

Old Stamfordian Club



JUNE 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Old Stamfordian

The June Update generally includes reports of the Annual Old Stamfordian Reunion, but unfortunately as you are all aware we were unable to hold this event this year.

There are however a number of events planned for the remainder of this calendar year where it will be possible to enjoy Old Stamfordian fellowship and friendship:

- Old Stamfordian Golfing Society @ Burghley Park Golf Club 27 August 2021
- Annual Autumn Reunion Lunch @ Boston 18 September 2021
- Old Stamfordian Golfing Society @ Luffenham Heath on 9 October 2021
- London Old Stamfordian Dinner @ the RAF Club, W1J 7PY on 10 November 2021
- Old Stamfordian Get Together 20 November 2021

The holding of all of these events is subject to Government Guidelines in place at the time of the event, but we can be cautiously optimistic that we will be able to go ahead. I commend each of these events to you and hope that the Old Stamfordian Club will be able to welcome you to one or more of the events.

Looking ahead into 2022 please mark your diaries with the weekend of the 2022 Reunion - **10 June 2022 to 12 June 2022.**

Simon Richardson (OS 84), and John Smith (OS 70), together with our Year Group Representatives, stand ready to ensure a truly special event. This will be the first Reunion since 2019, so let us make it memorable! If you would like to become a Year Group Rep, or for further information, [please contact Simon](#).

With thanks in anticipation for the support,

[Phillip Hoskins](#)

Chairman

07889980058

NEWS

John Cartwright (OS 53) organised a dinner for Old Stamfordians of his era which took place at Burghley Park Golf Club on 12 June 2021.

John writes as follows:

After our Dinner had to be cancelled in 2020 because of the virus pandemic, we were successful in holding it this year on Saturday evening 12th June at Burghley Park Golf Club. This was despite both the new date and government regulations allowing it being shrouded in uncertainty up to the last minute.

We were therefore extremely fortunate that we could do so with all Covid compliant requirements in place. The icing on the cake was a warm summer's evening allowing the 26 attendees including some with wives/partners (all having had their two 'jabs') to enjoy initial pre dinner drinks outside and the added benefit of open doors and windows during the meal.

The food and service were excellent and enjoyed by all with David Lees (OS 55) and former School chorister leading the singing of the School song.

Thanks go to Tony and Valerie Story for helping so much with the organisation; and to the management and staff at the Golf Club for ensuring all safety precautions were in place.

REMINISCENCES

Responses to Bartle Frere's Dates

In response to Alistair Sivill's reminiscences last month, Allan Peter Fawcett (OS 60) has kindly sent through a full set of dates.

(Click to enlarge images)

STAMFORD SCHOOL	
DATES	
" A "	
R.C.	55 Cæsar came to Britain. He made a reconnaissance in force but established no permanent garrison.
A.D.	43 Claudius invaded Britain. Four legions landed in Kent and forced the passage of the Thames ; the Roman occupation of Britain began.
	121 Hadrian's Wall. 73 miles in length, it was built from Tyne to Solway with forts and signal stations at intervals.
	313 Constantine secured religious toleration. He moved his capital from Rome to the Bosphorus, and was later baptised a Christian.
	410 Roman Legions withdrawn from Britain. The Britons henceforth had to defend themselves, since Britain was no longer a Roman province.
	597 Mission of St. Augustine. Sent to Britain by Pope Gregory the Great, he baptized the King of Kent and so re-established contact with European culture.
	664 Synod of Whitby. The Celtic churches were set aside and Britain acknowledged the Pope.
	879 Treaty of Wedmore. Alfred ceded the Danelagh to the Danes (England north of Walling Street together with the five Danish boroughs of Mercia, of which Stamford was one).
	1035 Death of Canute. Hardicanute obtained Denmark and England south of the Thames ; Harold Godwinson obtained England north of the Thames.
	1042 End of Danish dynasty. The Wessex royal house of Alfred was restored in the person of Edward the Confessor.
" B "	
	1066 Battle of Hastings. Duke William of Normandy landed at Pevensey, defeated Harold and was crowned King at Westminster.
	1086 Domesday Book. A general survey of England, it showed the extent, population and ownership of the land, both before and after the Conquest.
	1141 Battle of Lincoln. King Stephen was defeated and taken prisoner when besieging Lincoln Castle ; Matilda was acknowledged Queen.
	1170 Death of Thomas Becket. After the Archbishop's murder in Canterbury Cathedral, Henry II did public penance at his tomb.
	1189 Third Crusade. Richard I concluded a peace with the Saracens and secured free access for pilgrims to Jerusalem.
	1215 Magna Carta sealed by King John. It limited for the first time the power of the King and secured rights for some of his subjects.
	1265 The first Parliament. Simon de Montfort summoned to it two representatives from each of the chief cities and boroughs besides the Bishops, Clergy, and two Knights from each County.
	1314 Battle of Bannockburn. Robert Bruce defeated Edward II near Stirling, and Scotland regained her independence.
	1346 Battle of Crécy. English long-bows routed the French, and Edward III proceeded to capture Calais.
	1348 The Black Death. Nearly half the people of England perished from bubonic plague, and this led to acute shortage of labour.

