

OVERSEAS BAG – SPRING 2013

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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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 pages are the full version – an abbreviated version will appeared in the 2013 Newsletter. As always I'd welcome more photos so do please send them in.

A World-wide Appeal

You will read both here and in the Events Section about a fantastic initiative by **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** and **Mike Garnett (R53-55)**. They are making great progress in organising an Australian/NZ-wide event in 2015 to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first boys at Framlingham College. This also happens to tie in with 100th anniversary of ANZACs in Gallipoli. The planned celebration has already attracted huge support from OFs across Australia and New Zealand as well as from much further afield.

It would be great to organise a number of similar events in countries across the world for around March/April 2015. What better way of linking together Framlinghamians from across the planet! We used to manage it with the Overseas Bag over 100 years ago, so it should be so much easier now, with all the benefits of modern communications. All that is needed is imagination and will power.

If you would be prepared to try and organise an event in your country, then please get in touch with me and I'll provide all the help and support I can in terms of mailing lists etc.

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

As you will read below, correspondence with OFs in Australia has been dominated by discussions about the 2015 Reunion.

Rob Baird (M77-82) wanted to gain access to the OF website and currently lives in Brisbane. He has 2 brothers and sister who went to Fram.

Chris Bartlett (K60-66) was in touch around Christmas time to say that he was just back from a houseboat holiday in the SW of Western Australia and had spent Christmas in the Karri Forest. He wished all OF's, wherever in this fragile world, best wishes for a peaceful and challenging New Year.

Jeremy Bentall (G63-71) had lost contact with the SOF until I contacted him via his brother Michael. He currently lives in Woodvale, Western Australia and was interested in attending the 2015 Reunion.

Michael Bentall (G62-70) also re-established contact with the SOF as a result of us tracking him down for the 2015 Dinner. Michael lives in Tasmania, so just a couple of thousand miles away from Jeremy! He was also very interested in attending the 2015 Reunion.

Paul Bonner (G61-64) responded to an enquiry from me about how he had been affected by the forest fires in Tasmania at the start of 2013. He responded by saying “*We have been to the East Coast just 50km from the fires!! However we were across the bay from the fires at Coles Bay thank goodness. Very smokey all over. Home now after 4 days by the ocean, swimming, fishing, eating and drinking. We have driven through some burnt-out farmland that will take some time to re grow no doubt. Cooler now but very windy so danger not yet gone. Thank you for your concern.*” He signed off as “*Garrett (60-63) De Whalley's study frequently, Headmasters study occasionally!*”

Paul was good enough to help track down **James Jennings (S87-92)** who was believed to be living in Tasmania. I await news and photo of an OF reunion in Tasmania.

Phil Bower (G65-74) has not only already paid his deposit for the 2015 Reunion but has also enthusiastically offered to organise an Sydney Supper to mark the visit of our new President, Richard Sayer, in January 2014, which just happens to be when England are visiting for a spot of cricket against the old foe!

Phil provided a brief update “*whilst driving a fully loaded 25t grip truck to a location shoot for the Wolverine movie, the rear suspension failed at 04.45 on a main feeder road. Big bang, pantec leaning badly, loads of smoke from the tyres wearing on the pantec body - it's times like that when you discover whether you have a correctly functioning spincter! An interesting day.*

I was paid handsome amounts of cash to work on: The Wall (2 shows), Springsteen (3 shows); Kiss & Motley Crue (2 shows, Kiss good, MC dire - but I'm biased because I know the LD for Kiss, he started out doing lights for INXS. His namely, beautifully is.....Motley! So we had Motley's crew working on Motley Crue.....). Missed out on Black Sabbath on account of current job.

Music is on hold for a while - my guitar player is migrating to Canada to be with his forthcoming offspring and mother of same and drummers of the right stuff are less common than rocking horse shit.

Looking forward to thoroughly embarrassing everyone & sullyng the Auld Skool's name in forthcoming celebrations. Last time I checked, the wardrobe contained collared shirts and ties in a very small portion..... I work in an environment where appearance is largely irrelevant! It wouldn't have been so bad but some dog swiped my Junior tie years ago and that was the only tie that was worth anything! Still, if nothing else, I'll ensure that whatever hair I have left is worthy of stunned conversation! Must fly, long drive tomorrow morning.....” He signs off (Garrett, during the best years for rock n roll that ever there was!) Sent from a mobile device belonging to a person of dubious consequence while orbiting the planet Zarg in a stolen milk crate”.

Nick Carlton (G63-70) hasn't been in touch directly but see later article and photo under **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** in USA.

David Ensor (G60-63) and I exchanged old stories about the conditions at Fram during our respective years there. He said he enjoyed reading the magazine as it's always good to see how his old rugby mates were faring nowadays.

Mike Garnett (R53-55), Chris Shaw (K50-56) and I had a lots of e-mail exchanges over the 150th gathering in 2015, which would also tie in with the 100th anniversary of ANZACs in Gallipoli. After extensive research and travelling over 1000 miles to check places out, they have finally chosen 19 April 2015 for the dinner at Sebel Kirkton Park in the Hunter Valley outside Sydney. It promises to be a memorable event with over 40 OFs from Australian, NZ and further afield already indicating their keenness to attend. Chris has now issued a number of communications to everyone and asked for stories about experiences OFs have had in Australia/NZ since arriving that could imagine happening in the UK. These will be published in a souvenir book. Mike has also been busy researching a red and white wine to be specifically bottled for the occasion. If anyone is interested in attending and hasn't heard from Chris/Mike already, then please e-mail them on garnettm@bigpond.net.au and cjreshaw@bigpond.com as they would love to hear from you.

James Jennings (M89-90 & S90-92) also responded to an enquiry from me about how he had been affected by the forest fires in Tasmania at the start of 2013. He replied saying “*We've not been at risk here during the current fires... its a pretty bleak situation though in many parts of the state with all the fires still going. Here's hoping for some wet weather to help reduce the risk.*”

As a result of sending out a news digest from the website in April 2013, he was back in touch again with the following kind thoughts “*I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your very active participation in the OF. In my experience, with similar groups, affiliated to other schools, the OF group is unparalleled in both maintaining links between former pupils to the school itself and the creation of an active community of members. This is directly due to the dedication and effort of members such as yourself and for which I am very grateful (as I'm certain are all other members). Perhaps it's due to my advancing years (with the maturity, wisdom and the other innumerable benefits that accompany the relentless advance of years) but I find myself looking back with increasing nostalgia at my Framlingham days, so it's a real pleasure, that I have the opportunity to catch up regularly on the latest news.*”

He went on to spot a typo of mine in an article I had posted on **Ed Sheeran (BH 96-02)**. I had referred to him writing material for One Dimension, when I should have said One Dimension. Well spotted.

Rob Goodale (K58-66) says that he has not really kept in touch with OFs over the years, but **Jerry Lee (K59-64)** (currently in Malta) got him to come back to England to play in the band at the Millennium Ball in 2000. He adds that he also played in the band at the opening of the Athlone Hall in 1964 and is still at it! This must be something of a unique double, unless anyone knows different..... I'm pleased to say that Rob is now registered on the website.

Peter Hollins (K70-76) was inspired by the arrival of the 2012 Yearbook to make contact. At the time of writing (around Christmas time 2012) he hoped that I hadn't been washed away in all the floods! To rub it in he said that they had just "suffered" their 4th day of 40+ C temperatures!!

The following is an edited version of his Christmas newsletter "This letter whilst always carefully crafted, is being scribbled in those few precious minutes between sunrise (when Max announces to the world that he's ready to get up and go) and the moment that the sporting household announces that he is ready to go! 2012 has been one of those relaxed carefree years that always accompanies Year 12 exams, a boy with a broken arm, driving lessons, a wife returning to full time work and a fall in the price of one's share portfolio.

Highlights of Peter's year include the successful import of the Covs business onto the AMCAP I.T. platform, the building of the new offices and 10,000 m2 warehouse for Covs, working in the Claremont FC redevelopment project, managing to fit a game of golf in sometime around May and getting to the end of this letter. I did make my comeback to senior cricket (if Mr Cricket can keep scoring centuries why shouldn't I?). However, my bowling average is higher than my batting average so its time to retire again. We want to wish you all a fantastic 2013. The crystal ball says to look out for the Aussie win in the Ashes, the black Mitsubishi with P plates displayed, the camouflaged hole by the front gate and the rush to buy hair shampoo (sorry forget the last one the year is 2031.). All the best and hope our paths cross in 2013.

