

Overseas Bag

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Another fascinating “Bag” with more new correspondents. In my role as one of the website administrators, I see all the Overseas OF member registrations and have particularly encouraged the more recent registrants to write in to the “Bag”. From the many letters of thanks that I receive, I know that the website has allowed many OFs to rekindle friendships through discovering long lost friends. Please do take advantage of the SOF website – www.oldframlinghamian.com. Please also take a few minutes to send me your news whether you have a particular story to tell or just news on “life since Fram” or other OFs that you have or would like to meet. Enjoy the Bag.

RMR

Australia

Ann Hogarth (V85-87) sent a message to JGR in January including details of her recent marriage to Campbell Smyth on 21 September 2002 on **Len Evans’ (G42-48)** estate in the Hunter Valley:

We made a weekend of it and arrived on the Friday at Tower Lodge (www.towerlodge.com.au). It is a fantastic place and we managed to catch up with Len Evans again. We had dinner that night for 65 guests at the nearby Blaxlands restaurant (run by Len’s daughter, Jodie) that was a great way to start the festivities. On Saturday morning, the boys played golf while the girls enjoyed some pampering at the Lodge. We were married at 4.30pm at the chapel in the grounds of Peppertree Estate. Canapés and drinks followed amongst the vines before the reception at Roberts Restaurant (www.robertsatpeppertree.com.au) adjacent to the chapel. We had 75 guests at the wedding with 45 either from interstate or overseas. Dancing continued to the wee hours with some relatives having to leave before the bride and groom as we were having so much fun. On Sunday, we all met up at Peterson’s Champagne house for a farewell lunch before going our separate ways. We have some pictures from the wedding on my website at www.annhogarth.com/wedding.htm

I have also discovered that Campbell’s family work in mining and know **Mark Creasey (G55-63)** and have been in joint venture with him. We also discovered that **Len Evans** was a partner with Campbell’s father, Mark Smyth, in a few ventures some time ago. It is a small world.

Address: 165 Beattie Street, Balmain, Sydney, NSW 2041, Australia; E-mail: ann@annhogarth.com; tel: (+61) 2 9810 0641

James Harrison (M79-84) sent a message in May while registering on the OF website:

I guess for all of my contemporaries, many things have happened since 1985 so it's great to be able to make contact and see what the OFs are doing. Reading the 'Overseas Bag' is interesting when one is far from home, then again, Sydney is my 'second' home!

I arrived here in 1997 after studying/working/living in London for 12 years. I teamed up with a few ex-English & Australian Financial Planners/Accountants, took all my exams again (and I thought after leaving school I would not have to do any more, and certainly not at 36!), sorted a Residency permit and stayed. Financial Planning is far more enjoyable in the sun! In the 5+ years here we have established a superb network of people, many from UK, including ex-schools and home friends that I had lost touch with and now are here; and of course Aussie

friends, including my wife-to-be (I proposed to Vanessa Southwell on 5 October 2002). Sydney is very cosmopolitan and transient; we have friends from all over the world, (coming and going) and family appearing every so often, so it is very 'home-from-home'.

I hope all is well in Suffolk. I was sent a video copy of the 'Classmates' T.V. program, good to watch and see our 'old patch'. Please pass my thanks to John Whipp, the Registrar; very impressed that he is still looking after our school !!

Address: 12/16-18 Wolseley Road, Point Piper, Sydney 2027, NSW, Australia; E-mail: harrison@dot.com.au

Neville Marsh (S53-61) sent word in May of his new work in Adelaide:

“As indicated in the last Mag, I am now in Adelaide. Having started to think in terms of retiring very gracefully into the Queensland sunshine last September, we found ourselves transported southwards to Adelaide and for me a new direction of out of teaching and research and into administration. My new job is the Dean of Graduate Studies. I look after the candidature, progression and welfare of research degree students of which The University of Adelaide has 1200, mainly PhD students.

Our rapid departure from Brisbane came as a complete surprise to everyone, not the least our two "active" OFs in Queensland, **John Gates (S44-48)** and **Peter Bailey (K34-38)**. We are now facing our first winter down here and find it far too reminiscent of English weather, something we were happy to leave behind years ago.

We can look forward though, to eventual retirement in Queensland and have a house awaiting us in the western suburbs of Brisbane. One compensation of living in Glenelg is that we are just 35 minutes from McLaren Vale and have quite got into the habit of sampling the gorgeous Shiraz wine varieties available there.

