

***Simon Dougherty, SOF President writes:***

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE AND UPDATE**

As Christmas approaches, I write to wish all Old Framlinghamians a Happy Christmas and a safe and secure New Year!

In 2020, I have attended in person only one OF function! Alex Henney arranged a most excellent London Supper at the Lansdowne Club in January. All of the remaining OF functions for the year were cancelled as a result of COVID19. My grateful thanks go to all those who had undertaken much planning to make the arrangements for events which subsequently had to be cancelled.



Despite the challenges imposed by COVID19, the governance of the Society has continued as planned, with the AGM and Council Meetings (with their associate Trustee and Finance Committee Meetings) being held at the designated times - on ZOOM. Interestingly, the use of this medium has enabled some overseas members of Council to join in – which has been very pleasing. However, I recognise that unfortunately a small number of regular attendees who do not use the internet have not been able to participate.

With the cancellation of the Annual Dinner – which had been arranged to take place at the RAF Club in April – we were not able to welcome the usual range of guests of the Society to join us. Louise North, who took over as Principal of Framlingham College and Head of the Senior School in September 2019, had promised to speak at the Dinner. Hopefully this will be rearranged for our next Annual Dinner.

I would like to thank all contributors to the OF Section of The Framlinghamian for responding so well to meet a much earlier deadline this year which we were told was necessary to allow for its publication in September as a digital only edition. However, due to the impact of COVID19 at Framlingham College in the summer and the change of a number of FC personnel involved in its production, the publication of the digital edition of The Framlinghamian 2020 has been delayed until December.

As a member of the Moreau Scholarship Selection Committee, I was pleased that we were able to complete the 2020 selection process – albeit later than usual – with the final selection interviews being undertaken on Zoom. I offer my thanks to David Mallet for his most excellent organisation of both the applicants and the selection committee. I offer my congratulations and a very warm welcome Sam Ponty and Amelia Slater on their selection as the 2020 Moreau Scholars. The process to select the 2021 Moreau Scholars is already underway.

Turning to 2021, the London Council Meeting planned for 26 January 2021 will now take place on ZOOM. The London Supper, arranged to take place at the RAF Club on the same date has been cancelled. The AGM and Annual Dinner have been arranged to take place at Framlingham College on 27 March 2021. However, at this time, I am unable to confirm any arrangements. Should COVID19 restrictions still be in place on that date, other arrangements will have to be made.

I finish by offering my thanks to the Officers of the Society for their great support, patience and hard work during the extended period when we have had to communicate by telephone, email and ZOOM. Further, I have been heartened and touched by the numerous kind personal emails of support that I have received from members of the Society this year – thank you!