

OVERSEAS BAG – 2022

“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

Once again, this edition of the 2022 Yearbook contains a good crop of articles from OFs living overseas from the UK. However, due to the lack of time I have been able to spend keeping in touch, these are very much down on previous years. As usual, you will notice that half of this correspondence has come from just one country – Australia. It would be great to also hear from more OFs in other countries, so get writing please.

It would be great in 2023 if we could renew efforts to organise gatherings of OFs around the world and I'm very happy to help anyone prepared to have a go in their area.

As I said last year, this is now the 17th year I have been editor of the Overseas Bag and I have immensely enjoyed the role and have visited a number of you overseas during that time, especially to mark 150th anniversary. I would be delighted if one or more of you would be happy to take this over for the future. As you can imagine my appeal over the last couple of years has not produce a torrent of applications but I hope this year you will give it serious thought. It is very rewarding and as a member of the website team I would be happy to support in any way I can eg local reunion lists etc. Please drop me an email if you would be interested. In the meantime, happy reading!

AUSTRALIA

Brett Bailey (K58-65) sadly died during 2022. You can read his obituary elsewhere.

Chris Bartlett (K60-66) in Perth was in touch in December 2021 to say “*Just been reading the OF News Digest which is most enjoyable. Hope this finds you well. Here in the "hermit kingdom" as some of the media describe WA life goes on without Delta or Omicron on our doorstep, but it seems inevitable. Until then Christmas should be enjoyable with sun and heat in good measure.*

I trust you will make the most of your time with family and friends. I am still working in the gold mining industry but on leave to enjoy what may be the last time my daughters are home, but that is dependent on many things we cannot even predict at this stage.

This is to advise that we have moved and have a new address in Spearwood. Wishing you a peaceful, healthy, relaxing Christmas and a positive outlook for 2022.”

Phil Bower (G65-74) in October 2022 was still looking for a couple of music mates to create his next 3pce. He was still writing songs and still had his dog. Medically Phil was suffering “*It's looking like at least one knee replacement in the next 12 months, possibly some shoulder surgery too (steroids don't seem to clearing up the issue) ...the consequences of doing the only job I ever really enjoyed, being a stagehand/roadie.*”

Like me, Phil has reached the magic age of 66 when in the UK we receive our state pension which will stave off the affects of the large increases in utility bills. In Australia they have not been affected by large rises in utility bills but he had problems getting his pension “Got shafted in the old age pension – last year they said I couldn’t apply for one till I was 66, I hit 66 and they say I can’t apply for one till I’m 66 & a half..... when I get there I expect the posts will have move to 67..... Story of my life! I did 2 years shacking at Fram and when it was my turn to enjoy the fruits, Rimmer arrived and did away with it all.

He wondered what happened to **Jon Beverly (G64-74)**, **Niall Foster (G73-75)** and **Pete Long (S70-73)** so I provided an update on postal and email addresses.

Finally Phil provided a new email address.

Geoff Brown (G61-66) has recently emigrated to Chifley near Sydney from the UK and was enthusiastically welcomed by a number of Aussie based OF on their arrival. He provided the following detailed update just before finalising this year’s OB *“Many thanks for your very welcoming emails. I don't mind being called a POM by the Aussies as long as it is not followed up with bxxxard! The 150th dinner in the Hunter sounds wonderful. We have been coming here probably about a dozen times from the UK, twice a year to visit our son Alexander, who lives in Maroubra, NSW. He was moved here by his company, Morgan Stanley from Hong Kong, where he picked up a permanent Cantonese souvenir - his wife! When visiting our son, we always headed up to the Hunter for a day or two wine tasting. Barbara and I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary in May up in the Hunter, our daughter Charlotte flew in from Abu Dhabi and our son also came up with us. We have a bottle of tawny port from my favourite Hunter winery (Ivanhoe) etched in gold for us, as you can see from the photo.*



Charlotte lives in Abu Dhabi with her family. She went to St Felix in Southwold and loved it there. Alexander went to Orwell Park Prep School in Nacton, just outside Ipswich. He was due to go on to Fram, but his Orwell Headmaster at the time, Ian Angus, said that Alexander thrives on competition and at Fram he could be captain of every sport, but it wouldn't improve him. He recommended that we chose either Felsted or Greshams. Given that Barbara and I were living at the time in Muscat, Oman, and my parents were providing the taxi service between schools and Heathrow, when they were living in Pinner, Middlesex, we chose Felsted. It was a good choice as his year were exceptionally sporty. In amongst all their sporting prowess however, Alexander was the only boy in the year who played first team rugby, hockey and cricket for both years of the sixth form, gaining his full colours in all three. He also played squash for Felsted and hockey for Essex and East of England for many years. At the end of his last term of rugby, the Felsted coach who was on the staff at Wasps rugby club, asked him in the pub after the match to come and join the Wasps Development Squad. We were there when he was asked, and his reply was "thank you, but no - against my peers I am much better at hockey". The Wasps coach replied, "but there is no money in hockey" and Alexander said, "I know, but there is always the bank of Mum and Dad" - precocious little devil.

Colin Lipman and Mike Garnett might have raised their eyebrows at the mention of Ian Angus, because he is the brother of Howard, who was a double world champion at real tennis and racquets. I think Ian also played, perhaps with Howard. We know Ian and his wife Margaret socially and through schools, as Margaret was Headmistress of St Felix in Southwold while our daughter was there, some time before she and Ian were married. In our preparations for coming to Australia, we sold our UK home in Coggeshall, Essex, of 28 years at the end of April last year. We were eventually granted a visa in October last year, after waiting 15 months since applying. Between April and October, we rented properties on short term lets, mainly in Felixstowe. That gave us the opportunity to see Ian and his wife Margaret a few times, as they live just down the road from Felixstowe, in Levington.

While we were waiting for our visa, we also saw **Clive Hedley (G61-66)** and his wife for a short stay at the Crown in Fram. Clive was a contemporary of mine, as I was also in Garrett 61-66. **Colin Lipman (R53-61)** may recall Clive's older brother, Mark, who was also in Garrett and who was Head Boy at the Centenary Celebrations which were in 1963 I seem to remember. Clive has put me in touch with another Garrett contemporary of ours, **Tony Burlingham (G58-66)**, who I believe lives on the coast in Southern Queensland, or maybe northern New South Wales.

It was covid that eventually persuaded us to live in Australia. Both our son and daughter said that if we became ill with it, they couldn't come to the UK and look after us. We don't have any other near relations in the UK, so we decided to move here, so we could see our Australian grandchildren grow up and be near Alexander and his wife. There was no chance of moving to be near our daughter because her family are like gypsies and have lived in Abu Dhabi, Jakarta, Bali, Singapore and now back to Abu Dhabi, and all that since becoming expatriate in 2008! Our son has said he will always work in Sydney and if his company wants to move him elsewhere, he will resign. That persuaded us to up sticks and come here and we have bought a house in Chifley, NSW, about 10 minutes' drive from where our son is in Maroubra. For your records and if you need it, the address is 33 Forrest Street, Chifley, NSW 2036 and my mobile number is 0481 572 400.

Chris (Shaw) your tyranny of distance comment rang a bell in the dim and distant parts of my Fading Memory Lane, and I remember it was in a DVD we purchased before leaving the UK, which was about the Indian Pacific rail journey presented by Michael Portillo (former UK MP). We bought that DVD and also one about the Ghan, as we intend to do both journeys in the fullness of time. We have some experience of long train journeys, having previously done the Orient Express from London to Venice, as well as the Eastern and Orient Express from Singapore through to Bangkok and then on to Chiang Mai. Portillo used the same description about distance in Australia in the DVD. We have been to Cairns in the past, when we also drove to the Daintree and stayed in a wooden cabin built, with others, up in the trees. We also went offshore in a glass bottomed boat and saw a little of the Great Barrier Reef which was fascinating. I do remember a long time ago skiing in Europe in the 70's with a Kiwi. He commented that he never realised quite how large Australia was until he had been flying over it for something like 7 hours and hadn't reached the west side!

