

# OVERSEAS BAG – SPRING/SUMMER 2012

## “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](mailto:overseasbag@oldframlinghamian.com)

A big thank you for another bumper crop of correspondence from far and wide. As always there are some new writers and plenty of correspondence from familiar friends. Its always great to hear from anyone. These 24 pages are the full version – an abbreviated version has appeared in the Newsletter and 2012 Yearbook.

As always 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.

## ABU DHABI

**James Wheildon (K64-69)** became the first OF to get in touch from Abu Dhabi, when wanting to register on the website. He exchanged various information and reminisces with me and **Peter Howard-Dobson (R65-69)**, mainly about the joys of having spent some time in Moreau under the guidance of Les Gillett.

Peter had spotted him writing in *The Times* about Fez and also the Philippines. Peter could also empathise about his current working environment in Abu Dhabi, having spent three years working in Bahrain.

*James went on to say “I often think we were the wrong generation at the wrong time at the school, given the so-called swinging sixties, films like If, the rock groups preaching revolution and the world changing so rapidly. But the charms of sleepy Suffolk are much more appealing now than perhaps they were then. Certainly it would be good on occasion to be able to swap the raging heat over here for a quiet drink in a Suffolk country pub. Something I did manage to summon the courage to do once or twice while at school. To do it here, I need a liquor licence or have to mingle with the other ex-pats in one of the 5-star hotels. I am in touch with just one OF; Tim Bailey, a Kerrison contemporary, who now enjoys the delights of Suffolk. He lives in Worlingham.”*

## AUSTRALIA

**Phil Bower (G65-74)** has been in regular touch. Having enjoyed the OF socks I presented him with for organising a Sydney Supper last August when I visited, he wanted to know if it is possible to purchase a Junior Garrett house tie. He said “*I was awarded one by Kennon all those*

*years ago but mine got lost when my belongings got stolen back in 1980(ish) - the sox just sort of kicked off the memory - I'm not one for tie's but that one does have a little significance to it!"*

When I enquired I was surprised to find that they now only did bow ties! After sending one out to him, Phil responded "*delighted to report the safe arrival of one bow tie. Many many thanks! Cute little item but, somehow representative of the modern age - ie, pleasant though they are, they lack the pzzazz of the tie!! I intend on wearing it to every show (along with the OF sox!).*

*Meantime - did 3 days on the ARIA's (music oscarz for Ozzies) and had to light up Gillard & Kylie amongst others. Fun night and the money was very useful!! Survived the second show from Dolly the sheep - begrudgingly have to admit she's a good entertainer. She's actually quite a multi-instrumentalist. Starting on the NYE celebs in a week."*

He later gave a futher update "due to the departure of my drummer for the UK (to work on the Olympics apparently!) I've re-jigged the band and am currently rehearsing a new drummer and an old friend on guitar. Our first scheduled show is a Battle of the Bands (Oh my gawd!!) Ah well, it's only rock n roll. Probably won't get to work on the Roger Waters "The Wall" extravaganza on account of I'm mainly driving trucks at the moment. But I did the Bryan Adams tour recently.

**Mike Garnett (R53-55)** said his brother Gerald had told him that an appeal had been launched for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mike generously organised an appeal from his fellow Melbourne OFs, plus **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** in Cairns. In all they raised A\$800 from 8 OFs - **Bob Munro (R54-60)**, **Mike Ridley (K53-59)**, **Chris Shaw (K50-56)**, **Mike Selby (Z83-93)**, **Mark Mansour (BH83-88)**, **Tim Bellamy (G60-66)**, **David Bonner (G62-66)** and himself. It then took us a few weeks to transfer via the wonders of Pay Pal!

Paul Taylor, the Headmaster, said "This is a very touching donation – unsolicited, collective and a lovely reflection on everyone involved, and on the bonds and strength of their SOF ties."

**John Gates (S44-48)** was in touch in December 2011 with sad news about Joyce Bailey, Peter Bailey's wife, who I had met on my trip last year. She died peacefully after battling a terminal condition.

He was visiting UK from 21 May 2012 till 9 August 2012.

**Peter Hughes (G52-56)**, like me had received regular updates on Chris Shaw's medical condition. Surprisingly he said "*You know Chris Shaw and I share a number of serendipitous events, well basically Chris is following my lead !! Janet and I took a trip overseas in September 2011, the long and short of it being that we were mugged in St Petersburg Metro, had several fainting fits in UK, collapsed in street with head wound, hospitalised in Sutton Coldfeld with AV heart block and 3 days later had a Pacemaker fitted! All done on the free as I still have British Passport! Three cheers for NHS"*

I replied saying I'm glad us British taxpayers looked after him!

He said he would catch up with Chris at home once he's out, but had already paid a visit to him in the Cardiac Ward and he was in good spirits and keeping everyone entertained, along with a stream of visitors.

**Neville Marsh (S53-61)** met up with **Nigel Burnip (S58-65)** on his visit as part of the GB Veterans Team visiting Australia in October 2011. He said *“we had a great evening over a couple of hours and a pleasant meal at his hotel: that's about 2 minutes to discuss every one of 51 years since we last saw each other! Obviously shooting was the main topic of conversation and I was very proud to bring along my Empire Test target from 1959 when I had a perfect score: 25/25! (see attached photo).”*



In February 2012 he was back in touch to say *“I have just finished the 2011 Yearbook and what a good read it was! Congratulations to all concerned – I see that Chris Keeble had a hand in this and other OF publications. Chris and I seemed to compete for the art prizes in the late 50's. I'm pleased to see that he has done something with his talent!”*

*The Yearbook evoked all sorts of memories and I note that the Aussie correspondence continues to take up more than half the Overseas Bag. I was amused to see photos of my brother (on the Sandhurst visit) and myself in Queensland, on opposite pages. I noted Simon Dougherty's stellar career and can claim a small portion of his glory. I taught Simon when he was doing his pre-clinical studies at the London Hospital. He won't remember me – I was a Physiology Demonstrator, the lowest form of academic life! Professor Kenneth Cross, a famous foetal physiologist was at the top end of the food chain.*

*Ian Howard bemoaned the poor response to OF events in HK: I can reiterate his feelings having tried to get younger OF's to meet up with Nigel Burnip when he was over here shooting for the GB Veterans. I failed to raise a single soul. Any suggestions, particularly as I see there is a proposal for overseas suppers to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? It would be great to get together at a central Australian location but remember, a hop and a skip to Melbourne is further than London to Moscow! I see that our numbers Down Under will be swelled by the arrival of Mike Allport who is emigrating next year to be with his family in Sydney.*

