

OVERSEAS BAG – SPRING 2014

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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A big thank you for another huge crop of correspondence from far and wide – 24 countries and in total mentioning 154 OFs. As always there are some new writers and plenty of correspondence from familiar friends. Its always great to hear from anyone. These pages are the full version – an abbreviated version will appeared in the 2014 Newsletter.

A lot of the correspondence has centred around plans for OF events in 2015 to mark 150th anniversary plus coverage of Richard Sayer's and Simon Dougherty's visits to Australia. I'm hugely grateful to a number of OFs for attempting to organise events in 2015 in Australia/New Zealand, Belgium, Canada, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Germany, Arabian Gulf, Ireland, Kenya/Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain, Thailand and USA. I very much hope that these will be well supported and I will personally try and attend a number of them. If you are interested in attending then please get in touch. The event in Australia is already attracting 50.

Finally I would strongly encourage everyone to ensure that they register their e-mail address on the website, so that we can keep in touch. Please keep your messages and news flooding in, **especially with your photos** and don't be shy to let me know if you think you or someone else should be included in the Distinguished section of the SOF website.

AUSTRALIA

Correspondence with OFs in Australia has again been dominated by discussions about the April 2015 Reunion.

Mike Allport (R54-62) emigrated at the end of 2013 to Australia and was warmly welcomed by those already there. In response he said “*Many thanks for your welcoming emails and G'day. I must admit to not being a 'good' OF and ambassador for the old school unlike some of you and my colleague Jon Ford but I did give into some pressure from Pat Howard-Dobson to send in a report (4* Generals have that effect on me) and have kept it up since then in the Services section. It has been an eventful arrival with our first grandson; bought a house (Duplex) in the Northern Beaches of Sydney - Collaroy Plateau - in my younger daughter's name (as we are still on a tourist visa until we climb another 3700 places on Parent Sub-group 103C for a full visa) and had a hip replacement (unplanned and very expensive). Our 'deep sea' stuff is being delivered tomorrow after Quarantine found a Christmas decoration that we have had for 20+ years and asked for \$550 to 'gamma irradiate' it or \$77 to destroy it. So we will see how we fit the contents of our large 4 bed house and garden in UK into what is effectively a 2/3 bed apartment! Bunny has some very expensive ideas ie start over!*

Tiny little down side is that I have picked up some sort of infection in my blood and this has rendered me pathetically weak. Squeezing toothpaste is a problem!.. Anyway once that is sorted, we look forward

to taking full advantage of all that Australia has to offer and that we can afford. Happily most of the things that we want and share have little cost - family, walking, beaching etc etc.

Chris [Shaw], please put us down for the 2015 dinner and we look forward to any contact ahead of that.

Mike [Garnett], I would be interested in your in on the RAAF. I have brought out my uniform and been in touch with the UK Air Attaché as I was one myself. As I have worn uniform all my life, I am prepared to don it again for a good cause or a good drink!

Many thanks to all and hope that we do get to meet idc”

Mike provided a further after arriving “We are now almost six months into our time in Australia and loving it. Got off to a shaky start, not just on the cricket front (!), as I had a hip replacement before Christmas (at vast expense) but the lower half of the body is now fine but after 50+ years as a lean mean fighting machine in the RAF, my upper body played up and I am still trying to get back to full strength. I have never had so many x-rays, MRIs, ultrasound scans etc - all very boring.

I look forward to meeting fellow Aussie OFs in the flesh and have signed up for the 150th celebration next April in the Hunter Valley. We moved from a large 4/5 bedroom house in UK into the upper half of a duplex with daughter, son-in-law and brand new grandchild downstairs where we had to squeeze into a 2/3 bedroom/study apartment; the garage will not have a car in it anytime soon as that is where we have stored our very English furniture that does not suit our weatherboard duplex. We needed to downsize!

I did have a little problem with Australian Customs who seized two of my ceremonial swords, actually a Nazi dagger and an Omani Khunja (the Gurkha Khukri knife went unchallenged); however, I am pleased to report that both have now been returned to me with permission to retain them. So apart from a few breakages, our worldly goods survived the journey.

The Royal visit is going very well (as I write) and hopefully this will kick the idea of a Republic into the long grass (again).

We delight in the differences of life down under and every time that we walk the beaches (daily) it feels like a holiday. I am now used to being called by my christian name by total strangers and I am everybody's mate. A public school really is public. All in all - no worries!”

The picture of Mike and Bunny was taken in Sydney harbour.



Brett Bailey (K58-65) was in touch again to say that he was going to attend the April 2015 function with his father, distinguished OF **Wing Commander Peter Bailey (K34-38)**. He also wanted to register on the website. Later his partner Sue was in touch when they had some problems signing up for the 150th anniversary book. They were flying up to visit Peter the next weekend, as he had just turned 92 years young!

Chris Bartlett (K60-66) was in touch April 2014 to say that he hoped to try and make the April 2015 event in the Hunter Valley, even though he lived and worked in Western Australia. He will also try and persuade his brother **Peter (K58-65)** to come as well, especially his contemporary Brett Bailly is going to be there. He said he would also love an OF tie despite them being *“not de rigeur in this mining environment, but one day I will return to civilised normality, and family in Perth. Socks?...why not while we are in the mood.. It should be great fun, and I hope more from the Porter era will participate.”*

Phil Bower (G65-74) is always a rich source of stories for the Overseas Bag and this edition is certainly no exception. In responding to Richard Sayer’s itinerary in Australia he observed *“It does seem an awful long way for you to travel just to see the inevitable humiliation of the Poms on the sporting field again..... Happy to enjoy a social but if the conversation revolves around cricket it could be rather short – you lost, we won handsomely.....nuff said!!! No lulling involved – the poms played to their strengths again and worked hard for the defeat. I admire the stoicism that turned a defeat into a total drubbing. Hopefully, the next test will provide us with some sort of challenge! I just love the way the poms invent all these wonderful sports – soccer, rugby, league, tennis, cricket, tiddlywinks – and then go on to get beaten by just about everyone!”*

He was unfortunately not able to meet up with Richard & Georgina Sayer as he was unwell following a four night stint shining a spotlight at “Mrs Carter” aka Beyonce. Phil went on to give the following anecdote *“remember when there was a “record club” in Garrett? People would join, pay some loot & then decide on which elpee to buy that term..... anyhoo, I bought from Garrett the original pressing of “Performance – Rockin The Fillmore” That album is the one that turned my musical world from monochrome to full technicolour and caused all the hoohaa about music ever since. A brief sidetrack – I entered the set room just as **James Barry (G70-75)** was yelling at someone to put on side 4 track 2, which they did and those immortal words reached my ears before the song launched what is now a long personal history Now, here’s a funny thing – I still have the original pressing in the original gatefold sleeve (from 1971)..... and they have just released a quad cd set of the 4 shows at the Fillmore from which the original album was cobbled. So, a big thank you to Jimmy the Barrel for his initial precociousness (cos he was in them days, his big bruv was a prefect.....). I now am enjoying a glut of the best live band that ever there was (I met Marriott a couple of times in Nottingham & Leicester, ironically at venues I’d played myself!) Plus Jerry Shirley and later Peter Frampton when I worked on his shows here in Sydney..... tis a funny old world.”*

He let me know that in 2014 he was off on another monster tour around Australia with Mr Magee & the Biting Flea *“I’m scheduled to be away on tour from mid March till the back end of October. This time I’ll be visiting every state in the country. Actually, I’ll be visiting Darwin twice and popping over the Tasman twice as well.*

In early 2014 he changed his car “Won’t bore you with the details, suffice to say that the dealer had to make a song and dance about presentation.....and I couldn’t resist the opportunity!!

On Christmas Day he was back in touch again. *“With the arrival of pommie dignity comes the appalling pommie weather! Just in time for the day of festivities..... of which Dee & I offer our very best wishes. Of course, one thing we know Santa won’t be bringing is a small container of burnt wood..... Far be it for me to gloat or crow excessively.....but you were warned!! All that remain is for a total whitewash and everything will be restored to its’ natural order.*



*I can report the safe arrival of the yearbook (or perhaps the skool annual?). I can provide a better photo than the one inserted therein – I now sport a rather fetching yellow & green frontispiece to the old barnet, which, I am happy to report, is causing quite a stir wherever I go. Many a double take! I have semi-confirmed another tour next year which will take me to Tasmania for a week or so. Which is rather pleasing because a) I've never been there, b) the ball and chain will fly out for the duration and c) a certain **Michael Bentall (G62-70)** resides on the island- I'm rather hoping that this is the very same "Mental Bentall" from Brandeston (I recall he was a dorm captain who was mercilessly ribbed by one "Watts" most evenings after lights out!).* “

Phil and Dee are attending the event in April 2015 and this was his reaction to any idea of a dress code “As you know, I am afflicted with a severe allergic reaction to any garment remotely resembling either a jacket or a collared short actually touching me but I shall do my best! An Oaftie would be gratefully received since I need a new trouser belt.....!”

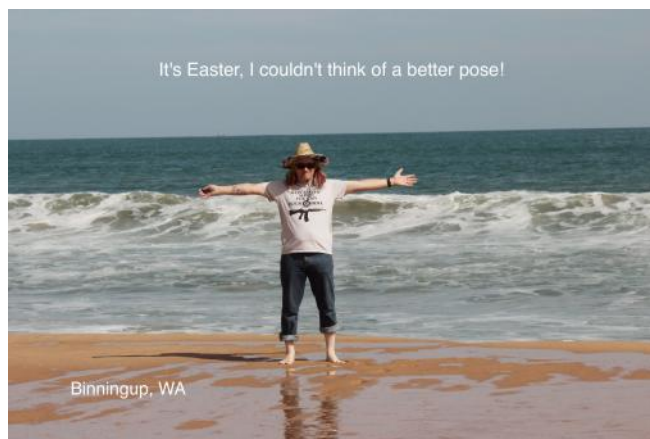
By this time he was off on his mammoth tour “I'm currently slogging my way around the country in an anticlockwise direction trucking Mr Magee & the Biting Flea. Shakespeare it ain't but then, I never made any money out of Shakespeare and Bill was a year or two ahead of me in class anyway..... You can follow a pictorial record of my exploits on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/99112964@N08/page1/?details=1> I succeeded in achieving a painful degree of sunburn yesterday and the damned possums were playing soccer on the tin roof again last night, so I'm probably not in the best of tempers as I watch the sky lighten wondering whether it's actually worth trying to get some sleep or whether I can wait for the Chinese GP to do that for me!”

Every so often Phil has been in touch during this tour of Australia to update me on where he has got to and to remind me to catch up with his photos. “Currently back on the road until August, with 10 days off early July. At time of writing, I'm just about to leave Darwin to head west over the top end towards Port Hedland thence down to Perth with a few calls in between. Picked the tour up in Adelaide, drove up to Alice for a couple of shows, then to here. Dee will join me when we get to Tasmania for a week early June. Followed by “Fresh pics on the flickr page from the trip down to Carnarvon. Should arrive Geraldton tomorrow for a few days. Maybe catch some Indian Ocean sunsets.” and then “Currently touring in Mandurah, an hour south of Perth, heading down to Margaret River in 4 days. So possibly many more Indian sunsets to go! Beats working for a living.....

At Easter Phil sent this photo

The latest in May was that Phil has circumnavigated round to Victoria with 10,000km so far covered and a long way still to go till he gets home in early July. But then its only for 10 days.

