



Old Stamfordian Club

OS Updates, October 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The first General Committee Meeting of the current year took place on Saturday 26 September 2020 through the virtual medium of Zoom.

We welcomed Jon Hodgson (Staff), Oliver Thorley (OS 01) and Simon Richardson (OS 84) to the Committee. We thank each of them for joining us and have every confidence that they will make a constructive contribution to the work of the Old Stamfordians and look forward to working with them.



Predictably, Government Regulations and Guidance on Covid – 19 continue to impact on our activities and in consequence the London Old Stamfordians have been compelled, regrettably, to cancel the dinner scheduled to take place in November 2020. Preparations are already in hand for a London Dinner in 2021.

Despite the pandemic related restrictions, the Committee continues to focus on how best to connect and engage with members and Cam Park (OS 07) is taking the lead on this on our behalf. With the help of Simon Richardson and Giorgio Rubbo (OS 16), Cam is connecting with Year Groups and, in particular, more recent leavers.

Natalie Pretsell and Giorgio are also organising another Zoom Quiz for November 2020.

Robert Thorpe (OS 78) and Rob Forster (OS 14) are driving the Mentoring Pilot Project forward. A RoadMap for the overall project is to be produced and we hope that the pilot will be a success and that this initiative will, as with the Sector Groups, provide real benefits for the Old Stamfordian community.

John Smith (OS 71) and his group are already working hard on the Reunion Weekend 2021 (11-13 June) and we are fortunate to have someone of John's experience and expertise leading on what is undoubtedly our flagship event.

Cam and Tom Gulland (OS 13) are looking at our Sport offerings aside from the Reunion Weekend will develop a plan for implementation throughout 2021-22.

Dudley Bryant (OS 61) is already planning the Boston lunch for 18 September 2021 after this year's cancellation.

Natalie and Alan Hancock (OS 80) are working on a Membership Survey. This is so important because the Committee are committed to providing you with what you are actually looking for from the Old Stamfordian Club - not what we think you might want. So please, when the Survey reaches your screen or lands on your door mat, answer the questions frankly. We are looking to find out exactly what you think, however challenging your feedback might be for the present Committee, so that we can make any necessary changes.

So those are the headlines. My thanks go to all Committee Members for the positive start to the Club year, in circumstances which are less than ideal. The caveat for all the future events I have mentioned is that plans are subject to change as per the prevailing Government Regulations and Guidance.

Your contributions to these Updates are very welcome, particularly at the present time when face to face activity is of necessity limited, and my sincere thanks to all those who have already contributed.

Above all, I do hope you stay safe and well and, as a reminder, if there is anything which the Old Stamfordians can do to help just get in touch.

Phillip

07889980058

EVENTS

East Anglian Open Foursomes Golf Tournament

Recently two stalwarts of the Old Stamfordian Golfing Society, James Cobb (OS 87) and Julian Smith (OS 81), won the East Anglian Open Foursomes Golf Tournament held at Hunstanton Golf Club over the weekend of 5 September 2020 to 6 September 2020. The tournament is a well-known and prestigious event in golfing circles with fifty-two pairs travelling from as far

afield as Portsmouth, Manchester and Yorkshire to play. At the first time of entering this event, but with many years of playing the course for the OS team, Smith and Cobb were placed as top seeds after gathering 68 points in the first 36 holes of the stableford on the Saturday.



They played local favourites whose combined handicaps were plus two in the semifinal on Sunday morning, and despite the fact that their opponents recorded five birdies in the middle six holes, Smith and Cobb were victorious after gaining an unlikely half on the eighteenth hole and eventually winning after making a creditable par on the nineteenth hole. In the final match they were three down with five holes to play and managed to win the remaining holes, coming home in sub par for the tough closing stretch to win two up.

Congratulations!

Ryder Cup - Mark James (OS 72)

The Golf Correspondent for the Daily Telegraph recently wrote of the Ryder Cup drama when twenty-five years ago Europe clinched the 1995 match which took place at Oak Hill Country Club, New York:

“Today is the twenty fifth anniversary of Europe’s victory in Rochester, Upstate New York. One of the more dramatic finishes that saw the US lose on home soil for just the second time and denied their first hat-trick in the European era.”