Just in the last few days, I have heard from **Tom O'Donald (S51-57)**, who was two years or so above me in Stradbroke. Tom is a retired physics teacher living in nearby Seaford Rise. Together with **Michael Brown (K53-59)**, we number three OFs in Adelaide but that's enough to warrant a get-together over a summer BBQ! Next week, Alison and I are heading back to UK for some long service leave and look forward to catching up with brothers **Ian (S49-52)** and **Roger (S49-53)** in addition to the endless round of visits to friends and family. In fact, Ian is threatening to take me along to the London Supper on 21 July so that will be a good opportunity to catch up with the usual crowd of old boys.

I have just enjoyed watching two great wins by England on the cricket and rugby fields. The rugger win against Australia, the first on Australian soil was a most entertaining match. The English rolling maul was text book stuff: I can still remember vividly **Mr. Melsom's** attempts to instill this practice into us at Fram, alas with little success in the lower orders of the game!

Address: 33A Nile Street, Glenelg, SA5045, Australia; tel 08 8295 2074; E-mail: neville.marsh@adelaide.edu.au

John Gates (S44-48) sent a message in May:

“My wife and I have been away to the Wine growing area of Rutherglen in Northern Victoria - visited 12 wineries over 4 days - sampled plenty and bought some. The following weekend we went to Rockhampton in Queensland - from cold to warm. Had four most pleasant days in the Northern tropics.

Have met up with **Peter & Joy Bailey (K34-38)** recently. We all went to Brisbane as I joined the United Services Club-having been a 2nd Lt in the Green Howards back in 1951-53 -

their communications to me now say that I am Lt Gates-so have gone up in rank over the years.

Peter Bailey is well now over 80 and still playing 3 sets of tennis each week - plus golf. I go to the Gym normally 3 days a week at 5.am - so hopefully I will last as long as P.Bailey - or certainly keep in good health at least.

Address: PO Box 476, Maroochydore, Queensland 4558, Australia; Tel: 0754 796778; E-mail: johngates@aceconnect.com.au

Paul Bonner (G61-64) sent news from Tasmania:

“I have been in touch with the Tassie OFs. Information as follows:

Capt. Robert Wallace, 2Craigburn Road Hillwood 7252; tel;(03) 6394 8159 - He is a sea Captain mainly on the run across the Bass Straight and is in command of one of the new ferries Spirit of Tasmania that is responsible for the introduction of so many new visitors. I have spoken to his son but not yet to the man himself.

Pendall M Bentall, 268 Penshanger Road Longford 7301; tel: (03) 6391 1624 - Runs a 1600 acre mixed farm just south of Launceston. Was living in Western Australia but moved over several years ago. Have spoken at length and he is keen to meet with the rest of the OFs.

Donald 'Jim' McBride, 15/319 Macquarie Street South Hobart; tel: (03) 6224 4834 - Had great stories to tell about the war years at Fram. Was a keen member of the Victorian Branch before moving to Tasmania. Whilst he is very occupied caring for his frail wife he is very keen to meet and has the pot hot for any visitors (tea that is!)

I have been able to source through the SOF website a copy of the TV programme that included Fram. My grateful thanks to **Tim Mitchell (R67-77)** who has sent the copy to me which is even now being copied for each of the OFs in Tassie. I thought the programme was very interesting. I have often wondered what effect the female students would have on morale. It would seem that they have improved the behaviour of the boys but I cannot help wondering what my teachers would have thought. Has the College thought of producing a video for all the overseas OFs to purchase so that they can keep up with the changes?

Thanks for your help with the SOF website; I am now visiting regularly.

Address: 63 Nobelius Drive, Legana, Tasmania 7277, Australia; tel: 03 6330 2458; E-mail: pauljbonner@yahoo.com.au

Tom O'Donald (S51-57) sent a brief message in June:

“The phone rang the other day and who was calling but a former colleague in crime, **Martin Wolferstan (G52-57)**. I have also heard from **Phil Saint (S53-58)**, and have resurrected a fair few memories. Hopefully, I will gradually regain contact with some of the others. Just returned home after a very pleasant visit to Western Australia to visit a few old friends from the days when we used to live over there. Love getting and reading the magazine and what an excellent resource the new web site is; congratulations to all those involved.

I noticed that **Neville Marsh** is in Adelaide at the University. We are about 40 km South of the city and a few hundred metres off the beach; one of the newer southern suburbs of Adelaide.

