

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

Overseas Bag Editor: Chris Essex (K69-75), 3 Kingston Avenue, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3LF; Tel: +44 (0)1225 873878; E-mail: overseasbag@oldframlinghamian.com

I have to start off this time with an apology that I failed to put together an Autumn 2009 edition of the Overseas Bag. This edition is therefore a combination of all the wonderful correspondence I have received over the last 9 months or so. It's been great to keep in touch with so many of you via the wonders of e-mail and I would strongly encourage everyone to ensure that they register their e-mail address on the website, so that we can keep in touch.

Please keep your messages and news flooding coming in, especially with your photos and don't be shy to let me know if you think you or someone else should be included in the Distinguished section of the SOF website.

AUSTRALIA

Phil Bower (G65-74) – I contacted Phil following a walk I did around Westonbirt Arboretum just north of Bath. On my walk I came across a rare wollemi pine, which I'd remembered Phil saying he grew. He replied saying *“Wollemi are dinosaurs.....very slow but then I have mine in a pot and that will be slowing it's growth rate. Only the one but it seems to be doing ok. I want to get it to a decent size before I put it somewhere in the bush where it will survive. The fun part being that, hopefully, long after I've gone some smartarse will make a "discovery" and claim bragging rights never knowing that it was little old me who put it where it will be. Of course, the joke will be outed because I'll let the parks people know that there's a Wollemi in whichever park. Just won't tell them where and it'll be off the beaten track so it should go for years before being found.*

He went on to comment about the recent death of Sir Pat *“Dreadfully sad to learn of the demise of this classic military gent. My (distant & rather vague) recollection of the man was chiefly when he taught me to water ski in Singapore - he threw me (bodily, as in picked up and deposited!) over the rail into the water and announced "you don't get out until you've done it"! How times change in this politically correct world of today..... My sincere condolences to all. P H-D was, without a doubt, of the "old school" and I mourn the passing of that generation.”*

Subsequently we exchanged thoughts on the floods that hit England towards the end of 2009. Phil in his usual style said *“amused to learn that you now have a Minister for Floods!! Personally, I'd have a thought a Minister for Land Drainage might be more useful? Sad to see the devastation and loss of life. Remember the bushfires we had here in Feb? I'm sure the doomsters will be rubbing their hands in glee. Well, when the world ends and they're all standing there saying "I told you so", who's going to give a damn?! Whether humans are accelerating the process or not is always going to be debatable to some extent, what is absolutely certain is that even if we wrap it up in cotton wool and never do anything to upset the "natural" flow of things, there will still be climate change, the polarity will reverse every 50k years or so, the sun will still go out and swallow the planet as part of the process and other earths will be created elsewhere. I mean, what did the dinosaurs do - they didn't even ride motorcycles and they still got made extinct.....”*

As far as work was concerned *“just finished working on the Spitting in Beers show in Sydney - 4 nights of follow spot duties foran act that enforced a confidentiality agreement on ALL it's "protected persons”. Also did Nickleback recently - proof that having a microphone and big pa is no warranty on intellectual content! Next week I have the Aussie "School Spectacular" for 3 long days and nights. Remember*

those cute little shows that we used to do at skool? Well, same but on an immensely grander scale..... Also worked on the set of forthcoming production of some movie by the guy who did "Mao's Last Dancer". Not at all glamorous - involving much laying of powerlock cabling (BIG juice carrying stuff) through the bush from the generator to the set. I'm also contracted to work the Sydney NYE celebs this year for the 3rd year straight - so, with any luck that'll boost the supply of light rope currently being assembled for this years house decoration! Orange was last year's colour so that'll feature heavily outside my house this year!! My band has it's first show in 2 weeks at the Lewisham Hotel in..... Lewisham - west Sydney, not the run down little borough in London! Looking forward to it because it's been a while since I last played."



Phil as usual put on a dazzling display of Christmas lights on his house and you can see a full set of pictures at <http://users.tpg.com.au/adslxsxa/lights.html>

Nick Carlton (G63-70) was briefly in touch to say that he was very busy leaving the ship and going on a course and then getting the family back to Australia with a brief visit to Suffolk. Then returning to Italy to rejoin Grand Princess via the office in Los Angeles. He hadn't yet got his copy of the BH book, but he looks forward to getting one in due course and seeing the mention of him, together with a picture of yours truly. His sister had seen the review in the EADT and kept it for him.

Mike Garnett (R53-55) got in touch to say that he had enjoyed the Overseas Bag in the 2009 Yearbook and *"I am coming to UK in early April to play in some over-age real tennis events at Queens. Not staying long, but enough time to catch up with relatives - my brother Gerald and wife Sheila, and my mum (100+). I have then arranged a tour of Israel on my way back, and I could not help but notice that there is an OF there Perdee Gould. I wonder whether she and her husband may care to meet up with me for a drink - not too many OF meets in Israel!!"* I was very happy to be contacted Perdee and you can see her positive response later.

I'm hoping to get the opportunity to watch Mike play real tennis while he's over here.

You will see later that Mike has also been in touch with **Chris Shaw (K50-56)**.

