victor Ludorum, an achievement that his brother David had also gained a few years earlier. Brian did not think that this family record has been equalled by any other brothers.

On leaving school he went to London and worked in banking and marketing before eventually moving to Seaford in East Sussex. There he was self employed for several years before retiring due to back problems.

Although, my living near Edinburgh meant that we had not met recently, we did enjoy regular phone calls with much laughter and discussion about the fortunes of English cricket and rugby.

Brian leaves a wife Sylvia and a son Roger.



Our Archivist has written a small piece on Brian [which can be read here](#).

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### **Peter Thompson (OS 63)**

Peter's wife Anne (née Fowler, OS 62) informed us of Peter's passing.

*Anne writes:*

It is with deep regret that I am writing to inform you that my husband, Peter Thompson (53-63) passed away very peacefully on 14th September 2021, after a heroic fight with Parkinsons.

Peter and I met at Stamford as I am ex SHS (51-62). In the early 1960s the Heads of our schools decided to initiate a Sixth Form Film Society and we were chosen as the respective secretaries. The series of Russian films was shown in a Stamford School science laboratory under the watchful eye of a member of staff! On

leaving school Peter went off to the Royal Air Force College Cranwell and I went off to Oxford to train as an Occupational Therapist. We kept up our friendship and we were married in 1967.

Thought you would like to hear our story.

Kind regards

Anne Thompson (Fowler)



## FUTURE EVENTS

### Old Stamfordian Autumn Get-Together and AGM (OSC)

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.](#)

Booking deadline: Monday 8 November. Cancellations after this date can not be refunded.

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

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**London Old Stamfordian Club Dinner** - for those who attended Stamford School

**10 November 2021**

**RAF Club, 128, Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY**

Contact: [Ian Brassington](#)

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**Old Stamfordian Advent Festive Lunch** - for those who attended Stamford School

**Sunday 12 December 2021**

**Normanton Park Hotel, LE15 8RP**

Booked for Sunday 12 December at the Normanton Park Hotel (12.30pm – 1pm), this event is open to Old Stamfordians who attended Stamford School. Wives/partners welcome. The lunch first took place due to popular demand in 2005 and has continued annually since (apart from 2020 when it could not take place due to Covid)

Dress code: Jacket and tie.

Details of the festive menu and the cost will be published shortly.

Managers: John Cartwright and Tony Story

Email [oldstamfordians@ses.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:oldstamfordians@ses.lincs.sch.uk) for your interest to be registered with John and Tony.

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**Old Stamfordian Lansdowne Drinks Event**

**12 May 2022**

**London Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, Mayfair, London, W1J 5JD**

Further information to follow.

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**Old Stamfordian Reunion Weekend 2022**

**Friday 10 June 2022 to Sunday 12 June 2022**

Further information to follow.

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

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### Annual Autumn Reunion Lunch at Boston

3 September 2022

Further information to follow.

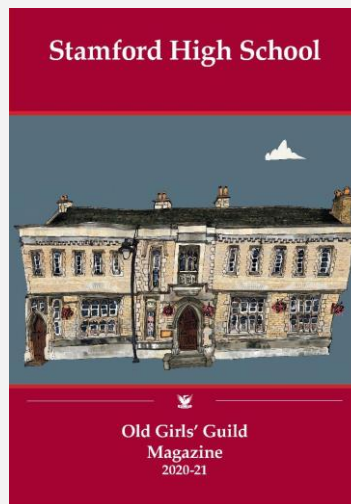
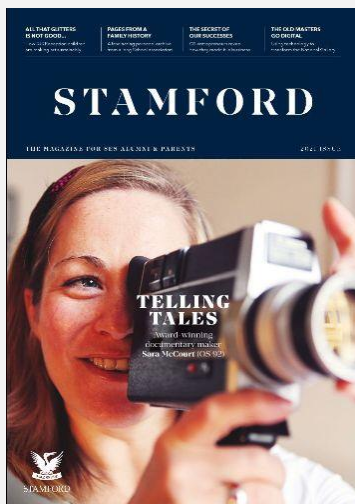
Contacts:

[Dudley Bryant MBE](#)

[Phillip Hoskins](#) - 07889980058

## PUBLICATIONS

If you have missed any of our recent publications, you are able to download the most recent magazines by clicking on the covers below or [visiting the publications page on our website for older editions.](#)



**INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOLS OF  
THE YEAR 2021**  
*Celebrating student experience*



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

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