

OVERSEAS BAG – AUTUMN 2014

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

Overseas Bag Editor: Chris Essex (K69-75), 3 Kingston Avenue, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3LF; Tel: +44 (0)1225 873878; E-mail: overseasbag@oldframlinghamian.com

A big thank you for another good crop of correspondence from far and wide during 2nd half of 2014. 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 Yearbook.

As well as Australia we now have firmed up plans for an OF event in Germany in 2015 to mark 150th anniversary and I'm still hopeful that other events can be organised Belgium, Canada, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, 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.

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 he provided the following update to Chris Shaw (K50-56) in late September “*We are fine and I now know why people say in retirement that they have no time to do anything. As we live over our daughter and grandson, we are RUGs, really useful grandparents and spend a lot of time watching him growing up and sharing in his ups (mainly) and downs (teething etc etc). He is now crawling so he will be even more time consuming.*

Bunny remains in good health - never better - as we walk a lot. We did the Spit Bridge to Manly walk last week - 3 hrs through every sort of bush etc in a 10 km stretch. I have taken to Bikram (Hot) Yoga - 90 minutes of damned difficult yoga poses but hopefully doing me some good. I have yet to get the feeling back in my hands, which is very irritating and now sleep with a Darth Vader mask on to stave off sleep apnea! Boring.

We love the Northern Beaches and take seaside walks on a daily basis that Brits pay good money to visit for a fortnight each year. The duplex arrangement works well for the moment but we are planning to move out sometime. We are researching the Seniors Living option as this seems to get more for your buck - still important to us.

We are looking forward to meeting up next April but if anyone is in Sydney for any other reason we would be happy to meet up.”

Peter Bailey (K34-38) has recently worked with Jenifer Simpson to produce a fascinating biography of his life. This has now been published in full on the SOF website for everyone to read. The book is titled "Follow Your Leader". I can't include the whole book here but I thought it might be of interest to just include Jenifer's Author's Preface :-

The study in Peter Bailey's house is full of fascinating memorabilia, each piece waiting to tell of its part in his eventful and varied life. The walls are covered with photos and pictures, a favourite flying suit hangs from the door and his medals are displayed in a cabinet. Models of his favourite planes – the Dakota and the Canberra – feature on a shelf. There are thank you letters and gifts from the famous people he has flown around the world, including a photograph from Her Majesty and a bust of Winston Churchill.

Here is a story that needs to be told. Memories of our heroes should be captured and recorded before they are lost to future generations.

Thank you, Peter, for letting me into your life and sharing it with me. I have learned such a lot.

I can witness to the amazing memorabilia in his study, which include some memories of his time at the College. This is a picture of Peter and Jenifer with a copy of his book in his study.



Phil Bower (G65-74) has now completed his long drive around Australia supporting the show Mr McGee and the Biting Flea tour. I happened to spot in May that they were performing at Kyneton Town Hall. I wouldn't normally have know this place but **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** had recently written a book on the Kyneton Mounted Rifles [as you will read below Mike was on his way to the UK at the time]. Phil's observations on Kyneton were as follows "So, they had rifles riding horses? Whatever next? Artillery guns on motor cars?! Kyneton was Um.....instantly forgettable, I'm afraid! Although there is a cafe type store selling really delicious homemade veggie pies! Went there twice so they must be good! Weather too English for my liking but being billeted at Macedon which is situated at the foot of the Great Dividing Range the weather was no better! Still, the geography was nice." As always Phil signs of with "*Sent from a mobile device belonging to a person of dubious consequence while orbiting the planet Zarg in a stolen milk crate*"

Mike Garnett (R53-55) has continued to work tirelessly with **Chris and Rebecca Shaw (K50-56)** to organise the big event in the Hunter Valley in April 2015, but did find time for a visit to the UK in June 2014 where I had the pleasure of meeting up with him and others in London. Pictures from left to right are his brother **Gerald (R50-54)**, **SOF President Richard Sayer (S56-61)**, Mike, me and **Humphrey Truman (G49-52)**.



I gave Mike a copy of the latest Overseas Bag and James Ruddock Broyds write up on our trip in April 2014 to France/Belgium.

Mike also heard from **David Bonner (G62-66)** who sent his apologies that he couldn't make the April 2015 events but applauded the whole concept of the event and congratulated Mike and Chris on all the planning and organisation they had put into it.