You might like to know that one of my interests is tracing the family tree. I have traced my male line back 11 generations to the early 1600s and they were all born in Glemsford, Suffolk (near Long Melford and Bury St Edmunds). My father was the first in my line to move away from Glemsford since 1600, and it is because of his wanting me to gain an appreciation of Suffolk, that I went to Fram, a decision I never regretted.

I am sorry to have rambled on with such a lengthy email. Chris (Essex), do you have enough here to cobble a piece for the overseas bag, or would you like me to write something for you? If the latter, please give me an outline of what is required and how long it should be."

Nick Carlton (G63-70) got in touch with **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** when he was 90 "*Happy Birthday Bryan and congratulations on reaching another milestone! Many thanks for your last email and it is a pity that you were unable to make the trip back to Suffolk but the reasons are understandable. World-wide travelling is still an ordeal it would seem though I wouldn't know being locked in Western Australia! I think we are finally allowed to leave Australia but the state government is still making it very difficult to return.*

I continue to miss travel which has been my life ... going to different places and meeting interesting people .. making memories. Hopefully next year I will be able to get back to the UK and would also like to make it back to Hawai'i. Once again wishing you a very happy 90th, hope that you have a lovely day ... thinking of you and will raise a glass to you this evening. Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving too!

Aloha pumehana, love to you both,"

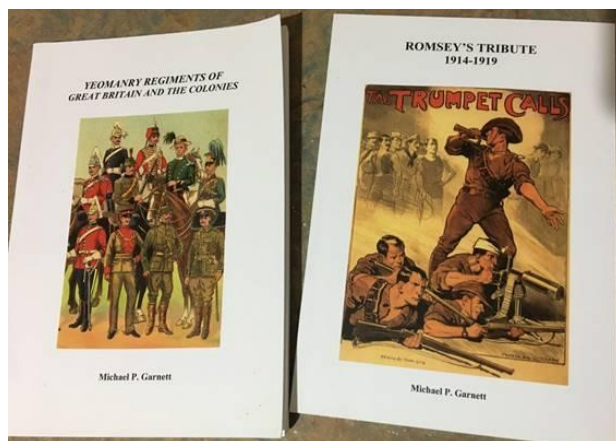
Mike Garnett (R53-55) exchanged emails with me and others back in December about Parham/Framlingham airfield during WW2.

In January he updated me on a couple of missing books in the list on the website of those published by OFs. He had also produced 'Romsey's Tribute 1914-1919' (2017) and 'Yeomanry Regiments of Great Britain and the Colonies' (2018). They are both held at the British Library.

He sent a photo of School 2nd XI in 1954 and recalled a number of the names. Further emails established the full list which is now on the SOF website/

Mike added "TV has provided good entertainment, and now we have the women's Ashes which in my view, is more entertaining than the recent men's. I hope Nadal wins the Australian Open tonight so that he goes one ahead of Djokovic who, with any luck, will be banned from coming here for the next three years!! Whoopee! I also hope our Ash Barty has a win tonight but her opponent is very tough – and Ash has been known to go 'walkabout'.

The following month Mike said that he has seen an episode of Abandoned Engineering on TV the other evening. "*It featured an abandoned air force station located at Rendlesham Forest called RAF Bentwaters. I'm sure this is nothing new to you but following our previous discussions about air force bases in Suffolk I thought it might be of interest. It was built during the war and later became a USAF base with some top security buildings housing nuclear devices during the Cold War era. I think it is all abandoned now, but I pricked up my ears at the mention of Rendlesham Forest!!*"



In May 2022 Mike emails to say *"I thought you might be interested in this photo taken at Government House, Canberra the week before last. Each year the Order of Australia recipients are invited to a reception at one of the Government Houses around the country, but not often we get the opportunity to visit the Federal Capital."*



In August he sent the following article :

WAR HORSES

Hello Chris, I hope this finds you well and active. The OF News Digest has arrived and it is a nice format with plenty of interesting news. I was glad to see my mate Chris Shaw has written another quality publication.

I thought I would mention my interest in Christina Johnston singing the lovely song 'A Million Tears' acknowledging the many warhorses that gave their lives in the Great War effort.

This has been very close to my heart, and some years ago I helped to raise funds for a statue representing the Light Horse to be erected in the nearby town of Kyneton which formed their first Mounted Rifle Corps as early as 1860. I wrote a book 'Kyneton Mounted Rifle Corps' in 2013 with all sales going towards the statue project. In 2014 it was unveiled in front of hundreds of Kyneton residents at which I gave the key-note address, and felt very proud to do so. The statue is representative of a Light Horseman who fought at the Charge of Beersheba in Palestine whereby they had to attack the Turkish trenches with sharpened bayonets because their swords had been left behind at their Cairo depot. They went on to defeat the Turks at Damascus which in effect, led to the end of the Ottoman Empire that had been so dominant since it was established in the year 1300.

My home town Romsey is twinned with the town of the same name in Hampshire and, some years after I wrote the book, their Historical Society found it on the internet – contacted me with some excitement to tell me their own town had been the main focus for training war horses during the Great War, and that Princess Anne had just unveiled their own statue in the centre of town – quite a coincidence. They sent me a copy of their book by Phoebe Merrick 'The Romsey Remount Depot'.

You might wonder why someone like myself with an air force background became so interested in Light Horse history. Well, I cannot answer that – however I did serve with the Framlingham College CCF in the 1950's!!

Here are one of two pictures – the main one showing myself with members of the Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment standing in front of

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the statue after it was unveiled in 2014. The other being the statuette that Chris Shaw and I presented to Fram in 2015

John Gates (S44-48) received the message in October relating to death of **Mike Allport (R54-62)** and sent a message of condolence to Bunny. He noted that *“unfortunately we are all getting older, I have already lost my two younger brothers. I celebrated my 90th on the 26/09/21, and due to not being able to lift my Right Foot have, after having a bad accident in August, decided to STOP driving. I had hoped to have been able to continue for a few more years, but should I now hurt/main an innocent person knowing that I had a problem I would not be able to forgive myself.*

I now find it necessary to carry a walking stick at all times , having had a few falls over the past couple of years. I have a walker but will not use it until I absolutely have too, as once you come to rely on a walker there is no going back.”

Running up to Christmas he was in touch with the following *“A great deal has happened to me since we last corresponded, firstly I was in a nursing home car park at Buderim on the Sunshine Coast on the 17th of August, and my foot slipped off the brake onto the accelerator, and my car ran straight into a wall, then I could not get my foot off, put in in reverse, the car spun several times. How I did not kill myself amazes me, luckily I did no damage to any person, nor to parked cars, just to my car of \$9000, then I was unable to get out as my right front door was jammed, and I just had to wait until a male nurse managed to pull my door open. I was terribly shaken up, called Ruth and a Tow Truck operator, both came and my car was towed away. The Nurses at the Nursing Home kindly called my Insurance company and started the claim procedure for me, as I was so shaken up, which by the way lasted for a full 24 hour period.*

Ruth drove me home and we got back onto our Insurance company and got the paper work (electronically) under way. My foot had been doing this on and off for several months and I realized that I should give up driving, a very hard decision to make I can assure you. Had I maimed or killed somebody knowing that I had a problem, it would have been very hard to live with.

