

Overseas Bag

Editor: Richard Rowe (S65-74), PO Box 07264, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, USA; Tel / Fax: 1-239-415-8153; E-mail: Overseasbag@oldframlinghamian.com

Another fascinating “Bag” with more new correspondents; some from 45 years ago. The SOF website continues to act as a beacon for OFs who have been out-of-touch, enabling them to make contact again. As a result the SOF continues to expand with the last Mag topping a circulation of 3000 for the first time; with 358 being sent out to overseas addresses. As you will read in some of the letters, those who do write in, find it a rewarding experience as it helps create renewed contact from former colleagues. Please keep the letters coming.

RMR

Australia

Ian Cottingham (R61-66) sent a message from Canberra:

“In a few weeks I will be retiring from full-time work after 32 years with the Australian Government Agriculture Department based in Canberra. I've had some really interesting jobs in that time and seen plenty of changes. My current job is part of a Taskforce examining improvements to our national preparedness for and response to a major animal disease outbreak like foot and mouth disease (FMD). Our quarantine requirements on imports are pretty tough but we need to ensure our existing systems are as good as they can be, 'just in case'. Our Commonwealth and State/Territory system of government (with eight jurisdictions involved) complicates any response to something like FMD that wouldn't recognise lines on a map. So we need to ensure a truly national response. There was a major national (week long) simulation on this topic recently involving representatives from all governments in Australia and a range of agencies within each of those governments and agricultural industry groups, plus international observers. It seemed to go pretty well and several important lessons were learned which need to be progressed. Lessons from the serious UK outbreak 18 months ago are factors too.

Much of Australia is in the grip of a severe drought and some say it is the worst in 100 years. So life is pretty tough for those on the land. Other areas of our Department are very, very busy addressing drought issues at the present time.

Part of me will miss the workplace after all those years, but the other (much bigger!) part says whoopee!! Perhaps after a break I will think about doing some short-term contract work to keep the grey matter going. In the meantime there are plenty of jobs to do around the home that will keep me busy for a while. I'm certainly looking forward to a change of routine. Lyn is happy to keep working at least until our two boys (aged 13 and 16) finish school.

Our two daughters live in Canberra. Leeza is a preschool teacher at a local school and enjoying her job. Sara is on home duties at present looking after her two-year-old son (Bailey), is about to have another child in early February, and is due to move house before Christmas! So she and husband Nathan will be busy!! We are delighted to be grandparents. Bailey is so good and a very easy going child.

I had a few weeks in England in May this year visiting my elderly mother and other relatives. It was a good trip and nice to catch up with everyone again. England seemed more crowded than on my last visit a couple of years ago, particularly on the roads, and many goods in the shops are pretty pricey by our standards. A real bonus was the weather that was very nice for the whole time I was there. I didn't get a chance to visit East Anglia this time round.

To keep myself reasonably fit I go walking several times a week. Canberra is a great

place for walking, particularly around our lakes and the scenery is so pleasant. I also enjoy playing badminton a couple of times a week. A group of us go away to tournaments several times a year. In September we participated in the World Masters Games in Melbourne. It was a fantastic experience at the Opening Ceremony at the Melbourne Cricket Ground mingling with some 20-25,000 other sportspersons on the hallowed MCG turf in front of another 25,000 spectators. Competitors came from some 90 countries to compete in 30 sports. We enjoyed the badminton competition and had a good social time too!

I travel up to Brisbane a few times a year in my capacity as a Director on the Board of the Sugar Research and Development Corporation - the organisation invests about \$10m of industry and government funds in R&D projects each year. On one of my trips up there earlier this year I managed to meet **Neville Marsh (S53-61)** - it was good to catch up with him after only exchanging emails previously. We had an ale or two in the city before we had to go our separate ways. I understand that Neville has now moved to Adelaide in a new job.

The Australia-England Test Match cricket is pretty one-sided at the moment, but the international rugby scene seems to be more evenly balanced. Roll on the Rugby World Cup in Australia in October 2003. We have tickets to a few matches and it should be a good time.

Address: 13 Sampson Close, Melba, ACT 2615, Australia; E-mail: Ian.Cottingham@affa.gov.au

In another letter from Ian Cottingham, he enclosed an article from the Canberra Sunday Times dated July 27, 2002 covering two news-sheets and entitled "Thank Evans". The article is about our famous OF down-under, **Len Evans (G42-48)**. The article is too long to print in full but here is an extract; the full article may be found by searching the newspaper website at: <http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/home.asp> - my search found the article at: http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?story_id=167423&y=2002&m=7&class=Features&subclass=Weekend&category=Feature&class_id=17

"Last year **Len Evans** drank a cheeky little red, a double magnum of 1865 Chateau Lafite Rothschild which cost \$78,000. It was the most expensive bottle of wine he'd ever drunk from. Why did he open it? "Well, because I wanted to drink it," he says.