*Mark Hedley's commentary on home-made cigarettes evokes similar memories at Brandeston. The favourite venue for this clandestine activity was behind the sheds along road towards Cretingham. The trees were predominately oak so we used these rolled up in toilet paper. It was impossible to keep them alight and I was to discover years later that commercial fags contain saltpetre for that purpose! Brandeston also reminded me of J P Ferris – yes, we all suffered from his tirades but who was to know that there was a brilliant mind inside the man – anyone who can edit a voluminous history of the Houses of Parliament gets my vote.*

*On 2 February, Alison and I met up with John and Ruth Gates, Peter Bailey and Peter and Hetty Simpson: a good time was had by all at Twin Waters Golf Club. Sadly, this was the first occasion we had met since Joyce Bailey passed away last December. Peter is keeping in good spirits and will soon set off for a reunion of his RAF Squadron in UK.*

*The photo below shows **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** and **Peter Simpson (K32-40)** holding a 1934 Panorama photo of the College. Standing behind: **John Gates (S44-48)** and **Neville Marsh***

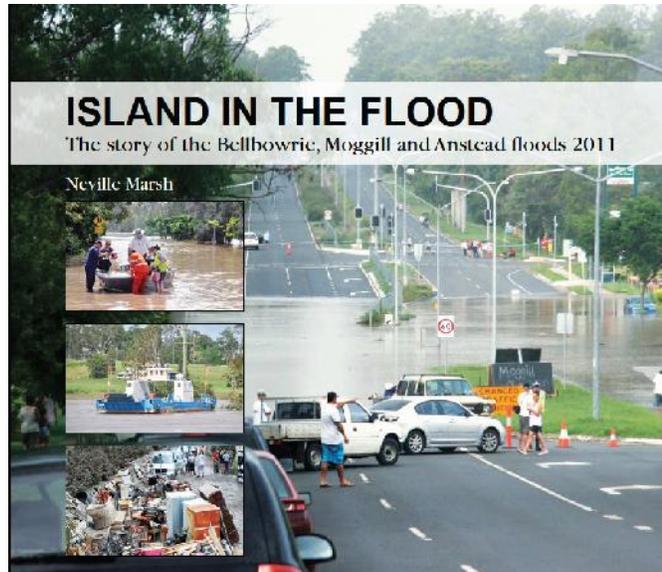


*The 2<sup>nd</sup> photo below shows John and Ruth Gates, Neville and Alison Marsh, Hetta and Peter Simpson, Peter Bailey (behind). Hetta is holding a photo of Joyce Bailey who passed away on 17 November 2011.*



*Looking forward into 2012, we pray that the hostile weather does not return again: there have been floods out in western Queensland but the loss of life and property has not been as great as in January 2011. My book on the floods in our local area came out last November and we managed to sell all 1000 copies within 2 months (see photo of front cover. We will have raised about \$17,000 to help rehabilitate the flood victims and other local residents.”*

I responded to Neville saying that the SOF would have to learn something from him in terms of selling out a print run of 1000! He managed to find one to send me, which I read before passing on to Norman Porter for placing in College library.



He modestly replied saying *“There was no secret to the sales - I had about 200 people who provided photos or stories for the book or who were mentioned. Then a further 300 people were flooded out and had an interest in knowing what happened.”*

I also took the opportunity to ask Neville for an updated biography for inclusion in the Distinguished Section of the OF Website. You can see this [here](#)

**Tom O’Donald (S51-57)** was briefly in touch in 2011 to say *“Thanks Chris. I was sorry to have missed your visit to Australia but I guess it is a bit unreasonable of me to expect you to make this detour for just one person. To be remembered is quite enough!*

*I can’t quite work out this bloody pneumonia business. Having gone through no less than 11 bouts I felt I had done my fair share and accordingly, I made out an “Anticipatory Declaration” saying I was not to be treated for any chest complaints. That, notwithstanding, I have had 2 more bouts and am still alive (I think). I’ve even seen the X-Rays which left one in no doubt that the disease was rampant and yet it just faded away with no treatment, thereby defying the laws of medicine. It should come of no surprise since those (if any) who remember me would remember my total continual contempt for the rules.*

*Anyway, I hope you enjoyed your trip down under and received the well known hospitality expected by all visitors, other than Prince Charles”*

He was back in touch at Christmas with greetings.

**Chris Shaw (K50-56)** dropped me a line in early December 2011 saying *“Yes, Chris, another year gone and another one to question, 'Where did that all go?’*

*Mine started with the wedding of my daughter, Tanith, to Mark Hammond, whose family lived in the village of Hasketon, not far from Woodbridge, just a couple of centuries ago. Their Australian pioneer came to Bowen, Queensland on 16th February 1873, which is exactly 100 years, to the day, before Chris Shaw and his little family arrived in Cairns!*

*Then there was Cyclone Yasi. We are very grateful to the powers that be, that we didn't get the full furor of a Category 5. One doesn't like to imagine the consequences of that, even this far down the track. You had my little chat on 'Kiss my Yasi!'*

*Then there was your visit to our little corner of the world, where, and most surprisingly, some clubs close early! However, OF's are made of sterner stuff and will not be beaten! Your visit was a delight and Rebecca and I, Peter and Janet and Louis and Fiona send all your family the compliments of the season, and a wish for more communication between us next year.*

*My book, entitled, "Hey, Guys! Here's how you get more 'Nooky!'" is within days of being released. Just in case your imagination runs away with you, the subtitle is, 'How to build the happiest relationship in your world.' I have made a 'courageous' effort, (courageous as defined by Sir Humphrey Appleby of Yes, Minister! fame), to tell men what women actually want from a serious relationship, why they want it and how to supply it. I'll give you more info as, and if, you want it. I've made it as light as I can, but it's a man's book to be read by men. Women are welcome to read it as well, since there is no bad language or sleaze, and it's ultimately aimed at them, anyway. That sounds complicated but isn't. Men understand, men improve, women benefit!*

*There's an old Arabic curse that says, 'May you live in interesting times!' I have a feeling that I have some of those coming up.*

*Our Christmas will be Danish, courtesy of my son's Danish fiancé, on Christmas Eve, then for us it will be seafood, salad and bubbles, cold in the anticipated 32C Christmas Day. We'll think of you and wish you health and happiness in the new year."*

I replied back asking to be updated on publication of the book so that I could ensure I got a copy before it sold out! I said I would look forward to Norman Porter's book review! My copy duly arrived a little time afterwards. I'm waiting to see Norman's review in the Yearbook!

Things then didn't go according to plan for Chris and his health had a nasty jolt. Rebecca wrote to me "Chris is doing well and will be given a pacemaker on Wednesday so I should have him home by Thursday. So for a 1<sup>st</sup> week of retirement I have had Chris in hospital the car at the mechanic and the cat at the vets to have teeth removed so lets hope over the next 3 days I get the right patient to the right department or the cat could end up with a new heart, the car could have nice clean teeth and Chris might have a certificate that says he is good for sale.

