



# Old Stamfordian Club

OS Updates, December 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the beginning of 2019 your Committee reaffirmed the Club's key objectives, building on work completed by two previous Chairmen: Simon Stanley and Neil Paterson.

Our goal is to be an organization that promotes:

- Fellowship and Friendship
- Networking
- Support for all members

If we are successful in achieving these goals we will deliver on our vision of developing greater engagement and growth for the Club and its members.

Although progress towards these goals has been somewhat limited this year, work is going on behind the scenes on the Membership Survey thanks to Alan Hancock and Natalie Pretsell. The Survey will provide your Committee with essential information on what you and your fellow members are looking for from the Club and therefore from your Committee. Please be very frank in your responses.

John Smith and Natalie are working diligently on the 2021 Reunion and a fantastic weekend is in prospect. Make a note of the date in your diaries – **11 June – 13 June 2021.**

As I have mentioned in previous Updates, if you require any support or help during these challenging times, just e mail or pick up the phone.

Otherwise, on behalf of the Committee I wish you and yours a healthy, peaceful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Phillip Hoskins

Chairman

07889980058

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## EVENTS

### OS QUIZ - 27 NOVEMBER 2020



Once again the OSC and OGG joined together for the second Old Stamfordians Zoom quiz night. With significantly increased numbers from last time, and participants ranging from those who left school over 50 years ago, to those who left school only a few months ago, all enjoyed a light hearted evening of general knowledge and reminiscence. Questions featured rounds of Stamford history and popular culture, to Christmas themed brain teasers. Congratulations again goes to Old Girl Sarah Martin (nee Howard) (OS 84) who won the quiz for a second occasion!

*A thanks to all those who wrote questions for the quiz, the question masters and to Natalie Prestell for her stellar work in making the evening happen.*

*Look out for updates regarding the date of the next quiz, and we look forwards to seeing you then!*

*Giorgio Rubbo (OS16)*

**OLD STAMFORDIAN REUNION WEEKEND - 11 TO 13 JUNE 2021**

The plans for OS Reunion Weekend (June 11-13) 2021 continue on the assumption that Covid restrictions will have lifted to enable the weekend to go ahead. The weekend format is now confirmed and remains as provisionally reported in the November OSC Updates.

The all day cricket match on Friday 11 June versus the Old Oakhamians will take place at Burghley Park. This will be completed before the 8 aside tournament starts at the School at 18:00.

The guest speaker at the lunch on June 12th will be Nicholas Fluck (OS 70), Solicitor with Stapleton and Son in Stamford and Past President of the Law Society of England and Wales.

The OSC are aware that some OS are already planning their time to be in Stamford for Reunion weekend and are also trying to make contact with their contemporaries to do likewise. The School's Development Office will be able to help you make contact but in doing so must strictly follow GDPR rules and will highlight to you the need to do similarly when trying to make contact with others. Please note they are there to help and not hinder you in preparing for an enjoyable weekend.

Booking forms for the weekend will be available early in the New Year and put on the OSC website.

Meanwhile, if you have any current questions regarding Reunion Weekend then please [contact Natalie Pretsell](#), Community Engagement Manager (01780 750359) in the first instance.

### **OLD STAMFORDIAN BOSTON LUNCH - 18 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Boston Lunch will take place at noon on Saturday 18 September 2021 at the Boston and County Club, Parkgate, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 6RL. This event is now a firm fixture in the Old Stamfordian calendar thanks entirely to the stout efforts of Dudley Bryant. Please note the date in your diaries. Partners are welcome.

All Old Stamfordians are welcome. Formal invitations will be sent to Old Stamfordians in Lincolnshire, the wider East Midlands, South Yorkshire and North Norfolk in the fullness of time. Do let us know if you live outside of this area and are interested in attending as all are welcome.

## LONDON DINNER - 10 NOVEMBER 2021



*Following Government regulations, the 182nd meeting and dinner of the London Old Stamfordian Club was held on November 11 2020 in Woodford Green, with Ian Brassington, Club Chairman, as the only attendee.*

*Due to lockdown restrictions in place in England throughout November, Ian Brassington was the sole member of the committee able to attend the dinner, upholding annual appropriate formalities including making an entry to the register, holding the Loyal and Silent toasts, as well as toasting Stamford School.*

*Throughout the year, the London OS committee planned to host the dinner in various formats permitted throughout the developing Covid-19 restrictions, including an event for 30 members, a virtual event, and an outdoor dinner for the six committee members. Faced with new restrictions in November, with the dinner due to be held on Armistice Day, the most appropriate format of an in-person dinner with a sole attendee was settled upon.*

*The London OS Committee hopes that "normal service will be resumed" in 2021 and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the RAF Club on Wednesday 10 November 2021.*

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## **NEWS FROM OLD STAMFORDIANS**

### ***A Fine Example of Collaboration within the Stamford Community***

Please [click here](#) to see details of a development created as a result of Old Stamfordians Tom Arthey and Peter Sharpley working in collaboration.