Peter Hughes (G52-56) wrote *"Food experiences at Fram were few and far between in the 1950's! I recollect a fine silver service lunch at a Woodbridge hotel hosted by Gus Weedon (G49-54) who had drawn the short straw to escort small fry to the dentist! The dentist has disappeared from the realm of memory. The meal remains. Thank you, Gus for introducing fine cuisine to members of the Lower IV. Then there was the Great White Blancmange Fiasco. An early attempt at Sunday lunch Industrial Action by rebellious fifth-formers, quickly crushed by 'quislings' and the fearsome eye of the Reverend Bulstrode, the Chaplain and Deputy Head. And where did that fad for burnt sausage and MARMALADE come from? Good years, good memories, and may they continue for you all!"*

James Jennings (S87-92) advised us that he was now living overseas in Tasmania, Australia and wanted to register on the website. He was also interested to know whether any other OFs lived in Tasmania. I was pleased to tell him that there were 4 others - **Merrick Mutiner (S67-76)**, **Paul Bonner (G61-64)**, **Robert Wallace (K50-58)** and **Penderel Bentall (G62-70)**. Hopefully James will try and organise an OF get together in Tassie and provide an update from him for inclusion in a future Overseas Bag.

Neville Marsh (S53-61) visited the UK/Ireland in June 2009. In early June he reported "Went to Fram and

Brandeston on Wednesday - Leigh did a good tour and Norman showed us around the junior school - plus generating some more snaps for his book! I had not been back since 1990. Elveden was good and the weather stayed fine for most of the time.”. By 21 June he was in Ireland.

Tom O’Donald (S51-57) has continued to be a regular correspondent despite his many health problems. As you will read he still has his wonderful sense of humour. *“Chris my friend, I owe you a great apology for failing to respond to all those plaintive calls for news. The trouble is that I never seem to have much news to pass on. After all, when you can’t walk, have a pipe shoved up where no man should have a pipe, can lift nothing heavier than a bottle of wine (which of course is vital otherwise there would be little to live for), speak with a decidedly croaky voice half the time and frequently disgrace myself by choking in the middle of a meal and being almost totally unable to use my eyes unless I am looking straight ahead as the only direction my eyeballs will move is from the horizontal upwards and fingers that never seem to be able to hit the right keys on my lap top would be of very little interest to anyone other than those who formed a strong dislike to me while at Fram. I still get some fun in the shopping centre although I draw a line at running into people at full speed (it takes too long to clean the mess of blood and guts off the bulbar I have had fitted to my gopher) but shopping trolleys are fair game especially when they emerge from shop doors at high speed with their user not bothering to look to see if anyone is coming.*

I am currently resident in an Aged Persons Home run by the Uniting Church (I don’t hold that against them). I went in last July for 21 days (first offence) and this time I am in for 43 days, this being my second offence. The word is that a third offence brings a life sentence! Actually that is what I am hoping for. Every day I go down to the office to see if there are any vacancies, working on the theory that that if I do that often enough, they will give me my own room. The home is very convenient as it is only about 2 km from home so I can pop down there and try and catch my wife out, and the shopping centre is only about 6 minutes away, but, more importantly, it is a beautifully run place. Our rooms which we have for our selves are big enough for a 6 bed hospital ward, complete with en-suite; the staff with a couple of exceptions are absolutely first rate, good fun and despite being paid next to nothing will do almost anything for you and we get 3 good meals a day interspersed by morning munchies, afternoon tea and evening cuppa so there is little chance of starving. I did suggest that they push someone over the balcony to make a permanent room available for me but that was felt to be an unreasonable request. Breakfast here is interesting. I have 3 inhalers followed by 12 tablets, one of which is morphine and this tiny capsule of long lasting morphine has to be escorted into my room by two nurses who have to ensure I take it, All the time there are activities going on which you can take or leave (I don’t go to the knitting group as I don’t want any knits in my hair) but the highlight of the week is Friday afternoon when we all get together and mingle, whilst lubricating ourselves with good red wine (South Australian of course)!

*I am looking forward to meeting up with **Peter Hughes (G52-56)**, especially as I haven’t had the pleasure of meeting his wife (I suspect she realised the dinner we all had in Cairns was going to be all talk of Fram and that we would probably all disgrace ourselves consuming considerable quantities of rather good red wine, and hence she stayed away). Peter had brought this long panoramic photo of the college, you know, the type where you try to see how many times you can get into it, and we poured through this trying to pick out all the people we knew. The trouble is that, like ourselves, their appearance changes as the years go by and although we don’t notice this in ourselves (that is unless we happen to look at old pictures of ourselves, we certainly notice it in everyone else.*

Well, that is about all the pathetic amount of news I can pass on so we will leave it there. Should I die before I get round to another letter, I will let you know!”

He was next in touch during another heatwave in Adelaide and following the visit of Peter Hughes *“Bearing it is still spring here, 8 days over 35°C is not bad, especially when most of them were 38°C with our classic Thursday when the mercury in Adelaide was spot on 43°C which is equivalent to you having a heat wave in*

April. If this is a forerunner of what is to come, then I have great fears of catastrophic fires as well as heat related stress on the elderly. Thank heavens this weekend is cooler, in fact according to the weather information it is 19°C and raining. Although we are only 40 km South of the city we seem to have somewhat of a microclimate, temperatures being that little bit lower in summer and a little bit higher in winter, probably due to the proximity to the coast.

