



JANUARY 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Dear Old Stamfordian

A very Happy New Year to you, we hope you had an enjoyable festive period. We are entering 2023 with excitement for the year ahead. Work on the Reunion Weekend is progressing well, and we are close to finalising the timetable for the day; we will send this out in a future update.

Along with Reunion, there are also a variety of activities and events coming up throughout the year, including golf and shooting meets and the annual staples of the Boston Lunch and the London OSC dinner, for those who attended Stamford School.

The latest edition of the annual OSC Newsletter is also in production, and if you have a story or memories that you wish to include, then please contact the Development Office.

The OSC Committee is made up entirely of volunteers, all of whom are committed to maintaining close links for you as Old Stamfordians with the School; if you would be interested in joining the team please contact Natalie Pretsell, Development Manager, to discuss the opportunity.

With best wishes to you,

The Old Stamfordian Club Committee

CONTENT

Click link to go straight to that section

- [News](#)
- [Memories](#)
- [Farewells](#)
- [Future Events](#)

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.

Memorial for Old Stamfordian

In November 2022 a memorial service was held for Windsor Webb (OS 39) whose plane disappeared on a bombing mission during World War II. For many years it was assumed that he and his crew, consisting of British, American and Canadian airmen, had been shot down near Bremen, Germany, but thanks to the work of the families of the crewmen, it was discovered that the wreckage of the plane lies in the north Sea, off the coast of the Netherlands.



80 years to the day that Windsor and the crew took off, and subsequently vanished, the service was held at RAF Langar and included representatives from the RAF, the Canadian Royal Air Force, Thames Valley Police and families of each

of the crew. The Schools, and the Old Stamfordian community as a whole, were represented by Dale Harrison (OS 03), Digital Marketing and Development Officer at the Schools. He has written an article about the day which you can [read here](#).

Walk Across Nepal

Johnny Fenn (OS 86) is currently walking the length of Nepal, raising money for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, of which he is an ambassador, and Hello World.

Johnny, who was previously featured on the cover of Stamford Magazine in 2019, is a professional photographer and explorer. He is a former British Army Officer and served 16 of his 25 years with the Brigade of Gurkhas.



Johnny, pictured here with his two porters, Mini and Rajshahi, at the beginning of week 2.

The route through Nepal will take him through mountains, across rivers with suspended bridges, and along steep mountain tracks. The journey is estimated to take roughly 16 weeks, which could cover up to 1,400 miles and include 60 miles of vertical ascent.

[The goal is to raise £16,000 - the current total as of sending this is £11,500.](#)

You can follow Johnny's journey through Nepal via his [Instagram page](#), and he is also carrying a live GPS tracker, so you can track his progress [here](#).

Although it is highly unlikely he will read this on his journey, good luck with the rest of the trek Johnny!

MEMORIES

Brian Tunncliffe (OS 57)

Brian Tunncliffe contacted us to update us on his life after Stamford.

He writes:

Born in Stamford, passed the old 11+ and attended Stamford School from 1951 - 57. Mr Basil Lingard Deed was my Headmaster. In those days I remember a lot of kids took work locally after leaving school, i.e. at Blackstones, Perkins or Baker Perkins. I wanted something different and with my eight O levels so I joined BP tankers on a four year navigating apprenticeship, having seen the BP advert in the old Daily Herald. I received Mr Deed's approval for this.

BP, for the four years, promised to pay me £650. When I passed my first exam, 2nd mate F.G. (Foreign Going) I was offered my first BP contract, which I signed and remained in place until early retirement in 1996. Four years later I passed my 2nd Mates certificate. I sailed for nearly 11 years on various BP tankers ranging from 16,000 tons to 50,000 tons, visiting 37 countries.

When I passed my master F.G. certificate in December 1967 the generation of VLCC (Very Large Crew Carrier)



tankers was coming. Tankers sizes grew to 200,000 tons and more, and smaller tankers were scrapped.

Many crews, plus officers, got the dreaded brown envelope.

I was lucky to hear about BP tugs and managed to leave the tankers side of BP and join BP Exploration in May 1968. I got posted to Persia/ Iran, to Abadan, driving tug boats in ports of Bandar Mashur and Kharg Island. They had four 4 steam tugs, reciprocating single propellor 1000 hp all built around 1946, and six bigger diesel tugs. You had to learn quickly as some of the pilots were locals and training like us.

