

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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Time has flown by this year and I'm late publishing the Spring 2009 digest of stories from OFs around the world. Once again it's been great to keep in touch with so many of you via the wonders of e-mail. I would strongly encourage everyone to ensure that they register their e-mail address on the website, so that we can keep in touch.

My thanks as always to everyone who has contributed, especially quite a number for the first time and from additional countries. I believe this is probably the largest ever Overseas Bag, running to 27 pages covering 15 countries and 48 correspondents. I trust that my editing skills have done your messages proud. Through the website I'm pleased to be able to include your messages and photos virtually in full, whereas space constraints mean that the Newsletter and Yearbook have limited space for the Overseas Bag.

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

Andrew Bennett (G74-81) – provided an update on what brought him to Australia *“I left Fram in 1981 and we emigrated out here 4 years ago this week in fact and have settled in Mid North Coast, New South Wales. Since arriving we have had 2 children (after 18 years of marriage - must be the water). We live on the edge of Kempsey and I work at the local 60 bed hospital (boy could NSW health give NHS a run for its money or in our case lack of money) as an Occupational Therapist.”*

Given his distance from Sydney and with a two year old and a 13 week old daughter, it isn't currently possible for Andrew to meet up with other OFs in the area.

John Bonner (G57-62) got in touch to say that *“Mercifully the nearest fire was about 50 miles away, but in common with so many others we know people who have lost everything. The worst side of human nature is apparent with arsonists being held responsible for at least 50% of the fires and now looters are scouring the remains!!! How low can you be?”* John also sent me a slideshow of amazing picture of the fires in Victoria.

Phil Bower (G65-74) has continued to be a regular contributor as always, starting off with some great photos of his house lit up at Christmas time. He says he lives in a street of typically ordinary, straight people who get excited by little fairy lights that you can't see once you step off the property. Phil's on the other hand can be seen from miles away!! He's hoping to get hold of some more rope lights from this year's event.



Phil next got in touch when he learned of Mr Melsom's death. He recalls one tale that he believes to be true *“there used to be a 6th form dance at the end of each summer term. One year a number of individuals were caught in a compromising position (with the girls from Felixstowe, not with each other!) in various locations in the Athlone Hall (many more were not caught - allegedly!). Three unfortunates were*

Kerrisonites and were duly hauled before Mr Melsom the next day (the penultimate day of their schooling). I believe the "discussion" went something like this:

Melsom - "Well, George, I hear you've been caught fornicating in the Athlone Hall last night?"

X,Y,Z (together) "Yes sir"

long pause

Melsom - "Well, don't do it again"

Phil, like a number of us, would also like to know why he called everyone George?

Following receipt of the Yearbook Phil was back in touch again with an update on his concert movements "Did the City of Sydney (COS) New Year Eve celebrations again this year - front row seats for the fireworks shows and plenty of stuff to hump. This year was exceedingly different because the local Plod got it into it's collective heads that when it sees a COS vehicle with a pretty orange whirlygig on the roof - they actually let us through!

"Later on I did the Chinese New Year celebs - nice. Took me right back to Singapore (when I was still at Fram & travelling to/from in the company of Simon Howard-Dobson - whatever happened to him, I wonder) - all crashings, flashings and general far eastern mystique. Long day/night but most enjoyable.

"I worked on the Big Day Out festival in Sydney - on show day I was working the main stage doing changeovers. They go like this: one band finishes and the next starts immediately. We have 45 mins to get the 1st band off and the new one ready to go, plus we have to pack up the outgoing band's gear and shove it into the respective truck. This went on pretty non-stop from 11am until 2300 when we struck Neil Young's gear. Now that was an act to see! Talk about class. Also that day was the Living End - another classy act.

*"The next day I did Neil Young again at the Entertainment Centre (I work in-house sometimes). Speaking of which, I'm booked for Eric Clapton's follow spot work. Last time he came I was 25ft up in a truss pointing a spot down behind him. This time I'll actually get to see the wrinkles! Next week we have Alice in Chains (whoever the **** they are!), later on there'll be the Kings of Leon (same). Apparently, Gary Numan is about to grace our shores with his electronic toys..... There's some nice photo's I took of two shows I worked for the Waifs on my webpage <http://www.shazbinkimages.com.au/perf.html>*

"Dee & I are now the proud possessors of a pair of sit-on kayaks and have spent many happy hours thrashing about in the sea trying to make the things go in the general direction that we want to travel. Due to one thing and another we've not been out for a week or two - which is convenient considering the amount of shark attacks currently plaguing our shores..... I even bought some.....deep breath.....roof racks to transport said boaty things.

"Working on another band - this one's called the Kamikaze Flying Club (find them on Myspace, folks!) - which is, of course, a lovely little word play on good old KFC. You should see what I did to the KFC logo that we use..... If we ever find a drummer that is capable and thus actually start to do some serious damage to people's eardrums, who knows, maybe we'll be famous for being sued by KFC. There are some tunes on the Myspace profile - I rotate them periodically.

"Other than that - all is heading towards autumn in the traditional Aussie way. Hope all is well in Blighty and that the beastly weather has turned somewhat more clement."

Phil was in touch again *"I've just finished working on the Future Fest here in Sydney - 3 days of video walls. Talk about a constant series of ****-ups!! The stages weren't finished, then the hanging points weren't in, then*

the fencing & drapes went up before the kit was up. Two long days in the sun and then a long night taking it down again - started at 2200 and finished at 0800 having worked through without a break. The money will be useful. Today is jet-lag day and I falling asleemr lirhnigluehbjb[!!!! Enjoy the winter sun in the UK - according to John Lennon you can get a tan from standing in the English rain - but only if you're the Eggman....."

With the arrival of James Hurlock in Sydney (see below) Phil was happy to put on his Supper organiser hat and help organise a get together in Sydney, despite his last attempts meeting with a luke warm response. Phil was also happy to give James some amusing thoughts on Aussie life *"10 years (ish) behind the rest of the world, wallowing in the delusion of self-importance, big fish but little pond. The kangaroo is, in fact, a mispronunciation. There is no letter "K" in the Aboriginal language. One of the early gentry asked an Aborigine "I say" (or similar), "what's that strange looking animal over there?" This elicited the reply "Gungaroo". In Aboriginal, "gungaroo" translates into "I don't know". Ergo, our national emblem is in fact an "I don't know".*

"Sydney is the 3rd (or 4th) most expensive city in the world, if you're passing through Campbelltown - go around it and certainly don't stop. Be wary of anyone who says "youse" instead of "you" or lives west of Parramatta up to the Blue Mtns; speaking of which - they ain't blue and they don't really qualify as mountains. Homebush is built on an old abattoir, which used to be a swamp. City rail trains rival British Rail for being the worst in the world, with the exception that City rail makes no attempt at catering..... and finally, New South Wales is a helluva lot bigger than the entire Old Wales."

Phil was in touch again in May 2009 to give news of the shows he worked on so far this year *"This year's shows include The Big Day Out - Neil Young headlining (the waft of weed in between set end and encore was gratifying!), Kings of Leon (more like Commoners of Maccas!), The eternal Wiggles, Yo Gabba Gabba (kids TV show, 3 days of follow spots and an imprint of kids tunes that threaten what's left of my sanity!), Pussycat Dolls/Lada Gaga (aka Karaoke on Tour - not a real instrument in sight - all canned music, so buy the video, it's cheaper and you can watch it from the comfort of your padded cell), a Pink Floyd (tribute) show (not bad for ersatz wannabe's, run by a Brummie!) V Festival (Human League haven't gotten any better in the intervening years) Sound Relief - Aussie bushfire benefit gig in Sydney (I worked for free all day and some bastard nicked all the crew t-shirts! So none of the real crew got one), Future Fest (if you can stand a day of eccie music - nope!), Mogwai (Scots acid rock - as in, if you're not on acid it's not that interesting!), Chick Corea, The Waifs (pics on the website), Andre Rieu (sick bags available at door), Billy Joel (US touring crew are a bunch of.....), Judas Priest (aka Spinal Tap), Def Leppard (I was the only NSW spot op they wanted to take on tour!), Kenney Rogers (same show, every night - says the same thing at the same time every time), Stevie Wonder (a tremendously good show - did the spots as well, so got to see it over again) The Who (spot op on Pete Townsend all night!), Slipknot, Snoop Dog (why would anyone buy tix for this act is beyond me!) Rhianna (who?), Andrea Bocelli (who insisted that everyone be out of sight whilst he moved to/from the stage! I mean, come on, the guy's blind as a bat, we could be standing there with our trousers round our ankles and he isn't going to know, is he?).*

"I changed crewing companies last year and the one I now work for does less music but pays better money and at the end of the day it's about the money not the glory!

"We also now have a couple of sit-on kayaks on which we bob about the waves occasionally. In one extended session of four hours we actually managed to travel over 100yards (and back!) without falling over, killing fish/seabirds or getting entangled in the bath plug..... Anyway, kayak technology is such now that, unlike Rev Singh's wooden efforts from Fram, it's actually rather fun and relatively safe to venture out of depth. Besides, you meet a better class of seabird away from shore and apart from the odd passing man-eating shark, the

biggest problem is hoon's riding jet ski's - they seem to have the same inability to steer clear of others as they do in their silly motor cars! However, once the 10" mortars are installed, any of them that get too close will be paying an early visit to their maker.....

"I've also (almost) completed recording all of the songs I've written over the years and as soon as my guitarists get their shit together and put down their solo's the better! At the last tally (not counting instrumental stuff) there's about 5x70min albums, plus a few covers. Now, not all of them are hit records but I reckon there's the odd swimming pool and Rolls Royce in there - but we'll never know, will we!! All of them we done on a cheapo \$350 digital 8 track (a marvellous tool and well worth twice the price) so don't expect anything of Floyd complexity but hey, has anyone else got anything to match it? Nope! Didn't think so! There's a stack of mp3's to be found in the usual place. This band is called the "Kamikaze Flying Club" or KFC for short (ahem!), but only because I just lurve playing with words. The instrumental stuff I do comes under the heading of the "Rusty As Fish Marching Band" - aka RAF Marching Band..... such titles as "2 blind cricket bats playing table tennis" and "3 bananas arguing over who gets the batteries" and "a troupe of cockroaches playing Pooh sticks in a church playground" - y'see, that Fram edumacayshun wasn't wasted on silly stuff! No siree, I'm right up there with all the other cuckoo's!