*We send our congratulations.*

*The contact details may be useful for visitors to Reunion Weekend and similar events.*

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## **REMINISCENCES**

**Philip Ashbourne (OS 55) writes:**

*Thank you Michael Savage for reminding me of the Ingleborough Scout Camp. I have happy memories of this, especially of getting there and back by train. Many of us were train spotters in those distant days and some of us still are still chasing steam at home and abroad. The highlight of the trip was the Thames Clyde Express behind a Royal Scott engine which took us from Leicester to Leeds where we changed on a train to Clapham Junction (not that one) where we changed onto the fourth train of the day to Ingleton.*

*These were pre health and safety days and we were given much more freedom than we would be allowed today. The train spotters were given a day off to chase trains, not before cleaning out the porridge pans. The highlight was climbing Ingleborough as a group, but running down on my own. Coming from the Fens I fell in love with mountains on that day and since then I have walked, climbed and cycled them at every opportunity.*

**John Balaam (OS 61) writes:**

*I would like to add further comment to Graham Brigg's letter in Reminiscences about the Art Master's Car. The Art Master was undoubtedly Walter Douglas, more usually known as Ponto. He always told us that his car was a 1938 Singer which he called Albert. Albert spent most of its time in his garage and very few of us ever saw it. The nearest I got to seeing it was when I once managed to take a peep through a window and just saw only Albert's roof.*

*Ponto would tell us the story that the car took him and his family on their annual holiday to Wells-next-the-Sea, after which it needed major maintenance throughout the winter months. During the winter parts from Albert would appear in the Art Room for us to spend a lesson sketching them.*

*This is just one memory of Ponto, who I consider to have been a very sincere man from whom I learned a lot, not just about art, that I can still apply today.*

**Cliff Dix (OS 71) writes:**

*Bill Turnill mentions Squibby's solar heater for the swimming pool. It may be that Squibby had two attempts at that because I (as one who avoided the misery of games and worked with Squibby on games afternoons) was involved in a project that used the fall of the fountain in the pool enclosure to push water around a flat concrete bed outside the pool walls (no additional pump.) This construction was the length of the pool and about twelve feet wide, edged with a single brick rim, and with a run of similar brick down the centre, so that the water made a complete circuit of the base at a depth of maybe a couple of inches. I seem to recall being the bricklayer for much of that!*

*Unlike what Bill Turnill describes as "dribbling water over a blackened corrugated iron sheet" the late 60s version was covered with black plastic sheet, which floated on the surface. I recall Squibby postulating that water reflects some of the sunlight energy away, while the floating black plastic both absorbed the heat and stopped the cooling effect of evaporation.*

**Peter Fawcett (OS 60) writes:**

*Greetings from Hobart, Australia. You included a contribution from Graham Briggs (OS 58) including: At that time the Art Master whose name I forget, also owned an antique car. I am not sure what make, but it might have been a*

*Crossley. Perhaps someone else remembers. The Art Master was Walter F E Douglas who lived in St Leonard's Street. I believe his car was a Singer "Junior" Saloon. He was rather fond of it, named it "Albert" and put it forward as an example of good design.*

*The School Chaplain in the mid 50s was Rev David Kinghorn, who had an Austin Seven, I think. One day he had parked it in the driveway to the School Hall. A group of us "mechants" lifted it by the bumpers onto the terrace outside the Hall, then watched for Mr Kinghorn's reaction-which was calm and Christian, I have to say! Of course we did not know who the offenders were (!)but we offered to lift it down the driveway for him.*

*Another connection with early motoring at that time was the elderly Mr Pick who lived just along from the Headmaster's House in St Paul's Street. He was perhaps a brother of Jack Pick-or Jack Pick himself?- who made cars in Stamford between 1899 and 1925. I understand there is published history of the Pick Motor Company.*

***Editor's Note:*** *The book Stamford through Time by Christopher Davies includes a picture of the Pick Motor Works in Gas Lane. Thanks to Ian Brassington (OS 73) who has provided some further information about the Pick Motor Company. [Please click to view the information.](#) Ian has suggested that we establish a dedicated Local History Section within OSC. Watch this space!*

**Janet Green (nee Yates) (OGG 61) writes:**



My name is Janet Green (Yates.) I attended SHS in 1954 until 1961 and after teaching in Stamford I married and moved to Yorkshire where I have lived since 1966. I have recently found this picture of Northfields House taken in 1939. My Mother used to work there then with Miss Elizabeth Houston who was the Matron. The Housemaster was Major Cowburn at that time. Mrs Cowburn is sitting on the Major's left, I am not sure who the other two ladies are. My Mother is not in the picture. I am also interested to read about the Rev Wright Memorial Cricket Match at Little Casterton. I knew him very well when he was Parson at the Church and I sang in the Choir. I remember too his lovely Jowett Javelin Car made here in Bradford, and he of course came from Bingley near Bradford.

