

Overseas Bag

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An interesting Bag with some amusing letters. Less countries than usual but with some new as well as regular contributors. I particularly enjoy receiving contact from new contributors – both from some of our younger SOF as well as from SOF who have not had contact for many years. But then I always enjoy the messages from the many friends that I have built up over my few years as OB Editor – so keep the mail coming so as to keep the Bag full!!

RMR

Australia

Although this letter deals with both Australia and New Zealand, I have put this letter here to be first in the Bag. **John Saul's (R49-56)** report on his travels during January 2001:

“My wife and I both love travelling to new countries, and although we have been to both Australia and New Zealand before, we were determined to visit each again. I also wanted to visit some of the OFs who had continued to exchange letters with my Father long after he gave up editing the Overseas Bag in 1988.

So we left Harrold early one cold Wednesday morning in January with the thermometer by our front door showing -5°C, and 2 days later we were walking the streets of Melbourne in a temperature of 36°C! The heat restricted the amount of sightseeing we were able to do, but we did manage a tour of the Melbourne Cricket Ground where I briefly shared the turf with the Australian one-day squad.

On the Saturday evening, we were invited to a Melbourne OF Supper (see Supper Reports). The next day, Sunday, it being only 32°C, Jean and I took a train out to the Dandenong ranges for a walk amongst stands of magnificent gum trees. Then on Monday we flew to Christchurch for 22 days in New Zealand.

Our first engagement was a drive southwards to Timaru and then on to Waimate next day to spend the day with **Lloyd Kenyon (S26-29)** and his wife Joan. Readers of the Overseas Bag will know that Lloyd has been a loyal and assiduous correspondent for many years, and I am pleased to be able to report that apart from poor eyesight he is in remarkably good health. He told us a lot about his varied life in New Zealand, to which he emigrated immediately after leaving Framlingham in 1929, a decision about which he has absolutely no regrets. But he remains a loyal OF, and produced his OF tie and some memorabilia of his time at Framlingham, including programmes for the 1929 production of 'The Tempest' in which he appeared.



John Saul and Lloyd Kenyon – Jan 2001

We then returned north, pausing briefly in Christchurch to take a surreptitious photograph of 'The Wizard', a.k.a. **Ian Channell (42-45)**, in Cathedral Square, and then continued on a tour which took in Kaikoura (for whale watching), Nelson, the incredibly beautiful Abel Tasman National Park, and the Marlborough Sounds, before crossing over from the South to the North Island. After 2 days in Wellington we continued on to Masterton to visit **Roy Farman (K47-55)** and his wife Sandy.

Roy and I had not seen each other for more than 45 years and did not recognise each other when we first met. However we all hit it off splendidly and we all regretted having to say 'good-bye' the next day. Roy has had a veterinary practice in Masterton for many years, but is now close to putting it on the market with a view to retirement later this year. Some years ago they bought a 10 acre plot a few miles outside town, on which they run a few sheep and cattle, and within the last couple of years have built a very comfortable and well-appointed house on it. They are also developing a large garden and have an established area devoted to native trees. Roy sees **David Juby (K46-54)**, also a vet in New Zealand, from time to time.



John Saul and Roy Farman

We finished our time in New Zealand with 5 days in the Bay of Islands, stopping on the way in Taupo and Auckland. On the way home we stopped off in Singapore for 2 days.

It was interesting to see the changes that have taken place in New Zealand since our last visit in 1988. Then it could have been said that New Zealand was 20 years 'behind the times', but that is no longer true. The climate is generally good, the people are friendly, the population density is low (fewer than 4 million people in an area greater than that of the UK), property - by British standards - is ridiculously cheap, and the food is terrific! The only downsides appear to be the politicians, a high rate of fatal road accidents, and the ever-present risk of earthquakes.

Address: 1 Carlton Road, Harrold, Beds, MK43 7DT.

Peter Risk (R55-60) sent a short message in June:

The weather here is most extraordinary - day after day of glorious sunshine when it should be raining. The farmers are desperate, fingers crossed for a wet July.

In March **Robert Taylor (S43-48)** and his wife, Kathleen, called in for lunch. They were on a bowling tour. We spent a lovely few hours catching up on the Brandeston / Kettleburgh news. Robert also celebrated his 70th birthday here.

We also managed a quick chat with **Neville Marsh (S53-61)** when he was in Perth recently for a conference.

It appears that Lynda will have to go in again and to have a bit more off the tumour, not sure when, maybe before Christmas. At present she is really well and not looking forward to further treatment (*Best wishes – RMR*).

We have decided to completely remodel parts of the garden, when I say we I really mean we both had the idea but I think I know who will do the actual work!! So are we have demolished a pergola and an aviary and are going to replace them with one big shade area. All

the paving is to be redone. Plenty of backache for me. Never mind, have to keep fit.
Address: PO Box 135, Armadale, Western Australia, 6112; bassrisk@ca.com.au

Tom O'Donald (S51-57) made contact in order to re-join the SOF having been out of touch since 1960:

Very many thanks for your prompt reply. I will certainly follow your suggestion and register my details at the SOF web site. As for my own history, after leaving Framlingham in '57, I worked for a very short time in laboratories associated with the dyeing industry (you might say that I dyed for a living) before undertaking my national service. Following this, I entered St. Luke's College in Exeter and trained as a secondary teacher of physics and chemistry. After 8 years teaching in the Harrow region, I emigrated to South Australia where I moved through the ranks of the teaching profession as head of department and then deputy principal, and finally five years working in the education offices before deciding that I was not too excited by all the administrative bureaucracy that went with promotion. I resigned and moved to the tropical North of Australia in Darwin where I taught for a further 6 years. We then moved over to Western Australia where I spent the last ten years of my teaching profession, retiring a couple of years ago. At this point, we returned to South Australia to be close to the family.

From a personal point of view, I am married to an Australian and have five children (4 boys and 1 girl) and, at the latest count, 10 grandchildren. I hope this fills in a few of the gaps; 45 + years seems a hell of a lot to squeeze into 1 email.

Address: 71 Clearwater Crescent, Seaford Rise, S. Australia 5169; tom_o_donald@hotmail.com

Neville Marsh (S53-61) sent a brief message in June on his last day before heading off to the UK and France for 5 weeks study and rec. leave:

"I have sent two photos to James Ruddock of the January 2001 London Supper. When I was over in UK in January (unfortunately to attend a family funeral), I met up with my brothers **Ian (S49-52)** and **Roger (S49-53)** at the Farmers Club; it was a unique occasion have three Marsh's together at an OF reunion. A good time was had by all. In Queensland, I stay in touch with **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** who is fit and well and intend meeting up with he and **John Gates (S44-48)** when I am back in Australia.