My car after about 6-8 weeks was repaired, as parts had to come from Japan (Subaru XV Hatch 2.0i 2012), and was just like new. So I said to Sarah our younger daughter please sell it on the Internet, as I was not capable, and you can keep the proceeds, which she did after 5 days, she obtained A\$18,000 for it, so was quite happy.

I then decided I would buy a 4 wheel Scooter (see attachment) I have named it the Silver Bullet. It has headlights front and rear, wing mirrors, indicators, a walking stick holder, a carrier bag on the back, a basket on the front, the seat swivels both to the left & right making it easy to get on and off, it has a top speed of just over 10kph.



I can get into all the big stores, drive up and down the aisles, into the P. Office etc, it is just great. It is registered and comprehensively insured, mainly because I wanted the Liability cover. It is not the fact that I might bump into an old lady, rather to cover me from the " Bl...fools who walk just looking at their phones all the time and could walk straight into me.

I have had my scooter for just over 7 weeks now and have driven over 120 klms so far, the longest run being 11 klms. It is supposed to go for 35 klms depending on gradient and road surface, but would not want to risk more than 20 klms I think before recharging. I put it on recharge over night after using it. I am so pleased I have got it, Ruth still quite capable of driving age 91.

I have engaged a firm " Beyond Transfer " to take me to my Gym 4 days a week, when finished I text Ruth and picks me up and brings me home, long may it last !!.

My legs are a real problem now, walking is very difficult and necessitates a walking stick at all times, but an hour or more at my gym 4 days a week is keeping me going.

We are going to Brisbane on the 23rd, staying at an apartment hotel, and Sarah or granddaughter Lauren will pick us up daily and take us to Sarah's town house where we will stay during the days and will spend Christmas Day with Sarah & Partner Sean, Seans 2 offspring who must be around 20, his Mother Julia & Father Reg and Lauren and Aiden, a full house, we will come home on the 27th.

I have also looked at the overseas Bag tentatively, and will go back to it again later, you have been and still are a very efficient Editor.

This virus is not going to just disappear I am afraid, we are back to wearing Masks whilst in stores etc, this makes my life so much harder as I have great difficulty in hearing at the best of times, and with Masks on it is impossible.

Have a great Christmas Chris with your extended family, and a safe New Year in 2022, even I will be 91 next September, but my Cardiologist said to me last Thursday I will see you on the 13th of December

2022, so he must think I will be OK.”

More recently in September 2022, John said that he had enjoyed reading the OF digest via email and provided the following update *“On my front it has been & still is a very difficult time, with one complaint coming after another, firstly I had a stint in hospital in Feb of 15 days with Cellulitis in my R.leg which unfortunately keeps coming back, and recently developed into large blisters, one has cleared but the other is still bleeding. Then last week I broke a tooth, now needing a dental Specialist, as it sheared off at the base, and when it is extracted, I think a hospital situation, just one day and a Gen Anesthetic will be required, as I don't think I could cope with a difficult extraction in his Surgery,*

We have just returned from staying at another luxury resort at Spicer's at Grandchester about 1 hrs 20 minutes West of Brisbane, having taken Sarah our daughter & Partner Sean, Lauren granddaughter & partner Aiden, and ourselves, just 3 nights but very expensive. It certainly was not as good as our previous Spicer's experience, but the highlight was that Aiden and Lauren announced their engagement.

I now have to wear compression stocking, brings back memories of blue business shorts and knee high white stockings, which we all wore for business. I now need these as I have a circulation problem in my legs. I am still going to my gym 4 days a week, and in fact have just returned, but Boy! was it hard after a 4 day break. Still I must not complain there are many who do not make it to their 90's.

On 3rd Feb 2023 we will be moving to another Apartment in another building whilst our Lift is being upgraded, so I may not have computer access from the 2nd Feb 2023, for about 6 weeks, so I will keep you informed.

What sad news of Her Majesty's passing, we all knew it would happen, but always a real shock when it does, Ruth cried her eyes out, and could not stop watching everything on TV.”

Colin Lipman (R53-61) reacted to the news from Geoffrey Brown by saying *“I thought I should mention that my son Michael who is now 42 and lives on the Central Coast, also played rugby – Australian under 19 and 20, Bristol, and captained Bath,*

10 caps for England, and then finished his career with the Melbourne Rebels a few years ago. Michael had over 30 concussions during his professional career and now suffering onset Dementia. Michael married Frankie 6 years ago, they have 2 children . Since retiring from the game they have written a book called “ Concussion” which has just been launched in Australia. A story which needs to be told and hopefully the authorities will act on the problems created by contact sports.

Michael and Frankie are currently travelling to the UK – Hopefully to find a publisher, interviews with the press etc – Allan and Unwin, Australian Publisher felt there would not be any interest in the UK – Wrong!

Geoffrey, I left Fram in 1961 when you arrived – Now we can catch up in Australia”

Colin has been in touch for a list of all OFs in NSW and has offered to organise another Sydney OF reunion – watch this space.

Neville Marsh (S53-61) told us about the sad death of **Brett Bailey (K58-65)** and put together the really good obituary. On a different subject he noted that Australia had just pipped England in the Commonwealth Games medal tally!!

He said he enjoyed seeing the photos of the OF London Supper and a mention at the Halford Hewitt!

“As promised, here is the piece on Brett Bailey. It is rather long as there is so much to cover in his very full life. Please use it as you think fit, shortened if necessary.”

Bob Munro (R56-60) provided an update at the end of 2021

“As you say it has been an exceptional year, and by all accounts 2022 may not be that much better. This new strain, Omicron, of the wretched virus seems to be more virile, but less deadly - hopefully it is the vaccinations that have created the 'safer' version of Covid. Who knows?”

I had hoped to be able to contribute something to the O.F. Newsletters this year, but of course lock-downs and local rules and regulations have made travel etc. a frustrating and uncertain thing to do, so nothing exciting on which to report. For example, even today, you need to have had a Negative Covid test less than 72 hours prior to leaving Victoria to go into South Australia. And even if you are FROM South Australia and returning home from interstate, you have to have a negative test result before being allowed back into your home state! And to make matters worse, the Federal Government, and the State and Territory Governments all have their own ideas on how to control the pandemic - so what you can do in one state differs from what you can do in another! And on top of that, there are elections next year in a couple of States, plus a Federal election so the blame game is on in earnest. Complete shemozzle!

For me, it is going to be strange Christmas because my wife, Maria, is currently in hospital in Melbourne (600kms away from Mildura) after having had a pretty serious operation. She probably won't be home much before the New Year, unfortunately. And thanks to Covid I am unable to go to the hospital to visit her!

Good luck with trying to find a replacement for editor of the O'seas Bag. You have done an excellent job over the years and I, for one, am very grateful. There are many of my contemporaries with whom I had completely lost touch, so it is good to hear from some of them through the 'Bag. But it does seem that the current generation have 'other interests', sadly.

Enjoy the festive season and let's hope that we really can have a Happy New Year!”

Then just after Christmas he was in touch to say that Maria was now at home here in Bakogiannis Court, but is being monitored by the Mildura Base Hospital under the "Hospital in the Home" scheme. He was very happy to have her back home!



