

SURPRISE 80th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Report by Christine Ruddock-Broyd

The President and eight OFs were delighted to attend a “Surprise Garden Party” in honour of my husband James’ 80th Birthday (G46-52). The whole event had been organised by me in secret and unbeknown to James 130 guests were due to arrive on the day.



After days of horrid weather the day dawned brightly although a marquee and gazebo had been erected just in case! As the morning unfolded certain “entertainments” started to arrive – the Ice Cream Tricycle and a three man Caribbean Steel Band so to be ready when the first guests arrived. At this point James guessed something was afoot but was completely dumbstruck when guests started to arrive in droves!

Guests came from far and wide namely, Australia, Cyprus, Majorca, Cornwall, Yorkshire, Leicester, Oxford, Worcester, Suffolk, Sussex as well as many local friends – Christine was told by many guests that all these lovely people were there to celebrate James’ birthday and it proved just how much a loved person he is!

A very important guest was Ian Foster (K46-53) from Majorca and whose own 80th birthday was celebrated in March in Majorca. A very amusing speech was delivered by Ian with some dubious incidents from his and James' first meeting in 1946 onwards being shared. James of course responded but had to put on his "Lawrence of Arabia" outfit to do so (don't ask!!)



It was a perfect day with the steel band providing excellent music and the ice cream being a great draw....apparently there was a hiccup with the Waitrose delivery of the buffet food but it was soon sorted out and no one was any the wiser. Later a most splendid birthday cake was presented to James decorated as Lords Cricket Ground with the score being 80 NOT OUT! It was made by friend Julie whose son works in the MCC Office.



Celebrations did not stop here as next morning in Church James was presented with another birthday cake and rounds of “Happy Birthday!

On James’ actual birthday the following Saturday a family lunch was arranged in a hotel where they often stayed in Weston-Super-Mare and again a fabulous day and very special as all the family were gathered and daughter Susannah gave a very heartfelt speech about her father. Presentations of beautiful albums containing photographs from his childhood onwards were given by daughters Susannah & Philippa and his brother David and James was quite overjoyed realising the work and love which had gone into producing these – couldn’t have been better.

OFs Attended: Chris Bellamy (K54-64) and Janet, Bernard Bridges (S45-54) and Elsie, Chris Essex (K69-75, President) and Eryl, Ian Foster (K46-53) and Tessa, Ian Marsh (S49-52) and Christa, Brian Smith (S53-56) and Valerie, Clive Smith (S54-58) and Jean, Michael Smy (S57-66) and Anne, Douglas Thomson (K53-61) and Dorothy.

Regrets: Jim & June Blythe, Mike & Margaret Craddock, Bill & Sue Collard, Chris & Janine Keeble, Tony Martin, David & Anne Mason, David & Sue Mitchell, Richard & Marion Overend, Norman & Virginia Porter, John & Angela Rankin, Richard & Georgina Sayer, Andrew & Margaret Wright.

A footnote from James

When I typed the houses and years I thought there were some unusual statistics. Looking further I find the attendees were from 2 houses - 4 from Kerrison and 5 from Stradbroke – none from my house Garrett. Also five of them averaged 8 and a half years at Fram with all attending for 59 years

Below are some additional photos taken by Ian Marsh (S49-52)





HAPPY
80th
James