Nick Carlton (G63-70) was in touch with **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** following his latest cruise on Queen Victoria. Nick in April 2014 was captain of the Sapphire Princess in the Far East and sent this update “All going well here in the Far East ... some interesting places and so far I'm enjoying it professionally, though haven't had time to go ashore. The Yangtze was the expected challenge (world's busiest port) and I seem to be more of a night worker



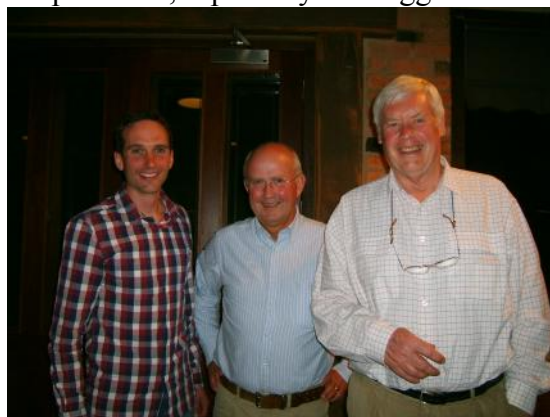
these days. Start our Japanese cruise on Tuesday, then Taiwan cruises and then the Chinese season. Enjoying Chinese teas including Kuding, which has a lot of health benefits but very bitter.

Have completed the sale of my house in Ipswich to my sister and the rest of my effects including my MG car are headed first from Felixstowe to Singapore on the Emma Maersk (world's biggest container ship until they built an even bigger one recently) and then trans-shipping to Fremantle, Australia."

Ian Cottingham (R61-66) was interested in purchasing 2 dozen bottles of the specially labelled NZ Sauvignon Blanc that Mike Garnett was organising to mark 150th anniversary in 2015. He was not sure yet whether he and Lyn would be able to make the event in April 2015.

Mike Garnett (R53-55) continues to do an excellent job organising the April 2015 event with Chris & Rebecca Shaw and entertaining OF visitors from the UK.

In October 2013 the visiting OF was **Simon and Maggie Dougherty (G60-67)**. He met up with them and **Mike and Kim Selby (Z83-93)** for an enjoyable evening at the Victoria Hotel, Woodend. Mike was confident that Simon and Maggie would be back again in April 2015, especially as Maggie's brother lives at Gisborne. Mike reports "*They arrived at Gisborne on Sunday, and on Monday toured around the towns and places that I had mentioned in my Kyneton book which I thought was nice. As a real coincidence, an article came out in the local paper (with photo of me) yesterday, so I took in a copy when we met up - I'm sure Simon must think I organised this but I didn't!! Mike and Kim met in London (she is Australian) and they married in the College Chapel with reception in the Dining Room. I believe that this was possibly a unique event.*"



Here are a couple of photos taken at the Victoria Hotel, Woodend earlier this month - with Simon and Maggie Dougherty, Mike and Kim Selby and Mike.

Just before Christmas 2013 he was looking forward to catching up with Richard and Georgina Sayer the next week for dinner in Melbourne. He said "*sad (for them!) that the Ashes is already decided. Still, they will have a great experience at the famous MCG with up to 100,000 others!*"

Following the dinner he provided the following report and photo "*It was very nice to greet our overseas friends Richard and Georgina Sayer on their first visit to Melbourne. We met at the iconic Chloe's Restaurant on the evening of the second day of the Third Test at the MCG at which point England looked in control. The Barmy Army were keeping everyone entertained with their optimistic singing close by! Also great to see the **Colin & Lexie Lipman (R53-61)** who came down from Sydney - and of course **Keith and Pat Dann (S48-50)** who are always on hand to entertain overseas OF's.*

The photo shows Rear: Mike Garnett, Richard and Georgina Sayer, Colin Lipman. Front: Lexie Lipman, Keith and Pat Dann



Early in 2014 Mike welcomed, via e-mail, to Australia **Wing Cdr Mike Allport MBE (R54-62)** and his wife. Mike gave him a potted history of his service background “*As a 17 year old National Serviceman in the 1950's (shortly after I left Fram) I was posted to RAF Tengah which was part of the Far East Air Force. The reason for the posting was that the Malayan Emergency was in full swing, and at Tengah the RAF used Vampires (60 Sqdn.) to cover the Aussie Lincolns (1 Bomber Sqdn) which bombed the north EVERY night without fail, alternating with the Kiwis (14 Sqdn.) who were doing likewise with their Canberras. From the age of 17 therefore I never lived in the UK. Following some years in India and Papua New Guinea running tea and coconut plantations, I commenced a 26-year career with the oil industry in Australia. During my attachment to Head Office in Melbourne I renewed my association with service life by joining the reserve unit No. 21 (City of Melbourne) Squadron RAAF which had a proud war record. Like all it's sister squadrons in the capital cities of Australia, it folded due to lack of government funding. So the opportunities of advancement for Flight Lieutenant Mike Garnett never reached dizzy heights. We have a strong squadron association and meet on a regular basis. Separately I have responsibilities for ANZAC Day and other commemorative events which keep me busy. In terms of get-togethers, the big event of the year is the 'Retired RAAF Officer's Dinner' held in Canberra every October. Our squadron has a table every other year, and we will be attending this October - so you and your wife would be more than welcome to join our table. I am delighted that you intend to come to the Fram Dinner in April 2015 - it is a 'one-off' and unlikely to be repeated in this part of the world (in my lifetime!).*”

In May/June 2014 Mike is visiting the UK and meeting up with Richard Sayer and Chris Essex for lunch on 11 June.

John Gates (S44-48) in connection with attending the April 2015 event provided a summary of his eventful life “*My whole lifetime has been most exciting and interesting, taking me to many parts of the globe, so I thought the following snippet might be of interest to other Old Framlinghamians.*

I flew out to Kenya as an 18 year old in December 1949, on a Sunderland Flying Boat from Southampton, dropping down in Cairo. There, I met my Uncle ‘Mac’ Mikkati, a full-blooded Egyptian, who was an uncle by marriage I hasten to mention, as I am of pure British stock. I am unable to recall too much about meeting my Uncle ‘Mac’, who was the personal pilot to King Farouk, but I did meet him again in 1951 whilst I was in the Green Howards, stationed at Suez.

On arriving in The Great Rift Valley in Kenya, our aircraft landed on Lake Naivasha, where the locals had to run a speedboat over the landing area to move any hippopotamus's out of the way, so it was safe to land. Once disembarked, I was whisked away to Njoro, which is just north of Nakuru, to enroll in the Egerton Agricultural College for a six month course, to enlighten me about local conditions as I had, at that time, intended to take up farming.

After my course, my first job was on an 80,000 acre ranch situated at Ngobit, which is near Naro Moru in the Kenya Highlands, about 50 miles north of Nyeri. On arrival, I found that there were no other

white people, nor anybody that spoke English. There was no transport other than horses. Fortunately, I had always been a keen rider back home in Suffolk. I also had to learn the language of 'Kitchen Swahili' very quickly, and to this day can still remember a few words. My job was to oversee the 'WATU' as the African labourers were called, and they looked after the Boran cattle and the Merino sheep. My main mode of transport was on horseback, and I often used to ride out across miles and miles of the African bush, always accompanied by three very large Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs and a rifle in the scabbard. I often gave chase to cheetah, just for the love of it. On other occasions, I can vividly remember galloping alongside giraffe, only to have them pull gracefully away.

Can you imagine a young man of eighteen having such experiences as I did, back in Suffolk? I doubt it."

Ann Hogarth (V85-87) was contacted by me as a result of a posting by **Adam Jeffery (G82-87)** on Facebook asking if Ann had been in Singapore recently - see Singapore section for more details. Amazingly it was Ann he had seen and Ann had wondered the same thing *"Hi Chris thanks so much for forwarding this to me! I wondered if it was Adam at the time!! I was in Holland Village going to my old haunts! I was over in Singapore for my eldest boy's (Heath -9) godfathers 50th birthday. Anyway it was great to know it was him and will be great to catch up next time I go through town!! "She went on to say that she was intending to make the Hunter Valley event in April 2015 if at all possible. Fascinatingly she went on to say that "We got married at Len Evans' "Rowe Lodge" there and I think it will be our 15th anniversary that year in September! So would be great to go!! "*

Peter Hollins (K70-76) has finally been persuaded to make the trip across from Perth to Hunter Valley in April 2015. He said he didn't want to miss the opportunity to catch up with one of his Kerrison study mates [Chris Essex].



Colin Lipman (R53-61) met up with the Sayers twice during their trip to Australia. Once as you will have read above in Melbourne and then again in Sydney with **John and Liz Bonner (G57-62)**. Pictured here are John and Liz Bonner and Lexie and Colin Lipman. Colin & Lexi had dinner with the Sayers on News Year Eve 2013 with marvellous views of the fireworks on Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Olivier Loughlin (R02-09) mother contacted us as a result of an invitation being sent to him about a 150th dinner in Oman in 2015. She gave us an up to date address for him in Sydney and an all important e-mail address. She says *"He has been pursuing his studies in order to become a pilot and recently has acquired a license to teach aviation. He is now searching for a position as an aviation instructor. For this reason Olivier will not be able to attend your evening in Oman. I will forward your letter to him with my reply and he might know of others who would be able to get in touch with you regarding your event. Thank you and all the best for your dinner."* Chris and Mike have contacted him now about the Sydney event.

Neville and Alison Marsh (S53-61) were good enough to organise a couple of evenings for when the Doughertys visited in October 2013 and Sayers visited in January 2014.

In October 2013 he reported that they had had a very pleasant evening with the Doughertys and that they managed to talk non-stop for 5 whole hours ... and still enjoy a great Vietnamese meal! Amongst the many topics covered was the question of house colours and Neville subsequently spent the best part of a day trawling through his back numbers of *The Framlinghamian* magazine (he has an almost complete run extending back to April 1949 when his eldest brother Ian started at the College). He remembers that Stradbroke was definitely described as Scarlet and from 1950 onwards, the notes on the four houses were headed by the house name and colour. References continued through the 1960's to 1990's but with the advent of newer houses (Victoria, Moreau, Pembroke), use of distinguishing colours seem to have disappeared.



Subsequently he invited OFs to gather at the Belgian Beer Café in Brisbane to meet up with the Sayers on 14 January 2014. One of the highlights of the evening was to be the handing-over by Chris Shaw of his Montagnana violin to Richard. It is hoped that this will raised funds for the College 150th Anniversary Appeal or have a permanent home at the College. He said *"I will also have the prize for the best explanation for why Stradbroke alumni are the most populous at London suppers. Thus far we have two Stradbroke boys coming on 14 January and two Kerrisonites so any Stradbroke lads out there, please answer the call!"*

After the meeting Neville provided the following report:-

*"A most convivial evening was spent at the Belgian Beer Café, Brisbane in the company of **Richard Sayer (S56-61)**, President SOF, **Neville Marsh (S53-61)** recently elected Vice-President SOF, **Robert Craig (K55-59)** and **Chris Shaw (K50-56)**. Richard's visit to Brisbane completed his Australian trip which*



included watching England being trounced at the Melbourne and Sydney Tests, an OF supper in Melbourne and a beachside holiday on Hamilton Island, Queensland. The main formality of the evening was the presentation of Chris Shaw's 19th century

Nurnberg School violin and Dodd bow to Richard for onward gifting to Paul Taylor at the College. Much hilarity resulted from suggestions that the case might contain a concealed firearm so Richard was provided by an official-looking certificate from Neville on University letterhead to smooth the instrument's exit from Australia. The second presentation, to Chris Shaw, was of a bottle of vintage South Australian Shiraz as first prize in the competition to explain why more ex-Stradbroke boys attend London suppers more than from any other house. Chris' entry was the longest and most interesting if not the most believable! In the time-



honoured tradition, the group managed to sport two OF ties and three sets of OF socks! Chris and Rebecca Shaw had travelled down from Cairns for the occasion and we look forward to seeing them again in the Hunter Valley for our 150th Anniversary Celebrations in April 2015.

