

# OVERSEAS BAG – 2025

## “HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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

For the last few years I have been asking if anyone wants to take over as Overseas Bag editor. Not surprisingly I have not been inundated with offers and now in my 21st year I have agreed to carry on for the time being, but don't let me stop anyone else coming forward!

Once again, this edition of the 2025 Overseas Bag contains a good crop of articles from OFs living overseas from the UK. It comprises over 250 emails I have received throughout the last year and originally started at nearly 60,000 words, before my editing! I'm also delighted to have correspondence from a few new countries which is always great.

You will read that there have been a couple of OF gatherings during the last year but as always I'm pleased to encourage more. If you might be interested in organising something near where you live please get in touch with me and I'll look up who may be living nearby and help with communication to them.

As usual, you will notice that half of this correspondence has come from just one country – Australia. It would be great to also hear from more OFs in other countries, so get writing please and where applicable please send a photo.

## AUSTRALIA

**Mike Bentall (G62-70)** responded to a 1970s OF Leavers Reunion I organised at the College in July 2025. This also happens to be my personal 50 year anniversary of leaving. Attending was not possible for Mike as he was in Tasmania at the time, but would be visiting the UK from the 16 August for a couple of weeks. He also commented that he'd noticed that wild mushrooms were on the menu – a subject that had been making headline news in Australia for all the wrong reasons! He had last visited the College about 4 years and wouldn't be visiting this time.

**Phil Bower (G65-74)** enjoyed reading the 2024 OF Newspaper I sent him at the start of 2025. He was also contacted by **Jon Beverly (G64-74)** around the same time. He found it a good read.

He's sadly had some issues with contractors, his dog and his band "*Paid a concreter \$14k for some work - he bodged the job & refuses to either dig it up & start again or refund me..... so I shall have to raid my miniscule super to pay a reputable company to dig it all up & start again. He laid the concrete with the fall going the wrong way - I have water flowing towards my house.... this was only discovered a couple of days after it had hardened enough for me to be able to get on it & paint the outside walls.*

*My Ridgeback has had his left ankle fused & is recovering - lovely animal but too high maintenance.*

*Band collapsed after the guitarist decided to place limitations and when he was told that was out of order, he walked out but didn't actually bother to tell anyone! We only found out when he started posting rubbish on the band's Facebook.*

*If that wasn't enough, coming back from dropping off her hound, the highway cops decided to hit me with a \$400 fine & 3 points because I had to exceed the posted speed limit to overtake a B double (a semi with 2 trailers) in a dedicated overtaking lane due to circumstances beyond my control which, had I not booted the throttle, could have put me & the 80tonne truck in the same place at the same time at the end of the overtaking lane - and you know which of us would have come off worse had that happened! I'll probably argue it in court and not just pay the fine and wear 3 points for the next 3 years - that alone irritates me, it's a double whammy - points and cash and the punishment lasts for 3 years for what..... 20secs of overspeed to prevent a potential catastrophic situation..... Imagine the M1 being single lane in each direction with 1.5km overtaking lanes at irregular locations..... basically what the cop was saying is that if you get stuck behind slow traffic..... you're stuck there for the rest of the journey (in this case I had another 3 hours to go at 110kph, so at 96kph the journey extends significantly timewise as does the fatigue ensuing.....) because it is simply impossible to overtake anything when the speed diff is only 10kph - the overtaking lanes are not long enough and remember we are talking about vehicles that can be 45mtr long..... I love this country but at times they are about as stupid as can be.*

*Otherwise, it's been a pretty decent summer, not so many bushfires as last year but they still cannot provide a reliable electricity or internet service..... one hour from Perth Int airport and the power goes out twice so far this year and it's usually off for a day at a time.... it's only 2025 in a so called developed country..... We have elections coming up so all the pollies are crawling out of the woodwork trying to secure their next 3 year free meal making promises they have no intention of keeping - just like yours! Been chatting a lot with Jon B on email and enjoying the banter. Have caught up with a few of my contemporaries on fartbook, which is nice. “*

In March 2025 he provided the following update “I have a new concreter coming to rip up the rubbish & do the job properly - I hope!! This one comes highly recommended from my good neighbours, who've always been extremely helpful & kind during my recent issues. My Ridgeback continues to recover - almost 8 weeks now & in a couple of weeks he gets his 3month xray to decide whether or not we can start giving him a life again. Autumn has arrived here - with some of the hottest temps on record..... we had 41C on the first day of autumn... go figure.

Music is in a bit of an hiatus - what with the dog issues, the concreting issues, no available musicians who want to do anything other than play the same old cover songlist (cover bands are notoriously uninspiring) and just generally lack of interest ironically. I have a couple of songs I'm working on. I have some stuff to try to insulate the recording room but I need some other stuff first!

**Geoff Brown (G61-66)** was in touch in 2024 with **Richard Sayer (S56-61)** about purchasing a copy of his book on **Norman Borrett (S31-36)** called “Master Sportsman Book”. He also purchased a copy of his book on **David Larter (R51-57)**.

Geoff recalled that **Colin Lipman (R53-61)** very kindly arranged an OF dinner in Sydney for him and his wife sometime after they arrived in Sydney - latish 2022. He says “*There must have been about a dozen*

*there (or a few more) and I was placed next to Colin. Of the OFs present, Colin was the next youngest after me. We had a very enjoyable evening”*

*He gave some background to their decision to emigrate to Australia “Our emigration stemmed from our two children. Our daughter who became expatriate with her husband in 2008 and lived in Abu Dhabi for a while, where their first child was born. They then moved to Jakarta which they hated, then to Bali where their second was born. Then then moved to Singapore and lastly (so far!) back to Abu Dhabi. My wife and I are off to AD in December to stay with our daughter, her husband and our two granddaughters over Christmas. You can see from all their moves that there is no possibility of us moving to be near them!*

*Our son became expatriate in 2010, initially working in Hong Kong where he met his Cantonese wife. His company posted him to Sydney and once here he proposed to his HK girlfriend (as she was then) and they married over here in the Hunter Valley. The reception was held at a winery as you might expect! Alexander said to us that we should emigrate to Sydney as he said we would like it as much as he does. I replied that he worked for a global multinational (just as I did - Shell) and sure as eggs are eggs, if we came over to Sydney, I said they would move him somewhere else, such as New York (he already had a period seconded over there when he was based in London). He replied that he wouldn't go and resign, then find another job in Sydney. He is a merchant banker, so there is a good number of appropriate jobs in Sydney. On being told all this, we decided to emigrate and move to the Sydney eastern suburbs, hopefully near to Alexander. We have ended up 10 minutes by car from his home, so my wife Barbara is over there just about every weekday helping with the kiddies (a son aged 4 and eight months and a daughter aged 3), including helping at bedtime. Alexander works long hours, hence the need for help late afternoon and early evening. Alexander's wife works full time at the NSW University in Sydney.*

*We miss our friends and England a great deal, especially Essex (we lived in Coggeshall after our return from Muscat, Oman, in 1993) and Suffolk. We often used to go to Suffolk and of course Fram. On our last visit to Fram before coming to Aus, we met **Clive Hedley (G58-67)** and his wife by arrangement. We had a lovely lunch in The Crown, and his brother **Mark (G56-65)** was Head Boy in the centenary year 1964.”*

**Nick Carlton (G63-70)** – sadly see Obits.

**Robert Craig (K55-59)** was contacted in March 2025 by **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** about an impending cyclone. Robert initially responded “*An odd time just waiting for it to hit us. Not the first for us as we lived in Honiara with the children in 1981. The dreadful noise was what I remember most and at least it does not last long.*” Afterwards he messaged to say that they were safe and sound and lost power for about 36 hours: Lights, water heating, air conditioning.

In May 2025 he was back in touch with sad news about a contemporary **Gordon Gibbons (R66-71)**. He died on 31 March 2025 after a short illness. “*Gibbo was a good friend both at school and in adult life; we video called on a not infrequent basis, usually for a couple of hours at a time. We last met in Toronto in 2014 and we had planned to meet up again this year. Disappointingly, he called on March 17<sup>th</sup> to inform me he'd been admitted to a hospice. I last spoke to him briefly on March 25<sup>th</sup> and a few days later he was gone. During our conversation of the 17<sup>th</sup> he was nothing but complimentary about the establishment, and*

*I can tell you he was remarkably upbeat even in the face of his dire situation; no surprise to anyone who knew him.*

*Gibbo was an excellent sportsman. He represented Fram at Cricket (1<sup>st</sup> XI wicket keeper and early order batsman), Rugby (1<sup>st</sup> XV fly half), Tennis (doubles with me at Wimbledon schools and other tournaments), and he was awarded the Rendlesham square. After Fram he became a financial trader with the London branch of the Toronto Dominion bank until, and as a measure of his ability, in 1978 aged just 25 he was offered a transfer to the head office in Toronto to continue trading in Canada; an offer he accepted. Later Gibbo moved from Toronto to Tiny Township, a beach area on the Southern reaches of Georgian Bay, where he spent much of the Summers with his family on his rather large motor launch. He is survived by his wife of 44 years Lynn, their children Sasha and Christopher, and grandchildren Alexandria and Mackenzie (from Sasha and Steve).”*

Then in June he was back in touch with further sad news that he'd heard that Gordon's brother **Ian Gibbons (R64-68)** had died some years back. brother of Gordon. After a bit of research we found that he died on 21 October 2015 whilst on holiday in Mexico, aged just 64.