It was good to meet Peter and his lovely wife when they popped in here to visit me the other day having successfully recovered Chris' violin, guarding it for all his being.

I can't remember if I mentioned to you but I now have pernancy at this home for the aged and infirm which is about 2 km from home. In fact, with Veronica away (a celebratory break to see no.1 son in Geelong, celebratory because she no longer has to look after me.), so if my address has not been changed in the annals of the Old Framlinghamian's record books, can you please update for me [address supplied]. Truthfully, although my main loss is the ability to use my feet and all stations North to my Vocal Chords, mentally I am perfectly alert and of sane mind (that might be questioned by some). The only thing I have to watch since some of the residents are somewhat older than myself is to reduce speed somewhat as they take a dim view of having mass slaughter of the residents, plus it leaves me with one hell of a job cleaning the blood and bone fragments from my gopher.

Fridays are best as that is happy hour when copious quantities of the red liquid are poured down my throat until I start gurgling... Far better than a transfusion!

I trust you are enjoying the rains. We wouldn't mind an inch or so here as all the grass is starting to turn to its traditional brown. It never stops amazing me the forgiving nature of lawns. One minute they are green and lush; the next they are dust bowls. All the best to you and yours."

I asked Tom what he and Veronica were up to over Christmas "I really have no idea what is happening. This is not at all unusual. I expect 2 of our adult grandchildren (they have passed from infancy into adultery) will inform us they are coming to our home: they always do, not waiting for an invitation. We may be invited to somewhere although goodness knows where, but, one way or another, we will certainly spend Christmas together.

Today is a special day for me. My eldest son is winging his way over to the States. I chatted to him for over an hour on Skype yesterday. What he does know is that he has to fire the manager of their American wing which is simply not performing and so he will be closing the office down and then relocating up in one of the Northern States (just to remind himself of what really cold weather is) where they will set up a management set-up there where one of their storage areas is located. What he is hoping is that he will get to appoint a new manager and staff and train them up, but there is a slight but very real possibility that he may be told to be the USA manager and hence stay there permanently; something I dread."

A brief update followed shortly afterwards "My son arrived in the States today and is resting up after travelling, mind you on business class on one of those enormous 2 story Airbuses and getting thoroughly spoilt. I chatted to him for 45 minutes this morning while he was staying in the hotel at the airport before picking up a hire care and going out to his branch a couple of hours ago. Very nervous about driving on the wrong side of the year. In case we don't contact each other one way or another, I hope you and yours have a wonderful Christmas and my thanks for the wonderful job you are doing."

Chris Shaw (K50-56) following the successful launch of his first book, Chris & Rebecca came over to England "We arrive London Heathrow on 17th September and Norman Porter has inveigled us to go to the SOF Dinner at Fram. on 19th. We shall be in UK for quite a time, but only in Felixstowe until the 24th. Then it's Potter Heigham, Norfolk, Lake District, Isle of Skye, Orkneys (Skara Brae), Edinburgh, Venice and

London, then back to OZ via Dubai, on 15th of October. If there is a chance to meet you during this time, we would welcome that.” [Sadly I missed seeing Chris at the Suffolk Supper as I had to leave the previous Council meeting early to join my sister for her 50th birthday that day.]

I asked whether another book will happen. He thought so, but not yet. He says “*Apart from ‘the business of books, and writing them and getting them published’ I have some ‘personal growth’ to experience. That phrase ‘personal growth’ is associated with ‘Fingernails and pliers’, ‘Come to my study, you shack’, and ‘Fix bayonets’ and is all about fear. I’m talking of course about public speaking, that threat of pain worse than death by fire, which I have managed to avoid for all these years-mostly. The only way is to do it and repeat it as often as possible, and it gets easier-I hope! The Cairns Regional Council recently decided to record the oral histories of a variety of people who emigrated from different countries to this area, why they came here and what they brought with them to contribute to the population. Since my ever-loving wife, Rebecca, is a Council Librarian I got ‘dobb’d in’, as the saying goes, to be the first. I managed to get through my hour, being recorded on video and with an audience of five souls, with many references to Brandeston and Fram; the training, the huge amount of activity in a day, and the occasional push to the very edge of ability. They don’t teach that at Comprehensives so you don’t know that your limits are far above the levels you would have believed. It all went off reasonably well, a bit boring perhaps, but I’ll improve.*

So, Chris, there is still a flame alight in Oz for the old school, but emphases and loyalties change sometimes. Rebecca and I were at Lords Cricket ground just before leaving London, and the Aussies on the tour outnumbered the Poms, and didn’t we give them some stick! All good stuff, this friendly rivalry.

Our holiday was HUGE! We saw some amazing things in the



Orkney Islands (see photo of ‘Salty old man of the sea’. Chris looking uncannily like his paternal grandfather who spent a very long career in the Royal Navy as Chief Engineer and diver), in Venice and in London. When, we have organised the photos I will pass a couple on to you. One will have to be of the Suffolk Supper with me wearing a suit for the 3rd time in 35 years, possibly with John Rankin and his lovely wife Angela. Norman and Virginia Porter were very gracious hosts, and eased Rebecca in to this testosterone driven, albeit aged for the most part, male forum. Your Head Boy and Head Girl were absolutely delightful-well done.”