He went on to say *"The story of her return home is somewhat beyond belief, and in brief this is what happened: Throughout the week prior to Christmas it was believed that Maria would be in hospital for at least a week, possibly two, depending on progress from the operation. But on the eve of Christmas Eve, she was told she would be going home the following day (Christmas Eve)! Great, home for Christmas after all! But it didn't happen, and she was then told it would be on Monday (today) that she would be able to come home.*

BUT on Christmas Day at just after 2pm, Maria was put into a Taxi (!!!) and driven the 600+klms (375 miles) from the Austin Hospital in Melbourne to Mildura. She could not have been more uncomfortable for the 7 hours or so it took to arrive home finally at 10.20pm. After a 5 hour operation on Dec. 14th followed by a day in Recovery, then two days in ICU after a pretty serious operation (gall bladder removal and part of the pancreas) I could not believe that a long taxi trip was even considered.

Anyway, all's well that ends well and we are hoping that now she is back in familiar surroundings her recuperation will start to improve."

I was next in touch with Bob in January after they suffered some bad storms. He writes *"Thank you Chris. for your concern over the severe storm we had on Wednesday night. For us in Mildura, after a hot and very humid day the lightning show began at around 9pm, accompanied of course with some very loud, and at times very close, thunderclaps. Maria and I had to be up early on Thursday morning as we had to drive to Bendigo for a PET Scan for Maria. After all the rain I anticipated some minor flooding and uprooted trees along the way; and we had been in the car less than 10 minutes when we came across our first diversion (between Irymple and Red Cliffs)! However, as it happened that was the one and only time we had to divert - from Red Cliffs onward all the way to Bendigo there was little evidence of even modest rainfall, and in places it was completely dry!! And on the return journey we were lucky because apparently the wind and rain followed behind us most of the way back to Mildura. A friend who had also been in Bendigo left B. a couple of hours later than us, and had to contend with high winds, heavy rain and a couple of uprooted trees in the road. The following day, Friday, I checked for weather damage and found that the water had run through the shed (but otherwise undamaged) and one of our 'good' flower pots had blown over and was smashed. But all-in-all we were lucky.*

The reason we had to go to Bendigo for Maria's PET Scan was that the original one done at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne in December was 'unavailable' (ie. lost?), but the Cardiologist needed to have the information. So not only did the PET Scan have to be re-done, but also the CAT Scan and some Blood tests as well. And this coming week there is to be an Echo-cardiogram in Mildura, a trip to the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne for a Bone Marrow Biopsy and some further Blood tests also in Mildura!!! And so it goes on.

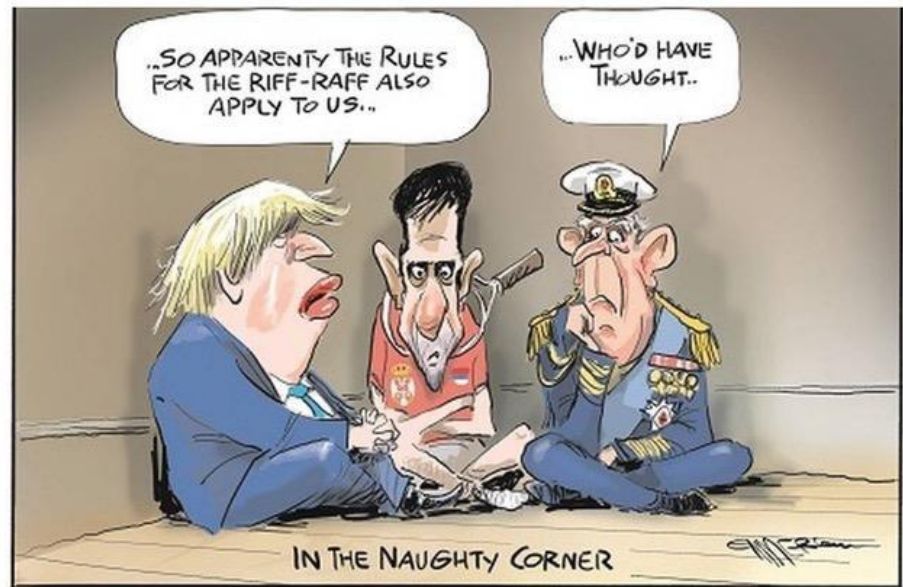
Like you chaps, I was so glad that Djokovic was given his marching orders. And at the end of the day, the whole saga could have been prevented completely with just two little pricks in the arm! Serves him jolly well right if he now never gets to be the best ever."

Bob sent the following amusing cartoon he had seen in Australia – feature a PM, a Tennis Player and a former HRH !

Simon Narrowway (G72-75)

provided the following update in November 2021 “Good to hear from you. Yes, grandchildren can be exhausting. I have 4 grandsons although two live in HK and I have not seen them for 2 years due to Covid travel

restrictions. My daughter, Lisa, has 2 and lives a few mile away. We help out during the occasional weekend although not mid-week as Yoko is working full-time in disability care.



Yes, we all lose a few family members, ex-colleagues and friends every year. Last year was tough for me with 28 names on my departed list. This year is relatively quiet so far although both of Yoko's parents died within a few weeks of each other about 3 months ago. 57 is far too young. Touch wood our health appears sound with no major ailments to date.

Good to hear about Eryl's dad. I remember his smiling face well. Yes, we did similar last weekend and had a family 'staycation' in the Blue Mountains. About 12 of us - lots of fun.

There is no mandatory retirement age here for most jobs. Age discrimination is illegal for the vast majority of roles. Many workers continue well into their 70's or transition to part-time work. However, I did decide to 'pull up stumps' about a month ago. I could have continued for a few more years but the 'pull/enjoyment factor' was dissipating, not helped by a couple of new senior muppets who were definitely not my 'cup of tea'. On balance, I greatly enjoyed my 6 years. The past two years were challenging with most white collar workers having to work from home. For me, each day was a series of video conference calls. As you may know, we had quite strict 'stay at home' rules that are only now being relaxed and only for those who are double-vaccinated. The guidance changes almost daily and is determined State by State. However, it appears that the un-vaccinated may continued to be debarred from restaurants, theatres etc until we reach a 95% double-double-Vax rate. Very annoying as the State Government keeps shifting the goal posts from 80% to 85%, 90% and now 95%. Also, whilst the government has no legislative power in this area, many employers are now imposing mandatory tax requirements. Many employees are losing their jobs as they are refusing to be vaccinated including a segment of hero's like doctors, nurses and many others.

I'm adjusting slowly and will end up with a mix of part-time interests as well as 'my time'. For example, I'm helping out in the forthcoming NSW council elections. Keeps my mentally engaged and pays about \$500 per day so will cover my wine bill. Also, I walk a few dogs as it aligns well to my daily walk

schedule. I may even do some casual work in the local bookshop as they need some help. I do my long walks every morning followed by a sweaty session at the local gym. Also, my social life is still robust with lunches and dinners. Melbourne Cup day tomorrow (an unofficial national holiday!) and I'm joining one of the EY partners for a long lunch with his team at a delightful pub on Sydney harbour.

Looking forward, Yoko and I have the big 'travel bug' but I expect it will take a year for things to settle down - hopefully they will. I don't wish to leave Australia and find the borders shut behind me as happened to many others, or spend weeks in quarantine as part of a holiday trip. When permissible, I expect our first trip will be to Japan so Yoko can pay her respects properly to her departed parents.

I don't envy you with the Overseas Bag. A few years ago, I helped out as Treasurer for the Parents & Friends Association for my son's school. It was quite a few hours of toil each week and I was glad to pass the baton."

Hugh Richardson (S43-48) in October 2022 had missed out on receiving his OF magazine. He went on to say *"Although I am rapidly moving to my nineties I can assure you that I can still read and am still alive. Would you please put me back on your postage list. Please let me know the necessary monetary contribution. Would you please let me know the email addresses of Richard Husk, Ian Chappell (The Wizard) and master Manthorp. The latter was the son of Berty Manthorp -the best teacher we had in the years after the war. I have the addresses of Richard and Ian but they are probably out of date.*

I am now busy preparing my studio for the Greenwich art show and I am hoping to see David Stammers, who lives in a nearby suburb in Sydney."