Address: 258 Sugars Road, Anstead, Brisbane, Queensland 4070, Australia; n.marsh@qut.edu.au

Mike Garnett (R53-55) reported on a Melbourne Supper (see Supper Reports) and other visitors:

In March we had a visit from two back-packers **Emma Harrold (P90-00)** and **Lizzy Gray (P98-00)** that resulted in another outing - a nice curry in town with David Bonner and myself and also my son Andrew and Clare Garnett, daughter of **Gerald Garnett (R53-55)**. *(Hopefully we will hear a report on their travels from Emma and Lizzy in the next mag – RMR)*

Mid this month we are expecting the arrival of my brother Gerald and family for a visit which will see them travel extensively around Australia.

Address: The Chase, RMB 1175, Romsey, Victoria 3434, Australia; mike.garnett@hotmail.net.au

David Bonner (G62-66) wrote in July:

Mike Garnett has expressed a desire to relinquish the Melbourne OF co-ordinator's role and I have agreed to take it on. Many thanks to Mike for all his efforts. I will certainly continue to keep giving our members the opportunity to get together from time to time.

It was a lovely surprise to see a couple of young lady OFs visit us earlier in the year - no doubt they will have been in contact with you as regards their time downunder (*See Mike Garnett's letter – I hope to hear from them before the next mag – RMR*).

I notice a number of names from my era in the recent copy of the magazine and would be happy to renew contact via the e-mail if they so wish - I have been pleasantly surprised what a good feeling it gives you to have contact with people from your old school after so many years. A visit to Fram is high on my priority list when we next return to UK and hopefully combine it with a visit to one of the branch meetings/ dinners. Thanks for all your hard work in bringing us together from across the miles. I shall be sending a subscription to the OFs just as soon as time permits.

Address: 13 Kolora Crescent, Mount Eliza, Victoria 3930, Australia; tel: (+61) 3 9775 4141;
foodplans@rabbit.com.au

Peter Bartlett (K58-65) sent more news from Perth:

I received an invitation to a display of paintings by **Brett Bailey (K58-65)** in Sydney. Unfortunately, as I live in Perth, I couldn't make it, but I asked one of my daughters who lives in Sydney to visit. Not heard back from her on that yet. Recently started attending a 'Pilates' class at work. The class is run by a young lady called Molly Tipping. It turns out that she is the daughter of **Keith Tipping (G61-65)**, an OF of my vintage. Small world indeed.

And after 6 months, it has finally started to rain with the onset of winter. I got soaked riding to work the other morning, and we are having to turn on the heating in the house at night. It's a hard life but I'm coping!

Work is quiet as we have just had a change of State Government following the last election and the restructure of the various government departments has yet to be finalised. This phenomenon can happen every 4 years.

Address: 13a Nandina Avenue, Mount Claremont, West Australia; tel: (+61) 8 928 47951;
peter.bartlett@health.wa.gov.au

And from **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** and **John Gates (S44-48)** in Queensland:

Peter Bailey & John Gates together with their wives Joyce & Ruth have recently returned from a fly/drive holiday in the Apple Island of Tasmania. They had previously been on a visit to both Norfolk & Lord Howe Islands in 1999! From Brisbane they flew down to Hobart where they spent the first two days exploring the many historical attractions involving the first settlements when the convicts of the period were subjected to much harsh treatment.

Tasmania is well known for its delicious seafood, fruit and wines of which they took full advantage. On the West Coast they spent a couple of days in Strahan where they enjoyed the scenic Gordon river cruise. Finally they returned to Hobart where they attempted to contact **Jim MacBride (S40-43)** without success.

It is also of interest that the Baileys and Gates were joined by **Peter Simpson (K33-40)** and his wife Hetta for the New Year 2000/01 Celebrations in Noosa on the Queensland Sunshine Coast.

In early July, we had an OF gathering timed for when Peter Simpson's brother **John R. Simpson (31-37)** arrived in Australia (See Queensland Supper report). (*Hopefully John Simpson will have a report on all his travels for the next OB – RMR*)

Ruth and John Gates will be going to the U.K. and France in 2002 for about 3 months.
Addresses: Peter Bailey, 3 Seacove Court, Noosaville, Qld 4566.

John Gates, P.O. Box 476, Maroochydore, Qld 4558; johngates@aceconnect.com.au
Peter Simpson, 2 Dirum Court, Noosa Banks, Tewantin Qld 4565.

Simon Narroway (G72-75) sent brief news from Sydney concerning a job change:

I have recently moved from Westpac to an eBusiness start-up company as CEO. The company is called AusMarkets.com and is owned equally by Westpac and three other major Australian banks. In due course, once operational, AusMarkets will provide an online marketplace where banks can distribute a range of financial markets products to large corporations and institutions.

Address: 4A Pindari Avenue, St Ives, NSW 2075, Australia; simon_narroway@hotmail.com;
office tel no: 612 9004 7037.

Canada

Patrick Vincent (R47-51) sent news of his adventures in 2000 having just returned from a trip to UK to visit his 93 year old mother:

We have two daughters, one of whom lives in the Yukon. Last summer I was invited to join Jane and her partner on a canoe trip on the Pelly and Yukon rivers. They brought their 16 month old boy, who is named Pelly, after the river, and managed very well with him. The trip was primarily for teenagers and we had eight teens, five adults and Pelly. We had one larger boat - a replica of a moose skin boat, which was used by the First Nations people to trade on the rivers. It could carry about six people and a huge amount of baggage and was paddled by the crew. Pelly traveled in his car seat in the bow of this boat. We traveled 700 km in 13 days and only passed one small community. The trip finished at Dawson City, the site of the 1898 gold rush.

I have been involved with rowing for several years and in the last few years have taken part in tours in rowing boats. We use boats which are a little wider and more stable than the usual rowing shell. For the last few years we have had a tour on the Rideau canal between Ottawa and Kingston, a distance of about 200 km. Every year FISA, the governing body of international rowing, has a tour to which rowers of the world are invited. In 2002, we are organizing the FISA tour from Ottawa to Kingston in early September. If there any OFs who would be interested in joining us I can provide information.

Address: 1915 Delaney Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5J 2A2; patrick.vincent@sympatico.ca

David Lebbell (K41-46) sends news from his home on Vancouver Island:

We have this week just returned from a 3,000 km trip up to northern BC. This meant driving seven hours to the northern tip of the Vancouver Island to take the 16-hour ferry trip up to Prince Rupert the northernmost port in the province (and named after some dashing cousin of Charles 11)

Scenery absolutely stunning with snow still on the highest peaks. Sun most of the time and daytime temperatures in the mid-teens (centigrade). In addition to some good walks we made stop-offs at Alcan's Kitimat aluminum plant, some hot springs and a restored Gold Rush town called Barkerville. Lots of Brits and Germans traveling too, though of course the distances are so great the highways appear almost empty. Although we have been living in British Columbia for over seven years now we continue to be astounded by the beauty and variety of all

the places we travel.