Chris gave the following further news on his holiday, after returning home “*We arrived back in body on 15th October. We attended a writers’ dinner in Yungaburra, NQ and a Book Fair the following day, and only then could we fall in a heap, which we did. This week has been sleep, wake and sleep again, more sleep and then a synapse or two started to protect us against starvation, dehydration and wake-deprivation. So, we started on the Library’s nativity scene for which we bought three camels from Dubai, one on the way to UK and two on the way back. They were OK’ed by AQIS and we have been dressing them and building the obligatory stable for the nativity scene itself. We also carried three bears (not part of the nativity) and a donkey called Dingle because that’s where he came from (Eire). So, measuring and sawing became the order of the day, and we only have to find some safe LED lighting and we are about ready to rock and roll, back to work (for Rebecca) and back to washing and cooking for me.*

We had an absolute ball! We took 3,500 pictures, drove 4000 miles, got Mother’s 100th out of the way in style, went to Venice and to Orkney to Skara Brae and the tomb of the Eagle. Attended the SOF supper. It

was an SAS fitness course without the active torture segment (1000 steps in one day at the Tower of London is passive torture.) We don't want to see smoked salmon again for a while, an aeroplane – ever, but the beautiful things and music of Venice – yes!”

Just before Christmas, Chris was in touch again about Winstanley *“In a lifetime there are some strange coincidences, and I may have found one. Rebecca is in to Tudor history as a life long interest, and boy, have we got the books to prove it! A recent purchase from the ‘Treasure Chest’ in Felixstowe was on early Tudor government by Kenneth Pickthorn. In the preface, 3rd paragraph, 3rd line is a mention of a Mr. D. A. Winstanley and I wondered whether this was the same as the Deputy Headmaster of my time. He was a history lecturer and Fellow of Trinity College. The book was first published in 1934, which may fit. Just seems a little too close and maybe a strange coincidence.”*

In Spring 2010 Chris was in touch with **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** *“I was very pleased to touch base with you, after having seen your name in the 2010 Yearbook. I don't yet know the finer timings of our little trek south, but if there is a chance to touch base with you, we will, with the option of connecting with you on your trip to Port Douglas, where we could be joined by Peter and Janet Hughes. Peter was in Garrett House, and as you can see from a report in the current Yearbook, kept ferrets behind the chapel, with beer secreted under the cages! He, too, lives in Cairns and it would be a fine thing to join you for dinner up there, and stay in a hotel because of the necessity of having a photo taken for Chris Essex, none of which have ever been taken in Australia without a wine glass in evidence! I am also in touch with Tom O'donald who is in long term care in a nursing home as we speak, albeit with a fierce attitude for survival, and a wicked sense of humour. Having read your name and conjured up the image of the eye-shade on the tennis courts with you practising overhead slams (there's probably another and better term for that) it was a case of picking up the phone and making contact! So there we are. Query-Royal Tennis? Is this the form of the game as played by Henry VIII? If so, Rebecca and I are familiar with the game. She is a lifelong student of English Tudor History, with special attention to Anne Boleyn, and we have an extensive library of books, pamphlets and DVD's to prove it! She is also an anglophile-how lucky am I?”*

CANADA

David Lebell (K41-46) responded to a request I circulated from **Brian Rosen (S40-46)** for information on a visit to see Sir Alfred Munnings in the early 1940s *“I have not (quite) reached the age of 80 and do not remember this particular event... And I can't recollect committing any "sins" comparable to Brian's! Maybe I was considered too junior for the trip? But I did live in Dedham where Sir Alfred was our neighbour at Castle House. Violet, Lady Munnings had a pekinese, "Black Knight", which she used to take up to London to Royal Academy dinner functions. Black Knight would share her soup. When the dog died she had him stuffed and continued to carry him around the village! We are living on Vancouver Island and are currently experiencing what is known as the Pineapple Express - which brings in rainstorm after rainstorm from Hawaii. Combined with El Nino we are in for a wet and warm winter.”*

As my wife and I will be cruising into Vancouver Island during June 2010, I ask David if he would like to meet up. His warm reply was *“Faith and I would be delighted to have lunch with you here and hope you will get in touch closer to the time. It is just too bad that cruise ships never seem to spend very long in Victoria.”* Sadly I had to cancel the whole trip due family illness but hopefully we'll make it some other time.

Just before Christmas he was in touch again to say that he'd had a pre-Christmas chat with **Patrick Taylor (G43-46)** who was at the College with him during the war. He remembers very clearly Pickard's visit to the school and thereafter took an interest in him. He has an original oil painting (by a respectable British artist

called Graham Coton) of the raid on the prison. Patrick has already given the SOF a print of this. He says he would be happy to show the original painting to any OF who is interested.

FRANCE

Gerald Hendrie (K49-52) - we were in regular touch to finalise his entry in the distinguished section of the SOF website. Gerald has excelled in the field of music.