Matt Lucas (M73-83) was also in touch about the 2015 Reunion and gave the following brief update from Western Australia "The nature of my job has made me somewhat transient for many years but I have now made a permanent landing I hope. I am still spending plenty of time away from home with most of that time in West Africa but this is less of an issue these days."

Neville Marsh (S53-61) first got in touch again in January to give an update on **Peter Bailey (K34-38)**, who he had just spoken to "*he is still living independently in his home and was pretty cheerful. He was waiting to go off to a specialist to look at a trapped nerve in his back. I mentioned the 'publication' being collated in Australia for 2015 and he felt that he would be unable to contribute anything himself at the present time. We will probably get up to see Peter in the first half of this year and it may be possible for me to scribble down some notes of his reminiscences. He has so many great stories, mostly relating to life in the (UK) RAF but also some to do with the RAAF when he was involved in the VIP flights here. He doesn't use email any longer.*" Peter is included in the Distinguished Section of the SOF website and it would be great to get more of his remarkable life down in print.

Having suffered dreadful flooding 2 years ago, which Neville wrote a book about, Queensland was once again hit by bad flooding at the end of January 2013. Fortunately this time he reports that it missed them *“Fortunately, the worst of the floods is behind us and at least in Brisbane, damage has been minimal. Alas, in Bundaberg, 700 kms north of here, thousands of people have lost their homes and businesses. I don’t think I could face another right now.”*

At Easter Neville was in touch again to say that he had just finished his last piece for Mark Robinson’s 150th anniversary book and that he had been in touch with Richard Sayer about a Queensland dinner when he goes to Brisbane next January for the Ashes series. He also wondered during an idle moment over the Easter break, about the curious anomaly of attendance by house at OF suppers. He had noticed that at every London Supper in recent years, the number of Stradbroke OF’s far outnumber those from any other house. He wondered if anyone had an explanation, so I published this on the website – see <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/article.php?story=20130401104649538>

In May he was back in touch again to say how humbled he was to be elected a Vice President at the last AGM. He also said it looked like a Brisbane OF Supper with Richard Sayer was going to be on 13/14 January 2014.

Rick Mutimer (S67-76) came forward with an e-mail address. He had not discounted the get together in 2015 and will make a decision nearer the time. He confirmed that he and his 3 brothers all attended Fram. Graham is living in Rutland just outside Oakham and Julian is living in Brighton. I will happily pass your details on to them and leave it up to them.

Tom O’Donald (S51-57) has been a regular and witty contributor to the Overseas Bag, despite much adversity in later years. He sadly lost his long fight on 23 December 2012, but just 10 days earlier he sent me a last message. It is written with his usual humour and I thought it appropriate to publish it here as a suitable epitaph.

“Much to the surprise of the medical fraternity of Adelaide, I have to report that I am still alive-very much so. I have been that many death sentence but, either the sword is blunt or the powder wet that none of the prediction of doom and gloom. I think I have hit on the secret of longevity. If one is referred to a particular department, it seems that the department will keep you on their books for a decent period of time (this would seem to be somewhere between 3 and 6 months depending on the number of tests to be run) before passing you on to a different branch. At one stage it seemed that I was attending different clinics fortnightly; however the number of ambulance trips (needed because I was on oxygen 24/7) was mounting to a totally ridiculous number. Eventually I gave up listening to their latest prophesy of doom that I pulled the hatch down and shut up shop; after all how many times can one be told of their impending death. The latest effort was an offer of a particularly nasty dose of Non-Hodgkin son’s lymphoma bringing with it the iron glad promise of death within 6 months. That did it! I had a legal document drawn up that I was going to sue the ambulance service, any doctor rash enough to pack me off to hospital, and even more dire consequences should they undertake tests or treatment. At long last I think I have won. No ambulances, no clinics just peace, and after all these years peace has descended.

On another tack, if you have not already done so, may I recommend Chris's book. Although I am a cat hater, he kept me in stitches of laughter until the tears ran down my legs."

Chris Shaw (K50-56) – see under **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** as they have been virtually inseparable recently!!

Aubrey Whitear (G58-65) sent a long update, including that we can call him Grandpa for the first time – he says he would prefer to continue to be called handsome and doesn't want people to know he is sleeping with a Grandmother!! He goes on to say "*A couple of weeks ago in Manchester in the UK our son Roland and his girlfriend Joanna produced their first child, a daughter. Well, Joanna did most of the producing, Roland was more of an awed spectator. Our granddaughter's name is Faith Violet which is very nice particularly as my Mum was Violet too, although I must admit my initial preference had been for something more exotic like Jazzmyn or Izzobella or even Bluechip Apple Spice until I found out that was also the name of a champion calf. Prior to Faith's arrival, it was nostalgic for us to see Roland and Joanna going through the nest building process. This included after several false starts purchasing a house which they somehow accomplished without getting involved in the usual Byzantine rondelay of transactions that is involved when purchasing a house in the UK. Apparently, "no chain" doesn't simply mean there is a modern toilet. Faith is, of course, is a little beauty! However we have delayed our visit to meet her until next April by which time we hope Roland and Joanna will have worked out the basic details and Faith will be able to conduct a sensible conversation in at least two languages about the relative prospects of England and Australia in the forthcoming Ashes series.*

Until now, I think I have refrained from banging on about my golfing prowess in my annual letter, except perhaps on the several if not plentiful occasions when I have scored a hole-in-one with the result that boastfulness may have temporarily got the better of me. Surely forgivable in the circumstances! But now I have to tell you in all modesty that in January this year I really did discover The Secret of how to play The Game and I achieved my lifetime lowest handicap. It had taken me only fifty years, but I had done it. Fellow golfers will be suitably amazed. Anyhow by March, just as I was thinking I had the game licked and was on my way to fame and fortune on the Seniors Tour, Alzheimer's must have set in for I had forgotten what The Secret was; otherwise let me assure you I would willingly share it now as my Christmas gift to you. At this point, I predict fellow golfers are suitably unamazed. Anyhow, once again normal service was restored and my game degenerated into a miasma of shanks, skulled shots and good times at the nineteenth - or at least it had until the little incident I had with a chainsaw in late September. Maybe this was God's way of saying I had been spending too much time on the golf course but, as usual, he did not put in a personal appearance to explain his point of view.

One moment I was up the ladder chainsaw in hand demolishing an old wattle tree, the next I was attempting with not insignificant success to remove my left thumb. The denouement of these events was that I had my first ride in an ambulance, enough morphine to please a crack head and four and a half hours of micro surgery. How this much time can be spent on one hand tells you much about the level of productivity in this country. If the four and a half hours of micro surgery were no trouble at all, the three days and nights that followed in the public hospital to which I had been carted were no fun at all – the food was inedible to the point of being

poisonous and my three companions in the ward insisted in playing their three televisions all night long at high volume on three different channels. It is amazing that a hospital full of high tech equipment cannot run to head phones.

Nearly, two months later, my thumb still looks like a bratwurst and sticks out like, well, a sore thumb. I am still obliged to walk around – and sleep for that matter – with a plastic cast on my arm and hand although I am allowed to take it off for torture sessions with the physiotherapist. Fortunately, the rest of the hand is in good order and, without giving too much away, I am getting amazingly dextrous with my four fingers. Unfortunately, golf is still not an option. Anyhow, despite the fact that like Peter Allen I'm not the kind of person with a passionate persuasion for dancin' or romancin', I have nevertheless always wanted to go to Rio. So I'm thinking of having a dash at the 2016 Para-Olympics in the one-armed golf although I am sure Di would tell you I have a better chance of qualifying in one of the mentally impaired categories. Overall, I think I have been lucky in a couple of ways. Firstly, I didn't chop anything completely off and, secondly I seem to have had a good surgeon although I had no time for any choice in that matter. It turns out he is the man who reattached Jorge Lorenzo's finger after Jorge ripped it off in the Australian motor cycle grand prix a few years ago. You may not have heard of Jorge but believe me he is a big noise even when not on his bike. If my man was good enough for Jorge, he is fine by me. Di thinks he is handsome too, but I fail to see what that has to do with it. Meanwhile, she has quite unreasonably confiscated my chain saw.

