



SUMMER 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Dear Old Stamfordian

As the summer rolls past and our latest Old Stamfordian intake have just received their A Level results, we are sure you will join the committee in wishing them all the best in whatever they choose to do next.

We hope you enjoy reading this latest newsletter, and we would like to draw your attention to the annual Boston Lunch reunion, being held this year on Saturday 9 September. The lunch has been a staple in the OSC calendar since 2007, due to the wonderful efforts of Dudley Bryant (OS 61), and we are looking forward to this year's event. Booking information can be found in the event section of this newsletter.

With best wishes

[The Old Stamfordian Club Committee](#)

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NEWS

Bisley Rifle Meet - Thursday 13 July 2023

A number of Old Stamfordians from both Stamford School and Stamford High School gathered on Thursday 13 July at Bisley Camp, the home of the National Rifle Association, for the Schools Veterans Match. Our team was made of members with around 50 years difference between school leaving dates. Given the history of successful Target Shooting at Stamford School, the OS managed to put out two teams for the Match against our peers (other Old School V's).

Conditions were benign but, as this is an evening event, even a little cloud cover makes shooting tricky with low light. As a team, the Old Stamfordians 'A' managed 245.21 out of a maximum of 250.50 to finish a respectable 8th out of a field of 50.

The top individual score and winner of the Callaghan Trophy went to Professor Phil Chapman-Sheath (OS 85) with a score of 50.6. Of the non-regular shooters, Spencer Lai (OS 06), newly repatriated to the Cotswolds, picked up a rifle for the first time in over 15 years and put in a tidy 47.5 - with borrowed kit! Drinks and dinner in the North London Rifle Club followed to round off an excellent evening.

Over the course of the Imperial Meeting, some excellent shooting led to Jack Keates (OS 12), Dr Graham Nelson (OS 01) and James Lawrie (OS 01) being selected for England and Scotland in the National Matches. In addition Keates and Nelson also made the Kings Final with strong individual shooting.

As always, it has been a pleasure to renew old friendships and to welcome those who are taking part for the first time since school. It is a truly remarkable sport that offers one of the only level playing fields for men and women who shoot side by side in competition. Advancing age is also of benefit (until you can't see and/or hold the rifle) as experience goes a long way and it is a sport that offers a lifetime of competition and friendship. If you are interested in taking part in the OS match next year, or you would like more information on how to get into Target Rifle Shooting, please contact [James Lawrie](#).



Atlantic Rowing

A group of Old Stamfordians are gearing up for an extraordinary feat of endurance as they begin preparations to row across the Atlantic Ocean. The team, comprised of James Leetch (OS 17), Jamie Kidd (OS 17), Ollie Pickering (OS 19), Ollie Hamilton (OS 19), and Adam Rowlatt (non-OS), known as *Secondoary Fun*, are competing in one of the world's toughest events in support of two charities.

Rowing across the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean will consist of a 3,000-mile journey from La Gomera to Antigua, which equates to over 1.5 million strokes of the oar. During the voyage, the team will encounter towering waves, endure the physical strain of burning 5000+ calories daily and shedding 8kg of weight during the row, battle sleep deprivation and isolation, and take on a mental struggle against monumental challenges. It promises to be the adventure of a lifetime against the raw beauty of the ocean.

James said of the challenge:

*The goal of *Secondoary Fun* is to raise funds and awareness for two great charities; *Dementia Adventure* and *T-21*. The spirit of adventure involved in our journey reflects the ethos of both charities which provide opportunities to those who may struggle to find important adventure and activity alone. We hope to inspire people to contribute towards these causes and hope that all we reach can benefit from the message of the charities.*

The journey isn't slated to start until December 2025 and will take over one month to complete, but the training and fundraising efforts have already begun.

You can follow their voyage on [Instagram](#) or [their website](#), and donations can be made [here](#).

Good luck gents!