Chris Shaw (K50-56) was in touch with **John and Ruth Gates (S44-48)** in November 2021. Chris recalled that they quite enjoyed the Lockdown times since he was writing a book that required much research and concentration, and his wife Rebecca was engaged in a work of art in a large cross-stitch of Henry VIII, which won all the top prizes for needlework at the Cairns Show this year.

He goes on to describe in some detail his book writing *"My book started on April 25th, 2020, when I attended a Dawn Service on Anzac Day and was sufficiently inspired to write a story of a fictitious young man who grew up in Winton, went to Gallipoli and got killed. His mother and father were devastated, naturally, so I wrote their stories. Then I realised that the Kiwis had been there too and wrote some stories for them.*

That was when it got a tad tricky, because there were ten nationalities fighting with the Allied forces at Gallipoli, and historians had recorded the whereabouts of all of them on a day-to-day basis. My main thrust was to tell the stories of the enormous emotional harm done to the mums and dads, friends and relatives when their children were killed and buried in a foreign land, or returned home wounded or broken. The cultural differences a century ago of each nationality also had to be taken into account, so it was a case of 'read three books to write two paragraphs in proper context.

Anyway, I've finished the writing and editing process and am partaking in a Mentoring Book Marketing program that is quite hard going, but I'm getting there. I hope to market a beautiful, leather-bound, WWI-style journal, with a signed and numbered, limited edition at an outrageous price, a significant part

of which will go to helping our veterans deal with their difficulties in re-entering what we call 'normal society.' That's the plan, and it's kept me off the streets for a bit."

He finishes by saying "So, another Christmas, with no snow, no holly and no reindeer, but a whole lot of good cheer. We wish all our friends, OFs and others, a great Christmas season, and an absolutely fabulous, 2022."

Just before Christmas Chris sent further details on his plans for the book saying it will be called "Echoes of Gallipoli: For those left behind." He was planning to market it as a very expensive \$300 presentation, with a leather cover a la WW1-style journal. The leather cover was being sourced from India.

In February he provided an update on his book "I'm at the stage of asking organisations to support the project (Raising money to support veterans) by including some information in their newsletters and Magazines, Returned Services League, British Legion, Veteran Affairs Canada and New Zealand, well, you can but ask. I have had some very supportive reviews of the book, one especially from **Neville Marsh (xx)**, Emeritus Professor, and from Peter Stanley (from Liverpool), Professor of History at UNSW, Canberra."

Neville's review says "These are minor quibbles over a generously written and well-researched volume which brings to life a group of men and women who served at Gallipoli. Overall, the compilation serves as a fitting reminder of the human loss and tragedy of this theatre of war. Chris, in his own words, notes insightfully that the book 'can also be perceived to represent all wars in human history, mirroring all the heartache that is buried in lifelong grief'."

In March 2022 we exchanged thought on the death of "Warnie" at the age of 52 and the crisis emerging in Ukraine. He subsequently said "Apart from most of Eastern Australia being underwater from torrential rain, and I have to say that some of the figures are a tad heroic, we have got a week of temperatures above 36C, (hovering around 100F in your money), which is a tad OTT even for us. Glad of the solar panels on the roof to supplement all the power for our air-conditioners. Masks came off today, which is timely since we are having dinner with my son, Shean, and his family this evening. The pace of marketing my book is increasing exponentially, and we have received the 500 WW1-style leather covers for the book, which I am yet to receive. I recall a supportive phrase from the '60's': "It'll be alright on the night!"

In May they were both in the throes of a 'lurgy' that had isolated them, turned them inside out, and completely removed their appetite. "Two boiled eggs in 5 days does not a sustainable diet, make. It's a hell of a weight loss programme! But we are coming good, and it has given me much time for contemplation, as did 'Lockdown.'"



The Book will be one of those long term promotions, that may never end. I recently did an ABC radio interview, which you can find on my website: www.chrisshawauthor.com then tick the MEDIA page. We had a burst of activity after that, which was good. But I'm afraid this project has started to overwhelm me, as after 2 years of 24/7 living with it, it has made Jack a dull boy, and I need to get out and go fishing, or something. Clear the mind. We've got a program for that!"

In July Chris sent the following promotional material for this new book, which I include in full below.

The Story of writing "Echoes of Gallipoli: For those left behind"

I love telling stories and I've yet to meet an audience who doesn't love listening to stories. This story begins with me in the middle of WW2 in nappies! That possibly needs a little explanation, and that is the art of British understatement! I was born on the east coast of England in January 1939 when there was a "Madman with a Plan" on the loose and ravaging Europe.

With his help, some of the first words I learned to say were, 'Messerschmitt', 'Heinkel', 'bomb', 'siren', and 'Doodlebug'. Little did I think that at the end of my life, there would be another "Madman with a Plan" on the loose and ravaging Ukraine. This story is the short version of the journey of my writing a book called,

"Echoes of Gallipoli: For those left behind", and it began like this.

On April 25th, 2020, I attended an Anzac Day Dawn Service, (Remembrance Day equivalent representing the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps), in our little village. It was sufficiently inspiring for me to want to write a story about a young Australian going to war. So, I created Patrick Jackson who lived with his parents in Winton in rural Queensland. I had him going off to WW1 with a couple of mates, being sent to Gallipoli, and being killed there. A sound enough story, so I set it on one side and moved on.

It wasn't until August 2020 that I realized his parents would have been devastated by their loss, and I wrote their stories too, as well as that of a Kiwi family. At that point, I came up against two major barriers in my writing. One was the known and precise military history of the Gallipoli campaign, (that's, 'who' was where and when, and doing what). The other was the cultural context of the ten nationalities who joined in the Allied forces a century ago. These included the Aussies and the Kiwis, the English, Welsh, Scots, and Irish, the French, the Canadians, Indians, and Jews. So, if I didn't get both military and cultural frameworks right, then my stories would be frivolous and have no credibility. It took 18 months of hard slog researching to get my stories into a proper background where they would, hopefully, stand up to scrutiny. I so nearly gave up, but the calls for recognition from the Mums and Dads 'left behind' were loud.

You will see what I mean if I were to ask you to write a story of a Mum, Dad, and their son living in St. Johns, Newfoundland, in Canada in 1915. You don't know the feelings they had when their son left for war, how they made a living, what they did for the war effort, nor what their reactions were when their son was reported killed. Each fictional story had to fit into their prevailing culture with all those questions, and more, answered.

So, I wrote my book of 25 stories of shattered bodies, minds, and emotions. Then came the publishing and presentation, and many more decisions. You will know that the prevailing trend is e-books on Kindle, or paperback books. You sell 300-400 and consider that a success.

I was surfing for WWI information on the net when I came across a picture of a leather WWI journal that was secured with a leather thong. A lightbulb went off in my head and gave me an idea that I 'purloined' from those high-end art galleries who sell limited edition prints. Some Indian artisans in Jaipur made me 500 such leather covers with the gold embossed title, and Ocean Reeve Publishing in Brisbane made me hard-cover books with the same, gold-embossed title, and a sequential number out of a thousand on the back cover. There was a page for the book's number and date, the recipient's name, and my signature in this limited edition of just 1000. This beautiful presentation would allow me to charge enough to donate some funds to our veterans still in need, on behalf of the purchasers. Many of those purchased were given as gifts, and others were bought to keep as a family heirloom.