With religious unrest just around the corner, I was able to get a move to Abu Dhabi in May 1971. At that time Abu Dhabi was known as one of the Trucial Oman States. Later that year the United Arab Emirates was created.

Originally I had five and a half years at an offshore oil installation called Das Island. There I met a gentleman named Arthur Sunderland and we become good friends. This friendship has continued to this day. BP had a 66% stake in Das Island; the other 34% was operated by the French Total Oil company.

At Das I did a couple of years tugging including six months on a buoy 'La Ying' vessel working with two divers preparing locations for the oil drilling rigs and maintenance barges. After this I left the small craft and became a mooring berthing master/pilot at Das.



The biggest ship I piloted to berth was a 268,000 tonner called 'Naess Clansman' onto our single buoy mooring (SBM) berth (without tugs).

I did some time in the office on Das and filled in on SBM maintenance, and oil pollution teams, as well as tug and piloting work. After five and a half years on Das I moved to live in Abu Dhabi and became a rig/ barge mover moving jack up

rigs weighting up to 10,000 tons. We were called rig move commanders because if it went wrong, it was your fault! We had American, French, Japanese and Abu Dhabi rigs. These were great days and I enjoyed every moment.

I married at this time and Germaine and I enjoyed a seven year married posting before things changed again and I moved to live and work offshore, commuting back to the UK every 28 days. I did this until the end of 1992 when BP mentioned I had more than 35 years completed service, with 24 years Eastern service; the eastern service equated to an extra eight pension years, so I took the early retirement package after 35 years. However I did go back offshore a number of times up until 1996, training mainly Egyptians and Syrians to become rig movers.

I should mention I took up golf in Iran and was lucky enough that golf played a big part in life on Das Island and the Abu Dhabi mainland and still does here in Burghley Park. I also previously played at London Mill Hill Golf Club.

Thank you for sending this through Brian. If you wish to share any news or reminiscences then please do get [contact us](#).

John Hatton (OS 67)

We have recently been contacted by John Hatton as he is collecting his memories and photos from his time at Stamford.

Firstly he writes: "Does anyone remember the run that we used to do in the 60's called 'The Stinks'? It went down towards the river and across a footbridge. I think the stinks were the gasworks and maybe the sewage works, but I wonder if any pupils of the time recall any more about the stinks we encountered?"

The second part of call from John is regarding the following photograph. He says "a photo from 1970 after I left, but all the males in the image went to Stamford. Can anybody name them or remember them..."



John Hatton took this photo in 1970: "I am not there as I took the pic - no selfie sticks then!"

Thanks to the wonders of AI we have also included a colourised version of the photo.



If anyone can help with either of John's enquiries then please do [contact us](#).

FAREWELLS

We are sad to report the passing of three much-loved members of the Old Stamfordian community, and we send our condolences to their family and friends.

Alan Pender (OS 52)

We have been notified that Alan passed away in Autumn 2022.

From the Archivist:

Alan John Pender attended the Christopher Whitehead School in Worcester before he was attended Stamford School in 1945.

Alan was originally in Town House until his final year when the school houses were subdivided into eleven. Alan was subsequently in Radcliffe for which he was House Prefect as well as a School Prefect. He won the House Colours for Athletics and Cricket. At Speech Day, Alan won the Edley-Morton Prize for Geography in 1951 and the Fowler Prize for Modern Studies in 1951 and 1952.

In the years after he left Stamford, Alan was an active member of the Old Stamfordian Club, serving as Editor and Assistant Secretary in 1958.

John Davies (OS 58)

John sadly passed away on 14 December 2022. We were informed by his son Mark (OS 85) and daughter Anneke (OS 87), who is a drama teacher here at the Schools, as well as current house parent at Byard.

During his time at Stamford, John was active in a wide range of activities. He was a Corporal in the RAF section of the CCF, won House Colours for rugby, boxing, athletics and cross-country, was a School Prefect, Head of Radcliffe House, and Stage Manager for the Drama department.

In 1953, John was also one of seven scouts who attended the Coronation

Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey on 21 June. He also had the honour of swimming the inaugural length of the Memorial Swimming Pool when it opened in 1956.