We have had some good travels this year in pursuit of our far flung children. First we went to Manchester, on the way stopping off at one of England's pretty country towns to revisit an historic coaching inn – when you live in Australia anything older than Justin Bieber is historic - where I clearly remember having had a wonderful meal more than forty years ago. Let me tell you, revisiting the past can be a huge mistake. First this pretty country town has now been improved by the addition of a not so pretty housing estate and the high street with its old coaching inn is now on a one way racetrack designed expressly to prevent anyone entering the inn's car park. After a couple of circuits, we did find our way in and found that the inn had, by the good graces of a brewing company, been improved too. Gone was the historic old wood panelled dining room of blessed memory, replaced by a modern glass structure tacked oddly on the back. As to the wonderful meal I remembered from all those years ago, let me just say that the smoked salmon from Uig on the Isle of Lewis is still excellent but once they started to cook the produce the standard fell away alarmingly. Such is progress!

After Manchester, we went to Amsterdam to visit Tristan and Sophie to surprise Tristan for his thirtieth birthday. I don't know if it's because the whole country is so damned flat but the Dutch seem to specialise in particularly steep stairs. Our little hotel had stairs so steep I needed crampons to reach our room and on leaving had to lower my bag back down on a rope. Tristan and Sophie's apartment turned out be fifty-five steps up the north face of Amsterdam – sixteen too far for Richard Hannay. Scaling them was a bigger shock to my system than finding out I was going to be a grandpa. When we weren't scaling the heights of Amsterdam, we rode bikes. At first bike riding looked difficult as the locals weaved in and out of the traffic at high speed. But once you got into it, it turned out to be as easy as falling off a bike which is what Di did in a slow motion death-roll one evening on our way to dinner in one of Amsterdam's flasher restaurants. You will understand it's a very fashionable look to front up with blood running

down your leg. It also gives the chef an idea of how you like your steak. Still no one seemed to take offence. Of course, we went hiking in the Alps again this year – it's a drug! This time we were on the Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt to celebrate a friend's sixtieth birthday. The route was long and very haute but the weather and company were magnificent. Maybe I'm getting a bit old for this sort of thing but by the time I had scaled the Fenetre d'Arpette between Trient and Champex on a hot day I was shuffling along like Ed Hilliary traversing the Khumbu ice fall. Next year, we are planning to visit Austria where we hope the hills will be a little less haute and alive with the sound of beer steins.

So another year has passed living in a country whose Parliament does its best to resemble a disfunctional airliner hijacked by confused freedom fighters. The government itself led by our misandric prime minister is clearly a ship of fools that believes in promising the earth and running up debt with no regard to the looming fiscal cliff that awaits at the end of the mining boom. It's so fashionable and sophisticated to be European! In anticipation of the forthcoming austerity, Di and I have taken to the land. Not content to grow our own vegetables, this year Di persuaded my brother-in-law, Steve, to build a chook house as a present for her birthday. Fortunately, Steve being a good fellow provided his labour for free, so it only ended up costing me somewhere north of \$1k for the materials. Our chooks are now ensconced in a chook house splendid enough to make the Burj Al Arab look like, you guessed it, a chook house. All this would have been terrific if I hadn't seen a nearby roadside stall selling free range eggs for \$5/dozen. Now if I tell you our four chooks (cost \$20 per chook) produce one egg each every day and their weekly food bill is \$5, you can amuse yourself by calculating the pay-back period of my investment. How would your answer change if I told you I had just seen Fantastic Mr Fox coming up the driveway? A recipe for Chicken Madras anyone?

I remember reporting last year that Diane had finally amongst much celebration retired from the workplace. For some reason still inexplicable to me, early this year she decided that my company for seven days a week was altogether too much of a good thing. So she took up volunteering at the Sacred Heart Mission in the expectation of helping the poor and the maimed. What she found was somewhat different – mostly sitting behind a locked door with a security guard, panic button and hot line to the local police station while dealing with a myriad of strange phone calls and stranger customers. Instead of the halt and the lame there were plenty of derros and loonies like the mad guy who kept calling up to ask for lunch and a woman. There was a naked man too. Eventually, it became too much, particularly as she already had an old one-handed mad guy at home to look after. So she has given it away. My attempts to return to the work force have been even less glorious. Having signed on last year as a Returning Officer for the Victorian Electoral Commission, I was fully trained to supervise an election but it was not to be. It wasn't that I had been allocated to an electorate where I was probably the only person not carrying a gun that worried me. It was the pedantic mindless bureaucracy and, as Di would confirm, I am not good at taking orders. So I made myself unavailable. Whilst I am confessing to my shortcomings, I must also reveal that whilst a certain member of this household whom I am not at liberty to identify has been obsessed this year with Fifty Shades of Grey and its sequel, I have shown weakness of my own by falling in love with a girl I met on the internet. It began innocently enough when I purchased on line some new trousers which turned out to be unsuitable and had to be returned. It was then that I found myself in correspondence with the delightfully named Miss April Lightbody – a name to my mind only rivalled by that of the Peggy

Pury-Cust so beloved by John Betjeman. Surely, Miss Lightbody is a Bond girl! Of course, I never got to meet Miss Lightbody and I guess I never will. So much for Late Flowering Lust:

*My head is bald, my breath is bad,
Unshaven is my chin,
I have not now the joys I had
When I was young in sin*

It's been a great year and we are still here!

BRAZIL

John Nielson (R68-72) sent what could be the first correspondence I can remember from Brazil, although his home is in Florida! At Christmas time he says “*I am still working near Rio de Janeiro, returning home to Florida for the holidays.*

Attached, a photo taken of me on Corcovado mountain, on the way up to the Christ statue, with the breathtaking backdrop of the Sugar Loaf mountain, Guanabara Bay, and of the city itself.”

When back in Florida he hoped to meet up with

Richard Rowe (S65-74).



He went on to say to Richard “*I have been working on a corporate accounting reorganization project since July and will probably stay, interrupted by short trips home to Florida, until next February[2014]. Sadly, I won't be home for Thanksgiving this year, when it would have been fun to have you over for a traditional Brazilian churrasco barbecue + caipirinha cocktails... Once I finish this work in Brazil, I will indeed contact you to arrange for a social get-together. Indeed, the last time I saw an OF was a contemporary of mine called **Jens Thomas Kent (K68-73)**, in Norwich, 1979. I left the UK in 1981 and have since returned only for occasional visits.”*

For those OFs looking for some holiday advice in respect of Brazil he says “*Downtown Rio is quite interesting, in addition to famous beaches such as Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon and many others. Plus there are birds-eye views from the Corcovado (Christ statue) mountain and the Sugar Loaf mountain, both not far from downtown. A one hour tour bus ride will take you to the historical mountain towns which I am told are worth visiting. Petty crime (pickpocketing) was always a problem down here but one gets the feeling that the authorities have really stepped up police activity in preparation for the World Cup, followed by the 2016 Olympics. June and July are the coolest months while January and February are the hottest (unbearable) – suggest any moths in between.”*

CANADA

Brian Mayhew (R46-52) had been reading about **Thomas Marshall Dale (1904-07)** in the Easter website news digest. He was recently added to the WW1 Chapel Memorial. This led him to see a note about **L. S. White (1905-08)** on the War Memorial page of the Distinguished section of the website. Brian related to me what his 1926 copy of the Register said and this the same in 1968 Register. He was surprised that it made no mention in the entry that he did not survive the war. I said that I had concluded that the entry in 1926 for LS White, which was then copied across to 1968 register, was for some reason wrong and that the memorial correctly has him recorded as dying in WW1, which ties up with Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and the memorial photo **Peter Gasgoyne Lockwood (R57-64)** has recently obtained.