Address: 71 Clearwater Crescent, Seaford Rise 5169, South Australia; tel: (08) 8327 1123; E-mail: tomodonald@optusnet.com.au

Bermuda

Matthew Living (S80-87) reported his move to Bermuda:

“After leaving Framlingham in 1987 I spent a year working in Denmark on **Harold Krabbe's (G 85-87)** fathers farm. After that I attended The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester and gained a degree in Agricultural Land Management. After graduating I moved to London and worked in food marketing for a small foodstuffs manufacturer for a year, before I secured a job with the US investment bank Morgan Stanley. Not the conventional career path for banking!

I married Lucy (Else) in July of 2000.

In November of 2002 I left Morgan Stanley after more than 9 years based in London but often working in Europe and the US. I left to take a position with the Bank of Bermuda to be based in Bermuda. After 6 months of working permit bureaucracy, my wife Lucy and I finally arrived in Bermuda in March of this year. So far the job is going very well and the lifestyle would take a lot of beating. The main downside being that we miss our family and friends. However we have already had plenty of visitors and are expecting lots more. Leisure time of which there is plenty is taken up playing tennis, rugby, cricket, golf, and sailing.

I am not aware of any other OFs on the Island but would keen to meet up with them if there are.

After my initial scepticism of the media, I was pleased to have taken part in the Channel 4 programme "Classmates" last year, and am grateful to have regained contact with a few old fiends from school.

My contact details are on the SOF website so please feel free to get in touch.

Forwarding Address: Greyfriars Lodge, Hitchin Hill, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9AJ; e-mail: Matthew.Living@bankofbermuda.com

China

Chris Hall (G62-69) sent greetings from Hong Kong in June:

“I left Grant Thornton in September 2001, and now work for Insinger, who bought the trust division of Jardine Matheson. 85% of my clients at Grant Thornton followed me and transferred their business to Insinger. My business continues to grow. The down side is that this keeps me extremely busy, so I do not have as much free time as I used to.

The economy continues to be slow in Hong Kong. Most people are pessimistic about future prospects for business, and are worried about competition from Shanghai and other parts of China. When I bought some Hong Kong office space in 1999, I had hoped to increase the rents in 2002. In fact I have had to reduce the rents below the low levels in 1999/2000, so that the rents are now less than 50% of what was paid in the same building in 1988. Not all is gloom, though. When one of my tenants left on August 15, I was able to find a new tenant by August 19, albeit at a 25% rent reduction.

The most important point is that Hong Kong can only benefit from China's rapid expansion. This week's Economist compared the Pearl River Delta to 19th century Manchester – the workshop of the world. The Pearl River Delta is an area of 46 million people (nearly as many as Britain) that includes Hong Kong, Canton and Macau. The Economist says "chances are that most of the gadgets in western homes were made in the delta by companies from Taiwan or

Hong Kong". Consequently much of what you have in your homes has been manufactured in a Pearl River Delta factory.

Jobs are also moving out of Hong Kong. Firstly virtually all the manufacturing jobs left Hong Kong and were transferred to China. It is now the turn of the backroom clerical work. My clients have been talking to me about moving these jobs into China to take advantage of the much lower cost. As a consequence Hong Kong now has record unemployment of 6-7%. The result is Hong Kong having to go through a painful adjustment process of reducing costs (this is why the office rents I receive are going down) and on the other focusing on high skill, high value added work

The biggest story about Hong Kong recently has been SARS. I was on a 3-week business trip to the USA and Netherlands when the news first broke, so I did not experience SARS until I returned to Hong Kong on April 6. I found a city where most people were wearing face masks, similar to what the British wore in the great influenza outbreak of 1918/19. Business was very quiet. I remember going to a popular shopping mall, Pacific Place, one morning, and it was like a ghost town - almost no one in the shops. On another occasion, a family friend came round to our flat in tears. She is a hairdresser and no one had been to her shop that day.

Hong Kong kept up business as usual as far as it could. Together we tackled the disease and brought it under control. Patients with SARS were put in isolation wards. Special protective clothing was issued to health workers. (Even so nearly a quarter of the people infected were health workers and a few died). When a person caught SARS, his family was confined to their homes and was not allowed out. The buildings where SARS patients had previously lived were publicly listed. People traveling to and from Hong Kong had their temperature taken to check for fever, one of the symptoms of SARS.