Simon Narroway (G72-75) contacted me about the visit of Richard Sayer to Sydney. Unfortunately he was going to be overseas from 1st to 20th Jan for a long overdue holiday. He says “*Australia in the first half of Jan is a bit like France in August. The locals are all away on holiday!*”

Simon and Yoko have committed to going to the April 2015 event in the nearby (to them) Hunter Valley. As my best man, Eryl and I look forward to catching up with him and Yoko when we are over there.

Simon goes on to say “*I decided to be incognito in London and spend time with my two daughters, doing the theatres and tourist attractions. It was wonderful. Great to have some decent beer again. We had the whole family plus assorted b/f's and g/f's together at Xmas. 12 for lunch. Now back to a much quieter house with only 3 children at home and 3 living overseas. Sayuri, our youngest, finished school and starts Sydney Uni next month. After, a lifetime of paying school fees, it's like having a pay rise.*”

Jon Newbery (Z79-84) has signed up for the April 2015 dinner and spotted we had his house wrong.

David Newson (S54-63) said he spotted that the Yearbook didn't include him and Frances as attending April 2015, but they definitely will.

Bruce Ritchie (Z76-81) got in touch about the April 2015 dinner, despite us not having any contact details for him. Here's his amazing story of what a small world we live in “*Its quite a strange story how I came to hear about the dinner. A few years ago I was living on Sydney's northern beaches at a place called Avalon. I had known my next door neighbour (Corey) for a couple of years and one Sunday afternoon over a couple of beers he started talking about his school days. Anyway to cut a long story short it transpired that he too had also gone to Fram College for a few years, albeit a few years later than me. Its a very small world sometimes! Anyway this rekindled an interest in Fram College and I googled the OF website and noticed the Aussie OF dinner. Anyway I will try to get hold of Corey (Maynard G85-88) and my brother, Rob (Z76-83) who is also an OF and see if we can make up a party to attend the dinner.*”

Chris Shaw (K50-56) and **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** have continued to be virtually inseparable recently via e-mail and in the last 6 months we have exchanged a huge number of e-mails so quite hard to edit down for Overseas Bag.

Firstly they have both done a fantastic job organising an event on 19 April 2015 to mark 150th anniversary of first boys at the College and 100th anniversary of ANZACs in Gallipoli. This is bringing together OFs and their partners from across Australia, New Zealand and further afield. So far confirmed as attending are **Mike Garnett (R53-55)**, **Chris Shaw (K50-56)**, **Chris Essex (K69-75)**, **David Summers (G48-56)**, **Robert Craig (K55-59)**, **Bob Munro (R54-60)**, **Marc Newson (G76-81)**, **Murray Munro (R58-65)**, **David Bonner (G62-66)**, **Keith Dann (S48-50)**, **Stephen Sayer (S58-63)**, **Phil Bower (G65-74)**, **Rick Mutimer (S67-76)**, **Colin Lipman (R53-61)**, **Neville Marsh (S53-61)**, **Michael Bentall (G62-70)**, **Peter Bailey (K34-38)**, **Brett Bailey (K58-65)**, **Jon Newbery (R79-84)**, **Peter Simpson (K32-40)**, **John Gates (S44-48)**, **Simon Narroway (G72-75)**, **David Newson (S54-63)**, **Peter Simpson (K32-40)**, **David Summers (G48-56)**, **Mike Allport (R54-62)**, **Simon Dougherty**

(G60-67), Peter Hollins (K71-77), Ann Hogarth (V85-87), Chris Bartlett (K60-66), plus hopefully a representative from the College, along with 23 partners, making 50 in total.

Back in October 2013 Chris and Rebecca's thoughts were focused on the visit of the Doughertys to Cairns and then on to Port Douglas. They all met up on 13 October 2013 in Cairns and had a very enjoyable evening. Simon and Maggie really appreciated all the local knowledge imparted during the evening.

Chris received a couple of stories from **Neil Randell (Z88-93)** for the booklet he is putting together for the April 2015 event. Neil's wife gave birth to their 3rd child in 2014. Around this time Chris also became a grandfather for 3rd time – Ann Nordling Shaw.



Chris then made the very generous decision to donate his beloved violin to the College with “no strings attached. Here his story “I've made a decision. I have a violin, which I don't use any more and I would like the college to have it. I believe it to be fairly valuable. If it lived up to the label inside, Boosey and Hawkes said it would be valued at 50,000GBP, but it doesn't and it isn't. They thought it was made in Southern Germany around the 1890's, which made it worth 5000-10,000GBP. I would like the college to have it, with 'no strings attached!' Mr Les Gillett would be pleased with the pun, no doubt, but what I mean by that is that they should be free to use it in the College, or raffle it, or sell it for the money that could then be put in to the Building Fund. It's no good sitting in my library gathering time, when it could be out there doing something worthwhile. So, think on that, contact maybe the current Music Teacher, who may have some connections, or anyone else. I know it's not gifting a building or other asset that can be easily and legally endowed, but the money may come in handy, or indeed, the violin may come in handy. I won the instrumental solo with it every year but one, helping Kerrison receive the Arts Cup!

The following is the lovely accompanying story that Chris wrote and I forwarded onto Paul Taylor, illustrated with a few pictures.

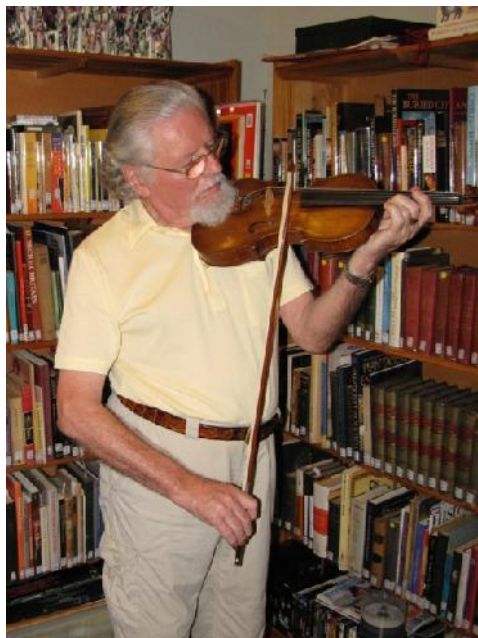
No Strings Attached

Only one ceiling light was on, making shadows and hidden areas among the beds. Being close to the ceiling, the light accentuated the white plaster parquetry, crafted by gifted Elizabethan artisans centuries before. The fleur-de-lis and Tudor rose patterns told of those times; separation of Church and State, the defeat of the Spanish Armada, and the gradual onset of tolerance under that fine and dedicated Queen. This was in contrast to the tempestuous times of Henry, and the maligned Anne, her mother.

The dark oak panelling of the walls and the solid parquetry floor gave this large room a looming tone, in this great mansion, Brandeston Hall. From a slight elevation, it overlooked the River Deben, about one hundred yards away down the mown, meadowed slope.



The diamond lattice of the windows, separated by lead lines, kept out the wind and rain but allowed the dark to penetrate. On this night, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, among the tidy, metal framed beds in this dormitory, stood a young boy.



In 1949 his age was just eleven, but his face showed the unformed features of a much younger soul. His school uniform short pants nearly met his long grey socks. His black shoes showed a polished finish but the mud and lawn clippings told of the weather and of manicured lawns.

In front of him was a spidery wire stand with sheets of music leaning back, placed so they got the most from the miserly light. In his hands he held a violin and a bow, both looking out of proportion to his small stature and adding to the vulnerability in the scene. His mother would have wept at the solitude and romanticism inherent in the setting.

He was just pleased to be away from the taunts and laughter of the ignorant, who gave him such a hard time by opening the music room door on the ground floor, laughing at him as he was trying to conquer a difficult phrase or a fingering problem.

Now, however, the Headmaster's wife, a flautist of some talent, had asked her husband for permission for young Shaw to practise in one of the dormitories, which were normally out of bounds at this time. Permission had been granted and he now felt the freedom from criticism, a temporary reprieve from the strict rules of behaviour and the heady freedom to create music – another world entirely.

The piece he was working on was a Corelli Sonata, which, while not difficult, had some unusual bowing. He found that he had to get the starting point exactly right or he'd end up with no bow left, half way through the passage. Three times he played it and got it wrong. The fourth time was fine, and when he replayed it once more in a free flowing manner, knew it was right. Non-musical mathematicians would approve that all the notes were in the right place and of the correct duration.

However, he sensed a deeper meaning, a feeling that was inherent in the melody. It was something that couldn't be measured, couldn't be approved by another person or group. It was a personal interpretation, a personal message of stroking and gentling, another world entirely from the everyday reality of bullying, fights and mud in the highly competitive world of rugby, soccer and hockey, with pain and failure for him more often than not.

Here, he was on the other side of the wall, in a world of sound, of harmony and melody, of feelings as yet unnamed and unframed. Here was also freedom from the tyranny of small boys.

He was shaken, shocked really, by the sudden realisation that HE could make the music for others to appreciate, that HE could be master of the notes, HE was the interpreter of that elusive essence. Christopher played the piece once more, the tears streaming down his face at the beauty of this music, and its meaning, and the depth of his aloneness in this moment of awakening.

After he finished and had mopped his tears with a slightly grubby handkerchief, he sat on one of the beds and examined his violin and bow. These two items had produced the sound, one with horsehair

and resin powder, the other with intricately shaped woods supporting strings of so-called 'cat-gut', which of course, they weren't.

The gold and red highlights, in the rich patina of the grain on the back reflecting the growth patterns of the original tree, were a delight. The swollen belly, giving depth and beauty to the bass notes, was punctuated with a pair of continuously comical 'f' holes, and supported the bridge. The neck, built into the body with great attention to strength, was surmounted with a beautifully carved scroll with keys for tensioning the four strings.

It was an organic masterpiece, albeit a poor imitation of those pioneered in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. To date, no one has excelled the superlative instruments made in the village of Cremona by the Amati, Guarneri and the Stradivarius families. That purity of sound has never been equalled. Christopher's had been made somewhere else in Europe and given to him by his music master, a Mr. Archibald Cooke.

His enjoyment of the clarity and sweetness, the furious and the tender, dizzying heights on the 'E' string and deep, sonorous tones on the 'G', would sustain his obsession throughout his life. He would chase performances across the world; concertos by prodigies to little chamber groups playing the exquisite filigree of Mozart's genius.

All these experiences lay in the path of this little boy, delighting in his own small triumphs where bowing and fingering were huge mountains to climb. They, alone, would take years of dedicated practice and high level tutoring. Then would come interpretation, etiquette and performance. Finally there could be a solo performance with an orchestra – the peak of all that work, and not just for the pleasure of others.

A music concert was arranged for the boys at Brandeston. Christopher was not just 'asked' to play his piece but to introduce it to the audience. His two greatest fears had just come together in one exercise! The acute fear of speaking in public, and playing an instrument he was unsure of, in front of an audience! There was now twice the chance of making a complete fool of himself. Fear of people; fear of failure.

He took a deep breath and announced, 'The Trumpet Voluntary by Henry Pucelli'.

Fortunately, no one laughed, not even Mr. Hall, the music Teacher, who was accompanying Christopher on the piano. Later, Christopher learnt that it should have been Henry Purcell, which, in turn was also incorrect; it was actually composed by Jeremiah Clarke. If you think that is complicated for a small boy – you're right!