Zeeco Future Talent Open Day

We have recently the following opportunity from local company Zeeco, aimed at those between 15-23 years old.

On Thursday, 14th September 2023, Zeeco Europe is excited to welcome students between the ages of 15 and 23 to the [Zeeco Future Talent Open Day](#).

This event gives students a chance to get a first-hand taste of what it's like to be part of an innovative industry.

Students will tour our state-of-the-art facilities located just north of Stamford and watch engineering come to life through real-time demonstrations. They will have the chance to engage in interactive activities and discover how we engineer and produce revolutionary products, services and solutions that pave the way towards a sustainable future.

Students will gain valuable career advice and learn about various exciting career paths and prospects within the engineering industry directly from our industry professionals, including Engineering, Accounting, Project Management, Administration, Document Control, Welding, Logistics, Marketing and more.

- Time slots are available from 1 pm – 6 pm, and tours take approximately 1 – 1.5 hours.
- For more information and to book a space on one of our tours, please visit our website: info.zeeco.com/future-talent-open-day
- Coach visits are encouraged. If you have tour groups of more than 20 students, please email ZEL_events@mail.zeeco.com directly to book your slot.



The poster features a photograph of five diverse individuals in a professional setting. Below the photo is a red banner with white text. The text includes the Zeeco logo, the event title 'ZEECO FUTURE TALENT OPEN DAY', the tagline 'DISCOVER THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING', and details about the event date (Thursday, 14th September 2023), time (1pm-6pm), and location (Zeeco Europe Ltd, The Woolfox Building, Great North Road, Stretton, Rutland, LE15 7QT). A QR code is provided for registration.

ZEECO
ZEECO FUTURE TALENT OPEN DAY
DISCOVER THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING

If you're aged between 15-23 years, join us for this FREE, extraordinary event tailored exclusively for young minds eager to explore the captivating world of innovation and engineering!

EVENT DATE:
THURSDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2023
Tours available from 1pm - 6pm. Register today to avoid disappointment!

JOIN US AND EXPERIENCE:

- A tour of our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and offices
- Experience real-time demonstrations
- Have the opportunity to take part in hands-on, interactive activities
- Hear about the work we do from industry professionals across the business
- Gain careers advice
- Learn about Zeeco Summer Internship opportunities

EVENT LOCATION:
ZEECO EUROPE LTD.
The Woolfox Building, Great North Road, Stretton, Rutland, LE15 7QT

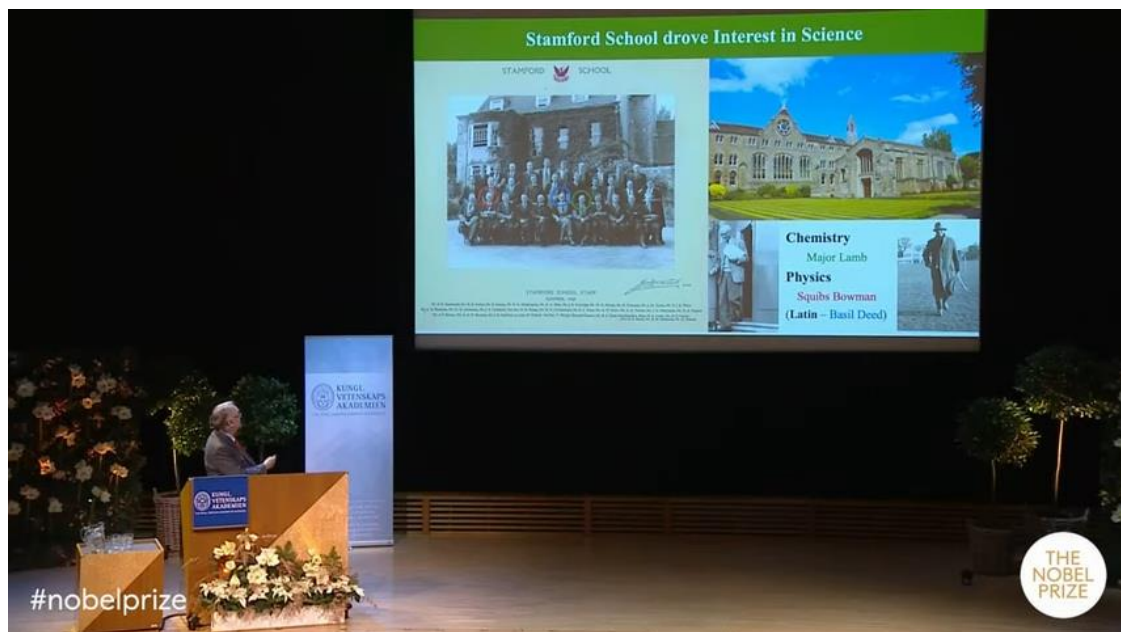
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

