

# OVERSEAS BAG – SPRING/SUMMER 2011

## “HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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A big thank you for another bumper crop of correspondence from far and wide. As always there are some new writers, like Mike Pegg from a new country for the Bag of Finland and plenty of correspondence from familiar friends. Its always great to hear from anyone.

I must start with a slight apology that a lot of the correspondence revolves around the trip my family and I are taking to Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore in the summer of 2011. I have been humbled by the warmth and help shown from OFs and I very much look forward to meeting many of you during my travels at a good number of OF Suppers/Drinks arranged along the way.

As always 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 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

**Mark Birrell (G78-83)** – as you will read below, Phil Bower has been in touch with Sydney OFs about an SOF Supper when I visit the city in August 2011 with my family. Mark has been in touch to say “*Sounds like a lot of fun. Should be available so count me in. Will see if my brother is interested but have a feeling he Is going to the UK for a trip.*”

**Phil Bower (G65-74)** has been in regular touch to update on his music, photographic and roadie activities. He was first in touch before Christmas 2020 giving an update on the shows he had been involved in “*recently done Muse, Linkin Park, the annual Wiggles shows and from 27/12 I'll be flat out for the next 14 days on the best New Year's Eve show in the world. Also did the Metallica run of Sydney shows, Good Charlotte, Qantas anniversary (complete with Travolta fly in), and the Ben Hur spectacular at ANZ stadium (got my name in the programme as well!). Qantas was somewhat amusing - they were proudly showing the Airbus double decker - 2 days after they were all grounded because of the exploding engine syndrome..... you could taste the bitter irony! Tales from the road - Metallica had inflatable balls as part of the finale. We were tasked with inflating same using air compressors. It's amazing what happens when the nozzle is inserted into an almost full can of coke and the trigger pulled..... you can still see the coke stains on the roof!*”

*KFC can be found on myspace - demo's on the site range from fully representative to "working titles" (ie, some of the tunes have developed somewhat since they were initially, and very cheaply/quickly, recorded). We're hoping to record properly early 2011 - but as always it's a case of time and money, even with a 3pce outfit, the logistics of everyone being available at the same time can be difficult! I use the light rope at rehearsals cos it adds a bit of ambience and I do like to do things a little differently sometimes. This year I hope to shoot some vid of the Xmas lights - been creative with gaffa tape and suspension techniques - cos I think it's quite a good year visually speaking!*

*Dee is currently recovering from having a cochlear implant in her right ear. The op was a tad more interesting than had been expected but the long term prognosis is no worse than any other's recipient of the technology. Who knows, with a bit of luck she may have decent hearing by the time you arrive!*

*Snow? Ah yes, that strange white powder that is unique in that people don't try to shovel it up their noses like all the other white powders! I can remember some excellent snowball fights in the grounds of Fram castle - complete with broken collar bones, and thoroughly soggy clothing.....*

*Have as wonderful and splendid Chrissy and NYE as circumstances will allow. Raise your tankard to the good times and drink to the bad ones!!*

In 2011 he has been working on installing the set for the world premiere of Dr Zhivago the musical in Sydney. He says *"Set looks really good and there's a good deal of mobile stuff during the show. Here's hoping the script & music is up to the task (reports are that it's really rather good!). Soon to be working on the Chinese NY here, some more shows for Michael Buble (fab artist, highly recommend you take the ball and chain to see a show). Just done the City of Sydney's New Year's Eve for the 4th straight year (probably my last cos I'm kinda over it right now).*

As for his band he says *"My band now has a website if any OF's want a darned good laff at this old fart still poncing about like a goggle eyed teenie! <http://www.kayeffsee.net> "*

He has also been trying to organise an OF Supper in Sydney when I visit in August 2011. At the time of going to print he had 6 OFs and partners coming along, but no definite venue chosen. He keeps telling me to chill as there's plenty of time! His light hearted invite stated *"Due to the impending presence of our Overseas bag editor (albeit in a few month's time!), this may be a good opportunity to show these damned colonials how decent riots were caused in the Auld Tradishun?! Target date is as mentioned below, venue tba (suggestions welcomed so long as it's not pricey and sells either Macca's or KFC!). This would be an Affyre of Informality and could possibly include some essence of fancy dress (ie, if you wish to wear a suit and tie and be the derision of the assembled Kompanye, then that is your choice!). In the meantime, expressions of interest are welcomed (except for those in the banking system because they receive far too much % as it is) - please confirm whether you will be subjecting your partners/boyfriends/girlfriends/wives/offspring/anonymusbito'fluffonthesides to an evening which will (hopefully) be memorable for (equally hopefully) all the most politically incorrect reasons! The spirit of Fram is in parrallell to that of St Trinians - we must not let the side down!! (trousers and underwear excepted, fees and charges apply, one week only, everything must go) All the best"*

In June 2011 he was in touch again to say that the previous weekend we had worked on "Beyond The Darkside" Pink Floyd tribute show at Sydney's Luna Park Big Top. He says *"Apart from emptying out 2x48ft containers and erecting contents in the required format, I was invited to shoot both nights by the LD - a bloke I know from the last time the band was in town and also from the Angels (very big over here)."* You can see his pictures at <http://www.shazbinkimages.com.au/btds/dir.html>

**Nick Carlton (G63-70)** – on a recent cruise we did with P&O, I mentioned Nick's name to the Captain. Afterwards Nick confirmed that he knew him and they used to sail together. At the time (October 2010) Nick was on his way south from Hawaii to Tahiti and having great weather. **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** and his wife Celestine had come on board for lunch in Honolulu. Bryan was off on another cruise on the Ruby Princess shortly afterwards. He went on to say *"This cruise goes to Sydney then a quick turn-round and back to LA. I go on leave from Honolulu on 14 Nov and return to Sapphire on 11 Dec in LA for some Mexico and then Hawai'i cruises to 12 March. Looks like I stay with Sapphire next year doing Alaska again for 8 weeks out of Seattle and then later Mexico and Hawai'i and Tahiti. Hope you are having a great day .. we are on our way to Tahiti just crossing the Equator. (Listening for the bump)!"*

**Doug Denby (S53-57)** responded to Phil's invite to an OF Supper in Sydney "Ill register my EoI!! Please keep me informed!! At this stage, I'm available on the appointed day!"

**Mike Garnett (R53-55)** like Phil Bower and John Gates has also been organising and OF Supper for when my family and I are in Melbourne on 29 July 2011. Attending will be **Bob and Christine Munro (R54-60)**, **Aubrey and Diane Whitear (G58-65)**, **Keith and Pat Dann (S48-50)**, **Mike Ridley (K53-59)**, **Tim and Jill Bellamy (G60-66)**, **Ed and Jenny Henry (G57-66)**, **David and Diana Bonner (G62-66)** and **Mike Garnett** making a brilliant 20 in all.



I've also been in touch with Mike over the repositioning of the Melbourne Sundial at the College. Its now is in the centre of a quiet garden area by the side of the old headmaster's house. To complement this, the SOF have recently donated 2 benches for the area – see website story

<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/article.php?story=20110201143624750>

Finally from Mike, he sent me this story to show what a small world we live in. "On a very hot and humid day, I decided to visit a nearby town (Gisborne) where there is a new swimming complex. Hundreds of schoolchildren there, so one lane reserved for us oldies. In this lane was a gentleman who asked me which side of the lane we should swim (so that we don't bump into each other) - he then commented that I sounded 'English". I asked where he was from and he said 'Suffolk' so I said I was educated there. To cut a long story short, he was here visiting his son and family who lived close by in Woodend, and that both sons (twins) went to Framlingham!! - the son at Woodend is **Michael Selby (Z83-93)** - so we have another potential OF to celebrate your visit!?"

