



Old Stamfordian Club

OS Updates, May 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope this latest Update finds you as fit and well, both physically and mentally, as the present circumstances allow. Feedback from OS members continues to reinforce the importance of regular communication and in this Update we are outlining our short and longer term priorities, as well as providing some information on our Committee and other items which would have been discussed at this year's cancelled AGM.

As the pandemic challenges persist, many OS members have offered to help those in difficulty and if you think the OS Community can assist you please make contact either by phone (07889 980058) or via oldstamfordians@ses.lincs.sch.uk

In the recently published OS Newsletter we noted that Natalie Pretsell had joined Jo Peck's team in the Development Office as Community Engagement Manager and we wish Natalie every success in her role supporting the Club.

The Old Stamfordian Club in the Short Term

Your Committee and I are focused right now on three immediate priorities:

- E Bulletins/Updates and Social Media

We have received a pleasing number of contributions from members for these Updates and we encourage you to share your thoughts and memories. Our social media posts have also been well received and a selection of these will appear in future Updates.

With the 'virtual world' in mind it would be remiss not to thank the Reverend Mark Goodman for the virtual Sunday Chapel Services he is organizing and which can be accessed via <https://www.stamfordschools.org.uk/chapel-service/>

- Engagement & Data

Maintaining relationships with Old Stamfordians and establishing new contacts underpins everything the OS Club does. Our success depends on a strong data base and we are working closely with Jo Peck and Natalie Pretsell in the Development Office to ensure that the data we hold is full, complete and up to date so that we can reach out to as many Old Stamfordians as possible.

- Membership Survey

Work will start this September on the preparations for a Membership Survey to help us gain a better understanding of exactly what members are looking for from the Club. Alan Hancock will be leading this work on behalf of the Committee working closely with Natalie Pretsell and we would ask you to be frank and uncompromising in your responses when you get the opportunity to respond to the questionnaire.

Our thanks to all of you who responded to the recent SES survey regarding the pandemic; the response rate was very encouraging and results will be published in due course.

The Old Stamfordian Club in the Longer Term

There are three important projects planned for 2020/2021:

- Mentoring & Sector Groups

Mentoring and Sector Groups were discussed at length in the recently published Newsletter and are also referenced in the link (below) under the Annual General Meeting heading. We are hoping that staff, former staff and parents will participate in these initiatives and our thanks to those who have already volunteered to be involved.

- 2021 Reunion – 11/12/13 June

When we took the unfortunate decision to cancel this year's Reunion we had already undertaken considerable event planning and preparation thanks, in the main, to John Smith from the Committee and Jo Peck. The aim now is to use this plan to host a successful Reunion next year and members are encouraged to put the June dates in their diaries.

Because the end of their era at Stamford School was something of an anti climax for the 2020 leavers we will be looking to arrange a suitable commemorative celebration for them as part of next year's Reunion.

- Benchmarking

When we have the results of the Membership Survey (mentioned above) we will use the feedback to shape our future Club activities. Natalie Pretsell is already in contact with other alumni associations at Oakham, Oundle and Uppingham and we will investigate the possibility of an annual workshop with representatives from these Clubs to share best practice, ideas and experiences so that we can benchmark what the OS Club provides to its members.

The Committee

In the absence of an AGM, a Resolution was passed confirming the current Committee in their respective roles for another twelve months with one change: Richard Allen is standing down after many years of excellent service as our Treasurer. Alan Hancock has agreed to become our new Treasurer and we are fortunate that Richard will remain on the committee to ensure a smooth hand over of responsibilities.

The Committee and your Chairman are aware that terms of office are being extended, through necessity, without a proper election and this will encourage us to be as effective a team as possible. To assist in this, brief Role Descriptions are being developed by our Secretary, David Denney, so that all committee members are clear as to their responsibilities.

We still have vacancies for anybody wanting to be a general committee member and we will be advertising/headhunting to fill these positions. If you are interested in joining the Committee please call on 07889 980058.

Special update on Social Media content issues

On 7 June 2020 the SES Development Office sent out a special bulletin regarding allegations of racist content posted on Twitter by former pupils of the School and members of the OS Club.

