

Old Stamfordian Club



MAY 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Old Stamfordian

Activity of late has of necessity been somewhat limited. I would nevertheless draw your attention to four significant items of work presently being undertaken:

Work is underway on two events:

- [Old Stamfordian Get-Together](#)
[20 November 2021](#)

The organisation of this event lies with Natalie Pretsell and John Smith and the event promises to be first class.

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the School on 20 November 2021. The aim is to provide an enjoyable and worthwhile day in true Old Stamfordian style! It goes without saying that a warm welcome awaits.

[The booking form is already available here.](#)

- [Annual Autumn Reunion Lunch @ Boston](#)
[18 September 2021](#)

This event is something of a gem in the OS calendar thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of Dudley Bryant. An event well worth attending! All are welcome regardless of geography!

[Click here to express interest.](#)

Two other activities worthy of mention are:

- [Membership Survey](#)

Sincere thanks to all who took the time and trouble to respond. Special thanks to Natalie Pretsell and Alan Hancock for spearheading this project.

The responses provide a wonderful opportunity for the committees to tailor their activities to your aspirations. The results are presently being collated. Our promise to you is that we will feedback and act on your observations and recommendations. As has been stated on many occasions in the past, you the members are the most important people in the organisation.

- [Programme for 2021/2022](#)

Cam Park, your Vice Chairman, is presently putting the programme together for 2021/2022. When finalised, the fruits of Cam's labour will be published. The signs so far look excellent-so an exciting year in prospect.

With best wishes to all,

[Phillip Hoskins](#)

Chairman

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EVENTS

Old Stamfordian Autumn Get-Together

20 November 2021

In the absence of being able to host a formal Reunion Weekend for 2021, we are pleased to be able to announce a one day event for Saturday 20 November 2021 (subject to government guidelines).

[Booking for this event is now live and you can find schedule of events and ticket information here.](#)

Contact: [Natalie Pretsell, Community Engagement Manager.](#)

Annual Autumn Reunion Lunch @ Boston

18 September 2021

Boston and County Club PE21 6RL

Expressions of interest to Dudley will be greatly appreciated at this stage.

Contacts: [Dudley Bryant MBE](#)

[Phillip Hoskins](#)

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Old Stamfordian Golfing Society

Friday 27 August 2021

Meeting @ Burghley Park Golf Club

Saturday 9 October 2021

Meeting @ Luffenham Heath

Contacts: [Neil Nottingham](#) (for the Burghley Event)

[Geoff Holyoake](#) (for the Luffenham Heath Event)

London Old Stamfordian Dinner - for those who attended Stamford School

10 November 2021

RAF Club, 128, Piccadily, London W1J 7PY

Contact: [Jan Brassington](#)