*Hopefully the next contact will be from Chris who will not be allowed to lift his right arm up for quite a few weeks so wielding a wild mouse or TV remote will be all he is allowed to lift. Glasses of red wine apparently don't count so Chris tells me.....*

*Thank you all for your kind calls and thoughts."*

On 9 March I heard from the man himself who said *“Thanks for your thoughts, Chris. You will have received a copy of my reply to Michael about the OF dinner. This should tell you of the state of my spirits. I have felt incredibly little pain throughout the whole affair, apart from the two or three hundred blood tests, cannulas and I/V inserts over the few days. This should be offset by the multi-million dollar hotel with ocean views and experienced nurses on call to wait on me hand and foot. But you can have too much of a good thing, and it's so good to be back in the arms of my beloved Rebecca.*

*The new vehicle (me) will have to proceed slowly in its test runs to start with, building up to a comfortable rate - enough to overtake anyone who dawdles! Seriously, all is well and proceeding along predictable lines.”*

Unfortunately a message in March from Rebecca said *“Murphy’s law struck and all the newly planted leads to Chris’s heart came adrift resulting in huge abdomen spasms that completely bypassed his heart (sorry for the pun) and so our romantic night at Kuranda turned into an uncontrolled nightmare. So it was back to the Cairns Base Hospital where my glow in the dark Chris was x-ray yet again and guess what they said welcome to your nightmare! So he had to have all his carefully mended muscles cut open yet again and the whole thing redone but this time they sewed the blasted things into place so they won’t move. Chris’s only comment has been “that really hurt” translated means “the next surgeon to come near me gets his head torn off so I can spit down his neck hole”*

*He is now back home and resting as comfortably as can be managed and I am revelling in my role as Matron a’la Hattie Jacques in Carry on Matron ably seconded by our elder cat Madam who does the bedtime to morning shift”*

I heard from Chris in early April that Matron was looking after him well but he was feeling a bit frustrated. He hoped to be well enough to visit his 100 year old mother and enjoy some traditional English weather! He went on to give me the following true story for you :

*“When Peter Hughes (G50-56), had his pacemaker put in recently in UK, it was done by a surgeon who went by the name of 'Paco.' Paco got quite excited when he learnt that Peter was from Cairns, since he had a friend in Cairns who had gone through surgery with him at Charing Cross Hospital some years ago. Naturally, he asked Peter to say, 'G'day' when he returned to Cairns. Peter told me this, and my surgeon turned out to be Steve Sutcliffe, Paco's friend from Charing Cross. One of the nurses pointed out Sutcliffe to me on his morning rounds, and I approached him in my tropical hospital shorts and shirt.*

*'Sutcliffe?'*

*'Ye-es? Who wants to know?'*

*'Er, Paco says to say G'day'. (Broad Aussie accent by me, for whatever reason I've no idea!)*

*'What?'*

*'Paco says to say G'day!'*

*'What? I don't understand!'*

*'Do you know a bloke by the name of Paco?'*

*'Well, yes, I do!'*

*'Well alright then, he says to say G'day!'*

*'Look, I really don't understand this. How did you meet Paco?'*

*'Never met him in my life, mate, just deliverin' a message.'*

*'I really don't understand any of this. Please explain.'*

*So, I relented and told him in a normal, for me, voice about Peter Hughes getting a pacemaker implanted by Paco while in UK, our relationship through Fram and our meeting in Cairns, on a Stanley/Livingstone basis, some 50 years later, and the fact that Peter had asked me to convey Paco's good wishes to Sutcliffe, should I meet him. 'So, when I said to you, "Paco says to say G'day", that's what I meant, see?' We then discussed the wonders of being in a small world, and the six degrees of separation that some wag came up with.*

*A short time later he was up to both elbows in my chest, playing about with wires and blood vessels like some demented vampire - TWICE - as it happened."*

In April I heard that Chris's mum had died in the UK and they were now coming over for a month.

By June Chris was back in Cairns and he was apologising that family business had prevented meeting up with Norman Porter or visiting Fram. He personally was feeling great then and his daughter is within three weeks of making him a grandfather!

He also had news of meeting up with **Richard Overend (S51-57)** and his wife Marion, together with their daughter Biz who had flown over from Darwin to join them.

**Aubrey Whitear (G58-65)** sent greetings at Christmas, plus a very newsy letter. He reflected on the fact that in 1967 when Lennon & McCartney first sung "When I'm 64" it seemed a very long way off, but now it had arrived. During 2011 his wife Diane had finally retired and taken over the cooking. Aubrey decided that his was ideally qualified to get a gig as the umpteenth spinner to be tried in the Australian test team since Shane retired but alas it was not to be. Instead, he settled for another job for which he was equally well qualified - a Returning Officer for the Victorian Electoral Commission. *"I will only be called upon to work for about six weeks on a biennial basis so it will be a while before I can report on my activities. Unfortunately, they won't keep me in Krug. An unintended consequence of my new employment is that I must remain strictly politically neutral."* So, in future he will follow his mentor, Francis Urquhart, and say *"you may very well think that, but I, I couldn't possibly comment"*.

He went on *"Our travels this year have taken us to such exotic places as Mildura and New York - surely the first time these two great metropolises have appeared in the same sentence? For those not in the know, Mildura is a small country town in the north of Victoria on the mighty River Murray. It owed its creation in the pioneer days to sheep, wool, and the paddle steamer. Now it is famous for grapes, dried fruit and, some would have it, marijuana. The Grand Hotel where we stayed would have had its heyday in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It's been modernized since then and even has wifi but there were signs it was having trouble coming to grips with modern technology. When I called reception to ask if I could use the wifi, they said they would send the porter up with the access codes. Did they think the phone was bugged? Eventually the porter*

*appeared and handed over the codes with a degree of circumspection that would have been appropriate had he been dealing with a nuclear deterrent. After dinner, the message light on our phone was lit. Once again the porter appeared; this time to say he couldn't remember what the message was or whether it was for our room. We were never to be enlightened."*

## **BELGIUM**

**Mattias Lemmens (K1996-2000)** got in touch with a revised address as a result of receiving an e-mail about the Overseas Network Face Group that Moira had set up. He gave the following update since he had left Fram :

*"I Studied Digital Screen Arts in Farnham Surrey after Fram. Then I lived and worked a year in Brazil doing Real Estate for the family. Then I studied Hotel Management in Montreux Switzerland. Then I lived in Hong Kong for a year while I did an internship in a hotel called Langham Place Mong Kok.*

*Now I live in Belgium I work for one of the family companies called ShowTex and am in charge of Process Management and Administration. We have branches in Hong Kong, Dubai, South Africa, Belgium and the Netherlands. So I do get to be on the road every now and then as well, which is nice.*

*One thing I'd add is, being gone from home from age 14 – 30 does strange things to a person, it's very hard to come back and adjust in a country which you haven't considered to be home for quite some time."*

## **CANADA**

**Patrick Vincent (R47-51)** was in touch around Christmas time and we were surprised to find that we had both been brought up within a mile of each other in Shenfield/Hutton area of Essex. His family had lived there for some time and his father had been a local magistrate and a Governor of Brentwood School. However, "by the time I was 23 and had finished university I had seen enough of Brentwood and came to Canada. I had frequent visits back to visit my parents, but they have both died. I have two brothers, John and Nicholas, who were also at Fram and they both live in England."