" E "	
	1628 Petition of Right. Drawn up by Fynn, it enacted that no man may be imprisoned without trial, and that no tax may be levied without Parliamentary consent.
	1640 The Long Parliament. In opposition to the autocratic methods of Charles I it waged civil war.
	1645 Battle of Naseby. Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell with the New Model army defeated Charles I near Leicester.
	1649 Death of Charles I. Oliver Cromwell brought about his execution, and England became a commonwealth.
	1660 The Restoration. Charles II returned from exile ; the Monarchy and the Church of England were restored.
	1666 The Great Fire of London. It raged for three days and nights, destroying over half the City.
	1688 The "Glorious" Revolution. James II fled the country, and a constitutional monarchy was set up under William III and Mary.
	1704 Battle of Blenheim. John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, marched to the Danube and defeated the French under Marshal Tallard.
	1707 Union with Scotland. The Kingdoms of England and Scotland were united under one parliament with the name of Great Britain.
	1713 Treaty of Utrecht. Britain obtained Gibraltar and the right of trading slaves with the Spanish-American colonies.
" F "	
	1720 The South Sea Bubble. After the financial collapse, Sir Robert Walpole restored public credit and became the first prime minister.
	1745 The Young Pretender. Prince Charles Edward attempted to gain the throne for his father but was defeated at Culloden.
	1756 Black Hole of Calcutta. The Nawab of Bengal confined 146 English, of whom 23 survived ; Clive avenged them at Plassey and British rule in India began.
	1759 Capture of Quebec. General James Wolfe defeated the French under Montcalm, and Canada was joined to the British Empire.
	1769 The steam engine. James Watt patented his improvements to Newcomen's " atmospheric " engine.
	1773 The Boston Tea Party. About 50 American colonists threw 343 chests of tea into the harbour, and war became inevitable.
	1789 French Revolution. Louis XVI summoned the States General ; the Paris mob stormed the Bastille.
	1805 Battle of Trafalgar. Nelson was killed but Britain's mastery of the sea was assured.
	1807 Abolition of the slave trade. William Wilberforce and Charles James Fox persuaded Parliament to suppress this trade throughout the British Empire.
	1815 Battle of Waterloo. The Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon, and the long French war was ended.

“ C ”

- 1356 **Battle of Poitiers.**
The Black Prince defeated the French King and took him prisoner.
- 1381 **Peasants' Revolt.**
Jack Straw in Essex, Wat Tyler in Kent, demanded the end of villeinage.
- 1415 **Battle of Agincourt.**
Henry V routed the French by superior archery and discipline.
- 1431 **Juan of Arc.**
She raised a national spirit in France, drove the English from Orleans, and was burned at Rouen for witchcraft.
- 1470 **Battle of Empingham.**
Edward IV defeated Sir Robert Welles at "Loss Coat Field"; the fleeing rebels flung away their badges in the hope of escaping capture.
- 1485 **Battle of Bosworth.**
Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, defeated Richard III, ended the Wars of the Roses, and founded the Tudor dynasty.
- 1487 **Star Chamber.**
A royal law court; established by Henry VII, it consisted of the chief judges and members of the King's Council.
- 1492 **Christopher Columbus.**
Sailed to Spain, he discovered the Bahamas in the West Indies, but not the continent of America.
- 1513 **Battle of Flodden.**
James IV of Scotland allied himself with France, invaded England and was defeated and killed.
- 1529 **Fall of Cardinal Wolsey.**
Thomas Wolsey, Lord Chancellor and Papal Legate, was deprived of all his offices save the Archbishopric of York.

“ D ”

- 1536 **Dissolution of the Monasteries.**
Suppressed by Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Vicar General, their possessions passed mostly into lay hands.
- 1540 **First English prayer book.**
Produced by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, it was unique in its perfection of form and felicity of expression.
- 1556 **Death of Cranmer.**
Burned at the stake in Oxford, he and the other martyrs ensured by their example the continuance of the reformed religion.
- 1559 **Act of Supremacy.**
This established the Church of England, of which Queen Elizabeth I was styled "Supreme Governor."
- 1571 **Parliament approved the Thirty-nine Articles.**
The confession of faith of the Church of England, they had been drawn up by Cranmer.
- 1580 **Drake round the world.**
Sir Francis Drake returned from his voyage; the Golden Hind, worm-eaten and water-logged, laboured into Plymouth.
- 1588 **Spanish Armada.**
Philip II's invasion fleet was dispersed by the English fleet and British weather.
- 1598 **Death of Lord Burghley.**
William Cecil, Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer and the Queen's chief minister throughout her reign, was buried in St. Martin's, Stamford.
- 1611 **Authorised Version of the Bible.**
No other version was so pure, so vigorous and so eloquent.
- 1616 **Death of William Shakespeare.**
"There in our wonder and astonishment
Hast built thyself a live-long monument."