"Been trying to sort out an OF bash but finding an appropriate eatery is being difficult. I don't want expensive but a night at Opporto's isn't going to cut the mustard either. Plus, there's a lot of eateries that are just plain insanity and you wouldn't take your dog to feed there - but enough about the top end of the business..... I also fancy doing a fancy dress theme - something in the vein of the Good Ol' Days - a circus theme, Vicars & Tarts, Hollywood monsters (however, I wouldn't allow any Mel Gibson, Paris Hilton or Zsa Zsa Gabor look alikes!). Anything that embodies the spirit of non-conformity that was always the flavour of Fram (for me! St Trinians is the way skools should be, in my view. There's so much conformity these days that people have become bland and faceless. There's no genuine good, fun loving characters anymore, it's all about being a good little citizen and pc). Someone remarked the other day that teachers are not allowed to tell parents when a child gets pregnant or goes on the pill but they have to obtain written permission to give them paracetamol - what is this world coming to?!

"Anyway - yes please, use any image you like!! Don't forget to wear a total body suit unless, unlike me, you are actually capable of ensuring the majority of paint goes where it's intended!

"All the best to the good people."

Keith Dann (S48-50) got in touch following the fires in Victoria *"We are well away from the fires - nearest was 50 km away and down wind once the wind changed. I gather the TV in the UK has been showing quite a bit of coverage. We could do with a bit of your snow though, when my nephew rang from Ashford yesterday he said it was raining."*

Doug Denby (S51-57) got in touch in connection with James Hurlock's suggestion of an OF get together. *"Another "older product" from Fram (Stradbroke - 1951 - 1957) .. and provided there is red liquid (the type favoured by the late Len Evans!) I will make every effort to get there!! Lived in 'Oz for 40 years - the last 34 of which in Castle Hill. Still working and actively involved in various (predominantly equestrian) organisations. Look forward to catching up!"*

Mike Garnett (R53-55) was in touch about the fires in Victoria *"The fires are to the east of where I live and so far we have not been affected in the Romsey area. They are certainly the worst fires that I can recall since I came to Australia forty + years ago. I hope my fellow-OF's are all OK."*

Ed Henry (G61-66) also told me how he had been affected by the fires *"We are Ok this time, although a friend almost lost their house which has been water damaged when the fire brigade hosed it down to stop it exploding. All the play equipment and garden was destroyed and the mess in the house is terrible.*

"I have just been to the medical clinic where my wife is practice manager and one of the doctors came in to her office while I was there to get the medical records of two brothers aged 22 and 23 who had lost their lives in the fires. The records are needed by the police for identification purposes. They are saying it could be up to a year before they can properly identify some of the bodies as they are so badly burnt.

"It has been heart wrenching to see the devastation here every day on the news, and the lines have been so busy I have been unable to contact my Mum and sisters in UK other than by email.

"The official death toll currently stands at 181, but we are being warned that once the fires die down and emergency services can gain access in to the areas there could be many more. There is so much to be done to try and rebuild whole towns that have been virtually wiped out." He sent a link to see photos that have been taken during the fires by people caught up in them. He also asked whether the OF Society could consider making a donation to the Red Cross Appeal at www.redcross.org.au for the worst natural disaster in Australia's history, but I explained that its not within the Society's remit to make donations of this type.

Ann Hogarth (V85-87) in Perth wanted to let everyone know that her third (and final) child has arrived - a sister for Heath (now 4) and Troy (now 2). Lauren Diana Smyth was born on the 1st May 2008 and weighed in at a whopping 4.3kg.



Peter Hughes (G52-56) contacted me to say *"it is usually Chris Shaw (K50-56) that sends news of the North Queenslanders! But I was interested to see David had forwarded on my brief news !! (See news below from David Summers (G48-56), which mentions Peter keeping a ferret while at the College)*

"The ferrets were an essential feature of Fram during '52-'56. David looked after Elsie as an allowable "hobby", others myself and John Ashon (G52-56) included, scoured the Mere for fritillaries as members of the Natural History Club. The underlying purpose was to gain access to the Castle pub, ferry bottles of beer back to the College, and secrete the said beer in the ferret hutches. When all was quietish, the beer disguised as boxes of books, would be brazenly smuggled to the Garrett House Room. There it remained in the lower recess of the Games cupboard until such time as an occasion arose to consume it ("excused Concerts") preferably on a "Goon Show" evening. Now ask me what I did yesterday!!!"

I showed my ignorance and asked Peter what "fritillaries" were. For others who also don't know he replied *"the "fritillaries" we chased were butterflies. I read after a bit of Googling that the once-famous Suffolk Butterflies are now very much reduced in quantity. Sad times."*

He'd met up with Chris Shaw and had the following news *"Chris and Rebecca Shaw are busy renovating their home. We all had a fine chinese meal recently accompanied as usual by some excellent Australian Wine (which by now you should be finding on the shelves in UK at bargain prices - look out for Tasmania Pinot*



Noir).

"I have attached a photo of Chris, Rebecca and myself celebrating my 70th on board the 1606 Replica "Duyfken" which spent the Winter in Cairns Port. The missing person is the photographer, my wife Janet."

James Hurlock (R01-06) arrived in Sydney and got in touch with me about contact details of fellow OFs in the area, which I was very happy to do. He arrived in Sydney in September 2008 and is currently working there for Marcus Evans. He gave the following update *"Since leaving the College in 2007 I have played professional rugby up at Saracens for their 2nd XV but after the disappointment of missing out on selection for the England 19's World cup Squad and a lack of on pitch match time at the club I decided to put it on hold. I then went into London and lived in St. Johns Wood and worked in Real Estate in neighbouring Notting Hill for 12 months before coming out here to Australia.*

"I visited various places on the way such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo and New Zealand. I plan on seeing Fiji and Tonga next. I am currently living in Queenscliff, Manly with my girlfriend and playing Rugby for the Manly Marlins. In time I hope to secure a placement in The Waratahs, Super 14 set up and live financially off that."

James used the contact list I provided to try and organise a get together in Sydney and as you will see from other correspondence had a good positive response. I'm awaiting a report on the get together.

Neville Marsh (S53-61) says *"I thought you would like to know that we had a very successful "Queensland Supper" the other day when 4 OF's and their spouses gathered at Twin Waters Golf Club. The attached picture shows (left to right) Peter Simpson (K32-40), Alison Marsh, Peter Bailey (K34-38), Hettie Simpson, Joyce Bailey, Ruth Gates, John Gates (S44-48), Neville Marsh (S53-61). I am pleased to report that all are well and three of us will be making the trip back to Blighty this year (John, Peter Simpson and myself). Of particular importance is Peter Simpson's trip "home" as he will be attending the 90th birthday of his brother John (also an OF and part of the great dynasty of Simpsons) who lives in the Alms Houses in Station Road, Framlingham. His birthday falls on 31 March and we believe there will be a celebration in Brandesdon Village Hall on 4 April [Neville is correct].*



"The Peter's told us two great wartime stories, which I think should be reproduced on the webpage:

- **Peter Simpson (K32-40)** (the only Framlingham boy to be bombed by Adolf Hitler) - Peter told us how one day he wanted to walk home to Easton (in the early 40's) and started off down through the lower gate along College Road. He was wearing his bright yellow prefect's cap. Quite suddenly and without warning, a Dornier bomber came out of the low cloud and proceeded to drop a stick of bombs in Peter's direction. Peter was able to take cover and avoid injury but sadly, there was damage and loss of life. He reckons that the bomber was on its way back to Germany and the pilot saw what he thought was a worthwhile target for the unused bomb load. Peter's bright yellow cap must have looked like a windsock or some other military

structure! Needless to say, he made all haste back to the College having abandoned his stroll home. Can anyone verify the attack in question? [I contacted a contemporary of Peter's. He believed the only German raid on Framlingham during the war was in 1942 and he's confirmed this with a local historian. The confusion is that Peter left the College in 1940. He remembers a Dornier bomber flying over and believes the story was that the German pilot had been a member of a German University Hockey team who had visited the College and 2 other schools pre war. Legend has it that he bombed all 3 schools he visited. I'd be interested in Peter's views on this.]

- **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** - finds his fellow pilot after 60 years. Peter told us how he was flying DC3's the night after D-day, re-supplying troops who had landed on the Normandy beaches. A plane next to him, piloted by his friend Errol Wood, was badly hit by enemy fire and went down in flames. Peter watched hopelessly as it plunged earthward. Wind forward 60 years and the phone rings in Peter's house: it is Errol's son-in-law who is doing some family history research wanting to get in touch with his father-in-law's RAF colleagues. Peter explained how he saw Errol's plane shot down in flames and had believed all these years that Errol had perished to which the response was, "Well, you will never believe this but Errol got out and is now living in Tasmania!" It appears that his DC3 crash-landed on the Normandy beach and the whole crew got out with minor injuries but before they could make their escape across the water, they were captured and spent the rest of the war as POW's. Errol survived this ordeal and eventually emigrated to Australia, to live a (long) stone's throw from Peter Bailey unbeknown to either of them. They have since met up and had the most joyous of reunions."

In some follow up correspondence Neville said he would contact Peter Bailey to check out the bombing recollections and see if he has any recollections of Sao Hkun U to help an enquiry I had received from a member of the public.

He also commented on the fires in Queensland "Yes, we have been badly inundated in the far north and although the death toll in Queensland is small (it's stands at 181 dead in Victoria), the loss of property is colossal. My wife's cousin's daughter just managed to escape the fires but her partner's winery was destroyed."

At the end of May 2009 he apologised for not yet being able to clarify the bombing story with Peter Simpson but said that he was currently in the UK to spend a few days with his family. They were going to Centre Parcs at Elvenden and have arranged to go round Fram. He will contact Peter Simpson on his return.

Bob Munro (R56-60) got in touch about the fires in Victoria "Hello everyone, and thank you all sincerely for your concern. I was relieved to see that (so far) no OF's have been involved in the tragedy. Apologies for the delay in responding to your email, but I usually only go on line once a week.