Patrick does voluntary work at a food bank and outreach centre for those in need. He is in touch with 2 OFs - **David Lebell (K41-46)** in Victoria, BC and **Brian Mayhew (R46-52)** who lives quite close to him. When Patrick lived in Victoria he and David did several canoe trips on remote rivers, which were really memorable. The best one was a fly-in trip and then about a week on a very challenging river which flows down to the Ottawa River.

## **CHINA**

**Carol Kirkup (Z76-78)** posted in March 2012 via Facebook to say that she had recently been out to visit her son **Tom (K95-02)** in China. Whilst there she had also met up with **Paul (S69-79) and Sarah (Z77-79) Elliott** nee Blake, who are currently living in Shanghai.

Here's her story :-

*"It's an interesting story regarding Paul & Sarah (nee Blake Z: 77-79) Elliott and myself. Paul and I have known each other since we were tiny tots, having been brought up a few doors from each other in Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire. Paul went off to boarding school age about 8, and then some years later my parents bought a weekend cottage in Wingfield (near Stradbroke, Suffolk), and eventually we moved to Suffolk completely. I then joined Framlingham College in 1976, being one of the first two girls (along with Penny Hinves) and bumped into Paul who was in the year below. He'd been sent to Brandeston all those years previously and worked his way up through the College.*

*In the few years prior to moving to Suffolk when we were weekenders in Suffolk I did a lot of horse riding and met Sarah Blake through the riding stables. A few years later she came to the College, joining the lower 6th as I moved up to the upper 6th. As we lived within a few miles of each other and I was driving by then I used to give her a lift into school. Paul was in the same year as Sarah, and they went out with each whilst at school. Paul subsequently went to Oxford, but they kept in touch and eventually married. I think it was the first OF wedding! Sarah, Paul and I all lost touch after leaving the College, however we did keep exchanging Christmas cards. So I knew them both but from different sources and geographically different places and different stages in my life and yet they met and got married...what a coincidence!*

*In the meantime I had my son, Tom, and he went to Brandeston in 1994. Tom sat the scholarship exams for the College, and as a result of doing well in these Nigel Johnson put him forward for an assisted place (I was an one parent family) and as a result Tom was able to go to the College...we owe Nigel Johnson a lot, he was a great Head Master and lovely all round good bloke! Tom was in Kerrison, and stayed on till his GCSE's leaving the College in 2002. He did his A levels here in Diss, and then went on to Lancaster to read History.*

*After a short time in London working on a graduate training programme he jumped ship a week before the whole intake were made redundant...victims of the financial crash. He did a TEFL course and went to Odessa in Ukraine to teach. As part of the package he was given Russian lessons, and now his Russian teacher, Lena, is his fiancée. They decided to go to China together and have been out there since 2010. They plan to return to Odessa later this year, and then eventually to the UK.*

*In the meantime, Sarah & Paul Elliott, whose two boys Blake & Max both went to Brandeston and the College (Max is currently in the lower 6th), moved to Framlingham and as a result we were back in touch again. My partner, Phil did a lot of work on alterations to their house and we've been seeing each other quite a bit ever since. Only last year Paul was offered a transfer to Shanghai (he's worked for Ford ever since Oxford). This gave me the great opportunity of not only going to visit Sarah & Paul, living in uptown Shanghai, but also to see my son too...without Sarah & Paul being there it would have been difficult for me, so I'm extremely grateful to them.*

*Tom & Lena came to Shanghai and stayed at Sarah & Paul's smart apartment overlooking the river, and we all had a great weekend together. I then went to Shangqiu with Tom & Lena which is where they live and teach (central east China if that makes sense), and also with them up to Beijing for a few days. It was hectic but very enjoyable and fascinating to see the high life in Shanghai contrasted to the ordinary lives of Chinese in Shangqiu...I know which I preferred!*

*Leaving Tom & Lena in Beijing to travel back to Shangqiu, I took the Bullet train to Shanghai, and back to Sarah & Paul's for a day or two, before flying back to the UK exhausted! Here are some photos."*

Paul Elliott, Sarah Elliott, Carol Kirkup, Tom Kirkup at a canal town whose name I've forgotten....just outside Shanghai



Lena Kolesnyk, Tom Kirkup, Carol Kirkup at the Forbidden City, Beijing



Tom Kirkup, Lena Kolesnyk, Carol Kirkup at the Yuan Gardens Entrance, with modern Shanghai in the background.



Tom Kirkup, Lena Kolesnyk, Carol Kirkup on the Great Wall of China



## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Christina Johnston-Myachina (V2001-06)** had lots of news of her musical career and I included a news article on the website in case any OF was travelling to Prague. She had been selected to be The Queen of the Night in Mozart's The Magic Flute at The State Opera House Prague! She will be the youngest singer ever to sing the role which is a huge honour. She will be signing the role next season (around November 2012). She was also going to be singing at The Opera house in Kazan, Russia in September in her own concert there. She was also being considered for the part of Rossina in Rossini's The Barber of Seville at Vienna Opera House! So a busy year!

## **FRANCE**

**Terry Hurlock (66-73)** was interested to see the photo in the August 2011 Newsletter of fishing in the Deben behind Brandeston Hall. He said the nearest to the camera was **Edwin Peter Giles**

(G64-74) and the second one was **Andrew Prewett (R66-73)**. The date of the picture would therefore be 1967 or 1968.

He continued "*I continue to live near Bergerac (Dordogneshire as featured in Little England currently on ITV on Monday evenings). I am saying nothing more apart from how lovely the Aquitaine countryside comes across!! Another OF **Brian Scrivener (1948-1954)** lives about 6 kms away. I heard from Brian recently and following a spell of ill health he has had to move to sheltered accommodation in Sigoules in the Dordogne, near to his home just over the border in Lot et Garonne.*

*Brian can be contacted via his e-mail address [bavas@wanadoo.fr](mailto:bavas@wanadoo.fr) and is keen to hear from anyone who has news of **Michael (Mick) Sparrow (K48-55)** or **John Silver (S48-56)** who were all at Framlingham at the same time between 1948 and 1954.*

*My son **James (2001-2006)** continues to live in Manly near Sydney with his Canadian girl-friend Heidi. He is working in Sydney where his never say die attitude has led to him being only their second employee worldwide to achieve one million of local currency sales in his first 12 months with the company We have now visited James twice in Sydney. What a marvellous place? It is a shame he did not make the Sydney Supper. I am sure he would have come along if he had realised. Last time we visited the Hunter Valley with him for about three days. We came across the name of OF Len Evans on a couple of occasions. He was pretty big around there and in Australian wines.*

*James works for a company which arranges international business conferences for all types of industries from health care to defence to mining to construction. They have offices throughout the world including London and New York as well as Sydney. I am looking forward to "Operation Jericho" in about 20 minutes."*

## **HOLLAND**

**Marcus Spurrell (G73-81)** was in touch with a new address in Amsterdam. It would be good to include an update in a future Yearbook.