**Mike Garnett (R53-55)** told us in October 2024 that he had enjoyed reading the latest News Bulletin *“The old Fram blazer worn by Tim Kestin is really impressive and I have seen one before. Back in my day a chap called Rippon wore one that belonged to his Dad. Rippon was a good sportsman, senior to me in age so he was probably at Fram in the early 1950's. I played a game of fives with him during the days when there were two courts. I also noticed in the newsletter a mention of Felsted and recall an amusing incident. My parents were really battling to afford me to go to Fram – they were already paying for my elder brother Gerald. So Mum was talking with her sister-in-law Iris about the financial difficulties and Iris told her that their son Martin (my older cousin Martin Archer who was older than me) had just left Felsted and that she could let me have his school uniform. In those days both Felsted and Framlingham had their own herringbone-type pattern, but quite different from each other. Anyhow, to cut a long story short I was obliged to wear this Felsted uniform at Fram – and on one occasion ‘Bill’ Baily hauled me up in front of the Class (VB) in an effort to make me feel embarrassed. Personally, I made fun of it all and quite often show my mates how fortunate I was to have a different uniform from everyone else!”*

He finished by saying that he was planning to visit Sydney and wondered whether **Colin Lipman (R53-61)** might organize an OF gathering. He sent the following amusing email *“Hello there – just to set your minds at rest, I am not about to receive any award!! Back in 2016 I did receive the Order of Australia Medal at an investiture at Government House, Melbourne. One of the benefits is that each year the State Governors of each State holds a welcome reception for us, alternating each year – this is followed by a week of other activities. This year the Reception was held at Government House, Perth and I managed to fit this in because I had organized a tour from Broome to Perth (took ten days – everyone should do this once in their lives!) so it fitted nicely. Last year the reception was at Government House, Canberra where we were welcomed by the Governor-General. So next year we will be welcomed at Government House in Sydney.”* You can read later under Colin Lipman about the Sydney OF gathering.

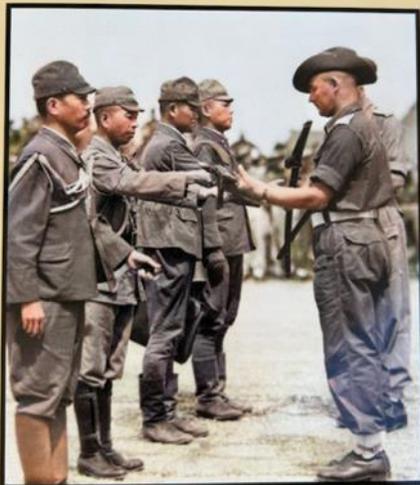
Then in December 2024 Mike unveiled a memorial plaque representing the Malaya Emergency the previous month and was surprised that it made the local press. Here is a picture of Mike and the plaque, which he says he financed for Rotary International which established the memorial walk, and which tracks from Romsey to the nearby town of Lancefield. Mike himself served his National Service in the RAF and was posted to the Far East for operational service during the Malayan Emergency of the 1950's.

In April 2025 Mike was in touch again about the latest book he had written called "Japan's Final Surrender". He kindly sent me a copy which I enjoyed reading and then donated to the College Library. It was written and published to mark 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day. He said *"There would be many currently at Fram, as well as OFs, who had parents or grandparents who suffered under the Japanese following incarceration at Changi, and subsequently on the Thai/Burma railways, Sandakan etc. So it would be good if you feature this book as a general interest item when you next put out an OF*



*newsletter or on the website."*

## JAPAN'S FINAL SURRENDER



Michael P. Garnett

He also wondered if he might be the oldest OF in Australia, so I ran off an analysis that showed that there were 5 older than him. However he came back to say that the oldest **Richard Gaskell Colman (S40-44)** had died at Wahroonga in 2013 aged 86!

After the reunion in Sydney Mike sent some pictures and was sad that **Brian Pretty (S52-56)** had not been able to make the dinner.

Finally in August 2025 he responded to the news about Chris Shaw's wife Rebecca completing her mammoth cross stitch project of the Tudors "Well done Rebecca and as you may know, I too have a fascination for this Tudor monarch and not just because he built the royal tennis court at Hampton Court Palace!!"

**John Gates (S44-48)** celebrated his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday in September 2025 and a year earlier advised that he had changed his email address and marked his 93<sup>rd</sup>

birthday with 4 generations of his family “a lovely day and both Ruth and myself were exhausted and took 2 days to recover. It's not that we did anything other than talk and play with our great grandchild Daisy of 8 months but it sure takes it out of you. I have recently had to spend another 12 days in hospital. Still going to my gym 3 days a week, finding it very hard now, so may bring it down to 2 visits weekly next year.” His wife Ruth is a year older and still in very good health, still doing Yoga and playing bridge., so may have to buy another smaller scooter for her.

On receipt of his OF Newspaper in February 2025 he was in touch again “Being now nearly 93.5, numerous health issues continue to rise, and currently it's that I am having difficulty in seeing and spectacles are no help. I no longer read any articles or books etc. However, having just received The Old Framlinghamian's 2024 edition, I found it all very interesting, especially the Obituaries, showing most involved were mainly in their 80's, and here I am in my early 90's, must be because I live on the Sunshine Coast of Australia and clean living, ha ha!! Both Ruth and myself still play Bridge with differing results, over the past three weeks, we have come top, bottom & half way, but its a fabulous game and good for the brain and very enjoyable. Ruth hears via WhatsApp from **Chris Shaw (K50-56)**”

He gave an extensive update again in June 2025 “I am still breathing, which is a good thing! However I have many health issues, namely very poor eyesight, terrible hearing, and of course getting around is a bugger!! I bought a State of the art hearing aid on 7th of Feb, it's currently being repaired by the Hearing Specialists so no hearing aid. I have to write a note to Ruth sitting 3 feet away to communicate, talk about frustrating. Still playing Bridge each Wednesday, came 1st last week, so there's "Life in the old dog yet " I may have told you previously that I had to give up driving about 2 years ago, my 4 wheel scooter is a real Godsend as it gives me real independence.

Ruth will be 95 at the end of October, and although she is very capable and comfortable in driving the doctors work on age and may not approve her health card to allow her to continue driving, So I have bought her a 4 wheel scooter just in case. “

Pictured is John with his great granddaughter.



**Peter Hollins (K70-76)** congratulated me on

organising the 1979s leavers in July 2025 “I shall look forward to the photos. Say ‘hi’ to all, particularly those from Kerrison! I note that **Mike Stewart (K72-75)** is making the trip from Perth, will have to have a coffee with him on his return.

**Ann Hogarth (V85-87)** told me in March 2025 that she would be in the UK in June/July '25 and wondered if there were any OF events going on then. Sadly not. She said “Are there many OF's in

Perth? Perhaps I should organise a get together ? I think I tried a long time ago didn't I but there were no takers. I could try again if you give me a list! “ Not heard anything yet!

**Colin Lipman (R53-61)** in January was honoured to be proposed as a Vice President of the Society in recognition of the many OF reunions organized in Sydney. In March he was prepared to organize another reunion to coincide with a visit to Sydney by Mike Garnett and I sent him a list of local OFs. He said *“I'm also waiting to hear how **Mark Creasy (G55-63)** has been, he is in the same year as I was. He is a successful mining magnate from WA but his health has been a concern. I would welcome him to visit us in Sydney – I have not seen him since leaving Fram – over 65years ago!!”* He reminded me that his son Michael captained Bath Rugby Club and played for England - please research on Google.

As you will read elsewhere in the OF Newspaper, the OF reunion was organised for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 6.15pm at The Fish at the Rocks, 29 Kent Street Sydney. In attendance were **Michael (Mike) Garnett (R53-55)**, OAM, **Chris Shaw (K50-56)**, with his wife, Rebecca, who had travelled from Cairns in the Far North of Queensland and **John Clarke (G57-60)** with his partner Shauna.



On left to right : John Clarke, Col Lipman, Rebecca Shaw, Shauna, Mike Garnett and Chris Shaw. Apologies were received from **David Summers, Brian Pretty, Robert Fox, Bruce Ritchie, Ian Rumsby, Geoff Brown, Brendan Freemantle, Iain Birrell, Simon Narroway, Ian Newbery, and Jim Coe.**

Finally an amusing story about a copy of the OF Newspaper I sent to Colin in Sydney in February 2025. 6 months later it was returned safely all the way from Australia back to me near Bath, UK! I resent to his updated postal address!