Address: 3305 Argyle Place, Victoria, British Columbia, V8P 5R8; lebbell@islandnet.com

Brian Mayhew (R46-52) wrote in June:

I retired from Chubb Security Canada almost exactly one year ago and have so far found retirement very easy to get used to. I did go to Singapore in October 2000 as a last project for the company. The occasion was the commissioning of a very large, power operated and automated vault door for an automated cash handling facility for the Singapore monetary system. I had been managing this project for the company before retirement and they asked me to represent them at the startup and shakedown phase. I was there for a week but it turned out to be one of those trips from hell where almost every waking minute was spent at the project so there was no opportunity for any sightseeing or socialising.

Apart from that most of the year was taken up in selling our house in Barrie (where the Chubb factory is located), moving to a new location near Guelph, Ontario and getting settled in. Both our daughters and our two grandchildren live in Guelph which was a big factor in prompting the move. We are now well outside of town in farming country and have a two acre lot so there is lots of scope for my plan to improve my gardening skills as a retirement project.

As it turns out, we had a very severe winter for this part of Ontario, not so much with low temperatures but more snow than I have seen in my 43 years in Canada. It has also been very cool and damp all through spring and even now has yet to really warm up, very unusual for us.

I found out from reading the Spring O.F. Magazine that one of my contemporaries at Fram, **Bernard Bridges (45-54)** was also working for Chubb Security but in the UK. I had heard the name within the company but never connected it with Fram until finding it in the magazine with a Chubb email address.

(Bernard comments: "It is an amazing coincidence about Brian Mayhew - we both worked for the same company for many years but never compared schools! It shows the power of the O.F. magazine! We have been in contact since." Bernard.Bridges@chubbsecurity.co.uk). Address: 3987 Sideroad 25 South, R.R.#2, Puslinch, Ontario, N0B 2J0; mayhew@freespace.net

And some messages from **John Oswell (G60-65)** in February, March and May. John had not seen a mag for some 32 years. John also managed to find some photos for the SOF website (*Thank you – RMR*):

In Feb: All I can say about Canada right now, or at least our part of it, is that it's damn cold and this winter has been a pig! We live about 60 miles north of Toronto which has no snow but where we are down the dirt roads out in the country it's another story - my snow thrower has given up the attempt at trying to blow the stuff over the snow banks at the side of the driveway so the width keeps shrinking. Just had a 1 day thaw - went from -10°C to +8°C in 3 hours stayed positive for 12 hours then put us back in the freezer again, which means you can now literally skate on the drive - it's glare ice. So much for global warming! Somewhere out the back under 8' of snow is a swimming pool - wishful thinking right now! Having said that I'll take my rain in solid form rather than Vancouver's (or England's) liquid variety but I may be ready to be a Canadian snowbird and winter in your neck of the woods along with half the Canadian population! (*It was a cold winter – even Florida touched 0°C for a couple of nights! That's harsh down here! – RMR*)

In March: Congratulations on the addition to the family (*Thank you – RMR*). I have 2, my daughter at McMaster University, Hamilton, ON in her 4th yr Materials Engineering and my

son who is too much like me having dropped out of University of Waterloo Computer Science and wants to do it his way which of course means Dad finds \$s!

In May: Weather has been great 23-26°C for the past week, bit of rain today. When we left the UK (Newcastle area) on 11 April it was 5°C and we landed in Toronto at 25°C. Swimming pool's open and the solar panels have lifted the temp to 72°F so if it keeps up will be swimming in a couple of days.

Last time I visited the College was about 10 years ago and renovations were underway. The old CCF huts were gone - those were good times. It was good to see **Roger Atter's (G57-65)** plaque in the chapel as I remember him well. I am pleased that I found the SOF website as I will be back in the UK in September 2001 and was going to try and look up a couple of old friends - this may make it easier to find them!

Address: 715248 1st Line EHS, Mono, RR#4, Shelburne, Ontario, Canada, L0N 1S8;
john_oswell@hotmail.com

China including Hong Kong SAR

Bob Fox (R66-71) sent message that he couldn't attend the Hong Kong Supper but was in contact with other OFs around the world:

Have a great meal guys; sorry I can't make it. I'm working at the University of Hong Kong. I'm teaching IT in education as an Associate Professor in the Centre for IT in Education. Been talking to **Martin Hogg (S63-71)** in UK, **Bob Craig (R63-70)** in NZ, **Jonathon Amos (R67-71)** in Oz and **Andy McConnell (R66-71)** this week over the internet. And got a wonderful surprise phone call from **Gordon Gibbons (R66-71)** from Canada. I haven't spoken to him for 25 years. He was as ever a bit throatie - not surprising since he still smokes but down to less than one packet per day from his previous three. Gordon says that he is still trim, no beer belly despite investing hard in the liquid assets, and still with a full head of hair and only a few grey wisps despite two kids of 18 and 20. Very happy and content in Canada; he has not made contact with any other OFs until now. Address for Gordon Gibbons: 72 Glenashton Drive, Oakville, Toronto, Canada L6H 6G2; tel: 905 257 1175. Gordon, one question I failed to ask you on the phone, and this we all want to know, what did happen to Sister Sally?

Address: Flat 34, 5th Floor, High West, 142 Pokfulam Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong; tel: (+852) 2819 6525; foxrmk@hkucc.hku.hk

France

Brian Rosen (S40-45, BH78-93) wrote in July:

"I was very saddened to hear of the sudden death of **Neville Bromage**. He was one of just a few OFs (and his father was another one) who have contributed far more than most members appreciate and to whom we can be thankful that our Society is as strong as it is.

When the swimming pool is warm and the sun is shining how quickly the publishing deadlines approach! I have also to finish off and send out the Lyon Branch newsletter of the Royal British Legion this weekend as well. As James Ruddock, our esteemed Editor has sent me a contribution, he is now a member of the RBL, so I feel that I have to make time for this letter to *his* magazine.

I was in England briefly in June to collect my daughter **Sarah (BH 88-93)** from Nottingham University where she has enjoyed (in all senses of the word) a successful first year. She has met four other OFs there but has not had time (so she tells me) to organise a reunion. A sobering thought for those of us who struggle with languages that she was able to pursue her studies with a switch back to English, after seven years all in French since leaving Brandeston.

I managed to fit in a brief visit to Brandeston Hall and found it looking as delightful as ever and noted that children of that age will manage to look scruffy whatever uniform you give them - although I do like the new edition. Stephen Player seems to have moved into the Master's Study without any great upheaval and I left with the firm impression that 'my school' continues to thrive in every department. I still feel that it was a great privilege to work there for 15 years and it was good to meet many all friends. Now both Bob Williams and Michael Baic have come to the end of their long careers there and I am sure that they too will look back on years of happiness and many achievements of their pupils.

Out here I somehow seem to have become almost too involved in the British Legion and the RAF Association and a few other clubs and societies. However they are all very worthy causes and at least I will appreciate our traditional holiday in Corsica very shortly.