## **HONG KONG**

**John Birt (S59-63)** on seeing the picture of the Hong Kong OF Supper was pleased to note that his OF socks (courtesy **R.J. Sayer (S56-61)**) were clearly visible!!

**Ian Fidlin (M73-77)** was sorry, along with **Ed Marr (G85-92)** and **Bob Fox (R66-71)** to miss our family visit to Hong Kong in 2011.

**Chris Hall (G62-69)** sent his usual extremely newsy letter at Christmas, together with a photo! He says *“For my 2011 Christmas letter I attach a photo of myself playing the drums. There is no audio attachment to this Christmas letter you will be relieved to learn. My musical abilities are such that at school my best friend, who was in the choir, refused to sit next to me at chapel. Fortunately with the passage of time he has become more forgiving and I am now allowed to sit next to him in church. I suspect that his deafness in one ear has more to do with this kindness than the tolerance of advancing years.*



*The German Swiss School next to my flat provides a dawn chorus when school starts at 7:30am. I am therefore woken by children most mornings of the week, even though I am bachelor.*

*In spite of the above I am thoroughly enjoying my new home. Fortunately I can live in a world of my own imagination and am often oblivious of what is going on around me. I use my home to entertain once or twice a week, an easy task if you do not have to do the cooking or washing up. I don't concur with the modern trend for casual clothing. Instead I impose on my guests the obligation to dress formally and wear a suit and tie. This gives the ladies an opportunity to wear their beautiful dresses, which they rarely have an opportunity to show off these days. I like to see the silver on my dining table and the candles lit in their antique candlesticks. It makes an occasion.*

*In spite of spending much of the past 3 years antique hunting to decorate my flat, I still think there is not enough decoration in my apartment. My friend, Mary, who has helped decorate my flat, is a dealer in Japanese antiques and tells me that “less is more”. However, I am an accountant and believe that “more is more” so I keep on shopping for antiques. I have discovered two principles of shopping. Firstly need has nothing to do with it; neither does the concept of enough.*

*My other news this year is that I have become president of the Oriental Ceramic Society, which holds lectures about Chinese antiques. The main problem with my new role is that after introducing the speaker for the evening's lecture, I then sit in the front row and usually fall asleep during the talk. In the past this was not a problem as I could seat myself inconspicuously in the middle of the room. No such stratagem is available to the president.*

*I thoroughly enjoy working part time as it gives me the opportunity to do other things. When I was an impecunious student, I used to earn some money by teaching English in Hong Kong. I enjoy teaching so I have volunteered my services to the University of Hong Kong and from time to time am called upon to help some of their English language students who are having difficulty passing the exams.*

*One of my other activities is to go to prison. The vicar of my church holds a service in Stanley Prison and likes to be accompanied by members of the congregation, who can chat with the*

*prisoners after the service. We only mix with the elite prisoners, the category A prisoners who are in prison for 14 years or more, i.e. murderers and drug dealers. This was good preparation for me because one of my former workmates ended up in prison for over claiming his travel expenses.*

*The financial problems in Europe mean that 2012 is not likely to be a good year for many people. Nonetheless we can take comfort from those who have suffered more than we and still been able to rebuild their lives.”*

**Ian Howard (S57-62)** has been a star as always in arranging his annual Hong Kong OF Supper on 24 March 2011 to coincide with the Rugby Sevens. SEE SEPARATE REPORT

**Moira Theulier (nee Anderson) (M91-93)** – wanted to attend the SOF Supper in March 2012 in Hong Kong and got in touch with me and Ian. I’m delighted to say that she was able to attend and then put a lot of effort and thought into creating a specific Facebook page for Overseas OFs or those wanting to visit Overseas. All overseas OFs were e-mailed about the page and encouraged to join <http://www.facebook.com/groups/OldFramlinghamians.Overseas> To date around 70 have joined and I would encourage others to do so.

*Moira went on to say “I was then really amazed at how very good that last yearbook was! I have never seen a Framlingham College yearbook before. It was a real treat to go through it. I did then look at the website that equally reminded me of continued sense of pride that I also had two wonderful years at that school. I was amazed at how well organised your trip really was ..seeing so many OF's too.”*

**Keith Williams (R63-67)** had been in contact with our Hon Sec., as he was listed as “gone away”. It turns out that he is manager of the Hong Kong Golf Club and met up there with a current student **Matthew Lau (G2004-11)**.

## **MALTA**

**Jerry Lee (K59-64)** had news at Christmas time “*It’s awhile since I sent a Xmas ‘round robin’, partly because my last 2 years in Slovenia which I left a year ago only had a little good news making me somewhat depressed. A financial disaster to be sure so I decided what the hell am I doing there – move to somewhere warm where they speak English !: had to be Malta, and hence Gozo which is truly wonderful.*

*A brilliant move: lovely people who have pride and genuine values, both local and multi national expats and am involved in Rotary, The National Malta Trust looking after the old forts and towers and the British Legion. Having been occupied by just about everyone in The Med over the ions, the local culture is very colourful with a great deal of the best of British influence. The history and heritage here is amazing, and on this tiny island 7miles x 5 I am surrounded by the sea – heaven!*

*Loads of culture – art, fiestas every weekend in the summer, sailing and boat trips, much music, eccentric individuals, Military traditions very strong (we celebrated Trafalgar in a big way here, also the surrender of the French to the British in Mjar, the Gozeten harbour, Remembrance Day and Armed Forces Day at the British High Commissioner’s residence – fantastic. Quite astonishing for a grand population of 400,000 odd.*

*I am with Lina, a crazy Maltese/Greek/French hybrid and after 20 years of nothing I helped Lina establish contact with her father’s family in Corfu, so big reunions all round coming up next year. One cousin has already been across to meet Lina and her family here!*

*If you ever want to relax in the sun and absorb culture, not to mention good wine and nosh, you are welcome to visit and we will do our best to make you feel at home. Transport from UK to Luqa is well served by Ryanair , Easyjet and Air Malta.”*