**Neville Marsh (S53-61)** enjoyed reading the full Overseas Bag over Christmas 2024 and exchanged our plans over Christmas *“We have come up to Hervey Bay to be with #2 son, wife and daughter (granddaughter #5). We shall be slightly depleted this Christmas: #1 son and family (4 in number) are in Indonesia for Christmas and #2 daughter and family (another foursome) are in the UK for the holidays. This just leaves #1 daughter, husband and son (grandson #2) due to arrive on Christmas Eve. #1 granddaughter is living in Hervey Bay with her partner. They are both paramedics and since they have no*



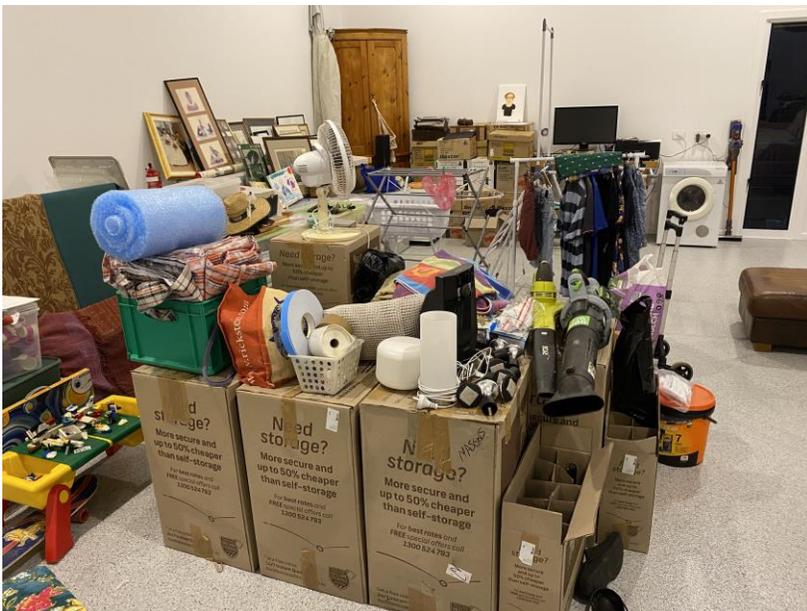
*children, they are rostered on over Christmas. We may see them briefly before their shifts start on the day. We shall be a definite 8 for Christmas lunch +/- 2 (if that all makes sense). We keep the tradition of a hot turkey roast despite the temperatures expected in the mid-30s but I shall sneak in a few prawns, even a handful of oysters and a mud crab or two.”*

Neville was continuing research on his College museum project. At Christmas he was cross-checking his spreadsheet of donations against the original magazine entries. In addition, he was checking the Latin names of many of the specimens and identifying the creatures so they can be sorted into an appropriate zoological/botanical order.

In March 2025 when Storm Alfred hit he reported that in his area of Brisbane all was well and they didn't even lose power. He said “TC Alfred delivered a total of 458.4 mm, a mere afternoon shower for you FNQ folk. Shops are still woefully understocked and there is considerable debris on the roads, but all in all, we survived relatively unscathed.”

The planned house move was also underway “*We are now in the throes of sifting through our belongings/packing up/discarding unwanted things – not an enviable task. Our furniture uplift is on Saturday 11 April and we settle on our sale on the 15<sup>th</sup>, moving into our retirement unit on 17<sup>th</sup>, just before Easter. We pray that there are no delays!*”

In April he was in touch to say that they had moved to Nikenbah, Queensland 4655 and asked me to update our records. “*Attached are a few photos, including one of our RV garage which is doubling as a laundry, study and pantry! Alas we have no RV at the moment but our son Alex is hoping to store his caravan there. Having emerged from the pile of packing cases a few days ago, I have managed to put together a report for SOF council on the College Museum Project.*”



Some members may be interested to read more details on the amazing research that Neville has been undertaking so here is his report to SOF Council. I just need to find time to get this all up on the SOF website :

### **College Museum Project: Report for SOF Council 29 May 2025**

*Neville Marsh reports that he has made significant progress on the museum project despite have moved house and downsized into a retirement lifestyle village last month. Neville has recorded 1275 donations retrieved from the online editions of The Framlinghamian magazine, made by 847 individuals, who donated over 23,000 items. Of the 1275 donations, 744 have been identified and catalogued, 139 were unspecified fossils, birds' eggs, sea-shells and coins, and 392 items were not specified in The Framlinghamian. The identified donations have been grouped by subject and arranged in alphabetical order into four catalogues on Excel spreadsheets (numbers of donors in brackets);*

- *Archaeology, arts and culture (159)*
- *Biological sciences (247)*
- *Built Environment, Earth Sciences, Physical Sciences and Militaria (129)*
- *Paleontology (209)*

*In addition to the cataloguing, the following sections have also been completed:*

- *History of Framlingham College Museum 1888-1974 (4231 words)*
- *Overall alphabetical list of donors and their donations*
- *List of unspecified donations and donors*
- *List of found exhibits originating from the Museum*
- *List of curators and assistant curators*
- *Biographical notes on donors*

*The sections remaining to be completed are:*

- *Significant donors*
- *Significant items*

*An article about the College Museum was published in the East Anglian Daily Times on 12 April 2025 in the hope that readers would provide information on the auctioning of museum contents in 1973/4. Unfortunately, nothing eventuated apart from two replies on unrelated matters. Neville has also been in contact with Woodbridge Museum and auction houses in the area in the hope of locating the original auction of museum material.*

*The next action is to construct fully searchable webpages under the OFSOA banner so that the museum material is made available on the SOF website.*



He also managed to get an impressive full page spread in the EADT on his research into the College Museum and his search for items.

**Robert Munro (R56-60)** was in touch just before Christmas 2024 saying “*I have been 'sitting' on your September email for far too long, hoping that I might eventually have something that would be of interest to SOF members. Although my life continues to be pretty full, I really haven't anything exceptional to report. Mind you, it would be too late now for inclusion in the 2024 O/seas Bag anyway!*

*I hope you have had a response to your call for someone to take over the Secretarial role from you. You have done an exemplary job (thank you), but as with everything there comes a time when you have to pass the baton to someone else. And it is getting harder as the upcoming generations simply do not appear to be interested in continuing old and established groups and clubs. I know, because in the past 10 years or so I have been the Secretary of four different clubs locally (mostly Senior Citizens type clubs, and a Motorcycle Club) here in Mildura. At one time I was doing the job for three of them at the same time! And it was difficult to convince anyone to take over when I was ready to retire from the positions, but we got there in the end, thank goodness.*

*I wish you and your family all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. 2025 could be a very dramatic year with all the (sad and bad) things that are going on in the world. Why on earth can't people get on with one another, respect their differences and embrace their diversity? Instead we have hate, ignorance and social media (potentially the worst of the lot!).*

*When I started typing this email to you I said there was nothing exceptional to report! But now there is! I have just heard on the radio (it is mid-day Monday here in Oz), that Mildura's top temperature today will be 47 degrees Celsius (116 deg. Fahrenheit), the hottest for a jolly long time. 40+ temperatures are not unusual for us, but 47 is definitely warm!! Luckily for us, our heat is a very dry heat with little humidity. I quite like the warmer weather, but you wouldn't want to have to dig ditches or turn the soil after about 32 degrees (90F.).*

*And with that, I must sign off and water some of my pot plants, they can (and do) suffer a lot in the extreme heat!”*

**Jon Newbery (Z79-84)** sent a message via the website about his late father, **Paddy Newbery (Hon OF)**, who was Headmaster of Brandeston Hall from 1980 to 1985. I confirmed that he was listed as Hon OF. He had died back in December 2020. I checked that **Colin Lipman (R53-61)** been in touch about an OF reunion in Sydney on 2 May 2025 and he said he had but unfortunately couldn't make the dinner that evening as he was in the Hunter Valley playing golf. He hoped to have a game with Colin one day.

**Brian Pretty (S52-56)** at the start of 2025 reported that he was still “*slogging my way through endless hospitals but things are not as bad as they sound. I anticipate a new body by the end of February, so, all being well, should be up and running from March onwards. So would be delighted to meet you all any time after that. Sydney or Northern Beaches no problem.*”

A number of us had also been worried about Brian's brother **Laurence Pretty (S49-54)** who live in a retirement complex in Los Angeles and had been affected by the fire. Brian initially said “*To our great*

concern, Laurence was resident in Altadena, right in the heart of the fire in a beautiful retirement home which has apparently survived the flames. All residents were evacuated by the authorities and we have been trying to make contact. So far without success but we do know he is safe and sound.

The property itself is in the hands of security people as nobody was allowed to take anything with them but all services are cut off. The area around the home looks like Hiroshima with 5000 to 7000 houses totally destroyed. Terrifying to say the least.