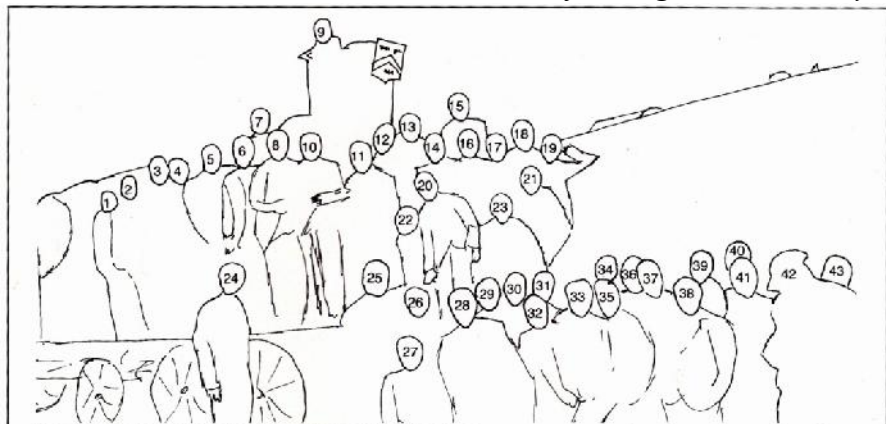
Neville Marsh (S53-61) has been in contact a number of times and in particular has been keeping in touch with Peter Bailey. In June they enjoyed a short cruise up the coast, on the Sea Princess, but unfortunately it wasn't skippered by OF **Nick Carlton (G63-70)**.

Neville was in touch when his copy of "On an eminence", the 150 year history of the College, finally dropped into his letter box. Neville had contributed to the book and gave the following review which I did put up on the website at the time "*I am enjoying the read immensely. Mark Robinson and Michael Cooke have done a great job together with the production team and folk at Third Millenium Publishing. I feel particularly honoured that the authors deemed two of my verbose submissions to be worthy of inclusion: perhaps they were short of material! I love the way they have re-imagined Stuart Brenan's photo of Albert and the three boys on the book's front cover. Stuart took this photo (on page 53) in the summer of 1960, I believe, just before he headed off to Nottingham High School. It first appeared in stylised form on the front cover of 'The Framlinghamian' Winter Term 1963 edition, designed by Alan Eastaugh (S54-60). The three boys (from left to right) are Mike Hodges (G53-61), John Wilson (S57-60) and Michael Sharman (S56-60).*

Readers may be surprised by the neatness of the log table on page 54 which I sent in to the authors. In fact, this was done my good self in an idle moment as an exemplar of a perfect log table copied out from Godfrey and Siddons. I must have had more time on my hands that I should have: punishment logs were usually almost indecipherable, done in 12-15 minutes, which is one four digit number every two seconds!

Tony Hoolihan's (R39-43) picture of the last Fram Flyer (pages 50-51) is another great evocative image. Tony published this in the Spring 1992 School mag, together with a key (below).

There are at least 9 boys who were unidentified at the time. This would be a good opportunity to finally put names to faces and perhaps give a copy of the 150 year history book to the first complete correct answer! Don't forget the boy leaning out of the front carriage.



LAST TRAIN FROM FRAMLINGHAM. For some years after the railway line from Framlingham to Wickham Market was closed the train was still operated at the beginning and end of the College term specifically to meet the needs of the school. Even that arrangement came to an end in March 1954. This photograph marks what was the last train from Framlingham (note the College crest on the funnel). Neville Bromage has provided the identification of some of those present at the time: 1. A. G. Wright, 2. D. E. Allers, 3. M. J. Sullivan, 4. C. Alger, 5. M. Watts, 6. R. J. Blythe, 7. unidentified, 8. D. J. Barralet, 9. M. J. Newson, 10. R. Oury, 11. unidentified, 12. V. N. Bromage, 13. G. L. Williams, 14. J. J. Moyle, 15. A. F. A. Brown, 16. D. A. Roberts, 17. R. Waugh, 18. B. Frankl, 19. P. Burman, 20. unidentified, 21. A. E. G. Best, 22. unidentified, 23. D. R. Metcalf, 24. British Rail guard, 25. H. M. Irving, 26. M. H. E. Hyde, 27. unidentified, 28. H. L. Baly, 29. M. Foster Clark, 30. J. B. L. Strange, 31. J. Cook, 32. C. Tremlett, 33. unidentified, 34. C. E. Martin, 35. unidentified, 36. J. A. T. Saul, 37. P. A. Johnson, 38. J. C. Rippon, 39 and 40. unidentified, 41. J. E. Vincent, 42. British Rail official, 43. B. K. Dent.