That performance was instrumental (yes, Mr Gillett later taught us about puns,) in his taking the lead in the school orchestra, a position he had for his whole school career. He led the orchestra in concerts at Brandeston and Framlingham College, and took part in competitions throughout Suffolk. For Kerrison, he won the Solo Instrumental every year but one; when 'Oboe' Stevens played the 'Saw'. A combination of his own poor choice of music, and Oboe's originality won over the adjudicators that year.

One memory filters back from that long ago, of a string quartet competition in Ipswich. They played without a conductor, the third Brandenburg Concerto by J.S.Bach, and were singled out and asked to stand for a round of applause by the Adjudicator. There were Chris Shaw and Chris Martin as violins, David Metcalfe on viola, and Charles Smallpeice (now Peter Small), on cello.

Subsequently, Christopher played in the orchestra for many of the Felixstowe Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society's shows, and a single performance with the Ipswich Symphony Orchestra, which took six months of weekly practice sessions to work up.

In later years, he was to master two violin concerti, Bruch's 1st and Mendelssohn's in E Minor. Whilst he didn't play much in public, (I wonder why?) his appreciation of the difficult technique involved and the admiration for those with the dedication to master the seemingly impossible, stayed with him throughout life.

Just as a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, so a great violin performance begins with bowing a single string, once. In this case it was by a small boy, alone in a dormitory in an Elizabethan Mansion House called Brandeston Hall, in 1949."

In November 2013 **Brian Pretty (S52-56)** was in touch with Chris about the possibility of travelling over to Australia around April 2015 to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their son and daughter, both of whom live near Sydney. Fingers crossed these plans work out.

January 2014 saw the arrival of the Sayers in Brisbane and as reported elsewhere, Chris and Rebecca flew down to join the party and formally hand over the violin for safe return to the UK. Richard was slightly nervous that some custom official would want to open up the case to check if he was carrying a small machine gun inside the case!! Here is a photo of the formal handover in Brisbane.

Chris remarked afterwards to Richard "*Incidentally, I was obviously blinded by your jacket and tie (we see so few of these in Cairns), that I didn't notice that you, and Richard Overend, appear to belong to the Pink Pantaloon Presidents Society. Richard wore some of the same hue on his visit to Cairns which first sparked the idea of organising a big event in April 2015. Are they passed from President to President? Are they an obligatory uniform of Office? Very fetching!*"



To mark the occasion of the Ashes series to Australia, that ended in an England 5-0 whitewash, Chris made his own replica urn and sent me a Powerpoint presentation marking its creation.

Chris bought himself a wooden replica of THE ASHES urn.

Naturally, when purchased, it was empty, and needed the ashes of a burnt bail to authenticate it. Grass/hay was tied into the shape of a cricket bail as a token gesture. In true Aussie ritual that has been in existence for nearly 200 years, it was barbequed on an alfoil plate. The

cold ashes were poured into the urn. A cork of the appropriate size and shape was created from a champagne cork, naturally. The cork was inserted and pushed firmly into place. The urn was sealed in time honoured fashion with sealing wax. The sealing wax was imprinted with Chris's own seal, courtesy of the "Past Times" store.

A celebratory drink was poured to mark the occasion, and for failing to burn the house down. The finished urn was labelled with the historic poem to be admired and fought over for generations.



Later in January Chris was in touch with **Andy Birt (S55-58)** after being given contact details by his brother **John (S59-63)** in Thailand. John may possibly come across for the dinner but he is already involved in Thailand with 200th anniversary of Gurkha service to the Crown that year. John also pointed out that 2015 was 200th anniversary of Waterloo and 600th anniversary of Agincourt!

Finally in May 2013 Chris was busy drafting a personal invitation to Prince Harry to attend the big event in the Hunter in April 2015 – watch this space!!

As a postscript to the violin story, Chris received the following letter from Paul Taylor in May 2014 “*I am sorry that it has taken us a while to get back to you regarding the valuation etc of your lovely violin. All was put in hand some months ago but Helen (our principal violin teacher) tells me it took her longer than she had anticipated to contact and pull in favours from various contacts of hers.*

We have yet to receive the full written report (which we will happily forward to you when it arrives), but it seems that its value has been eroded through the nature of some of the repairs that it has had over the years, and by the fact that - as you know - there are parts of the violin that are not original. While it may not be worth many thousands, it is still a very fine instrument and Helen was actually rather excited when she first received and played it. We have decided, therefore, to keep it as a special part of the music department - where it will be by some distance our best violin -, and our intention is to offer its use to a deserving violinist pupil who perhaps cannot really afford a decent instrument (a sort of practical bursary if you will!). I do hope that this meets with your approval Chris, and in many ways I am rather pleased: the instrument that ignited your own passion all those years ago will hopefully light similar flames in future Framlinghamians over the coming years.

Thank you again for your generosity and for your support of both the SOF and the College; it really is very much appreciated.”

Peter Simpson (K32-40) wife Hetta contacted me because she, like a number of others, was having problems purchasing “On an Eminence” online and wanted to ensure that both Peter’s name and that of his late twin brother, **Michael Ratcliffe Simpson (K32-41)** were recorded in the book. Michael was killed in a car accident aged 28 having survived the war as a Royal Naval officer. Two copies of the book have been purchased and hopefully one copy will be auctioned at the April 2015 event. She also provided an update on contemporary **Peter Bailey (K34-38)**. He had been having back problems, but has avoided the surgeon’s knife as he has found a pain guru who, with aquarobics, has given him great relief. She goes on to say “*The two Peters have strict instructions from me to stay well for at least another 2 years so that I can drive them down to the Hunter for the Fram dinner next year. We will come in short stages as driving in the dark is no fun at my age, so we will do short hops - I'm looking forward to the adventure!*”

She also had news that she was taking Peter S to Norfolk Island with our Probus Club at the end of this month (for his 91st birthday). *“The whole trip will be organized and there will be others to help out if needed. Norfolk Island is in the Pacific north of NZ and was where the rebellious 'Mutiny on the Bounty' survivors from Pitcairn Island were settled after it became untenable for them to live on inaccessible Pitcairn (the population was down to one male, his wife's and their progeny and various other women and their children the rest of the adult males had been disposed of one way or another by the rival males!!) Norfolk Island is now an independent member of the Commonwealth with the Queen as its head and its own Parliament. It is however broke and relies on Australia to survive I'm looking forward to an interesting 7 days.”*

David Summers (G48-56) was in touch with Chris Shaw and in April said *“Rosie and I are about to depart on our winter (southern Hemisphere) travels to the Northern Hemisphere. We're off to Hong Kong, China, the Silk Road in central Asia, UK and France and will be back in Oz end of July.”*

BELGIUM

Harriet Donnelly (V84-87) responded to a request to organise an OF event in Belgium to mark 150th anniversary. She said *“I have been living in Brussels for the last 2 years due to my husband's job. We are however moving back to Dublin in the next 4 weeks. With that in mind I am sure I can throw something together in Dublin.”*

Kwai Hong Ip (G80-88) also said he would be happy to assist with organising or arranging an event but is unlikely to be in Belgium in 2015. He says *“I will of course let you know which country I shall be in and will try to get involved wherever I am. I shall keep you posted.”*

James Powell (G92-94) enthusiastically responded to the request and when I mentioned that I was coming over to Belgium with an OF trip to follow the exploits of Pickard, Flowerdew and Hewitt he immediately said he would try and meet up near Ypres, despite living in Brussels and having a partner, Sandra, going into hospital for a major operation. We duly met up at Tyne Cot Cemetery and then he joined the group at our hotel one lunchtime.

Afterwards he was pleased to report that Sandra has now returned home and is managing to move around the apartment more or less unassisted and making significant progress on a daily basis.



He added *“I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the Old Framlinghamians for the lovely bouquet of flowers which was sent on their behalf. It really was the most wonderful surprise, both Sandra and myself were touched by the gesture, it visibly lifted her spirits. I look forward to meeting you again and the others at some future OF gathering and in the meantime, of course, will keep you informed of progress with respect to the Belgian reunion.”*

Marcus Spurrell (G73-81) wrote to say that he was no longer in Amsterdam but in Brussels and that he would be interested in attending a UK event to mark 150th together with his younger brother.

CANADA

David McMillan (K54-58) near Toronto was prepared to try and organise a 150th event in Canada in 2015.

John Oswell (G61-65) responded to my pre Christmas message and was interested to hear that someone in Canada was prepared to organise a get together in 2015 [I passed on his details to David McMillan and **Howard Thistlewood (K66-73)**].

He was also trying to track down a couple of OFs – one was an American **Jim Tyrrell (G64-65)**. He said *“I have Jim’s original home address and thought I’d found him somewhere else in New Jersey and made the phone call but no luck. He was, like Chris Jenkins a one year guy from the US who both ended up in Garrett for some reason. In July 1965 after we had finished Fram we piled into his 1956 upright Ford Pop and headed for the open road. He was an avid birder and we went from Land’s End to Dunnet Head in 2+ weeks with all sorts of places in between – it was noticeable for us being at the summit of Cairngorm on July 29 and it snowed!. On the way back south we hit every service station on the “new” M1 to pump the tires, fill the rad and pour in oil - gas wasn’t a problem its mpg rating was astronomical! He had had an illegal Vespa motor scooter that he hid in a farmer’s barn before the Pop. He could never understand no girls and no motor transport! We thirsted for both! “*

The other was **George Reason (S61-66)** *“we had the same birthday July 29, 1947, he was Stradbroke and a good cricketer, played the 1st XI. We were great friends along with Simon Spencer who has sadly passed away – I have a bad pic of George & Simon standing on rocks when we were at the CCF camp at Okehampton in 64 or so. It seems Class of ’65 were not big on keeping up with each other but I have seen **Aubrey Whitear (G58-65)** pop up – in Australia I think. I should apologize to him as I have a coat hanger of his which ended up in my trunk as we fled the school in July ’65 glad to relish our freedom!!”*

I replied to John that we no contact details for Jim Tyrrell or George Reason, although George's brother Adrian, who was a contemporary of mine, lives not too far from me but has no e-mail address. I also told him that I’d met Aubrey when I visited Australia with my family in 2011 and I frequently publish article in the Overseas Bag from him. Hopefully someone can help locate Jim and Graham.

He finished off by saying *“We’re heading up to Ontario for my grand-daughter’s 2nd birthday at the end of May next year but no idea if we’ll be heading that way or on what schedule in 2015 – we’ll see what happens. “*

Howard Thistlewood (K66-73) – as just mentioned, Howard has volunteered to see if he can organise anything on the western side of Canada/US as he lives in British Columbia.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

In the last Overseas Bag I included correspondence from what I thought was the first OF in Cayman Islands and now I've received further correspondence from another OF **Alex Freiburghaus (G02-04)**. He was prepared to try and organise a meeting of the 4 OFs who live in the Cayman Islands – **Bridget Kidner (V93-95)**, **Graham Peck (S74-78)**, **Rebecca Peck (M02-08)** and himself.

CZECH

Christina Johnston-Myachin (V01-06) as you will read elsewhere on the website and in the Newsletter, continues to star as an opera singer in Prague. This time performing to heads of state at the EU Eastern Partnership Summit.

FRANCE

Gerald Hendrie (K49-52) was interested in buying a copy of "On an Eminence" and wanted some advice as to how to format the name. As I was away attending SOF AGM and Annual Dinner at the College at the time **Richard Rowe (S65-74)** was kind enough to respond with help as to what he had done. Gerald recounted the following interesting story of help across the ether *"It is indeed astonishing that one can communicate 'across the pond' more-or-less instantaneously, a fact I appreciated when I was repairing a computer a few years ago under the guidance of my eldest son who lives in Texas and works for Hewlett-Packard. I had the computer innards before me and would take a photo as directed, send it to him and within seconds receive advice as to what move to make next. The repair was successfully accomplished. And more recently, encountering a problem with Sibelius (the music program) he was able to 'take over my computer, keyboard and all, see my computer's screen and type his way out of my problem. I never did quite understand how he did it. I had to give permission before he began, of course, but even so it does make one realise how close one lives to phishing.*

I'm busy preparing for recitals, organ and piano, and currently composing a third volume of piano rags. An opera I'm editing should be published this year or next."