I have sent out emails all over the place but understandably have yet to get any responses. I am, however, confident he is in good hands and will let you know the moment I get news about him. All phone lines are down. Sadly, his wife Carole, died a few months ago so he has been a bit down and I doubt this will have helped. Will keep you informed.”

A few days later he reported via **James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52)** “Happily I have at last, managed to get a reply from Laurence's retirement complex. It is good news. Apparently both he and his two cats are safely rehomed in a similar home run by the same organisation. They are hoping to return him home in the not too distant future. A big relief. “Followed up by “At last, and after numerous dead ends, I have made contact with Laurence. He has had a very traumatic time from what he told me over the phone but is now back safely in his retirement home. Hopefully the stress of the past months can now dissipate but he said the experience is not one he wants to go through again. I told him of your concern and I am sure he would love to hear from you if you have the time.”

Colin Lipman was in touch about seeing if Brian and Sheila could join them at an OF gathering in Sydney on Friday 2nd May. Unfortunately it became apparent that Colin's emails had gone in the dreaded Spam! Brian replied just before the event to say “First let me apologise for the late reply to your messages. I have literally only just read them as it seems all mails concerning OF's have ended up in my spam box, which I seldom visit. Luckily I have just heard from Chris Essex mentioning my lack of communication, and now know what is being organised.

Sadly, I have had my life disrupted recently by hospital visits and returned home a few hours ago after eye surgery. I have strict instructions to remain at home for the next week to prevent infections so will have to opt out of the dinner. I would have loved to attend but dare not take the risk.”

In August 2025 Chris Shaw was delighted to receive a long update from Briand “As you may, or may not know, I have spent many years prior to coming to Australia, working in the very remote jungles of Sub Sahara Africa where I survived the horrors of malaria and countless unpleasant tropical sicknesses without any serious effects and, as a result considered myself one tough guy in terms of health.

Too good to last I have to admit as since coming to Australia I have gone down with so many health problems I have lost count. I will not bore you with the details but suffice it to say there is hardly a hospital in Sydney that I have failed to visit over the past three years. Every time I think I have cured one thing, another comes along. Very frustrating!!!

Luckily, coming from the UK I get Medicare assistance under a reciprocal so most of the fees are met. Unlike in the UK I have been blessed with immediate and fantastic responses all the time and in theory I should, by now be enjoying a new body, but age has taken its toll (am now in my 87th year). Currently it

*is difficult to plan ahead but I am hopeful things will revert to normal, whatever normal is at our stage in life.*

*It was a huge disappointment to me to miss meeting you all in Sydney recently. I frequently visit the Rocks area and have no doubt you will have enjoyed the venue chosen.*

*Knowing the horrors taking place around the world right now, and especially in the UK , we are both happy to have chosen Australia for our final years.*

*We just hope we are not thrown out in the years ahead as we came here under a very strange visa as recommended by our Agent. We are allowed to stay permanently as visitors so long as our two children (both citizens) live here. Our current waiting time to get residency is 35 years from our arrival in 2022 so we are basically here in limbo and praying we do not upset the authorities in any way.*

*I have to admit that whilst I have no regrets at moving so late in our lives, I am struggling somewhat with the Australian way of life. Very different to what we have been used to. Not being much of a sportsman, apart from cricket, I get very confused over the passion generated over all forms of sport. I have learnt to be very careful in what I say about things like the Ashes so this September onwards I will have to be very quiet as to where my allegiances lie. I think I am now too old to be anything other than a POM.*

*I see that you have been out here for 50 years plus so I suspect you have passed the test of being a local. I always remember when we moved from Sussex to Devon, where we lived for 38 years in a small farming village. We then moved to Somerset and one of the farmers in the village said to me "Pity you did not make it to 40 years as we might have called you locals if you had"*

*I spent many years working in different careers from Banking, to Insurance, farming and construction where my real heart lies. I never settled for long before I visited Uganda with a local Church group and fell in love with the place. I ended up working with The Church of Uganda as an independent volunteer refurbishing secondary schools for girls. It was unpaid so I had to raise money by working in the UK until I had saved enough to continue works in Africa. Quite a challenge. Most of my work was in very remote areas bordering Congo and Rwanda but also wherever in Uganda the Archbishop wanted me to go.*

*Probably the most fulfilling years in my life but a very hard one physically. I worked and lived with local people and experienced things few people will ever experience eg seeing at first hand the appalling cruelty of the Rwandan genocide. Something burnt in to my mind for ever!! Some of those memories were of extreme danger to me personally and I reckon that if I had been a cat with 9 lives out there, I had only two left by the time I had to leave because of old age.*

*I had the honour of writing an article for the OF magazine about my years spent with the local people whose hardships are beyond belief. I often had to help in local hospitals even though I had no experience. As a white person you are considered an expert in all matters and woe betide you if you chickened out of a challenge. I always remember with amusement when facing 3000 people in a Kampala Cathedral, hearing the Bishop introducing me as "Muzungu Brian, one of Uganda's most brilliant Engineers" Luckily nobody challenged me on that occasion. Another time I was mistaken by an American surgeon as a doctor he has worked with and I had a difficult 30 minutes talking about an operation they had done*

*together. Luckily, he did all the talking. Such times are now only memories and although I would love to do voluntary work out here I have been advised I am too old and unqualified. I believe it is called "being on the scrapheap".*

*Hoping I have not bored you too much."*

**Neil Randell (Z88-93)** was I think a first time correspondent, prompted by **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** check that he was OK after Tropical Storm Alfred. He replied *"It's all over the TV here, which bemuses us who live in Far North Queensland where we get several lower category cyclones a year. The standard 'Get Ready' plan suggests 3 days food & water stocks. Up here we work on 7. That said, it is likely to affect up to 4m people in a region where the houses are not built to the same wind standards and these things are rare, so it's not without worry. I am in the SES & we have sent several crews from our region to assist because this is our skill set. We have much more experience in dealing with this kind of event than our Southern counterparts. Queensland is no stranger to extreme weather and the community is very good at coming together in a crisis."*

I asked for more details on what SES was and this was his reply *"State Emergency Service (SES). It's a volunteer-based emergency and rescue service that assists the community in times of disaster, providing support for non-life-threatening situations during floods, storms, and other emergencies. Also helping other agencies such as search and rescue functions and have a road crash rescue capability eg I'm trained in land search and have completed the Police Services Search and Rescue (SAR) Program so could in theory operate in a search operations centre as well as being out in the field.*

*Basically we have specialist training and equipment for dealing with flooding, storm damage, operating at heights and other areas. We would help with Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery (PPRR). So Crews will be helping prepare with sandbags etc, then move to responding to calls for help (flooding, flood rescue, roof and tree damage) and then afterwards, recovery, clean up etc. If you see people in Orange clothing on the news, that's the SES. There are currently 1000 volunteers on standby in the region and our region is sending down some specialist pods we developed. They are purely designed around Storm Damage Operations and can turn any ute/pickup into a specialist response vehicle. And yes, we are proud of them :). They come from 55 years of dealing with these kind of events.*

*SES grew out of the old 50's civil defence agencies but changed focus to responding to disasters in the 1970's. In Queensland it comes under the umbrella of the Police and is funded by government & donations. About 43,000 volunteers across Australia.*

*This is probably a Cat 2. Once it hits land it should degrade quite quickly. So in the old money that's winds of around 96-110mph. But that will be sustained winds over several hours. The region I live in requires, by law, that my house is built to withstand a Cat 3 which is sustained winds of 111-139mph so we laugh in public and say "Its only a Cat 2". But we know what they will be in for.*

*You are correct about the rain. Southern side of a cyclone (in Australia at least) cops the worst of it. Rain could be anywhere up to 800mm over the next two days. To put that in perspective London's Annual rainfall is 500mm. So there is risk of flash flooding and later, riverine flooding as the rain swells rivers. But again Swift Water Rescue and Floodboat crews are on standby to help. And areas likely to flood are*

*well known. This region can cope with heavy rain, but this will be a little beyond what the urban planners consider and the infrastructure will be tested.*

*So yes, this will be of concern and there will be damage but by all accounts, people are taking this seriously and have had 5 days to prepare and have been preparing. Something like 400,000 sandbags have been issued and filled. There are a lot of resources on standby in the region and a lot of experience in Queensland with dealing with major events like this. The better prepared we are the better and quicker the recovery will be.”*

To demonstrate the effects of the extreme rainfall he sent two photos of the Macrossan bridge across the Burdekin River. *“It's 150km from me (local in Australian terms). In the dry season it's 17metres above the River bed. And the other photo is a few weeks ago. This is not that unusual for us in a heavy wet season and most locals wouldn't bat an eyelid beyond, 'the rivers up'. The water has been another 7m above that road deck in the past. That would be considered a bad year!”*



**Chris Shaw (K50-56)** is as usual our greatest correspondent and my thanks to him for that and all he does proactively to keep in touch with OFs in Australia & NZ.