I end with a few words of appreciation for the Magazine that is always so interesting and well presented. Thank you James, Richard and others involved.

Address: Chemin des Murieux, 38200, Vienne, FRANCE. brosen@club-internet.fr

India

In December 2000, I had a message from **Andrew Birt (S55-58)** that he was going to Chennai at the end of February 2001, to work there for six months:

"Chennai is the name for the place that the Brits used to call Madras, south east Indian state of Tamil Nadu, some 300 - 400 miles north of Sri Lanka. I will be working for CB Richard Ellis South Asia Pvt. Ltd., as General Manager on a building project being carried out by the state government. The project is a 'high-tech' business park and they already have a number of international tenants lined up to take space for branches of their IT divisions.

Tamil Nadu, Chennai in particular, is the Indian 'Silicon Valley'. With India's huge population, and for the fact that they take education very seriously, it is rapidly becoming a very important world software centre and a future threat to the West's dominance in IT.

In May, another message from Andrew showed that Indian commercial reality had set in:

Take this computer for instance. It's brand new, bought specially for me. The floppy drive has been replaced twice and is still causing problems. Normally that wouldn't be a matter of any great importance - need to print something? Sure, send it through the LAN to the printer, except that my LAN connection doesn't work, so I can't get to the printer. My access to the printer is therefore via floppy-copy; load the file on another computer and then print. Except that floppy drive doesn't work all the time! To compound the fun, out of every box of ten floppies bought, between eight and nine will be bad. Why? They come with reputable brand names on them - mine are all Sony. But (here there always seems to be a 'but') they aren't really Sony at all - they are locally made by pirates, about 30% cheaper than real Sony and sold in forged Sony packaging. I pointed out that an initial 30% saving is eroded slightly more than somewhat if only 15% of the floppies will work. The LAN problem has been 'addressed' three times now and, of course, the fixers arrive during working hours, which has a minor interruptive effect like, they

shut down my PC and I have to leave my desk. On Wednesday they wanted to pull out my installation completely and replace all the LAN wiring, which was going to interrupt the whole office because everything was going to have to be shut down. I objected and it was agreed that the techies would come back last night to do it. I came in this morning full of hope and, of course, my hopes were dashed! They didn't come and, as it's 'only' 09.30, there is no-one at their office yet. Probably simply forgot? Who knows? Not me, that's for sure. As far as accessing the Net is concerned, because the LAN doesn't work for me, I have to go elsewhere to borrow someone else's computer.

To someone used to good old Oz, where we grumble at the 'near enough is good enough' attitude that occasionally prevails, I have to say I'll settle for that any day. Still, I'm an optimist and I live in hope! It'll happen - I think?

If there should be any slim chance, be any other OF over here, it would be nice to meet up. I am due out of here in around August / September – I shall be ready! Now my aircon has packed in at home. I suspect it will be quicker to change houses than get it repaired!

Address: andybirt@acay.com.au; or birtandrew@hotmail.com

Malaysia

Derek Seagrove (G39-43) wrote to the Editor in April with photos of the January 2001 Penang Supper - **Bob Holland (R57-65)**, **Derek Seagrove (G39-44)** and **Ian Foster (K46-53)**. Derek had not received the two mags in 2000 so these were dispatched immediately.



Bob Holland, Derek Seagrove and Ian Foster – Jan 2001

"I celebrated my 75th birthday on 28 April, so I make the others look like youngsters. But we wear well – it is the tropical air plus plentiful Malaysian food and the imbibement of the occasional Tiger Beer of Carlsberg.

"Bob Holland and I now have the immigration right to stay in Penang on a year to year basis under the Malaysian "silver hair" scheme. It costs £17 to fill in the forms. It is catching on. Anyone interested should write to the Malaysian High Commission in London for the rules and forms.

"I had a rushed visit to UK in March and saw **Tony Hoolahan (R39-43)**, **Brian Shelley (G39-44)** and **Michael Bridger (G39-43)** – all doing well but a year older! The weather was horrible so I did not go out much except when taken in luxury by my actress daughter, Jenny, and her Everton FC owning partner, Bill Kenwright. Luckily, on both occasions that I watched Everton live, they won on both occasions, so I was their lucky mascot. At least they will not be relegated to Div 1.

"Back in Penang, it is hot, breezy and restful. What more can you want? I write monthly articles for the Penang Club magazine on things past and present. To my surprise, my articles appear to be well read and appreciated.

Address: 12-5-10 Seaview Garden, Jalan Bukit Ria, Batu Ferringhi, Penang 11100, Malaysia.

New Zealand

Lloyd Kenyon (26-29) wrote to the Editor in April in response to the request for OTC photos of the 1938 Corps; and then a second letter to RMR in June. He writes:

“I enclose a photo (*which is on the SOF website – RMR*). Due to my poor memory the only person I can name other than myself is Vale, senior NCO and I cannot even remember what his nickname was. (“Knibbs” Ed) As far as I can remember he was a general factotum around the place. He and his family including two sons lived in the Lodge. The officer next to him was Collins. (The photo will be part of the CCF Centenary book no doubt, Ed).

“My missing Autumn Mag turned up the day **John Saul (R49-56)** visited us in January with another copy (a long sea-mail trip Ed). The Spring 2001 mag arrived less than a month ago. As usual both are full of interest. No doubt you have been told that ‘Stokes’ should have been ‘Stocks’ when talking about the former Head. I was interested to learn that the Meres belong to the College. Has it always been the case? (Believe so, Ed). I wonder if Rosen’s NZ tours stick to the usual tourist routes where you are swamped by orientals. (Very doubtful! Ed). I have one favourite deviation. From Lake Te Anan the normal excursion is to Mitre Peak and it is better to go via Doubtful Sound.

“The visits of **Alan Dods (R49-56)** last year and John Saul this year were very enjoyable but too short. We did overdo the “do you remember” bit. It was very good of John to come all the way from Christchurch (130 miles) just to meet us. I hope the scenery made it worthwhile. We have had virtually no rain since before Christmas. Blenheim had a disastrous grass fire over thousands of acres.”

I still go to the museum twice a week – gardening if it’s fine or, on cold days, compiling a register of Waimate residents who have achieved national or international recognition. I have so far compiled 200 people and two horses! One won our Grand National and the other was Horse of the Year.

On the sporting front, the All Blacks have been dismal; and it now looks as if every foreign boat in the America’s Cup will have at least one NZ member including the two leaders of the last Team New Zealand. We will end up defeating ourselves for the Cup!

Address: 15 Oxford Street, Waimate, New Zealand

The Wizard of New Zealand (a.k.a. Ian Channell 42-45), sent word from the South Island:

I am currently involved in two projects. Firstly, I have been approached by the Student Association of the University of Canterbury to give two series of lectures on Wizardry. This experimental project has the backing of the Vice Chancellor who was at Melbourne University when I was Wizard there thirty years ago.