## **NEW ZEALAND**

**Richard Bearne (K59-62)** has been active on the Facebook page Moira set up with some photos from his time and we’ve reminisced on the demise of shacking and logs – those who remember both will be pre Laurie Rimmer who abolished both when he arrived. He was disappointed not to meet up when we visited in 2011. He went on to say *“I have been living here for seven years, I retired from agriculture after forty years and enjoy the NZ lifestyle of golf and fishing! My wife teaches biology at Rangitoto College, which is the largest school in NZ with over three thousand students. I have two daughters one is in her final year at Auckland University, the younger is at present working for TVNZ, and goes to Uni next year.”*

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

**Guy Brooke-Smith (S41-44)** had fascinating recollections at the start of the year *“I was delighted to receive the Fram Year Book 2011 for Christmas - like a book and a fine present! The College has taken some large important steps in development over a number of years and has had some exceptional leadership, and dedication by staff and others, and the development of the school itself and students is of very high standards.*

*I last visited the College during Mr. L. Rimmer's Headmastership and was given a personally conducted tour, which was of great interest to me. My brother, Charles (now 94) lives in Parham and it was evident that he and Mr. Rimmer had met years before in Ceylon, to do with a rugby tour there when Charles had been a tea planter from 1935 to 1971, but during the war was with the 9th Ghurkha's on the North West Frontier. Their meeting was after the war in Ceylon. One never knows who one might meet years later!*

*I have a photo taken on Speech Day 1942 (I think) which shows the then Headmaster, Mr Kirkman conferring with the Guest of Honour, Field Marshall Lord Ironside, and the College*

*Governor Lord Stradbroke, in front of the Statue and a group of boys behind. I am the lad standing with right leg partly hidden by the Governor's gown (arms behind back) – note all 3 buttons done up, as was the rule! Seniors or prefects were allowed to undo the top jacked button! It was given to me by **Nicholas Campbell (G41-44)**, who is standing on my right*



*directly facing the 3 VIP's. On my left at the top of the steps is a short chap who may be **Winkop (??)** - other faces I do not recognise, but perhaps someone like **Brian Rosen (S40-46)** or other survivors may*

*remember some! I was at the time in junior house on the ground floor to the right, and the House-master was "Timber" Hull, due to his wooden leg.*

*I later went to Stradbroke under Mr. Thomas. I left in 1944 for entry to School Training Ship H.M.S. Conway following footsteps of my father and two older brothers. In 1949 after 3 years at sea I went to Rhodesia to join the British South Africa Police. I met Margaret and we married in 1959 and have five wonderful children, and a very happy life in that once wonderful country. Sadly after so called independence we left and migrated to Canada, where I met Nicholas Campbell. He was retired and had worked for De Havilland Aircraft for years. Since then I have lost touch with Nicholas and believe that he died some years ago. Canada did not work out for us so we went to South Africa - drawn by sun and open out-doors in 1982.*

*I am pleased to see **Alan Richardson's (S34-40)** name listed amongst the VP's. Have not had contact with Alan for some years, he was our "organiser" in Rhodesia.*

*With Margaret's health unlikely to improve, Parkinson's Disease, we are planning to sell up herein the Southern Cape within a year and move up to our eldest son's farm near Louis Richard on the Soutpansberg, to be with, and much nearer family at Johannesburg, which we look forward to as we rattle around in this house and on this large property. We will advise new address etc in due course."*

**Mike Bullock (R55-59)** sent his normal newsy updated at Christmas 2011 under the amusing heading "THE BULLOCK'S MOOS 2011".

In February, we went to Cape Town to see the Andre Rieu show. We decided to make a holiday of it so we journeyed down via Winburg (not a patch on what it used to be), Hogsback, Cradock, Mountain Zebra National Park and Graaf Reinet and returning via the Swartberg Pass and Prince Albert. While at Hogsback we were able to get to Alexandria where Wray's Great Great Grandfather, who was the minister there, had built the Anglican church in 1860.

Our next trip away was to Dullstroom where we stayed on a farm.. The fly fishing was very difficult especially after a heavy storm as the water was muddy but we were able to land a 1.45 kg trout. In between these trips were visits to Johannesburg to stay with family

Mike continues his part time work with the Plastics Converters which takes him to Johannesburg about once per month. He continues as Chairman of the village Board of Directors and is now on the bowling club committee. Having fully recovered from the left knee replacement operation which happened in Nov 2010, he was suddenly smitten with the failure of the right knee after bowls in October and had a replacement operation in November. So with 2 replacement hips and knees he feels that he qualifies as an "Iron Man".



He finishes his letter with "*It is very likely that 2012 will be much of the same with some travel, probably only local, visiting the families and going about the things that we enjoy most here in Tzaneen. Why not join us?*"

**Adam Phillips (G78-83)** left Investec a year ago. He says "*I now run my own foreign exchange asset management company (UMKHULU). I manage forex for large corporates here in South Africa and offshore. I am glad to have left the bank. I seem to work harder, but have more time with the family and nobody tells me what to do! I especially enjoy the mining clients I look after. The site visits are great fun.*

*I also hope to have a citrus import license approved by the South African Department of Agriculture soon and we are experimenting by growing truffles on some land we have.*

*I still enjoy this country very much. I have not had much contact with OFs. I have seen **James Campbell (M74-82)** in the financial newspapers as he now runs a Canadian listed diamond company here. Also, saw **Mark Gooding (G79-83)** mentioned in a financial magazine. I did contact him, but we have not met up yet."*

I asked where the unusual name of his company came from "*Umkhulu is zulu for the "Big One". I look after a few coal and gold mines. My friend at one of the mines says its a joke that he has to go down 2 kms when I will only have to go down 15 cms to get out something for the same value per ounce/kg!*"

## SPAIN

**Ian Foster (K46-53)** I've bumped into Ian a couple of times in the UK as despite his residence in Mallorca he is a regular attender of London and Suffolk Suppers. I had hoped to meet up Ian in Palma in October 2012 towards the end of a cruise but unfortunately this didn't prove possible. He has a thriving ship mooring business based on the island and judging by the number of wonderful boats on Palma harbour, he's kept busy!

## THAILAND

**Michael Cohen (R70-77)** was in touch for I think the first time with a very interesting proposition for the College. He'd finally got round to registering on the website and went on to say *"I was wondering if you could possibly give me some help; I am a lecturer, amongst other things, at a university in The North of Thailand - Maha Sarakham University - Mahasarakham which literally translated means, "City of Great Education" - has a student population of approximately 50,000, and has rather vibrant and exciting campus - as I am sure you can imagine.*

*The university offers internships to young people in their gap year, from various countries, to come and live with Thai families, and work with local rural schools and the university in the teaching of The English language, and British culture.*

*I would like to discuss, if you can point me in the right direction, the possibility of offering these internships to students passing out from Framlingham, whether they are continuing their education or not. These are wonderful opportunities for young people to see and experience an exciting and interesting, still developing part of the world, and help with their personal development. You can view the university at <http://www.msu.ac.th/> Do you know who at The College I may contact to discuss this with?".* I, of course, put him in touch with Paul Taylor at The College.