Starting back in October 2024 he was in touch with **Richard Rowe (S65-74)** about hurricane season in Florida where Richard lived. *“Sadly, I note this appears to be an active hurricane season for you as they seem to be lined up - we would say, ‘like Brown’s cows’, meaning single file at milking time - from the*

*coast of Africa to, potentially, your doorstep. So, we will continue our concern for your safety. Milton is coming for you at a very unusual angle from my experience in the Caribbean over seven years. They mostly head due north just before landfall.*

*My daughter, Tanith, and her family live about 100km from us in a farmhouse on metre high stumps to avoid flooding during cyclones. The fact that she had half a metre of floodwater through her home will tell you that they had some rain, about 2 metres in a few days! Their escape was quite heroic, and they are now in the process of raising the house a further metre on metal stumps, which will tell you how serious it was. As usual, it was her family photo collection that makes a huge contribution to the anxiety, depression and general sadness apart from the fear for family safety that nurturing Mums feel so acutely. Rebecca spent more than a week scanning a lifetime of soggy photos where they were retrievable.”*

In December he was in touch with me and **Clive Hedley (G58-67)** about the whereabouts of Dr. **Tony Burlingham (G58-66)**. Clive believed he was in Brisbane, but the SOF Directory has no contact details. Chris said *“while many a chap arrived in Oz, leaving behind many ‘skeletons in the cupboard’, we hope he is not one of those. I wondered if either of you could shed more light on his whereabouts. I have consulted with Neville Marsh, who should have worked for Pinkerton's, and even he has no knowledge of his whereabouts. Did he really come to Oz, and if so, when, and has anyone got an address, please?”*

I also failed to find any information about Tony Burlington on the internet but I did find the following in the 2022 Overseas Bag sent in by **Geoff Brown (G61-66)** so he may still be in touch with him *“While we were waiting for our visa, we also saw Clive Hedley (G61-66) and his wife for a short stay at the Crown in Fram. Clive was a contemporary of mine, as I was also in Garrett 61-66. Colin Lipman (R53-61) may recall Clive's older brother, Mark, who was also in Garrett and who was Head Boy at the Centenary Celebrations which were in 1963 I seem to remember. Clive has put me in touch with another Garrett contemporary of ours, Tony Burlingham (G58-66), who I believe lives on the coast in Southern Queensland, or maybe northern New South Wales.”*

For Christmas Day, Chris and Rebecca plan a seafood feast with bubbles. *“It’s our ritual, and we enjoy each other’s company, we have the seafood - prawns, Morton Bay bugs, calamari, crab and crayfish, washed down with a Jacobs Creek Chardonnay/Pinot Noir sparkling wine. (The French have banned us from calling it Champagne). At 33-34C it’s a cooling and soothing feast that goes in a calendar of events of the year. Boxing Day is a Cricket Test Match, this year against India, and the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, which is a huge spectacle charging down Sydney Harbour, under the bridge and past the Opera House, a sort of affirmation of Australiana, if you like. We may visit my daughter again with presents. It depends on the weather, as this year, a La Nina event, we may have more than our fair share of Cyclones.”*

In January Chris mentioned that he was writing his memoirs for his family. He didn’t have a title yet but possibly ‘A Bumblebee awoke me’. This was a reference to him being attacked by a bumblebee in his pram! He said *“I suspect it will take a year to research my life, recall, and write. This for my daughter, who asked about her English background. 15,000 words so far and I’ve just arrived at Fram from Brandeston.”*

February 2025 saw the Women's Ashes. "You knew this was coming, of course! Our women's cricket team have just whitewashed yours over T20 + ODI + Test match. So, Chris S. has to drag out the old Ashes urn to bleat about it. The picture attached is of my daughter, Tanith, when she was about 2 years old. She inherited my mediocracy at sport, went to boarding school in Toowoomba, and has a family that has managed to survive flood, fire, pestilence, and taxation, like her father. I love her to bits and am so proud of her for the vicissitudes she has weathered. Her photo survived Cyclone Jasper last year but had to be fiercely manipulated to bring back the characteristics that I love so much, as a photo, as in mud, water, weed, and excess UV!"



There was more flooding in Queensland in early 2025 so Chris checked up with a number of OFs about how they were affected. All seemed to survive but read elsewhere.

In a conversation with Mike Garnett around birthdays (Chris's parents lived to a great age - mother 103, Dad 101) he mentioned that he had had a chatty letter from Dr. **Tony Burlingham (G58-66)** and had replied in kind and hopes he will be amenable to a dinner in the future. He was also due to have a coffee with **Andy Ridley (M84-89)** on Wednesday.

Chris met up for the first time with Andy Ridley "*I have finally got to have a cup of coffee with Andy, and a very fine hour was spent exploring our pasts and presents. He has lived in Cairns for 8 years, and he thanked me for reaching out. We didn't get a photo because the circumstances were not propitious, but we can do that next time when we have dinner and our wives are with us. Rebecca is not the best at the moment, but she is under medical care, but nothing serious or urgent at this point. His wife is Tammy or Tam, I think. That's two OFs brought into the fold, counting Neil Randall on Magnetic Island, who also thanked me for reaching out.*"

In June Chris was in touch with **Simon Dougherty (G60-67)** as a result of receiving the SOF Council minutes by virtue of being a Vice President and touched on the informal OF network in Australia that always welcomes visitors. "*Yes, you are absolutely right, there has been an informal network in place, but I guess as numbers grow and travel gets easier, there may be a greater need for contact in the future. Gone are the days of Stanley and Livingston alone on the whole African continent.*"

*Around 2012, a past President of the SOF, **Richard Overend (S51-57)** came to Cairns, and a chance remark led to the Hunter Valley 150th Anniversary Dinner. Chris E. and his tribe have visited Cairns, as have Mike Garnett, Neville and Alison Marsh, John and Hilary Ling, and your good selves, of course.*

*The best aspect of this would be a dinner in a local watering hole of character, a glass of wine, and a chat about Fram, the world, the local scene, and the usual lies and stories at the end of the day - forgive we Australians for never letting the truth stand in the way of a good story. Perchance, a small gift of a*

*pertinent book, or a tea towel as a reminder of the visit, for them to use for many years into the future, back home! Something light and durable, or as a courtesy, sent to their home. Definitely, not a Didgeridoo or a hat with corks around it. There would be advice on what to see in the allotted time, and so on.”*

Chris was also in touch with **Dave Simms (R64-71)** in NZ, as a result of an email I had received from Dave. *“Greetings, Dave Simms, from a so far unknown Fram cousin across the ditch. My wife Rebecca and I live in Cairns, and we would offer to welcome you to Cairns, should you ever 'get the yen' to visit Oz. I thought I would get in touch with you because our stories are not that far apart from a narrative point of view, although a world apart geographically in the middle years.”* Chris went on to give a potted history of his life after Fram, becoming a pharmacist, lived in London, travelled the Caribbean islands as a Medical Rep., married a Trinidad girl before emigrating to Australia and to Cairns for the warmth and the diving. He married Rebecca and continued a professional career in Retail pharmacy continued until his 70th year, and since retirement, he has found pleasure in writing [www.chisshawauthor.com](http://www.chisshawauthor.com) .

He finished by saying *“I’ve travelled quite a bit of this old world of ours, and I can’t find a place I would rather be than Cairns. 60 years of living in the tropics has dictated that I get shivery under 25C, and winter brings out my tracksuit and UGG! boots of sheepskin. Keep well and stay safe, you two, and we would really like to meet up with you in Cairns. At 86, I’ve cancelled my passport so I’m not tempted to wander off to situations that I’m not physically able to deal with.”*

In August Chris received the latest set of Council minutes and responded to the suggestion of possibly holding a meeting in the morning UK time so that he and other around the world might be able to attend via the wonders of Zoom *“I’m not sure that there is an overwhelming need for a correction of timing for antipodeans. Perhaps a word with Colin Lipman would be in order. The minutiae of administrative affairs of the College have been left far behind in the rear-view mirror as we cope with our country of extremes, and the ambush effects of flora and fauna, both marine and terrestrial. However, our ability to connect to, and converse with Chris Essex, is an outstanding feature of our weird overseas life in far-flung areas. His communications are always positive, he has visited at least twice, and is, for me anyway, a most suitable link between the College and the rest of we gadabouts. I shall continue to send him small stories of the doings in Far North Queensland. Enjoy the summer. We’re at 12C tonight, with me in sheepskin boots, woollen track suit and a sweater. Back to shorts and T-shirt again in a month when the Torres Strait pigeons migrate south to tell us of the coming summer temperatures. PS We’re here for anyone coming this way.”*

## **BELGIUM**

**Babette Klitz (former Schmidt) (V84-86)** advised us that she had moved houses within Kraainem in Belgium.

## **CANADA**

**Dave Barker (K66-71)** got in touch as a result of me planning a 1970s OF Reunion on Saturday 5th July 2025 at the College. Dave responded *“If you're able to publish those who've already accepted and will*