Ask a silly question . . . What Evans means is that he needed no special occasion to drink the wine other than for the sheer delight of tasting some very special French wine. Evans is not Australia's best-known bon vivant for nothing.

Evans, the grand old man of the Australian wine industry, turns 72 next month. He seems to have always been aged somewhere in his 50s, the shock of white hair, the ruddy complexion, the chubby-cheeked smile never changing from year to year. "I still have the old twinkle in the eye,"

Born in England to Welsh parents, Len Evans has been an unlikely champion of Australian wine for more than 40 years. He's made it, sold it, talked and written about it, judged it, flogged it to as many countries as he can and drunk as much of the good stuff as possible. He'll occasionally drink a cold beer on a hot day, but won't touch spirits. "I can't do everything," he says. Evans's personal cellar has about 3000 bottles in it.

The best wine he's ever tasted? "No such thing. There have been great moments. When I opened a bottle of 1646 tokay I cried."

Evans started promoting Australian wine exports in 1967 and "for 20 years it was like banging your head against a total wall of indifference". He has since seen annual wine consumption in Australia grow from two bottles a person in the 1960s to about 24 bottles a

person today.

The industry has rewarded Evans with accolades such as the British Decanter magazine's International Man of the Year. He was the first Australian invited to address the prestigious Wine Spectator Wine Experience in New York. He's broken down barriers by being the only non-French person asked to judge major wine shows in France. He believes France is still the leading nation in winemaking.

He retired from wine-show judging this month after sipping wine from an estimated 150,000 glasses over four decades. "I think it was time for other people to make a contribution, to put a different light on it."

"People take it all too seriously sometimes. Wine is just a bloody drink. It's just a juice made from grapes that's all it is." "Yes, that's absolutely my attitude to wine, from an enjoyment a point of view," he says. "But someone also once said to me, 'You don't take wine very seriously.' My answer to that is, 'I take it enormously seriously until it's in the glass.' By that I mean the making of it, the care of it. I take winemaking very seriously. I take wine judging very seriously."

Yet people still get wildly excited about this "juice from grapes". "I think it's the wonderful romance of it," Evans says. "The fact that there are so many shades and nuances of flavour. And it's one of the few foodstuffs in the world that you shove in a container and it changes character in the container for the better. You can't imagine having a cellar of baked beans, can you?"

Evans reckons he was 15 when he tasted his first wine, a bottle of Chateau d'Yquem, which he had stolen from his father, Robert, a rigger in the air force. "I had it under my bed for months. I drank it so slowly, it developed a scum on the top."

The young Evans tried his hand at playing golf professionally, but when he found he wasn't good enough, set off to "bum my way around the world" and ended up in Australia. He did jobs ranging from working on a dingo fence in Queensland to being a writer for the Mavis Bramston Show in 1958.

"I came down to Sydney to write and while I was reasonably successful, the pay was so dreadful, and my hotel career just took off like a rocket," he says.

Starting as a bottle washer at the Old Ship Hotel at Circular Quay, Evans joined the Chevron Hilton in 1960 and worked his way up to become food and beverage manager. He left four years later to establish a wine-merchant business. By 1968, he had formed the Evans Luncheon Club at Bulletin Place, where he hosted legendary long lunches while expounding on the wines the guests were drinking. The same year he also established the Rothbury Estate vineyard in Pokolbin.

Evans Wine Company still operates. Evans is chairman and his son Toby is a manager. His daughter Sally is managing director of the wine Internet site Winepros. His other daughter, Jodie, helps run the Blaxlands restaurant in Pokolbin. Evans met his wife Patricia at Mt Isa during his travels around Australia. She was also English, the daughter of a miner. They've been together 43 years. "Well, she was a pretty girl," he said.

It doesn't take a long time with Evans to understand his love of absurd humour. He has a bit of The Goon Show about him. As well as collecting wine, his favourite hobby is to collect books "for their title alone". He has hundreds of the unintentionally humorous titles.

"My attitude to life is that I'm absolutely scared stiff of dying. I don't want to go yet. I've got plenty more to do. And life is for living. Someone said to me I should be happy to die soon because I've crammed three lives into one, but I'd like to get another in please."

Address: Len Evans, OBE, Loggerheads, Palmers Lane, Pokolbin, NSW 2320

Neville Marsh (S53-61) sent a brief note in September:

As I type, my office is full of packers and packing cases. I have been appointed Professor and Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Adelaide. I'll let you know my permanent address as soon as I have one but you can email me on neville.marsh@adelaide.edu.au. My QUT e-mail address will not work after tomorrow.