**John Gates (S44-48)** was in touch before Christmas with seasonal greetings and said "hope you are not snowbound-it is 31C here this morning, and hoping for a storm later to cool things down! **Peter and Joy Bailey (K34-38)** are joining us for Christmas lunch this year. Peter is reasonably well as he is well on the way to 90. I have not heard from **Peter Simpson (K32-40)**. Personally I have had a difficult time since June- on Saturday 18th Sept 2010 I developed double vision in my left eye-MRI results proved negative for Strokes/Aneurisms etc thankfully. Anyway my eye did not come good for about 10 weeks, but my Specialist has now given me the OK to drive again from 13th December. Ruth, my wife, is glad that her chauffeuring duties have finished.

I am taking our daughter Sarah & her girls Ellen 18, who has just finished school & her sister Lauren nearly 16 on a cruise in the South Pacific on the 21st of April 2011. This will probably be the last time we shall all be together, as Ellen is hopefully off to University early in the New Year.

We are taking a further & longer cruise on 1st of July in the S.Pacific-28 nights, calling at Norfolk Island, Nuku'alofa, Rarotonga, Papeete, Bora Bora, Apia, Savusavu, Noumea, so should be relaxing. Not to sure if

*we shall visit the UK again, your economy is in dire straits, costs rising substantially, and your weather not the best, so we shall see, but certainly not before 2012, and then insurance for travellers over 80 is very expensive.”*

I was next in touch with John about our trip to Australia. As well as giving lots of helpful travel advice, he also volunteered to organise an OF Lunch at **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** Twin Waters Golf Club on Monday 8 August 2011. As well as my family and John and Ruth, we are also expecting Peter and Joy Bailey, Henrietta & Peter Simpson, and Alison & **Neville Marsh (S53-61)**, plus possibly **Robert Goodale (K58-66)**.

Of course Queensland was badly hit by flooding in March 2011 and John gave the following update “*We are all OK. The flooding mainly is from Cairns down to Bunderberg and all parts to the West such as Emerald., Dalby, Condomine. It will be weeks before the clearing up is finished as it is not only the water level that has to recede, its the resulting damage to property, roads and infrastructure and housing etc. This of course has happened before, but this time is the worst ever and the clean up bill will be in the BILLIONS. We have had al ot of rain and all the dams are full, however this does not stop our water bills from rising - just Govt incompetence. But we must not complain as we live in a marvellous part of the world, mainly warm, with NO Snow !!.*”

In a further update following the flooding he said “*I have heard from Neville Marsh, they are ok as they live on high ground, but they are cut off from surrounding areas due to the floods. They have ample provisions so will be OK. The floods up north ie from Cairns down have broken up the Main Road (M1) in many places, which will take sometime to repair. In view of this I think you should be very cautious and plan to take 4 nights down to Brisbane. Although the M1 (Cairns-Brisbane) is a major road, it is certainly not a highway, not many parts are double lane, and overtaking is not good to say the least. So err on the side of caution, is my advice.*”

**Rob Di Goodale (K58-66)** was put in touch with me by **Jerry Lee (K59-64)** – see under Malta. He is visiting Malta with his wife from 6 April until about 18 April 2011, when they will catch the ferry to Sicily, spend a few days in Sicily and then fly out of Sicily on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to Marseille where they pick up a car and do a house swap with people in a village near Toulon. They will then spend a month touring Provence, then the Languedoc region and also down to Barcelona. They were also considering going the other way (east) visiting the Cannes Film Festival and the Cinque Terra region in Italy. Then sometime in mid June they will fly to England, visiting their son in Manchester, and around 20 June 2011 will spend 4-5 days traveling with a friend to The Somme and Flanders for visits to WW1 war graves and battle fields celebrating the exploits of our ancestors. Finally on 28 June they will return to the Land Of Oz. There is a possibility that he may be able to join us at the SOF Lunch just north of Brisbane, but he teaches music at a local private high school and may not be able to get away.

He also sent me this photo of himself and his eldest son Sam.

As he had mentioned going to northern France to see battle fields of WW1, I asked him if he was going anywhere near Amiens where OF, **Captain Gordon Flowerdew (1894-99)** was awarded his VC at Moreuil Wood and he is buried south west of Amiens at Namps-au-Val



British Cemetery. He wasn't sure at the time of writing, but would bear it in mind. He said he had been at the College with **Nicholas Flowerdew (K57-65)**. Sadly I had to tell him that he had died, possibly as long ago as 1992. Gordon Flowerdew VC was his great uncle.

**Peter Hughes (G52-56)** who will be attending the Cairns OF Supper being organised by Chris Shaw (see below) was in touch at the time of the flooding in Queensland and this is his account *"The major flooding in terms of inundation, evacuation, loss of property, power and life is in the river basins of the Fitzroy (Qld) and Burnett rivers. Biggest affected are the major cities of Rockhampton and Mackay with smaller inland towns such as Emerald also under water. Economically, this is a big blow to primary agricultural industries which were just coming good after an 11 year drought. In Cairns region there has been localised flooding and limited damage, Chris and Rebecca are in a lower lying area a little north of the CBD and close to the Barron River which usually flows rapidly from the higher plateau of the Atherton Tablelands at such times. Those that can stay home, read and write books, watch the cricket and generally keep out of the way! Final Test starts in Sydney in about 5 minutes, showers are forecast so Australia may yet survive a drubbing at the hands of the revitalised England team. Best wishes for 2011 and the planning of your Antipodean Trip."*

**Nick Kennon (Z79-85)** another Queenslander was also good enough to provide some feedback at the time of the flooding *"No major floods here on the Gold Coast, just a lot of bad weather – very grey, very wet and very windy! The odd road has been closed as they had parts under water. But this is nothing in comparison to what they are experiencing further north."* Nick is head of Special Education Services at Arundel State School.

**Kenneth Mackenzie (K45-53)** was in touch after we posted a news item on the website about **Patrick Spraggs (G04-09)** golfing achievements – see <http://www.oldframinghamian.com/article.php?story=20100826100435692> He said "I noted with interest your article concerning the O.F. who is the holder of both the Suffolk Open championship and the Suffolk Amateur at the same time. My mind goes back to the war years when both these trophies perched on our dining room cupboard having been won by my Father, a member of Woodbridge G.C. immediately pre-war after which, for a number of years, there was no competition. At that time, I believe he was the only amateur to hold both cups but after the war an American, serving at Bentwaters also achieved the feat. Congratulations to him!" Ken lives in Mosman Park, Perth along with a number of other OFs. We need someone to organise a Perth OF Supper!