*attend that might help others who know them to also attend. I am hoping to attend but have not be able to make the decision yet. My old friends **Julian Taylor (G67-71)** and **Richard Williams (S66-71)** I believe will attend. It means I have to come from Canada. Our airfares are outrageously expensive. If I do come over I'd stay with my sister who lives in Leiston. An additional attraction coming over is that the following day, July 6th is the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.” Sadly Dave wasn't able to make it over in the end, but did make the previous one in 2016.*

**Bruce Blacklock (S54-62)** provided an update *“In 1967 I emigrated to Canada with 50 pounds in my pocket. I then worked my way through Canada, USA, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay etc. on farms, ranches, estancias for almost two years. Then back to England. I had been looking for a place to settle, with a future, for me. I came back to Nova Scotia, Canada, got into farming and built up to my current business, which is almost worldwide. Phoenix Agritech (Canada) Ltd [www.phoenixagritech.com](http://www.phoenixagritech.com)”*

**Rachel Goss (V95-00)** got in touch initially because she received one of my invites to the OF West Country Reunion. She let me know that not only didn't she live any more in the West Country, she wasn't in the UK and had moved to Quispamsis in New Brunswick. After school she studied radiotherapy and then medicine in London at UCL, then trained as an emergency consultant in Devon and Cornwall and then moved in New Brunswick 5yrs ago where she works as an emergency consultant and runs a private clinic for immigrants and menopause specialist.

**Howard Thistlewood (K66-73)** responded to the death of former teacher Chris Carruthers saying *“he was a respected teacher and mentor at a time when Fram needed these. I was fortunate to have him as a formidable rugby coach, and his warm-up routine and enthusiasm for sticking to practice in lousy weather, etc., have stayed with me to this day. I also knew him through the Prefects Club for 2+ years, and helped run it. He generously supported us in time, stood at the bar and enquired as to our activities, when few other Masters entered. Our peer group knew him as "Crunch" Carruthers for one of his favourite sayings in coaching and dealing with adversary teams or difficult situations was " .. when it comes to the crunch, boys ..". As Ian said below, he came across as having a tough exterior but had a warm heart. Thanks Chris, RIP.”*

I complimented him on his comments but said that his name had come up in conversation only the previous day with another OF who he would remember - **Tim McGuire (K62-73)**. Sadly Tim was in touch to notify us that his older brother **Michael (K54-63)** had recently died. Howard responded saying *“Thanks for mentioning Tim; he was one of my compatriots and dorm-mates for many years. Famous for wearing night-shirts always, claiming that they were warmer than PJs, also good runner in rugby and sports generally, and in the choir with me for a while I believe. If his address is in the directory I shall contact him.”*

Given that it was January at the time of writing and that Howard lives in British Columbia he mentioned that alpine and Nordic skiing was good this year, but that he and his wife were about to visit the Algarve and southern Spain for *“our first snowbird experience, i.e. when Canadians swoop off to warmer climes for long stays in winter! I worked at a university in Portugal 2011-12 and have visited several times since 1974, when I had been vacationing in southern Europe with **George Goodwin (S65-73)**. We had become separated in Tangiers Morocco, after running into **Stewart Andrews (S68-73)** by chance and, needing a few hours off from one another, agreed to meet at the train to Marrakesh that evening. I mounted the train and searched for George without success. No cell phones, no destination planned, so we continued*

*our trips solo. On my return through Spain, I headed for a Nato base in Cascais, Portugal, where a serving RAF friend of my father put me up. I met jubilant young people on the beaches (the peaceful Carnation Revolution was in April that year) and continued a love affair with the people and language that has persisted with work and vacations in Brazil and Portugal to this day. I say continued because my love affair with the Portuguese really began on a day-long lonely train ride from Inverness to Fram, probably post-Christmas hols, where I encountered a beautiful dusky young Portuguese girl also being banished to boarding school by her diplomat parents in Scotland, also alone on the train. We were pen pals for a while at our schools. These events helped lead me to creating a student job with ICI Plant Protection in Brazil in 1976, which was life-altering and set me off on my career as an entomologist. Amazing how small events can build to real relationships.”*

**Bryan Mayhew (R46-52)** sent a Jacquie Lawson Christmas card to me which was much appreciated.

## CHINA/HONG KONG

**Chris Hall (G62-69)** earlier in 2024, gave his collection of Japanese textiles to the Asian Civilizations Museum in Singapore. They organised an exhibition of his amazing collection of Japanese Fukusa – these are principally silk-embroidered squares of textile used to wrap formal gifts. Gift giving and receiving, in Japan, goes beyond simply commemorating a special occasion, and in historical times was very much about social rank and respect.

At the end of 2024 Chris signed an agreement to donate his much more significant Chinese textile collection to the Hong Kong Palace Museum. This collection is one of the best of its type in the world and is valued in the agreement in excess of \$60m. To quote Chris “*My promised gifts to Hong Kong Palace Museum are the fruition of my art collection efforts over the past few decades. They testify to nearly 3,000 years of history in China, its splendid culture, and the Chinese people’s pursuit of beauty*”



An interview with Chris at the time gives some background to his amazing collection :

**Question:** What inspired you to begin collecting art, specifically Chinese textiles? At what age did you begin?

**CH:** I believe that collectors are born and that I would always have collected something. When I was a little boy, the highlight of the week was the trip to the toy shop, where I would spend my pocket money on building my collection of plastic zoo animals. These are still brought out occasionally when I have a young guest to entertain.

I was perhaps fated to collect textiles. Both of my parents liked to dress well, and I inherited their love of clothes. When my mother bought a new outfit, she would show it to the two men in her family, and they were both interested!

I returned to Hong Kong in 1978 when I was 26 years old. One day I was walking through the old Mandarin Hotel and saw Sotheby's first exhibition of Chinese textiles. It was love at first sight. I attended the auction but bought nothing as my salary was \$4,500 HKD per month. Nonetheless, that Sotheby's viewing ignited a spark, and I began to purchase Chinese textiles.

In the 1980s I bought both Japanese and Chinese textiles. I decided to focus on Chinese textiles because I could see there was a unique opportunity to put together a great collection whereas I could not do the same with Japanese textiles. The great Japanese textile collection had already been assembled by Nomura Shojiro (1879–1943) and is now in the Tokyo National Museum, safely out of the reach of any collector. In 1980, little was known about Chinese textiles as very few were held in museum collections. Only one great collection of Chinese textiles had been put together, by Zhu Qiqian (1871–1964) in the early Republican period (1912–49), and nothing had developed since. As China opened to foreign exchange in the 1980s, wonderful Chinese textiles of the 17th century and earlier appeared on the market. Many of these had never been seen before and provided a great opportunity to put together an exceptional collection of Chinese textiles. Later Qing period (1644–1911) textiles also appeared in large numbers in European and American auctions. These had been acquired by foreign merchants and missionaries in China after the fall of the Qing dynasty and were now being offered for sale by family members who inherited them. Never again will so many Chinese textiles appear on the market, as did in the 1980s and 1990s.

**Question:** How would you like to be remembered as a collector?

**CH:** I would like to be remembered for my collection, as it is my life's work. I have had fun forming the collection. I hope other people will have fun looking at it in the future. Also, Chinese culture is one of the great cultures of the world, but it is not often appreciated outside China. Many people want to emigrate to the United States or the United Kingdom, but very few foreigners want to emigrate to China. China's soft power has not been as effective as that of the US and Hollywood. If I can remind China and the world of the great achievements of Chinese silk and Chinese textile workers, I can somewhat redress the imbalance.

At the end of May Chris was walking through Covent Garden in London to a dinner appointment when a Chinese lady asked him a few questions. We posted the video on the website. The interview has been seen 1.5 million times with over 31,000 likes. Chris modestly says "*I believe that the popularity of the*

*video is accounted for not by my qualities as a film star, but the lady interviewer is well-known in China and followed by many Chinese.”*

**Robert Holland (R57-65)** sent Christmas greetings in 2024 “*Our seasonal felicitations to all our friends. After two years of planning, we have finally completed our relocation from Penang to Hong Kong, and the renovation of our new home in Tung Chung, during which we managed a cruise, a holiday in Sri Lanka, and a visit to Penang to escape the worst of the hacking.*

*We are settling back into Hong Kong life which has been made more easy, thanks to some old friends resident in Hong Kong, and some other friends, who like us, are relocating back to Hong Kong. While having one’s own transport in Penang was an absolute necessity, here in Hong Kong, public transport has proved to be not only efficient, but often faster than private transport and without the need to find parking wherever one goes. The Transportation apps on mobile phones provide live coverage of where your next bus or train is and then wakes / reminds you, when you reach your destination. Hong Kong Airport which is directly beneath me as I write this, has just opened it’s third runway, all of which can be used simultaneously allowing for a 50% increase in passengers and freight as Hong Kong gradually returns to pre pandemic levels of tourism.*

*We are visiting Penang next month as we are not yet fully accustomed to the cooler temperatures after 27 years of 30 plus degrees every day in Penang. In March we will cruise back to Hong Kong from Bali to begin our second year in Hong Kong, which should be a little more relaxing, and during which, we hope too see some more visitors.”*

**Jenkin Leung (K79-84)** was at the College on Sunday 22nd September to celebrate 100 years of Rugby. A Centenary Rugby match took place between the College 1st XV and Ipswich RFC to replicate the first match ever played at Framlingham in 1924. Pictured from L to R are : **George Wright (K78-83), David Ibeson (K78-84), Jenkin Leung (K79-84), Tim Mosse (K78-82) and Robert Bellfield (K81-83)** who you can tell were all in Kerrison together.