Address: E-mail: neville.marsh@adelaide.edu.au

Peter Hollins (K70-76) sent a copy of his Christmas letter to RMR. Peter seems to be enjoying life in Perth with his family, Sally, Em & Maff. Peter is Financial Controller for AMCAP, an automotive part distributor; and his wife, Sally, is still very much involved with Omegatrend.

“We are all looking forward to the New Year as my youngest brother, **Dominic (K77-80)**, his wife Mandy and their 11 month old son, Jacob arrive for a holiday. I think Dom actually planned to be here to watch England recover the Ashes - ah, well, you are still welcome! For those other misguided believers, the William Ellis trophy will still reside south of the equator come next Christmas letter.

It's due to be 38°C tomorrow and the big drought continues. WA's wheat farmers have been very hard hit - the crop is only 50% of last year's. We are hoping that Perth does not suffer the bushfires that are currently looming in NSW.

Address: 32 Camborne Ave, City Beach, WA 6015; Tel 089 2850002; E-mail: peter.hollins@amcap.com.au

Paul Bonner (G61-64) sent a brief note of his move to Tasmania:

I am moving to Tasmania, which despite my brother's comments is very beautiful. I would like to get the addresses of any OFs in the state. Perhaps we can organise a meeting and you will get news from the beautiful island. (*RMR – I have e-mailed a list*)

Address: E-mail: pauljbonner@yahoo.com.au

Phil Bower (G65-74), having made contact, sent several e-mails from Sydney:

“I left Fram before taking my A-levels and went into the MOD at Chilwell. Stayed there for about 4 years before deciding life had to be more interesting. So I chucked it in and went to work on the railway as a wagon repairer! Later I moved into Nottingham proper and went to work for Dunlop selling tyres before being made redundant during Maggie's economic revolution, whereupon I became a member of the great unwashed for about 4 years. During that time I discovered my talent for writing contemporary music - i.e. rock and roll! Since then it's been my private passion but never to earn me a decent living. In fact I'm playing in a reasonably good covers band in Sydney at this time.

I got out of being officially unemployed by taking part time telesales work for the Bank of Scotland's finance company from where I progressed to corporate credit management. I pursued a career in that. I got made redundant again and went temping for a while before securing a nice position with a company in Beeston, Nottingham and from there I emigrated to Oz. Naturally, I had to go temping again for a while before landing a peach of a job working for Chep. That lasted until about a year ago whereupon I returned home from visiting my folks on

the occasion of my mum's 75th birthday (a surprise visit, my wife and I turned up unannounced dressed in Gorilla suits so no one would guess it was us - my wife is a striking redhead so we had to have something that completely covered our heads!) only to find that I had been made redundant yet again! Since then I've been temping whilst searching for the next employer who can fully realise what a splendid fellow I am and hires me at a ridiculously generous salary so that I can tart up my house before we complete our move to Perth (!) in 5 years time.

I've been married once - still am! - and if you care to visit: <http://shazbink.homestead.com/index.html> - you will be able to peruse (and laugh, hopefully) through the various items. Bear in mind that the site is designed primarily for my old folks back home to keep in touch. Should you hit the page with my family pics, on the 2nd pic down I am in the light coloured, long sleeved jumper thing on the right of the pic. Next to me is my elder brother, **Nigel (G58-68)**, who is also an OF! The pics of the Etheringtons are on my wife's side - they're both vicars (funny old world innit!). Her family used to own Bamburgh castle up in Northumberland before having to forfeit it a few centuries ago in exchange for their lives - it seems they were on the losing side of a disagreement with the monarch of the time!

To see some old pics of my current band, try this website: <http://tuneraiders.homestead.com/index.html> - and ferret away to your hearts content! I've also discovered a liking for digital photography and the majority of pics - especially those of name artists were shot by me - Status Quo even used some of my images on their web site! I have to say that I need to update the sites so they're a little out of date! For the record (enjoy the pun), I play a 1979 Rickenbacker 4001 through a nice Trace Elliott set up.

I am particularly keen to rediscover **John Beverley, Pete Long, and Festus Foster** - they were, I think, my closest chums at Fram. I have already made contact by e-mail with **James Mehta, Charlie Blackmore, Simon Narroway & Simon Gardner**
Address: PO Box 3238, Asquith, NSW 2077; E-mail: shazam@ihug.com.au

Canada

David McMillan (K54-58) sent a message from Montreal:

What a pleasure it was to find Framlingham again in cyberspace. I now look forward to receiving an OF magazine.

I am a Montreal based 'international hotelier' with the "to die for" job of creating a hotel product for the company that reinvented the circus, Cirque du Soleil. They will reinvent hospitality and I am proud to be a part of this creative and fascinating initiative.