**Neville Marsh (S53-61)** lives outside Brisbane and gave this perspective on the Queensland flooding *"We are OK, thanks. Rockhampton, about a 1000kms north of here, has had it bad and also out in the west, St George as well. It looks as if the floods have peaked at 10-15 metres above usual levels. In Brisbane we have had the edge of the tropical rain (an expression which means heavy steady rain - 5 inches in the week after Christmas).*

*A bit of news for the Mag. I spoke to **Ken Mayhew** on the phone who had come out for the Gabba and Adelaide tests. I couldn't believe his dates at school - 1929-34! It turns out that he is 93. I was at Fram with his son. Anyway, what an amazing achievement at his age. He saw two good tests. Unfortunately, we couldn't meet up. I hoped we could have breakfast together but he left his hotel at 8.00am to get to the Gabba! **Marcus Marshall (G76-79)** also tried to make contact. Peter Bailey is well and spent Christmas Day with John Gates and respective wives at John Gate's place at Maroochydore. "*

He was amused to see his photo in last year's Newsletter. *"The actual story is that I asked Norman to take a photo of me by the door at Brandeston as I have (somewhere) a photo of me by the same door in 1954. If I can find it, I will send it in so the two can be published side by side!"* [No joy yet in finding 1954 photo]

I look forward to seeing Neville and his wife at the OF Lunch just north of Brisbane.

**Marcus Marshall (G76-79)** got in touch with the website team to provide updated details. At the time of writing it doesn't seem possible that Marcus will be able to attend the OF Lunch just north of Brisbane, but hopefully he will provide an update when time permits.

**John Masson (M74-79)** was also in touch about the Queensland floods saying "Floods are all south of Cairns and Townsville at Rockhampton, Bundaberg and inland to Chinchilla, Emerald etc."

**Simon Narroway (G72-75)** was my best man over 31 years ago but has lived away from the UK most of that time and has spent over 25 years in Sydney. During our trip we will be meeting up with him and his family. He has provided the following update "*After 25 years in banking, I switched to Management Consulting a few years ago. I look after business development for the region so I travel a fair bit. For example, I am in Melbourne or Brisbane most weeks for a day or two. I enjoy it – it keeps me active and engaged. We may decide to change direction when our youngest finishes school in 3 years. Yoko went back to work a few years ago as the children became more 'responsible'. She now works in mental health care for the NSW State Gov't. We have six children – Lisa (26), George (24), Harry (21), Richard (20), Sarah (18), and Sayuri (15). Apart from Richard the rest are currently living with us.*"

Simon is also going to be at the Sydney OF Supper Phil Bower is organising.

**Tom O'Donald (S51-57)** wished everyone "*a very Happy and Holy Christmas and may next year bring everything all that you wish for.*" Following publication of the Yearbook Tom wrote "*Once again, my congratulations on your latest magazine contribution.*"

*Because of my circumstances, I have very little news; after all what can happen in a nursing home other than people dropping off the perch and new people taking their place. That said, every time I get crook, I am quite certain that I headed for the crematorium only to find that once again I have lost the job. One highlights of late was the visit of **Chris and Rebecca Shaw (K50-56)** who I managed to con into paying a visit to Adelaide during their trip around Australia, having convinced them that any visit to the south of Australia would not be complete without a visit to the pearl of the south (Hell some people are easily conned). Their's was a pretty mammoth journey so I don't really feel guilty in persuading them that no journey would be complete without a visit to Adelaide, and in particular to my Nursing Home."*



He went on to say "*I have been trying without success to find the old data base that was on the OF's web page. Thanks to the bloody mindless of Telstra, the controller of all the internet services in Australia together with (and I shudder to mention the name,) Microsoft, I find that I have lost some email addresses, one of which is that of **David Argent Belcher (R49-57)**, a good mate of mine. The only problem is negotiating around the site to find his email address. I feel that I got close to it when I got a pop up notice telling me that I didn't have the authority to enter that page. If you are one of the favoured ones who can find these email addresses, I would be forever grateful. Hence if I can grovel enough I wonder if you can find his email address (it is at his wife's dancing and theatrical location) where he seems to spend most of his time casting me into somewhat piratical characters, I will be eternally grateful. I trust I have grovelled sufficiently to find out that information and hence it remains for me to wish you and your family the very best of wishes.*" [He'd definitely grovelled sufficiently for me to help him!]

**Hugh Richardson (S43-48)** was in touch to say that the Sydney OF Supper sounds like a good idea and will keep 17 August free.

**Chris Shaw (K50-56)** has been so helpful in the planning of our 5 days up near Cairns. For example no sooner had I mentioned a place we were considering booking to stay in Trinity Beach than an e-mail came back overnight saying that he's been out to personally visit the place and the apartment we were thinking of booking and declared it up to scratch.

Back in October 2010 Chris gave an update on "retirement" *"I have, today, put the final alterations to my novel, 'My Chocolate Soldier,' and then the hard work of hooking an interested publisher starts! My next challenge is to act as Project Manager to get an array of solar panels on my roof to take advantage of all that lovely sunshine and to cancel out my electricity bills, and even make some money by putting the excess in to the national grid! That starts, strangely, with an Irishman. He has advertised his lifting ability and we need four bookcases unloaded and moved from the library windows so we can get the windows tinted against UV and heat, and frankly rather his back than mine!*

*Then I need to get some trees down to maximise the sun's rays hitting the panels, which themselves will cool the roof on half the house. Then I need a carpenter to get out the old box air conditioners and repair the holes in the walls, which I will then have to paint. Then the window tinters come in and the aircon installers with their whisper quiet split systems, and finally the panels will be put on to the roof and the 'inverter' which take DC and turns it in to AC for use in the house and also transfers the excess to the grid. It's all go in the world of retirement!"*

Around Christmas time he wrote *"Thanks Chris E. for your Christmas message. We too, wish all OF's a merry Christmas, and a healthy and successful new year. This year I've managed to catch up with **Peter and Janet Hughes**, also of Cairns, **Louis (Brandeston) and Fiona Simon** from Malanda, **Mike Garnett** from Romsey, north of Melbourne and **Tom and Veronica O'Donald** of Adelaide. Normally, at this time of the year, one would expect hot and dry weather throughout our island continent, (ideal for Cricket) but this year has brought record rains and flooding in the southern states. Here, in Queensland, we have very sultry and oppressive weather with little or no breeze. Christmas, New Year and some cyclones are just around the corner, and we are watching Europe cope with Ice Age conditions. One day, hopefully, some bright spark will be able to transfer some of our heat to ameliorate some of your cold. In the meantime, a glass of something cold, woody and white for us, and hot toddies all round in Europe and Britain!"*

In addition, Chris has organised an OF Tropical Supper on Tuesday 2nd August at the Yorkey's Knob Boating Club. Present will be Chris & Rebecca, **Peter & Janet Hughes (G52-56)**, **Louis & Fiona Simon (BH72-74)** plus my family of 6.

You can see a write up Chris has just done on his experiences of facing up to Cyclone Yasi in Cairns at



<http://www.oldframinghamian.com/article.php?story=20110215223715885> I just love this photo with "Kiss my Yasi"!! Sums up Queensland fortitude.