“ G ”

- 1829 **Stephenson's Rocket.**
Its success on the Liverpool-Manchester railway ensured the growth of steam locomotion.
- 1832 **First Reform Bill.**
The landed aristocracy was compelled to share its political power with industrialists, tradesmen and others.
- 1840 **Penny Post.**
Rowland Hill introduced penny postage on letters between all parts of the United Kingdom.
- 1851 **The Great Exhibition.**
It was intended to teach British manufacturers that their work could be improved by comparing it with that of others.
- 1854 **Crimean War.**
Fought to check Russian expansion, it was remarkable for the work of Florence Nightingale.
- 1857 **Indian Mutiny.**
The East India Company ceased to be a political authority, and India was brought directly under the Crown.
- 1869 **Opening of the Suez Canal.**
The main sea route from Europe to the East, it was constructed by a French Company under de Lesseps.
- 1870 **W. E. Forster's education act.**
It provided compulsory education for the masses but failed to insist on religious instruction.
- 1885 **Death of General Gordon.**
Sent to evacuate the Sudan, he was killed in Khartoum by the Mahdi.
- 1899 **The Boer War.**
Defeated in the war, the Boers soon obtained full rights of self-government under the British flag.

“ H ”

- 1901 **Development of wireless telegraphy.**
Marconi succeeded in sending a message from Cornwall to Canada and in obtaining a reply.
- 1906 **The "Silver Ghost" Rolls-Royce.**
The best car in the world, it was designed by Henry Royce. Three years later Henry Ford began the mass production of the Model "T" Ford in the U.S.A.
- 1911 **Splitting the atom first proposed by Lord Rutherford.**
Eight years later his successful experiments opened the way to the use of atomic energy.
- 1914 **The murder at Sarajevo.**
The Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated and a world war began.
- 1917 **The Bolshevik Revolution.**
Tsar Nicholas II was assassinated; Lenin and Trotsky set up the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- 1919 **First Transatlantic flight.**
Alcock and Brown, in a Vickers "Vimy" powered by two Rolls-Royce "Eagles," flew the Atlantic in sixteen hours.
- 1931 **Statute of Westminster.**
The Dominions were defined as being equal in status, united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth.
- 1940 **Battle of Britain.**
"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."
- 1947 **Indian independence.**
The sub-continent of India was divided into the republics of India and Pakistan, remaining within the British Commonwealth.
- 1953 **Conquest of Everest.**
Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing, members of Colonel Hunt's expedition, were the first men to reach the summit.

Colin Wheeler (OS 58) writes:

Alistair Sivill's message about "Bartle Frere's Dates" resonated well with me, as having had to copy out those dates many times during the course of my time at Stamford School (1953 - 58), I have an excellent command of dates from 55 BC onwards. Never was a punishment so mentally beneficial!

Harvey Clegg (OS 66) writes:

The writer must have been a 'good boy', i.e. never caught. The dates had 70 entries: Short version for Juniors, and longer for Seniors. Blue paper had to be obtained from one's Housemaster so he was made aware of the sins. I was aware of a black-market in Blue paper but I never had the funds.

FUTURE EVENTS

Old Stamfordian Autumn Get-Together and AGM

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.](#)

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

Annual Autumn Reunion Lunch @ Boston

18 September 2021

Boston and County Club PE21 6RL

Expressions of interest to Dudley will be greatly appreciated at this stage.

Contacts: [Dudley Bryant MBE](#)

[Phillip Hoskins](#)

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Old Stamfordian Golfing Society

Friday 27 August 2021

Meeting @ Burghley Park Golf Club

Saturday 9 October 2021

Meeting @ Luffenham Heath

Contacts: [Neil Nottingham](#) (for the Burghley Event)

[Geoff Holyoake](#) (for the Luffenham Heath Event)

London Old Stamfordian Dinner - for those who attended Stamford School

10 November 2021

RAF Club, 128, Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY

Contact: [Ian Brassington](#)