"Christina and I live in Montmorency which is an outer northern suburb, not that far from some of the fires (Kinglake, Pheasant Creek, Strathewen and St. Andrews) but fortunately fairly well built up so as to be relatively safe. Our townhouse is on a bit of a hill, and we can see across the townships of Eltham and Research to St. Andrews and Kinglake in the distance. Consequently Christina could see the orange glow in the sky on 'Black Saturday' night (Feb. 7th), and of course all week we have seen the smoke in the valley. Kinglake (which was one of the worst hit areas) is a distance of about 25 klms from Montmorency in a straight line.

"Sadly, the devastation is beyond normal comprehension, and to make matters worse, there is evidence that some of the fires were deliberately lit. Some folk have lost all family, their home, their car(s), their business and everything, escaping only from the fire with the clothes they were wearing – which would not have been much because Saturday was a VERY hot day with temperatures over 40 Celsius degrees (105 degrees Fahrenheit +).

"I was about 350 klms away in the north east of the state camping near a place called Myrtleford, with some other of my motorcycling friends. The area we were in had no mobile 'phone coverage and transistor radios were all but useless, so we had been ignorant of the devastation overtaking the state of Victoria. Just before midnight on Saturday night a few people noticed a glow in the sky, so after a quick dash down the road on the 'bike to get a better view, we saw a big fire apparently heading our way across the hills. We spoke to some other people camping by the river, not far from our own campsite, who told us of a big fire over the hills towards Beechworth with an 8 kilometre front and growing. The decision was made to head home and get out of the way of the emergency services.

"So we (seven in our group) packed up our tents and gear, loaded the 'bikes and left the area at about 1.30am Sunday morning. We rode towards the Hume Highway (the main Melbourne – Sydney highway), joining it at Glenrowan (site of the outlaw Ned Kelly's last stand), and stopped at a McDonalds (about 2.15am) for a drink and a break. It was still very hot, and we were unsure of road closures etc. so it was a good place to get some information. What a shock to find out then that there were reported some 40 major fires all over the state, with 13 lives lost and several homes burnt. We were advised that the Hume was closed closer to Melbourne, but were also told that we would be able to get through. And so it proved to be the case. We had one diversion, but the main memory of what was a pretty wild ride, was of thick smoke along much of our route home, and very sore eyes too, as a result. Riding at night on a motorcycle is always a bit scary, since this is the time that the 'furry critters' come out to play (kangaroos, wallabies, emus, wombats and rabbits), and the added fear of the same critters running from a fire front. Luckily our little group only encountered (and missed) a couple of rabbits (rabbits are considered vermin in Australia as they are an introduced species). And none of these creatures have any road sense!

"I finally arrived home just before 6 o'clock on Sunday morning. But later on Sunday morning the full horror of the fires started to be reported on the radio and of course on TV.

"As I write now, 7.30pm Monday Feb. 16th, the death toll has been updated to 189 dead, and just shy of 2000 homes lost. There are 8 fires still not under control (although no homes are under direct threat), and over 5,000 people involved in trying to get those fires contained. This number includes our own CFA (Country Fire Authority) Volunteer firemen and women, plus people from New South Wales, New Zealand and California USA.

"It is going to take a long time for some of the affected places to get back on their feet, since in several of them there is little, if anything left of some once pleasant little communities.

"In this short narrative I have used the names of only a few of the affected towns in case any of you would like to see on a map some of the locations of this disaster. There were many more affected townships, not too far away, but close enough to be familiar to many Melburnians as places to go for a Sunday ride or drive.

"Thanks again to all of you for your concern. And to Aubrey W. regarding his home at Redhill, if you are there and there is a fire warning may I say "Don't wait – Evacuate"."

Marc Newson (G76-81) responded to Phil and James's invitation for a Sydney get together "Hi Phil - I'm in." Marc is a partner with Ernst & Young.

Tom O'Donald (S51-57) gave an update just before Christmas "From a personal view, this is a Christmas that I never expected to see, having been warned at the start of the year not to expect to see the year out, but, as any of my former teachers or fellow students will testify, I always was an awkward old sod who never did the right thing at Fram and never have since.

"Irony of irony, South Australia has been in severe drought for the past 2 years costing our farmers a fortune and leaving us with very severe water restrictions. So, what do we do! We have a 3,000 litre water tank put in just in case it does rain. Part of the deal was that they will, sometime late this week fill the darn thing with water so what happens? Two days after it is installed, the heavens opened and it rained all night and much of the next day, so much so that we must have collected about 2,000 litres and we still have a further 3,000 litres for which we have paid, due to arrive on Friday. I wonder if we can persuade the water carrier to fill the tank up and then pour the remainder over the front lawn! Anyway, once again thanks for everything you do and a very happy Christmas to you and yours."

We received much sadder news from Tom just after New Year with the heading "The End". He said "Sorry if you have sent me a message lately to which I have not replied but it looks as if the Grim Reaper is calling me and that I will no longer be cluttering up the inbox of your computers. To all, thanks for the pleasure you have brought into my life."

A number of us responded immediately to this message, but perhaps **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** summed it up best with *"My dear Sir, your approach to life, your humour and your can-do attitude in the face of considerable difficulty has been a great inspiration to me, and I'm sure, to those around you who are sensitive enough to understand. Your current situation is one we will all face, but with considerably less dignity and fortitude than you are. If the GR is close then I wish you a gentle transition and a fair wind for your voyage. It's been a great pleasure to meet up with you again and to share in your wicked sense of humour. Our love and support go to Veronica, and we are at the end of a telephone if she needs to talk. Do us a favour, Tom, and save Rebecca and I a couple of places at your table at the 'Restaurant at the end of the Universe', and we shall again share in a beautiful bottle of Cab. Merlot. It will be purple velvet, almost eaten with a teaspoon, with tannins, berries and chocolate, naturally from the Barossa! And, of course, we will share a thousand and one stories based on our lives and experiences here, and some that aren't! Our love and our hugs for a great job in life — well done!"*

We were all much relieved to receive an update from Tom a couple of weeks later in which he said *"It looks as if last Monday week was a false alarm; rather like the old days at Fram when they would sound the fire alarm after lights out so we would (those of us in the massive 50+ bed Stradbroke dormitory) would have to clamber down a vertical ladder, across the roof of the kitchens and down another ladder to "safety". I don't think it occurred to the powers that be that the whole practice was more dangerous than the real thing and getting out whatever way we could. Fortunately I was adept on those ladders having on one camp weekend, taken the bet from some of my friends (?) that they could not get me so drunk that I couldn't get back in without my master key by means of a ladder hidden in the fives court. I had mastered the ladder but in so doing had been heard by Eric Copperwheat, at that time music master, not in the C.C.F., and who had an instant and deep dislike of Bill Bailey, the Officer of the Day. Hearing him approach, I had the forethought of climbing up the fire escape rather than down it, a subterfuge that failed to disguise me, and with Eric standing right at the bottom, pin-pointing me with a torch shouting "Come down immediately O'Donald" which of course I did by loosing my grip on the ladder and descending with an acceleration of 9.8 ms^{-2} until I landed on top of him - not a good experience for either of us. Luck had to be with me that night as, tacking gracefully along the main passage towards the death chamber (staff room), Eric watching me from the far end, Bill came out of the staff room, took one look at me and simply said "I think its time you were in bed Sargent Major O'Donald" to which I replied "Sir" or was it "shur" and made my way up the two flights of stairs to my dormitory and collapsed on my bed in a drunken sleep.*

"It appears from my Doctor, who came in to see me yesterday that, had a bit more care been taken in the E.R. they would have worked out that what I had was a chest virus which would either clear up of its own accord or kill me off rapidly, rather than Aspiration pneumonia which would have progressed, as is the habit of bacterial

infections and I would have been putting in that reservation and a couple of bottles of 2002 Petalunga shiraz which you have probably never heard of as it comes from a very small 10 acres of vines in which he grows 10 different grapes. I can't speak for the others but the shiraz was one of the best wines I have ever tasted and that is saying something.

"Anyway, to cut a totally irrelevant story short, most of my problems now are due to having been bed bound for 11 days and I have to wean myself out of the habit by getting up a little more each day. It looks as if there will be quite a few to whom I will have to eat humble pie and to warn them that any ghostly figures that appear are nothing to do with my ghost."

Neil Randall (Z88-93) also responded to Phil and James's invitation for a Sydney get together *"I'll be in. Keep me posted as to details. Alex [Shaw] is right we survived Fram together, leaving in 1993. I'm also in Sydney but living on the opposite side of the harbour down in the shire and working in IT for a law firm in the central business district."*

Ian Rumsby (Z79-84) also said that he would be happy to attend the dinner.

Nick Samson (R93-95) contacted me to say that he was living in Narrogin a country town in the West Australian Wheat belt. He said *"I live with my wife Helen. We moved here as my wife is a teacher and applied to teach in Western Australia and the department of education sent us here. I am working in Natural Resource Management out here and enjoying my role. I am in touch with **Edd Ho (S90-95)** but that's all. I would be happy for anyone who knows/ remembers me to get in touch with me."*

Alex Shaw (M85-93) pointed out to James *"Don't forget the 'old girls' - a bit misleading with my first name I know !! I'm an OF from 1993 I think (same year as Neil Randell). I'd definitely be up for an OF dinner if anyone is organising one."* Alex is a Senior Manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia.

Chris Shaw (K50-56) has been very busy recently with launching his first book and he says the potted history goes something like this :-

"In 2001-2002 Rebecca and I spent a year in UK:

- a) to spend some quality time with my ageing parents-(Dad passed away Nov 08 @101, and Mum is 99 and sweating on getting the card from the Queen)*
- b) to see some parts of UK that Rebecca, or I had not previously been to.*

"I was to work as a locum pharmacist around the country so that this could be financed. The places I worked were Hayling Island, Shanklin on the IoW, and Weymouth in the south, to Chester-le-Street in the north. There was Bideford in Devon and Abercynon in Wales and many places in East Anglia, including Norwich prison, where I wasn't paid for 2 months and had to resort to the student way of life to survive; you know home-made pasta and baked beans and the roughest red you could find!

"We picked up a laptop at a village fair, and to be honest I have no idea which truck it fell off, or was nicked from, but it allowed me to send e-mails to some friends in OZ. When I got back, I put all these e-mail newsletters together and found I had 40,000 words, which, when you consider that a two page letter was a chore, made me feel quite pleased.