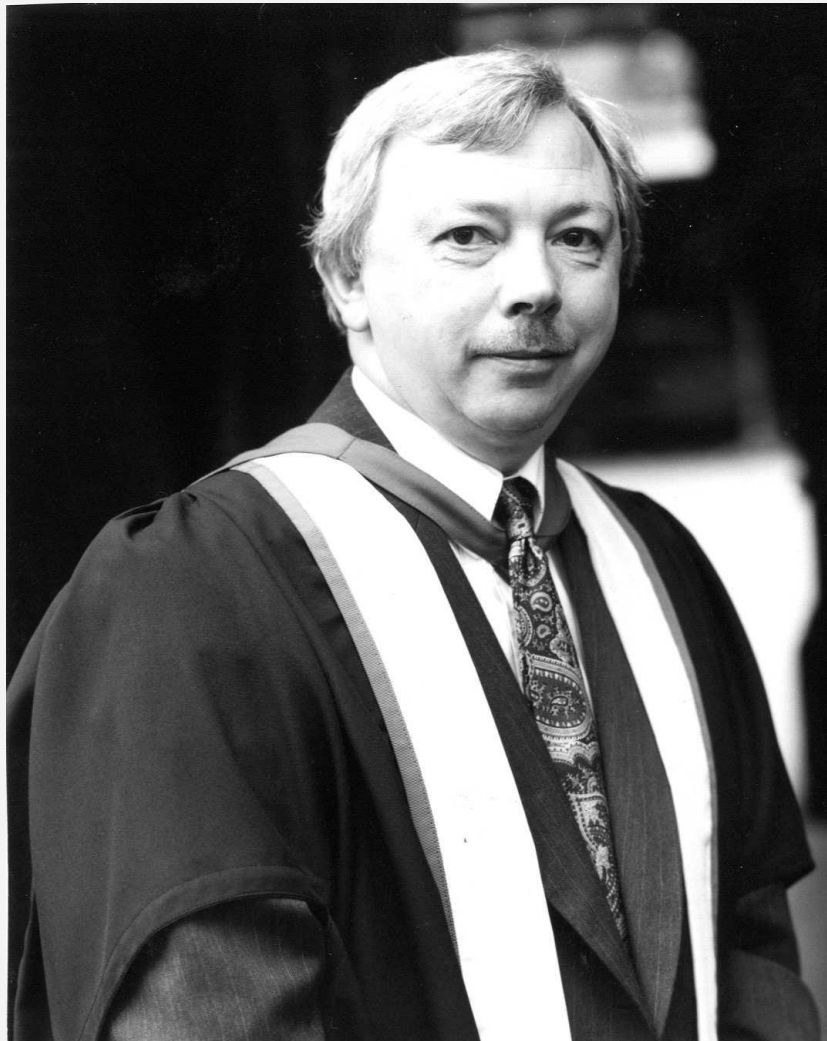
John was a keen supporter of the Schools, attending performances and shows while his two children were at Stamford, and continuing this when his grandchildren began to attend the schools. During lockdown he attended the Old Stamfordian quizzes that were held virtually, as well attending the Stamford

Lecture Series, also in virtual form.

On Thursday 12 January, following a private cremation, a celebration of John's life was held in the Stamford School Chapel, a place that was so close to his heart. It was richly attended by those who John had impacted, and the stories told certainly reflected the life of a gentleman who will be truly missed.

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'.

If you wish to send your own condolences, please [send them us](#), and we will share these with the family.

FUTURE EVENTS

Luffenham Heath Spring Golf Meet

Saturday 6 May 2023

Contacts: [John Cartwright & Geoff Holyoake](#)

Old Stamfordian Reunion Weekend 2023

Saturday 10 June - Sunday 11 June 2023

Further information in due course

Fullbore Rifle Meet

Tuesday 13 July 2023

17:00 hrs, 500 yards Century Range

Bisley National Shooting Centre, GU24 0PB

Teams of 5 and all kit provided if needed (for those who haven't shot recently).

All are welcome, and drinks will be held afterwards along with the prize giving. There will also be a dinner in North London Rifle Club.

Contact: [Phil Chapman-Sheath, Captain OS Fullbore Rifle Team](#)



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



Copyright © 2023 The Stamford Endowed Schools Development Office, All rights reserved.

As a member of the Stamford Endowed Schools community, including Old Stamfordians, parents of Old Stamfordians, former staff, and friends of Stamford Schools, you are receiving information from the Stamford Endowed Schools Development Office.

Our mailing address is:

Stamford Endowed Schools Development Office

Brazenose House

St. Paul's Street

Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2BE

United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

[Update your preferences and choose which mailings are relevant to you.](#)

[Unsubscribe from all mailings from Stamford Endowed Schools](#)