Getting here has been fun. From Framlingham, my career caused me to live and work in many positions in several interesting spots that included Switzerland, Paris, New York, 4 Canadian provinces, Jamaica, Curacao, El Salvador, Acapulco and Saudi Arabia. Subsequent initiatives have provided me with the opportunity to get to know China, Malaysia, Cuba, Israel, St Kitts and India. I have served as Chairman of the Hotel Association of Canada for three terms and am a member of the Distinguished Alumni of the Waldorf Astoria. I started as a trainee sorting empty bottles in a cellar in Eastbourne and have had all sorts of wonderful jobs such as General Manager of Hyatt Regency hotels in El Salvador, Acapulco and Riyadh and VP Operations of 50 hotels from Nairobi to Vancouver.

Venice, my wonderfully understanding Canadian wife and I are the proud parents of a 31 year old son Stuart who was born in Montreal and schooled in Calgary, Santo Domingo, San

Salvador, Acapulco, Riyadh and Toronto; and who now lives in Banff, Alberta. He will marry next April on the slopes of Norquay to Shannon Cary of Toronto.

Ian Berkeley McMillan (S27-31), my OF Dad, lives in Virginia Water. He enjoyed a wonderful career in life insurance in the City after his service in North Africa during the second world war. Wounded in Algeria, he still carries several pieces of shrapnel in his body. He has been retired now for 25 years but spent many happy years as a boisterous member of Lords.

I would welcome hearing from any OFs, particularly from any of my former schoolmates of the '54-'58 years, whether passing through Montreal or by mail.

Address: 34 Redpath Place, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3G 1E3; tel: 514 2810103; e-mail: David.McMillan@cirquedusoleil.com

Howard Thistlewood (K66-73) e-mailed from his new home in British Columbia:

“Some years ago, in the early days of the internet, I was contacted by just one OF contemporary, **Richard Elliott (R64-73)**, after posting my Email address in the mag. He, like myself, is one of the rather rare OFs who became a science researcher. However, I have been really amazed by the messages from OF friends who have contacted me in the last year, since seeing my Email address in the mag, on the OF website after posting some pictures, or elsewhere. I have been very pleased to hear recently from OFs **Willis Chapman (G68-73)**, **Tim McGuire (K62-73)**, **Douglas Whitelaw (K69-73)**, **Ian Connell (R68-73)**, and **Lester Milbank (S68-73)**. You recently sent me the address of **Tom Wolever (R71-72)**, who was living in Toronto at the same time as I was nearby in southern Ontario. I was able very easily to send some photos to you at the OF website; all of these contacts make one pause for reflection. **David Lebbell (K41-46)** also contacted me from Victoria, about a days drive away, but we haven't yet met.

I am now looking forward very much to visiting England approx. 14-31 March 2003 with two of my three sons and will visit as many of my old haunts and schoolfriends as we can fit in at that time, including the AGM and dinner. My Father's jobs in the RAF and various airlines had me living all over the place so it will be busy, and I must visit East Anglia with the boys.

Message to the entire A level Class of 1973...as it is 30 years since 1973, why not attend the AGM and dinner on Saturday 29th March 2003, as I plan to do?

After Fram, I worked at several jobs for 7 months, then went on vacation to France and Spain with **George Goodwin (S65-73)** (retired from one year job as an elevator boy at a prestigious London Dept. store, and last seen by me in Tangiers, Morocco, after meeting up by chance with **Stewart Andrews (S68-73)**, of whom see bike race photo on OF website). After studies at Southampton University, working in Brazil, extensive European travels, attempted recruitment by MI5/6, went to Vancouver and studied further in western Canada and the USA. Volunteered as a biologist in Germany, married Tina there, and returned to Canada where I have ever since worked in grape and fruit crops in the east (at the same latitude, heat and humidity, as Rome) or west here in British Columbia. In 1995, transferred for one year to Montpellier, France, and worked there and in central Europe (thank heavens for Brandeston/Fram French and German from my wife).

We live in the Okanagan Valley, part of the Rocky Mountains, where we have a desert environment, very warm summers and freshwater lakes, skiing at 2000m within one hour. I am fortunate to have work as a research biologist in agriculture, including collaborative projects in other continents, but keeps me in contact with farmers and the soil; something I associate with East Anglia and those compulsory Sunday walks or playing cricket and drinking beer with the

Haymakers XI. Three sons arrived 1983-89, and somehow they and my wife have stayed with me. We enjoy the outdoors and many sports, foreign languages, music, swimming, canoeing or sailing in the clear warm lakes. Despite only limited training as a Fram chorister, it was good enough that I now enjoy singing in a high quality regional choir, which has some 5 CDs out to date.