My company decided that everyone in the office had to wear a facemask when they were away from their desks. Anyone living in a listed building was not allowed to work in our office until the 10-day quarantine period had elapsed since the last listed SARS case. This was particularly inconvenient for me, because my tax manager had to stay away from the office not once, but on 2 separate occasions, as her building was listed twice.

At its height there were 80 new cases a day. It is now down to 0-2 new cases a day and the World Health Organisation has lifted its travel warning about Hong Kong.

The SARS epidemic has been a nasty experience, but it will be only a temporary blip of a few months in China's unstoppable progress towards becoming the most powerful country and economy in the world.

Address: Flat A2, 96 Repulse Bay Rd, Hong Kong; tel; (852) 2822 0182; e-mail: chris.hall@asia.equitytrust.com

Iain Fidlin (M73-77) followed with another message from Hong Kong in July:

"The last 12-18 months have indeed been very difficult for most if not all Hong Kongers. Hong Kong suffering from a major property slump, the bear market in shares, high unemployment and, of course, other non-economic maladies, which have served only to exacerbate the situation.

We used to think the major factor impacting our ability to focus in the morning was a hangover until SARS came along. Unjustly, Hong Kong was at first "fingered" as the origin of the disease, which naturally had an immediate impact on tourist numbers (there weren't any!).

Before the SARS epidemic broke, The Hong Kong Tourism Board had launched a multi-million pound advertising campaign in the UK and elsewhere, with the slogan: "Hong Kong

takes your Breath Away"! Naturally, this was regretted and it was quickly withdrawn once the atypical pneumonia epidemic grabbed WHO's attention.

Cathay Pacific came close to grounding its entire fleet and hotel occupancy rates fell to as low as 5% in some cases! The Government has naturally taken all the blame for Hong Kong's problems, whether economic, socio-political or in regard to the region's health. The recent large demonstrations of up to 500,000 people (huge when you remember HK only has 6-million population but all peaceful I might add) have not only been about the anti-subversion legislation (Article 23); they have provided a forum for the public to vent its collective spleen and the focus of that appears to be dissatisfaction with the Government generally. I could go on at length, so I will finish by saying that I too fell victim to economic woes and lost my job at Commerzbank (which has its own problems!) after 20 years. I have since established Augmentum Capital Limited (no we do not sell children's anti-biotics - most OFs will know "Augmentum" is latin for growth I am sure) in Hong Kong with two Canadian partners. Our focus is capital raising and technology transfer and we are gradually building a healthy deal pipeline. Finally, all these woes seem to have sent Hong Kong's OFs to ground and we have not met for a long, long time. I will get on to Ian Howard and hopefully we can organise a supper soon.

Address: 8 Gordon Terrace 1/F, 4-8A Carmel Road, Stanley, Hong Kong; e-mail: imckfidlin@yahoo.com

Greece

Lorna Stimson (M92-94) sent details of her move to Greece:

"Most of my time since leaving Fram has been spent as a student in Durham. Having finally exhausted all the opportunities to prolong student life, I now find myself in the land of the fully-fledged taxpayer. In January I finished my PhD thesis (by some miracle) and moved to Greece. I'm currently working as a researcher at the University of Patras in the Materials Science Department. Amongst other things I'm hoping to learn some Greek, enjoy the sunshine and visit a few islands. Feel free to get in touch at lorna.stimson@dunelm.org.uk

Address: Department of Materials Science, University of Patras, 26500 Patras, Greece; Tel: +30 2610 99 6374; Email: stimson@upatras.gr

Malaysia

I have included this e-mail from **Peter Stewart (K48-53)**; although now retired from the RAF and living in UK, his description of East Malaysia in the mid-60's was fascinating (*and brought back great memories as I was based in the same region in the early 80's - RMR*):

"I was the first pupil to cross the threshold of Brandeston on the day it opened on 20th Sept 1948. I am looking, as I type this, at the School crest presented to me by the SOFs in memory of that day.

I joined the RAF from Fram - determined to fly - but was signed up as an airframe apprentice. After my 3 years apprenticeship I was given my chance, training on Piston Provosts at Ternhill and Vampires at Swinderby. I was devastated to be posted to Valiants instead of fighters - but served 6 years as co-pilot and captain. Then, on the Valiants' grounding, after standing on the corner of Churchill's catafalque with "swords reversed", I got my chance in a

single-seater! A Single Engined Pioneer flying throughout Malaysia and Borneo. One could forget the 4 passenger seats behind you! The world was my oyster - even carrier landings. I would have paid the same as my wages to do my job - but fortunately the Queen was adamant! At the end of each 2-week detachment, £1 bought you 200 cigs and a bottle of 40 oz gin - with 1/6d change!!! Our 3 Borneo deployment bases were Kuching, Sibiu and Labuan. We spent 3 weeks in Borneo then 2 weeks at home in Singapore - and this carried on for 2 years to the stage where my wife would say to our 4 young children, "guess who's coming home tonight?" After a while the kids would say hopefully, "the gully-gully man?".