Bruce Micklewright (S48-51) was pleased to hear news of the reunions I am trying to organise around the world for 2015. He said *"We are pretty isolated down here in the Cote D'Azur, more than 1000 kms from Paris although Nice is very accessible as an airport. We are buying a retirement apartment in Dorset to be near the family as we are both in our eightieth year and probably we will be back in the UK next year. However we share this house in Mougins with my son **Ashley (S68-78)**, who is also an OF, and he intends to retire here (currently in Hong Kong) so we will still be able to enjoy some sunshine, assuming we are fit to travel. I don't think I can help very much in view of the above but please keep me in the loop."*

Brian Rosen (S40-46) was sorry not to be able to join us on the Amiens trip as he was one of those pupils at the College during the war when a talk was given by Percy Pickard. He said *"I expect you have done your research but this podcast is probably factual. Various books and TV documentaries have created controversy.*

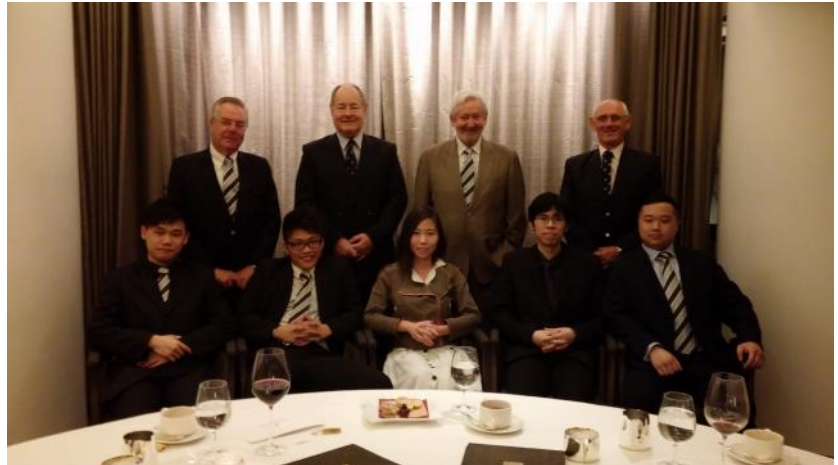
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/podcasts/Jericho.mp3>

GERMANY

Kim Dickel (M97-98) has volunteered to help **Jens Kippenberger (G91-92)** try and organise a German 150th event in 2015. Jens enthusiastically volunteered to lead the organisation of a German OF event and advised me of a new address in Wohltorf for him and a new address for this brother **Nils (G94-95)** from March 2014 also in Wohltorf. He's already had the idea of organising the event at his yacht club in the centre of Hamburg around the beginning of July 2015.

HONG KONG

Ian Howard (S57-62) has once again organised an annual Hong Kong supper in March 2014, at the Edinburgh Room of the Hong Kong Club. The occasion brought together the following 9 OFs: **Ian Howard (S57-62)**; **John Birt (Thailand) (S59-63)**; **Bob Holland (Penang) (R57-65)**; **Keith Williams (R63-67)**; **John Ting (G02-09)**; **Henry Tang (K03-10)**; **Ian Tsang (K02-09)**; **Jason Wong (S04-07)** and **Athena Choi (V02-03)**. A last minute back injury forced **Moria Theulier (M91-93)** to have to cancel.



Moirra has continued to look after the Old Framlingham – Overseas Network Facebook page – see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OldFramlinghamians.Overseas/> I would encourage any OF living outside the UK to “Like” the page and any OF thinking of overseas travel to post on here to see if there are any OFs nearby who might want to meet up. Moirra has been liaising with Jane about future changes to the page.

In January 2014, headmaster Paul Taylor made a short visit to Hong Kong and met up with a number of OFs one evening at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Moirra says *“It was a most enjoyable evening and we learnt how Fram is now operating 'back home'. It was also a good opportunity to meet up again with some of the other OFs in HK. I did try to take some photos although I was not so successful under those 'testing' light conditions!! However, it was a perfect venue and location :)”*



Keith Williams (R63-67) was good enough to help organise the get together for Paul Taylor, based on a list of OFs I sent him.

Jason Wong (S04-07) was at the OF Supper and had had problems getting OF publications which we have hopefully sorted out. He left the College in 2007 and initially went to Canada for another two years of high school. Then he got accepted by McMaster University and majored in mechanical engineering. He back to Hong Kong in July 2013 and now works as an engineer trainee at an electrical engineering firm.

INDIA

Richard Gould (K66-71) gave a brief update *“It has been some time since I last wrote. I am well, still in Goa and am, since February, Master for the year of my Freemasons Lodge here, Lodge Gomantak (an old word for Goa).”* **Gary Duce (K71-79)** Secretary of the OF Lodge was aware of Richard’s appointment. Apparently Richard got married last year and had his honeymoon in the UK and attended OF Lodge meetings in April & June.



JAPAN

Jonathan Amos (S67-71) was very interested in attending a reunion in Japan, especially with 18 months’ notice, but as he lives in the far north of the country (Hokkaido), he doubted if he was the best person to organize such an event. He was pleased to hear that I had sat with two of his contemporaries at the Suffolk Supper in October 2013 – **Martin Hogg (S63-71)** and **Nick Carlton (G63-70)**. He fondly remembers Martin as someone who dared to break the rules and society norms in a bold and reasoned way at school - an intellectual rebel. Jonathan particularly remembers when he was in the choir tucked away in the wing *“simply listening to Hey Jude on my radio earphones, when up gets Martin from the congregation and challenges the vicar – straight out of Tom Brown’s Schooldays or should that now be Martin Hogg’s Schooldays?”* Martin had put together a Facebook Group for about 15 OF contemporaries.

Sadly I’ve not yet heard from any other OFs in Japan, but look forward to helping someone organise an event there in 2015.

MALAYSIA

Bob Holland (R57-65) thanked me for my e-mail about reunion in 2015. He responded saying *“I am not sure that we will be in Malaysia in 2015, but I do hope to be able join up with the OFs in Hong Kong should they organise anything. I always attend the OF Dinner at the HK Club each year, and it pleasing to note that there are more Hong Kong OFs joining our group. Derek Seagrove (G39-44) alas is not too well at present.”*

Neil On was in touch for the first time to give us a new correspondence address in London but to confirm that he also spends time living in Malaysia. He visited the College in October 2013 and met up with Mark Kendall, his old housemaster.

NEW ZEALAND

Roy Farman (K47-55) has been helping Chris & Rebecca Shaw encourage OFs in New Zealand to come to the April 2015 gathering in the Hunter Valley. Although only one year different and in the same house at the College, Roy provided this fascinating response to Chris *"I was nondescript and wore National Health glasses. It's not surprising that you do not remember me as my school career was 'unblemished by achievement' (lovely expression that - wish it was mine!). While I scrambled into the 3rd teams for rugby, hockey and cricket I was in the tennis team (as 3rd string with **Chris Sneath (K51-56)**). So it was a career of mediocrity, a term hated by headmasters to whom excellence is the only recognisable level of attainment. I also passed only one A level. While I did slip through Fram unnoticed I did enjoy it. While the Jesuit saying 'Give me a child until he is seven and you can have the man' has now changed to the age of three there are surely other factors which influence character later in life and schooldays must be part of it."*

Roy went on to say that he exchanges letters at Christmas with Fram contemporaries **Duncan Miller (R47-54)**, **John Saul (R49-56)** and fellow NZ vet **Dave Juby (K46-54)** as well as **Gordon Read (K47-55)** who visits Masterton every second year as his daughter lives here. *Also I have visited and written to **Rob McLean (K42-48)** in Norfolk since as a vet I saw a number of farm working dogs and he was the English Dog Trial Champion. My health is not too good at the moment so I don't know whether I will make the dinner next year."*

Nick Marsden (G72-76) was in touch as usual at Christmas. He's still not sure whether he and Yoko will be able to make it over to Hunter Valley for April 2015, but he'd like to.

NIGERIA

Baba Ikanade-Agba (G07-09) said he would love to do something in Nigeria in 2015 to mark 150th anniversary. There appeared to be 16 OFs in Nigeria but only a couple had e-mail addresses. Baba will try his best to organise something.

Nigel Parsons (R64-68) set up and ran the Al Jazeera English TV station in the Gulf, but has now moved to Lagos to set up TVC News, Africa's first pan-continental news & current affairs channel. Here is full article on getting this project underway.

"Admit it – most of what you know about Nigeria may have come from that email you got offering you big money if you'd just let a Nigerian politician park his millions in your bank for a while."

Nigeria's reputation precedes it: rampant violence, endemic corruption, internet fraud, extremes of wealth and poverty, and an HIV crisis out of control are among some of the images that seem to surface when Africa's most populous nation is talked about. The country definitely has an image problem.

So when, after spending five years in the Gulf setting up and running television news channel Al Jazeera English, AJE, (an experience I wrote about some years ago in the SOF section and received not a few hostile emails in response), I was approached to do the same for Africa from a base in Lagos, I was wary, to say the least. But it had to be worth a look.

Stepping off the airplane at Lagos' Murtala Mohammed International Airport (named after a military ruler assassinated in 1976), I was immediately hit by the vibrancy of this sprawling city – as much as by the heat and humidity.

Some of the recent history of the airport itself could almost serve as an analogy for the wider city. As recently as 2000, the US Federal Aviation Authority was warning that Lagos airport security did not meet minimum standards. Passengers were subject to harassment by criminal gangs both inside and outside the terminal buildings, and aircraft taxi-ing on the runways were being hijacked and their cargo offloaded.

Then a shoot-to-kill policy was introduced following democratic elections in 1999. The violence dropped, the airport buildings were improved, baggage beltways were repaired, and today it is no better, but no worse, than any number of international airports across the developing world. It feels safe, not threatening, and the people are relaxed and smiling – even if you still wouldn't be advised to get into a taxi with a driver you don't know.

Lagos itself is a vast, sprawling city of close to 20-million people, with more arriving every day, drawn like metal filings to the magnet of the Southwest's booming economy and bright lights.

Just like any city this size, there are some places you go, and some you don't, especially at night. But elsewhere I was astonished to see streets lined with fashionable boutiques, with the background thrum of 'naija' as Nigerians from the acknowledged capital of African hip hop indulged their favourite pastime. In the ex-pat havens of Ikoyi and Victoria islands, young, upwardly mobile professionals from Nigeria's burgeoning middle class relaxed in trendy cafes and restaurants. While in the more recently reclaimed island of Lekki, row upon row of neat, new family homes stood as proof of the prosperity to be had, as orderly children in immaculate uniforms made their way to school.

In the end, despite a lingering scepticism, but with the full support of my family, I decided the challenge of setting up Africa's first pan-continental news and current affairs channel was too tempting to turn down.

It soon became clear that this was a project unlike any other channel start-up I'd undertaken. To begin with, unlike at AJE, and the half-dozen other channels I have played an integral part in setting up, we couldn't simply go out and 'poach' our core staff from already established broadcasters, such as the BBC, CNN, ITN or Sky. This was to be a home grown project, an African channel for Africans and by Africans. We were granted only two ex-pat work permits – my own, and one for the director of news and programmes.