Looking back at the grand age of 47, I offer thanks to many people at Fram. For example, Mr Melsom and the scientific staff for striving to inspire our interests, numerous staff for giving me good English and foreign language skills, Mr Fleming for a basic confidence with hand tools, and to the seasonal sports and shooters for learning how to balance life and have fun. Most of all, real thanks to my schoolmates at Brandeston and Fram for many memories, (1966-73), and hope to see you all again one day, here or there. Unfortunately, as another OF commented, many of us who were 'institutionalised' or produced in the atmosphere of an 'old-school' and all-male Fram in the 60s and 70s have required painful adjustments to the privatised and lets get rich quick 80s and 90s. Ian Connell OF wrote to me and I concur, how amazing it is that how many of the 1973 bike racers (OF photo gallery at <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/>) in fancy dress ended up as dressed then, although I never did join the military despite being RSM in 1973.

Finally, I was saddened to see reported the death of **AGK (Tony) Knight (K63-72)** in the mag. Tony was a real character and often a useful role model in the 1970s. Although we were very different, he and his friends helped shape who I became, progressing from sub (House) Prefect, to Prefect and House Captain. Thank you for the lengthy space devoted to the account of his life and passing and my condolences to the family.

I hope to see some or all of you in March 2003.

Address: 13608 Cartwright Avenue, R.R. 3, Site 38 Comp. 31, Summerland, B. C., V0H 1Z0;
tel. 250-494-9005; e-mail: thistlewood@telus.net

Germany

Alexander Schmidt v. Rosenberg (M79-81) sent a donation to the Bromage fund along with some news:

“I was House Captain of Moreau at Fram. After A-levels I returned to Germany where I studied Agriculture and Law. I am married to a wonderful lady (Beatrice) and we have three little boys between 4 and 8 years old. We live in the north of Germany in Schleswig-Holstein. I work as a lawyer in Kiel; but we live on an old farm near the town of Itzehoe, which is run by a manager. Only a very few OFs have found us so far. We have had occasional contact with **Shane Rimmer** and Lizzy, **Andrew Thornton** and **Peter Craig**. We welcome other visitors – we do speak English (at least a little bit).

Address: Dorfstrasse2, 25588 Mehlbek, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany; tel: 04827 1306; fax: 04827 2358

Guy Impson (G80-85) sent in his Address Feedback form from Berlin:

“Seventeen years after Fram, I stumbled over the SOFs website and thought that it was time to finally catch up. Having filled out the e-mail address feedback form I didn't really expect to hear anything for some time. So you can't imagine how surprised I was to receive the first reply the very next morning - I'm impressed! In the e-mail I was asked for a few words for the next mag. The criteria were fairly precise - write about anything, just make it soonish! So, here it

is.

Having left Fram in '85, I spent 2 years studying business in Sheffield and a further year studying marketing in Stoke. From an academic point of view, I was successful - at the very least I managed to achieve the qualifications despite the various distractions one confronts whilst studying.

After a short period of working and traveling in the States, I returned to Europe and ended up in Berlin (on the west side, before the Wall came down). My lack of knowledge concerning the situation in Germany and especially Berlin, at that time, was quite embarrassing. A city and its people divided literally down the middle, with the most important historical and cultural locations decaying slowly on the "other" side. The division was mainly a reinforced concrete wall - no higher than 3m - with large drainage pipes stuck on top to produce an overhang. In some places the division was reduced to the canals and waterways that run through and around the city. Today, it's hard to believe that such divisions (in combination with watch towers, a continuous strip of "no-mans-land" and a large helping of anti-western propaganda) ever managed to keep a whole nation separated for such a long time. And that, directly in the center of modern day Europe. Due to its island-like situation (both physically and politically), West Berlin had developed into a very interesting city full of contradictions. An apparent stalemate in the cold war had left Berlin as a provincial, backwater city. The parks, lakes, forests and other recreational areas within the city boundaries were closely protected from urban development due to the fact that it was impossible to make short weekend trips into the surrounding countryside. Berlin was popular with university students and not only because it was the only place in Germany where they could escape national service. The average "West Berliner" rarely passed judgment on what his or her neighbour was doing, which provided a more relaxed and open atmosphere for artists, actors and other creative people. West Berlin was, in those days, literally like an oversized nature reserve, in which many things just developed differently and at their own pace. The only time you really realized that you were on the "inside" was turning left, instead of right, somewhere in Kreuzberg on a foggy winter evening and sitting in front of a large grey wall - this happened to me quite often and was always very surreal!