Please visit, www.chrisshawauthor.com for more information about this book, and what some nice people had to say about it, and other work I have done and had published over the last twenty years or so.

During August I was in the unusual position of saying to Chris that we in the UK were hotter than him and Rebecca in Cairns in the Tropics! His response was " 'My Lord, I fear the Lady doth protest too much!' Yes, Chris, we kid ourselves we are 'doing it tough by living in the tropics' when we live in Air-conditioned houses, drive a/c cars to a/c shops. Ours is set to 25C but doesn't go on unless the temp gets over 30C. There are potential conflicts in our family in that Rebecca is a temperate girl, and anything much over 25C has her 'swooning' and for me, anything under 25C has me shivering. So, life's a compromise. We also gather there is a lack of rain. This brings Aussies up short. Here in Cairns, our rainy season finishes in March/April. There may be a small shower or two in July, just enough to upset the setting of the mango fruit. The next rain comes in November, by which time, there are thunderstorms and the daily potential for cyclones on the horizon, harbouring the threat of a metre or two of rain. You Brits are more interested in getting lots of 'drizzle' keeping the grass green at all times. So, now is the time to do aerial surveys for all those patterns for archaeologist to start digging yet more Roman villas and Iron Age forts! 'Never let a chance go by!'"

September was of course overshadowed by the sad death of HM The Queen. Chris's thoughts were "I have to admit to becoming quite teary when I heard the news, and surprisingly, my best mate who lives on the Gold Coast rang me to share his sorrow, and he's as 'ocker' as they get. (Means 'dinki-di, fair-dinkum Australian! And that means shorts, thongs, Tee-shirt and Akubra hat, and at least third generation.) Strange to have such a hierarchy among convicts! I send everyone our best from Oz and I shall return to saying, 'God save the King'"

Finally at the end of September we shared concerned for OFs and others living in Florida when Hurricane Ian hit. Chris and I contacted former OB Editor **Richard Rowe (S65-74)** who lived in Fort Myers which bore the brunt of the storm and you can read his response further down. Chris noted that an 8 foot storm surge would say "Goodbye" to most of Cairns! Fortunately his son has a big house at about the highest point of building in the suburbs and they can go there.

FRANCE

Brian Rosen (S40-46) sent an update just after Christmas 2021 *“Our daughter Sarah was the only one of the family to spend Christmas with us. However number two son Simon, who you know, spent a few days with us before Christmas on his way to and from an advanced snowboard course at Tignes. It seems that some of the arrangements were carried out by Peak Feelings - he did not realise that **Nikki White (V91-98)** is an OF. In fact Simon knows Tignes pretty well having worked on the lifts there for a season about 1974. Now of course French ski slopes are out of bounds, like the rest of France, to British tourists (who represent 25% of the skiers). Another challenge for Nikki. At this moment we have no idea whether the situation will get better or worse! So happy new year to you and yours and let us hope for peaceful 2022.”*

HONG KONG

For the first time ever I heard from no one still in Hong Kong although I have seen and met up with **Ian Howard (S57-62)** who has been over in the UK/France for the last couple of years and had written and printed his own autobiography. Our thoughts are with all OFs still based in HK.

NEW ZEALAND

David Newson (S54-63) informed us of a new email address in February 2022 and provided the following update *“Frances and I are fully vaccinated and have managed to escape the virus so far – NZ has got off very lightly compared with the UK and other countries. We are heading into our omicron outbreak – about 200 new cases a day nationally – very few in Taranaki. At the moment we are getting protests by the anti vaccination groups – similar to Canada. We have had 53 deaths so far attributed to Covid over the last two years – we have been very lucky.*

We had a busy Christmas and New Year as usual – plenty of visitors and barbecues. I keep busy with my music and looking after Frances, who is very good at keeping contact with our eight children and seventeen grandchildren! Travel has not been an option the last two years – however that could change this year.”

The Wizard of NZ aka Ian Brackenbury Channell (42-45) sent something to bring some Christmas spirit to Old Framlinghamians. It was an article about him in the Otago Daily Times and I repeat it below in full :

Does Dunedin need its own wizard, asks Joss Miller (a retired Dunedin lawyer)

The Christchurch City Council recently terminated its contract with the Wizard of Christchurch, to take effect in December this year.

For more than 20 years Ian Brackenbury Channell QSM has been on its payroll receiving an annual salary of \$16,000.00, the job expectation being that the wizard “provide acts of wizardry for the city and other wizardry like services” for at least one hour a day.

The wizard was not required to provide the employer with a weekly time sheet and being public spirited and conscientious, his daily activities would invariably exceed that guideline.

Prior to the earthquakes the wizard made regular appearances in Cathedral Square but latterly is often seen at the Christchurch Arts Centre, standing out in his wizard's attire and impressive beard.

Ian Brackenbury Channell came to New Zealand from Australia in the 1970s and was performing wizardry in Christchurch long before the council contract.

In fact the wizard's popularity was noted in 1990 by the then Prime Minister Mike Moore, who asked if he would consider becoming the wizard of New Zealand.

It appears that offer was accepted and the Christchurch wizard also became the Wizard of New Zealand. This would seem somewhat honorary given the wizard's energies and parochial affiliations have always been powerfully linked to Christchurch.

Through rain, hail, earthquakes and other calamities the Wizard of Christchurch has stood resolute casting spells on the forces of evil, bringing calm and comfort to its citizens.

In cutting him adrift the Christchurch council has stated that "He no longer fits the image of the city". This despite the wizard being a major force and proponent for the cathedral rebuild and retention of historic buildings as well as his continuing acts of wizardry.

Wizards of course are not infallible. A few years ago the Canterbury rugby team unexpectedly lost the Ranfurly Shield despite the wizard casting a winning spell prior to kick-off. His further exhortations during the game failed to turn the tide.

The team and Cantabrians were devastated. So too the wizard who felt his powers had failed him. He quietly headed south for a time to the tranquillity of Oamaru, where he was able to contemplate and rejuvenate. But Christchurch soon beckoned again.

The wizard has made it clear. He will not go quietly into the night and has every intention of continuing to wave the wand in his beloved city.

There is a golden opportunity at this point for Dunedin to step up and embrace its own wizard.

Imagine the Wizard of Dunedin! Children would flock in their hundreds. An instant and new tourist attraction. Pre-match spells could be cast at Forsyth Barr Stadium.

Apart from regular appearances in the Octagon, the wizard could provide some light relief with the planned George St revamp and in waving a magic wand of optimism over the new hospital rebuild. This can only help add to Dunedin's status as a Unesco City of Literature.

After all, wizards reputedly originated in Middle Earth with New Zealand having a natural affinity through the Lord of the Rings film series based on the fantasy novel by JRR Tolkien. Although complex,

wizards are also capable of affection such as displayed by Gandalf towards the hobbits and in exhibiting that rare quality called wisdom.

In this Covid world some lightness and brightness is more important than ever. Come on Dunedin. Let Christchurch's loss be our gain. Let's find a wizard.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mike Bullock (R55-59) provided an update on his family. He had grandsons who are in Bristol and Falmouth and his son has been visiting Bristol near me.

He went on to say *"I wish we did have a place in Brenton on sea, such a beautiful spot and not nearly as busy as Buffels Bay on the opposite side of the bay. I attach a photos from Knysna to make you really envious! We have a place in St Lucia, not a very good beach but excellent for deep sea fishing. See other photo including of 2 humpback whales)"*



He was back in touch again in August *"I have been prompted to give you an update not only by receipt the other day of the OF Digest but also the news that Fram girls are here in Cape Town on an exchange visit.*

We are spending a few days in Cape Town to visit family and see the flowers which are in full bloom up the coast. Our niece arrived yesterday to see us with her daughter who is going on an exchange visit to America. Somehow the conversation got around to girls here at Herschel School on an exchange visit from Framlingham, "I don't suppose you've heard of that school!" Having spent a few years of my life there I almost certainly heard of it. What a small world, and a good reason to write to you. I also believe that there are Fram girls at St Mary's in Johannesburg upon which I will follow up when home.