Brian subsequently gave me a general update on his life in Canada “*After being spoiled for the last few years with relatively mild winters and little snow, this year we returned to a more traditional Canadian winter season. Many areas of Canada have had a very severe winter this year and in the prairies they have had huge amounts of snow and continuous bitter cold. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan they are now beginning to worry about the potential for massive flooding as all the snow and ice begins to melt and the Red River overflows its banks. Even so, in our area of the Southern Ontario Banana Belt although we have had more snow than for several years and the temperature has stayed around the freezing mark for the daytime high for the last three months I am not sure that our season has been any worse than yours. There were two days last week when the temperature in Suffolk was a few degrees lower than our temperature here. Our snow has now almost disappeared although there is still enough around to be, in the words of my farming father, "hanging around waiting for some more."*

Going back to the OF mysteries in respect of casualties in WW1, he went on to observed that “*many of the missing or confused records for those OFs who served in the Great War seem to relate to those who served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and it is also curious that so many OFs joined, served with or were attached to the Canadians. Possibly there was confusion in transferring records between the two services. Changing subjects again, I expect to be in Suffolk for most of the month of May this year. As both my brother's and my own birthday are in May it will be the first time we have been in the same country for our birthdays since 1966.*”

CHINA

Gareth Morris (K90-98) was in touch initially to get his records updated, although he wanted to retain his UK postal address as he didn't trust the Chinese postal service! He has promised to give us an update in due course when things are a bit less hectic for him. He briefly commented that working in China was fascinating as things there change so fast that life is never dull! However, the flip side is that pollution is an issue even in the more affluent areas, green space is severely lacking in regions as cities merge and the growing disparity in terms of wealth between the 'haves' and 'have nots' means that continued economic growth is a must. He currently expects to live and work in China for the next few years and therefore he has been put in touch with **Ian Howard (S57-62)**. However he isn't actually based near to HK, and probably won't be able to make all the HK Suppers.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Christina Johnston-Myachina (V2001-06) told me that she would be debuting as Queen of the Night in Prague on 22 December 2012 and she then starts a tour around Germany from 26 December through to 3rd January 2013. She was then in touch again to say that she was chosen to play the part of Adele in Die Fledermaus at The State Opera from January to March 2013. She had a lot to learn as she was also playing the part of Pamina in Die Zauberflöte for another Opera Company in Germany!

In March April 2013 she was spending 4 weeks in Hong Kong and while there was singing and auditioning for Hong Kong Opera.

FRANCE

Bob Craig (R63-70) is one of those OFs where he works in one country but lives in another, both of which are outside the UK, so I've decided to include him where he lives, rather than where he is currently working, which is in the Middle East.

I got in touch with Bob via e-mail as his postal address was "gone away". We have a feeling this may have been due to the Yearbook not fitting through his letterbox in "La belle France". He says he hopes to retire in about 12 months and will then be very happy to collect the Yearbook from the Tuchan post office.

He went on to say that during the summer he met up with Peter Howard-Dobson (xx), Chris Hall (xx) and Martin Hogg (xx) at Peter's place and then went out for lunch. He went on to say "*I had a thought for an OF event how about a concourse d'elegance of OF cars. I'm sure there are plenty of classic car owners amongst OF's who would love to show off their pride and joy to the students and maybe a wider audience. How such an event is used is then up to you ... as a fund raiser? (Pay to enter and prize to winner of various categories?) If the calendar is too crowded it could always be run in parallel with something like the OF cricket match.*" Food for thought.

Bruce Micklewright (S48-51) reported that unlike in the UK, the summer had been far too hot over there for him and so they moved to our holiday home in the Swiss Alps, where it was much cooler! He reports "*I made a short trip to Canada last month to attend a Reunion of 445 Sqn RCAF that I served on in NATO during the 1950's, lots of seventy plus year olds swapping exaggerated war stories about being at 40,000 feet with 'nothing on the clock but the maker's name'. Great fun!*"

Bruce spent Christmas with the family in Richmond, UK.

Terence Parr (K50-57) was another OF I contacted because we had a valid e-mail address but was “gone away” postal wise. He got in touch with an address in Nyons, France and I duly updated his records.

As for news he said “I spent most of the summer re-acquainting myself with the interiors of a number of French hospitals. Eight years ago while walking in Spain I suddenly found myself in need of heart surgery, resulting in a seven-week tour of what seemed like the majority of the medical establishments of southern France, the fitting of a metal aortic valve and a rapid expansion of my French vocabulary.

This year I fell down a ravine, breaking my pelvis, re-arranging a variety of internal organs and causing major internal bleeding. A helicopter medevac and several weeks in Valence put me right and there appear to be no long-term consequences. What really hurt was the comment of a friend who was with me who said that my diving style fell very far short of Olympic standards!

I may have something more interesting to report next year as I and a few other demented geriatrics are planning a landrover trip through some of the more remote parts of South America. We still have room for a good Spanish speaker. You may know someone who might be interested. If he can cook, drive, navigate, make camp and mend broken limbs so much the better!”

We look forward to receiving a report on how this expedition went, hopefully with no more broken bones!

Brian Rosen (S40-46) has been a regular contributor over many many years and it was great to hear again from Brian in January. He provided the following :-

“I don’t think that any OF could fail to be impressed by the College and BH as described in the year book. It is difficult to make any comparisons with the College as it was when my brothers and I arrived over 70 years ago. However despite all the difficulties and hardships we endured during those wartime years, most of us left feeling confident that we would succeed in our careers and I am sure that present day school leavers can feel the same.

Since last writing I have managed two visits to the College. In September 2011 I came over for the farewell lunch for Tony Lawrence at the Queen's Head Brandeston. This very enjoyable event has been well reported. Tony, expecting a quiet lunch with Bob Williams was surprised to find about 40 of us present to remind him of his days at Brandeston in the seventies. A very memorable occasion and in his 'off the cuff' speech he had a kind word for each one of his former colleagues present. The entertainment at the Suffolk Supper that evening ensured a good send off for Tony.

My next visit to the UK was for the Suffolk supper in September 2012 and once again there was a BH farewell theme. I can remember when Paul Baker arrived 25 years ago and we didn't know quite what to make of him! However we soon realised that he was a first class maths teacher, always a rare breed it seems and also willing and able to coach and referee any sport. We were then more inclined to endure his sense of humour. Did it mellow with age?

Life in France continues to be very interesting and enjoyable. Although the country is experiencing most of the economic problems of the UK and the rest of Europe, I think it is still a very attractive place if you are considering retiring to a more predictable climate. Obviously you should speak the language if you are to make the most of it but one cannot deny that there are plenty of Brits living happily out here, particularly in the SW, whose French is almost non-existent!

Job prospects here are probably worse than in the UK, unless you are working in a specialist field. However if you speak both English and French without difficulty there are plenty of opportunities. Enough said, but if anybody wants advice don't hesitate to contact me."

GERMANY

Constanze Zawadzky (M03-05) got in touch with the website team for the first time to ensure that we had her e-mail address so that she could receive future newsletters electronically. Constanze lives in Koln. She also forwarded an e-mail onto her sister **Sanna Karolszyk (M96-98)** who got in touch to say that she was living in Berlin and had got married about a year ago, hence the change of surname.

HONG KONG

Iain Fidlin (M73-77) contacted me from just outside Manchester, to say that he was just adjusting to the temperature difference!! He is a permanent resident of HK, but was visited relatives on route to the Isle of Man, where he had just set up a company with my JV partners in Chicago. He hoped to make Ian Howard's next gathering.

Chris Hall (G62-69) sent me his interesting Christmas letter.

"Last week I did the Christmas shopping I like best, buying Christmas presents for myself. The problem of Christmas is that you buy presents you like, and then give them to someone else who may not like them - there's not much fun in that.

One of my Christmas presents to myself is a large quantity of See's chocolates. On Saturdays I usually have no breakfast or lunch, so by the evening I feel I have earned the right to eat a large quantity of chocolate. One of the advantages of living without a mother or a wife is that I can eat what I want to. When my mother was alive, she insisted I had some breakfast before going out to work - we compromised on a mug of milky horlicks. After she died I rebelled and exchanged a mug of milk for a glass of water.

Earlier today I had an operation to remove the cataracts from my left eye. I had been told that I should spend the first day or two quietly, so I thought I would have a good opportunity to catch up on my reading. Unfortunately the plastic eye patch that I have to wear prevents me from putting on my reading glasses, so instead of reading past issues of the Economist, I am writing this

Christmas letter. (Each week I try to read every article in the Economist to keep abreast of all the news: politics, business, finance, science and culture. I am hopeless at playing Trivial Pursuits because I know nothing about sport, pop music or society gossip). I disdain to read a daily newspaper or watch the news on TV as, being a historian, I am not comfortable with breaking news but prefer to read about past events once they've been well digested by experts.

I mentioned above that I am writing this Christmas letter. This is not strictly accurate as I am speaking into my dictaphone. This was new technology when I started work in 1973. Being a true conservative I never change anything but stick to the ways I know. Unfortunately my reluctance to use computer technology is causing more and more problems. The best dictaphone equipment is Panasonic. When my old trusty machine started to work even slower than I do, I discovered that Panasonic did not make dictaphones anymore. Fortunately I have a very good secretary and she was able to buy a replacement on Ebay. When this source of replacement parts eventually dries up, I will be faced with the prospect of resorting to pen and ink (not a good idea as my handwriting has not improved since I last wrote university essays) or, horror of horrors, learn how to use a computer.