Notable Alumni

You may have recently seen on our Old Stamfordian social media that on the Schools' website a new page was launched to look at some of our notable alumni, including a Nobel Prize winner, sporting record holders and award winners.

Many of our OS have left an indelible mark on the world through their contributions in various fields, including the Arts, Sciences, the Military, and sporting achievements, and the page will be updated as more OS make an impact on the world.

[You can view the page here](#) and if there is anyone you think we may have missed please do [let us know](#).



FUTURE EVENTS

OS Golf

Friday 25 August 2023 - Burghley Park Golf Club

Saturday 23 September 2023 - Luffenham Heath

Burghley Park contact: [Neil Nottingham](#)

Luffenham Heath contacts: [John Cartwright & Geoff Holyoake](#)

Boston Lunch

Saturday 9 September 2023

Boston and County Club, Park Gate, Boston, PE21 6RL

A bar lunch will take place at the Boston and County Club on 9 September 2023. All are warmly invited.



Old Stamfordian Club

BOSTON O.S. ANNUAL REUNION

Saturday, 9th September 2023

12 noon for 12.30pm

at Boston & County Club, Parkgate, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 6RL

*Invitation to all Members, Partners & Friends of the
Old Stamfordian Club and Old Girls Guild.*

Join us for a Bar Lunch, Drink and a Chat.

Dress Code : Smart Casual / OS & OGG Colours

Please contact your OS and OGG friends to come and join us.

RSVP BEFORE SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST 2023

Dudley Bryant MBE [OS 1951-1961]

Tel : [H] 01205-364017 [M] 07768-695845 E-Mail : dudleybryant14@gmail.com

For booking and further details please contact [Dudley Bryant](#).

London Old Stamfordian Club Dinner

Wednesday 8 November 2023

The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY

Enjoyment, fellowship and friendship are watchwords for the Old Stamfordian Club

and nowhere are these more apparent than at the Old Stamfordian London Dinner.

The event is held in the breathtaking surroundings of the RAF Club in Piccadilly and offer an almost unrivalled opportunity to catch up with old friends and to forge new acquaintances as the photographs below show.

Do not be misled by the word London in the title; attendees come from all over the United Kingdom and indeed the world.

So please put the date in your diary. We look forward to welcoming you to the RAF Club on the evening of Wednesday 8 November 2023 (whether you are from Clapham, California, Canberra or anywhere in between).

Booking will open in due course.

FAREWELLS

We have been notified of the passing of members of our Old Stamfordian community, and wish to send our condolences on behalf of the OSC.

John Conington (OS 41)

Simon Scholes (OS 89) informed us in April of the passing of John, his grandfather. He has written the following obituary.

John Erwin Conington 7th November 1924 – 17th April 2023.

It's really difficult to write something for someone who has always been there, a constant – just like the British ability to talk about the weather. It has however been rather lovely to reminisce about my grandfather. Looking through photos of the man I remember growing up with.