"I did 29 edits at my Gillette inspired 'O' level English language expertise and then sent it off to an Appraiser.

She was very kind, patted me on the head and gave me 4 out of 10 for an advanced version of 'What I did on my Summer holidays'. I had four copies printed, gave three to my friends and have the other, very amateur book around the house somewhere.

"However, the Appraiser made a big mistake; she ENCOURAGED me! She suggested that if I took all the boring travel bits out and concentrated on the funny/sad/adventurous and ridiculous bits then I may have something worth publishing.

"I didn't do that, but I did start writing-well- scribbling really, and submitted about 25 stories to my, by now on first name terms, appraiser, Danielle. That was a year ago and she sent back 18 stories, which she said had merit, and discarded the others. She then pointed out that there was not a publisher in the world who would touch them but that she thought there was sufficient merit for me to self-publish. That was January last year, and in July (I am a slow starter) I started to have a look at this project and the book was delivered to me in mid-December.

"Now, if you put a book of short stories into the marketplace, it's going to die! If you start a website and reckon that a hundred million people are going to visit every day, then you're going to die! So, to maximize the market, I have the book, an Audio CD, two 1Gb flash drives, one for Ladies and one for Gents, with both versions to download, and two download versions on the website.

"IF! I can get all this together and maximize the impact by choosing a target audience, THEN maybe I can help my pension fund along for my old age, and be kept busy enough to keep me out of mischief in my dotage. Damn!

"The audience I have chosen is one of the biggest in the world-the Traveler- which includes commuters, going through to international travelers like your little bird with the big beak. There are 5 million bored commuters going into London every morning and even a small part of that audience would keep me in rough red for quite a while!

"With regard to being an author, I really am more of 'your actual scribbler', and have joined the Felixstowe Scribblers with whom I keep in touch by e-mail. I won one of their prizes for a piece on whaling, which I have included in the book, but don't tell anyone or they may think I'm an author.

"The website is www.t2d2.com.au Fram gets an honourable mention in the 'About the author' segment. The only thing I will say about the stories is that most are based on my life's experience with the Aussie twist of 'Never, ever let the truth stand in the way of a good story'!

"I hope you find this slightly interesting, and I will talk to you again after the launch, which, barring cyclone, fire or floods, will be on 28th March."

A few weeks later I was very delighted to receive an invite to the launch of the book. Unfortunately the Overseas Bag Editor expenses, unlike some I know, won't quite run to the air fares!

Immediately following the successful Book Launch, Chris gave me an update on how it had gone, starting off with the week leading up to the official launch.

"On the Sunday 22nd March, 6 days before the launch, I had no books to sell, no



CD's, the website wasn't finished, the banner and bookmarks hadn't arrived, and we had no idea of how to record the print and audio formats on to the flash drives! This was definitely a time to hold the nerve! The books came on Monday, CD's on Thursday, bookmarks and banner on Friday. We also recorded the flash drives, and labelled them, on Friday!

"The planning started some 4 weeks out, about the only thing I did right. The pattern I used was my 70th birthday bash, which had seemed to go down well. It was a case of sorting out what I wanted to happen and what equipment, food/drink I would need to make it happen. Rebecca and I had attended two local book launches, and that was the sum total of our experience. And so began a series of lists, with lists of lists, which I gradually worked through. Of course I went overboard, I always do!

"The fare was: Smoked salmon, homemade pâté and assorted crackers, four cheeses, watermelon slices, and grapes. I found, by much trial and error, that there was a recently marketed Marlborough NZ Sauvignon blanc in a 2-litre cask, which was brilliant for the price. We had orange and apple juice, and small bottles of water and ice for the puritans. Not many of those of my acquaintance.

"I hired an assortment of glasses, and a P.A. System with a cordless mike, which I'd never used before. I also asked a couple of the ladies I used to work with, for some help. I contributed to their forthcoming holiday funding! Rebecca has hidden talents as a stage manager and producer, so I left the positioning of the tablets and chairs to her, the food and drink tables, (topped up from the little kitchen where all the preparation was done).

"We arrived at 5pm to set up. She suggested the banner be just inside the entrance for maximum impact, and that I position myself to speak at the opposite end of the hall to the food/drink/entrance. I set up the CD player from home, to play background music. The PA system, my keyboard and the story-links, (pictures of the cats and so on) were at this end too. I did the 'meet and greet'. People just kept coming, the first on the stroke of 7pm, which is most unlike North Queenslanders.

"At 7.30pm I called the sixty or so guests to take their seats and welcomed them to this, my first ever project of this sort. I then told them of the origins of the book, the holiday in UK and the e-mails home, the places I worked, including 2 months in Norwich prison. I told them about the appraiser of my original script and her comments and encouragement, the subsequent submission of stories and her further encouragement leading to self-publication.

"I explained the concept of MIC's (make it complex), and KIS's (keep it simple), being like the 'Lumpers' and 'Splitters' of science, and how I always thought I kept everything simple, whereas the facts tell a different story. I do complicate things. I was advised to self publish a small book, and ended up with a double CD set, two flash drives, one for ladies and one for gents, a website to promote the whole thing with downloadable versions as alternative options! Well, it just seemed as though everything just grew, like Topsy.

"I told them of the concept of the Welsh equivalent of Dai the Bread to describe my team of experts, who helped me put this together, to my forbearing and very confused wife. Having set the scene for the story about the balloon and the cats, 'Happy Anniversary', I gave the mike to Dave Martin, my narrator, who then read the final half. It got a lot of laughs.

"It was time to wrap up the talking, according to Rebecca waving in the background. I told them my entertainment hadn't turned up, so if they wouldn't mind I would do the honours, and described, and then played my composition on the keyboard, which seemed to go down well.

“Then it was on to signing books and CD’s, and even one flash drive, and my first glass of wine of the evening. In future, I will have one or, max, two before the speech as it will un-cement my face from marble to something more elastic! The guests got food and drink, convivial company, a first edition signed by the author, and the first performance of a recital by the composer! That’s what I call value for money! The farewells and the best wishes, then, with the backup help, we were out of there, totally clean, aircons off and all packed into the cars by 9.15pm.”

I put a news story up on the SOF website about the book launch and duly ordered my copy, which has arrived safely and been read. A book review by Norman Porter will be included in the Yearbook. Chris has also sent across a copy of the Len Evans Cookbook, which contains the details of a lot of his life, with pictures, which will be deposited in the College Library. Chris say Len *“was a 'character' with a huge energy. Everyone in Australia knew of Len Evans, his wine judging, his theatre going, quite 'over the top'. Always dining, wining or cooking for the 'top' people in Australian society-yes, we do have one!”*

Chris also added *“Leslie Gillett has a lot to answer for with his English Lang. and Lit. Did you know that I connected with him after 50 odd years, just three days before he died? I got a phone call from his nephew to say that he had read my letter and appreciated it, but not the manuscript that I had included.”*

As mentioned earlier, Chris came over to the UK a couple of years ago for his Dad’s 100th birthday and has sent me these photos of them. At the time of his 100th birthday his father was still able to walk 2km. He died in November 2008. His mother is currently 99 and a lifelong royalist and is sweating on getting the card from the Queen in September 2009!



David Summers OAM (G48-56) was contacted out of the blue by **Peter Hughes (G52-56)** to say that he had come upon an old negative shortly after receiving a note about David receiving his OAM (Order of Australia Medal). Peter says *“In fact, I think this is the first I’ve heard of you since a drunken episode with a bike, a bridge and a tanker at Burnham (?)”* Peter went on to give an update on the last 40 years and what brought him to be running a Pharmacy in Cairns.

David replied and copied to **John Ashon (G 52-56)** who is a mutual friend.

David was also good enough to send me a copy of an article in the local newspaper in Australia, which announced his award of the Order of Australia Medal – see Distinguished article for details



<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/images/articles/DAVIDROBINRITCHIESUMMERSOAMG48-56.pdf> .

The old negative that Peter found was a picture of David holding his pet ferret named Elsie, which he used to keep in a hutch behind the Chapel. See article from Peter Hughes for more details.

David also expressed interest in making a Sydney Supper *“I’d like to join you. I’m a Garrett (48 to 56) so am getting on a bit. I’d like to meet up with some updated products of Fram as long as there is some amber fluid in it. Any dates in mind? I’ve lived in Sydney for 38 years but now spend most of the time on a country property out of Sydney and am currently in Hong Kong but I will come if I’m anywhere close. Please keep me posted.”*

Aubrey Whitear (G58-65) got in touch about the fires in Victoria “*Thanks for your concern, we are fine. Saturday was horrific - 46.4 degrees Celsius (about 115 Fahrenheit) with a very strong Northerly wind. Our fourth day of temperatures above forty in the last two weeks. Just to be outside was like standing in an oven. The firefighters had no hope as some fires moved several kilometers through eucalypt forest in no more than the same number of minutes. The four biggest fires in Victoria covered an area of around 200,000 hectares (imagine more than half of Essex completely burnt out) but there have been at least a dozen others and they are not all out yet and may not be for weeks. Probably more than 200 killed, possibly 300.*

“Some friends of ours, no more than an hour's drive from Melbourne, had their farm burnt out, lost all their fences, pasture and hay as well as the garden but saved the farmhouse itself. As they now have no fences all they could do with their cattle was to send them to market. We were very worried about our house at Red Hill on the Mornington Peninsula, which is in an area designated high fire danger but in view of the extreme weather we were too scared to be there. Luckily, there were no fires in the area this time but it has not rained at all this year, everything is very dry and we still have at least another two months of fire danger weather to come. We need a lot of rain or we could still be in a lot of trouble. Enjoy your snow!”

BERMUDA

Matt Living (S80-87) reported that life had been rather hectic and challenging given the recent activity in the global financial markets. He promised to submit an update as he might be relocating in 2009 and will know more by then.

In May 2009 he provided this update “*In 2008 we were thinking of moving on with HSBC to another country, however in light of the near collapse of economic crisis we decided to sit tight for a while in Bermuda. It's a beautiful Island and we have a great lifestyle so we're happy to stay on. I am regularly back in London and hope to be able to attend an OF dinner on one of my trips if the dates ever work out. I missed the last London dinner by a few days, which was frustrating. An OF dinner in Bermuda would be a rather lonely affair.*” Who can blame Matt for wanting to stay on in Bermuda!