I really hope this excellent tome gets a wide readership. Its interest extends beyond those associated with Fram, as the initial chapter on Albert and other sections (Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson, Operation Jericho etc) are of general interest. Well done, everyone. Old Boys, get your copy before supplies run out!"

Jon Newbery (Z79-84) provided an updated address in Killara, NSW.

Bruce Ritchie (Z76-81) had been out of touch with the SOF for some time but suddenly got in touch as a result of hearing about the April 2015 event in the Hunter Valley. This is the strange story how he 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 to had also gone to Fram College for a few years! [Corey Maynard (G85-88)], albeit a few years latter 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 and my brother, Rob (Z76-83) who is also an OF and see if we can make up a party to attend the dinner. “*

Bruce now lives in Fairlight, NSW and has committed himself and his brother to coming to the April 2015 event. He will also try and persuade Corey to come.

Chris Shaw (K50-56) and **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** have continued to be virtually inseparable recently via e-mail and have met up to organise the big event in April 2015. They have done a great job bringing everyone together. As part of this organisation Chris wrote to Prince Harry to invite him and had a polite decline from Kensington Palace.

Of the new OFs to come on board recently are **Iain Birrell (G74-79)** and his brother **Mark Birrell (G77-82)** both whom live in NSW.

Chris and Rebecca are also going over to North Island New Zealand in November 2014 to meet up with his old violin accompanist **Geoff Bland (K49-56)**, who is visiting from the UK. This will be the first time they have met up since 1955! They are hoping to meet in Auckland together with **Katherine Jackson (P86-91)**. They are also meeting up and staying with **David & Frances Newson (S54-63)** near Urenui and **Roy and Sandy Farman (K47-55)** near Masterton. I look forward to publishing the photographic evidence in the next Overseas Bag, along with the trout Chris is going to catch in Lake Taupo!

During 2014 they have also undertaken a major refurbishment of their house. In mid August he said “*The big 'Bathroom' saga starts tomorrow! Big booted tradies tromping dust around the house. We have friends who have lent us their house for a few days so the showers and teeth cleaning can go on apace. The walls look like a WW1 hospital patient with innumerable holes and patches to be filled and painted over, at which time the room will become a scene from the 'Hanging Gardens of Babylon', or the Far North Queensland equivalent thereof! At the price - and so it should!"*

When his copy of “On an Eminence” finally arrived he wrote to Norman Porter that it stirred up many memories. “*Re. the Natural History Society that Neville Marsh reported on, I'm glad our efforts at forming the society in the first place continued on after I left. I recall Rod Cooke (K46-54) was in to*



butterflies and was quite intrigued by our caterpillar breeding programme at the back of the squash courts: the old jam-jar trick! We also had the use of a tiny book depository and left the window open and overloaded circuits with as many watts of light as we could find. The results were spectacular in the quantity of moths thus attracted. I recall a Mr. Gilfoy? coming from Ipswich (Museum?) to view our Bedstraw Hawk Moth, quite a rarity apparently. Also, he talked to us about a white and black version of the same moth that he thought was forming a new black variant for urban conditions. This, in the days before the 'Clean Air Act' of 1954, if memory serves, and soot was ubiquitous, especially on urban buildings. We also collected fritillaries and the like from glades in the woods around Parham and Campsea Ash on hot summer afternoons. Mr Thomas, Chemistry Master and Stradbroke House Master, made us a 'Killing Jar' using Cyanide embedded in Plaster of Paris, and we pinned out specimens of the unusual ones, although what became of them I have no idea, but it was great fun and a very welcome interlude in the 'Bell Controlled' existence of we boys.

Thanks to 'On an Eminence', this has all come flooding back and I have been a 'time-traveller' for a while this morning. I recall reading a book about the Caribbean Islands soon after arriving in Australia. It was liberally sprinkled with beautiful photos and when I looked up after maybe an hour, I had no idea where I was; which country and which building. Totally disorientated - and it was morning! 'Eminence' is beautifully written and produced - congratulations all round."