Brian Rosen (S40-46) responded to an appeal for recollections of the College during the war years. He wrote *“I keep hoping that someone is going to write and say how well he remembers the visit to the Royal Academy but I must now accept that it never took place! Interesting to hear from John Craske - we shared a study in 1946 I believe. I remember drawing a picture of Churchill in his autograph book and as a matter of coincidence was in a Guard of Honour inspected by Churchill at the Royal Academy in 195?and marching along Piccadilly to the strains of our Regimental march - Lili Marlene. “*

HONG KONG

Chris Hall (G62-69) sent me his Christmas newsletter and a new address in Hong Kong.

Iain Howard (S57-62) organised once again a Hong Kong Supper to coincide with the Rugby Sevens. The Supper was held in the Windsor Room of the Hong Kong Club on 24 March 2010. After dinner, **Chris Hall (G62-69)** very generously plied all those present with vintage Port until the conversation ended - well after midnight. The photo below shows from left to right **Stewart Birt (S56-61)**, **Ed Marr (G85-92)**, **John Birt (S59-63)**, **Ian Howard (S57-62)** (HM the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh), **Bob Holland (R57-65)**, **Chris Hall (G62-69)** and **John Ting (G2002-09)**.



Jenkin Leung (K79-84) was in touch for some help with accessing the SOF website and wanted to know about other OFs in Hong Kong. He went on to say *“I had an extraordinary opportunity to meet up with **Bini***

Giri (K79-82) in Hong Kong last week. We had not seen each other for 27 years and were only reconnected just over a year ago. It was purely by chance as a friend of mine here in HK was getting married and his wife is from Nepal and while they were organising the wedding they had to liaise with the Nepal embassy and got to know the people quite well. Purely by chance I asked if he could help me locate Binit who is also from Nepal. After providing my friend with all the details I can remember about Binit and his family, about two weeks later I was given a phone number in the US to call and I was totally lost for words when I heard Binit on the other end of the telephone! “

ISRAEL

Perdee Gould (nee Stagg) (P90-94) responded warmly to a request from **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** to meet up when he visits Israel in April 2010. “Israel has so much to offer and I am sure that you are completely organised with tours and excursions that you will need no more advice as to where you should visit first. Please feel free to ask as my husband is a tour operator. The best advice I can give is just take your time, there is so much to take in. It would nice to meet and if you can let me know when and roughly your movements maybe we can tie something in. Although they say Israel is the size of Wales the road infrastructure can sometimes make it feel like a journey from Lands End to John O’Groats! Wishing you a safe and pleasant journey to the UK and onwards.”

KENYA

Ben Simpson (B84-86) fascinating career has just taken another twist. Over the last couple of years he has been working with the BBC natural history unit on their latest David Attenborough series called “Life – Extraordinary Animals, Extreme Behaviour”. Specifically he has been involved in doing aerial shots of birds for the Lammergeyers in Ethiopia and Flamingos in Kenya, plus Barbel feeding off hippo botties and Ethiopian Wolves in Hunters & Hunted. Ben’s career has previously involved sailboarding in Hong Kong, motorbiking from one end of Africa to the other, gaining a pilot’s licence including getting shot at while flying and gaining a helicopter licence in Hawaii. He now runs his own helicopter unit in Kenya with great success. Somewhere in between he got married with a son.



SOUTH AFRICA

James Campbell (M74-82) was in touch at Christmas with the following news “2009 was a busy year but allowed us just a few family holidays; we were very fortunate to fly down to Mazeppa Bay for a week over Easter. The Wild Coast was absolutely beautiful, along with superb food and a family unit which allowed us all our own space this time together was a great success. Sad to say we had to cancel our family trip to Sondela Nature Reserve and the Cavern in the Drakensburg due to my work circumstances, but fortunately Ann and I got to Gansbaai in September and even saw whales. In early December we are also going on a magnificent cruise from Santiago down Chile around Cape Horn, Tierra del Fuego, Falkland Islands, Montevideo, Buenos Aires and Rio. We go on tours when we dock at all the above and get to enjoy all the excitement on board the Star Princess.

This year has been another hectic year, particular on the work front. What with the near collapse of the world economy and the concomitant fall out in the diamond market, things looked very bleak for African and West African Diamonds. However, the year has ended fairly well, after much hard work and a fair amount of luck. West African Diamonds is the subject of a reverse takeover by a larger West African focused diamond

explorer and miner and a fresh listing is planned for the New Year. African Diamonds now has a new joint venture partner in Lucara Diamond Corporation following this company's acquisition of De Beers' share in the Joint Venture. Finding a suitable partner and negotiating the fairly onerous terms required by De Beers led to more sleepless nights than I can remember. Outside of work, I continue to be involved as Vice Chairman of Common Purpose South Africa, though they now have to amend their constitution as I have now exceeded the maximum nine year term. I have also got increasingly involved with the South African Ballet Theatre ('SABT'), where I'm both Chairman of the Trust as well as a director of the company. This 'labour of love' has taken much of my time, as the SABT has been going through quite a torrid time of late. He has also been able to remain a Licensed Lay Minister in the Anglican Church of St.Martin's in Irene. He has also been awarded his Gold Medal for Ballroom and Latin American dancing with Ann and is planning on tackling the much more complicated 'Open' work sometime in the New Year."