John attended Stamford School between 1933 and 1941 and by all accounts was able to indulge his passion for cricket. When I was at the school (I left in 1989) I was always rather proud that he was mentioned twice on the honours wall of the school cricket pavilion - for 1940 & 1941

John Erwin Conington was the youngest brother to 2 sisters Margaret and Eileen, Husband to June, father to Julia, Grandfather to me and William and great grandfather to Richard and Beatrice.

He was born in 1924 and grew up in Stamford, at the Vale House in Mill Street, attended Stamford School and moved to Uffington in 1938 when his father bought the Manor Farm. The family had been successful running several butcher shops in Stamford and his father won many awards for championship pigs.

Gramps was a keen cricketer and a good one by all accounts. He is mentioned twice as captain of the first XI in the pavilion at Stamford School. He left school in 1943 and had won a place to play cricket for Lincolnshire. Sadly the second world war got in the way and he never got the opportunity to play for his county. He was a prolific batsman for the Uffington village team and we have a newspaper cutting with him as the first batsman to score over 1000 runs since the end of the second world war. He even taught his daughter, Julia, to bowl so she could help him practice in the garden. Many thanks to the Uffington cricket club for remembering him and lowering their flag to half mast to honour him when they heard the news. He would have been very touched.



JR Marriott RC Roberts WP Scholes J Sootney HJ Butler FR Lambert PE Nunn
JE Conington EJ Smith FP Tomes HE Packer Esqre JH Lambert 1941

John Conington, seen here on the front left in the colourised photo of the 1941 1st XI cricket team.

As a farmer during the second world war he was in a reserved occupation but that didn't stop him serving in the local home guard. He witnessed his father pull airmen from a British Bomber that crashed on the farm. He told me of hiding behind a tractor with one of the saved the airmen as the magazine exploded and bullets begin to whizz about. He loved his sport. Not really football or rugby but cricket, tennis, boxing, snooker and darts – even the game show Bullseye was a favourite Sunday evening watch! During the summer I remember the windows open in the house, curtains

drawn with tennis or a cricket match on the television. As a young man he played snooker at the snooker hall upstairs on Stamford high street. He was even a good boxer – something I've only recently found out!

He remained incredibly physically fit, almost right up to the end. I do hope we have inherited some of his amazing genes because I'm not sure he was totally committed to looking after himself. Having worked on the farm his whole life on tractors and combine harvesters with no cabs or dust filtration. He sprayed the fields, treated cattle, chickens and pigs with chemicals that are now mostly banned! He built a barn out of asbestos sheets and during the winter for some extra money he resprayed Minis in a closed garage with only a knotted hanky for protection. He liked the occasional scotch or a small cigar. He was partial to an ale – sometimes with a bar of Cadburys fruit and nut. A habit he taught me as an impressionable young man! With all that in mind 98 was indeed a fabulous innings.

He was immensely practical. He maintained the farm machinery, replumbed the whole house, installed boilers, could repair almost anything you put in front of him. From a major project like my old MGB to intricate inlays on boxes or replacing lost handles on centuries old kettles or tableware. He was the go-to guy if something was broken and I think we have all grown up with a reluctance to call for a tradesman to help us as we have been spoilt a bit by his abilities! He taught me how to use fibre glass filler to keep my cars on the road. He also taught me how to prepare to spray a car and then how to spray and get a good finish. Before he retired and the farm was still worked he had us all employed on it. I was driving the tractor next to the potato harvester as soon as my legs could reach the pedals. He taught mum, my brother Will and me how to drive a tractor. We are immeasurably grateful that we learnt how to reverse a trailer thanks to his guidance!

He loved his cars. As a young man he courted his future wife, June, in a Morgan 3 wheeler – which he turning into a generator to power something on the farm when it got too ropey to drive! He once told me he had to recut the valves in his old Ford in the morning so he could make it to a cricket match in the afternoon. He had Humbers, Jaguar, Mercedes and Land Rovers. In 1983 as a spotty 12 year old the first new car I ever sat in was his new Mercedes from Eyebury motors. After his wife June died he sold the van they had to help her get around and treated himself to a sporty little Mercedes coupe!