In September he wrote to **Brett Bailey (K58-65)**, Peter son, saying that he very much enjoyed reading Peter's biography. "That's quite a story his life makes and Rebecca and I so look forward to catching up with all three of you at the Hunter Valley dinner. It appears that most of the RAF will be there! I owe Peter some thanks for his flying skill, in that in the early 60's I lived in a flat in Ruislip, right in the approach path of the air traffic to and from RAF Northolt. Thanks to Peter's skill we are both still extant! Look forward to catching up with stories at the dinner, which I'm scheming to make as relaxed and informal an environment as I can! After all, this is Australia!"

Peter Simpson (K32-40) via his wife Henrietta, has kept in regular contact and I helped sort out a couple of copies of the "On an Eminence" book naming Peter and his late brother Mike (xx). Hetta wrote "*We have had much excitement and interest in the Simpson household since the 2 copies of the book arrived. Thank you so much for organizing it for us. Peter is to be seen sitting for most of the day at the dining room table with his nose glued to the pages. It is bringing him back memories from the past and the happy times he had in Suffolk as a boy with brothers Mike and John.*

The reunion is coming up fast (very fast for me as we are now so old). Peter Bailey is still holing his own even though he is now 92 - so I hope they will both be fit for the trip down. I have not forgotten about a report and photo our Norfolk Island trip and I promise I will get on to this very soon."

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Alex Freiburghaus (G02-04) was in touch to say "*managed to meet up with **Graham Peck (S74-78)** a few weeks back and we will be meeting up again and hope to add the others too in the next few months. From then onwards I am sure we will meet on a regular basis as it is a small island.*" The other 2 OFs who live in the Cayman Islands are **Bridget Kidner (V93-95)** and **Rebecca Peck (M02-08)**.

CHINA

Gareth Morris (K90-98) promised some time ago to drop me a note and I'm grateful he now has. "In truth, I'm not really sure what to write. It's been close to 16 years since I left Fram, and the time seems to have passed in the blink of an eye. The first five years were spent studying business at Swansea University and the University of Victoria in British Columbia. The next two involved a year teaching in Thailand and a year working in the automotive industry and import and export field within the UK, whilst deliberating whether a career in the forces was for me. In the end a dislocated shoulder from playing indoor football a couple of days before the final interview process decided things.

It was also at this stage that I enrolled on a CELTA course in Cambridge and, through subsequent acquaintances, ended up being offered and taking up a position teaching at a state university in China. Four years teaching and studying (Chinese) followed, but when it became apparent that additional qualifications were going to be a necessity in order to make myself more marketable on the employment front it was time to head back to the UK for a bit.

As a result I completed a PGCE and a Masters in education, and as if this wasn't enough decided to then enrol on a doctorate, a work still in progress as I write. I also took up a new role at a Sino-British university, which completes 16 years of experiences in 3 paragraphs of writing! Well, as far as employment is concerned. I also got married in 2008, and my son was born in 2010. This summer my brother also got married, and it was great to see a few old familiar Fram faces at the wedding.

I really hope that life goes well for everyone reading this. Let me also add that, if anyone has any questions, I'll be very happy to offer any insights into living and working in China; or for that matter into travelling around what is an intriguing and vast country. It also goes without saying that I'll be very pleased to hear from old friends. This picture was taken of me speaking at the 2014 AILA conference in Brisbane, Australia.



COSTA RICA

David Allars (K47-55) provided a new postal address in Escazu, Costa Rica and became the first OF in the time I've been Overseas Bag Editor to get in touch from this country. I'm grateful to **John Edwards (K45-55)** for supplying his e-mail address. He promises to provide an update in due course.

CYPRUS

Robert Clarke (R59-64) told us he was now living in Cyprus, where just 2 other OF sisters, **Laura (M95-97)** and **Sadie-Rose Mantovani (M92-96)** live. He said he was pretty busy travelling still for his clients in semi-retirement and writing his books but will endeavour to keep in contact.

CZECH

Christina Johnston-Myachin (V01-06) provided an update from Prague *“Currently I am performing in Don Giovanni as Zerlina in The Estates Theatre in Prague. Mozart wrote the opera for this theatre and this year is a special performance running from July 16th-August 17th. It has been fantastic to be a part of it and had had great reviews!!”*

Also I have been asked by Walt Disney to be the solo singer in their new documentary nature film Aldabra which will be in cinemas in 2015. I have also just recorded the soundtrack for a new Czech film called Století Miroslava Zikmunda. Its about a famous Czech adventurers known for their travels in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania in the 1940s and 1950s, and for the books, articles, and films they created about their journeys.