The Single-engined Pioneer was a STOL (short take off & landing) short range transport for 4 pax or freight and 2 of our more colourful jobs were to daily fly DOBOPS (director of Borneo operations) from his large mansion on the southern tip of Brunei bay at Muara to his office in Labuan and back in the evening. Problem was that his home airstrip was only 300 yds of psp (pierced steel planking that can ripple and come undone) and he often worked until dusk! The other (occasional) job was to take DOBOP's wife to Jesselton (now Kota Kinabalu) for shopping. Fortunately I was also tasked to take a party of senior army officers to an airstrip well to the north of Jesselton and also north of Mt Kinabalu for an overnight exercise. The trip back south next day, as close to Mt Kinabalu as possible, was extraordinary. The mountain is so immense and so daunting in its remoteness - and very high - that it produced an unaccustomed chill.

I didn't manage to get to Tawau - but the airstrips in the Central Region, Sepulot, Bario (best pineapples in the world!), Pa Tik, Long Semado and Ba Kelalan (land up hill, take-off down hill due to 15% slope!), were our bread and butter. One day, landing at Pa Tik - 2000 ft lower and 5 mins by air from Bario, 2 teenage girls asked me if I could give them a lift to Bario. "OK" I said, "provided your mum tells me it's OK". 5 minutes later they returned to say that their mum said no because the return walk through the jungle would take 4 days!

YES! they were good times. As that was my personal highlight I won't bore you with the next 27 years before I retired - or my subsequent 9 years of Seniors' golf!

My class teachers were Dibber Hague, Pissy Clarke and Norman Borrett. I was lucky! Contemporaries were **David Mead (K49-54)**, the younger **Bromage (Neville G47-54)** (his dad, G24-26, owned the Crown in Soho), **Peter "Chick" Fowler (K49-53)** (who's father farmed in Essex and Oxfordshire) - and earlier, **Bernard Woolley (K47-51)**. David Mead's son was a year or so after my 2 sons in Kerrison - but I would love to hear from Chick Fowler and Bernard Woolley.

Address: 4, The Green, Frieston, Grantham, Lincs, NG32 3BZ; tel: 01400-272141;

peterstewart@btopenworld.com

New Zealand

In what may be his last entry in the Overseas Bag, it is with great sadness to record the passing of **Lloyd Kenyon (26-29)** in February 2003, a few months after celebrating his 90th birthday. Lloyd had been the longest and most prolific contributor to the Overseas Bag for a period of nearly 70 years. We shall miss his warmth and friendship that he provided through his many letters. A full obituary should appear elsewhere in this magazine.



*But, if tears must come, please let them flow
To ease your heart, for I shall know
- With thankful pride – they only show
That through the years you loved me so.*

*13 August 1980
Lloyd D. Kenyon*

Lloyd Douglas Kenyon
17 October 1912 – 3 February 2003

Roy Farman (K47-55) wrote to RMR via JGR in UK (*sorry for the late reply as your letter took six months to reach me – RMR*):

“We had a short but enjoyable visit in February 2002 from **John & Jean Saul (R49-56)**. John & I had not met since leaving school in 1955. After I wrote to the OF Magazine a few years ago, I had a letter from **Rob McLean (K42-48)**; and we have had visits here and stayed with **Duncan & Pamela Miller (R47-54)** and **Gordon & Val Read (K47-55)** in England. We also called to see fellow NZ vet, **David Juby (K46-54)**, at Thames on the way back from spending Christmas in Auckland with our elder son.

In October 1999, thanks partly to a bequest from an elderly lady who’s Daschund had savaged my little finger, my wife, Sandy, and I had a trip to UK. Our elder son and daughter who were in London at the time got us tickets to see the All Black v. England match in the Rugby World Cup. Sandy & I sat at one end in a sea of black except for two English supporters in white next to me – who left early! It was the best game the All Black’s played. As a result, the press inflated the All Blacks prowess to being unbeatable. Unfortunately the French had not read the script and there was almost a national day of mourning when they defeated us in the semi-finals. As if sinking the Rainbow Warrior was not enough.