Since my last update my life has been much of the “same old, same old” routine with activities like wood working and bowls as well as health matters (nothing serious) normally associated with an octogenarian. Yes, in March I turned 80 with a small party and overnight stay in a local boutique hotel with family still on this island. Those in UK joined us for a while on zoom. We are all off to the game reserve later in the year when those who are away are home.”

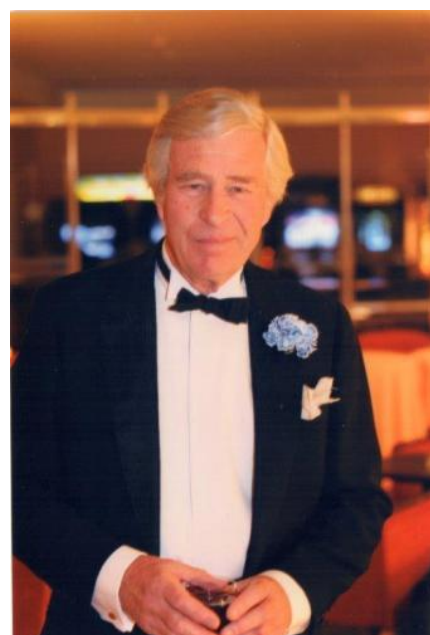
SPAIN

Michael Evans (S45-48) reported that he had a very pleasant Christmas with the family in RYE plus New Year. Now back in London prior to spending my 91st on the 17th at Blakeney Point. I shall be returning to Palma at the end of the month. He spoke to **Ian Foster (K46-53)** before he left in October, saying he had been troubled by arthritis in recent times.

Ian Foster (K46-53) wrote his autobiography during lockdown and the Majorcan Daily Bulletin provided the following synopsis of his interesting life *“Ian Foster, who now lives in Alcanada near Alcudia, admits that he was never a “scholar” at school and that writing was far from his strong point. His efforts and energy were best served on the playing fields. He excelled in a host of sports and was picked for the British Olympic hockey team in 1964, but his then employers had other ideas and told him to get back to work.*

After completing his education at Framlingham College, Ian embarked on his National Service and volunteered for operational duty with the Dorset Regiment in North Korea - where he spent two years on active service.

Having been born in London during the Blitz, he and his family did quite a bit of moving around, depending on the situation. But once Ian had completed his National Service in 1952, he decided to join the City and spent 25 years with Galbraiths, one of the longest established and most respected shipbroking houses in the world and a member of the Baltic Exchange.



When he retired he was the managing director, but was not one for putting his feet up or for playing golf - he still does not despite living next to one of the most spectacular courses on the island.

“I would not say I am an expert mariner, but I have enjoyed sailing, owned a few yachts and boats over the years. But there comes a time when it either becomes too expensive to maintain a yacht or involves too much time. And we’ve seen that in the nautical industry during the pandemic.

“There are those who have bought a vessel looking for greater privacy and isolation and many more who have opted to charter a vessel, specially here in the Balearics, which I fully understand, having been living here for so many years. We absolutely love the place, so I can see why many others do, although it’s not as cheap as it was for some people.”

Ian first arrived in the Balearics in 1988 in Minorca. “An old friend of mine was trying to develop what was a small natural marina called Addaia just outside Mahon. I decided to help with the investment and what turned out to be the logistics and nearly completing the entire project. When I arrived, there were moorings for around six llaiüts. When I left, we had some 60-plus vessels in the marina and most of them belonged to Britons. But the owner of the marina, who was from Madrid, was not the easiest of people to work with, so I decided to call it a day and let him get on with it. It was hard work I have to admit.

“We then came to Mallorca and I got involved with helping to develop Alcudiamar. First things first, and that was sorting out the toilets and getting some showers built. But unlike Minorca, nothing was a problem, and I was advised to set myself up in a little office nearby. I acted as a consultant on the development of the marina while also promoting the new venture in the UK at events like the London Boat Show for the Spanish Tourist Board and similar trade fairs around the country.

“Everybody involved in the project was so excited, determined and easy to work with, it was a joy and a pleasure to have been part of. And anyone who knows Alcudiamar will see how far it has grown into a first-class marina in a spectacular location. The difference is that Alcudiamar is more of an owners’ destination than a charter port.

“We are so lucky in the north east of Mallorca. We’ve got Alcudiamar, which many Britons have fallen in love with over the years and have their boats moored there, while just down the road we have Puerto Pollensa, another world-class marina which is more of a charter base. So we’ve got it all up here. It’s a nautical paradise, much like the rest of the Balearics. The only trouble now is the lack of moorings, the reluctance to build new ones and the cost of the 25-year leases. But I’m no longer involved in all that.

“I was once. As the local representative for the Cruise Club in the UK and the Little Ship Club, some 6,000 members in total, I am still the first port of call for any members coming to sail in Mallorca who need some help and advice, but that’s about it. I’ve now become a writer, believe it or not.

*“Having always been up to something, my wife was curious to see how I was going to fill my days during lockdown. So, I decided to write my memoirs, for the family really. But I thought it would be fun and the book was entitled *More By Luck Than Judgement*.*

“Then it transpired that the history of Galbraiths was being written. There was a period of time which was missing and only I could fill, which I did. The result was a very extensive history of the company founded in 1845.

“My lovely wife’s next question was ‘what are you going to do now’? I had always had a fascination with the Victorian era and the Industrial Revolution. It was an era during which the UK was very much at the forefront of global industry, not to mention what was invented in the UK during the era and the wonderful buildings which were constructed. It was an era Britons should be extremely proud of. We were shipping cotton to the United States, which was locked in Civil War, or building ships in some of the greatest shipyards in the world.

*“I decided to put pen to paper again and write *The Silver Spoon*, a fictional story about a family from Glasgow which begins in 1863 and goes right through to the 1960s.*

"It charts the family's success and how part of the family end up running a vineyard in Zaragoza. This was after one of the members signed up to fight in the Spanish Civil War and was later called up in the Second World War to help the resistance because of his language skills learnt while in Spain. Their sons eventually return to the UK. One helps the local community get back on its feet in Glasgow and, as a surgeon, attends to the most needy and sick. The other is in property development in London to keep the family's good financial fortunes in good order.

"The thread of the novel is how the family, more fortunate than many through the generations, was committed to giving something back to those who had either helped them along the way or those who need help.

"In London, after the war, so many buildings needed to be repaired and restored, while there were vast empty plots as a result of the bombings into which the family moved to develop car parks for the growing city.

"The idea came from having had a very exciting life, travelling all over the world and, at the same time, building a trout farm as well as a sheep farm. Finally, we moved to Mallorca which is now very much home. We have family on the island and I am extremely fortunate to have my darling wife Tessa always spurring me on to do things - remember I am a Second World War baby.

"My fictional tale has been created from many personal experiences and is about people who I have always admired in the Victorian era and to whom we all owe so much for their hard work and creativity.

"How my writing creativity stands up, only time will tell. In the meantime I am also a member of the Grumpy Old Man's Club, which meets once a month at Ca'n Barry in Santa Maria to reminisce about the old days I guess. It's great fun and we have some great characters who come along.

"There's never a dull moment in Mallorca, and that's why my wife and I love the island and its people. I could not have found a better port to have dropped anchor."