Incidentally my cousin Brian Bagshaw (OS) attended Stamford School and played cricket for the School when Mr Shelford was master i/c cricket. (I went to School with Margaret Shelford his daughter, we played netball for SHS)

My husband and I visited Miss Houston on a couple of occasions as she lived in Ilkley, She was a lovely person and I am sure that she would have been a very kind and caring matron. I remember my Mother talking about her and some of the boarders they had. They gave Mother a nickname-Bertissimus Esse (her name was Bertha.)

**FAREWELLS**



We report the passing of Andrew Knipe and Alistair Tarwid. Our deepest sympathy goes to family and friends.

### **Andrew Knipe (OS 70 )**

Andrew passed away at home in Radcliffe on Trent on 7 November 2020 aged 67. Andrew leaves partner Anne and children Eleanor and Philippa. Andrew is survived by older brother Richard and younger brother Stephen. All boys were Old Stamfordians. Due to Covid restrictions a private family funeral will be held.

### **Alistair Tarwid (OS 72)**



*Alistair's sister, Helen Gillott (nee Tarwid) has sent us a few words to be shared and we send our condolences to her and the family in return.*

*David Bond (OS 62) writes:*

*Alistair died on 11 November 2020 in Flensburg Northern Germany where he had lived for the past forty years.*

*At School he revelled in the Art Shack world of Walter Douglas and the idiosyncratic ways of Cuthbert Ward and Bartle Frere. These were his heroes and legends whose DNA he assimilated and displayed throughout his life.*

*After a short lived career as a Policeman, he began working on archaeological digs, including the Stamford Castle Site, where he made drawings of the items that were discovered. He also became an enthusiastic member of the local arts and theatre groups and a frequent singer at concerts.*

*It was romance that took him away to Flensburg where he worked initially as a graphic designer and latterly as a freelance translator, much in demand by large organisations. His artistic and musical interests continued unabated, and as a consummate communicator, he was often hired as the MC for concerts and conventions. Most remarkable of all was his joining a theatre group that toured all over Schleswig-Holstein performing plays and musicals in Low German.*

*He never lost his interest in or affection for Stamford and has been a frequent and welcome visitor to the town. He was a generous and kind man of immense stature and presence. SES can be proud to have nurtured him.*

*Simon Sergeant (OS 72) writes:*

*I was recently reading old copies of the Stamfordian and read a contribution by Alistair. He was the person who introduced me to archeology as I heard the digging sounds in Edley-Morton's garden. He was in charge of excavating the well. I was Squibby's gardener. Later we dug Stamford Castle together. Last time I saw him was in 2010 at the Mansion House dinner. We went to a bar afterwards. He was always bit eccentric, even in Browne where he shared a room with Roy Hamley next to the one I shared with Mike Earl. These rooms were destroyed by the fire.*

**Editor's Note:** Alistair, Simon and I were together in Form I and Lower II. Alistair leap frogged Upper II and left Simon and me behind, although Simon stayed with him in Southfields and Browne. He was very bright, but always had time to help and support those of us of lesser ability.

*James Buckman, SES Archivist, writes:*

*Alistair Alexander Tarwid attended Stamford School from 1962-72. We already know that he was secretary of the Archaeological Society. According to his admissions card, he earned his General Certificate in Mathematics in July 1968, and then the following year in English Language and Literature, History, French, Chemistry and Art.*

*Alistair also took part in Drama during his time at the School. In 1968, he played "Mr Whinby" in The Form by N.F. Simpson. Later the same year, he and his sister, Helen, were in the cast of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Alistair played Seyton and Helen was Lady Macduff. Alistair was also an assistant to the Stage Manager on the production side.*

We are aware that there have been a number of tributes made to Alistair through the Frank Newbon's History of Stamford page on Facebook. [Click here](#) to read the kind comments.

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## **OSC Newsletter / OGG Magazine 2019-20**

Please click the relevant links below:

[OSC Newsletter 2019-20](#)

[OGG Magazine 2019-20](#)

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## **A note from Natalie Pretsell, SES Community Engagement Manager**



Hello everyone,  
I hope you are all safe and well.

Just a little video note from Jo, Dale and I to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year!

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](mailto:oldstamfordians@ses.lincs.sch.uk).