My technical problems multiply. My bank wants to save money and no longer likes sending out hard copy bank statements. Customers can now access their bank accounts anytime online so why should a bank bother to send our statements? They haven't taken poor old Chris into account. I tried to enter the modem age by signing up to online access to my account. The application was going fine until the bank teller told me that my new password would be sent to my mobile phone. I explained that I do not have a mobile phone and asked for the password to be sent by mail. This apparently is not possible for the bank, so they still have to send me hard copy bank statements.

In fact I have started a different relationship with mobile phones. My friend, Mary Deeming, has a small studio flat in Chelsea, which she lets me use when I am in London. However, it has no telephone. I therefore had to acquire a mobile phone for use in England. I started to like my mobile phone, but then discovered it was a false friend. Firstly it was very expensive. I got through £50 of calls in less than 5 days. Secondly it kept ringing. Other people took advantage of my mobile phone to telephone me at any time, which was most irritating.

I can't mention Mary's name without discussing the great joy of human existence, shopping. I am pleased to report that I continue to do my bit to fight against the worst recession of our lives by buying more than I can afford and being permanently in debt. It's all worth it. Following the arrival of my most recent purchases of French furniture and bronzes, my apartment is taking on more the appearance of a rococo palace. My third bathroom has now been decorated and is covered from floor to ceiling in 19th century French tiles, the centre piece being 80 tiles making up a large painting of a beautiful maiden reclining gracefully on the rocks by the sea. My new guest bathroom looks magnificent. The only problem was that when the first guest arrived, both the toilet and the hot water failed to work. I explained to my guest that it does not matter to the true aesthete that humdrum machines do not work so long as one is surrounded by beauty. Any complaints I dismiss as a failure to appreciate Art.

To achieve this wonderful bathroom (which I love), I had a full house. My friend, Mary came out with a builder and his partner. At the same time, my helper, Lody, had her 10 year old son

staying with her for a month during the Philippine summer holidays. 6 people were living in my flat, which is designed as a bachelor pad. The builder and his wife shared the double bed in the guest bedroom, so Mary was placed in my textile room. This has a large bed in the centre, which I slept on for many years when I lived with my parents. It has 3 large drawers under it to store textiles. When I moved to my present flat, a large extension was put on top of the bed to accommodate 3 more drawers and a flat padded top. The bed is now 3 ½ feet high. When Mary saw the bed she immediately put the mattress on the floor. I pointed out that when people sleep on a mattress on the floor they do not fall off the mattress, so why should they fall off the mattress just because it is nearly 4 feet high. My logic did not convince her. In fact one of my guests has slept on this splendid bed and the only problem he had with it was when he returned drunk one evening and was unable to climb onto the bed and therefore had to spend the night lying on the floor. Fortunately his condition was such that he had no difficulty sleeping on the floor. Lody and her son, Henry (named after my father) slept in greater comfort than Mary, as there are 2 small bedrooms just beyond my kitchen and utility room.

In 2011 my employer, Equity Trust, merged with TMF, and we had to move to a larger office. I was very opposed to moving to the new office because, instead of an 8 minute drive to the old office, it now takes me 15 minutes to get to work (driven by my helper Lody of course). Unfortunately we had to move. We occupied the 31st floor of The Center. Goldman Sachs had moved some of their people onto the 32nd floor and subsequently took over the 30th floor. It wasn't long before Goldman Sachs wanted our floor as well. The landlord thought that Goldman Sachs was more important than Equity Trust (I don't know where he got that idea from) and we were out.

Another reason for the move was that rents had gone up to US\$10 per sq. ft. per month in the old building. In fact rents had gone up a lot all over Hong Kong. The management solved this problem by the simple device of fitting 200 people into a space previously occupied by 100. As a consequence I no longer had an office to myself but shared with my secretary. This was of great benefit to her because every afternoon she had the pleasure of seeing me fall asleep while I had my siesta. The management promised me my own office as soon as one became available. I ended up doing very well out of this, because a few months later the regional director resigned and I got his large office (that is large by Hong Kong standards. modest by others). The only problem is I now have to work harder in order to justify my taking up so much space.

Even though I live in the tropics, I experienced a 6 month winter last year. I spent October and November 2011 in England, and then returned to Hong Kong at the end of November, just before the start of winter in Hong Kong in early December. I lived through the 3 months Hong Kong winter and then at the beginning of March, when the Hong Kong weather turned warmer, I flew to London and New York to experience another month of winter. This was my first trip to the USA in 4 years to see my clients. I had not been made welcome previously by the US immigration department, because I was born in the Sudan and am therefore a suspect terrorist. When I last went to New York, the immigration officer asked me a lot of questions. He released me; but as I waited at the luggage carousel another immigration officer summoned me to a small room where I was further interrogated. I successfully convinced him that I was not a terrorist, so I must have the gift of the gab. In 2012 I got through immigration without any questions. which was a much pleasanter experience. However, there was much less tax business to be done in the USA, so I

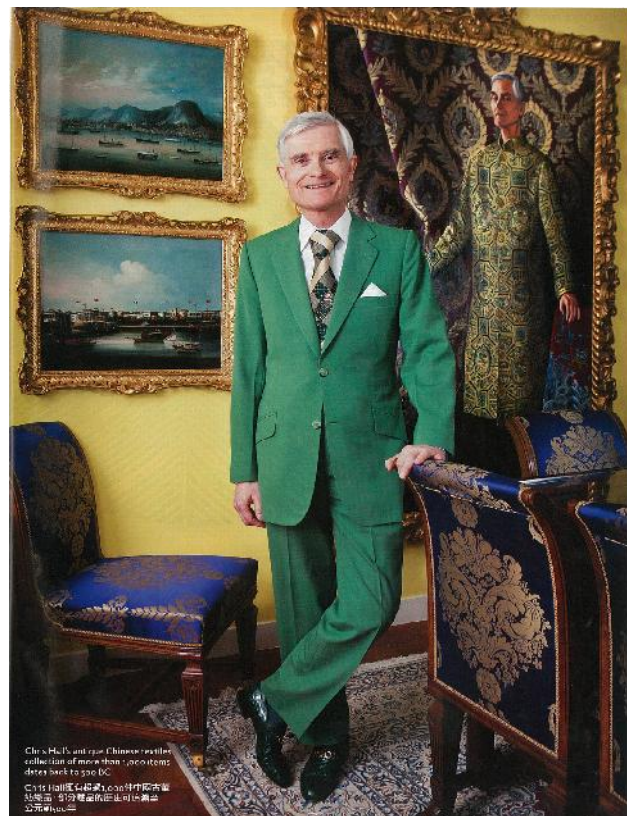
will probably not visit again until 2014.

My bad luck with the weather continued. I spent my summer holiday in England. During the 5 weeks holiday it did not rain on only one day. Hong Kong got its revenge. My cousin Ann chose November to visit me on the Peak to escape the English winter and enjoy Hong Kong's best weather: sunny, dry and not too hot. Instead for the entire 12 days of her stay it was overcast, misty and rained, so she never saw the sun on the Peak.

In the autumn I went on a gourmet tour of Spain, which I thoroughly enjoyed. On one day we visited a vineyard to taste the wine and had a light lunch which turned out to be 5 courses long. The same evening we sat down to what was described as a delicate dinner, which turned out to be another 5 courses. The next day we had lunch in a Michelin one star restaurant. This was not a light lunch, so we had 7 courses instead of 5. I can truly say that my Spanish experience returned me to Hong Kong a man of greater substance.

This is the Chinese Year of the Dragon. At the beginning of the Chinese year in February, the museum of the Chinese University in Hong Kong arranged a special exhibition of the dragon in Chinese art. They borrowed many of my Chinese dragon robes and other textiles with dragons on them. The Oriental Ceramic Society (OCS) sponsored the exhibition. I am president of the OCS and was therefore invited to cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony. I naturally wore my dragon robe, which you can see me wear in the portrait at the back of the attached picture. The robe is beautifully tailored and fit me snugly. It looks splendid but is not easy to sit down in. After I had said my few words at the opening ceremony I sat down, and as I did so a split could be heard.