When the Wall eventually crumbled, it was fascinating to observe the enthusiasm of the German population - not as a national but as a spectator. Within a few days, an immense influx of people literally brought Berlin to a stand still. This was partly due to the added touristic interest from the west, but mainly due to the government offering DM 100 – (ca. £32) to each person who could prove their East German citizenship. Banks set up container offices on the streets to deal with the extra demand, whilst additional cash tills were installed to help West Berliners who had no chance of getting within 25m of their own bank. This situation lasted for several weeks, with the initial enthusiasm soon turning into frustration. The rest is (to use a cliché) history and Berlin was very quickly slung into the realities of the present day.

My connection to Berlin intensified with a placement at the University of Arts (HdK) to study industrial design. There was only one problem – foreign languages had never been one of my strengths. The fact that nearly every German national has some understanding of the English language, and is always proud to demonstrate it, just didn't make things any easier. The professors at the University showed extreme patience, probably believing that I was a student on exchange that would naturally evaporate after one or two semesters. Attitudes slowly changed as I kept returning year after year.

Learning a language "on the spot" (at the age of 22) and studying in a foreign country are two exceptionally intense experiences that I wouldn't have wanted to miss. At first, without the

language, there is an uncomfortable feeling of exposure - of being thrown in at the deep end. Here, you really begin to discover your own strengths, but more importantly your own weaknesses. After a period of not understanding anything, the development process begins: understanding, but not being able to reply; being able to reply, but far too late and definitely not before the subject has changed at least twice; replying on cue, but only using words or phrases you've picked up somewhere else; to finally being able to communicate in your own words - only then do you finally (and very thankfully) get your own personality back. There is, however, something which I like to call the "foreigners' bonus". This is the added interest that most people show, simply because you have a funny dialect and are a little "unusual" - a foreigner with different experiences and perspectives.

On average students in Germany tend to be a little older than their colleagues in England and the studies are definitely less structured. Obviously this has certain advantages, as well as disadvantages. Being a little older, German students tend to be a little more certain about what they want to do with their future. They are also given more "space" within the curriculum to experiment and develop specialized interests. However, this additional space also means that students are far more dependent upon their self-motivation to finish the studies. At first sight, this appears to be much closer to the "real world", but it also means that many students end up losing their way. I finally finished studying in '97.

Until the end of last year I worked as a freelance designer for various design agencies, both large and small. I now have my own small studio located in the heart of Berlin. We are a small design office working in the areas of graphic, interior, exhibition and product design. If you're interested in seeing what we actually do to stay above water, just take a look at our website - www.guyimpson.com.

So much for the briefing on the official side of life. I've been happily married to an amazing and, of course, very patient wife for just over 2 years now and we have an 8 month old son who is absolutely fantastic - in actual fact, he's already become my all time super hero!

Thanks for reading this far. I only have one other small piece of information - never visit Berlin for the first time in the winter (mid November – mid March). It's very cold, very grey and mostly foggy. Come during the rest of the year and you could end up staying for 13 years!

Best wishes from Prenzlauer Berg, Berlin.

Address: Lottumstr. 22, 10119 Berlin, Germany; tel: (+49) 30 44 03 41 81; Fax: (+49) 30 44 03 41 82; e-mail: guy.impson@gmx.de; website: www.guyimpson.com

Hanna Schulze-Ketelhut (V97-98) sent a website feedback note to ask:

“Why are there no photos for the period 1975 to 2002 on the website? I guess there are some very important years missing... for example: 1998. Could you add them? (*RMR – We are not trying to avoid post-1975 photos, just that no-one has sent us any from that period. We would love to receive some and get them on the web. E-mail them to: photos@oldframlinghamian.com*).

I currently live in Hamburg. In January, I shall be moving to Brussels to work for the European Commission.

Address: e-mail: hannask@web.de

Malaysia

Yasu Ikeuchi (S86-90) sent a short note with his new contact details:

“I run a company that specializes in mergers & acquisitions, fund raising, debt restructuring and divestitures. The company is owned by myself, my partners, Bank Negara (Central bank of Malaysia), private investors and a local venture capital firm. Our clients range from 1st board companies to medium size companies. I am sorry this is brief but work is pressing. Maybe I can write more for the next mag.

Address: 8D-2-8, Prima Damansara, Jalan Chempennai, Damansara Heights, 50490, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; tel: 012-270-4508; e-mail: breezeontherock@hotmail.com

New Zealand

Lloyd Kenyon (26-29) wrote to RMR in November:

“I have umpteen thank you notes to write since my 90th birthday and I was wondering how I was going to read the latest OF Mag and write to you before December; but a weekend at our daughter’s in Dunedin and two very cold wet days solved the reading problem and I will get this letter away to you before I get back to the Thank you’s. Incidentally, I don’t understand **Kate Loescher’s (V87-91)** comment (Autumn 2002, p.69) that the Mag “isn’t something to read cover to cover”. I certainly do (well, most of it!) starting with the Overseas Bag and then back to the start. My only complaint is the understandable lack of news from my contemporaries. Strange! I did see **A C Newson’s** name (how old is he?) (*RMR – according to the register, there are two A C Newson’s – father S20-28 and son S58-67; Newson senior was born in 1910*); but what a pleasant surprise to come across **Peter Lloyd-Bostock (R28-31)**. Also it was pleasant to see two new correspondents from NZ, even if they do come from the other island! You may have gathered from my letters that there is considerable (mostly) good-natured rivalry between the two islands. The South Island is the Main land! According to Maori legend, it was the canoe of Maui with Stewart Island as his anchor, and he fished up the North Island! (*RMR – when I was last in NZ, I was told that NZ also laid claim to a West Island – Australia!*)

I hope that the two newcomers keep up with their writing. Their letters should be more interesting than mine that are mainly about family, and we now live very quiet lives, or farming, which cannot be of interest to most OFs. However I will say that after a very easy winter and a very warm September (perfect lambing weather), lack of rain and low temperatures have cut the usual spring growth. Our lawn has been 20 days between mowings and dairy farmers are talking of only milking once per day because of lack of feed affecting milk production.

Concerning the proposed celebration of the Castle plays, I was in the first one – The Tempest – as Iris with a ghastly red wig!

My 90th birthday celebration went very well. The family party was held in Christchurch (where our other daughter lives) about 10 days early to fit in with school holidays so that members of the family who live in “the other island” could get to it. The only absentee was our only grandson who is at present discovering UK and Europe. On the day itself and the day before, several visitors called and the Museum put on an afternoon tea party for me. All very kind. With best wishes and many thanks to all involved for the OF card

Address: 15 Oxford Street, Waimate, New Zealand

Saudi Arabia

Graham Walsh (R72-78) sent a brief message:

“Greetings from Saudi Arabia. Things are very quiet here at the moment as it’s the holy Muslim month of Ramadan until 6 Dec 2002. During this month, from dawn to dusk, Muslims must fast i.e. no food, no drink, even water. So a lot of shops, businesses, etc close during the day and open late at night. Despite the regional tensions, Saudi Arabia is generally safe for all expats, but vigilance is sensible. Travel around the region as I do for work is still reasonably easy; but it is only possible to visit Saudi Arabia on business. You have to be sponsored by a company, as there is no tourism.

If any OF happens to be visiting, please look me up.

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

Spain

David Ensor (G60-63) sent an e-mail from Malaga having been out of contact for several years:

I doubt I am on the Register as my address changed several times over the years. I retired to Spain because of the weather, the cost of living, the cost of housing, and probably most of all a growing intolerance of political correctness and the Inland Revenue's attitude towards self employment, and because I could! The internet has made it possible to continue with some work such as marketing consultancy to US companies in the high tech areas; and a bit of translation. I discovered a talent for languages rather late in life; I was the despair of "luigi" (I can't remember his real name - he taught French when I was at Fram) but he would be surprised to know that it was he who finally made me see the light. I'm fairly fluent now in French, German and Spanish and have a smattering of several others including Russian; the scientific training came in handy for the Russian alphabet. I ended up with a degree in Physics and Maths at Durham that would probably amaze Mr de Whalley!

Much of my time is taken up with sailing - or rather repairing the sailing boat(!); and web site development - mostly for my own interest but eventually will be qualified to do it for others. Self-taught is always best taught in such things I find. Here the work ethic is simply absent and that is a bit infectious. In summer it's more or less impossible anyway because of the noise as much as the heat. “El Paise la mas ruidoso en el Mondo” was a Spanish newspaper headline! I can't spell well in any of the languages! Trying to find a way to enable the Spanish spell checker on this English computer is a challenge (as my US colleagues would say).

I look forward to when the database is linked with the SOF web site properly. I've been trying to work out a way to link databases to websites myself using MS Access and Front Page express - so if anyone finds out, please let me know!

I am still in contact with my two brothers, **Hugh (G64-67)** and **Anthony (G62-65)**. I think Hugh has lost interest in anything Framlingham but Anthony had a better time at the College and is now a teacher himself. I enjoyed the rugby and the shooting (small bore in my case); the air force branch of the CCF also taught me to fly sailplanes that I pursued as a pastime for many years afterwards.

Address: Malaga, Spain; e-mail: Dpensor@aol.com

Thailand

John Birt (S59-63) sent brief news from Koh Samui:

“The Bali bombings have had a devastating effect on that island and some larger groups have cancelled holidays to Thailand particularly to Phuket. Here on Samui we are not subject to package tourism and consequently we have seen no cancellations here. In fact are looking to be up on our first year in terms of occupancy. I think that independent travelers will always travel and hopefully help us keep the wolf from the door. Business has expanded mainly from people who have seen what we have done and now seek our help to build their own holiday/retirement homes (see: www.samuivillasandhomes.com - discounts to OFs!). The Thai Government is making it easier for non-Thais to retire here. One has to be over 55 and show an annual income of not less than about fifteen thousand pounds to show that one will not be a drain on Thai resources. There are worse places to live!