I have read his book and it is an excellent read.

THAILAND

Michael Regan (M77-79) sent a happy Chinese New Year to everybody. The year of the TIGER. He went on to say "Covids has put an end to a lot. No tourists. Sand box. Bars have been closed for everyone for nearly two years. People can buy beer and whiskey from supermarkets but that's it. Thailand is getting more and more xenophobic by the day.

There is now a direct rail link from Laos to China. Bringing more Chinese items into Thailand also cheap vegetables. Thai farmers cannot compete. There is a free trade agreement that is now heavily one sided. The protests have died down due to many of the ring leaders languishing in prison.

No tourists means no hotel/restaurant/resort bookings. Many of my old hotel management students are at home planting vegetables and even doing foot massage. It's so sad to hear a front office manager in a five

star hotel in Bangkok having to resort to doing foot massage for a living. It really hurts when you see the huge hotels Kampinski, Hyatt, Hilton, Mandarin with no lights on at night. Just dark monoliths. Everyone is praying for this year to be better. But Chinese new year without any Chinese tourists as China is not allowing it's nationals to leave the country.

USA

Tim Grace (G64-70) got in touch to register on the SOF website. He said "*The only OF's I'm in touch with are **Ian Lillie (K63-70)** who lives in Jersey (after many years in the middle-east), and **Tim Atkinson (G63-69)** who lives in Woodbridge, but travels to the USA often. Our Fram era mostly produced a bunch of wasters; it was all sex, drugs and rock and roll – and very anti-establishment...! You mentioned that there were four other OF's in Colorado; how can I find them??*

I can send an update of what I've been up to for whenever your next deadline is. My unplanned but terrific life itinerary has taken me from London, to Sydney, to the Cayman Islands, to Miami and now to Evergreen, Colorado.

We're at 7,500 ft elevation, which is almost a half-mile higher than Denver, so altitude sickness does come into play if you're not used to it... We're blessed with elk, deer, bear, bobcats, mountain lions, etc... Here's some pics to give you an idea:

We get 103 inches of snow and 268 days of sunshine



Bull in side yard, October (700+ pounds):



Back yard, Mums and babies.
July:



Downtown traffic jam, the only congestion we get:



As Tim had now registered in the website I was able to tell him who the OFs living in Colorado were and said that it would be great if he wanted to try and get them together for an OF reunion. Tim said that he would reach out to the others and see if they can get a Colorado reunion going.

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) on 19 November 2021 celebrated his 90th birthday *"Thank you, Chris. Also had a very long E mail from Nick (Carlton (G63-70)) who is back in Australia but now cannot leave due to Covid. He is very frustrated with the way the country."*

He sent the following to Nick at the same time *"Thanks so much for the long E mail and the good wishes, seems funny to now being a nonagenarian (is there such a word ?!) and feeling no different than I did when we last sailed together, apart from a twinge in my left knee. Speaking of sailing, I have very optimistically booked us on a cruise from HNL to AKL on October 2nd 2022, on the Royal. Got a pretty good rate as Interline pax. We have been to Auckland at least six times, on Cunard, Princess, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity, so won't stay overnight but take the first flight out to HNL."*

Again, Nick, thanks for the birthday wishes , and Celestine and I hope that you, Raquel and James will have a truly great Christmas despite the current hysteria over Covid 19, otherwise known here as the Xi Flu !”

On Christmas Day he sent seasonal greetings and said that he had mislaid **John Gates's (S44-48)** email address (again).

In January 2022 he updated Nick to say *“I may have told you that, very optimistically, I have put a deposit on a cruise on the Royal, boarding here in HNL to AKL, leaving October 2nd. We are both well and keeping busy, particularly Celestine who has her craft fairs and hula lessons, plus the garden to fill her days. I am basically retired but there still don't seem, to be enough hours in the day for my projects, how I managed to work 8-10 hours a day and still have time for everything else amazes me.”*

In March 2022 he had just received word from Princess that the cruise they had booked for October 2nd, boarding here in Honolulu to Auckland has been cancelled *“To say that I'm disappointed is putting mildly, this the second cruise that we've missed, the first being from Southampton to Ft Lauderdale last November, which I cancelled after they changed the itinerary and shortened the cruise.*

It all started when Princess announced that the stop at Bora Bora was cancelled due to the French Covid 19 precautions, banning large cruise ships, which didn't bother us as, having lived in Tahiti for many years, we were very familiar with Bora Bora, which we call Boring Boring as there is virtually nothing to do there after visiting Bloody Mary's ! This was to be replaced by an extra sea day, which delighted me.

Anyway that is all academic now and, at 91 in November, that was probably the last hurrah for cruising for me, the main attraction of this cruise on the Royal was the fact that it boarded here, obviating the need for a long flight to join the ship.

Celestine is off to Tahiti next Saturday for a week, she may or may not go to Moorea.”

Richard Rowe (S65-74) was in my thoughts in September as Hurricane Ian hit Florida with Fort Myer worst affected. I knew Richard's home was there and he had 2 holiday apartments in lovely Fort Myers Beach we had been lucky enough to stay at in the past with our family.

He sent the following initial response before this OB was finalised *“Thanks for the kind thoughts. We evacuated to West Palm and may stay one more night as there is no access to the Beach while the authorities do the initial search and clean up.*

I have no news on individual condos; but all the tall concrete condominium buildings appear to have withstood the impact of the storm. Whether any individual condo is trashed inside, I don't know. (I know the magnetic switch on my 131 front lanai sliders popped open early in the storm; so I am preparing for the worst for my first floor unit). Video taken from Dolphin Watch at 538 Estero shows that the smaller older wood frame beach front cottages have completely gone. In an interview with town councilman Dan Allers on Beach Talk Radio. He said that today (Thursday) the National Guard, Coast Guard and Fire Department will be moving throughout the island looking for people that are stranded and/or need help. He was not able to say when they will allow home and business owners back onto the island but at this time there is no access. He did say that the road from the bridge to the north of the island is currently

unpassable because of debris. The Times Square area and the Pier are mostly gone. He did also say that at this time the water has mostly receded which will allow for the clean-up to begin

There are a lot of unconfirmed reports of damage including that part of Sanibel Causeway washed away; so there is no longer any direct connection to the Sanibel.

My own home near the river at Cypress Lake and McGregor appears to have survived the storm with possibly about an inch of flooding across the floor. This will take a long time to get back to normal."

In a further update just before finalising OB he said the following and our thoughts are with him and his family "Thank you to all our friends and family for your kind thoughts and messages. Our family evacuated to a safe hotel for 3 nights. We are heading home but to no power or communication - but hopefully it will be restored soon. It seems our house has been reasonably spared compared to many with missing tiles, water damage to floors, etc. but we will need to do a full review when we get home. But we are alive and well which is the main thing. I apologize if I haven't answered some of you directly; but I am getting a lot of communication from friends and business interests; while at the same time trying to move forward with resolving a lot of other issues. I thank you all for your kindness and patience in these difficult times.

Unfortunately we went through this process 18 years ago with Hurricane Charlie in August 2004. So it will take time to gather information and respond to everyone. Best Wishes Richard & Denise"

Further update once he got to his house "Have a great trip. Sounds like a lot of fun. We have power but still working on hotspots as no wifi - supposedly get that in about 3-4 days. Our house is habitable - though our fridge/freezer failed - so now awaiting a new fridge in 2-days. That means we are having giant cookouts of everything from the freezer but limited space to store left-overs.

The biggest issue will be our condos on Fort Myers Beach. Currently we have no access while the authorities continue the search for bodies. But making plans for recovery."