Before we left on the UK trip, we had built a new house and moved in three years ago. There is a great deal to do in the garden but hopefully retirement is not too far away. I have put my veterinary practice on the market. The 40-years I have been a vet including seeing practice with “James Herriot” in Thirsk as a student, have been a challenge with successes, failures, physical and mental trauma and frequently I still fly by the seat of my pants; e.g. I was presented one night with a cria (young alpaca) which had a strangulated inguinal hernia. Like most vets, my knowledge of the camelid family is little better than zero but fortuitously I found a short note that the jugular vein (the common site for intravenous injection) had a brief appearance at the point of the jaw then disappeared. For the unwary, the carotid artery assumed the usual site of the jugular. An injection into this would spell “goodnight nurse” for the patient! Armed with this

small but essential piece of wisdom, I anaesthetised the cria, a creature of mostly neck and legs plus, in this case, a large soft lump in the groin. During the operation, the owner admitted to having a similar condition and I wondered if I should “do” him as an encore.

A few years ago, I enjoyed a moment of fame with the local and national press when they discovered I had used Prozac on a couple of cats with behavioural problems. This resulted in a Scotsman from Auntie BBC interviewing me for a spot on steam radio devoted to Australasia; he suggested that Masterton must be an awful place as even the cats get depressed!

Until fairly recently, animal behaviour experts were regarded as trick cyclists by the veterinary profession; but are listened to more these days as a large number of cats and dogs are destroyed because of anti-social behaviour. I recently saw a demonstration by Monty Roberts, the American who “listens to horses”. It was amazing and even the most hardened horse handlers seemed impressed with the way he handled a couple of unbroken horses and another that refused to go on a float.

We have a small flock of pedigree Suffolk ewes and sell a handful of ram lambs for breeding each year. A few months ago, I had to put down my old working dog as she had a stroke. I was given a Huntaway, a NZ breed of working dog, large, black and tan and characterised by a loud deep bark. My sheep, unused to such unsporting noise since his predecessor was an “eye dog” that didn’t bark, now rush into the yards without hesitation.

One small town in this district was dying a few years ago but the increasing fame of our local Pinot Noir vineyards has made this a desirable country retreat for Wellington people, so real estate values are increasing. We still get days when you see the picture perfect scene of the shepherd leading a horse and moving a mob of sheep with his dogs. Next door to us is a new rotary milking shed with 50 cows on the platform and takes one and a half hours to milk 500 cows.

Address: Pastoral, R.D. 5, Masterton, NZ

Saudi Arabia

Graham Walsh (R72-78) sent a brief update following the tragic bomb attack in Riyadh on 12 May:

“Perhaps an update to my last letter is poignant bearing in mind that I live in Riyadh. Sadly we had a terrorist attack on a western compound that has lead to a large loss of life and many injured. Fortunately my compound was not hit but security has increased around the western compounds. To be fair to the Saudi authorities, this has always been a security conscious country with care on checking identity papers regularly, and strict laws regarding travel. Life wont be the same again; but Riyadh as always is quiet with a heightened police presence. There are 30,000 Brits out here. Most will soldier on, but some have taken the precaution of sending family home. But life goes on as they say. I will remain but with a greater sense of vigilance.”

Address: PO Box 2026, Riyadh 11451 Saudia Arabia; tel: (+966) 1478 2024 extn 389; e-mail: gwa@norconsult.com.sa

Catherine Mattar (nee Squier) (V90-92) sent a brief message to update her address details:

Address: PO Box 13823, Jeddah 21414, Saudi Arabia; e-mail: catherine_squier@hotmail.com

Spain

Ian Foster (K46-53) wrote to JGR in December 2002 and just missed the last mag:

“Another year has flown past but has been very enjoyable with seeing many friends, great sailing and continued good health. Our UK family is gradually drifting out to the sun. The latest recruit has just opened an Estate Agency in Alcudia that compliments the existing one in Pollencia. Combine this with the rest of the family and we should be able to corner the local property and diving market.