The photo which I have just mentioned appeared in a Cathay Pacific night magazine about me and my Chinese textile collection. Now when I wear my green suit, people see me in the street and say they recognize me from the article. My green suit is just one of my colourful suits. My lifelong ambition has been to buy a red suit, so I was delighted to see a red suit in a man's store on Oxford Street and bought it. Being an accountant I insisted on a VAT refund form: but even though I filed the form correctly I never got my refund. On a subsequent visit to London and a walk up Oxford Street, I discovered why - the shop was no longer there, another victim of the recession. Neyer mind, I get good value out of the suit. I attended the Oxford & Cambridge Society Christmas cocktail party a couple of evenings ago. I thought that if Santa Claus wears a red suit why shouldn't I. So I attended the cocktail party and stood out among all the dark suits. Indeed I



reason that if Santa Claus wears a red suit to go to work, why shouldn't I, so my red suit is frequently seen in the office and is commented on, politely of course.

In addition to my red and green suits, I also have bright blue, bright yellow, white and gold suits. I have not yet acquired suits in all the colours of the rainbow, so my New Year's resolution is to acquire turquoise, pink and orange suits in 2013.

People lament that it is so difficult to keep New Year's resolutions. The problem is that most people make New Year's resolutions to give up doing things that they like doing which is difficult to do. If on the other hand people make New Year's resolutions to do things which they enjoy doing, they would have much greater success in keeping their resolutions.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you! “

Ian Howard (S57-62) sent photos of the March 2013 HK OF Supper, which was attended by nine OFs - **Ian Howard, 'Bob' Holland (Penang) (R57-65), Henry Tang Shiu-yuen (K03-10), Keith Williams (R63-67), John Ting Yu-tin (G02-09), Christopher Hall (G62-69), Ian Tsang Cheuk-hei (K02-09), Barry Wilson (UK) (G48-52) and John Birt (Thailand) (S59-63).** They had a jolly evening in the Windsor Room at the Hong Kong Club, where Chris Hall, with his usual generosity, supplied the after-dinner Port.



The Rugby 7s followed the Supper and then Ian left on the Monday following the 7s for London via Istanbul. In the UK he visited his aged mother in Sussex for a few days, before heading off to the South of France until end-May.

Moira Theulier (nee Anderson) (M91-93) and I were in touch about a rogue non OF who was trying to join the Overseas Facebook page that she set up. Moira quickly ejected him! She unfortunately couldn't make this year's HK Supper as she was heading to Australia for the first time.

NEW ZEALAND

Simon Betney (G74-79) provided an up to date address in Cromwell, Central Otago. I look forward to a news update from Simon and hope that he can attend 150th get together in Hunter Valley in Australia.

Richard Warner (S70-77) confirmed that he would like his postal address to remain in Suffolk, until he get permanent residency in NZ. He was currently living in Waikato and was interested in other OFs living in NZ, which I provided. Chris Shaw was in touch with Richard about 150th, which he hopes attend if he is able to remain in NZ.

He gave the following update "I have now been in NZ for 15 months, on a 2 year work visa specialising in Dairy Farm Management. Having attended the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where I attained a 2:1 Diploma in Agriculture & Farm Management. I am fully qualified to manage a dairy or mixed enterprise farm. Since coming here at the start of February 2012, I have worked on 4 different farms ranging from 500, 620, 815 and now 260 herd farm. I have had some massive highs and lows, mainly due to Kiwi farmers and farming practices.

I am now settled in Matamata in the heart of Waikato 15 minutes from Hobbiton and hope to become a resident by March 2014. Yes dinner in 2015 is an awesome idea. Once I am granted residency, I have to remain in NZ for 15 months approx so, cannot leave the country, so this will be a first escape for me! Keep in contact."

SINGAPORE

Andrew Ridley-Thomas (M84-89) got in touch to register on the website and it was then that I discovered he lived in Singapore and was CEO and co-founder of Earth Hour – see this clip www.ehour.me/2013ViD

In 2013 Earth Hour happened to fall on 26 March exactly when the SOF Annual Dinner was being held at the RAF Club. At the meeting I therefore asked if OFs had heard of Earth Hour. I'm pleased to say that the majority had. When I then asked did they know that the whole idea was dreamt up by an OF I'm sorry to say they didn't, but I'm pleased to say that they are now better educated! We dimmed the lights at 8pm to acknowledge the event.

Graham Walsh (R72-78) is another of those OFs who are working all over the place. Whilst resident in Singapore he works all over the gulf at the moment and spent New Year in Hong Kong. I let Graham know that Andrew had recently moved to Singapore and he hopes to meet up at some point when not traveling so much.

SOUTH AFRICA

Guy.S.Brooke-Smith (S41-44) provided a new address from 1st March 2013 in Louis Trichardt, South Africa. He promised to notify a new e-mail address when settled in.

Mike Bullock (R55-59) was interested to read the website news digest sent round and decided that it was time he provided an update of his activities.

“In November last year we moved from our retirement village in Tzaneen to one in Pretoria. When we moved to Tzaneen in 2005, some 4 hours drive from Johannesburg, our children indicated that they would visit frequently as it was a beautiful area and it was close to Kruger National Park. Of course as the grandchildren grew older and were more involved in school sport and cultural activities so the visits became less frequent. As a result we were travelling more and more to them which finally did not make too much sense.

Although for the last few years I have been fully retired I was chairman of the Board of Directors of the village which was very time consuming, both directly and indirectly, and only now do know just how much! So now I have time to attend to the many projects saved up for retirement which include our family history, photography (sorting photos albums, making photobooks and DVDs) and woodwork. I have even had those long school photographs of 1956 and 1959 framed as one of our son's has a large wall to decorate!

We have just returned for a holiday in Ireland and the Netherlands. In Ireland we experienced the worst flooding for 800 years and in Holland the coldest Easter for 50 years, so we were part of history in the making. Fortunately we were in Ireland for a wedding and therefore we were with family and not touring so the weather did not interrupt too much. For the wedding itself the wind

dropped and it stopped raining but no sun, and yet the bride and attendants figured it was going to be a warm day! In the Netherlands it was cold but at least sunny. We had hoped to come to England but my wife travels on a South African passport and although we can easily obtain a Schengen visa for Europe, free of charge what's more, to get a visa for the UK requires going through many fiery hoops and considerable cost. That more or less brings you up to date. Best wishes and keep up the good work.”

SPAIN

Tom Wilkinson (S05-09) updated his details on the Directory and provided the following update *“At the moment I am on my year abroad working as an English language assistant at a school in Avilés in the region of Asturias in Northern Spain. After finishing in May next year I then head*

off to France (am currently looking for an internship there – which is proving a nightmare!) to work for 4 months before heading back to Durham for my final year. As you can imagine its all rather hectic, but damn good fun and my Spanish is coming on rather nicely!”

UGANDA

Brian Pretty (S52-56) continues his work in Uganda. In January he said *“We are busily preparing for our time in Tunisia and actually fly this coming Sunday and will be missing for five weeks. Then a few weeks at home before embarking on another journey back to Uganda on the 21st March. I think this is going to be a very busy year because it is our 50th wedding anniversary, my wife’s 70th birthday and later in the year we will have to visit my son and daughter in Australia. I will still be delighted to come to Fram to give a talk if you deem it worthwhile but I will have to communicate with you after Uganda about possible dates.*

As for poor Nora, we have no idea how long her suffering will last. It could be months, it could be years but if I get my way, I shall hope to find a way of financing the medical treatment needed. After all she has done for me during my past visits I am determined, one way or another to try and give her back the life she so richly deserves.

Finally, I have just received my Year Book and am very impressed at the wonderful way my article has been presented. I wrote to Norman thanking him but also thanks to you for encouraging its entry in the first place.”

UKRAINE

Tom Kirkup (K95-02) - his mother **Carol (Z76-78) (nee Machen)** dropped a note about the previous article I had included about Tom and her in China. Amusingly she goes on to say *“I was flattered to see that you’d included a photo of Tom and his fiancée, Elena (age 30) and captioned it as being a picture of me (age 52) and Tom!!! I have been told I don’t look my age, and it has been said that Elena and I have some similarities in appearance, but to be confused with a 30 year old is stretching the imagination somewhat – hope you’re laughing at this, as I am! I thought I’d mention this as the article refers to a fuller story being included in the 2012 year book, and on the website, and it would be good if this mistake wasn’t repeated.[it wasn’t]*

It’s worth mentioning that Tom & Elena were married this summer, on 20th August 2012 at



Bury St Edmunds registry office (photo attached). They are now living and working in Odessa, Ukraine where they are both teaching at the London School of English. They will be having a traditional Ukrainian wedding celebration in April 2013 so we are looking forward to that very much, and they also intend to have a Blessing Ceremony in the UK after that. I've only one child, but am feeling very lucky that he's effectively marrying the same girl 3 times and I will have the excuse to buy 3 different outfits! Elena is a lovely daughter-in-law, highly educated and accomplished and a very welcome addition to our family.