In the coming weeks I am touring on my second solo tour with orchestra around Slovakia and then in September flying to Athens to sing there. In September I will be recording an album with Boni Pueri (famous Czech boys choir) sacred arias and famous works adapted for solo soprano and boys choir! It is very exciting!!”

GERMANY

Kim Dickel (M97-98) and **Jens Kippenberger (G91-92)** have volunteered to organise a German 150th event in 2015, which they really hope will kick start more regional events in years to come.



“We are very proud to announce that the first ever German supper will take place on Friday the 10th of July 2015. The 150th anniversary of first pupils arriving at the College creates the perfect occasion for us to come together and reminisce about the days we first set foot through its impressive halls. All OFs are cordially invited to attend and to spend a whole weekend with us in the beautiful city of Hamburg. Full details about the evening itself and the program for the weekend will be released nearer the time. Kim and Jens are organising this event, please feel free to get in touch with them via kimdickel@mail.com and post@jens-kippenberger.de. “



MALAYSIA

Bob Holland (R57-65) heard the news about the death of **Derek Seagrove (G39-44)** on 8 June shortly after returning from a visit to Hong Kong. Derek was the father of actress Jenny and her brother David. He says *“I had not seen Derek for a couple of years as he had become an infrequent visitor to the Penang Club, but a few years ago while I was the editor of the Club Magazine we met quite often*

as he was a prolific contributor under the nom de plume of "An Old Codger" writing about his early life in Malaysia. He also acted at the Club Santa several times.

His articles encapsulated a gentler and better time prior to society being split on ethnic and religious grounds, and when friendship spanned all races. Derek and his link to that better time will be greatly missed."

His son David Seagrove wrote the following to **James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52)** "Yes, it has been a difficult end: he was quite unwell and in and out of hospital far too often. Nursing homes don't exist in Penang, so he had his own carer, who was a young friend he had taken under his wing and supported and sponsored during the '90s and early this century, who returned his loyalty and slowly became his carer as my father's condition deteriorated. For him - he was my father's ersatz son for 17 years - it has been doubly difficult. My sister and I were out here at the beginning of the month following news of his likely death, found him in intensive care, but to our astonishment he pulled out and was discharged home the day after we went back. Two days later he died, and so now we are back again.

In keeping with his wishes there was no funeral and his body was cremated within 24 hours with no ceremony, but we held the wake this afternoon. I placed an announcement in the Telegraph on Sat June 14, and once back and having sorted through his papers will be able to provide a business obituary for you - made easier by my finding a copy of a relatively recent CV today."

James, a former Overseas Bag editor, remembers three things by which he will always remember Derek: "firstly his two a year letters from lands afar always handwritten even when emails came in for the OF Overseas Bag which I duly edited for many years- they had a breadth of information and comment on local countries and worldwide affairs which were mostly printed verbatim. Secondly I had the pleasure of meeting him in the UK 4 or 5 times including one with his close friend in Notts and listening to his many worldwide stories. But most of all, the time I went to Jakarta on the way to Oz in 1998 and the first day he took me all around the city and the second day he arranged for me to go to Yogycarta and see the amazing Buddhist temple and when I saw my mother later she showed me a postcard of it from her uncle in the 1920s."

NEW ZEALAND

Mike McGuire (K54-63) sent me news of meeting up with **David Newson (S54-63)**. David and Fran were visiting the UK from New Zealand to see their daughter Susan in Oxford, as she was about to give birth. Mike writes "I now live in Lincolnshire, and so, having considered the logistics of the travel situation, we decided to meet up in Peterborough on Monday 4th August, with me driving there and David using the train.



We duly met up at the appointed time, and, after encountering an unexpected vintage car collection in the cathedral precinct, we dragged ourselves away to a local hostelry for a beer and a good lunch, where, apart from the food, we chewed over all things Fram (particularly our extramural musical

activities) and browsed that excellent recent publication "On an eminence...." in which we both feature (pp 62-65 particularly refer). Not being into 'selfies', I attach a photo kindly taken by a passer-by at Peterborough station, as we waited for David's train back, with a copy of the book as proof.