CANADA

Henry Gilbert (K49-54) was in touch to register on the SOF website and confirm that he lived near Toronto. I hope Henry provides an update for a future Overseas Bag.

David McMillan (K54-58) got in touch briefly to say that they had sold their house and moved to a smaller 'pied a terre' in Montreal, less than 200 yards from their old house [While at Fram my family moved just 5 houses up the same road!].

John Oswell (G61-65) was sorry that we did not managed to meet up when my wife and I stopped during a cruise at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Just before Christmas he said “*We're currently in a motel just west of Quebec City looking forward to 10cms of snow as we pass through Montreal on our way to our son's for Christmas in Milton Ontario about 40 kms west of Toronto. After driving up to Halifax on Monday afternoon and staying the night there and after a business meeting on Tuesday morning we got away from Halifax at about 1:30pm and then did 1,000Kms on a good run from Halifax NS through New Brunswick on the Trans Canada Highway to here. Living in the garden of Nova Scotia for the past 2 and a half years, the prospect of dealing with snow is not appealing especially in Quebec where driving seems like a full contact sport at times - slow and easy now*

that I'm a mellowed out Nova Scotian - I hope! Anyway best wishes, breakfast awaits and hopefully rush hour is over and the road is still open ahead of us!"

Howard Thistlewood (K66-73) was copied in on news that **Ian Connell (R68-73)** was retiring – see this news item <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/article.php?story=20090408101656626> . Howard says *"I realise that it may have come as a surprise from your company, or not, but what a lucky bugger you must be to have early retirement already. Now you have time to pursue what you really love! Now I have two to envy, you and Chris Essex.... The amazing thing is that I still remember the guy wondering what he was going to do in life, apart from race! I can't yet imagine that the great game is on its back stretch - we still have a way to go.*



*"I probably mentioned these to you before but take a look into these two pics that I put up on the OF website some years ago, front row further along from **Steve Wills (S69-73)**, me, **Johnny Matts (G69-73)**, and next to **Dave Hunter (R68-73)**. However, I, Wills and Johnny had the good sense to never join the military whereas you and Dave continued in your childish ways.... All the best."*

FRANCE

Terry Hurlock (R66-73) helped me validate an enquiry that come from his son James from an unknown e-mail address. He told me that James now worked for Marcus Evans in Sydney (who coincidentally own Ipswich Town Football Club!). Terry and his wife Rachel now live and work in France, coincidentally about 10 miles from **Brian Scrivener (K48-54)** who has featured recently in the Yearbook. Terry sold his business in Norfolk and now work in Bergerac as an accountant dealing in French and English personal tax affairs for English clients living in the area.

Brian Rosen (S40-46) provided the following regular update *"It seems that it is only when I visit Framlingham or, perhaps even more so, Brandeston that I have any regrets at all that we left the UK just over 15 years ago, to live in France.*

*"During 2008 I managed two visits to BH. In April my son **Philip (S63 – 71)** and his wife came over from Montreal, where they have been living for over 8 years, to attend the 50th birthday party in Chester of my youngest son, **Timothy (S66-75)** Having flown over from Grenoble I was picked up at Stansted by second son, **Simon (S64 -73)** who lives in Cambridge. I had just bought, via the internet, another sailing dinghy and we went down to collect it from Aldeburgh, stopping on the way back for lunch at the Queen's Head in Brandeston and a quick visit to the school. As usual the school and the grounds looked beautiful and as always it was a pleasure to meet up with old colleagues on the teaching staff and, of course to meet the new Master, Martin Myers-Allen.*

*"The sailing dinghy eventually arrived in Corsica from Cambridge via my brother **Michael (S40-46)** in Hove who brought it over to Vienna and we completed its voyage, – on a trailer of course, to its present home beside our caravan. We spent quite a few weeks down there, enjoying the brilliant weather unlike much of the rest of Europe.*

“I came over again in September for the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the first pupils at Brandeston and was able to renew many old acquaintances. I could not stay long at BH as there was a Council meeting at the College at 5 pm but I certainly hope to be able to get to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the official opening by Princess Alice of Athlone, which is to take place next Summer – and I hope that a firm date will be fixed shortly. There were many of the Brandeston staff, past and present at the supper at the College and it was a very successful evening. Now (March 2009) I have learnt that there is to be no summer event.

“We feel very settled now and life continues to be both busy and enjoyable. The Lyon branch of the Royal British Legion, of which I am a vice chairman, keeps me busy and it is a very worthwhile job. Fortunately I am still able to travel around by motorcycle which is a great help as the roads become more congested, although we do not face the problems of the UK and one can travel from A to B fairly rapidly, even keeping to the speed limits.



*“Our daughter **Sarah** who was at Brandeston from 1988 until 1993 has settled in Lyon where she has a very good job and has just moved into a new flat having had the good fortune to obtain a mortgage just weeks before the current financial crisis. She is working as an epidemiologist. Rather than describe what it entails here is a passage about Sarah from her company’s website;*

*Sarah Rosen,
Project Director,
MAPI Group France*

Sarah joined the MAPI Group in April 2006 where she worked as an International Project Manager for observational studies managing several studies implemented in 1 to 11 countries in various disease areas. Sarah then became Associate Project Director in January 2008. A year later she was promoted to Project Director

After two years of Human Genetics at the University of Nottingham (UK), Sarah continued her genetic studies at the University of Lyon before reading a European Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine (masters degree in clinical research). Sarah then went on to work with the French National Comprehensive Centres Guidelines Department in the European team. As well as organising the 3rd Guidelines International Network conference in Lyon which gathered more than 300 International experts, Sarah worked on a French-Canadian project on the adaptation of guidelines and then on a European FP6 Coordination Action Project whose aim was to coordinate the elaboration of cancer guidelines throughout Europe.

“I have not heard of any other OF’s living in this area, that is to say Lyon or Rhône-Alpes but would be very pleased to hear from anyone in France or contemplating a move.”.

GERMANY

Sophie von Oertzen (M00-02) has as promised provided an update from Germany *“In September 2008 I graduated from Maastricht University with a BA in European Studies. Whilst writing my bachelor thesis I went to Brussels for an internship at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, which is a German political foundation close to the German liberal party, FDP. My internship lasted two and a half months after which I was*



asked to stay for another three and a half months as a maternity cover. All in all I stayed six months in Brussels and must say that I completely fell in love with the city.

“After my time in Brussels I moved back to Hamburg to figure out my next move. I found a temporary job, which is fairly interesting and pays the bills. However, my ultimate goal is to work in politics or political lobbying. March 2009 will hopefully see me working for a minister in the Hamburg senate - I'm currently negotiating a position.

*“Overall I'm very happy at the moment. I recently visited some friends in London, amongst them **Tori Balkwill (P98-02)**, one of the Old Framlinghamians I'm still in contact with. I'd love to move to Britain again and in order to pursue that dream I'm always browsing job offers in London - just in case there suddenly is an ad that says "Hello - we're waiting for you, Sophie von Oertzen". Anyway, we'll see...”*

HOLLAND/NETHERLANDS

Jane Taylor (P89-94) got in touch for the first time from Holland and wanted to know how many other OFs lived there. I told her that there was only one other currently recorded under Holland and that was **Berber Goedhart (V90-92)** who also lives in Amsterdam. However, there were a further 4 recorded under the Netherlands and that she could find these by searching the Directory by Country.

She replied saying “I remember Berber Goedhart so it would be interesting to get in touch with her again! I moved here with my husband Neal and children Isabel (4) and Freddie (2) in September 2007 for my husband's job as he works for Reebok whose European HQ is in Amsterdam. We live in the city and are incredibly happy here, there is a large expat community. That's all for now - best regards and keep up the good work - much appreciated!”

HONG KONG

Chris Hall (G62-69) sent me his Christmas newsletter. He was sad to say goodbye to his faithful car of 16 years only for a bus to drive up the back of his new car within 4 days of purchase! The case was still unresolved by Christmas. At work, new anti money laundering rules are involving a lot more red tape and as a consequence he is often working 7 days a week to produce less. He got away for a holiday in September, when he went on an art treasure tour to Hungary. He continues to teach at Sunday School and was put in charge of organising a Christmas play, despite protesting his lack of experience.

INDIA

Richard Gould (K66-71) was good enough to give us his musings on the Mumbai bombings.

“Before I moved to India, I would hear, whilst dishing or plating up a meal, “don't put too much on my plate as it puts me off!”

“This was a concept I could not understand, until I moved to India, Goa in particular, and experienced it myself with the quantities of rice dished



up, as well as watching the locals consume two “mountains” of it each day.

“This leads me to the next concept I never understood whilst in England. How many times have we seen on the news an atrocity followed by women in intense sadness, wailing loudly? Again I could not understand this, until the recent Mumbai events. Even writing this, my eyes moisten with sadness for fellow human beings. Reader, my heart bled for India and the human race. Have you ever been discussing such a tragedy and had to leave, unable to control your emotions and speak further?”

“Now I understand.

“I was in Mumbai the weekend before these tragic events unfolded. I took the Konkan Express overnight (couchette style sleeper) to Dadar Station; I believe just one stop away from the CST, which was attacked. Yesterday (5/12/2008), the papers reported two bombs found there in the left luggage office. I had left Mumbai the following Sunday night, the same weekend by the same mode of transport.

“I visited South Mumbai to attend the 250 years of Masonry in India celebrations. There was a query as to my being allowed in due to security issues, but the required one week notice was overcome as I am a member of the Grand Lodge of India. No one thought more of it, but a nuisance. How wrong we were to be proved. Hindsight is a wonderful thing.

“I have visited, in the past, the Gateway, the Taj Hotel and Leopold’s Cafe. My younger son was in the Bali nightclub a few days earlier. One of my Mumbai friends was in the hotel restaurant and had left only one hour before it all broke out.

“Am I lucky? Is my family? I don’t know. “Where to go and what to do, try Katmandu” is a saying employed by a Goan chef friend here. How deep this is. Where to go to avoid terrorism? I thought of Bali, London, New York, Myanmar, Thailand, etc. It dawns on us, when we ponder it, there is nowhere. Is it because the western countries are so much securer, we will now see the terrorist turn his, or her, attentions to the less prepared world?”