Subsequently he gave an excellent biography on what he had been up to since leaving the College.

*"After I left the school in 1977 I went to the then named Dorset Institute of Higher Education, now Bournemouth University, where I "studied" for a degree in geography and law. As I remember it was certainly a shock to my system going from having my life ruled by "The Bell," to total freedom, and I definitely made the most, or least, depending on your point of view, of my new surroundings. Studying was the last thing on my mind, and I revelled in all the entertainment that Bournemouth had to offer; I scraped through with a 3<sup>rd</sup> class honours at the second attempt, but with first class honours in women parties, and punk rock.*

*Having finished my studies I hadn't a clue what I wanted to do. I virtually did nothing for 6 months, apart from lying on the beach contemplating my future, and unknowingly contracting glandular fever, which accounted for my intense lethargy. However, I managed to drag myself to the Job Centre one day and secured a job as a kitchen salesman. I failed to mention that I had been banned from driving due to a rather bad car accident as a result of excessive alcohol intake. This meant I had to peddle my wares on a bicycle (no pun intended) for 3 years. Although this might have helped towards my sales targets as I think I often got the sympathy sale as I struggled balancing towards the customer's house on my pushbike, samples akimbo.*

*After 6 years in the kitchen shop I moved to pastures new, and took a rep's job in central London flogging ovens, hobs, worktops, taps, everything including the kitchen sink, up and down Sloane Street, Fulham Road, The Kings Road etc. where I met a variety of exciting and interesting characters, including some OFs, **John Ross (M68-77)**, who had a photographic studio in The Fulham Road and, **Dr Michael H Green (M72 -77)**. I shared homes with Michael in Wapping, and Stanstead Abbots for a few years whilst he worked in The City, and I sold sinks during the days of The Yuppies – he had more credibility as a Yuppie than me.*

*By this time I had graduated to National Sales Manager, of a company selling extremely expensive sinks and tiles, and if there is such a thing as a beautiful sink then these were they. Now in my mid 30s my career took me to be a business manager for a large Swedish multinational, and I spend my days touring the country and Europe having meetings about meetings, talking with architects and designers about decoration, and generally not contributing to the betterment of humanity.*

*In my 40<sup>th</sup> year I decided I wanted my tombstone to read something half decent and I applied for a PGCE to teach geography, for which I was accepted. Before I started the course I decided to get some teaching practice, and what better place than Thailand. I had already studied for 2 teaching diplomas in London whilst working, and I went to Bangkok for what was intended to be 3 months before I started the PGCE, but turned out to be probably the rest of my life.*

*I began teaching at a branch of the largest franchised language school in Thailand, and was soon to my surprise made head teacher. I stayed there for 4 years and then moved north to Nakornratchasima in central Thailand to open a new school, which proved extremely successful and I so I remained there for 4 years. However, I was missing my home and kept being reminded of what Rupert Brooke had to say and I didn't feel I wanted that to be me. So I returned to the UK, secured a job and joined the treadmill again. My return to the UK lasted about 2 years, and during that time I used to return to Thailand to visit friends and colleagues, and it was during one of those visits that I met Ming, my wife.*

*Ming became pregnant during one of my visits, yes I left it to late middle age to sire an offspring, which meant either she had to come to me or I had to go to her. For*



*whatever reason, but luckily for me, it is extremely difficult for Thais to get visas to enter the UK, much more difficult it would seem than it is for an Islamic fundamentalist cleric, which resulted in my returning to Thailand to be with her before the birth of my son Mickey.*

*I now live in traditional Thai style; 3 generations in my home, relatives living all around us in a very nuclear family, in a village called Kantarawichai in the northeast of Thailand, and I work at Mahasarakham University, an educational establishment with approaching 50,000 students. At the university I lecture, I am doing research, and am working with The President of the university to develop an internship programme to help towards the regions immersion into ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). And I hope by the time this article goes to print the 6<sup>th</sup> form students at Framlingham will be aware of and thinking about becoming an intern in this wonderful part of the world.”*

I really hope that the College can take advantage of this excellent opportunity... watch this space!

## **TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS**

**Geoff Martin (G46-54)** got in touch for probably the last time as an overseas OFs with the following update *“I'm back home now but probably qualify for the Overseas Bag as Marie and I have spent much of this year in Turks and Caicos Islands. Following an inquiry into official corruption between politicians and resort developers the UK imposed direct rule; set about reclaiming land and money alleged to have been obtained by corrupt means; and appointed me to deal with those civil cases. I have been dealing with them (and trying to clear a back log of othetr civil cases) for about a year, but have now finally retired. It has been an interesting time.*

*Turks & Caicos Islands have some lovely beaches and it has become a popular holiday destination for Americans; and we find now appears occasionally in holiday brochures here. But it's great to be home again and we don 't expect any more work overseas. ”*

## **USA**

**Graham Belcher (R55-62)** appreciated us tracking him down in the US. He now lives in Bernardsville, New Jersey. He was interested in information on who else lived in the New York vicinity and whether anyone co-ordinates OF gatherings? I replied helping him that **Oliver Ross (K2003-4)** now lives in Far Hills NJ and **Edward Frey (S72-73)** in Great River NJ and that I would happily make introductions.

**Ivor Noel Hume (37-39)** has now published his next book on Giovanni Belzoni the early 19th-century showman and Egyptologist – called “Belzoni, the Giant that Archaeologists Love to Hate”. His rate of publication seems to gather pace as he gets older. It was well reviewed in the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* . He was also wrapping up a film script based on a recently completed novel (unpublished), all of which keeps him very busy.