All in all a good day out. Unfortunately, the baby decided to be late, and arrived just after they departed back to New Zealand!"

Richard Warner (Z88-96) contacted us for details of any OFs who lived in Hamilton, New Zealand, where he had been living for the past 3 years. We took the opportunity to update his details.

Finally from New Zealand we re-established contact again with the one and only OF to become a wizard (unless you know otherwise!). **Ian Channell QSM (42-45)** He was officially appointed the first Wizard of New Zealand in October 1990 by the then Prime Minister of New Zealand The Right Honourable Mike Moore. In 2009 he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. After updating his biography in the Distinguished Section of the SOF website he said that the last visited the College in 1993 and since then has been off the radar. He asked me to publicise a piece on our website about his drive to recruit more Wizards. Jack (as he is now known) says "I am preparing a handbook for potential wizards and have attached the introduction which you might send to

interested OFs. It was inspired by "Scouting for Boys."..... A sort of "Wizardry for Men". Apart from an active core of overeducated young Tories or "young fogies" (not modern Conservatives, who are mainly Whigs in disguise) we see the future of the movement depends on recruiting the bearded non-conformists of mature years (over 60s ideally) who want to annoy the apparatchiks whose obsession with controlling everybody and everything for childish reasons are bringing civilisation to a grinding halt.



Not much else is required except to grow a beard, grab a staff, put on the distinctive pointy hat and gown and go on weekly outings in unexpected places [see Jack in the centre of this picture].

I am looking forward to meeting you young fellows at the Australian Jamboree thingy in April. I will be in my awesome outfit...how about organising a wizard function there with hats from the 2 dollar shops and some simple black coats or gowns? I am casting a special Old Framlinghamian spell for a good turnout."

NIGERIA

Baba Ikanade-Agba (G07-09) said he would love to do something in Nigeria in 2015 to mark 150th anniversary but has been in London for 6 months on a film course but will pursue on his return to Nigeria in October.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mike Bullock (R55-59) has been in the wars recently. In June his cancer treatment was going well and he was over 75% of the way through and provision for oncologist appointments along the way have not been necessary. In the meantime he had a 3rd degree tear of his Achilles' tendon which was incorrectly diagnosed. "9 weeks ago I had a scan which revealed a stretch of the tendon so for 8 weeks when I just wore a moon boot but the swelling did not recede so I went back for a further scan which revealed the severity of the problem. So I am now in a plaster cast for another 2 weeks, then a new cast for another 3 weeks followed by the moon boot again. Despite these problems I feel good and chirpy and look forward to getting through all this so that life can get back to normal."

Then he was in touch again as he spotted mention of Lottie Nickson (apparently an exchange student from the College) being included in a photo of a winning team in a local girls hockey match. Mike has now been appointed our South African newspaper reviewer!

Finally he reported that he had good news from his oncologist when he revealed that the PSA was at 0.36 and he is confident that it will be zero at the next report back in October. Meanwhile the existing, tired plaster cast will come off on Thursday and a new one set for another 3 weeks!



Guy Brooke-Smith (S41-44) asked for a paper copy of the Newsletter as he was having problems accessing it online. He said "I can do semaphore or morse as at sea but the modern gadgets and I are not compatible!!"



James Campbell (M74-82) is regularly on social media and one such message concerning his 50th birthday said "Being thoroughly spoilt by my family and this is one of the cakes that my daughter has made!"

Lucie Pascoe (P87-96) had bumped into Norman Porter at the Suffolk Show. Each year she brings her family back to her Suffolk routes and she was pleased to renew contact with the SOF and would update her details in East London, South Africa. She also indicated that she would love to attend an SOF dinner in South Africa if one could be organised. She promised a fully update for a future magazine.

Adam Phillips (G78-83) was keen to be involved in a re-union in 2015 and has written out to OFs in South Africa but with little luck so far.

THAILAND

John Birt (S59-63) kindly offered to help the son of a friend of mine who had been robbed while travelling in Thailand. As it was no assistance was needed but the offer was very much appreciated. John has committed to coming to the event in the Hunter Valley in April 2015 and was trying to encourage Mark Creasy to come as well.

USA

Michael Blake (K72-76) and I met up as planned in Washington DC in July 2014, almost exactly 39 years since we had last met. Michael and his partner Mary were kind enough to take us out to a Spanish restaurant where Michael could converse in fluent Spanish with the waiters. Michael reminded me that when he originally arrived at the College he could barely speak English, having been brought up in Spain. His father **John (37-39)** was still alive and well in Spain. Michael is fluent in a number of languages, including English these days!