The course begins with a historical survey of the way that ruling elites need the services of experts in reality construction and maintenance. Warlords in agricultural economies work together with priests who emphasise fertility and stability. The priests control reality by monopolising reading and writing. In private and state capitalist industrial economies, the bankers and manufacturers employ scientists and moral philosophers who alone have access to the relatively expensive printing presses.

The Internet will destroy the monopoly of reality control by the literate intellectuals who rely on the printing presses. Anyone can put up a web site that can be visited by millions of

people at little cost to anyone in particular. This is the job for the wizards, who will come from the universities just as the first scientists came from the church. Their job is to revitalise and reorganise failing institutions before things get worse and to devise new activities to use up the time now spent in working and spending in ways that are less destructive both to the environment and mental health.

In my own life I have been synthesising new approaches to understanding reality in its physical, organic, social and cultural aspects required to replace the fragmented and generally incomprehensible collection of scientific theories at present being taught. This synthesis is a new cosmology and was the subject of my experimental lectures at Melbourne University, 1971-74.

The other project is the construction of an inner space probe (ISP) in Christchurch. This is a sphere supported on a tripod about 25 metres high. The interior is a representation of the Earth turned inside-out with the Moon, Sun and planets going round on the inside and the galaxies converging on the centre. This is a model of the universe derived from relativity theory premises.

The Christchurch City Council's committee of the environment unanimously approved of my design and made some money available for an engineers construction proposal. Science Alive, a science education organisation that presents displays for children, is very keen to join forces and can see the potential for manufacturing and selling the Inner Space Probes overseas. Visit www.wizard.gen.nz for more information.

I wonder if Fram Coll realised what sort of child they fostered during his WW2 evacuation from the Big Smoke? Love logic and levity - Wizard of NZ
Address: 116 McFaddens Rd, Christchurch, NZ; tel/fax: (643) 355 5545; wizard@wizard.gen.nz

South Africa

From South Africa, a couple of requests for contacts:

Richard Nunn (R73-78) would very much like to get in touch with **Kirk Adams (S73-78)**. At last contact, Kirk was a mining engineer headed for South Africa. If anyone knows how to contact him I would be grateful.

Address: Richard Nunn at: grangefarmpigs@akiternet.co.uk

Katya Maine (K84-89) would like to make contact with other OFs living in the Cape Town area.

Address: katmaine@yahoo.com

Spain

Ian Foster (K46-53) wrote to JGR in December 2000 and just missed the last mag:

“It has been an interesting and eventful 2000 which is probably as things should be at the turn of the century. I managed to sell my partnership in the yachting business and at the same time apply to the government for some regular monthly payments! This now gives us time to relax and, with the strong pound, we can watch the falling price of our daily wine.

We have also moved home but not very far. We now have direct access to the sea for

swimming and fishing. The summer has been very hot again and the island only survived the lack of water through installation of mobile desalination plants; but with 20 million showering each year, it will be at a cost!

We had a memorable trip to the SOF Centenary in June. Great to meet a lot of people that I hadn't seen in 50 years. We are off to UK again in Jan 2001 for the Boatshow and then on to Penang for a few weeks. The Malaysian Government are encouraging sensible pensioners to spend time there, so we will have a second New Year's celebration (see **Derek Seagrope G39-44** - letter from Malaysia).

Address: Casa Oceania, Alcanada 50, 07410 – Pto. Alcudia, Mallorca, Spain; e-mail: ianandtess@wanado.es

Thailand

John Birt (S59-63) announced in May that he was intending to spend more time down at his Koh Samui holiday home:

I am not retiring, not yet anyway. I have started a new business with a couple of fellow holiday villa owners on Koh Samui in the Gulf of Thailand in order to be commercial with our properties and those of others who have island homes which require management and marketing on short lets while the owners are not in residence, which probably means about 300 days per year! All of the properties (currently 14 of them and increasing in numbers!) are at the top end of the market and will rent for US\$150 up to about US\$750 per day. They are without exception located on the sea, either literally or above on low cliff tops and the views are amazing in every case! My office is located about 15 yards from the high water mark and as I sit at my computer I look out across the bay to some small islands in the distance truly rugged! We should have a website up and running soon.

I still get across to Hong Kong occasionally and hope to be there for one of their SOF drinks evenings in June.

Address: 152 Sukhumvit Soi 20, Bangkok 10110, Thailand; jgbirt@hotmail.com

USA

Brian Ivory (K48-52) spoke to RMR by phone in July:

“I am sorry to hear of **Neville Bromage's** passing. It was Neville's father that had got me into Fram. Back around 1948, the Bromage's owned a pub in London; and my father and Neville's father, **VG Bromage (G24-26)**, both played together for Finchley Cricket Club. And so they got talking one day about my education and getting me accepted into Fram! I recall that **Pat Johnson (G50-55)** was another one that lived close to the Bromage's.

I am also very saddened to hear of **Bobby Manthorp's (R45-52)** passing. He and I played in the first teams together and we kept in touch for a long while. I was hoping to be able to meet up again on our planned 4 week trip to UK in November but now that cannot be.

For my own news, I have just had some minor surgery done in June that is on the mend but presently leaves me a bit sore. Otherwise we are enjoying retirement in North Carolina; and being near to our sons and grandchildren who all live in Fairfield nearby.

Address: 3529 Lake Shore Drive, Shallotte, North Carolina 28470, USA; tel: 1 910 754 5692

Ian Seeley (S58-65) sent a message in July:

Sorry to have been out of touch but I have been extremely busy. In a recent adventure (doing a job for a huge international finance company) I found that one of the attendees at the seminar in Orlando was going to be "Nigel Burnip". Well, there can only be one **Nigel Burnip (S58-65)** in the entire world - of SOF shooting fame. I was at school with him of course. The fruits of my labours was a computer CD, so I burned a special one for Nigel, with a picture of Fram across it and his name on it. This was a small, credit card sized CD, so it was very personalized for him. He liked it, and is planning to get together with me one of these days when he swings by New York. He's the manager for the finance company, for Cyprus and other Med countries, I think. Last saw him at Bisley on an OF shoot, eons ago.

Address: "Four Gables", 135 Chestnut Ridge, Bethel, Connecticut, 06801, USA;
seeleyir@mindspring.com

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) sent word from Hawaii:

My wife, Celestine, and I couldn't resist a second cruise as the QE 2 came through Honolulu in January. It was a ten day cruise via Samoa and Fiji and then three days in Auckland All we had to do was drive to the dock! Cunard put on a special deal for Hawaii residents only for this one. I suppose they had a bunch of empty cabins for that leg of the World Cruise 2001. We have got good deals for both trips through an agent, Deborah, at NJoy Travel - Vacation@flash.net , www.HoustonTravelAgent.com *(Gives me a chance to try to reprint the picture that went astray from the last mag of your first QE2 trip out of Fort Lauderdale in late 2000–RMR)*



Richard Rowe & Bryan Pearson

Address: 45-501 Apiki Street, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-1919, USA. E-mail: bpear26848@aol.com

A message from **Jules Arthur (K75-84)**:

We are still in San Diego. Life is good and real estate is booming. I sell apartment buildings to investors of all shapes and sizes. I have a beautiful family including two boys Austin & Alex 3½ and 2. No more planned.