I was next delighted to hear from James that he would be in London on 26 January and that he would be able to attend the SOF London supper. He also offered to get some contemporaries to join him, including his brother **Jonathan (M74-84)**. This he did.

SWITZERLAND

Christopher Beal (S53-57) gave us an updated address in Bern, Switzerland. He went on to give the following update *"After leaving Framlingham College I applied to do my National Service in the Army and joined up in the Royal Army Service Corps in which I did my basic training, and was then commissioned as a National Service Officer and posted to Germany. When my time was up I found I enjoyed the Army and having been offered a Regular Commission, took it and stayed on, joining The Royal Corps of Transport on its formation in 1965. I served in Germany, Libya, Cyprus, Borneo and Hong Kong in field transport units, as well as the Corps port and maritime service in both Scottish and UK waters and on the Eastern Borneo rivers. . I also had one unique tour as the Second in Command of the last working Mule Company in Hong Kong. On returning to Britain after a period of home service in UK, including Northern Ireland, I felt the pull to return to the warmer climes I served in before. There is something about the Middle and Far East that gets under your skin when you have been there for some time and it drew me back. (Read your Kipling). As little of the British Army remained out there at the time and I had no chance of getting back to anything interesting, I resigned my commission, and accepted a commission in the Sultan Land Forces in The Sultanate of Oman. In between in 1978 I managed to fit in joining a six month hot air balloon expedition in the Sudan before moving to Muscat. I served with the Oman Army in the Gulf for some 14 years. After which I retired in country and took over a Safari style travel company in Muscat that had been set up previously by my wife, running it until 2003, when the invasion of Iraq caused me to close down. I then did a specialised fuel contractual job for the UN in Iraq, just after the war was over, before retiring and returning to live in Dorset in 2004. In 2008 I decided to move to Switzerland where I now live, married, just outside Bern in a local village with my Swiss wife and an Italian Lagotto dog, the former who feeds me well, and the latter who keeps me fit and on my toes. I am also putting a much travelled life into some semblance of written order, as well as writing up some of the more colourful and interesting experiences, and will see if anything of interest comes of it all."*

UGANDA

Brian Pretty (S52-56) has continued to make repeated visits to Uganda and will provide an update when he cane. He sums his time up in Uganda as "very problematical".

USA

Nick Allan (R59-63) continued to keep me regularly amused and informed with his round robin e-mails.

Michael Blake (K72-76), who was a contemporary of mine, was in touch to ask about others and to offer a bed for the night if ever I was in the Washington DC area.

Anthony Cowan (R55-64) offered to meet up if we were visiting Seattle during our trip in June 2010. Sadly we aren't but through his insurance connections he put me in touch with a helicopter company who have offered us a great flight when we visit Alaska. Anthony started worked at Lloyds and specialized in Aviation Insurance and decided in 1979 to take a 5 year contract in the U.S.A. to handle a Cargo Airline/Helicopter company based in McMinnville, Oregon. He relocated to Seattle and is still there. He also wrote to me about a cycling trip to Spain in the summer of 1963. The other participants were **Richard Vaughan-Griffiths (K60-64)**, **Ian May (R55-65)**, Rory Brown and Geoff. Please give Richard Vaughan - Griffiths my best regards when you next see him.

Noel Hume (37-39) provided an update at Christmas. He said *"Alas, I'm not feeling very Christmasy today. I heard an hour ago that one of my oldest friends died this morning. She was the widow of someone I wrote his obituary for in The Times."* Asked him for more information on how his autobiography (title: *A Passion for the Past*) was coming on *"The autobiography begins in 1927 (nursery stuff) and ends in 2007 with the staging of my John Smith play. There could have been a second volume, but the University Press of Virginia could only underwrite one book. So much had to be cut. I will remember to send you a copy when it comes out -- even though I have not remembered the Rev "Roop" Kneese and his Beatitudes with much affection. I'm not sure when in 2010 the book will come out. University presses move very slowly. I am currently completing a book on the 19th-century Egyptologist Giovanni Belzoni, the title "Belzoni: The Giant Archaeologists Love to Loathe." I suspect that this will be my last literary effort -- though my wife (who is 20 years younger) says "Nonsense!"*

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) provided the following update *"Warm greetings to you and your family from N.C ! Well, here we are almost at the end of another year. Once again we have to thank you for all the updates of Fram' news via the internet, which are always much appreciated. This time of year I often think back to the end of term at school, when we decorated the house set rooms before packing our trunks and tuck boxes and heading home on the "Fram' Express", for the holidays. Seems a lifetime ago !*

It's been a relatively quiet and uneventful year here in Shallotte. The flower garden managed to overcome frequent visits from the deer, the pond escaped the eyes of the Kingfisher and Heron and the bird feeder battled the Raccoons to a draw!!! So we can't complain.