Recruitment was an exhausting exercise, given that Nigerian journalists, especially those working for the state outlets, had little or no experience in working for a balanced, unbiased news outfit. The politics of Nigeria remains heavily based on tribal affiliation and patronage, and it's common practice for politicians to 'gift' journalists with envelopes of cash to carry positive news about them, a practice we had to break with.

To achieve this we generally steered clear of 'experienced' applicants from the state broadcasters, and concentrated on young, ambitious journalists who were ready to buy into the vision of an African channel that could compete with the big, established international broadcasters.

And then there was the building – dogged by poor building standards and the astounding corruption that permeates all aspects of Nigerian life, it was soon way behind schedule, and way over budget. But as we recruited and trained our young staff, the board stuck with us, and we finally moved in to what I am convinced is Africa's most modern broadcast facility at the end of 2013.

We also opened bureaux in Johannesburg, Nairobi, Cairo, London and Accra, while an Indian company, MediaGuru, oversaw all the technical installations and provided additional trainers.

All of us were deeply impressed by the willingness to learn and work long hours by our new staff. They in turn responded with enthusiasm and fulsome support as we introduced 'best practice' HR codes of conduct, and weeded out the few people we uncovered falling back into the 'bad old ways.' “

NORWAY

Richard Burwood (R53-57) now lives in Sussex but a couple of days before Christmas 2013 sent in this interesting recollection from 50 years ago and his time in Norway. “*My 50th Jubilee is coming up on 2 January 2014. It will be exactly fifty years since I disembarked in Tromsø(Arctic Norway) to take up my first House Job as a doctor.....Norway was in such need of doctors that they took 'anyone'! My Norwegian was so bad I had to be placed in the X-ray Dept to do the Barium meals and enemas.....the radiographer did all the talking and I simply shouted "Hold pusten (Hold your breath)" seconds before taking the X-ray...and then, when I remembered, "Pust igjen", seconds later....NO PATIENT ever died because I failed to remember to say, "Breath again".*

This photo was taken in February, just as the sun was about to return BUT, on the day I arrived, the town would have been in complete darkness. The population of the World's Most Northerly City was then less than 30,000...but now the University of Tromsø has its own Medical School, an academia of nearly 2000 and a student population larger than that of the whole of Oxford University!

I had fallen in love with the Arctic on Sorøya and Måsøya, as a student....but that was in July...with twenty-four hours sunshine each day!!!!”



In terms of advice as to when it is best to see the Northern Lights, he added “*October 2013 was the month to go.....it was the best chance of seeing the Northern lights for eleven years! There is an 11yr cycle. Now is too soon.....wait until nearer the equinox.....Tromsø and points north won't even see the sun for a couple more weeks and 24hrs darkness can be a bit boring.....the Hurtigrute stops at the opposite times of day/ night for the return leg,,,you ought to try to see something of the place in some daylight!! On a simple ten day 'tur og retur' one probably has less than a 30% chance of seeing the*

lights! The best bet would be a flight to Alta.....stay in Hammerfest a few days and 'do' Sorøya...and then the Hurtigruter back to Trondheim or Bergen...perhaps with two nights in Tromsø."

Richard has lived in Sussex since 1972.

OMAN

Bob Craig (R63-70) responded to my Christmas message with the following update *"I live and work in Oman so am interested in whatever is being arranged for "the Gulf area". I was at Fram (though in Brandeston) for the centenary (played the piano on stage, can't remember the tune), I may make it to the 150th as well, but not likely in Fram itself. If you could please put me in touch with whoever is organising what [I put him in touch with Stephen Sayer who is trying to organise a Gulf Event in 2015]."*

I was at the Dubai 7s this year - that was fun, and I have taken up cycling as compensation for not being able to run any more. My next change comes next year when I retire from all this and settle in Southern France. We've had a house there since 2008 and I'm looking forward to the challenge of learning French, doing a few easy mods to our house, having more time for my wife, and getting fitter again - all good!"

In a subsequent exchange of e-mails with Stephen Sayer he added *"I work in the HE Ministry near the airport and live in Ghubra North near the Chedi. We should get together in the new year, Costas at shatti Qurm is a pleasant spot! I should cease work for the Ministry in about a year (Feb 2015-ish), immediately after that I am not quite sure where I shall be as I have interests in NZ as well as France and UK. That being the case, I'm happy to help set up some sort of event in "the Gulf area", but may not actually take part."*

Stephen Sayer (S58-63) was good enough to volunteer to try and organise a 150th dinner in the Gulf area and took on the challenge of contacting 8 via e-mail and 21 via letter in April 2014. He looks forward to hearing from many of you in the area.

ROMANIA

Alastair Liddell (R92-02) got in touch via Facebook, wanting to know if any OFs lived in Romania. I replied saying that I was a bit confused as his address was in Norwich!! He said he was from there but currently living in Romania and was willing to try and organise a 150th dinner in Bucharest, Romania. As a registered user of the website I happily provided him with details of 4 OFs in Romania and hope to hear that he can organise something in 2015.

SIERRA LEONE

Charlotte Gower (P08-13) is a Moreau Scholar who has been undertaking great work in Sierra Leone. She sent the following update to Peter Howard-Dobson *"I have just come back from a fantastic time in Sierra Leone- such a beautiful, diverse country. Initially I did have a big culture shock- things are done very differently and people work in different ways. I was working for an NGO called 'Move Salone'*

(Movement Opposed to Violence and Exclusion) which focusses on marginalized people in the country, in this case Liberian refugees. We spent time monitoring refugee communities which have recently received investment from the NGO to improve the agricultural yields and therefore incomes. I also worked on UNICEF's "WASH" project which involves going around communities in the bush teaching children and adults alike about the importance of hygiene and sanitation. This, I think, has been the biggest shock, many communities do not have any toilets or a well whatsoever, so there is a lot of cross contamination and sickness on a very wide scale.

I lived alone with a Sierra Leonean family which was also great experience- they are incredibly religious so we prayed all together twice a day, and attended church weekly. The home was comfortable but basic- there was no running water and no electricity. Overall, it was a really great experience and I had a fantastic time.

*The purpose of my email is to let you know that I have recently been in touch with both **Alex Myers-Allen (R04-13)** and **Jasper Maberly (S09-13)**, and we have several plans to bring our year group back together this Summer. It has been difficult so far to be able to do this given Jasper and I have spent a proportion of the year abroad, but hopefully whatever we choose to do in the summer will make up for it. I know it's not compulsory for us to keep you informed of every event we chose to organise, but I thought it would be worth touching-base so that you know we are still very keen to get involved and that we haven't forgotten about our roles as Moreau scholars!"*

SINGAPORE

Adam Jeffery (G82-87), as you will have read earlier, posted the following message on the OF Facebook page "*Adam Jeffery (G82-87) is fairly sure that he bumped into **Ann Hogarth (V85-87)** in Holland Village Food centre, Singapore, recently but couldn't quite place her at the time. Ann - If that was you that was accosted by the strange bloke in Holland Village then get in touch, as well as anyone else from the old days! Would be great to meet up with any OF that are in Singapore."*

Amazingly it was Ann who said that she wondered if it was Adam at the time. Adam said "*Unfortunately the memory couldn't quite place someone I had last seen 25 years ago at the time - I was just sure I knew her. But it's all for the good - now that we've caught up again we are only 2500 miles away from each other so I'm sure we'll have a proper reunion soon!"*

He went on to give an update on what he's been up to "*I spent the first few years after leaving Framlingham travelling, first with a stint in Israel and across Europe with **Julian Mallalieu (G82-87)**, and then a jaunt in Australia with **James Craig (G83-88)**. Then it was off to Newcastle University where I studied Agriculture and Marketing, alongside my fellow Garret housemates **Mike Chapman (G77-87)** & **John Reader (G77-87)** (although my extra year out meant I was now the year below them), and after graduation in 1992 I began trying my hand at the real world. I realised fairly quickly I wasn't ready for that yet so I then found myself running overland trips across Africa for a couple of years before finding myself in the family way made me start thinking properly about the future. After the birth of my twin daughters I then spent the next 15 years developing IT systems for London law firms, until recently when my partner was offered a new position with her company in Singapore. So, only one thing to do - packed in the job, sold the motorbike, rented the house out and followed her out*

here! So we're definitely here for another 18 months, and then we will decide whether we are staying longer or will be looking for new challenges. In the meantime I am busy job hunting, so if anyone knows of a position in Singapore for an IT Manager/IT Development Manager please get in touch!

Unfortunately though I have lost touch with all those OFs mentioned above - although I did get to meet up with several of them at the Channel 4 documentary reunion. James Craig was down in Poole, Dorset where he was an Anaesthetist for one of the hospitals there, and in fact we attended the aforementioned reunion together, and although we have generally kept in contact it has been a while now since we last spoke. Mike & John I am sure are still in Agriculture somewhere, but regrettably I have no idea what Julian is now doing. As for anyone else, apart from Ann, I haven't seen or heard from anyone now in a long time.

The address you have (Over, Cambs) is in fact my parents address and all mail for me can go there - it's actually the most likely way of anyone managing to get hold of me as I move quite regularly. Obviously you have my email address if anyone does try to contact me through the site. I will register shortly so that I can see who else is in Singapore.”

Andy Ridley-Thomas (M84-89) is another OF I hear from regularly in Singapore and with his founding involvement with Earth Hour I recommend that you take a look at this video link he sent me <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZhblYrx4AQ&feature=youtu.be>

SOUTH AFRICA

Mike Bullock (R55-59) sent me his Christmas message and below is an edited version :-

“Wray and I, well we’ve been pretty good this year, our first full year in Pretoria. We have enjoyed our retirement, we have been in reasonably good health for our ages, we have helped out with the families when required, we’ve travelled, we’ve actively participated in the national economy, eaten our broccoli and kept the dog, Honey, in good health, so don’t you think we deserve a present?

We are very comfortable here at Faerie Glen in Pretoria (Garden photo with Honey on the right) and do not regret the move to be closer to our families. As we were heavily involved within the community at Macadamia we have enjoyed the break to be able to pursue our own interests.



For our holiday this year we travelled overseas, first to Ireland for a family wedding and then on a cruise on the River

Empress through Belgium and The Netherlands. In Ireland it was the wettest April supposedly for 800 years but that did not matter too much as we were with family and we did not have any touring planned. It

cleared up for the wedding although cold. We thoroughly enjoyed the weather for the cruise as it had improved considerably but was still cold and we had the experience of a White Easter in Hoorn. We travelled from Antwerp to Amsterdam taking in Bruges, Rotterdam and Hoorn en route, and enjoyed it immensely.

Wray especially enjoyed the fact that all meals were provided, so there was no thought of what to prepare. After the cruise we took the train to the historic city of Maastricht, home of the famous Andre Rieu, where we enjoyed wandering around the inner city and a bowl of soup in a café on Vrijthof Square.

From left: James, David, Allan, Catharine, Hannah, Matthew, Claire, Eric, Sarah, Mike, Wray Daniel, Stephen and Fiona.



In June Mike's sister, Sarah with her 2 boys Matthew and Eric, visited us from Canada for 2 weeks. In that time they visited Allan's game farm Shammah where the boys each shot a Wildebeest and Stephen's company trout fishing retreat near Lydenburg. They also visited Kruger Park for 2 days seeing the Big Five on each day plus other interesting sightings. In fact as Bullock Tours Inc (available FOC to others) had been so successful thus far in the trip Matthew and Eric asked to see flying pigs but try as we may we could not oblige, so maybe dear Santa with your experience with reindeer you could help there. Now that would be a cool present!