**Robert Wallace (K50-58)** – following the issue of my pre Christmas message to all overseas OFs, I sadly received the following from Robert's wife Jill *"Just a note to let you know that my husband, Robert Wallace (1950-58) passed away on 13 September 2010. He was en-route to Cambridge from Australia to visit me on 30 April when he collapsed at Los Angeles airport. He was diagnosed with a brain tumour but the hospital in LA demanded that he return to Australia as he had private insurance there. He was operated on in Hobart, Tasmania in early May. That appeared to be successful and he had radiotherapy but thirteen weeks later he went rapidly downhill and passed away, just fourteen weeks after diagnosis.*

*Sadly, he had only retired as a ship's captain in October 2009. However, he had had a great life travelling around the world and we were able to maintain a home in both the UK and Australia, which enabled me to work there for the past nine years. I've attached Bob's eulogy in case you wish to use extracts from it. He was at Brandeston for two years from 1950 and then went on to Framlingham, leaving there when he was 18 to join Port Line as a cadet officer. I think he was also a prefect at Fram. The Tim Goodchild mentioned in the eulogy was also at Framlingham.*

*Bob tried to attend the annual reunion at Newmarket whenever his leave coincided with the reunion. Would you mind letting the organiser of the Newmarket 'Chapter' know as well, please."* You can read the Eulogy on the website at <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/staticpages/index.php?page=20101218105628318>

**Aubrey Whitear (G58-65)** also responded to my Christmas message writing as follows *"You have shamed me into putting my fingers to the key board! In fact I had intended to write soon after reading Norman Porter's splendid history of Brandeston Hall but time got away from me as it does when you have plenty of it. Other than that I have no excuse.*

*The history took me back to happy days now, astonishingly, more than fifty years ago. Amongst other things, it reminded me of the simple pleasures like swimming in the Deben (watch out for the pike!), building dams and being introduced by The Hon Sir Mark Hedley LLD (aged 12) to the smoking of oak leaves rolled up in old newspaper! I also remember pleasant Sunday country walks led surprisingly by the intimidating Mr Ferris who also had the capacity to dispense "three bad marks" in my direction for the most inconsequential offence. How nice to discover now that he had a Christian name, John! I note John comes in for a bit of stick from several contributors to the book who consider he was unsuited to the task of teaching prep school boys. Fifty years ago I would have agreed, but looking back I am inclined to the view that just maybe it was his war time experiences that had given him a short fuse. He expected high standards and did not suffer fools gladly. I think we were all better for that. Brandeston was a happy time for me and above all else I credit it with giving me self-reliance and my love of the countryside.*

*Life continues to be most agreeable in Melbourne and as I write this I am anticipating a great victory today in Perth and awaiting the Boxing Day Test Match with keen anticipation. In the words of Corporal Jones, it is clear the home country batsmen don't like it up them!"*

The following is a very edited version of his annual Christmas letter, which amusingly starts off as follows :- *"I regret I must start this letter on a sad note. I suppose it was inevitable that one day it would come to this, but knowing that it would was of no consolation when it finally happened to me a few months ago and, as you will have gathered by now, I remain upset about it to this day. In fact, I can think of nothing that could have been more calculated to destroy my self-image which up until then was that of a dashing man-about-town. By now you should be beaming all your sympathy in my direction for I am about to reveal all. The fact is I was going about my lawful business travelling into the City by train when with absolutely no provocation whatsoever a spotty youth had the temerity to offer up his seat to me. Of course, at first I pretended not to notice. But he persisted. By now my dander was up and I like to imagine it took three security guards to pull me off him. Fortunately, I was able to extract my revenge later. As I jogged past him while he stood on the*



*long escalator up from Parliament Station I muttered albeit somewhat sotto voce “A bit of walking too much for you, mate”. I might be getting old but I’m still not ready to settle down for the final run to the Judge.”*

In March they made their almost annual pilgrimage to our less fortunate cousins in the Shaky Isles (NZ). *“We like to think of it as missionary work”*. They headed for Europe in July and found it was raining when they arrived and when they left and some more in between! In Alsace they were enchanted by mediaeval villages. By August, they were in Manchester in England to see their younger son, Roland. *“We knew it was summer because all the dummies in the shop windows were wearing summer clothes. Any real people attempting to do the same on the street would have been carted off to the nearest lunatic asylum.”* After Manchester, they took the Eurostar to Strasbourg for our week’s wandering through the vineyards and ancient villages in Alsace. *“Predictably, Eurostar broke down and abandoned us on the platform at Lille.”* On 13 December they celebrated thirty years of married bliss.



He concludes by saying *“For now there is Christmas dinner to look forward to. We hope you have a memorable one. Personally, I’m looking beyond the turkey this year. I’m planning to sit down to enjoy some kind of endangered species whilst I still can. As to 2011, it will just be great to still be around to see it.”*

Aubrey and his wife will be attending the Melbourne OF Supper in July 2011.

## **FINLAND**

**Mike Pegg (G77-86)** said *“After a significant period of inactivity I thought it would be good to drop a note, whilst waiting for my son to complete a skiing lesson, and at the same time open a new country in the Overseas Bag: Suomi Finland.*

*The short story of Pegg senior since leaving Fram in 86 goes as follows: 3 years at Durham, studying Geology & Geophysics, and play occasional stand-in for some of the 'real cricketers' in the Durham 1st XI. With the likes of Nasser Hussain and Martin Speight playing, it was a wake-up call as to the limits of my cricketing ability! A rapid world-tour was followed by joining Andersen Consulting in London, finding myself sent to Lytham St Annes for an 18-month stint, before taking what would prove to be a fateful step... coming to Finland for a '6-month' piece of work. One year later, I eventually left Finland, having met my now wife, Ulla. In 1993 we were married in Siilinjärvi. In 1996 we moved permanently to Finland, where we built a house and now live in the outskirts of Helsinki, overlooking the Baltic.*

*The sporting highlight, after 5 years in Finland, was qualification for the Finnish national cricket team (you didn't know there was one?), playing in European Group 3 or 4 for three years, culminating in a*



*final year as captain, and a victory against a touring MCC XI. [he's picture here as captain in yellow cap]*

*Two children, Marcus (1998) and Katarina (2000) now keep us well employed in a second career as taxi drivers pursuing their sporting interests of Floorball (Marcus) and Synchronised Skating (Katarina).*

*The 'real career' continues with Accenture (Andersen Consulting having changed its name and gone public in 2001) as Partner/Senior Director leading large-scale, technology-driven change programmes for major Finland-based corporations and public institutions. Road trips take me to teams in Germany, Latvia, India, Brazil, China and, possibly, the Phillipines. It's hard to believe that I've been in Finland for 15 years and Accenture for 21!*

*Reflecting on time since Fram, it would be good to catch up with some of my peers from that time: John Pinkerton, Stuart Coombes, Joe Hancock, the Oguntayo brothers or any of the others that remember the early 80s. And finally, congratulations to Tony Lawrence on his retirement. It's been a long time since Yellow House at Brandeston and the international debut performance of his play (name escapes me, but the year was 1977)."*

The news that he was captain of a national side at sport has led to his inclusion in the Distinguished Section. Apart from the remarkable Norman Borrett and an OF called Ernest Roberts who captained England at Rugby way back in 1906, I think he may be the only OF to captain a national side! It would certainly make a good OF pub question!