With no models to build or figures to paint, I have still been kept busy around the house and garden ,with the usual list of maintenance items to look after. During the summer I did spend a liittle more time rearing some different species of giant silk moths and butterflies, the eggs of which I obtained from various breeders across the country. Combining this with my interest in photography, I shall probably continue to do even more next year. It was rewarding to see such an abundance of different butterflies this year in the garden, which is encouraging with so much of their natural habitat being developed. Seldom now do I keep a specimen to put in my cabinet.

For our holiday, we eventually decided to take a cruise in October aboard Holland- American lines, sailing from Venice to Barcelona via a few places of interest along the way. We certainly appreciated leaving our belongings unpacked for a while, however, the stops along the way were not sufficiently long enough to really get the "feel" of each location and there was so much to see for just one day. Anyway it was great

seeing Venice and Florence again as well as the ruins of Pompeii, where we could have spent a week exploring around.

On the home front, it has been a tough year for many folks. Unemployment is up around 10% and large banks though helped by a government stimulus package, still seem reluctant to lend money. Consequently there has been a real turn down in building construction and land development. People are being very tight with their wallets, and selective with their purchases. Few random buys these days. With the high interest rates on the outstanding balances of credit cards, people are learning it is wiser to use a little restraint and pay with cash only when you can actually afford to do so.

Well, enough for me. I see that you are going to be coming over here to the States for a visit. I accept it doesn't look like you will be over our way. However, you have the Grand Canyon and Alaska to look forward to and it should be an exciting trip!"

Ted McKean (G65-66) let us know of his new address in Gilford, NH and said how much he enjoyed reading all the news in the Yearbook and Newsletter.

Alfred Molson (K38-43) continues to be my lost regular correspondent via a combination of e-mail and Skype. Alfred is also excellent at tracking down and keeping in touch with contemporaries and has a bank of fascinating stories. One such involved the only "Ruler" to attend Framlingham, in the form of **Sao Hkun Hkio (34-36)**. He helped an enquiry from a member of the public and recalls "*I met him in the summer of 1936. One cold and rainy September day in 1927 at Fram, two lonely boys found themselves in totally strange surroundings. Both had just arrived at Fram as new boys and away from home for the first time. One was Sao Chow (Sao Hkun Hkio) the eldest son to the Ruler of the Shan States in Burma and a long way from home. The other was Victor Hammick (K27-30) (my first cousin) from near by Leiston, Suffolk. Their loneliness in their new surroundings cemented a close friendship that lasted until Sao died in 1990.*

Summer of 1936 we had a family gathering at my uncle and aunts home. My parents, sister and I were present, so was Victor Hammick and his sister Winnie. The only non family present was Sao Chow (the name by which we knew him.) He had just arrived back in the UK from Burma, and wanted to see Victor. He was invited to join us and the next day he discovered that among other celebrations it was Winnie's 21st Birthday. He hired a car, drove off to Ipswich on some false pretence and returned with a birthday present for his old school mate's sister. It was a Diamond ring (cost some £850!) As much as a Doctor in family practice made in a whole year. (Fram Fees were £85/90 p.a.) The next day, Vic, Sao, Winnie and my sister all drove off to Ipswich where a more appropriate present was found.

Sao was granted a "Kings Commission" in the British army, NOT a 'Viceroy's Commission' as was usual for 'Colonials' including Indians who served under the British Flag. While he drew a pension, when he died Westminster flatly refused to give his widow a pension. She was a Brit - his landlady's daughter, who he married while at Cambridge. Victor enlisted several MPs and a QC, all to no avail. Another shameful act of Governments of all kinds.

Sao was the son of the Ruler of the Shan States in Burma (east of the Salween River on Thai boarder). While the very helpful British Raj ruled the country, they did supply a "British Official" as resident 'Advisor'. His father noticed that whenever the Brits introduced a new law, (usually to benefit the Brits.) the Advisor was usually sympathetic at the start, he always ended up insisting 'it would be better to acquiesce, and avoid troubled feelings on the part of the British Raj. Sao came to the UK to offer Victor a life time job as his all round advisor, so as to have a second opinion on the subject. After Fram. 1930. Jobs were very hard to get, and the best Victor got was as a clerk in the Leiston East Suffolk County Council. Pay ten shillings a week. However my parents were able to get him a job with Prudential Insurance the year before and he was very happy and contented, so he did not accept. The 'U' after a Burmese name is like 'Esq.' (i.e. he has and wears

a white shirt). All for now.”

Alfred had contacted **Lesley Hinds (R37-42)** who had recently returned to the College to see his brother's name on the WW2 Memorial. Lesley was interested in joining SOF even though 84. Stanley had died on 14 June 1945 in Burma just before the end of the war. Alfred recalled that Lesley and Stanley would chat away in French while they were at the College, as they had lived for a while in Belgium. He also recalled that the Bridge brothers and the Blake brothers spoke to each other in Spanish.

In another call Alfred, to my amazement, mentioned that he had met most of the original astronauts at some point and in 1947 met Rene Lacoste at Wimbledon who then went on to give tennis coaching to the Governor of Bermuda while Alfred was living as ADC to the Governor.

Alfred has suffered from and been treated for various forms of cancer over the last 25 years and he had another episode towards the end of 2009 affecting his left kidney. This was successfully removed on 14 December and by mid February was fully recovered.