Old Stamfordian Reunion Weekend 2022

Friday 10 June 2022 to Sunday 12 June 2022

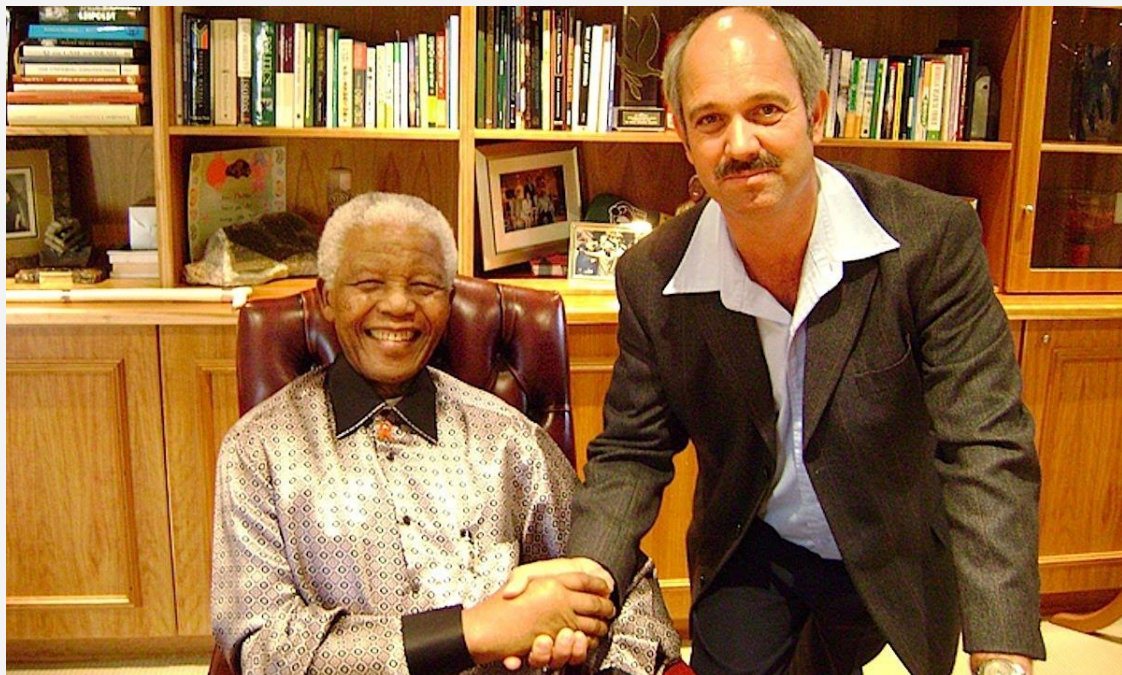
Contact: [Natalie Pretsell, Community Engagement Manager.](#)

NEWS

The Stamford Lecture Series

The Stamford Lectures go global!

For the first time in its history, the Stamford Lecture series will be live from South Africa next month, as we welcome Christo Brand to talk about his stories and recollections of his time as Nelson Mandela's prison warder.



Lessons from a Warder and his Prisoner

In 1978, at the age of 19, Christo Brand was given his first posting to Robben Island as a prison warder. It was here that he first met Nelson Mandela, aged 60 at the time, and they formed a close friendship built on trust and mutual respect for each other during the difficult apartheid era.

Sentenced to life imprisonment, Mandela became a powerful symbol of resistance – and a key negotiator - for the anti-apartheid movement. In 1993, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Frederik Willem de Klerk for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa.

Following Mandela's release from prison, our speaker Christo Brand worked with Mandela in the Constitutional Assembly as they aimed for a better future. Once the Constitution was adopted, Brand returned to Robben Island – but this time to work in the island shop, and in a very different environment; Robben Island had become a place of healing and reconciliation, freed of prisoners.

Christo will share with us his first hand experiences of these historic decades.

Join us on Thursday 10 June live online at 7pm. [You can register for the Lecture here.](#)

Henry Dawe (OS 01)

Old Stamfordian, Henry Dawe (OS 01) has showcased his creative flair by releasing a song in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh, raising funds for charity, and through having two comedy books published.

Henry has recorded and released a song to celebrate the life of the Duke of Edinburgh, with proceeds supporting the charity '[The Silver Line](#)'. The Silver Line are a free and confidential national helpline for anyone aged 55 and over in the UK, to support those who struggle with isolation, loneliness and feelings of vulnerability. Given the effects of the Covid pandemic experienced by so many, and considering the Duke of Edinburgh's passion for inclusion, Henry thought this to be the ideal charity of choice.

The song was originally recorded in preparation for the celebration of the Duke of Edinburgh 100th birthday, but has been amended to celebrate his life, after his passing. Recorded in The Cream Room, a studio in Hertfordshire, Henry and his colleagues put the finishing touches to the song which has now been released as a tribute. Henry talks of the ‘Two paces back’ theme being a recognition of the Duke in his relationship with The Queen, and his continuous support of her in always being ‘two paces back’. Details about the Duke of Edinburgh tribute song and charity [can be found here](#).



Henry has also had two books published; *Play on Words* (a six-part radio series) and *Thirty Pieces of Pottiness* (scripts to read for pleasure). Henry said: “I love laughter. With each show you put on you learn, grow and develop. Some things work better than expected and some things work less but with every show you gain a better understanding of what works.

“Humour is based around misunderstanding regarding words, double meanings, taking an idea and turning it on its head - leading the audience down one route but with an unexpected punchline. That is why I love this side of performance and word play so much.” More details about Henry’s books [can be found here](#).