He also reported that he had a fantastic evening in October 2024 meeting up with **Andrew Weare G78-81**) and his wife Sue Weare who came through Hong Kong on their way to Sydney. They had not seen each other for 40 years but just picked up from where they left off like it was yesterday!

**Gareth Morris (K90-98)** lives in the UK but spends a lot of time in China and HK. I mentioned that **John Ting (G02-09)** may be organising an OF event in HK in November 2025 and he said he should still be in China at that point.” *I’ve gone down to Hong Kong a few times over the past couple of years as my son is a regional level squash player and the city has some amazing facilities so November might well work well.*”

**John Ting (G02-09)** has said he would love to organise a dinner in November 2025 and this has now been fixed for 25 November 2025 at the Hong Kong Club.



## COSTA RICA

**David Allars (K47-54)** had been going through a difficult time after having spinal surgery in 2024. With my eldest daughter, partner and 7 year old grandson going to Costa Rica in August 2025 I asked David for some advice. Sadly at the time he and his wife had been bedridden for the past two weeks with a severe bout of influenza. His advice was *“The top holiday resort hotel/complex in Costa Rica is the Los Suenos Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort on the Pacific coast. July is towards the end of the rainy season down here, but two other tourist attractions would be the volcanoes (we recommend Poas, which is currently “mildly active”, and Arenal); also, your family might enjoy a visit to a coffee plantation. Following failed spinal surgery last year, I am only partially mobile and no longer drive.”* In case of need he provided his home telephone number. They had a fantastic time.

## FIJI

In a first I think for the Overseas Bag, news from an OF in Fiji.

**Amy Barleyman (P22-24)** will soon be heading to Fiji to take part in the [@thinkpacific](#) project. In partnership with the Fijian Government, Amy will be taking part in a Youth Development Project, alongside local communities on initiatives that support sustainable development, cultural exchange, and climate resilience. It’s an incredible opportunity to be part of a project that’s



making a real difference across the region.

## FRANCE

**Thomas Otho-Briggs (R56-60)** reported that whilst he lived in France, he had recently called into the College “*to say hello and met a great guy who was the senior Music Teacher. I am now 83 years old, and running to form and unable to remember his name!!*” He encouraged others to visit.

**Brian Rosen (S40-46)** is a past President of the Society back in 1976 and is 96 years old and still regularly attends Council meetings via Zoom from France. He’s also a regular contributor to the Overseas Bag. In March 2025 he writes “*It is now 32 years since we left Suffolk for France. We are still living in the house that we bought in Vienne, South of Lyon in 1997. In a few weeks time I will be 96 years old and we will start looking for something smaller! Vienne is an interesting town on the banks of the river Rhone and was one of the principal cities in France in Roman times. There is plenty of evidence to remind us of this period, the most impressive being the 8000 seater Amphitheatre. This has been completely restored and an international Jazz Festival held here for a fortnight every year since 1981 has attracted many of Jazz musicians from all over the world.*

*We are situated in a beautiful part of the country with lakes mountains within easy reach. My motorcycling days are now over (after 70 years) but my wife, Dominique is quite happy to drive and we find it easy to visit the many attractions in the region. As I write this I am reminded that today is the 80th anniversary of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. I wonder if there are any other OFs who will remember that day we were at the college JTC camp in Shrublands Park, Ipswich. We were learning the rudiments of Jungle Warfare. A few days later it was VJ day and we would learn, thankfully that our futures would not depend on our proficiency in a jungle.*

*Much of my time in France has been spent with the Royal British Legion; I was chairman for some years and the Royal Air Forces Association where I was secretary for many years. I'm remaining vice chairman and vice president of these organisations, but no longer attend the many ceremonies often almost weekly. With very best wishes to all.”*

## GERMANY

**Kim Dickel (M97-98)** as one of the regular organisers of reunions in her country, received a paper copy of the OF Newspaper from me in January 2025. She replied “*This is so nice of you! Thank you very much, I really appreciate this. 5 German OFs will meet on February 8th to attend a carnival ball in Cologne, white tie and all. I will have an update and a picture ready to share with you the week after.*”

The report on the OF gathering in Cologne reads as follows “Five German OFs attended a Carnival ball in Cologne on Saturday the 8th of February 2025. Carnival, also known as the fifth season in Germany, marks a series of festivities leading up to the austere forty days of Lent. **Kim Alexandra Dickel (M97-98)**, Vice President to the Society and organiser of German OF events in the past, made a promise to secure the prestigious tickets to one of the black-tie balls and four OFs gladly took her up on the offer.

**Constanze Zawadzky (M03-05), Johannes Tröger (R96-98), Dominik Scheffer (K12-14), Christian Scherpel (R09-10)** and friends enjoyed an evening of music, humorous speeches and ballroom dancing.

Pictured above left to right: Christian Scherpel (R09-10), Constanze Zawadzky (M03-05), Dominik Scheffer (K12-14), Kim Alexandra Dickel (M97-98), Johannes Tröger (R96-98).



Subsequently Kim agreed to become our first overseas and first female President of the Society and spent the whole of September 2025 in the UK with 3 weeks based at the College in Suffolk. You will be able to read her message on the front cover of the next OF Newspaper.

**Alexandra Messinger (M00-01)** said thanks so much for all the effort put into the Old Framlinghamians Oversea Bag over so many years and wished me a wonderful and peaceful Christmas time with my family from Stuttgart. She also provided a new email-address to update on the website

## **JAPAN**

**Jonathan Amos (S67-71)** was interested to receive our News Bulletin at Christmas 2024 and said *“I was at home in Matsuyama, Ehime, Japan with my wife and son. Christmas is not much of an event in Japan so it’s what we make of it at home more than anything else. Instead, new year is the big celebration in*

*Japan when nearly everyone decorates their front door, has a traditional new year's breakfast and visits the local Shinto shrine to pray and get good luck for the new year."*

He was back in touch in March 2025 to say *"In March, I travelled to Perth, Western Australia, for my daughter's wedding in Cottesloe and took the opportunity to meet **Peter Hollins (K70-76)** who lives nearby in City Beach. We had not met since I left Fram 54 years ago, when I was one of the two Moreau House prefects in charge of forty first year boarders, one of whom was Peter. Peter was exceptionally kind to me, entertaining me first in his golf club and later at his house, where I met his wife, Sally and other members of his family. In addition to the Fram connection, we are both still self-employed accountants so, as you can imagine, we had many tales to tell and stories to swap.*



*I attach a photo of the occasion, from left to right: Peter, Jonathan and Sally."*

## MAURITIUS

**Marc Schroeder (R15-16)** responded to **Simon Dougherty (G60-67)** about restarting OF gatherings in London. To our surprise Marc lived thousands of miles away from London and this prompted me to ask about his story so far that brought him to Mauritius.