Together the OS Club and the Development Office have conducted an investigation and two of the three individuals cited have come forward of their own volition, apologised for their behaviour and for the damage caused to the reputation of both the OS Club and the School.

The third individual, whose alleged behaviour was the least egregious, is being contacted and will be issued with a formal letter warning of the repercussions of any similar behaviour in the future.

This has been a very regrettable incident but one that's has been dealt with promptly and effectively, emphasising the zero tolerance the School and the OS Club have for this type of behaviour.

Will Phelan, Principal, has also provided a statement which is available on the website.

Please [click here](#).

Finally

Our aim is for 2020/21 to be an exciting - if different - year with something for Old Stamfordians of all generations. Thank you in advance for your support.

Phillip Hoskins

Chairman

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Stamfordian Club due to be held on 13 June 2020 was cancelled because of the current pandemic. The next AGM will be on 12 June 2021.

There are several AGM related points of note:

- *As stated above the Committee for 2020/21 will be the same as this year with the one change in the role of Treasurer. The Committee passed a Resolution to this effect pursuant to Rule 8 (the Club will be managed by a Committee) and Rule 9 (the Committee will be elected at the AGM and automatically resign each year)*
- Please [click here](#) to read the Report which would have been given at the AGM *The Past Year has been one of Consolidation with the Objective of Building Upon the Vision of Previous Chairmen and Committees.* This follows very much the form of the Report in the recently published Newsletter
- Formal items such as approval of Accounts and the Resolution relating to the Proposed Rule Changes will be deferred to the 2021 AGM

NICK GALLOP

Nick Gallop Headmaster of Stamford School shares experiences of being an educationalist in the current crisis and his views on the outlook for the future.

Please click on the links below.

<https://www.independentschoolparent.com/education-news/coronavirus-lets-get-through-this-together/>

<https://www.independentschoolparent.com/covid19/the-rise-of-the-coronials/>

<https://www.stamfordmercury.co.uk/news/lets-create-an-educational-legacy-from-this-virus-crisis-9108310/>

NEWS OF OLD STAMFORDIANS

George Culmer (OS 81)

The Editor noticed in the paper over the weekend that George Culmer (OS 81) has been appointed as Chairman of Aviva, the FTSE 100 insurer. George has had an extremely successful career and previous to Aviva he was finance chief at Lloyds Banking Group. Our sincere congratulations go to George.

Squadron Leader Mark Sugden (OS 96)

Ben Hawkins advises on the recent fly past for Captain Tom Moore (now Colonel Tom Moore) Squadron Leader Mark Sugden carried out the Ground Liaison role and did a piece to camera on the BBC.

Please click on the links below

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/display-teams/battle-of-britain-memorial-flight/the-team/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-52484185/captain-tom-raf-flypast-in-veteran-s-honour>

Thomas Wire (OS 12)

The Editor noticed in the Stamford Mercury that Old Stamfordian Thomas Wire had received the Citizen of the Week Award for his support to others during COVID-19. Currently a Marketing Project Co-ordinator, Thomas and his partner set up 'Oober Veggies' where he hired a van to collect vegetables from local farms, even helping to pick them at times, and delivering these to local residents who are unable to leave their homes, ensuring they were still able to get fresh vegetables. The full article can be found in the link below. Our thanks go out to Thomas and his partner.

<https://www.stamfordmercury.co.uk/news/caring-man-is-changing-the-lives-of-people-9111506/>

REMINISCENCES

Martin Hardingham (OS 50)

Martin Hardingham has written from South London saying he is in his late eighties and still alive and kicking (although not so much kicking these days!) The piece on VE Day in the last Update sparked a memory for Martin from 1944 *Polish Paratroops in Stamford*

Please [click here](#) to read the Article.

A fascinating insight into life during World War II. a compulsive read - thank you Martin

Ed Dolby (OS 64)

Ed writes:

I was very interested to read Mike Weaver's excellent account of our 1964 visit to Moscow and Leningrad. I also have good memories of that trip and would appreciate any photographs of the trip.