Enjoying English and modern languages whilst at the Schools, Henry attributes his initial love for acting to playing the part of Egeon in *The Comedy of Errors*. This, he said: “gave me the impetus to do more”. Henry joined the Uppingham Theatre Company to continue this newfound confidence and love for the stage. Now working in the culture and leisure sector in Rutland, Henry continues to pursue his interests in theatre and has turned his hand to writing

a short comedy series, which started with a one-act play *Beyond the Pail*, performed at the 2016 Leicester Comedy Festival.

Henry has had a long-standing interest in the Royal Family. Following his time at Stamford he studied French and German at Gonville and Caius College, a constituent college of the University of Cambridge, later working in Cologne for a translation firm, and teaching at Stamford's exchange school Ernst-Kalkuhl-Gymnasium, in Bonn. On returning to the UK Henry worked on the summer opening of Buckingham Palace, later returning to the Palace to work permanently with the Royal Collection, and moving to St James's Palace to continue this work as an administrator in that department.

REMINISCENCES

Lower II 1964/65



Ian Brassington and Mark Leigh have provided some names of the runners and riders in the photograph above, of Lower II 1964/65. Please provide your recollections and we will hopefully be able to publish the full list of those appearing in a future update.

Mike Chew

Stuart French (OS 63) writes:

Having just read R. Hance's reminiscences of Mike Chew, he has reminded me to do the same. Very belated I'm afraid. I lost my wife of 50 years last year and so I have been somewhat distracted. Some you would have met Paulette as we attended quite a number of O.S. reunions and functions over the years.

Mike and I became quite close friends even after the most inauspicious of beginnings. He had reported me to Basil Deed for being in The Vaults, and I was given a very stern lecture by The Head. The fact that I was in the pub to pick up the keys to our house from my father was not considered mitigating circumstances. The fact that I had a pint in my hand wouldn't have helped.

I was included in Mike's German exchange programme, and in a beautiful irony my exchange's parents owned one of the biggest pubs in Aachen, and they were away for the first week. That location did wonders for my German.

Mike and Ena stayed with us for 3 or 4 days in Toronto. Ena was a lovely person. On our frequent visits to Stamford we would be sure to meet up with them, and later with Mike and his 2nd wife Anne. Mike and I travelled several times to The Smoke for the O.S. London reunion, and to that splendid evening at The Mansion House, where we shared a table.

Mike Chew was a most excellent teacher and a good friend. He was proud of his humble roots, and especially of Stamford School, as his enthusiastic and relentless work on The O.S. Magazine attests.

Stuart French (OS 63) - Toronto

Bartle Frere's Dates

Does anyone remember “Dates” ?

The recent OSC Magazine mentioned Bartle Frere together with a photograph of his 1926 Rolls Royce. Nobody could ever forget Bart. Indeed he will be remembered as a slightly eccentric, but excellent, teacher of history. For me he will also be associated with “Dates”, a punishment he devised only slightly less severe than detention. For erring you may be given 20 or 30 dates. The offence was formally recorded and you were issued with a sheet of BLUE paper onto which you neatly copied “dates” from a master list. Each date was about two lines long, the junior school had the abbreviated version.

I remember the first one was ...55BC Caesar comes to Britain...plus supporting text. I'm assuming they're no longer used. I'd love to see a full list of Bart's dates.

Alistair Sivill (OS 66)

FAREWELLS

We are sad to report the passing of two Old Stamfordians and much-loved member of staff. Our sympathy goes out to their families and friends.

Peter Fancourt (OS 45)

Peter passed away on 24 April 2021, and the following article appeared in the 30 April edition of the Stamford Mercury. [A digital copy of the article below can be found here.](#)

NEWS

TRIBUTE

A gentleman with a sense of

BY SUZANNE MOON
suzanne.moon@liffepublishing.co.uk
Twitter: @Mercury1712

When the River Welland froze in February 1963, Peter Fancourt spotted an opportunity.