Since the move Wray has really enjoyed being granny and able to help with the grandchildren, and be there more often. She has also been able to reorganise the garden and to sew whenever she can as she has her own sewing room. Mike has also revelled in the change being able to do his woodwork, helping the families around the home and projects, photography and genealogy. He is also involved in bowls being Vice President of the bowls section.

So what lies ahead in 2014? Wray has her 70th in January and then we are off to Mabula Lodge with Tzaneen friends. We hear that the Wardens and McDaniels are visiting South Africa so we hope to see them. Otherwise it will be "more of the same". What a pleasure!"

Mike has offered to help organise a South African 150th event in 2015 but in April 2014 he told me that he was a bit preoccupied with the treatment for his prostate cancer so cannot do very much at the moment. We wish Mike a speedy recovery.

Guy Brooke-Smith (S41-44) gave a very newsy update "*As I think I communicated in my last mail we have sold our house and property in Hoekwil. It was large and we rattled about, also I could no longer keep up with the 3 hectares. As you know, Margaret was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease over 4 years ago and it has sadly progressed and I am looking after her. Our eldest son Andrew and wife, Amanda offered us a cottage on their small farm near Louis Trichardt right up North in Limpopo Province. We took up their offer and moved up here in March.*

We had been here exactly one week when Margaret fell and broke her right hip which put her into Hospital for a week in Polokwane (Pietersberg) which is about 120 Kms from here, there being no Hospital in LT except a small private one which Medical Aids will not pay for. I was driving back and forth for a week to see her. Fortunately our youngest daughter was with us and helped with the move, Joanne was a wonderful help, and we are so grateful. She had to return to George where she was

doing a 2 year course. This was all too much for me with looking after Margaret , cooking etc. and without warning, and having been so fit and active all my life, probably due to stress, I had difficulty in breathing and coughing – I thought I had 'flu or bronchitis, the Doctor sent me off to Polokwane to see a Physician. Guess what! I was marched into Unitas Hospital in Pretoria with heart failure and put into ICU where they gave me electric shock treatment to get my heart beating in proper rhythm again. I was in ICU for about 3 ½ hours and sent to the LT Private Hospital for 4 days before going home! I am now well on the road to recovery and can pretty well do anything. We also have a lady come in daily to clean, bath Margaret and other jobs such as washing which has taken a load off me.

From all this I think you will understand why I am unable to help. I did quite a lot in Salisbury (Harare) for OF many years ago and organized a few dinners etc. which was before Alan Richardson became a Vice President! How we miss the wonderful life in Rhodesia but have marvellous memories, and thank the Lord all our children were properly educated there except for Joanne who was too young, but she has done marvellously since 1980 and is now in a very up market Spa in a Private Game Reserve adjacent to the Kruger National Park. PS we are only about 100 Kms from Pafuri Gate, Kruger Park and would love to see anybody from Fram who may be visiting.”

Adam Phillips (G78-83) is also keen to be involved in a re-union in 2015. He has left Investec and now works for importers and exporters, helping them with their foreign exchange risk. He works mainly in the mining area and therefore spends a great deal of time up in JHB. He lives between Paarl and Franschhoek, near the prison.

James Campbell (M74-82) was also happy to help organise something in South Africa in 2015 and will be liaising with Mike and Adam. James is big in mining and is currently CEO of Rockwell Diamonds.

SPAIN

Nick Cook (S82-87) David Ensor (G60-63) and Ian Foster (K46-53) have all offered to help try and organise a 150th event in 2015 but they are finding that they are quite spreadout and of course some are on separate islands! Hopefully they will be successful perhaps organising something near Malaga. Some may find it easier to get back to the UK!

Richard Sayer (S56-61) recently visited Mallorca and met up with **Michael Evans (S45-48)** and **Ian Foster (K46-53)** to take this selfie!



SWITZERLAND

Kevin Horrocks (M66-75) was willing to try and organise an event in 2015 but was not sure whether or not he would still be in Switzerland then. There is a chance that he will move back to the UK (after an absence of 25 years) next year. He will keep me posted and should know for sure around the time

the Newsletter is published. If anyone else would be prepared to take this on then please get in touch with me.

THAILAND

John Birt (S59-63) sent through a fascinating photo in October 2013 with the following message. *“I thought the attached photo might amuse you. It was taken 3 weeks ago in Hong Kong where, at the 60th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Rugby Union (HKRFU), I was awarded a Cap almost 45 years after I won it in early 1969 at the very first Asian Rugby Tournament held in Tokyo! In those days the HKRFU had little in the way of funds (we even had to purchase our own blazers ... but they did give us a tie!) and could not afford to present actual Caps but now after so many years of the world famous HK Rugby Sevens, the HKRFU has plenty of cash and has decided to present actual Caps to those who won them in the days of yore!*



*This finally brings to an end my Rugby career which started in the Fram Junior Colts, Colts & 1st XV where I was awarded Full Colours and then a Cap awarded by **Richard Vaughan-Griffith (K60-64)** as captain of the XV together with J.D. (Laddie) Melsom who was the Rugby Master. I was born in Scotland and am a proud Scot ... and, as I qualified by birth, without telling me it was “Laddie” Melsom who brought me to the attention of the Scottish Schoolboys’ selectors who sent a representative to Fram to watch me (also unbeknown to me) in a school match. Subsequently I was selected for the Scottish Schools/English Schools match on New Year’s Day 1964 played at the Richmond Athletic Ground. While I had left school in December 1963 I was still apparently qualified for inclusion in the team as all those selected had still been at school somewhere the term before!*

Then at Sandhurst I played lots of Rugby and went on to play for the Army and Combined Services in various parts of the world. Choosing service in the Ghurkhas meant that many postings were in remote locations with no rugby and so there were times when my rugby career was frustrated. However, postings to Hong Kong were fantastic for rugby players and in the Hong Kong team in which I won my first Cap were three Old Ispwichians to boot so Suffolk was well represented!!

In fact I would suggest that it was the fact that I played rugby in Hong Kong which allowed, on my leaving the Army in 1977, my transition to the commercial world to be fairly painless as so many friends who I had met on and off the field were well established Lawyers., Accountants, Bankers ...in fact every walk of life was represented and in those days the Military/Civilian network in Hong Kong was very close indeed. It was not difficult to convert social contacts into business contactsbut that is another tale!!”

To cap it all, John then went on to say that he also opened the bowling for Brunei against Malaysia in 1976, so is an international cricketer to boot as well! As a result of this all coming to light, I have added John to the Sports Section of Distinguished on the website.

In completing the distinguished article on John he also provided further information on his army career, the highlight of which was when he was ADC to General Sir Walter Walker KCB, CBE, DSO in 1970/71 when he was Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces Northern Europe (ie boss of NATO from Northern Germany to the Russian border with Norway) including all Land, Air & Naval Forces. He says *“It was quite an eye opener for a young Captain to spend so much time with Heads of State, Heads of Governments and a plethora of Generals & Admirals of all nationalities!”*



which is taken looking across the dining table to the garden and river beyond. The teak columns came from the house of a former hill tribe chief who had abandoned it for the good life in the city! Each column is 7 metres long and about 70 cms in diameter. John says they are very hard to find these days, and very sought after, since the ban on cutting forest teak in Thailand came into force some years ago.

Although John is listed as living in Koh Samui, he is now semi retired and enjoys having the time off to spend more time at his wonderful home in the north of Thailand. He had great fun building it using recycled teak. You will see that the house is built in two structures. The one on the right is his bedroom suite while the one on the left has two guest bedrooms on the upper level. The ground floor is left open to the elements as can be seen in the other photo



There is also a possibility of John and his brother **Andrew (S54-58)** joining the party in April 2015 in the Hunter Valley, as well as John possibly organising an event in Thailand. John is very much involved with a number of events in 2015 to celebrate 200 years of loyal service to the Crown by Ghurkhas ... the first Regiment being raised in 1815 as Waterloo was being fought in Belgium!!

John had news of elder brother Andrew. He went to Australia in the late '70s under contract to oversee the conversion/modernization of the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney. He built a house by himself high on a hill overlooking Brisbane Water on the Central Coast at a place called Koolewong, near Woy Woy. They have 4 sons who in turn are now breeding regularly!

UGANDA

Chris Bagnall (R89-99) said he would be happy to try to host an event in Uganda around that time or travel to Kenya to attend one there. I sent him a list of OFs in both countries and I wish him well.

USA

Jules Arthur (K79-84) was originally in touch at the end of 2013 with news of an OF meet up on Grand Cayman Rugby Field! He report that on Tuesday 24 September 2013 the Kwazulu Old Crocs (an over 40's rugby team) played against The Cayman Tarnished Turtles veterans team. After a competitive battle the Old Crocs prevailed. The Old Crocs is a team founded by former Natal players and is based out of San Diego. They draw players from 6 different countries and includes several former internationals including Dick Cocks who captained the Wallabies.

Jules provided the following update on himself *"I captain the Old Crocs. I played rugby for Nottingham, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, Eastern Counties and OMBAC. I currently reside in San Diego with my wife Michele and sons Austin (16) and Alex (14). I am an affordable housing developer. I regularly keep in contact with fellow OFs **Nick Arthur (K57-64)** my Uncle and **Duncan Lumsden (Z82-84)** who also reside in San Diego. As Duncan was marked as Gone Away in our records, Jules was able to provide updated details for him. He lives in California.*

*The reason I am writing to you is that playing for the Tarnished Turtles that day was a fellow OF **Graham Peck (S74-78)** whose daughter **Rebecca (P07-09)** also happened to go to Fram. After a hard fought game we enjoyed quite a few beers together and told tall tales of our time at the college. You never know where you are going to bump into an OF."*

Jules provided the following update on Graham and Rebecca *"He has a wife Jane, daughter Rebecca 22 & son Michael 18. Since leaving the College he has worked in family Business in Property Management, construction and Leisure. He made Grand Cayman home in 2001. He currently works as a Property manager and Real Estate agent in the Cayman Islands. He is 2 times World offshore powerboat champion 1985.1987, one of the crew which came 3rd in the ARC Trans Atlantic Invitational superyacht race in 2010 on Big Spirit and played rugby for the Cayman Islands winning his international cap in 2004 (they were desperate!!) He is also a member of Cayman Rugby Tarnished Turtles oldies team.*

After leaving the College Rebecca went to Sheffield University (2009-2012) getting a BA in History and Politics. She was in the Women's University Rowing team (2012 -2014). Did an LPC law conversion at London College of Law winning a scholarship from Walkers International Law firm. She lives in London although family home is in the Cayman Islands. Hobbies are travel, yoga and long distance running."

Finally in late 2013 he said that next year the Old Crocs are touring Argentina if any old OFs are still playing and are interested in joining then please get in touch with Jules. "Being over 40 is a must."

Here is a photo of Graham on the left and Jules on the right... this is at the end of the pub crawl!

Jules has been good enough to volunteer to try and organise a 150th event on west coast of USA.



At the end of 2013 he was in touch again to say that he had just met up with some OFs in Australia when following the Lions Tour - **Ian Rumsby (Z79-84)**, **John Heap (R80-84)** and **Mark Birrell (G73-83)**. Below left is Jules with John Heap and on the right is Ian Rumsby, Jules and his wife in Sydney.



Finally as I was planning a visit to USA, Jules was very helpful in providing some advice on where to stay in various locations. It is also possible that we will meet up when I'm over there.