Address: Casa Oceania, Alcanada 50, 07410 – Pto. Alcudia, Mallorca, Spain; e-mail: ianandtess@wanado.es; mobile: (+34) 670 235 369

Thailand

John Birt (S59-63) sent more news from Koh Samui in June:

“I have kept in contact with several OF friends over the years but the real excitement was receiving an e-mail from one **GRB (Rory) Brown (S60-64)** who was a very close friend all through school but had lost contact 37 years ago! He had discovered the OF Web Site and the rest is history. In the summer of 1963, he and I and 4 other pupils at Fram cycled from Surrey to a place named San Feliu de Guixols near to Barcelona, Spain. It was a fun adventure and considered very ambitious in those days. If remember correctly I was away for about 5 weeks and spent about 45 pounds!! I wonder what such a trip would cost today? Anyway, as next month is the 40th anniversary of the trip Rory & I have decided to compare notes with a view to writing an article for the OF Mag. Watch this space. *(We look forward to receiving more details – RMR)*

Otherwise life on Koh Samui is not bad at all and we were spared the worst effects of the SARS outbreak in the region that has generally had a very damaging impact on mass tourism.

Address: 152 Sukhumvit Soi 20, Bangkok 10110; e-mail: jgbirt@hotmail.com; website: www.samuivillasandhomes.com

USA

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) sent a letter to JGR in May 2003:

“We have been really busy after our months trip to UK, both with visitors and sorting out the garden. I just wish we could have had more time together. Next trip, we will have to catch up on all the good folk that we didn’t manage to fit in this time. Gosh! I thought retirees were meant to have unlimited time to spare! We had a great trip and really good weather.

I must drop **David Pitcher (R44-51)** a line and get a copy of his history of the “Fram Express”. I remember well those trips from Liverpool St Station and the final walk up through the town to the school. How the years have flown!

I did manage to pick up a GWR cast-iron yard sign. Probably another item from the now defunct Victoria Station Restaurant Chain who had to sell off all their restaurant decorations. They originally purchased their items from “Collectors Corner” near Euston Station.

Address: 3529 Lake Shore Drive, Shallotte, N Carolina 28470, USA; Tel (+1) 910 754 5692

Dave Connett (K71-73) sent news from Alaska in April 2003:

“I am an Air Traffic Controller with the FAA. I work at Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center. I have accepted a position at the Los Angeles ARTCC, which is actually located in Palmdale California. I like the work immensely, but I hope I will be able to retire in 5 years and look forward to that. I've finally had enough of the frozen north and will be relocating to Los Angeles, California in May with my two children (Rosy 9, James 5). I can't wait.

I did actually drop in at Fram about ten years ago. It had certainly changed, and was very strange to see girls attending. I also looked up Mr. Borrett in town and had tea with him and his lovely wife. I haven't heard from or about him since.

Although I check the SOF website from time to time, I haven't really noticed a reunion/get-together for our peer group. Any in the works? Anyone run into **Pete Talbot (R71-74)** or **Andy Payne (R67-74)** or **Charlie Blackmore (K65-74)**? (*I heard from Charles in June – email: charles@blackers.co.uk - RMR*)

Lastly, anyone interested can check my band's website at <http://artists1.iuma.com/IUMA/Bands/Abandon/>. I have started to rotate the tunes lately.

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Richard Rowe (S65-74) writes from Florida:

“It has been another busy year at home and with work – and it looks as if the second half of the year is going to get busier; particularly with the imminent arrival of our third child, another boy, due in August.

Not so much travel so far but October looks as if I shall have a 4-week trip to various parts of Asia.

March took us to San Diego for business. We are very grateful to **Jules & Michelle Arthur (K75-84)** for all their local advice and hospitality including arranging a dinner one evening with other OFs in the area – his uncle, **Nick Arthur (K57-64)**, and contemporary, **Duncan Lumsden (Z83-84)**. It was a great evening that started at Nick's home in the beautiful suburb of La Jolle (for the non-Spanish-speakers pronounced “La Hoya”). We look forward to returning the hospitality as both Jules and Duncan intend to visit Florida soon with their families. Jules is a realtor for large property particularly multi-storey office and apartment blocks (jarthur@hpapts.com); Duncan is a manager for the Henry Wine Group (duncanl@henrywinegroup.com) and Nick maintains his interests in development.

Address: Richard Rowe, 804 Cape View Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, USA; tel: 239-415-8153; Richard88@aol.com; www.funandsun.biz

Giles Townsend (K59-67) made contact from San Diego in July:

“I live in San Diego, where I work as a lawyer. I have been here twenty years. I just



San Diego Supper – 2003: L to R: Dayna & Duncan Lumsden, Denise & Richard Rowe, Michelle & Jules Arthur, Nick Arthur

happened to be here at the office tonight and on a whim put in a Google search for "Framlingham." When I saw a photograph of the school, and some names I recognized, I had truly a Proustian moment: Bob Gillett - just died last year! Unbelievable and very sad. I have had no contact with Framlingham since 1967, when I was expelled. Yet suddenly, unabashedly, I want to contact those people I knew.