The 33-year-old owner of Fancourt's Garage in St Paul's Street phoned the water board and was told he could drive a "fully loaded brewer's dray" over ice as thick as it was.

Instead he chose a Mini, and one of the most iconic images of a Stamford resident was made.

The photo - taken before Peter drove the car over the frozen river between Town Bridge and Albert Bridge - is one treasured all the more by family members following his death on Saturday, aged 91.

Born at 37 St Paul's Street in 1929, in a house where Stamford Endowed Schools' shop now stands, Peter followed his father into the



Peter called the Mercury to take photos when he drove a Mini on the river

motors trade, having left Stamford School aged 15.

Fancourt's Garage was also in St Paul's Street and when his father, Jack Fancourt, died in 1959, Peter took over the business, running it with his mother, Adelaide.

By then Peter was married to Jean Colbert, who he met while they were both serving with the St John Ambulance in Stamford.

The couple had three

children, Wendy, who now lives in North Yorkshire, and Julie and Ed who both live in Stamford.

Having sold Fancourt's Garage to Marshall Group in the 1970s, Peter put off retirement by working for Cascelloid in West Street, and as a cataloguer for Stamford Museum, a job he had thoroughly enjoyed.

He also enjoyed amateur radio, and would

communicate with friends locally and further afield under the call sign G3HEE.

Jean died in 1999 and some years later, aged 76, Peter decided to try online dating.

He met Kirsty, who he married in 2006 in her native Scotland, before they returned to live together in St Paul's Street.

Peter died at home and had requested no funeral is held. Instead there will be a cremation and family memorial later in the year. Peter's ashes will be scattered at Burnham Overy Staithe on the north Norfolk coast, where he had enjoyed sailing a dinghy with his children in his younger days.

Wendy described her dad as a kind man who never lost his sense of humour.

"He was a gentleman and a gentleman," she said. "The carers would come in and ask how he was and, no matter how he felt, he would always reassure them he was fine."



Peter Fancourt at home with his ham

John Exley (OS 49)

Susan Exley, John's daughter, informed us that John sadly passed away on 26 January 2021.

Our Archivist, James Buckman, has noted:

John Trevor Exley (OS 1942-9):

John Exley joined Stamford School in 1942 along with his elder brother, Charles David Exley (OS 1942-7). John was in the Combined Cadet Forces where he made the rank of Lance-Corporal. He also became a House Prefect (his brother held the same role before him). He also won the House Colours for Rugby and Athletics. John got involved in Drama at Stamford School. In 1948, he assisted 'with the varied duties of Stage Manager' for Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. The following year, he was Stage Manager for the Junior Dramatic Society's production of Treasure Island.

Mrs Hendy Farquhar-Smith

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Farquhar-Smith, who taught for many years at Stamford School before leaving in 1999.



The following was written by Mr David Moss-Bowpitt and taken from the Spring/Summer 1999 edition of the Stamfordian.

Hendy was already in post when I arrived in 1987. At that time she was based in the 'utility room' which is now the Headmaster's office. Her brief was to offer help to those boys who had identifiable learning difficulties. She was in the forefront of the work in this field and was able to bring to us experience in an area that was only just starting to be formally recognised in the education world. The value of her work in assisting boys with learning support needs grew over the years and was highlighted by the move from a part-time post in a shared room to a full-time appointment in a designated room. This change in the role occurred when Hendy returned from a four year gap away from us whilst she and her husband were in Madrid. It was typical that she used this experience on her return to help one of our boarders who had also been in Spain gain his GCSE in Spanish at the end of his Third Form year. During her time here Hendy also taught some Latin and had formerly taught English. Her approach was not always conventional but at the root of her style was always what was in the boys' best interest. She kept a particular eye on those boys she had seen in the Junior School and had pride in the achievements of her former charges when they did well in later years, successes were to include places at Oxford and Cambridge. Her advice and support to other staff were also much appreciated as was the time she gave to all her pupils. A convert to the game of golf, we thank her for her time with us and wish her many happy and successful round in the

future.

D.R.M-B

As part of our effort to be as accessible as possible. please **[click here](#)** **to download a PDF** of this Update to enlarge as needed.

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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.

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