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

USA

Andy Rosenberg (G71-78) made contact from West Virginia:

“After twenty or so years, I finally write to let old school friends know what "Rosey" has been doing since he left Framlingham in December 1978 in the hope that this will spur renewed contact.

The short of it is that I migrated to the United States and have taken on all the trappings of a US citizen. I first came to Lynchburg, Virginia, when my father retired from the British Army and took over a general manager position for a German ink making business in this city. I spent two years studying at Lynchburg College, before transferring to the University of Virginia. I worked in a Pizza Hut, mowed lawns and cleaned golf clubs to get a degree in Political Science (Foreign Affairs), after which I took a year off and worked as a manager of a video store trying to decide what to do with my life. I applied to law school and ended up graduating from the George Mason School of Law in Arlington, Virginia. I passed the Virginia State Bar Exam in 1988 and became a licensed attorney working for a small general practice trial law firm in central Virginia under the name of Slater & Rosenberg, PC.

That was interesting for a while, but feeling the call of my military ancestry and the draw for challenge, at the age of 32, I dropped myself into the "gentle and loving arms" of Marine drill instructors at the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia (see the film Full Metal Jacket). For 10 weeks I was coddled and cared for, losing 30 pounds, much hair, and any aspiration to be challenged again. I survived, went on to the Marine Corps Basic School where for 9 months I was trained as a "grunt" (infantry officer), and then to Naval Justice School, in Newport, Rhode Island, where I was trained to become a JAG (Judge Advocate). I was then stationed in San Diego, and served a tour in charge of drill instructors training new Marine recruits at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. I went on to serve as the base senior defense counsel, and enjoyed competing in the San Diego triathlon scene, winning two Marine Corps Special Ironman events. In 1995, I was transferred back to Quantico, Virginia, where I headed up the prosecutor trial shop for 2 years, which was followed by a 2 year tour as an adjutant in Norfolk, Virginia, working directly for General Peter Pace, currently featured as Rumsfeld's right hand

man in U.S. Defense Department briefings (my closest claim to fame).

In 1999, I left the regular Marine Corps to serve in my present position as a senior assistant Commonwealth's Attorney (prosecutor) for the City of Virginia Beach. I am presently a Major in the USMC reserves, serving as a Site Judge Advocate for a local Marine Corps air control squadron for one weekend a month and two weeks each year. My job as a Virginia prosecutor, has been to try cases involving child abuse, sex crimes and domestic violence. I am about to make a switch and become a drug prosecutor. My workdays consist of jury trials and much time in court arguing cases before judges.

Throughout all this I took on American citizenship, got hitched to a good woman and produced 3 little "rug rats." I met my wife, Caroline, at the University of Virginia, and she has endured my wanderings by becoming a pediatrician with a focus on pediatric neurology. Our 3 very lively children Max (6), Sophia (4) and Anna (2) are a constant source of entertainment, joy and work. We have probably taken on far too much, but are somehow managing to maintain our sanity, with no breakdowns as yet. This is the American way, and we've bitten into it, "hook, line and sinker."

I welcome any contact from old school mates. I am very interested to find out where others have ventured and found themselves these last 20 years.

Address: 5433 Brookfield Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464; Tel 757 4274779; E-mail: ARosenberg@oca.vbgov.com

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) sent news from Hawaii in December:

"My wife, Celestine, and I are once again looking forward to boarding the QE2 for a segment from Honolulu to Auckland, NZ in January 2003. We did this segment in 2001 but a slightly different route, that time we went via Samoa and Fiji, this time it is via Moorea and Papeete which is, of course, home territory for us.

Nick Carlton (G63-70), who we met as Captain on our last cruise, is currently on leave and will probably be here in Hawaii (on Maui) later this month. He then heads off to Australia to take command of a mega-liner. He had hoped, and so had we, that he would get to captain the Tahitian Princess which is a new, smaller, ship for Princess, however the company decided that he was more valuable commanding a huge ship since he has more experience.

Great excitement here in November. The State of Hawaii elected a Republican governor for the first time in 40 years and, to top it off, a woman was elected for the first time ever. She almost got elected four years ago but the Democratic machine survived her attack just barely. This time she was elected with a huge majority and we are all looking forward to some great things from her to revive our dead economy.

Address: 45-501 Apiki Street, Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744-1919, USA; e-mail: BPear26848@aol.com.