Old Stamfordian Reunion Weekend 2022

Friday 10 June 2022 to Sunday 12 June 2022

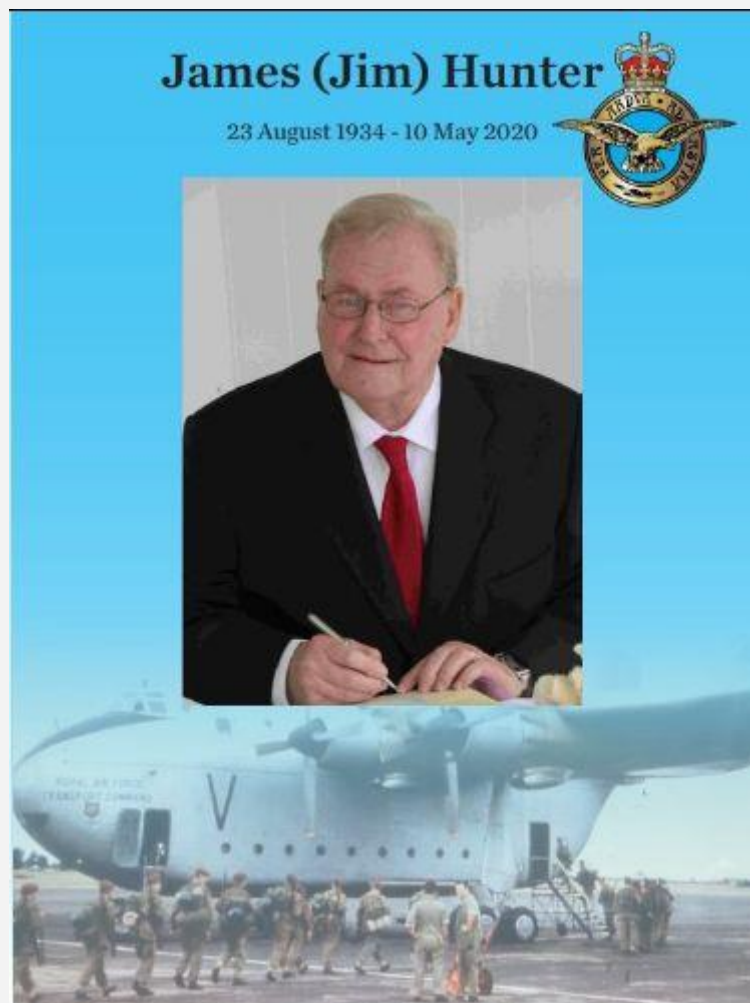
Contact: [Natalie Pretsell, Community Engagement Manager.](#)

FAREWELLS

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

James 'Jim' Hunter (OS 52)

Jim's nephew, Robert Hunter (OS 88), wrote to inform us on the sad passing of his uncle last May in Christchurch, New Zealand.



His family writes:

James Hunter OS 52

23 August 1934 - 10 May 2020

News of the sad passing of James (Jim) Hunter last May 2020 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

After spending his early childhood in Edinburgh Jim's family moved to Stamford in 1950 where he joined Stamford School (the attached group shot shows him in Radcliffe House - 2nd row from front 4th from left).

On leaving school in 1952 Jim enlisted in the RAF commencing at RAF Cardington in September 1953. He went on to fly a range of military aircraft including some of the early jet fighters including the Gloster Meteor. He eventually moved onto RAF Transport Command flying aircraft such as the Bristol Britannia and visited many countries of the world. He finished his RAF Career at RAF Linton-on-Ouse as a pilot instructor flying the BAC Jet Provost. After leaving the RAF in 1972 he became an airline pilot with British Midland Airways flying the Vickers Viscount and later had a stint training pilots on BAC contract for the Saudi Arabian Air Force.

After emigrating with his family to New Zealand in 1977, Jim continued his career in aviation becoming an Airline Inspector with the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand. As a requirement of his job he regularly came to England as he was line-checking NZ airline pilots which meant his UK family often saw him - usually in and around Stamford. Jim also took the opportunity to catch up with friends and visit Scotland whenever he could. Later, just prior to retirement he was still involved in planes and flying, most notably flying the NZ Post in a Fokker Friendship over the stunning South Island of New Zealand.

Jim was the first in our family to attend Stamford Endowed Schools. Over the years a number of boys and girls have followed in his footsteps with one of his brother's granddaughters currently attending Stamford High School and another about to join in September '21.

My uncle lived a full and happy life with his wife Shirley, their three sons Alex, Bruce and Duncan and four grandchildren. He was greatly loved by his family in the UK.

Martin Bettinson (OS 60)

We were notified by Martin's niece Helen that Martin passed away in Australia, his home for many years.

From the Archivist:

Martin Bettinson attended Cottesmore Church of England School before being admitted into Stamford School in 1955. He was first in Willoughby House, and then in Ancaster House from 1957 until he left in 1960.

He appeared in The Seventeenth Highwayman and the Stamfordian Magazine of 1957 writes that “he attempted an awkward part with some success, including a good faint”. He had played Junior Rugby, and later joined the Junior Colts XV.

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.

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Stamford Endowed Schools Development Office
Brazenose House
St. Paul's Street
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