Attached are the e-mail addresses of **Duncan Lumsden (Z83-84)** - duncanfml@yahoo.com - who also resides in Sun Diego; and **Ian Rumsby (Z79-84)** residing in Sydney, Australia - i.rumsby@syd.gcigroup.com.au . My uncle, **Nicholas Arthur (K57-64)**, also lives in San Diego. The three of us do get together from time to time. *(We don't have up to date contact information for all three of your friends – so we would be grateful if you could get it submitted – use an Address Feedback form at www.oldframlinghamian.com)*

Address: jandmarthur@home.com

Peter Ballard (S57-66) sent information from his new address near Miami:

We moved to the East coast of Florida in May/June time 2000 though we both prefer it back in St. Petersburg!! I am currently the Sales and Marketing Director for B/E aerospace Jet Products Group in Miami, we manufacture seats for VIP and corporate business jets.

My wife is a Paralegal working in Boca. Our boys are both in UK at University, the

eldest Mark in London at Imperial working in his 4th year of medicine, he won a British Army scholarship so is a commissioned in the army. The youngest is at Edinburgh University studying Microbiological sciences with his honours in Zoology, he will graduate this year as an Undergraduate and then with Honours next year. He wants to take a masters in Marine Biology in Hawaii!!

If you get over this way give me a call! (*I hope to do that – RMR*)

Address: 352 NW 118 Terrace, Coral Springs, FL 33071, USA; tel: 954 255 3166; au45@earthlink.net

World Tour

Rupert Findlay (K87-90) sent word of his recent globetrotting:

We left for Bangkok on the 1st August 2000 (myself, **Sarah Buck (V87-92)** and a university friend) to meet up with **Robert Bickadike (G87-90)** in Thailand, as he had been traveling Vietnam the previous month.

We stayed in Bangkok for a couple of days, taking in all the usual sights. The girls blew their month's budget on clothes in Patpong market while Rob and I were off sampling the local delicacies like deep-fried bugs and crickets! We then made our way down to the islands of Koh Pi Pi (where 'The Beach' and 'The man with the Golden Gun' were filmed). I fell in love with snorkeling; I couldn't believe just how close you could get to the fish. From here we moved over to Koh Samui. On our first night, Rob stood on a piece of glass in the sea that severed his main artery! This injury entailed weeks of sitting in hospital waiting rooms and a nasty operation for poor Rob that I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy (although he did get to stay in the five star hotel while we were all cramped in straw huts!). But it was all in vain, and Rob had to fly home to seek the proper medical attention needed.

One man down, the three of us made our way south to Malaysia, stopping at the Peherentian islands on the way, which were everything you would expect from paradise. We went swimming with giant turtles and diving with sharks! The nightlife was a bit tame (booze being a bit scarce) but we managed to have a campfire most nights.

Then to Sumatra (via Penang) to trek in the jungle with wild orang-utans. Definitely one of the most amazing experiences. We walked all day in the rain in dense forest before we actually caught sight of any orang-utans but the hours of trekking were well worth it! They were so friendly and came down from the trees to take the food from our hands.

Next we flew onto Bali for 6 weeks after a quick stop for a Singapore sling at Raffles. Robert rejoined us, his foot almost better and ready to get back into the traveling lifestyle. Bali wasn't as beautiful as I had expected but the three small Gilli Isles off the coast of Bali were paradise! If I had to pick one favourite place out of all the incredible places I traveled then this was it. Enough nightlife, amazing diving, great weather, loads of other travelers and it was cheap!



**Rupert Findlay, Robert Bickadike,
Sarah Buck & friend in Bali**

But we had to leave paradise move on to OZ, which was a major shock after all the hard backpacking in Asia. The hardest part was the budgeting! Sarah and I were broke by this stage. We had managed to stick to our £8 a day budget (including accommodation) in Asia but not in a

developed country! We decided that the best way of seeing the country was to hire a campervan with transport and accommodation all in one and set off up the east coast living on a packet noodles every night because it was all we could afford! But we were happy. Then disaster struck! We went to the beach for a swim and when we returned to the van everything had been stolen!! When I say everything I mean everything! All our clothes, passports, money, credit cards, photos, cameras - the lot! Once we had calmed down (which took a while), we went to the police station where they were less than helpful (probably not help by me ranting on about how all Australians are convicts!). I think they probably found it all quite amusing - Sarah standing wet in her Bikini and me in a pair of shorts with a surfboard! This slightly soured our opinion of Australia some what, so after we had got our passports and new credit cards delivered (about 4weeks later), and even poorer than before, we decided to head for New Zealand. But first of all, New Year with **Amy Townsend (P91-92)** and Annabel Brocks (sister to **James Brocks K81-91**). We had a great New Year spent in the traditional backpacker way - on Bondi beach with thousands of other travelers.

Feeling very hung over, we boarded our plane to Auckland. We only had a few weeks in NZ and wanted to make the most of it. Some friends kindly lent us their camper van – and NZ turned out to be a totally different camping experience (for starters, they don't steal your backpacks!). We were able to park anywhere and the countryside was just mind-blowing! We did all the usual sights like Bay of Islands, Rotorura and Lake Taupo, but our favourite places were the ones off the beaten-track in the north. I was in total awe of Spirits Bay. This is the most northern point of NZ and where the Maori say their spirits leave the country when they die. The most spectacular thing is that you can see where the two seas merge together, and if it's a stormy day (as it was when we were there) the “collision” creates waves 30-40 feet high!

As a thank-you to our friends for loaning the van, we took them out for dinner. Afterwards we were dragged up the Sky Tower (NZ tallest building) to the casino, and on our very limited budgets we all bought \$10 worth of chips (about £3) for the pokies (fruit-machine). I was just about to put in my first coin when I heard sirens screaming! I turned around to see our friends jumping up and down going mad having won \$1000 off of a 10 cents slot machine!! Knowing how poor we were, she gave us all \$200 and we all went out on the town for one of the best nights of my life ever - crawling home in the wee hours of the morning!

In South Island, we went to stay with a friend in Lake Wannika for 4 days. We had a very relaxing time rock-climbing and swimming in the lakes, and generally enjoying the sights. On the way back to Christchurch we went to Kaikora to go Sperm Whale-watching. It was quite spectacular! It's very difficult to comprehend the size of a whale without seeing them in the flesh - about the size of 2-3 double-decker buses!