“Here, in Goa, people were so stunned that they could not comprehend the situation. It was too vast for them. (That is not a comment on their intelligence.) One Goan from my locale was killed and I was privileged to meet his cousin. We have had terror threats here in the past, which have never turned into anything. Probably, this was due to precautions being taken. For example, two New Year’s Eves ago, no text messages worked all day. They came through in droves the next day. Now we are told the Americans warned India twice, both times mentioning the Taj Hotel. This is admitted. Ratan Tata took some extra civilian style precautions, such as no parking in close proximity and security gate guards, although one was reported as not on post at the pool gate where it is thought the terrorists were able to gain access. I wonder if this is part of the different culture and outlook on life; “Karma”; “Que Sera Sera”. “We took precautions but found nothing”, so all revert back to normal routines in a very short span of time (not what happens in the West). Life is cheaper here, as evinced by the papers on a daily basis. Such terrorist events as the Mumbai attacks make you realize how trite and petty the everyday spats and moans in the papers really are. The contrast of perspectives hit you hard in the face.

“So, now things are back to normal. Extra security on borders proved to be unmanned the next day. Extra cops, armed, went around here for a few days but have been reduced. A few politicians’ heads rolled and things settle back down with the usual promises, which either get forgotten or bogged down in the red tape and paper work they were taught under British rule.

“So, will I move out of India? No. An attack could happen anywhere and anyway, the terrorists would be

winning. No one must allow that to happen. I was heartened to see a Muslim organizing support across the world against terrorism. Often here I have heard the thought that all Muslims are terrorist. I always say that whilst a Muslim might be a terrorist, it does not mean they all are. All barrels have bad apples. Let us rally together, stop these people hiding behind a religion, and start learning to love and live in harmony with our fellow creatures around the world (or global village as it is nowadays termed).

”Well, Friends, Carpe Diem and best wishes.”

ISRAEL

Perdee Gould (nee Stagg) (P90-94) got in touch with the news that Alfie Morris Gould had been born in Eilat, Israel on Saturday 1st November 2008 and weighed in at 7lb 1oz. She baby Alfie's were doing well.

Once the initial period of changing nappies and feeds had got used to, Perdee had time to give us some further information, firstly on Alfie and then on what brought her to Israel.

“Alfie is now 7 months old and is coming on leaps and bounds. He's a quite little chap unlike me and has learnt how to get your attention and it usually involves a high pitch scream. He's now well travelled and has been back and forwards to the UK most months to visit the grandparents.



“As for me, since leaving College I started working for a travel company and travelled around Europe. I set up my own business in 1998 as a group travel organiser and began to travel worldwide. I took up a hobby in 2002 in Truck Racing and had the privilege of racing at race circuits throughout Europe. In 2003 I met Martyn in Egypt, and the Taba Bombing in 2004 made me realise how special he was. We married in 2006 and 2 days later I moved to Israel where Martyn is based. I still work part-time organising Group Travel and now am branching more into specialist gifting for religious holidays, weddings, Bar-mitzvah's and family events. Living in Israel is fantastic, is extremely diverse and nothing like it is portrayed in the news! England will always be home but for now the sunshine 365 days a year will just have to do.”

MALORCA

Ian Foster (K46-53) got in touch briefly at Christmas.

MOZAMBIQUE

Lizi Baker (P99-04) got in touch just after a Christmas break in Brandeston, to tell us about the work she is doing in Mozambique. *“Since finishing my degree in Sport and Coaching Studies at Oxford Brookes University I have started working voluntarily as part of an internship programme at St Aldate's Church. Our biggest challenge of the year lies ahead of us this Easter when we will be going to Mozambique to work alongside Iris Ministries at their Zimpeto site in Maputo, the*



capital city. *Iris Ministries care for the orphans of Mozambique, giving them food, shelter and medical treatment they would never be able to receive otherwise.*” You can read more about her work and see more pictures via the news story on the website at <http://www.oldframinghamian.com/article.php?story=LiziBakerUpdate>

SOUTH AFRICA

Adam Phillips (G78-83) wrote to me from a sunny Cape Town. He told me that he used to have a vineyard, but gave it up as it was too much work. He said it was a constant battle with rain, sunshine, frost and disease. But that wasn't the end of his growing he says *“Now I just grow limes. I cannot grow enough. The demand here in South Africa is huge and I am going to have to start importing them soon. It is a pity I cannot give up my day job and just concentrate on limes! I do about 2 tonnes at the moment, but hopefully going to 10 tonnes.”*

Adam was back in touch in March 2009 as a result of receiving the 2008 Yearbook. He went on to say *“Just got the latest magazine...very impressive.*

“All is fine here. The stadiums and infrastructure for the 2010 World Cup is taking place. I enclose a picture of the one they are building in Cape Town. Could there be a better place in the world?! South Africa has been affected by the world slow down, but exchange controls and a credit act that came in to place in 2007 has meant that the economy will not go into recession and our banking system is very strong. So, although we hear a great deal about the gloom from overseas, there is plenty to be grateful for here. Saying that we have a very interesting election coming up and Zimbabwe weighs heavily on all of us.



*“I am interested to see a couple of OFs that also live in South Africa. **James Campbell (M74-82)** was a year ahead of me. I am not sure how often he comes to Cape Town. I would certainly be interested to make contact with **Michael Bullock (R55-59)** and **Charles Rossiter (S49-55)**. Maybe you can pass my email address onto them. [done]*

*“I also meant to enclose a picture of **Tim Smart (R 76-82)** and myself standing outside my house while the SA Open was being played at Pearl Valley. He works on oil rigs all over the place, but was in the Cape for Christmas. He is happily married to a South African and has a son that was an apprentice with Norwich City FC, although I think he has moved on. Maybe he will play for Bafana Bafana next year.*

“We are all looking forward to the British Lions tour. Apparently, 50,000 supporters at various times will be following them. That will be fantastic for our economy. At the moment the Aussies are here and giving us a hard time like we gave them down under. Kind regards.”

Adam was back in touch with the promised picture of him (right) and Tim (left) taken in front of Adam's house – note “floating car”. Adam had also obtained an update from Tim *“I am a consultant drilling fluids engineer with Baker-Hughes, working on a rig in the Mahakam Delta in Borneo (East Kalimantan), Indonesia.”*



THAILAND

John BIRT (S59-63) contacted Richard Rowe with an intriguing picture of Barack Obama appearing to wear an OF tie. John is going to contact him to see if we can hold an OF Supper in the White House! He also adds *“Life here is OK now that air travel is back to normal. We still expect a very good Peak Season (everybody had booked and paid for tickets anyway!) but next year is uncertain. Ian Howard (S57-62) will be here for New Year as usual!”*



UGANDA

Brian Pretty (S52-56) has been doing further wonderful work in difficult circumstances in Uganda and I'm pleased to include another couple of updates from him.

In November 2008 he wrote *“Forgive me for the long silence. Once again, life has been full of surprises, some good, some bad but overall very fulfilling and very humbling in many ways.*

“Since I last wrote to you I have experienced things that make me very thankful for the protective and overall caring society in which we live. I have been alongside the horrors of the tribal wars in the Congo and experienced at first hand the thuggery of inner city violence. But above all I have been able to assist and help people change their lives for the better in small but very effective ways.

“Right now I am exhausted and only arrived back in the UK two nights ago and am suffering from 11 weeks of non-stop adrenaline inspired work. I have so much to tell you but for now have to rest a while. Next Sunday, my wife and I fly to Japan for a rest followed by time in Australia and New Zealand and the Cook Islands, returning to the UK some time in April of next year. From there, a short time in our home before returning to Uganda to try and complete some of the work started and yet to be completed.

“I hope that before I go off on our travels I will be able to update you as promised on some of the challenges I have faced. I am wondering if it might be possible to see if there is any way in which I might, through you, place some of those challenges before Framlingham College itself. [I've offered to help Brian liase with the College Chaplain]. Just a thought that I will clarify later. I do hope that you had a good holiday yourself and are now fully refreshed. Will write again soon. God Bless.”

At the end of March 2009 he provided the following update *“After 30 hours of almost non stop travel, we staggered back home late last night and fell straight in to bed, only to lose an hours sleep this morning. Such is life but at least the sun is shining but I am missing the 23 degrees plus of New Zealand.*

“Once I have regained some sort common sense I will start trying to give you a proper update relative to the past 7 months but with particular reference to the time in Uganda.

“Meanwhile I have noted the date of the next West of England supper and I need your advices. I would like to come but I think that there is a 50/50 chance I will have to return to Africa during that period. Could I tentatively suggest that you put my name down for the dinner but only if there remains a spare place right up to the last minute.” Unfortunately Brian subsequently got in touch to say that he was having to return to Uganda on 5 June for 5 weeks.

USA

Nick Allan (R59-63) has previously provided some wonderful photos of him and his boat etc, so I'm sorry to disappoint this time. However Nick has recently told me *"I'm going to a 2010 calendar shoot for the "McQueeney Bikini" company on Saturday, so should have some good pics of the boat and would you believe, bikinis in time for the Yearbook!!!"*

Noel Hume (37-39) wrote just before Christmas *"So good to hear from you. This has been a busy year. My play about John Smith that ran here through the summer of 2007 was revived in a new production in Maryland last September. I have just completed a new play about Samuel Pepys titled "Dapper Dicky or Pepys in Person." My autobiography is in production at the University of Virginia Press, and a small book on William Strachey titled "Wreck and Redemption" will be out in March. Another book published in 1973 "All The Best Rubbish" is planned to be reissued this year with a new introduction. But with the economy as it is, I suspect that the publisher will think better of it.*

"That is about the sum of it, workwise. At 81 I keep tottering along thanks to chemistry and a loving wife."