Subsequently he posted his thoughts on the death of Norman Borrett who he knew well during his time at the College *“I wish I had made time to get together with Norman and his wife 15 years ago, when I dropped by Framlingham for a visit! They had me over for luncheons/dinners. Portuguese fare and Spanish sherry! When at Fram I was a waif, no home to go to and no family to visit, on short exeats! The sweetest man I ever met! The mold shattered with his passing. “*

Ivor Noel Hume (37-39) continues to write his latest book on Elizabethan times and wanted to include a wonderful area photograph of the castle he remembered seeing on the SOF website. We contacted **Simon Stacpoole (K90-02)** who took the photos in his plane and was very happy to help Noel. **John Ellerby (G67-75)** has also continued to provide Noel with lots of help with photos of various places in Hampshire. Referring to the castle photo, Noel said *“I seem to recall that the building inside used to be an alms house. I sat in front of it in the summer of 1939 (or it may have been 38) to watch the school production of Twelfth Night remember that the wind was in the wrong direction and the cast appeared to be miming. However, I have never forgotten the chap who played Malvolio. It is amazing how some images stick.”* He also recounted to Simon *“I don't recall the lake being there in the 1930s as our scout troop did its chases around the Fram side of the castle. Where the lake now is, Queen Mary's army assembled at the ousting of Lady Jane Grey and Mary's march on London. I wonder whether anyone did any archaeology on the camp site before the lake was created?”*

Noel has also had the opportunity to talk on the phone to a near contemporary of his and fellow resident in the US, **Alfred Molson (K38-43)**.

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 June we discussed the recent deaths of **Kenneth Wiseman (K33-39)** and **Derek Seagrove (G39-44)** both of whom Alfred knew well although Derek had been ill for many

years. Then on 8 July my wife and I met Alfred on Houston railway station for about 20 minutes. We were on a train travelling from LA to New Orleans over 2 days and nights. We were due to have longer together but as always with Amtrak it was running late! We very much appreciated the effort Alfred made to come down and meet us albeit for a very short time.

In August he mentioned that his wife had trained the first nurses to care for people who had had plastic surgery when developed at Queen Victoria Hospital at East Grinstead during WW2.

He enquired after **Ron Pine (K34-41)** who he'd not been able to get hold of for some time. I said I would try and contact him. We also talked about his connection to Lord Hugh Molson and the famous Molson family of Montreal, which were into banks and breweries. As Alfred is no longer on the internet I posted him a copy of **Peter Bailey's** biography which I know he will find an interesting read.

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) was sorry that our tour of America did not include Hawaii! He and Celestine were off on another cruise on the Star Princess at the end of August, round trip from San Francisco up to Skagway, Alaska, fingers crossed for decent weather this late in the season.

At the end of September Bryan said that the cruise to Alaska was, as usual, just great. *“This was our third, my fourth, cruise up the Inland Passage as far as Skagway and Tracy Arm. The latter is like a Norwegian Fiord, small patches of ice in the water, gradually getting much bigger, until we arrived at the glacier which is HUGE and a vivid shade of blue. Saw the usual fauna, whales by the dozen, seals and eagles. We didn't leave the ship at Juneau as the weather was not too good and we had been there before, but people on our table at dinner were enthralled as they had taken a tour and saw bears catching salmon! Next trip is from Tahiti, back through Honolulu and the Neighbour islands to Los Angeles, sailing January 7th. We fly to Papeete, spend a few days on Moorea, visit Celestine's family, then board the Pacific Princess.”*

Richard Rowe (S65-74) in May 2014 sent greetings from Ankara, Turkey. He provided the following update *“Next week Cologne - all work. Then 1-day at home and off to British Virgin Islands for 9-days sailing vacation; 2-days home and off to Albania and Greece for a week's work. Seems a lot but good to be on the move after a slow start to the year. But did have one trip to China including Shanghai. The growth along the eastern corridor of China is phenomenal. I had a trip to Nanjing, so went by inter-city train - that cruises at 190mph. I then tried the maglev train from Shanghai center out to the airport; about 30 miles but cruises at 270mph and incredibly smooth! I think it took longer to buy the ticket than the journey to the airport.”*