We said our good byes to NZ promising ourselves to return some day and headed to Fiji. If you ask me, there's not much to say about Fiji. It wasn't cheap, but it wasn't expensive either, and the islands weren't ugly, but they weren't particularly beautiful. We spent 5 days there (which was probably 3 days too much). The Cook Islands (our next destination) were a picture postcard! White sandy beaches surrounded by translucent water enriched with a tropical sea life, with large waves rhythmically crashing onto the outer-reef. We spent 2 weeks getting ridiculously brown and snorkeling everyday. Just as well really, because that's all one can do there!

After having recharged our batteries, we hit our final destination – Mexico. We had allowed two months here and we wanted to spend the last 3 weeks on the beach so we were as brown as possible when we got home! Mexico city reminded me of London and parts of Spain -

all very colonial with huge stone structures mixed in with very pretty courtyards in bright yellows and blues. The city itself is quite dangerous and crime is rife. On top of this, the air-pollution is so bad there that at times of the day you can hardly breathe and even then you mustn't inhale! So on to the Yucatan, home of the Mayan pyramids and the Caribbean coast. We traveled non-stop for 2-3 weeks taking in all the sights, including Chichen Itza (the old Mayan city), Merida and best of all, pink flamingo-spotting by boat. After all the walking and cultural experiences, we opted for a week on the Caribbean island of Isla Mujeres. We were lucky enough to be there during Mardi Gras week, with a different parade every night on the streets. With little time left, we traveled down the coast, stopping once or twice including one night on a nudist beach. And then through the mountains to a lovely town called San Cristobal, and on to our final destination with two weeks to go, Zipolite! It's a funny place with a lot of hippy travelers all wearing tie-dye (if they were wearing anything at all) - needless to say that we didn't fit in! Sarah and I still had a great time spending our last couple of weeks just the two of us knowing that everything would get very hectic once we arrived back in England. Zipolite is a magical place where huge pelicans dive for fish in the surf, there is miles of beach with no one around, and seafood that tastes heavenly. We moved about 2 miles down the coast to San Augustinillo for our last week and took a room that looked more like tree house than a guest house. They failed to tell us that we would be sharing a bathroom with the whole village, but by this time we were so relaxed nothing seemed to bother us.

Before we knew it we were on a plane back to Blighty (with a quick stop off in New York to stretch the credit card to the limit). It really was the most amazing trip of a lifetime and I would encourage any one to do it, regardless of age or position, but after all is said and done, there's no place like home!

Since arriving back in London, I have started up my own business importing clothing for retail companies and I am very much looking forward to my marriage to Sarah in August this year (*congratulations and best wishes to you both- RMR*)

Address: Finesse textiles, Upton house, Baldock Street, Royston, SG8 5AY; e-mail: rupert@finesstextiles.com

Zimbabwe

Michael Thomson (K55-59) sent in a brief message to confirm his departure from Zimbabwe:

Yes I am back in UK. I have just recovered from my youngest daughter's wedding that was a great success. I am putting my house and garden in order and have just celebrated my 60th birthday on a canal boat in Cheshire with two of my children. I have agreed to a 3 week locum in August in Cumbria but I am still waiting to hear about the winter work in Kosovo.

Address: michael.thomson2@virgin.net

It is great to hear from **Chris Seddon (S43-50)** who hopefully will continue the news from Zimbabwe in future Overseas Bags:

Herewith my maiden contribution to the overseas bag. Better late than never!

On the 21 June we were able to make number one headline on BBC World for the near perfect first Solar Eclipse of the millennium that passed across Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Madagascar. My wife Stella, younger daughter Sarah and her friend Kathy were invited to view the event within the total eclipse band on a tobacco farm between Centenary

and Mount Darwin in northern Zimbabwe 166km north of Harare.

As we drove off in the morning there was quite heavy cloud and we began to fear it would not clear. The eclipse was due at 1.15 pm (universal time or GMT) or 15.15pm our time. Our viewing point overlooked a broad valley by the Zambezi escarpment. By afternoon, the clouds had cleared. On the dot of 13.50pm the moon made first contact and gradually spread across the sun slowly eating its way to totality at 15.15pm to reveal the awesome corona, a ring of sensational sunlight behind the moon. Darkness fell with an eerie yellow light along with our colourful sunset glows of pinks and purple hues. The temperature dropped suddenly and we all put on jerseys. The palm swifts that had been most active in the trees near us returned to their nests, the cows in the field below us started to walk home, crickets started up. Stella had spread a white sheet under the shadow of tree leaves and as a result we saw the shadow of dozens of half or quarter moons reflected on the sheet. After 3 minutes of Totality and looking at the Baily's Beads we had the startling brilliant Diamond Ring effect of the first return of the Sun for a second! Then slowly the moon moved off and normal day light returned by 17.15pm. An experience of a lifetime!

We drove home to Harare nose to tail as over 40,000 people had gone out there to see this phenomena. In spite of petrol shortages every one had saved each little drop up to see this amazing event!

I must congratulate the organisers of the SOF Centenary celebration in July 2000, it was well worth the effort of coming from Zimbabwe. I had the great joy of seeing **Norman Dodd (G42-52)**, **John Gooderham (K44-53)**, **Charles Wharton (44-52)**, **Ian Foster (K46-53)**, **Dudley Holland (R45-52)**, **Dudley Wright (46-52)**, **Charles Benson (45-54)**, **Neville Bromage (G47-54)** and many others whom I had not seen for 50 years and the few I have seen over the years like **Gerald Stedman (43-52)**, **George Payne (43-50)** and **Bernard Bridges (S45-54)**.
Address: 7 Balfour Road, Greendale, Harare, Zimbabwe; seddoncc@africaonline.co.zw

Supper Reports

Melbourne Supper

On a Saturday evening in January 2001, the Melbourne OFs turned out to greet **John Saul (R49-56)** and his wife, Jean, on a visit from UK. Those present included **Mike Garnett (R53-58)**, **Keith Dann (S48-50)** and his wife Pat and **David Bonner (G62-66)** and his wife Diana. **Jim Macbride (S40-43)** and **Bob Munro (R54-60)** had sent apologies as they were unable to attend.

We started the evening by meeting in the Cricketers Bar at the Windsor Hotel. After a few beers in the Bar we had photographs taken outside (John Saul says "I'm the one who hadn't thought to take an OF tie on holiday"), and then went on to a Malaysian restaurant nearby for a splendidly copious meal and many reminiscences, and a debate about the pros and cons of living in Australia. The 'pros' won hands-down.

David Bonner has agreed to take over as Melbourne coordinator for future events (contact: 13 Kolora Crescent, Mount Eliza, Victoria 3930, Australia; tel: (+61) 3 9775 4141; foodplans@rabbit.com.au).

Queensland Supper

Some of the Queensland OFs got together at the Bailey's Residence at Noosa Waters on Saturday 7th July. The gathering had originally been planned for mid-June but had been postponed to await the arrival from UK of Peter Simpson's brother **John R. Simpson (31-37)**. Unfortunately this meant that **Neville Marsh (S53-61)** & his wife, Alison, were still overseas and unable to attend this time.