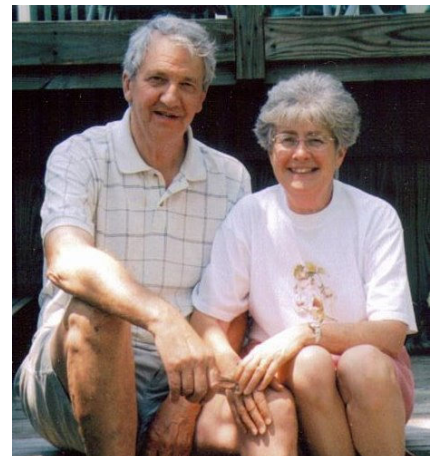
Will Noel be the first OF to publish their autobiography? He says it will be published late this year in two parts, half Old World and half New. He hopes that a British publisher will latch onto the first half, which takes him from 1927 to 1957.

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) is a regular correspondent and like Noel Hume above features in the Distinguished OF section. Bryan was firstly in touch in November 2008 *"It has been a while since we last corresponded, so I need to spend a few minutes bringing you up to date with happenings at the Ivory household.*

Firstly though, I trust that you and the family are all keeping well. It seems to have been somewhat of an unsettled summer for you folks across the pond, hopefully the Autumn season has produced some of its beautiful days.

Having managed to get through the hot humid days of summer here in Shallotte, we at last got to fly up to Canada to start our across country train journey. We arrived in Toronto, a city we hadn't seen for some 35 years !....and there certainly were changes! New high rise buildings everywhere and a constant "hustle and bustle of cars and people. ... "Welcome to the modern world!"

The first day of our tour took us to Niagara, for a trip on the "Maid of the Mist" to view the Falls. An enjoyable experience, but the town itself was a little "Tacky". I guess we have passed the ice cream and popcorn stage! Next day it was off to Union Station to board the "Canadian". The sleeping accommodation was a little tight (bunk beds that were pulled down at night), but each had washbasins and toilets, with the option to use a shower down the corridor. The activity coach was spacious along with an observation car and the elegant dining car served great meals. Unfortunately the china was not as "classy "as the 20s and 30s!!



Our journey took us through the lakes and woods of Ontario (couldn't spot our old fishing haunt) and across the Prairie flatlands to Jasper, with one short stop in Edmonton. Here we got off for a one night stay, before

boarding a coach to Banff. On the way we had an interesting visit to the ice fields aboard specially designed vehicles with massive wheels and incredible gears, that took us up and down quite scary inclines.

Banff was a beautiful little town. We stayed there for two days enjoying visits to Lake Louise, rides on the gondola and rafting down the Bow River. It was quite something to see elk walking down the main street and strolling across the golf course as if they owned it!they may well have done, seeing they were there first!!

From Banff, it was "all aboard " the "Rocky Mountaineer" for the train journey through the "Rockies", before an overnight stay in Kamloops. The scenery as you know was terrific. From Kamloops it was on next day to Vancouver and farewell to the train. The trip had been well worth it, the only one thing we found out was that the passenger trains always give way to freight trains on single line tracks, consequently there were stops every now and again, which can be a little frustrating. But it was fun.

Vancouver is a lovely city. We had two days to look around and visit the famous Stanley Park with its Totem Poles and to join up with some friends from Toronto days. It would have been nice to have had more time to visit Vancouver Island. Anyway, next day it was down to the docks to board the Holland American Line ship Ryndam. What a ship! she carried about 1200 passengers and 570 crew. Quality and comfort all the way with excellent service. Many travelled folks told us that it is the best line upon which to travel. I wouldn't doubt them.

Our journey up the coast included stops at Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan. Each time we chose to visit the museums and places of interest rather than drag around all the tourist shops. This way we were able to get a real flavour of the history of each place. Close up views of the glacier at Johns Hopkins Inlet in Glacier Bay and the salmon running in the river at Ketchikan, will remain vivid memories of a really fun cruise. As can be expected we made many new friends, lots of Australians, who were always a lot of fun, as well as an interesting gentleman from Lancing College in Sussex.

So, here we are back in our quiet little town with a new President Elect and tough economic times for everyone around the globe. Bit of a change! I'm afraid that it is going to take a few years to get the train back on the right track and make the necessary reforms that are needed. People will have to adjust their way of thinking and be a little more conservative in the way they handle their business. However, I remain optimistic and I think you will be pleasantly surprised with the choice this country has made for its next Commander -in -Chief.

Now for the important news!! The model ship is progressing slowly. The masts and standing rigging have been completed and presently the spars are being attached, which is proving a bit tricky. I am only able to spend 2 - 3 hours these days on each work session, before my one good eye gets tired trying to focus on all those "fiddly" little pieces. It's very frustrating at times!

I have recently spoken with James Ruddock and Barry Wilson, to catch up on all their news. Both are well I'm pleased to say, Barry now so, after a spell of bad health over the summer. Well, I seem to have rambled on a little long. I hope you and the family have a very happy Christmas season and a healthy New Year. Keep up the great job you are doing with the overseas bag, all your effort is much appreciated. Next year the school gets a new Head'. Mrs. Randall has set a fine example to follow."

Bryan posted through pictures of the completed ship which you can see in full in the Distinguished article on him at



<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/images/articles/BRYANIVORYK48-52.pdf> It was obviously sad to read that he didn't think he could tackle another of these because of the strain on his good eye.

He was back in touch in March 2009 when the Yearbook arrived to say *"I was interested to read in the school news updates, on the new book being written about Mr Borrett. He arrived at the school shortly after I went to Fram'. He was certainly a great character. I remember playing rugby against him in the '51 O.F. game, when he drop kicked a field goal from close to the half way line. I think he felt his leg for weeks after!! One other time he asked if I would paint some coloured bands around a travel case that he had, I think he was going on a hockey tour abroad and wanted his teams colours displayed. Anyway, they must have turned out reasonably well, as he was pleased enough. I still have his signature in my autograph book. The last time that I saw him was in the 80's at his home with Mrs Borrett, when we chatted about years past over a "cuppa" and "cookies!"*

I put Bryan in touch with Richard Sayer, who is writing the book on Norman Borrett. In reply to Richard he gave the following observation on his last meeting with Norman *"It is strange that you should ask about other boys view of him. During our visit to his home in the 80's, he put the same question to me over a "cuppa". It caught me by surprise actually, as while he tended to be very self confident, I never heard any bad remarks against him and he was always pretty fair as far as I was concerned. At the time I put it down to general curiosity, that I am sure many masters had! During sports we didn't have a lot of contact, as the teams were coached primarily by Mr Melsom, Mr Baly and Mr Winstanley and I think Mr Borrett took over some of the younger teams in his first years. Now if you wanted to write a book about Revd. Kneese, I'm sure that I might have a few interesting recollections for you!!! Wonderful that Mrs Borrett is doing so well, such a charming person, I wish that I could have been able to know her better. Much success with your book, I'm sure that it will add to many people's happy memories of "Fram" and of someone affectionately called "Swine Borrett", by a number of boys..... a man of many talents!"*

Alfred Molson (K38-43) regular keeps in touch by phone and e-mail from near Houston. In August he enquired about the oldest OF living in America – **Ken Wiseman (K33-39)** who was born in 1921. He and Alfred overlapped one year at Fram and both were in Kerrison. He had phoned Ken several times and asking that he call back, but no answer. Alfred gave me some more background on Ken. *"He retired as a Senior Executive of Exxon/Mobil and worked in their NYC HQ before retirement. I have spoken to him several years ago, also his wife. They have a house on Abaco one of The Bahamas Out Islands where they spend winters."*

Good news then came through from Alfred *"I took a chance and called Ken Wiseman's phone last evening and he answered! It appears they had been away for the past month or so visiting friends and relatives across the US. We spoke for about 20 minutes and he plans to re-establish contact with SOF. I told him you would be most pleased to correspond, he is on the internet, but I am not too confident of his e-mail address so I will confirm it before I send it to you. (His phone battery was failing so we were cut short!) I told him you would like to include him in the list of distinguished SOF since he was another OF who had gone off to far away lands and had a successful life."*

On a different subject he added *"I sincerely trust that you and your wife enjoyed the trip from the Snowy St. Lawrence to the sun shine of Barbados. I had your itinerary and had the good intention of sending you an e-mail to the ship. However I received a call from MD Anderson Cancer Research Centre, Houston at noon on 20th October to come in the next morning for some test results. After a full six hour day of being poked, prodded, X-Ray, CAT scanned and scoped with the Ultra Sound machine, I was told to call my Doctor in the morning and he would tell me what is next? He told me he needed to take a look at my left kidney, it was not working correctly and he needed to 'go in and have a look'. I am now set for surgery on Tuesday 11th. If it's not working correctly he will take it out! But not to worry, I may have been living with it not working for while, and the surgeon says I most likely will not notice the difference!"* When I arrived in the Operating Room next

morning, all prep'd and ready to go, Dr. Chris Wood my Urologist comes over, says "How are you feeling today?" and without waiting for an answer he lifted off the covers, takes his marker and draws an "X" on my left belly "I will put the camera in here and take a look, then if I need to I will cut a hole here (he draws a line about the width of his hand) put my hand in and check your kidney. I just do not trust there mechanical hands...I woke up three hours later in Recovery, my wife told me Dr. Wood had reported that the kidney was fine, but that he had found a Cancer (about 2 mm.) on the Euretata just outside the bladder. My son drove my wife home and I was off to the ICU. Next morning I had expected Dr. Wood, but no, one of his assistants made the rounds, but Dr. Wood checked in via satellite phone, and I was able to get his assessment of my case. (He had operated 10 hours that day, and then together with three other MDs had flown to Santiago, Chile where they were teaching a new operating technique to a group of Latin American Doctors.) He called in every three hours via phone to check on all his cases.

In February 2009 Alfred managed to speak to **Geoffrey Peck (S38-44)** in the UK. He was unable to conduct a conversation for too long due to Emphysema. Alfred says he called him to obtain his brother's (**Harry Pecks (S38-43)**) phone number in Australia. "I was in e-mail contact with him for quite awhile until his wife passed away and he sold his house and moved into an assisted living community. However he did not re-connect on the internet and so I have lost contact with him. His brother says he has had a couple of minor strokes."

Alfred managed to get in touch with Harry "Just got off the phone with Harry, he is well ensconced in an old folks assisted living home, he has had a couple of strokes since I last communicated with him and he has very little short term memory. It took a few moments for him to recognize who I was, but it came back to him OK. His phone is preset with all the people he needs, even his brother Geoffrey in the UK is just 'one button away'. They get him up each morning, shower him and then he has breakfast, after that he is free until the next meal. He reads a newspaper, has a cup of tea and that's it. His speech is slow and deliberate and I can guess his movements are too. Not a surrounding conducive to a long active life. I just hope when my time comes I will die with my cowboy boots on."