In June he was back in touch as a result of me sending round an e-mail on the Overseas Network Group on Facebook. He said *“Not much news from Virginia beyond the fact that my old friend Margaret Rule of Mary Rose fame and I are now on an advisory team relating to the now on-going excavation of the British flagship Victory which sank with all on board in 1744. An exciting project. You will probably hear more about it in the press toward the end of the year. I will keep you posted. It is rather sad that of our committee of four, Margaret Rule is stuck in a wheelchair and I hobble about on a stick with wheelchair backup. We both wish we could be out there on the research ship to watch its amazing Zeus descend with all its cameras and lifting tools. Margaret says that if all that computer stuff had been available in 1984 she could have excavated the Mary Rose in two years rather than four. But time marches on -- leaving us behind.”*

**Bryan Ivory (K48-52)** sent a message at Christmas *“No extended visit to the UK this year. We did call in to London for a couple of over-nights, while on a trip to Dubrovnik and the Adriatic, in late October. This was a stay-put holiday we took with "Senior Tours Canada". The trip was most enjoyable and relaxing. We stayed in an Iberostar hotel just outside the small town of Cavtat, some 15 miles south of Dubrovnik. A couple of day trips to Mostar in Bosnia - Herzegovina and Kotor in Montenegro were very interesting and enlightening in view of the 1991 conflict in the Balkans. Altogether a charming and scenic area well worth a visit.*

*During the summer most of our activities were routine, looking after the house and garden. The invasion of deer is always a problem, in spite of efforts to control them with electric fencing, netting and spray repellent. It was rather a poor year for the butterfly population, probably as the result of the very cold winter. This coming year I intend to rear some different species, so that I'll have a variety of subjects on which to practise my close-up photography. Right now I'm in the very early stages, needing a lot more "know-how"!!*

*Some weeks ago I received a copy of Richard Sayer's book on Norman Borrett. Glancing through, it looks to be a well documented record of his sporting accomplishments. I'll probably get around to reading it in stages. My good left eye tends to get tired after reading or using the computer for any length of time, so I try to limit myself somewhat.*

*No news to report about other OF's I'm afraid. It is always interesting to read of the exploits of past and present students from "Fram". This present generation certainly knows how to travel around the world these days. A little different from our generation.*

*'How lucky we were to go to "Fram!!!'*

**Alfred Molson (K38-43)** and I have not been in as regular contact as Alfred is no longer using Skype, but we have had regular chats every couple of months, on a huge variety of subjects.

At the end of 2011 he was in touch to say that he was still alive but not so active on the Internet. He recalled his first year at the College with **Ivor Noel Hume (37-39)** and **Andrew Currie (R38-43)** and that the big news of the year was *“Peace in Our Time”!!*

His remarkable memory, which is demonstrated every time we speak, then recalled “ *Did you know that when Neville Chamberlin came down from university his father sent him to Andros Island in the Bahamas where he was in charge of the large Sisal Plantation on the Island . After several years he abandoned the project and returned to the UK. How do I know this ? I hear you saying !.Christmas 1949 we had a big party at Billy Butlin's HQ in Nassau. My sister was his personal secretary, there was Billy and wife, Brig. Chritchly \*\* & wife ? and an Aussie. The HQ was a Bellum plantation house with eight bedrooms etc., on eight acres. The whole crew lived there. Tom, the Aussie was a jack of all trades and secretive about his age, but he had worked for Chamberlin as a foreman on the plantation, his tale was that when Chamberlin decided to install a narrow guage (30 inch) plantation railway he made the mistake of going in straight lines and went against the advice of his black field hands (many from Haiti) and proceeded to personally cut down a JuJu tree that stood in the line of his rail-road. That was fatal and it was not long after that the whole operation was doomed and he abandoned it and went back to the UK. Tom had gone back to sea in WWII but was back "on the beach" in Nassau, working odd jobs at the yacht haven. He could fix anything that floats, unmistakably an Aussie, always dressed in open toed sandals, no socks, shorts, no shirt.”*

I spoke to Alfred on 10 January, just a day after he celebrated his 86th birthday. He was still having difficulty walking, with balance problems since the operation at end of 2010. He is however, able to drive although eyesight is mainly through right eye. We talked about the huge increase in regulation since Obama came to power and that he was sad to read about death of **Paul Griffin (G35-40)** who was a contemporary. Also talked about 150th appeal and sorted out a problem he was having with his password and access to the SOF website.

Another contemporary **Ron Pine (K34-41)**, who lives in Felixstowe had mentioned about **Derek Dempster (38-40)** and that set Alfred off trying to find what happened to him. Alfred had also spoken to Andrew Currie and **Roger Last (S35-42)** and was going to contact **Bill Cooper (41-46)**. Alfred and Derek Dempster knew each other well as 3 times a year they used to get the P & O boat from Gibraltar to the UK and back again. Alfred's dad rang Barclays Bank on the Rock. Dempster's father was curator for the museum in Algiers and got the boat across to Gib to join Alfred on the trip to Suffolk.

After 70 years Alfred had managed to track down Derek Dempster, brother of the distinguished **Fergus Dempster DSC (29-34)**. Sadly he had died a month before but is now in contact with his widow. This also led to the solving of a mystery about the Dempsters entry in the 1968 Register and Directory.

Alfred had also managed to get in touch with **Ken Painter (K39-45)** who lamented the fact that he had not received any publications for a few years. On checking the cause was down to a wrong PO Box number - 973 instead of 873 and this has now been correct. He lives in Ontario Canada and Norman Porter arranged for a copy of the 2011 Yearbook to be sent out to him.

In April 2012 Alfred was in touch again, when he revealed that he makes wooden chairs. Apparently his mother had been a suffragette. He had been touch by phone with **Dr Michael Thomson (K52-59)**, who was a retired medical doctor. Following our earlier discussion of trip

to Gibraltar with Dempster, Alfred talked about **John Blake (K37-39)** who used to travel with them on the boats. John's brother **Elsiha (K37-39)** went on to be head of the US consulate in Tangiers. Also discussed **Mike Garrard (K36-42)** who was a fleet air arm pilot in Canada. Then transferred to Army with the Gurkhas. After the war sold leather and then alcohol. Had tried to get in touch with **Chris Garrard (K41-47)** but no luck. He had seen that a **Michael Weinstock (K97-00)** was now living near him in Houston.

In May he said he spoken to Ron Pine again recently and was having a full body scan on 30/31 May. He was confident that he would get the all clear, 25 years after first being diagnosed with cancer. However, in June he told me that the scan had revealed very small growth in his bladder which was immediately remove. We also talked at that time about his first job at a company called Andersons, which dealt in 20% of the free worlds raw cotton.

**John Nielson (R68-72)** was in touch from Florida and wanted to contact **Richard Rowe (S65-74)**. John lives in the south-east, not far from Miami and has been living in Florida with my family since 2008, and before that in New York (Long Island) and in North Carolina (Raleigh). He left the U.K. in 1981, returning only on a couple of short visits since. He had a good friend in Garrett House, called **Jens Thomas Kent (K68-73)**, and through the internet he had succeeded in tracking his business address to Acle, Norfolk. He had recently drive through Fort Myers (where Richard Rowe lives) to spend a relaxing weekend on Sanibel/Captiva islands.

**Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** has been in regular contact from the wonderful Hawaii. He had been cruising again with **Captain Nick Carlton (G63-70)** on Sapphire Princess, traveling from Vancouver to Anchorage (Whittier) and back again in June 2012.

**Richard Rowe (S65-74)** sent his usual newsy Christmas message. He's spent much of the last year traveling the world, visiting places like Turkey, Czech, Romania, Bangladesh to names but a few. When home his family keep him busy with sporting activities.