The group photo is particularly interesting. I can name most but not all-and it took me a while to find myself! It would be good to id those I cannot name

I was not originally scheduled to go on the trip but had belatedly expressed interest having taken the O level Russian course alongside Science A levels dropping it after a year. Then poor Richard Brown had his awful accident at the Town Baths and a vacancy arose which I grabbed. By the by, no-one seems to know what became of Richard. I do remember Neil Sanderson picking me up from my home in Oxfordshire to visit Richard who was in hospital at Stoke Mandeville, but unfortunately we had a minor crash en route. We did however visit him on other occasions, but then lost touch.

Sadly, neither of the lads either side of Mike Blee is with us today. Paddy Irvine (bow tie) was killed in a coach crash in Yugoslavia not long after (a theatre group tour, I believe) and Chris Catlin, whom I used to meet annually at the RAF Club dinners, died of a heart attack eleven years ago - see <https://www.shootinguk.co.news/obituary-chris-catlin-5698> (many firewalls will not allow this link to be followed so please Google Chris Catlin)

I have recently tracked down Pete Furness (front row behind the suitcases) who was a close friend and contemporary.

Thank you, Ed.

Dr Chris Jarvis (OS 65)

Chris writes from North Cornwall with best wishes to all:

I do remember the School fete in July 1956 just and still have a single moment purchased then-a shield with the school motto and insignia. This was probably the brainchild of the legendary art master Walter Douglas. How it survived down the years...God only knows. There is an image of it below - possibly a unique survivor the event. Clearly needs a little TLC.



Many familiar faces on the Russian trip. I was at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School with Pete Furness from 1965. Amazingly there were five of us from Stamford School in that year's intake. We actually matched Epsom College's numbers.

I think I also recognise Pete Liddle and Roger Easey in the photographs. Do I also see the late John Cockin in there too? (also a former band mate)

I failed to get on the minority time Russian course at School-it was oversubscribed.
Does that happen any longer I wonder?

However I did Russian at night school about twenty five years ago to assist with my work in elite sport. After the dismantling of the USSR I discovered that many Russian athletes had learned English but were not allowed to use it. Prior to this basic O level German via Mike Chew maintained an effective communication channel with most of the Eastern bloc. At School I did not realise how useful German would be in later life. No doubt others will say the same thing.

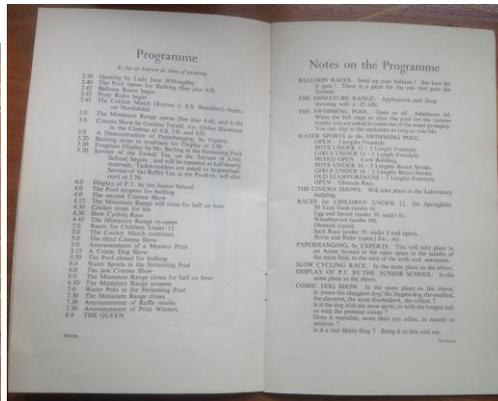
The said the Cyrillic alphabet came in useful in reading Greek Restaurant signs.

Greetings to all from Groundhog Day in North Cornwall.
So many worse places to be at present.

All so long ago and far away.....

Thank you, Chris.

Editor's note: apologies go out to Peter Sayers whose photos were missed from the last edition, please see them below.



Ian Brassington (OS 73)

Ian Brassington shares his experiences as a swimming pool engineer *Responsibility at a Young Age in a Pre-Health and Safety Era*. A flash back to very different times!

Please [click here](#) to read the Article.

Again, well worth a read - thank you Ian

Dudley Bryant (OS 61)

The Band

Inspired by a photograph on Facebook of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Stamford in 1961, Dudley Bryant (OS 61) sent in a photograph of what he describes as "this famous band."



Can anyone help with identification of the members? So far we have:

Back row L-R JR Broadbent [definite] AP Lorenz [not sure] CN Branston

4th row PJ Furness, MD Meek ?? KC Lunn

3rd row IL Starsmore, RA Haywood [definite] DW Wright CE Cooke

2nd row PS Heath SG Cooke CFT Smith FA Aylin

1st row EA Beck, Captain G. Johnstone G.R.S.M. (Lond), Stanley Boddington, DA Bryant (Drum Major)

Thanks to Dudley for sending the photograph.