Alfred has also kept in touch with an author about Captain Somerville DSO (xx) and responded to Brian Rosen's request for information about a visit he remembered from the College to the Royal Academy during the war years at the College. *“I left Fram at the end of 1943 and it did not happen before I left so have to presume it was January 1944 or later so I can't help you. I would like to hear from anyone who was on the crew who stayed behind in the summer of 1942 and worked in the fields doing farm work helping to bring in the harvest (mostly pea picking by hand !) while living in the 'new ' Sanatorium and surviving on Chief Rupert Kneese's best Boy Scout cooking. The only one who comes to my mind was **Dennis Copeman (K39-43).**”* Alfred went on to recount a story of cycling with Dennis Copeman in the summer of 1942 from Framlingham to Cromer and then in one day cycling from Cromer to Esher, which sounds an amazing feat.

Brian Rosen's e-mail also prompted a discussion about **Percy Pickard (G26-32)** *“The subject of Percy Pickard seems to have come up again. In case you did not know, he got the job of the Pilot in "F for Freddie" Because his sister Helena Pickard was married to Sir Cedric Hardwick. Both were film actors in the 1925 thru '50 period. Additionally he had twin sisters and a brother Group Capt. Walter John Pickard OBE. I met Sir Cedric and Lady Hardwick several times back in the summers of 1935-39. They had a summer cottage (or rented it) at Thorpeness on the coast north of Aldborough. My uncle (father of Victor Hammick (K 27-30)) operated the only cinema in Leiston, and they would phone in and reserve seats to see films. They then would retreat to my uncle's office in the Foyer to wait for the driver to bring the car (RR) to the cinema side exit and take them home. In that way they avoided the crowd that would wait to see whose car it was. Just another case of being at the right place at the right time? “*

Anthony Neubroch (G61-69) was in touch from Florida needing help with verification of his time at Brandeston/College for a prospective employer “I am currently in the process of negotiations with a new employer here in the States. As part of their background checks they are looking for verification of my educational history. I have responded stating that I do not have any official record from Framlingham College but was contacting the school registrar for confirmation of such. I did this on Friday but got an “out of office” response. I just spoke to Richard Rowe who said he was going to try and dig up his copy of the school register. In the meantime he suggested I contact you and solicit your help. I have been in discussions with the employer, CGI, for several weeks and this appears to be only item of information they require before I am able to accept their offer. So, there is a slight time crunch here and I would appreciate any help you are able to provide.” Hopefully Tony will give some more news in future.

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) was off on another cruise in October 2009, but not being captained by **Nick Carlton (G63-70)** this time. He and Celestine were booked on the Star Princess for 30 days, sailing from Sydney to Los Angeles, via Auckland, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti and Honolulu. I heard from Bryan again when he

received the Newsletter. *“Just received the July 2009 edition of the Newsletter, most enjoyable and professionally done. I had to smile when I saw the picture of Brian and Mike Rosen on their BSA bikes, which reminded me of a day, I think in 1947 or 1948, when I was riding my AJS en route to a meeting somewhere, Brands Hatch I think, when I heard my name called and it was one of the Rosens, actually I seem to remember that it was Anthony, going to the same meeting.*

One page that I always read with some dread is the Deaths section. This time I was sad to read of the passing Roy Quinlan, David Brunger and John Churchill, all of approximately my vintage. Makes one ponder one's own mortality!”

Towards the end of the year I contacted Bryan to ask how his cruise had gone. *“The cruise was great, 30 days is just perfect. The Star Princess is a sister ship to the Grand, but the interior is quite different, so we were "lost" for a couple of days. Cruised with a couple from Australia whom we have known for many years, he is an ex movie writer/producer, and a free lance journalist who has written a couple of books. Saw a lot of tsunami damage at Apia and Pago Pago. Our visit to Moorea was not the happiest as we were greeted at the dock by Celestine's sister, who informed us that their brother had died that morning, we still don't know the cause of death but he was only 49, so sad.”*

They are next cruising in October 2010, when they over to London and then Venice, to board the Ruby Princess for a 16 night cruise back to Fort Lauderdale.

In February 2010 he contacted me to say that he had just received the latest copy of Filmfax, which has a nine page spread on his film “Teenagers From Outer Space”. He said *“Had to laugh at a shot of me with Celestine, taken on a cruise, the label says "Grant today, out with a friend for a night on the town"!!!! Wait till Celestine sees that !”* I said he must have been stalked by the paparazzi!! Reference is made to his film as bottom item on right hand side of front cover.



Richard Rowe (S65-74) was in touch on a regular basis and from various areas of the world, usually connected with work. In the middle of 2009 they had a week's holiday in Cape Cod and then on to Washington.

They spent New Years Eve at their apartment on Fort Myers Beach, but *“fuelled by excess wine I was asleep well before the midnight fireworks. We have a busy January. Training in Las Vegas next week; then to Canada for my son's international hockey tournament; a potential trip to Italy and maybe Paris about the time of the London Supper but I don't think my schedule will allow me to get there; then Washington for a day”*

Bill Sellers (G47-51) was in touch to say that he would be sending some info about his activities. I look forward to publishing this in the next Overseas Bag.