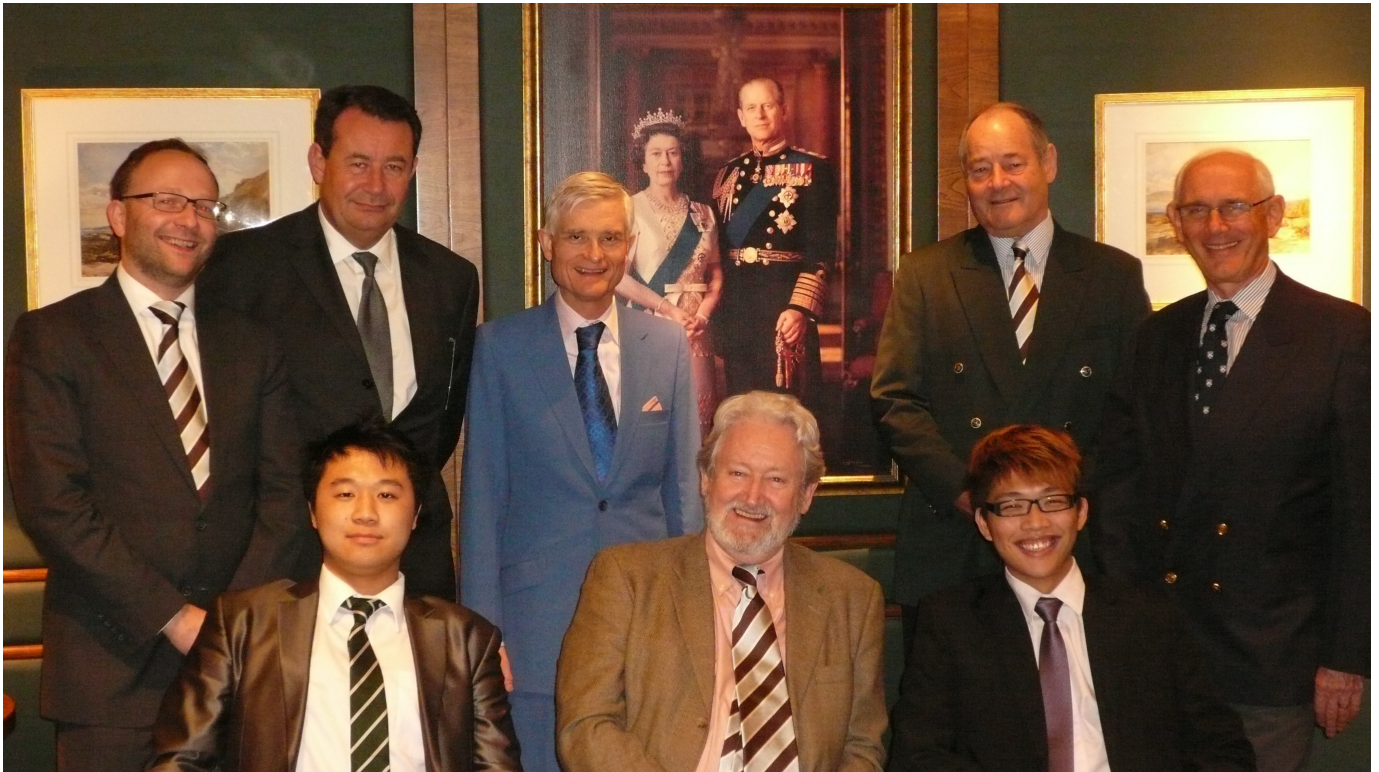
## FRANCE

**Richard Crofts-Bolster (R76-80)** got in touch to say that after living in France for over 20 years he thought it was finally time that publications were sent to him rather than via his father in Malden, Essex! I look forward to publishing an update from Richard in a future Overseas Bag.

## HONG KONG

**Moira Theulier (nee Anderson) (M91-93)** – we received news from her father that she had moved to live in Hong Kong and had got married. Unfortunatley she was not able to meet up for a drink on 25 July but did hope to make future OF Suppers in March each year.

**Ian Howard (S57-62)** has been a star as always in arranging his annual Hong Kong OF Supper on 24 March 2011 to coincide with the Rugby Sevens. The supper took place as usual at the Hong Kong Club. Present were: standing (L to R) - **Edward Marr (G85-92)**; **Brian Williams (G72-76)**; **Christopher Hall (G62-69)**; **John Birt (S59-63)**; **Robert 'Bob' Holland (R58-62)** and seated (L to R) - **John Ting (G05-09)**; **Ian Howard (S57-62)** and **Ian Tsang (K03-09)**.



The wonderful menu included: Rillettes of Dungeness Crab; Wild Mushroom and Oxtail Consommé with a Thyme Crust; Roast Rack of Kurobuta Pork with Glazed Apples, Calvados Sauce and Glazed Red Cabbage; Hazelnut Bavaroise – all washed down with a Giesen (NZ) Sauvignon Blanc and a Casa La Joya (Chilean) Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. Chris Hall very generously provided two bottles of the Club Port and they ensured that the supper carried on until midnight, which was the date of the SOF AGM & Annual Dinner in London.

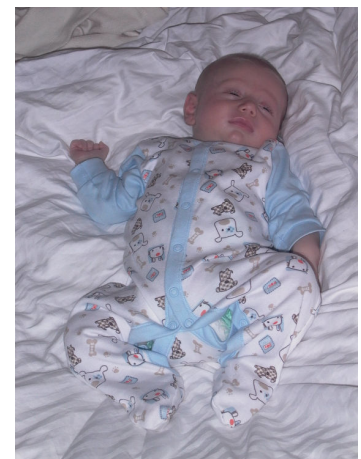
John Birt and Bob Holland are to be congratulated for their attendance, respectively, from Koh Samui (Thailand) and Penang (Malaysia).

I'm delighted to say that Ian was nominated and approved to become a Vice President of the SOF at the AGM on 25 March 2011, in recognition of his many years being a stalwart of the Society in Hong Kong. Very well deserved.

To mark my visit to Hong Kong with my family in July 2011, Ian has been kind enough to organise a get together at the wonderful Sugar bar atop the East Hotel, which is part of the Swire Hotel group, who's Managing Director is none other than **Brian Williams (G72-76)**. Hopefully many of the above named will be there plus a few others and we can raise a glass to Ian appointment as a Vice President.

## ISRAEL

**Perdee Gould (nee Stagg) (P90-94)** got in touch with the latest news from Eilat *"Martyn and I have had another baby boy born on Wednesday 4th August 2010 10.30am weighing in a mere 2.7kg. Now coming up to his 3 month birthday next week he has surpassed our expectations and currently weighs a chunky 6kg. We have named him Oliver-Robin Gould. Alfie is a*



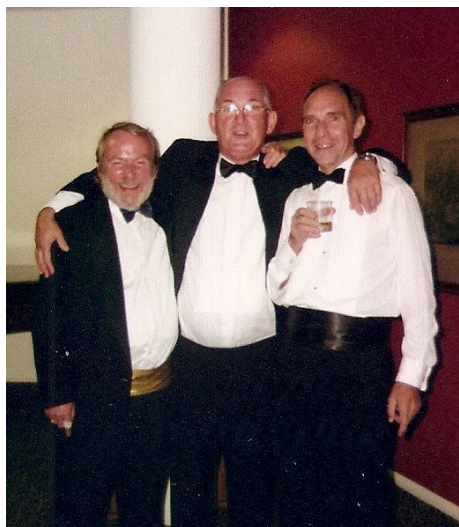
very protective and loving older brother who is turning 2 yrs on 1st November (how time flies).” Picture shows Oliver-Robin at 2 months old.