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) wrote to me in November 2013 from Shallotte, North Carolina enclosing some wonderful photos of the butterflies he breeds. He says *"No overseas trips this year. A visit to my oldest son in Pensacola, Florida in August and a three week stay by my sister from the UK in September is about the extent of our non routine activities. The eyes continue to be a hindrance and in spite of injections there has been no major improvement. However, as long as I can manage to drive locally I'll consider myself fortunate."*

We had an average year for the butterflies in the garden. One exciting treat was a rare visit by a tropical specia seldom seen this far north. My breeding cage has a good assortment of pupa for next year. Hopefully most of them will come through the winter and hatch. I have enclosed a few pictures of some of our varieties as promised. These little chaps are always on the move so I have been using a 100mm macro lens with a ring flash to give me a fair chance of capturing a shot!!

It was enjoyable reading another great Yearbook and hearing about all the exciting programs going on and the new buildings being planned. Its hard to recognise the old school! Next year's 150th anniversary is quite a landmark. It would be nice to have a Royal Visitor to mark the occasion. I remember well Princess Alice's visit during my time at the school. I spoke to James Ruddock Broyd (xx) on the phone recently." Below are a picture of an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly and the larva of a Gulf Fritillary.



Bryan was back in touch again via e-mail just before Christmas. Here is his update *"I am afraid that my eyes are not very good at the moment and I have to do this using my trusted magnifying glass. I have sent a letter to you, along with a few pictures, that I hope will reach you, in spite of long mail delivery time. We are hoping to visit the U.K. in April next year. Christmas will probably be spent in the company of friends, as each of our boys will be at home, enjoying time with their families.*

I finally had to invest in a new computer a couple of months ago. Since then I have been going through a re-learning process, which for an old "Duffer" like me, is a huge undertaking!!

Now that winter is here, I have been trying my hand at setting some tropical butterflies that I purchased from a supplier in Queensland Australia. The specimens are shipped dry of course and have to be re hydrated in a relaxing box so that they are supple enough to spread. It's a pretty tricky process and with my limited close vision, I often say a few harsh words!!! Well there we are. The sun has just broken through the clouds after a rainy night, and everything comes alive. Best wishes to the school on their anniversary year."

Ivor Noel Hume (37-39) was sorry to learn very late about "On an Eminence" and therefore not able to contribute. However, Noel's memories of his time at the College are already in print in his memoir *A Passion for the Past* (sub titled *The Odyssey of a Transatlantic Archaeologist*) as he is one of the very few OFs to have written their autobiography. This book includes reference that his interest in archaeology was sparked, when as a schoolboy, he wandered away from the sidelines of a cricket match to scratch in the dirt and found a worn lead pencil of the type once used to write on slates.

Despite now being 86 he continues his work and his last book was published in December. It is a history of the ravages of gin titled *Gin Legacy of the Doomed* and is a catalogue of his collection of stoneware flasks ca. 1830-1856. He is also plugging away on his latest book on the Earls of Southampton - 25 chapters in draft. Noel describes the background to this book *"Fifty years ago my wife bought me two parchment deeds from a Boston dealer, one of them described as relating to a London property of the 1580s and having six seals appended. With it came "one other". It was the undescribed document that had the seals and dated from 1579. Framed, it hung on my wall as decoration until I was reading a book about Walsingham's spy network and came on the name Charles Paget whose signature was the third on my document. I finally sat down and read the indenture and found that the signatures those of friends of the 2nd Earl of Southampton in their plot to oust Elizabeth*

and crown Mary Queen of Scots. They were also sending information to Spain to help it in an upcoming invasion (hence the Armada of 1588). The earl was using the home that his father had built and converted from the medieval Titchfield Abbey as a haven for Catholic priests. As steward of his household, he had a man named Thomas Dymock who was jealous of Elizabeth, the Earl's wife. Dymock told him that she was having an affair with a commoner in the mansion of Dogmersfield which was currently under construction. The Earl therefore evicted his wife who later wrote that Dymock had taken the role of the Earl's wife.

Now back to the indenture. Dymock had purchased the manor of Itchell immediately adjacent to Dogmersfield so that his master could keep a closer eye on the goings on at the mansion. The indenture transfers ownership of Itchell from Dymock to the Earl, thus the first signature is that of Dymock. The second is that of the Earl of Northumberland who would shortly thereafter being confined in the Tower as the price of his treasonous Catholic views. He allegedly committed suicide in his cell using a pistol loaded with three bullets. The third signature is that of Charles Paget of whom Walsingham wrote that "for Northumberland's sake he wished that Paget had never been born."

The 2nd Earl died in 1582, leaving as his heir his eight year old son, Lord Henry Wriothesley, to be looked after by Dymock. The will left a legacy to "Willm, my beggars boy," which suggests that William was a catamite in a homosexual household ruled by Dymock. The latter was a major recipient of the 2nd Earl's will-defined generosity, specifically a new house two miles away at Whiteley Park which Dymock was to have until Henry was twenty-one. When that date came, Dymock was still in residence at Whiteley while Henry was having his birthday celebration at Titchfield. That was a Sunday; on the Saturday two of Henry's supposedly homosexual friends, Charles and Henry Danvers, had turned up at Whiteley on the run from murdering a neighbour. With the party over and the guests gone, the young Earl and Dymock engineered the Danvers brothers' escape to France.

Henry Wriotheley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, became a patron and probable lover of Shakespeare, and thereby became the recipient of the first seventeen sonnets. I believe that this relationship developed from Dymock's childhood influence. Henry became a close friend of Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, and went with him in a 1599 campaign to suppress revolts in Ireland. Queen Elizabeth was violently opposed to the relationship by her two (by then married) favourites, but Essex defied her and eventually, with Southampton and Charles Danvers in tow incited a rebellion that brought Henry and Essex into the dock at Westminster Hall to hear the judgment that called for their execution by hanging, drawing and quartering."

A grizzly tale!! Noel wanted some help with photos of various places in Hampshire and I volunteered **John Ellerby (G67-75)** to help. There was no pressing hurry as he had two more chapters to write to complete the first draft of the book.

Alfred Molson (K38-43) has been in touch on a regular basis by phone and continues to be the source of amazing stories of his life. In November 2013 he mentioned that he was at Sandhurst with a Bowes Lyon who was 1st cousin of the Queen and that he met her at a dance, when she danced with Bowes Lyon right next to him.

Early in 2014 he was very concerned that his wife (90) had recently had a fall at home which had shaken her up quite badly. Fortunately in his next call the news was better and she was tired but recovering well.

I also mentioned to Alfred that my wife and I would literally be passing through Houston on the train in July this year. The train stops in Houston for about an hour and Alfred has said that he will pop down and meet up with us.

In our most recent conversation he mentioned that he is also suffering from early stages of Neuropathy in his legs. We discussed recent trip to northern France and he remembered Pickard flying over the School on a couple of occasions. He mentioned that his uncle ran the cinema in Leiston and that he met Pickard's brother-in-law there, the famous actor Sir Cedric Hardwicke.

John Nielsen (R68-72) said that he had been in touch with **Richard Rowe (S65-74)** in south Florida, but had not met him personally. *"Maybe that will finally happen in 2014."*

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) has been busy travelling since the last Overseas Bag and in November 2013 sent the following update. *"Our schedule was pretty hectic in October. We just squeezed (literally), onto a 747-400 from SFO to LHR, we got the last two seats, and arrived in rather sorry condition to collapse at the hotel. The next day we ventured in to London and visited Westminster Abbey, which I had never done when I lived there, took pictures of the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben etc., had a delicious pub lunch and then went "home" to the hotel, enjoyed a snack and a bottle of wine and then collapsed again!*

The next day we took a coach to Ipswich to meet my brother. We were supposed to be picked up at the Ipswich railway station, but there was a mix up and we ended up checking in to a local hotel until we could re-connect with my brother later in the day.

*On the Friday we met with **Nick Carlton** as arranged but, as I mentioned in a previous E mail, he was unable to go out to Fram so we went to a wonderful old pub (Butt and Oyster) by the riverside and had a most pleasant lunch and long chat.*

Saturday morning we were picked up by my brother and his wife and taken back to Ipswich station to board the coach back to London and connecting to Southampton but, since I had misread the coach itinerary, we missed it and had to dash in to the station and buy rail tickets (very expensive) to Liverpool St and then take a taxi to Victoria coach station.



The coach was scheduled to drop us at the cruise ship dock in Southampton according to the on line brochure but, when we arrived it was at the coach terminal and I was told that they never go to the dock except for charters.....another taxi to the ship !!

By this time, we were both tired and angry and stood in line for an hour behind a couple of thousand other passengers waiting to check in but I was beginning to unwind and said to Celestine "well, we finally made it, now what else could go wrong?" Not long after that, we found out as we were handed a letter at the counter to say that due to terrible storms at sea, we would not be sailing for two days and would miss three of the five scheduled ports, including Le Havre (my main reason for selecting this cruise) and Vigo.

*We still got our 15 nights on the ship, which were thoroughly enjoyable although Celestine didn't care for the movement at night when we eventually sailed into the Channel and got buffeted, it kept her awake and lulled me to sleep! We only stopped at Lisbon and Bermuda and then Ft Lauderdale, where **Richard Rowe (S65-74)** picked us up and drove us to Miami. This was the first time we had met up in 13 years.*

In March he initially responded to the e-mail sent round about "On an eminence". He said he hoped to see **Nick Carlton** when he arrives in Hawaii on April 7th to rejoin the Sapphire Princess. Bryan and Celestine would be in the UK for one night at the end of April 2014, after setting sail from Fort Lauderdale on 16 April.



Towards the end of April Bryan reported back from onboard their latest cruise "All is well so far, smooth seas all the way from Ft. Lauderdale, we are now well out of Funchal, but had a bit of excitement last night when, one hour after we left, we turned back to off load a seriously ill passenger. Rather strange, as we actually docked and remained alongside for some time, before resuming the crossing. Force 10 gale forecast for tonight and tomorrow, Celestine is prepared for the worst!! This is a photo taken of Bryan on board Queen Victoria proudly wearing his OF tie to attract the attention of any OFs on board, but sadly none did.

In May Bryan showed some interest in attending the Australia/NZ event in April 2015 as he had friends in Tuggerawong and Chris Shaw sent the details. He's still considering but he can get much cheaper flights to LA so may consider joining one organised by Jules Arthur.

Richard Rowe (S65-74) had a break from his globetrotting in October, actually spending 3 weeks in a row at home! He reported that the weather in Florida at that time of year was great – "cooler without the humidity, so have the whole house opened up. We have two 12 foot sliding doors, so that does open up the house!"

The following week he was off to Houston then 1 week whistle stop trip to Italy, Athens and Romania. He also just completed a trip to Israel "Fascinating country - well developed but the truth hits home when you look at the factory risk analysis. In most places, fire is the highest risk on the list; but for Israel it is missile attack. They all have maps showing "seconds to impact after launch" and there is a national alarm network. All factories and homes have a "bomb-proof" strong room for people to hide in."

In November I heard from him again as he arrived in Italy, with Athens on Tuesday am and then Romania on Thursday. He hoped to be home on Saturday in time to take the kids to the ice rink for his daily dose of coldness "I do put a jacket on over my t-shirt and shorts! The kids really break into a sweat with all their exertion playing ice hockey. Met Bryan and Celestine Pearson on Saturday morning. Left home a little earlier than normal so I could pick them up from their cruise ship and take

them to Miami airport - where I was heading - but my flight was about 2 hours earlier than theirs. They had a great time. Celestine took the obligatory photos with us in ties, so I am sure they will get to you eventually.”

Ian Seeley (S58-65) as usual rounds up this edition of the Overseas Bag. They were coming over on New Year's Day for a week to celebrate his Mother's 90th birthday up in Staffordshire. At the time they had 7 inches of snow with 14F and 25 mph winds. Brrrr!!