For a man than never learnt to swim he really loved his boats. From an early age, rowing on the River Welland at the bottom of the garden of the old family home in Stamford. He had inflatable boats, sports boats, cabin boats and even fabulous gin palaces – they put a smile on his face and gave him access to the water to indulge in another of his passions – fishing. On our summer holidays in Wales, Cornwall,

Scotland or Weymouth the main diet would consist of A LOT of fish. Mackerel, pollock, bass, skate, dog fish even the occasional Gurnard made the plate in the caravan or boat. Sometimes we would even make the journey, buckets and forks in hand to dig up fresh cockles from Llanrhidian sands in the Gower. He kept a boat in Weymouth into his late 80s. He would jump in his Coupe and drive himself down in the middle of the night to the boat and go off and have fun fishing and pottering for a week or more. He once told me – many years after my grandmother had died that he didn't really like taking women out on the boat as he felt they were only after his money!

He was someone whose good opinion you wanted. I have a memory that I upset him once. Something to do with riding my bike where I shouldn't. I don't think I was very old, maybe single digits. He got properly cross and I got properly upset that I'd upset my grandfather. That was rare, I don't really remember him cross or angry. I certainly remembering not wanting to upset him. William told me once that he was like a father to him as he grew up. He was our constant, our rock to rely upon.

He taught himself to play the electric organ – including both levels of keyboard and the foot pedals. I don't remember ever being a great fan of the music but I can certainly appreciate the effort he put in!

He was a man with an easy smile, quick to laugh and with a cheeky sense of humour. He could talk for hours to pretty much anyone about all sorts of topics – but mostly the cricket or tennis scores He even got into East Enders in his later life! He's still the only person I have met that can strip the carcass of chicken and chips to the bone using only a knife and fork! He laughed a lot. He was fun and knew how to have a good time.

He liked a cigar, a beer, the occasional whisky. A cooked breakfast in the morning or maybe sugar puffs out of an old Christmas pudding bowl. He loved a good meal – He grew his own potatoes and runner beans for the table right up to his last year. For more than 10 years mum made sure he had a good cooked meal every day. Yes he could cook, but I don't think he was ever daft and he knew mum did a good job for him!

For treats he liked a snowball, coconut mushrooms, egg custard, humbugs, fizzy laces, mint imperials and a pork scratching.

Thanks to him we have hours and hours of Cinefilm and videos to wade through. Not so many photos, just moving images that he took of a joyful life.

We have the best memories of John Conington and the 98 years he drew breath in this

crazy world we live in. The son of a butcher, farmer and champion pig breeder, husband to June, father to Julia.

But after 98 years on this planet of ours he has played his last innings and moored up the boat for the last time – but we can remember what a splendid chap his was.

Yes, he got old. The splendid person we knew gently faded away before our eyes. But we can stop and remember, hear his laugh, remember the smile and his sense of humour. We can also remember that you never want him on your left if you are playing chase the ace because of his poker face and that he generally had a rotten card to swop with you!

The man that could fix anything, build most things. A fun and kind man.

This has been just a brief snapshot of a life well lived and a man much loved.

Gramps, with all our love, goodnight and God bless. xx

Simon Scholes, Stamford School 1982-1989

Bernard Chapman (OS 63)

We published the sad news about Bernard in our last update, and Mike Hoskins (OS 63) has written the following tribute.

Bernie and I shared the same seven years in St. Paul's and Radcliffe houses where he was a more diligent pupil than me. Although not blessed with a sportsman's physique he applied himself to all of the usual activities – rugby, hockey and cricket. He was also a talented table-tennis player. At hockey he was School First XI goalkeeper in 1962 and 1963 – although the latter year was affected by such bad weather that I cannot recall any game being played!