Mark James (OS 72) was a member of the European team in 1995. He played in seven Ryder Cup Teams including captaining the Europeans in 1999.

MEMORABILIA & GIFTS

Old Stamfordian Club Blazers

For those who are not aware, we have OSC blazers, waistcoats, trousers and cummerbunds available for purchase. Delivery times are between four and six weeks (although please note coronavirus restrictions are meaning longer than normal production times). [Click here](#) for further details.



Old Stamfordian memorabilia is also available for purchase from The Stamford Endowed School Shop, on St Paul's Street. Perfect for gifts for all members of the Stamford Endowed Schools community. [Click here](#) for the catalogue.

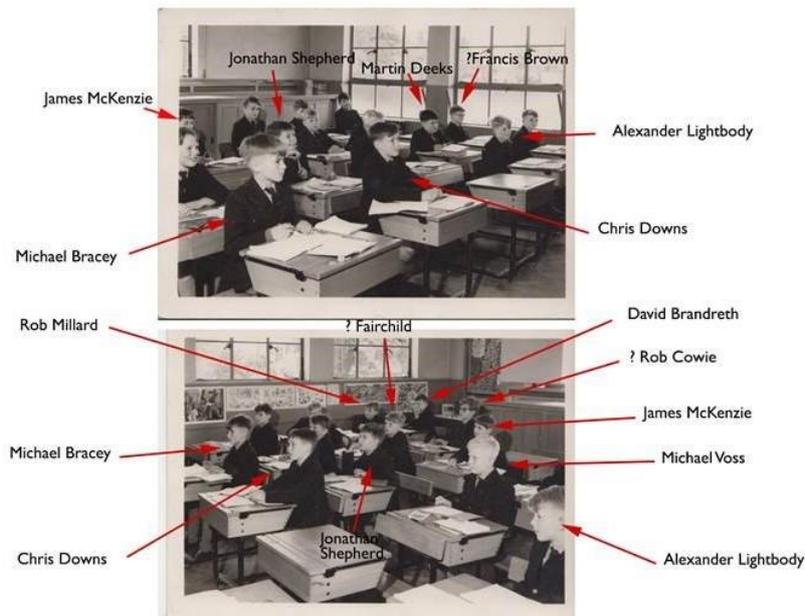
REMINISCENCES

Mark Allenby (OS 55) writes:

A response to Captain Anthony Wardale. I also was leader of the Cuckoo patrol under the regime of Whiskey Wainwright. I would rather it had been the Eagles, but perhaps that experience of leadership enable me to have a pip on my shoulder during National Service. Whiskey took the scouts camping on Ingleborough. It rained incessantly, a stream through the tent and after a few days we went home early. I have a detached memory of a suitcase full of jumbled corned beef sandwiches which might have been part of that experience or on some other expedition.

David Brandreth (OS 71) writes:

In the Update received this evening there were two photographs sent in by Jonathan Shepherd. The pictures were taken of Form 1 (Miss Ennals) on the occasion of our getting new single desks. Before this we had double desks - an iron frame with a folding seat. The inkwells in the old desks were bottomless, so a pastime involved arranging one's books inside to make a run for a marble which we dropped through the inkwell. I have named as many people as I can remember. I think the first names are correct, but in those days everyone was called by either their surname or between ourselves their nick name. I do not have a Blue Book for the time, but my reports say there were twenty-four boys in the form, except for the Summer Term when there were twenty-five. Seeing a list of the names might jog my memory. My report card has also gone AWOL, but I do remember my father being rather bemused to see his son coming twenty-fifth out of twenty-four in Form Orders on one occasion! He was not too chuffed with his son either.



Please pass regards to Jonathan and thank him for the memories.

After my initial email I have found my copy of one of the photographs. My Mother had written it was Summer Term 1962 on the occasion of us getting new desks. This type of desk was used for examinations-not Form 1 but from the Vth Form classrooms-which were taken in the gym. We had to walk "in" the desks from our classrooms to the gym where they were set out for the exam period. We must have looked an odd lot, a crocodile of desks on legs walking from Big School along St Paul's Street, then on to the gym and up the stairs.