Alfred next tried to track down **Ronald Peek (R34-38)** and his brother **Ian Denys Peek (R35-38)**. Both worked on the infamous Burma/Thailand Railway during WW2 and Ian went on to write a book about his experience – see Distinguished Section of Website. Alfred managed to get through to Ronald Peek's home but unfortunately he passed away on 14th July 2006 of natural causes. He had a 20 minute conversation with his wife Helen, who told him "Ron lost his left leg while working on the Railroad in WW2. They lived in Singapore where he was born and had his own business, Transport and Storage. They came to live in Perth Australia in 1968 (age 48) and have two children. She is not on the internet (aged 86) but took my e-mail address and will get her son to contact me. My interest in contacting the Peek brothers was that in 1946 I was stationed at Britannia Barracks, Norwich, and my Company Commander was Maj. D. P. Aphorpe, Royal Norfolk Regt. A Regular Army officer in India in the 1930's he found himself in Singapore, he and a motley crew of Army, RN, and RAF both Brits and Aussies. He got them out of Singapore and across Sumatra to the south side where they were joined by many Dutch, both Military and civilians. At that point they were captured by the Japs. They were shipped off to the Burma Siam boarder where they were put to work on the Burma Railroad. . AS the Senior British Officer Aphorpe was appointed by the Japs as Camp Commandant of The British Bn, Camp on west end of the Railroad known to the world by the film 'The Bridge over the River Kwai' I remember him working on his dairy and was surprised to rediscover it in the Archives of the Regimental Museum at Norwich Museum. I managed to get them to send me a PDF copy. Unfortunately both the Peek Brothers worked on the Eastern end of the RR.

"Ian Denys Peek is still alive and lives about five hours drive away on the southern coast, I have his phone number but when I called I got the answering service, so I will call again tomorrow. Helen said she would call

him so he can expect my call. She says he is 'quite frail these days' who isn't at 88! I will get his address update so you can send him the new 2008 Yearbook."

Alfred did manage to contact Ian but was sad to find he was suffering from throat cancer.

In April 2009 Alfred told me that he had to have surgery on 28 April to remove a small Cancer (2mm) in the bladder. I've lost count how many he's had removed as a result of very regular check ups. He expected to be out later the same day, but as it turned out he was in hospital for a few more days. He then commenced chemotherapy on 13 May, which for the first time caused a bad reaction and meant that he delayed having another dose the following week. He felt well enough to recommence the chemotherapy on 27 May and this is still a work in progress.

At various times we have also discussed whether **Peter Carter (S33-38)** was the first British Officer killed on German soil, towards the end of WW2. Unfortunately, despite contacting his old regiment they were unable to confirm whether this was the case. Mentioning WW2 and 65th anniversary of D-Day, Alfred tells me that he was in France/Belgium some three months after D Day, building Bailey Bridges. His cousin **Victor Hammick (K27-30)** was taken POW by the former world heavyweight boxer Max Schmeling in Crete. He spent a number of years as a POW where he was allotted the job of 'wig maker' making wigs out of tating the string they got from Red Cross parcels. Finally on the subject of the Great Wars and to ensure I keep busy, Alfred has made a suggestion that the Distinguished pages on the website that list details of all those who have lost their lives in the service of their country, should have links through to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site. I think this is an excellent suggestion and when time permits I will do this.

My thanks to Alfred for being my most regular communicator.

Bryan Pearson (S45-47), who I'd met in July 2008 in Southampton on board **Nick Carlton's (G63-70)** ship the Grand Princess, got in touch following my Christmas newsletter "*Delighted to hear from you, and that you and Eryl enjoyed the cruise, was she suitably surprised? [Bryan knows he nearly put his foot in it when we met in July!] It was nice of Nick to send the flowers and wine.*

"The construction upgrades we are doing are costing a ton, so probably we shall not be able to cruise in 2009. Also I have to get my nose to the grindstone business wise and can't really afford the time off. In addition to that, the air fares are really horrendous now and the airlines are making cruising difficult with the weight restrictions and extra fees on suitcases."

In May 2009 I heard from Bryan again and surprise surprise they are booked on another cruise "*We are booked on the Star Princess in October, sailing from Sydney to Los Angeles (30 days, the longest we have ever cruised), via Auckland, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti and Honolulu. We shall have the option of disembarking in Honolulu, but I seriously doubt that I shall want to forego another 5 days of cruising! Of course, all of this is dependent on my health holding up. So far, the doctors are delighted with my progress following the surgery last May. When we met last July, I was still pretty skinny after the weight loss, however that has changed drastically and I now would like to drop about 15 pounds. Aloha and best regards from Paradise."*

Andy Roberts (G73-79) provided some great coverage and pictures of the devastation caused by the hurricane in the Galveston area of Texas in September 2008. Here he gives an update a few months later.

"The area immediately around us is just about back to normal – in fact you would never know it happened apart from a few houses with blue tarpaulins on the roof. However, the immediate coast is still pretty horrendous. I rode my motorcycle the full length of Galveston at the weekend and the devastation (especially at

the West Beach where there is no sea-wall) is still pretty dramatic. There are piles of debris everywhere still and it is pretty weird to see that the beach has actually moved. Many of the expensive “beach front” homes are now “beach back” homes – they are standing on stilts in the water with the beach behind them and over the road – it is a pretty surreal sight. Some of these houses don’t look damaged but until they move the beach back they are in the ocean so can’t be lived in. They are still finding the occasional body and I am told that there are still 56 people missing in Galveston County (where I live), many of whom will have been just washed out to sea. The coastal areas will take a very long to recover from this and Galveston itself has a sort of defeated atmosphere about it – normally it is a seaside party town. At least it is cooler now so there will no more hurricanes this year which will at least allow people to reorganize ready for next year!!!”

I commented to Andy that he rather casually talks about “moving beach”. This was his further response “*It’s Texas – moving a beach is no big deal. Actually I think they have no choice otherwise the ocean will erode it’s way into the island further. Galveston Island is basically just a sand bar anyway and if they don’t stop the passage of the ocean it will work its way right to the other side (it’s only about a mile wide at the West end). They are talking about building a sea-wall to prevent this from happening again. The East end of Galveston, which is most heavily populated, has a sea wall and suffered much less damage.*”

As I’ve mentioned previously, Andy and his family are also helping with a book being written about his grandfather **Squadron Leader Bill Vale DFC AFC (1923-30)**. He says there is no further news yet. The author is doing all his research before starting to write it towards the end of 2009. His mother is trying to track down his grandfather’s medals, which they think are in a museum somewhere.

Richard Rowe (S65-74) has been in touch regularly, usually from various places around the world. Richard is still carrying out accreditation auditing for Social Accountability International (www.sa-intl.org), so recent visits have included trips to Portugal, Italy, Brazil, India and Indonesia. He says “*The Indonesia trip was interesting as the audit involved auditing an international children's charity, both at their regional office in Jakarta and on a project site in West Timor (this is the part of Timor that is still part of Indonesia rather than the more disturbed independent East Timor). I have now carried out about 4 of these children's charities and am very impressed by the high standard of the planning and control of their operations. Although the charities are very cost-conscious, many of them are multi-million dollar organisations, so very advanced in their business and project operations. The projects are carefully selected to target the most deserving regions and then target to implement self-sustaining improvements in health, education and economy. These charities are a huge leap forward from the shoe-string organisations providing free handouts.*

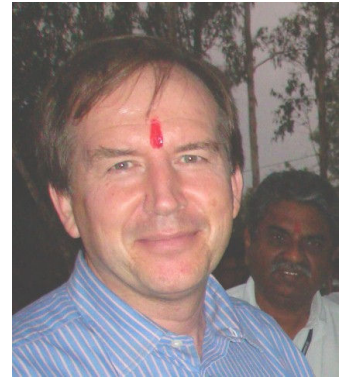


My India work has been quite demanding, if only because India is so vast, so there is a lot of travel to be squeezed into getting between audit sites - Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai are frequent starting points for more remote locations. A recent trip took me to a remote part of Rajasthan. The factory itself was very advanced, processing cotton into yarn; and typically we only need to deal with the factory. In this case, the factory was the only economy for the local villages, so they had become very involved in the social issues of the villages. I met the first 2 female college graduates in one village, a double success considering the poor education and high female infanticide that used to exist in these areas. [see photo] Introducing micro-banks was also a major step forward as the workers had no easy way to



save money, so frequently wasted it such as in alcohol abuse and then became victims to loan sharks. I am still hoping to get an opportunity to visit Goa and meet up with **Richard Gould (K66-71)** and his offer of a cold beer or two!

When not travelling internationally, I still consult and train within North America. I had a recent trip to Calgary and had been taking advice from **Howard Thistlewood (K66-73)** about driving over the Rockies to Vancouver through what Howard describes as world spectacular scenery. Unfortunately, timing and weather meant the plans had to be shelved. Tomorrow, I fly to Chicago for another 2-day course.



In my "spare-time", I am kept busy managing a sheet metal company!

My three boys are now 10, 8 and 6 and are very active. Ice hockey is their main sport, so that keeps Dad busy with taxi services to local and more distant rinks for practices and tournaments - but being their No 1 fan, it is a pleasure to be involved. I notice through LinkedIn that **Tony Neubroch (G61-69)** is now resident in Sarasota, about 70-miles to the north of us. We have made contact and intend to meet when we can fit time into our busy diaries."

Ian Seeley (S58-65) was in touch around Christmas 2008 to say that he will try to put something together for me later. "Meanwhile – my #2 son (William) is back home safely from a stint in Afghanistan, so we had a really good Thanksgiving, with both sons and ourselves together for the first time in 13 years. He had a fairly uneventful tour of duty with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. My other son and I are presently engaged in new business enterprises, so wish us luck!"

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.

Andy Twite (R84-92) sent in a wonderful photo of his new son Benjamin Matthias Twite, wearing an outfit that just happens to be the Framlingham colors of chocolate and sky blue! He says "I thought it would be appropriate to show the little one aged 2 months already showing his support for the College."