Bernie was also heavily involved in the work led by Squibs Bowman to produce a record of all who had, at that time, attended Stamford School.



Bernard is pictured second from right in the back row in this 1st XI hockey photo from 1962.

After school he worked for Blackstones – my recollection is that he was a cost accountant – and he played hockey for Stamford Town. This, of course, was at a time when such goalkeepers were not “Michelin-men” but simply wore pads, a pair of over-shoes, and hopefully a box. It required considerable bravery or, as I frequently told him, stupidity.

Sadly I lost touch with Bernie after I moved away from Stamford in 1967 but I like to think that he enjoyed his life and that he did his duty in looking after his father. RIP.

Pete Coles (OS 69)

Pete sadly passed away in 2017; Lindsay Mair (OS 69) writes the following:

Pete Coles died in December 2017 after a long illness. He will be fondly remembered by those who were with him at Stamford.

Pete came to the school in the third form when his father, was appointed local manager of Boots and transferred from Northamptonshire (and to the end of his life, Pete remained a keen supporter of the Cobblers). He was clever, and never far from the top of the class.

He went on from Stamford to St John's College Oxford, where he studied modern languages, adding Russian to his already excellent German and French. After university, he did teacher training at the Oxford Polytechnic (now Brookes University) and there he met his wife Morag. She was from the south west, and Pete took up his first job as a language teacher at Poole Grammar School. It was to be his first and last place of work: he had a successful career there retiring as Head of the Modern Language Department, a proud veteran of 21 school trips to Paris. His retirement was to be too short, but it brought great happiness, with his first grandchild. Pete and Morag had two children, Tim and Sarah.

Pete will be remembered for many things. He was a keen musician (piano). He was one of the first golfers from the school (we paid £2 a year to play at Burghley Park, a deal negotiated I think by Mr Mackenzie), and he stayed with the sport. He was an active football fan: we used to attend the second half at Stamford Town, when the gates opened for free. He liked playing too, though soccer was entirely informal at school. Pete was a goalkicker before Lineker, with the ability to steal the ball into the net. He was a strong walker, Badbury Rings to Salisbury in a day, and he always walked the mile and a half from home to work and back. He was a political liberal, and for years he was the union rep at PGS. At school he was a keen train spotter, one of a group who clustered in the corner of the Remove A to see the trains that had left the station well over a mile away; one of the later arrivals who had come on the train would tell them all what the engine number had been. In later life, he was a ferocious crossword solver. An excellent cook. He was a film fan already while at school, and for many years helped run the Poole Film Club. One secret of his success was wit and humour; he was a fine mimic, and could 'do' most of our Stamford Masters.

Pete was a great friend. At work, he was a real "subject man", who taught languages because he loved them. A cousin of mine told me that Pete had got his son through A level German, and must have been brilliant to achieve that feat of teaching; more objectively, there was impressive uptick in Oxbridge entrants. Pete did it because he saw the value in his subject. More than anything else though, those who knew Pete in later life will remember him most as a devoted family man.

Stamford Archives Podcast

In 2022 David Lovell Brown celebrated an incredible 50 year association with the Schools, working as both a teacher and an organist. He has had a huge impact on generations of Old Stamfordians, as well as various communities across the country, as evidenced by organ playing in many different churches and cathedrals.



Our former Archivist, James Buckman, sat down with David to discuss his time here at Stamford, and you can listen to the interview [here](#).



A Level Results

Our most recent Old Stamfordians celebrated their A Level and BTEC achievements on Thursday 17 August, as exam results were announced.

Overall, 181 Year 13 students sat A Levels or an equivalent this summer in 31 subjects, with 79.3% achieving grades of A*- C. 27.6% of students achieved at least three A*/A grades or equivalent. As an overall pass rate, 99.3% of students passed which, excluding COVID years, is the highest pass rate since 2016. 72% of Stamford students who applied to UCAS achieved their firm choice university.

[Read more here](#)



Independent School of the Year for Community Outreach

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