Harvey Clegg (OS 66) writes:

My parents were lucky living in Kesteven, so my education was free after passing the 11+. They did however have to pay for my brother and me before. I have now retired gracefully from the Illustration World and spend my time designing, building and restoring pond yachts. This may be a first for OS?

I loved reading about Bart's Rolls Royce which was always parked near Little School. Strangely I passed him driving the Rolls Royce many years after I had left School when holidaying in Devon. I remember the window glass being so yellowed it must have been difficult to see out, which is why Bart rarely exceeded 30 mph. Other notable teachers' cars from this era were Mr Bailey's Jaguar XK 120 (I think a red Roadster) and Major Lamb's Rover which Pont bought after the Major retired. The Major had a brand-new Rover 2000 as a present for having survived so many years at Stamford School. Well that was the story at the time!

On a different theme I loved seeing the pictures of Form 1. I can still smell the polish after returning from hols. I was in Form 1 with Mrs Kinghorn and Miss Ennals 56/57. The only prize I won from 1956 to 1966 was the form prize for handwork in Form 1 (which of course I still have.) This probably explains why I flourished in the Arts later. I was also reminded at this difficult time, the flu outbreak of 1957/58ish. I caught it early (most likely because my Parents travelled abroad frequently) and recall how few class members were present on my return.

Thank you for all the happy memories!

John Hatton (OS 67) writes:

A few random memories from my time at Stamford 1957 to 1967:

The old sports field changing room, random kit all over the place, nowhere really suitable to change, chalk all over the walls getting onto your kit and school uniform. Definitely not a place to leave anything hoping it will still be there next games time. The box of cricket gear would often have things missing and making up several sets of pads and gloves was not always possible; there was hardly ever a pair of matching anything.

"Wolfy" Wolfenden taking "remedials" at 13.30 after lunch in the School Hall for those with what was known as flat feet. We would walk around with our toes tucked in, pick up a sock with our toes and pass it over to the other foot, walking around lifting up on our toes as we wandered about.

Whatever the weather, Summer Term meant swimming without any heating. It could be as low as 59 °F, 15 °C. I wonder how many Health and Safety rules that would break nowadays. White stripe on swimming trunks until you could swim a width. Trunks that sagged and filled with water when wet. Plucking up the courage to jump off the top board. I never did dare to dive off it.

Having a sandwich lunch in Shell Classroom with Reverend Wright who would say grace: “Benedictus benedicat, per Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen”.

Major Lamb taking chemistry lessons in the (then new) science block and frequently popping out for a gasper whilst we wrote up the latest experiment. Unofficially taking bits of sodium out of the oil filled jar and dropping it down the sink to hear it fizz and splutter while he was having a drag.

The solitary heating boiler in the “Rems” prefab classrooms. We were only allowed one hod of coke a day, which did not last too long and so the poor boys at the back could get pretty cold; however we could illegally go and fill the hod up at the heap and avoid being caught. Hence, the stove could be filled up and the air vents fully opened so it would blaze away and get red hot. This didn't go down too well with the teachers who had to stand too close to it. Or pouring free school milk onto the lid and creating a huge stink as it burned away. Collecting the free milk in crates from under the snow to find it frozen on the top or curdled in the Summer.

Somebody had a Jowatt Javelin; was it Mr Fosdyke, music teacher? I remember song contests that St Paul's House always seemed to get the best song and win. In Cecil I can only remember being sorry losers!

Bill Tomlin did a good job of teaching me Latin as I was able to help one of my daughters to pass here GCSE. I recall he had been a mid-upper gunner in Lancasters and still had a nervous anxiety from the experience. Mr Chew taught me German and I was again able to help another daughter with her GCSE 35 years later.

At the end of term, Bart Frere would read to us; sometimes ghost stories which he made really spooky with his deep voice. Same as Bartell, 'Pont' Douglas would read to us as we painted in the art sessions. He read to us 'Slide Rule' by Neville Shute, the story of the R100 and R101 airships; a really good, but sad story. I also did woodwork in the shed, although I can't recall who it was that taught us. Another life skill I am still using.