We are going out to Odessa to be with them for Christmas this year, which is a treat, as with Tom having been in China for sometime we haven't had a Christmas together for 3 years now. And for new year some ski-ing in Bulgaria too. The traditional Ukrainian wedding celebrations next spring will probably produce some interesting photos – I'll forward them on."

USA

Peter Ballard (S57-66) under the heading "Another move but more importantly another



Morgan!!" wrote to me saying "Once again we have packed up house and are on the move. After 3 years working as a secondee from Rolls-Royce to a joint venture with Pratt & Whitney (IAE, International Aero Engines) in Glastonbury Connecticut, we are headed to Savannah Georgia where I will be based at the Rolls-Royce office in the Gulfstream Aircraft facility.

The move has been made more difficult by my acquisition of another old Morgan, this time a 4/4 that is in pieces for restoration."



Peter kindly sent the attached photos but the car didn't look like it needed restoration! He

responded by saying that from 12 feet or so in a photo the tin patches and rotten wood don't show! The frame was completely rotten and the chassis rusted through in parts, plus he said "I can never leave anything quite alone!". Here are more pictures to prove the state.



Professor Allan Brown (S57-62) wrote from Ann Arbor in Michigan. He had not been affected by super-storm Sandy and promised to provide me with an update biography for the Distinguished section where he is one of 6 living OF Professors.

Ivor Noel Hume (37-39), another distinguished OF was also in touch and I updated his biography for yet another book being published. At Christmas time he said *“Even at my age keeping in touch with you and the school gives me great pleasure. The Appeal brochure is an inspiring work of art, beautifully done. There's not much news from my desk. Two books are in the works. My Belzoni made the New York Times's list of the 100 best books for 2012. The two books virtually finished are a history of a Virginia plantation named Carter's Grove, title At the Courthouse Doort. The other is called GIN, Legacy of the Doomed, a history of gin drinking in England in the 19th century that killed thousands. I'll keep you posted on that one as it is to be published in England.*

I am currently working on a 1575 indenture signed by several of the people involved in the plot to free Mary Queen of Scots and promote a Spanish invasion of Sussex. They include the Earl of Northumberland, Charles and Lord Paget, John and George Gifford as well as others I have not yet identified. Northumberland and the Pagets were Catholics. The document brings these people together to append their seals several years before the Babbington and other plots got going. 'Tis intriguing stuff.”

Noel was back in touch to say that he had read about the proposed trip to the battlefields of Northern France in 2014 and wished he was still young enough to travel. He greatly appreciated James Ruddock-Broyd's invitation. He said *“In earlier days I made several sorties with Holt's Battlefield Tours. My father served as a Lieutenant in the Scots Guards at Ypres et al. He was working on a book about his experiences when he died. I inherited the notes and put them together into an audio tape, a copy of which went to the Imperial War Museum. The Holt people used it as entertainment (educational) on their buses. I hope your tour is a great success. I remain an enthusiastic believer in the message "Lest we forget."”*

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) was in touch regular starting in Autumn 2012 with the following update *“We have experienced a very hot and humid few months all across the country, with the usual extremes of heat, flooding and forest fires. There always seems to be one area of the country that is under the gun.*

Presently we are enjoying a few days of Indian summer weather, which has made it great for getting all the "tidying up jobs" done before winter. While away for a vacation, we had the house pressure washed and painted on the outside,,so we're feeling a little more respectable.

So ,what have we been up to this summer? Well, in the Spring I decided to build an open wooden enclosure, about 12' x 12' with removable side netting panels, in the hopes of keeping out the deer. It seems to have worked quite well and we have at last been able to enjoy the roses and lilies. This together with a new deer spray has turned the tide in our favour.

The butterfly population has remained steady, and there is generally something flying around the garden.to brighten the scene. The little rearing I did this year was of locally found larvae and eggs. Next year I will try and obtain some eggs of less common varieties. A lot depends on the availability of the food plant that would be required.

This Spring I was fortunate enough to purchase some additional pieces of camera equipment, which has allowed me to experiment with some close up and macro shots. It takes a lot of patience, but it opens up a whole new area to explore.

For our trip away from home this year, we joined Senior Tours of Canada on a visit to Eastern Europe, with four day stays in Budapest, Vienna and Prague. The plane flights over and back were rather tiring, but each of the cities we visited was interesting from the point of view of its history, often turbulent, and the magnificent buildings and architecture. The churches and cathedrals were often highly decorated compared to the magnificent soaring lines of the perpendicular style we often see at home. I guess it's a matter of taste!! It would have been nice to have had a few more weeks with the camera recording daily life around the city, especially Prague. Maybe with a few less people around!!

Now we have the serious business of selecting a President for the next four years. Do we continue to make a slow steady climb out of the financial upheaval of four years ago, or are people going to lack the patience and effort needed to build a sound economic and cultural foundation for the future. Congress is going to have to put away petty partisanship and demonstrate it's willingness to consider the needs of the country and others around the world. It's been a furious campaign these past few months. I hope level heads prevail and that people will remember when they vote of the sound moral principles upon which this great country was founded.

Enough from me!!how about three cheers for the School!!.....well done "Fram !"

Bryan and I were in touch again when Hurricane Sandy was causing devastation down the east Coast "I'm pleased to say hurricane "Sandy" passed by our coast, without causing much of a problem. Unfortunately it did catch the replica of HMS Bounty out at sea and 10' 18' waves were just too much for her and she went down. Most of the crew were rescued by the Coastguard helicopter. I believe 2 persons were lost.

Up north they are having a terrible time as I am sure you have seen on the TV. It will take a long time for things to get back to normal. So many people without power."

I'd asked him for some photos of his butterfly with his new camera and he promised to do this when he's had more practise.

I heard briefly from his again just before Christmas, as a result of my e-mail round to everybody. He was looking forward to reading the Yearbook when it arrived. He and his wife were going to be on their own this Christmas. Their eldest son is in Afghanistan and the youngest is in Colorado with his family.

At the start of 2013 the bad news from Bryan was that his good eye was now causing problems and he had had to have some injections in it but these were having little effect.

I got in touch with him in May 2013 to see how things were progressing. He said "Great to hear from you again! Winter is behind us, though the temperatures here in N.C. don't exactly feel like

Spring. So far it has been cold and damp, with temperatures running as much as 14degrees below normal. Crazy weather !!.....soon it will seem too hot.

I'm afraid that the eyes are not doing very well. I go for my fourth injection tomorrow and so far there hasn't been much marked improvement. I am unable to read a book magazine or newspaper, which is very frustrating. I use this computer only with the use of a magnifying glass. So please excuse the typo errors!!

Driving is done very cautiously now. Peripheral visions still pretty good, though the left eye is "blotchy", which is what they are trying to clear. So we will be patient and hope for the best.

With the weather and one thing and another, I haven't had the camera gear out ,except to charge the batteries.. I am however enthused about starting up again , once it turns nicer outside.

*I had a telephone call last week from a senior OF **Alfred Molson (K38-43)**. We chatted for about an hour. He is 88years old now, uses a cane , but has quite a memory!*

We were pleased to have our eldest son back last weekend from Afghanistan after another years tour. Hopefully he can get to enjoy his new home and young lady in Pensacola Florida ,for a while.

I am hoping to have my sister over here for a visit later this year, much of course will depend how I will be able to do the driving, Right now long trips would be quite tiring . We'll see.

That is about it for now from Li'l ol' Shallotte. Next time I write I hope to bring you better and more interesting news. My very best wishes to you and the family. That Framlingham family gathering in July sounds great ! Well done H.M. !!"

