

ANTHONY (TONY) JAMES MARTIN (G47-55)

Tony Martin is the last person to think that he should be considered to be a Distinguished Old Framlinghamian. Indeed his support for old-fashioned SOF values, in the face of modern trends, can sometimes be expressed in a way which could be described as dogmatic. Yet most of us love him for it, and know that it hides a profound affection for the College, for the Society of Old Framlinghamians and all that they have traditionally stood for.



Tony was a farmer at North Green Farm in Sibton. Very much the kind of person that has historically been the backbone of all things Framlingham College. He has in many ways and over many years, shown profound commitment to the Society of Old Framlinghamians, perhaps uniquely so. Both his father, Leonard, and his grandfather, James, were pupils at the College.

His grandfather was of great influence in the Society. His "Distinguished" entry notes that he was a member of the Corporation and a Governor and one of the College's most generous benefactors. He, together with fellow-Governor, Percy Clarke, were deputed in the mid-1940s to go out and find somewhere suitable for housing the Junior School. They proposed Brandeston Hall – the rest is History. Tony is most conscious of his grandfather's legacy, and supports the College in so many ways.

Tony also has a great interest in everything connected with the town. The reason for this becomes clear when we learn that his great-grandfather John Martin came to Framlingham as a young man in 1865, to become a solicitor's clerk, and progressed well through that profession. His son, James, grew up here before becoming a partner in a prominent law firm in Ipswich. Tony's grandfather, James, was a Patron of Leonard Squirrell, the

artist. This led to a long collaboration and a most extensive collection of paintings, many of the Framlingham area. Tony is now the custodian of the collection.

He was much involved with the Framlingham History Society and the Lanman Museum and was instrumental in projects such as the plaque for Sir Henry Thompson on the Market Hill, the restoration of the crane in Carley's Yard and much more. The future of the White Cottage, a College property, was the subject of much local debate over many years and Tony put forward his views, even when they did not accord with those of the College.

When Brandeston Hall opened in 1948, he was one of the first boys to attend. He is proud of that, and his memories of the fledgling school are colourful, particularly as regards personalities at the time. Indeed, it is Tony's fascination with history which has led him to taking as passionate an interest in Society and College artefacts as anyone we know.

Living as he does, in College Road, he is well placed to pop in to ask searching questions. When he was helping with the College and Society archives he was passionate about ensuring that they were safely stored, and given to an occasional outburst of characteristic dogmatism if the items which mattered to him and the Society were not shown due respect. Quite rightly so. He is often the one who asks the searching question; he delivers timely reminders which trigger everything off. He, it was, with the right remark at the right time, who set up the trail of events which led to the establishment of the Framlingham VC Case in the Imperial War Museum. Tony dovetails his interest in College history with that of the town.

Apart from all these historical contributions, Tony is a loyal supporter of so many OF occasions, suppers, dinners, appeals, events and causes. He loves to attend Speech Day at Brandeston Hall (He is unlikely to refer to it as The Junior School) and Framlingham College. He has never embraced the digital world, which can sometimes get in the way of speedy communication with him, but he is always available at the end of the telephone, if you have an hour to spare! He is a one-off, but we all know the extent of his commitment across the Framlingham scene—with a loyalty that is second-to-none. He has been making his own mark for as long as we can remember and fully deserves inclusion amongst men and women, maybe of wider eminence, but not necessarily with greater commitment to the Framlingham cause.

By way of a conclusion: Tony remembers how his grandfather often used to say that any success he may have had in life, he owed it to Framlingham College. Tony thinks he has probably inherited that gene.

Norman Porter and John Bridges