Address: San Diego, California, USA; e-mail: gst@ftflaw.com

Zimbabwe

Helen Sivertsen, the eldest daughter of **Richard "Dick" Harland (G25-28)**, wrote to **John Saul (R49-56)** in March 2003:

"My father and his brother, **Nevill (G27-31)**, both passed away in 1992. Since then I have been compiling a personal history book. I have been able to gather quite a lot but am particularly interested in finding any history relating to my father and uncle during their time at Framlingham. I may be traveling to UK in 2004, so hope to find some more history then. Until then, all I have of his Framlingham days is his old school cap.

Address: No 2 cottage, Darby & Joan Centre, Clayton Road, Belvedere North, Harare, Zimbabwe; Tel 04 78277

In **John Saul's** reply, he recounted from his mother's diary of a trip by her and **Tom Saul (R19-24)** to the then Rhodesia in 1972:

"13th November – at 5.15pm, **Tom Adnams (S28-37)** met us outside the cricket ground and took us to the Meikles Hotel where we were picked up after tea by Dick Harland. His wife, Muriel, then drove us to their home at Rusape, a journey of 115 miles that we did in just under two hours. A most comfortable ride in a Mercedes car."

"16th November – After lunch, Dick and Muriel called for us and drove us to Marandellas Hotel where we were met by McLewin (**Capt Douglas McLewin 29-32**) who was to drive us back to Salisbury. Called at his house for tea, then on to the Bosserts (**Ken Bossert S27-31**) where we arrived at 6.30". *(does anyone know of the whereabouts of Capt Douglas McLewin? – he is one of the several OFs marked "gone away" on the SOF register – RMR)*

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Michael Thomson (K52-59) sent in another snippet on life in rural Zimbabwe:

I visited again Murambinda Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe in February and March 2003 to provide locum cover for the senior doctor there to go on holiday.

The Zimbabwe economy continues to deteriorate with inflation in 3 figures and shortages of fuel and basic foodstuffs. In addition the amount of rain had been poor. This was evident from the fields of wilting maize. Ironically in February after three weeks of intense rainless heat it rained almost continuously for a week with the river turning from a trickle into a torrent topping on one occasion the town road bridge. Sadly this largess came too late for some of the maize making life increasingly uncertain for many.

Although people are hungry there is no outright starvation yet due in no small part to numerous feeding schemes organised and funded by the UN, Catholic Church and other organisations. Most of these schemes are organised independently of Government who are

unable to provide any financial support and not trusted by the agencies to run them transparently. Located in the hospital is a treatment and feeding centre for severely malnourished children funded by Medecins sans Frontieres. Sadly many of these emaciated children are HIV positive as well as malnourished.

Although there are still some fruit and vegetables in the town market their number and diversity are much reduced. Maize meal is only obtainable from emergency supplies from abroad. If there is a rumour that sugar is arriving in the town all the nurses disappear from the wards to join the queues that quickly form. Fresh milk is no longer available as the milk company is not allowed to sell it at an economic rate. Most sterilised milk is exported to earn foreign currency to keep the companies afloat.

Bread was available but too expensive for many people to buy.

The Zimbabwe dollar at Independence was rated as equivalent to the pound but now although the official exchange rate is 80 dollars to the pound, on the black market 2000 to the pound is more common. Since I left the country the cost of fuel has tripled and prices of foodstuffs have followed suit.

Politically the ruling elite is consolidating its hold on the country to try and ensure that no other party ever comes to power particularly when the current President retires or dies. A small increase in the number of Government MPs will be sufficient for the constitution to be changed. Although newspapers containing opposition views continue to appear on the streets journalists live dangerous lives being hounded by the intelligence agency. More sinister is the requirement that half of the candidates for training at the hospital as village health care assistants must come from the Government cadres of 'National Service'.

In spite of all this the people in the rural areas remain cheerful and resigned to their lot. Undoubtedly there are many 'thinkers' however who hanker for work abroad particularly in Britain. Indeed many trained medical staff have already come to England to work and so deprive their own country of badly needed expertise. The morality of that situation is a very moot point.
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