## MALAYSIA

**Robert Holland (R57-65)** sent greetings as a result of my Christmas message. I asked him whether how **Derek Seagrove (G39-44)** and he replied “*Met Derek in the Penang Club a few months ago, but he is keeping a very low profile.*” Bob was looking forward to getting to the Hong Kong Supper and the Rugby 7s in March 2011. I asked him for a recommendation on where to stay in Hong Kong with my family and took up this suggestion. He did go on to say “*We don't normally go to HK from mid May until November as it is the typhoon season and too hot for comfortable hill walking.*” We have been warned!

## MALTA

**Jerry Lee (K59-64)** advised of a change of country at the end of 2010, arriving from Slovenia. He said “*I drove from Slovenia via Italy in my old faithful Rover estate plus trailer a month ago and have settled in Gozo where I am already into the music scene and meeting lovely friendly people, both expats and locals. Slovenia is a lovely beautiful country with friendly people but its very difficult to earn a crust there: I taught English in the winter and did wine tours in the summer with few customers because of the current economic climate.*”



In late January 2011 Jerry wrote to me with this attached photo of himself, **David Hughes (G59-64)** and **Jerry Simpson (K56-64)** at a RN reunion in 2010. They all joined the Royal Navy in September 1964 straight from Fram.

As you will have read elsewhere **Rob Goodale (K58-66)** and his wife made it to over to Malta to meet up with Jerry – see picture with Rob on right and Jerry on left. Jerry is always happy for OFs to get in touch if they are visiting the area.



## NEW ZEALAND

**Bob Craig (K55-59)** provided an update saying at the time he was working in the Middle East. I asked him and other NZ OFs for some information about the country in order to decide whether to visit North or South Island on our trip. He had the following advice that other OFs considering visiting may find of interest. “*Tongariro national park is stunning and the drive from Auckland to Taupo across the Desert Road takes you to the East of the national part and then through to Rotarua which is a volcanic district with sulphur pools etc. Back to the West of the national part is just plain pretty and takes you beside the Waikato river through Hamilton. You will find NZ like one large farm-yard. Auckland itself is a fairly pretty and compact city with the usual traffic jams etc, but once outside the roads are more like 'B' than 'A' roads and wind between the farms. Great to see dead straight fences scaling vertically up the hills. The South Island is dramatic and remote. I spent hours a few years ago sitting around the back of Mount Cook watching bits of*

*the Tasman glacier fall into the river below. If you choose the South Island I recommend the West coast: Fox glacier, Franz Joseph, Mt Cook, pancake rocks, Arthur's pass if you want to cross to the East coast .... but it is fairly well South so can be cold with variable driving conditions. It can be wet during July/August so bring your wellies!"*

**Roy Farman (K47-55)** also provided some excellent advice. *"The Bay of Islands is pretty and has a lot of Maori and European (Pakeha) history. A coach trip from Paihia to Cape Reinga (far north) is worthwhile. It takes all day. The Cream Trip (boat trip) from Paihia round the Bay of Islands is good value as are trips to Russell (the old capital) and Waitangi. The train ride from Auckland to Wellington has some spectacular bits over the central plateau. We are 11/2 hours drive from Wellington. We would love to see you if you could call in but it's a little off the track for you. Wellington is a fairly small capital so most things are handy. The Rugby World Cup is on October 2011 so it will be geared up for it."*

**Katherine Jackson (nee Stringer) (P86-91)** was also good enough to provide some excellent travel advice as well as a personal update *"We have been in NZ 3 and 1/2 years. I am about to start a new teaching job in a brand new school called Stonefields opening in 2011. My husband Karl is teaching at the same school that I am currently working at and our son Tobias goes to. It is a Green gold environment school called Meadowbank. Tobias is nearly 9 and it is hard to figure out where the time flies. We now have 2 rabbits and a 7 month old puppy called Paddy so we are definitely in NZ to stay and no plans as yet to come home for a visit. With the rugby world cup next year it will be an exciting year to be here in NZ. We love the space and the freedom NZ has to offer and have made lots of friends in a relatively short space of time. Well I hope the above helps you to make a decision on your travel plans, maybe next time you will spend longer in NZ as it is very beautiful."*

**Nick Marsden (G72-76)** was also in touch with travel advice saying *"I would say North Island, but I am biased. It'll be cold of course, but not freezing. I suppose it depends if you want spectacular alpine scenery as per LOTR, but on the other hand, the site for Middle Earth is an hour and a half from Auckland! However, I'm sure you're not just LOTR geeks! The North Island in a week: you could take in Lake Taupo - biggest volcano in the southern hemisphere, now a spectacular lake (It erupted 5,000 years ago and the light was seen from China according to ancient Chinese records - also with spectacular mountains nearby + skiing) Also possible is Rotorua and The Coromandel Peninsula. Or Taupo/Rotorua, then Northland, which has beautiful beaches that go on for miles, and there's an ancient native forest with 3,000 year old kauri trees (humungus things, a real sight) amongst other things. Even in winter, it has a sub-tropical feel in some places, on a good day."* If anyone is passing through Auckland Nick would be happy for them to look him up. I'll see what I can do on our trip.

## **SINGAPORE**

**Graham Walsh (R72-78)** asked me for details of other OFs living in Singapore, so that he could try and arrange an OF Supper there, perhaps around the time of the Singapore Grand Prix. I jumped at the chance to help him and he made contact with the following results *"Stevie Young (K01-06) has returned to the UK, Julian Taylor (G67-71) is on leave will be back end of September when will catch up. Didn't have any luck contacting the brother and sister."* He went on to observe *"I have been abroad over 17 years, prior to Singapore Dubai, and its quite surprising how little OFs there are registered as expats, Hong Kong seems to have the most in Dubai there was 1, still Grand Prix this weekend so looking forward to that."*

In March 2011 I contacted Graham for some advice re reasonably priced hotels in Singapore as I was finding them even more expensive than Hong Kong! He explained that Singapore enjoys high hotel occupancy rates all year round.

## SOUTH AFRICA

**James Campbell (M74-82)** sent me his Christmas letter and the following is an extract from that “*2010 has been yet another eventful and jam packed year for the Campbell family. After touring on a Cruise boat round vibrant South America during the December holidays they started the year on a high note. Amongst other exciting ventures they spent a relaxing week in Zinkwazi (in the Natal region), watched a thrilling Soccer World Cup match and took a brief break to Potchefstroom to watch the ballet of Coppelia.*



*Compared to the last two torrid years, this year has been relatively quiet for James. He continued as managing director of African Diamonds, but this will probably be for not much longer as the company is in the process of being bought by its joint venture partner, Lucara Diamond Corporation, a Canadian company. All being well James should start work for Lucara in the New Year. Even with all this corporate activity, work has progressed well with the construction of the AK6 mine in Botswana. This is especially gratifying seeing all the ‘drama’ over the past couple of years with this project. As always James is fairly busy outside of the business sector with being chairman of Common Purpose SA and the vice chairman of the South African Ballet Theatre. Both of these have been greatly rewarding with the highlight being a global meeting of Common Purpose leaders in London. Closer to home, James has continued with his Lay Minister duties at St Martins in Irene and keeps agile in Pilates classes. He also still enjoys his running and participated in the Irene Fun Run this year where he managed to beat his previous time.*

*James and Ann excelled in both their Ballroom and Latin American Gold Bar medal tests achieving honours for each. In January they went down for a work colleague, Paulie Nel’s, 70th birthday on a wine estate near Hermanus and in September they went on a wonderful trip to Mapungubwe in northern Limpopo (Transvaal). This was very enriching from both a historical and natural beauty perspective with the towering baobabs and yellow red rock formations. “*

## USA

**Dr David Bull (Z80-87)** was in touch with much news and background information about his recent career. This will be the subject of a separate article in the Yearbook.