Learning to sew in Miss Ennal's Form 1 has been useful all my life. I still have the doll that I made. It's pretty impressive if I say so myself. If you were a good boy, which I rarely was, you were allowed to give out the scissors and fill the inkwells or personal ink bottles from a big

bottle of Quink. Then to Lower 2 with Miss Dilks and to leatherwork lessons, again really useful life skills.

CCF was great fun. I recall enjoying heating up a spoon on the gas cooker at home and burning the dimples off the new boot toe caps before spending hours polishing them to build up a deep shiny layer. Blanco-ing belts and brasso-ing buckles and clips. 22 rifle shooting at the range. Then into the RAF section with less "bull" but pretty technical stuff with navigating and flight theory. Never did get a go on the glider but did have to pull it a few times. RAF Camp at Little Rissington: all the way to London on the train and then out to Kingham in Oxfordshire (I think.) Took all day. It was a hoot, hiding people's beds, removing their springs, raiding another School's dorm when they were out. First ever aeroplane flights: a Chipmunk and a Varsity, I think, and practice in a Link Trainer. I now volunteer at a local aircraft museum (majoring on the DeHavilland Mosquito) and we have a Link Trainer as a museum piece, fifty-five years on!

After that, Fire Station training. Station Officer Binks was a really nice man. We took a Coventry Climax engine water pump out into the sticks to suck up water out of a pond. Sadly, we blew the engine up, seized solid!

The Reverend David Harley bringing many new messages to our lives. He brought the bombshell that Christianity was not the only religion and the others are just as right as ours. Before you marry a girl, look at her mother, as that is most likely how she will turn out. I took no notice and luckily, mine did not!

In the last year, riding to school on my scooter and messing about with others on two mechanised wheels. Harvey Clegg, Andrew Kent, Barry Patchett, Steve Hudson. Kissing the Old Man; the tradition for new boys to kiss a stone effigy above the outside door of the Chapel. I too kissed the Old Man as a new boy or "smally" and was really quite anxious as I was told it was smothered in salt and pepper. I was lifted up by a pair of boys standing on benches, I recall.

I just saw that Ian Hodgson has died, sad; he was a pal of mine for quite a while.

I still ride motorbikes although the TV175 (bored out to 200cc) Lambretta with a ton of chrome is long since gone.

Best wishes to all who remember me.

Martin Vink (OS 72) writes:

Dear OS,

Thank you for the August newsletter and in particular the comments about Mr Hughes. Jerry Newlove says much of what I had been feeling since the news of Mr Hughes death.

I was also a Northfields boy and Jerry was Head of House whilst I was there. The family atmosphere in the house was very strong with Jane, Sally and Rachel joining us for meals and being with us on school trips such as the one Mr Hughes arranged to Denmark. I cannot recall if they were with us when he took us to Venice by overnight train.

I welcomed the freedom that he always gave us, albeit within clear limits, and I have a very strong impression that I felt cared for and allowed to grow.

I have clear memories of sitting in the common room doing prep or writing letters home on a Sunday and, having finished asking “can I read a book”. Inevitably if you asked too early Mr Hughes would reply “you can but you may not”, a saying that has stuck with me ever since.

Thank you also for the photograph of the cadets on a naval outing. Particularly our esteemed Chairman sitting bottom right. I think I recognised nearly all of the crew including Jim Scorer at the back who went on to join the navy.

Martin Vink

FAREWELLS

For this month there are no farewells to report on. As always, we wish you good health and stay safe.

OSC Newsletter / OGG Magazine 2019-20

As mentioned in the previous Update, the two committees have this year decided to publish the OSC Newsletter and OGG Magazine as one publication in print.

Please click the relevant links below:

[OSC Newsletter 2019-20](#)

[OGG Magazine 2019-20](#)

A note from Natalie Pretsell, SES Community Engagement Manager



Hello everyone,

The seasons are certainly changing with the nights drawing in and the chill in the air!

We have been busy in the Development Office working on publications, fundraising and the Stamford Lecture Series. In October we hope to launch the new and improved Old Stamfordian pages of the SES website. Changes include making the site as a whole more accessible and we have added some extra pages so watch this space!

As always, we are keen to hear from you about anything you would like to see more of or any suggestions you have for things we could be doing so please feel free to contact me on oldstamfordians@ses.lincs.sch.uk.