Peter MacFarlane (Z73-81) let me know that he was about to embark on a epic solo adventure and I put the following article up on the website :-

"In about 3 weeks' time, I shall be embarking on a solo through-paddle of the Northern Forest Canoe trail. This is a series of interconnected traditional waterways which stretches from Old Forge, NY, in the south-western Adirondacks, across the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain, through northern Vermont with a loop into Quebec, across northern New Hampshire and way up into northern Maine, finishing at Fort Kent, ME, on the St John River. The total distance is 740 miles, including about 55 miles of portage, and includes flat water and whitewater rivers, both upstream and down, and small and large, exposed lakes.

Not content with challenging myself with this distance, I'm also aiming to complete it within a month, not to race, but because I have to make a living, and a month on the Trail represents a distinct shift of my bank balance for the worse! So I'll have to average about 25 miles per day. Furthermore, I plan to complete it in one of my own cedar-strip canoes, maybe not the best treatment of such a canoe, facing rocky whitewater some of the way, but a fairly extreme form of product testing (the "before" and "after" photos will be interesting)! Another reason to use it is its light weight, which will facilitate portaging (the longest carry is nearly 6 miles). The icing on

the challenge cake is that I shall probably start in blackfly season, and remain in it as I progress north. This is the downside of choosing a time of year with long days and probably sufficient water in the rivers. My start date is 19th May, and I aim to finish in mid-June.



I've attached some pictures, mainly of the canoe, kitted out, but also one shot of me doing some white water training. The canoe is no longer pristine, the way it was when it first left the workshop, but any current scratches are superficial, the result of a summer's use, including at a summer camp, and regular handling.

In case you're wondering, yes, they are ski

poles in the bow of the canoe. A traditional means of progressing upstream, especially in shallow rapids, is to use a pole to punt the canoe. As I'm using a small canoe, I'm a little leery of standing in it (OK on flat water, but maybe not moving), and so traditional poling is not an option. Double poling (like skiing), however, while kneeling, has proved possible in (rather limited) trials. Besides, a couple of ski poles are much lighter than a 12-foot spruce pole with a brass shoe.



There's more information about the NFCT at www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org and more information about my trip in particular via a link from the landing page of www.OtterCreekSmallcraft.com. There are details there of how to [follow my progress](#) while I'm on the trail - not a live blog, but a series of GPS waypoints on an online map. And I'll be happy to report back after I re-enter society at the end. I'm hoping the tale will be one of triumph, success and self-discovery, not that I wrap the canoe around a rock on day 4 and have to abort. I'd like the ratio of paddling time to planning time to be a little larger than that!

If I seem to be forgetting to send a follow-up report, please feel free to bug me. That's it for now."

Alfred Molson (K38-43) has as always been really good in keeping in touch via phone. He continues to have balance problems since surgery in 2010. In February 2013 he rang to say that he had seen the sad news I had posted earlier that day of the death of **Arthur Staniforth (S31-39)**. He had been in regular contact with him until about 18 months ago. He remembered him as a really nice prefect at School. He said that he only served 6-8 weeks in the Army during WW2 before he was pulled out to work in the Ministry of Agriculture. During this time he was put on a freighter and sent to Trinidad to study tropical agriculture and then to Sudan to study cotton growing for military clothing. He spent a lifetime in agriculture - see Distinguished section.

As an aside Alfred recalled a story of him visiting Government House in Khartum and being shown the staircase where General Gordon was killed, only to be told that local stories say he was shot while trying to escape over a wall in the garden!

In late March 2013 he had just had an annual skin cancer check and a malignant lump had been found and he was awaiting its removal. It was also around the time of his wife's 90th birthday. He also recounted stories of importing palm oil for Unilver in the making of margarine and when it went through the underground pipes in Mexico it froze so they had to dig a ditch underneath the pipes and light a fire to melt it! I've never known anyone have more stories to tell than Alfred – keep them coming!



Bryan Pearson (S45-47) sent in a picture of **Nick Carlton (G63-70)** and him on the day before he resumed command of the Sapphire Princess in Honolulu. Bryan and Celestine had a delightful lunch and had lots of catching up to do since they last saw him in Alaska in May 2012.

I commented on the fact that they weren't wearing OF ties and Bryan whitely replied "*Sorry about the OF ties, they just seem to clash with the aloha shirt and, in Nick's case, polo shirt.*" I also commented on the cold here in the UK at the time and he said "we expect a high of 82 here today, no idea what that relates to in the

ridiculous Centigrade to which you people have been subjected, we still use feet and inches here too and the litre measurement at gas stations was abandoned almost as soon as it started."

In February 2013 Bryan and Celestine were going on another cruise, this time on Ocean Princess from Papeete to Honolulu.

Nicholas Penny (G57-62) in Houston, Texas was having problems with gaining access to the members pages of the website so we got him sorted out.

Richard Rowe (S65-74) was in touch with **John Nielson (R68-72)** and they hope to meet up when John returns to live in Florida.

His usual Christmas newsletter then arrived with much news of his family, particularly the boys who were much into their sports. His wife Denise had a phenomenal year in Real Estate, despite the market still priced low. Richard had been incredibly busy for what has been for many a downturn in the economy. He says "*I am still involved in the metal shop but now just doing*

design on a retainer fee, having sold out my share of the business to my in-laws. We promptly invested the profit in buying the vacant land next to our house. Our house had always been a double lot but the previous owner split the parcel when he got into financial trouble. The new lot is mostly taken up with a tennis court; so our boys are delighted at having their own sports arena for street hockey, basketball and other games.

I am still doing a lot of travel for my social accountability / human rights auditing. Travel this year has included Bangladesh, Brazil x2, Turkey, Czech, Romania, Pakistan x2, India x2, Italy and France. So I have clocked up over 120,000 flight miles this year and now hit my Million miler mark with American Airlines.

As you can see from our Christmas card, we went sailing again in the BVIs for a summer vacation. The weather was less kind to us this time than in other years but we still had loads of fun and lots of snorkeling. Next year we have already booked to do something different – to charter a privately own catamaran out of the southern end of Eleuthera in the Bahamas. This is right on the north end of the Exumas island chain that everyone says is a gorgeous playground for sailing. So this will be a totally new experience of sailing different type of boat in new waters.

I am still doing training work for LRQA. They moved most of their training to their Houston office, and at one point I felt as though I was almost living there. I occasionally also do training on site for clients. So I was particularly grateful for some training work in Colorado in March during school vacation week about 20 miles from the main ski resorts. So the whole family went for some fun in the snow in Colorado for a week. My mother, “Granny”, is still living in an assisted living facility up near Denver, so it was a great opportunity to visit her with all the family.

The sad news for 2012 is that my eldest brother, Clive, died suddenly in November. I am still struggling to get to grips with this as it is all so sudden and unexpected; and especially for my Mother, who never thought she would out live any of her children. Clive’s family is in shock and gradually trying to piece their lives back together.

I am getting a short “vacation” just before Christmas as I am going into hospital for about 3-days to have my left hip replaced. I have had issues for a while but never thought it would lead to this; but x-rays and tests indicate that all my cartilage has gone, so I am grinding bone on bone. Hopefully the result will allow me to be more active with the boys.”

In January 2013 Richard and Chris Shaw were in touch over Chris’s book on his father’s wartime experience of serving on HMS Warspite. Chris of course never misses a trick of mentioning the planned 2015 reunion! May be I’ll see Richard out there!

Giles Townsend (K59-67) was interested in attending an OF get together in Southern California, so is anyone else up for the challenge? There are 10 OF in California. When Giles got in touch I also noticed that he was a “Gone Away” so we got this rectified. I was also able to send him a picture of his great uncle’s memorial stone in Gallipoli for **Amiriaux Silver Fletcher (1896-1900)** which **Peter Gasgoine-lockwood (R57-64)** had just obtained. Giles says “I remember my grandmother talking about him. She never used his first name, and she would always fondly

refer to “my brother, Silva.” In fact, he was the reason I was sent to Framlingham. But I had no idea he had won a gold medal. Any information about recent forebears is moving. I did not know about the significance of Sulva Bay, either.”

*He also gave me a brief update “I left Framlingham in 1967. I have been a lawyer in San Diego for many years and am currently with the law firm of Ryan Mercald. I am married to Angela Lau, a Chinese court interpreter for Mandarin and Cantonese. We lead a life of appalling propriety and rectitude, so I have no real news update. The only Framlinghamian I have seen in the last 30 years is **George Edward Nicholls (K59-68)**, a property surveyor in Essex. I usually try to meet him for a drink when I am in the UK. At Brandeston we went out on exeat together many times.”*