Those present included: **John Simpson (31-37)**, **Peter Simpson (K33-40)** & his wife, Henrietta, **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** & his wife, Joy, and **John Gates (S44-48)** and his wife, Ruth.

We had a delightful day and lunch at Noosa Waters that lasted from 12 noon to nearly 6pm. There was plenty of reminiscing on old Fram days, recalling old friends etc. John Simpson had been on his way to the Philippines to see his son, **Jeremy Simpson (K56-64)**, but decided to call into Australia on the way. He will spend about 3 weeks with his brother Peter who also lives at Noosa.

Hong Kong Supper

The Editor is without a full report on the Hong Kong OF activities but I believe there has been a Supper and two drinks evenings so far this year.

The Supper was on Thursday 29th March at what is becoming a traditional time for Hong Kong – immediately before the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens Tournament (the last weekend in March). It was held at the Foreign Correspondents Club in the specially re-named Albert Room. The menu included: Finest



Standing: Barry Wilson, John Birt, Ian Howard, Stephen Ngai; seated: Iain Fidlin and Chris Hall

Scottish Smoked Salmon; Tenderloin of Beef with horseradish sauce and baby vegetables; and White Chocolate Mousse with dark chocolate garnish followed by coffee. In what is also becoming a Hong Kong custom, the one off price of HK\$500 per head included beverages before, during and to well after supper.

Attendees were: **Ian Howard (S57-62), Iain Fidlin (M73-77), John Birt (S59-63), Barry Wilson (G48-52), Chris Hall (G62-69) and Stephen Ngai (G75-79).**

The first drinks evening was held on Friday 18 May to welcome a newcomer to Hong Kong – **Edward Marr (G85-92)** who had been “sent to Hong Kong to work for an indefinite period”. The timing coincided with the arrival of three generations of Simpsons – over in Hong Kong for a family wedding. The venue was the “dot.cod” restaurant and bar – selected partly because of its fond memories as the location of the old Bentley’s Restaurant, venue of many former OF suppers – but more importantly from a Hong Kong cultural point of view that we could get 40% discount!

Attendees are believed to have included: **Ian Howard (S57-62), John Simpson (31-37), Jeremy Simpson (K56-64), Ben Simpson (B84-86), Nick Jacob (K67-75), Jenkin Leung (K79-84), Edward Marr (G85-92), Chris Hall (G62-69), Stephen Ngai (G75-79), Joe Hancock (S77-86) and Iain Fidlin (M73-77).**

The second drinks evening was held in Berts Bar in the FCC on Thursday 21 June. The Editor has no report at all on the evening except that **Ian Howard (S57-62)** was organizing the evening and **John Birt (S59-63)** was promising to buy drinks!

Daniel Bowyer (R83-88) wishes it to be known that he almost got to one function before work intervened again! He will keep trying!

The Web page – www.oldframlinghamian.com

It is now well over 2 years ago since the then President, Jon Ford, asked if I would meet **Jon Owen (K93-98)** so as to have a watching brief over his development of an SOF website - and we duly met in a pub on the Kings Road not far from Jon's university, Imperial. Since then Jon put in an enormous amount of work to get the website launched in September 1999 and a lot of work since to bring it forward towards its present stage. Effort for which the SOF are very indebted and I believe that Council gave Jon a small token reward.

The objective of the website is very similar to that of the SOF – to promote communication amongst its members – but we can only promote communication and be a catalyst, it requires the members to use that catalyst to the benefit of the Society.

One of the website targets has always been to assist in the creation and maintenance of a new SOF Register for the use of the members. The last Register was the 1967 hardcopy. To this end, **Jon Whipp (Hon OF)** and many others particularly **Andrew Currie (R38-43)** and **Robin Smallwood (S82-86)**, have put in many hours of hardwork. We have at last reached a stable state of an SOF Address list that can be used as a reference and for mailings. There are still errors and gaps but we are gradually filling them. Jon Whipp as SOFRegistrar now carries forward the major burden of maintaining that list. But this is only an Address list, the curriculum vitae used in the 1967 register have not been updated since then; but that is also a future goal.

John Stevens (S51-52) has recently helped us with some analysis of the Address database in order to help manage the issues better. This shows that we have (and these lists are published on the website):

- 12,458 entries of which 8,166 are believed to be alive. I choose my words carefully because 516 of these living OFs are shown as being over 90 years old. Sadly many of them may have died but I do know of several who are still very much part of the SOF. This is just one example of the difficulties facing the SOF Registrar when trying to sort out the data (or lack of data).
- Of the 8,166 “living” OFs– 4,636 are believed to be members of the SOF and 3,530 are believed not to have joined the Society. I say “believed” as we do not have accurate records in all cases.
- Of the 4,636 SOF members, there are 1,547 for whom we have no contact details; 561 for whom we did have contact but their magazine has since been returned “Gone away”. That leaves about 2,528 on the active mailing list whom we believe are still alive and we believe are receiving their copy of the mag – but new “Gone aways” arrive back with each mailing of the mag.

And these numbers change daily with new information and the annual addition of new OFs. The website Address Feedback form has had nearly 500 users since its start – that is about 5 per week on average – enough to keep the few volunteers active with amending records. Please do check your own record and that of friends, relatives, contemporaries and colleagues – and submit an Address Feedback form or e-mail the SOF Registrar so that we can amend the database. We regularly receive feedback from OFs who have been out of contact for 40 plus years!

We would like to publish the full list but there are a few issues that with suitable management could be overcome, e.g.:

- Legal – the data protection act provides a few rules that need to be acknowledged but is not insurmountable;
- Technical – either publishing on the web or in hardcopy, requires the data to be prepared in a

useable format. Most of the volunteers are at best self-taught computer amateurs and struggle with some of the technical challenges.

- Society – we need to ensure that we respect and protect our members and their privacy;
- Resource – even if a problem is solvable or a result can be achieved, we currently only have a limited number of volunteers with a few hours to make progress.

If you think you can help in any way, technical, legal, website maintenance, etc and often the job might only require a small input per month, then please let us know (e-mail: Richard.rowe@oldframlinghamian.com or fill in a Feedback form on the website).

The website does provide some other services such as :

- OF E-mail list – a list of those e-mails that we know. I believe we have about 400 names.
- Noticeboard – items have included 1 job request, many searches for colleagues plus some SOF books and cards for sale;
- Events – listing any SOF forthcoming events (when we are informed of them) including contact persons. We have recently started adding SOF shooting results and can do so for other sports.
- Photos – a photo gallery indexed by year of school photos and other memorabilia as well as current Supper photos. If you have something to add to the gallery, please send to sofphoto@oldframlinghamian.com
- Advertising – love it or hate it –we may add limited advertising to the website to help offset the costs – currently about £100 p.a. but a little more cash would help resolve some of the several issues that are slowing progress e.g. purchase of software.

We are happy to receive other ideas.