**Arthur Cooke (K92-95)** advised of a change of address from Leeds, England to Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA and then to Highlands Ranch, Colorado, USA. In helping him update his own records on the OF website he provided the following update :-

*“I spent five years in the Royal Marines after leaving school and served under the watchful eye of Lt Col David Summerfield (G72-77) working for a specialised unit attached to HQRM. I then went to the University of Leeds completing both my undergraduate and PGCE degrees there before embarking on a career as a high school science teacher in Leeds. Having regularly competed for the Royal Navy in cross-country and track, I also captained the cross-country team while at University and continued to run competitively for Leeds City AC's distance squad post-university. I continue to run now although I am making forays into other "lifestyle" sports - ones that do not require me to get up too early in the morning! I married Danielle in Colorado Springs, during August 2009, which was also attended by Richard Beck (G92-*

**97), Tim Holden (R92-97) and Diarmid Hurrell (R92-97).** *We now live in Denver, Colorado, having emigrated in early 2010, and I continue to work as a science teacher. All of my free time is spent skiing during the winter months, and I had the pleasure of entertaining an out-of-control Beck and Holden for a week on the white-stuff over the recent New Year. I have also had **Chris Goodfellow (Z92-97)** staying out here in the summer while he was doing the Trans-Rockies race in August."*

**Ivor Noel Hume (37-39)** has now published his autobiography (*A Passion for the Past*) and I've purchased a copy which I will forward on to Norman for him to review and place in the College Library. I also let him know that a contemporary of his **Paul Griffin (G35-40)** had, at the age of 89, just been awarded the Seatonian Prize for 3rd time. I commented that there must have been something in the water when they were at the College, as author **Brian Aldiss (36-39)** was also a contemporary of there's.

His next book on Giovanni Belzoni the early 19th-century showman and Egyptologist will be published in October 2011.

**Bryan Ivory (K48-52)** sent a message at Christmas *"I hope that you all had a wonderful trip to the west coast and left with many happy memories. I trust that you didn't over indulge at the ships restaurants!! It looks as though you are experiencing some pretty cold and stormy weather at the moment. All of Europe seems to be under the gun, with so much snow and ice. It makes it doubly hard when it is so unusual and nobody is geared to handle it's quick removal. About the best you can say about it is the children have something to keep them occupied and it adds a little wintery touch to the Christmas Season ! This side of the pond, it has likewise been very stormy across most of the country, our temperatures here in North Carolina have been running 30deg F below normal this past two weeks and only later this week are we going to warm up to about 50degs F.*

*We had a pleasant trip back to the U.K. in Oct/Nov. Got to have dinner with **James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52)** in London and catch up on the news. I also spoke to **Dudley Holland (R45-52)** on the phone the day we flew over. Unfortunately he was coming over here to Georgia the next day as we were leaving for the old country. Never mind I will catch up with him after the holidays.*

*In general ,we found things quite expensive on our trip and everywhere seemed so busy with cars wherever you went ! As for parking .....forget it!! Anyway everybody was fine, York Minster beautiful, the Railway museum great, and the countryside as serene as ever.*

*Well, there we are, it's off to do some more decorating for the holiday and enjoy reading those wonderful Christmas cards that arrive from friends from around the world."*

**Alfred Molson (K38-43)** and I have not been in as regular contact via Skype as we usually are, due to my continued trips to Essex and Alfred having various technical problems with his computers. These included a fire, which amongst other things, destroyed his passwords.

Having recovered well from the removal of his left kidney due to cancer and another small op during 2010, he was "T-Boned" in a car accident on 13 August and suffered a broken collar bone. Just before Christmas his mobility after the accident had not been too good due to occasional balance problems, but generally he was feeling very well. He was next due a check up in February 2011 to hopefully confirm that he's been clear of cancer for a year. He had also just bought himself a Christmas present - a new laptop - so hoped to be active on Skype again soon.

By Easter time he was feeling well, but still had to use a cane when walking for balance. Rather than an affect of the car accident he thinks this was caused during his last cancer operation, when his blood pressure dropped very low, affecting his brain slightly. He had been treated for various forms over cancer over the

last 25 years but currently had the all clear. We also talked at length about his Sir Billy Butlin of holiday camp fame. It turns out his sister was his secretary. He told me all about how he tried setting up holiday camps in Bahamas to target an American audience, but they were not a success. Alfred knew him well as he was living in the Bahamas at the time. He told me to check out the goldfish at Rotorua when we visit.

Late June he was in touch to say his computer had caught fire and he'd lost all his passwords. Communications have now been restored. He was still unsteady on his legs.

**Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** has been in regular contact. In November 2010 he was in touch to say that they had had a great time on their cruise in the Ruby Princess. He said *"Venice was great, also Rome, but we skipped going into Naples as it was a cold, dreary, day and the dock area was very dirty, also we read later that there was garbage collector's strike and there was a protest riot going on! Cannes was fun, lots of very expensive yachts, but we wanted to go to Monte Carlo and the trains were on strike so couldn't go, then wanted to go to Grasse by bus but the schedule was too tight. You have to be very careful when doing excursions on your own as, if you are late back, the ship will leave without you, which happened to one party of four who had to find their own way to the next port. Enjoyed Barcelona, very historic and a clean, open city, also Punta Delgada, then we had 5 sea days, which I much enjoyed, before landing at Ft. Lauderdale. We had a 4 hour layover at Miami and I called **Richard Rowe (S65-74)** for a short chat. He was rushing to get ready for a trip himself, but he was due to arrive at the airport just after we left, so we couldn't have an impromptu OF meeting."*

They were next booked on a cruise in March 2011 - a 12 day cruise from Papeete back to Honolulu, on the Royal Princess, a much small ship.

A few weeks later I heard the sad news that Bryan's son Michael had died from pancreatic cancer, just 13 days before his 49<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Early in January 2011 Bryan was in touch again to say that his eagle eye had spotted that we had sent some of the annual dinner notifications out with no date on them! He went on to say *"Of course, I couldn't have made the dinner anyway, although I always attended when I was in London. I shall never forget the night that I attended and the announcement was made (do they still do that?) "Mr Bryan Pearson and Lady Marye Rous" - that turned quite a few heads! Marye was a great pal of mine, whom I had originally met at the Ipswich Arts Theatre, she was an amazing character who became quite famous in the middle 50's when she rescued another friend of hers from the French Foreign Legion. We'll be on the Royal Princess, unfortunately not with **Nick Carlton (G63-70)** this time. All is well here in Hawaii and trust you are surviving the miserable cold weather!"*



In early March 2011, the Society was contacted by a Robin Lung, who was looking for information on **Choy Wei-Chung (29-31)**, the first Chinese person and only OF to play tennis at Wimbledon. Then started a series of exchanges involving Bryan. It turned out that Choy's sister was still alive and well and living in Honolulu near Bryan so we put Robin in touch Bryan. They met up and Bryan helped record narration for the fundraising trailer for Robin's documentary on KUKAN – you can see this here <http://www.nestedeggproductions.com/finding-kukan/narration-for-fundraising-trailer> . You can also see the blog that Robin has written in which he plugs Framlingham(



<http://www.nestedeggproductions.com/blog> ) and has added a link to the Distinguished article on Choy Wei Chung, that makes fascinating reading.

The documentary revolves around a 1941 Oscar-winning film called KUKAN – a documentary that was filmed in China during 1939 and 1940. Robin uncovered a copy of it and is investigating how it was made and what role Li Ling-Ai, a Chinese American author from Hawaii, had in making it. During the course of her investigations she came across Wing Yung (Choy's sister), who was in Chungking just after KUKAN was filmed.

In March 2011 I contacted Bryan to check that all was well in Hawaii after the horrendous tsunami in Japan. He said *“We had ample warning, evacuated to high ground about 5.30 am. Tsunami :hit: about 07.30 with a height of 50 cm!! We board the Royal Princess tomorrow.”*

Finally a big thank you to Bryan for his help and advice on where to stay in Sydney during our trip.

**Richard Rowe (S65-74)** sent his usual newsy Christmas message and the following is an edited version of his news :-

*“2010 has been another hectic year for the Rowe family; but with 3 healthy active boys and 2 busy parents, then there probably isn't any other kind of year. The boys and particularly their ice hockey has been the central focus of activities. We are currently at the local ice rink for some reason for 6 out of 7 days of the week – be it team practices, in-house “Rec” (recreational) games or travelling to another rink for a “Travel” Team game. The ice hockey season, basically runs from September through April with some summer leagues and camps for those who want to keep active / can't break out of the habit of the daily drive to the rink!*

*In April, we went to Colorado to stay with my brother **Alan (S64-73)** for 8 days. They live near Evergreen, just west of Denver, up at 8000ft. They are close to Echo ski slope and not too far from Breckenridge and some of the other big ski resorts. We toured around on a few days and went for walks in the numerous national / state parks. The scenery in Colorado is spectacular. We would love to going skiing again in 2011 but the boys' Easter break is very late in 2011, so all advice is that there may not be much snow.*

*Our big news is that we moved house this year. I say this year as the process took several months – and Denise did two phenomenal jobs in both selling our former home and buying our current home. Our saga started last December (2009) when we saw a large home in foreclosure on the river. A builder had put in loads of work and then gone bankrupt. Denise managed to get her name first on the list for consideration by the selling bank – and it was a long list of other potential purchasers. The bank took 5-months to approve the sales process. In what is still a completely dead market for selling homes, Denise sold our home in an amazing 3-weeks (on 8 June) – and for a price that today would be difficult to achieve as the market still drops. Then came the saga. The more we got to examine the house we were to buy, the more we discovered problems; our home inspector politely described the bankrupt builder as a “handyman”. With a week to go to the contract, the bank inadvertently gave us a way out when they found a mistake of \$100 in their calculations, so insisted on re-writing all the offer documents that we then refused to sign. So then we went in to a holding mode. First we stayed in one of our Beach Condos for 3-weeks – the boys loved it, with fishing from the pier and swimming in the sea. Then Denise took the boys to Cape Cod for annual vacation for a month (I went up for about 2-weeks at the end to help bring everyone home). Then we rented a home on a golfing community; not that we golf, but the boys enjoyed fishing in the lakes. Meanwhile another foreclosure came on the market barely 100 yds from our old house but much larger; actually on the same canal but the other side and 2 houses down. Denise again did some amazing realtor wizardry to get her name to the top of the list and managed to negotiate a very good price, especially with the extra power of having already sold our home. So we have moved and adore the house. It is perfect for us. It has 5-bedrooms; we have the master*

and master bathroom; Granny has the largest other bedroom and her own bathroom; and the boys get their



own rooms and a bathroom. We have a swimming pool; it is on a canal that the boys love for fishing; there is vacant land next door with a tennis court (it used to belong to this house but the previous owner sold it off to a partner who now doesn't know what to do with it; so we hope one day we might acquire it back). The house is on an L shape with the pool inside the L. The walls of the main rooms overlooking the pool are pocket glass slider doors, so open right up. It is just gorgeous to sit outside and mull over the day over a glass of wine. We have recently added a firepit on the dock, so can burn a few logs in the evening and enjoy the glow of the fire while the boys fish.

*We are still both doing "ISO9000 training work" around north America for LRQA. Denise is their top trainer and continues to get rave reviews from all her clients as well as from an independent auditor from IRCA who ways auditing LRQA. I have also continued to travel internationally on my Social Accountability auditing work to Europe, Brazil and India; as well as manage the sheet metal company. My last trip to UK in early November was very enjoyable as I managed to meet up with many old friends and former colleagues when I attended the inauguration of my former boss, Peter Hansford, as President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. It was great to attend and Peter was kind enough to get me a front row seat and to attend the President's dinner afterwards."*

During the first half of 2011 Richard has visited Lithuania, Brazil, Czech, Italy and most recently India, on business.

**Ian Seeley (S58-65)** had suffered a massive amount of snow this winter and in February 2011 sent this picture together with the following update *"You can see the top end of my car wiper at the right – the car itself is buried. This photo was taken before the last 24 inch snowfall! I am just off to get some ice off the roof. Some melt water is now coming in on the kitchen counters. It is now in that melting/refreezing stage and the icicles are huge.*



*Apart from the snow we are fine, mostly. My #2 son is off to the Middle East shortly, and isn't expected back until 2012, so that will be tough for all. Thanks to **John Maulden (G45-50)** I am an environmental chemistry consultant to the EPA."*

Towards the end of February he was back in touch to say the sun was finally out today and the melt is under way. *"I'm wearing wellingtons (appropriately named "Muck" boots) since the melt is exposing numerous "land mines" laid by the dog over the course of many frozen weeks. Spring here lasts about a week, so I am expecting to have to put all the air conditioners back in soon.*

*Here's a story for you – I shared a Stradbroke study with **PNA King (S60-65)**. It was the end of the corridor and carried some risk owing to some occasional unsupervised javelin practice by keen athletes that resulted in the sudden appearance of a spear tip through the door. Anyway, we had a mouse appear one time (shortly after a care package to King), and it took up residence in one of our armchairs. While King mounted guard over the upturned chairs with a squash racquet, I visited the museum and grabbed a couple of First World War bayonets, with which we systematically stabbed the hessian bottom of the chairs hoping to impale the beast.*

*This did not work. So I devised a mouse trap consisting of a circle of plywood in the bottom of a metal waste paper basket. Affixed to the plywood were a number of metal (electrical) objects, wired with 240V across adjacent lumps of metal. The whole was topped with a sheet of paper with crumbled chocolate digestive biscuits, and a trail led up a mound of cushions to the top. (The idea being that the beast would feast on the crumbs up to the top of the basket and then fall in and be fried).*

*After lights out I started to think about my plan, and envisaged the mouse and paper catching fire, setting light to the cushions and then the study block. This might mean trouble. Being unable to sleep, I quietly went out of the dorm and defused the “bomb”. The mouse was later caught by more conventional means. I still wish I had completed the experiment just to see if it would work!”*

Finally Ian was in touch to say he had spotted the following advert “Live like a king! Stunning three-bed house up for rent in 12th century castle grounds... for just £850 A MONTH. English Heritage is searching for tenants for what was once The Great Hall of Framlingham Castle, the Suffolk residence of Kings and Queens, for £850 per month. For those who didn't see the article see the full story here -

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1360845/For-price-London-flat-rent-12th-century-CASTLE.html>