He writes: *"As Mauritius is a tiny island state in the middle of the Indian Ocean with just over 1.3 million inhabitants (but an unexpectedly large number of one million tourists each year), it was not with great surprise that I heard from Chris that I'm indeed the only OF living on this small piece of land surrounded by water – 6042 miles away from Framingham. So when he invited me to write a few paragraphs about what brought me here, I was delighted.*



*After leaving Framingham in early summer of 2016, I spent the school year 2016/2017 at my former school in Germany near Cologne and completed my German GCSE equivalent before jumping right into the world of working by starting an apprenticeship as an IT*

*specialist. This apprenticeship brought me again to a new city – Munich – in the south of Germany. The time of learning flew past, and I was able to secure my first job as a software engineer in the summer of 2019. But it did not take long for me to realize that I wanted to see more of the world. So in early 2021 – not knowing that the worst part of the Covid pandemic was still ahead of us – two friends and I decided to go on a big adventure: Travelling to Seychelles in the Indian Ocean.*



*And so we went on our first big trip and spent 4 months in Seychelles – a beautiful island with a population of just around 100,000 people. I used the time to strengthen my programming skills and slowly but steadily began taking on remote programming jobs. The time in Seychelles flew past even faster than the years before, so it was quickly time to make more plans. While my friends already had plans laid out, – starting university and heading for the first job – I was not quite done travelling yet. I decided that I would fly to Dubai to also stay in the Arab world for a few months. Life in Dubai was vastly different from everything I saw before, and the proximity to Europe made for a*

*great opportunity for my brother Eric to join me for a great time together. After having travelled for more than 6 months, it was finally time to head back home and start on a more permanent idea of life.*

*But life in Germany quickly started to feel dull for me – mostly because I now knew what it was like living in the warmer parts of earth. So in late 2022 I went on another adventure: This time heading toward Mauritius! And it definitely was the right decision for me. Life has been a blast ever since – with the usual ups and downs of course – but overall Mauritius, with its friendly people and relaxing atmosphere, just keeps making you smile. And so it happens that I have been living in Grand Bay, a seaside town in Mauritius, for almost 3 years now, only travelling back to Europe a few times a year to visit family and friends or to attend important meetings with clients.*

*Unfortunately, I haven't been able to keep in touch with many OFs during this busy time – except for an occasional digital greeting via LinkedIn. But that made the time spent at the OF London supper in 2022 which I was able to attend with my younger brother Jac Schroeder (R17-18) even more memorable.*

*Attached you find a picture of my latest hiking adventure: Climbing “Le Morne Brabant” – a 1800 ft mountain that I would describe as challenging for the untrained hiker with some very steep parts towards the top. And for those seeking the more relaxing sunset side of Mauritius: I also attached a photo taken at a rather beautiful evening at the beach club nearby a few months ago.*

*That concludes my short story about how I ended up in this remote part of the world leaving me only to wish you all the best and – should any of you ever make your way down south to Mauritius – invite you over for tea at my place – or dinner at one of the nearby beach clubs & restaurants – whichever you prefer!”*

## NEW ZEALAND

**Nick Marsden (G72-76)** was contacted by me in connection with a 1970s leavers reunion I organised at the College in July 2025. Nick replied “Good on you for organising this event. I wish I could come, but I have too many other commitments in NZ at the moment. Very best wishes for a great reunion and pass my greetings to all who attend.” Nick was still writing books.

At the same time I also heard from another contemporary **Martyn Arnold (G71-76)** who was sadly suffering from Parkinsons but asked to be remembered to Nick and said that his best memory was a snowball fight of the century in 1974 at Fram Castle. Whilst I didn’t remember it Nick did. He said “So nice to be put back in touch with a long lost old buddy! I definitely remember the epic snowball fight he's referring to. The mere was completely frozen over that year, too. I will get in touch with The Face!”

In August 2025, following the death of **Ian Marsden (S48-51)** I got in touch with Nick as few with that surname have been to Fram and I wondered if they were related, but they weren’t. Sadly Nick added that he was under treatment for lung cancer which was “Going well so far, seven months in”.

**David Newson (S54-63)** responded to a message I sent to all overseas OFs in July 2025 “*Frances and I are enjoying a busy retirement - we are looking at moving to a smaller property in our local town - old age is catching up and we are struggling to look after our present home which we have been in for 50 years. Hopefully we can find a suitable house with a smaller garden.*

*I am still playing the trumpet with the Ritz Big Band which my son leads - I had the pleasure of this band playing for my 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday last year.*

*Great to read about two other OFs in NZ - **Dave Simms (R64-71)** and **Richard Bearne (K59-62)** - it would be great to get together sometime. I am not aware of any other OFs in NZ apart from **Nicholas Richardson (S58-63)** in Auckland. I have not had any replies to my emails to **John Odell (S58-63)** and **Michael McGuire (K54-63)** for the last two years - both are in the UK. Michael McGuire was head boy in 1962 - 63. Have you got any information on these two? Unfortunately I have lost their phone numbers.”*

I replied saying that we didn’t have any contact details for Nicholas Richardson at all so would be great if he could ask him to get in touch. I wasn’t sure why he had not heard from John Odell and provided the phone number and email address we had recorded. I had sad news about Michael McGuire. He died on

He was sad to hear about Michael “*I suspected something had happened when there was no reply to my email. He was a good friend over the years - we went through Brandeston and Fram together - although in different houses. He also loved his music and was our guitarist and vocalist in the Fram Swing College Jazz Band!*”

**Dave Simms (R64-71)** responded to my email to all overseas OFs at Christmas 2024. He provided a detailed and at times sad update “*Life in the 1960’s/70’s was a rollercoaster for teens. It was all about great rock music, hippies, anti-establishment protests, hitch-hiking, music festivals, crazy fun!*

*I couldn't wait to leave the College back then and get out there amongst it all! Leaving in 1970, I went to Aston University in Birmingham to study Biological Sciences, thanks to Mr Melsom our wonderful Biology Teacher! I didn't study too much though! How could you when Pink Floyd, Black Sabbath, The Who, Fleetwood Mac, Dylan and Joni Mitchell were all tempting you away from lectures?!*

*Not knowing what the hell I was going to do, I followed university with a one year Post-graduate Diploma in Education (Dudley College of Education) followed by a year's teaching Biology at a secondary school in Sheffield. Mr Melsom would turn in his grave I'm sure!!!*

*But that didn't appeal! Life was too full of other exciting stuff! So I signed up for the Officer Cadet Training Unit at RAF Henlow to see if I could handle the challenging Officer Training course! Surprisingly I passed (!) and began life as a Flight Lieutenant, training in Fighter Control at RAF West Drayton. I was there when the huge inflatable Pink Pig broke its moorings at the Pink Floyd concert at Battersea Park and caused a national air defence response as it appeared on radar above London with no identification!!! My Fighter Control instructor interrupted my training session to scramble two fighter jets out of RAF Marham!*



*The transcript of the controller and the pilot's radio exchange was hilarious:*

**Pilot:** *We have a Pink Pig at 11,000 feet heading north at 4 knots!*

**Controller:** *Roger..... (pause)... You have Anoxia! You have Anoxia! Descend descend to 10,000 feet!*

**Pilot:** *Roger.....Nah - we really do have a Pink Pig, rising to 12,000 feet!*

**Controller:** *Roger.....You have Anoxia! You have Anoxia! Descend descend descend to 10,000 feet!*

**And so on...**

*The Phantom aircraft circled the Pig for another 20 minutes at great expense to the British tax-payers!!! What a hoot that was!*

*After a couple of years in various roles in the RAF, I left and headed for the Sahara, working for a Seismograph Services company searching for Oil deposits in Libya. That was an eye-opener! A pastey little pomme living in dusty old caravans and tents with 15 surveyors and geologists supported by 75 arabs in the middle of nowhere, south of Tripoli whilst Gaddafi ranted and raved about the West and its ways! Memories of packs of wild dogs deep in the desert, driving the water tanker to remote Camel Farms to collect water, finding stone arrow heads left in caves thousands of years ago, flying out of desert airstrips on small Fokker aircraft, being sandblasted by sudden Ghiblis when you couldn't see a yard in any direction, etc! At least I got a good suntan!*

*Then it was back to Britain after a year or so in the Sahara. Worked in Customs and Excise whilst living in a London Buddhist centre. A great year of deep meditation and learning about our Spiritual paths on Planet Earth.*

*But the time of exploring opportunities was drawing to an end. I'd tried a few things. Watched the world. Had nothing but experiences to call my own at the age of 29. It was time to get serious, train in something that would pay well and offer travel. Time to get a country home and settle down somewhat. Time to gather some moss!*

*So I made myself redundant in order to access the 1981 Training Opportunities Scheme (TOPS) in Computer Technologies (Bristol). Became a computer programmer in Bristol and started my 36 year career in the IT industry, just as early PC's were emerging! Living in Bath, working in Bristol, my life was suddenly (and wonderfully) changed by a Scottish colleague one rainy day in March 1985. She dropped a soggy copy of The Economist magazine on my desk and said: There's a job for you in there Dave!*

*The Commonwealth Secretariat were advertising for 3 programmers - one in Barbados, one in the Seychelles and one in Western Samoa! I had the skills necessary for the Western Samoa contract.*

*Where's Western Samoa Fiona?, I asked.*

*Somewhere near Fiji in the Pacific, she replied. It's where Robert Louis Stevenson is buried! You want to write novels so you should go there...!*

*I applied (as a joke) with a hand written CV and unexpectedly, 5 weeks later, I was flying to Apia, the capital of Samoa!!!! A real adventure! Tropical island landscapes, mangos and paw paws, turquoise seas and beautiful women walking beneath coconut trees on white sands!!! Stories of Treasure Island were real!!! It was beautiful.*

*I met my lovely Air Hostess Samoan wife there whilst working for the Treasury Department and together we produced a beautiful young boy, christened in the seas of Samoa! Life was bliss.*

*At the end of the 3 year contract we moved to New Zealand. I'd always wanted to come to New Zealand, a wild and wonderful hunting, shooting, fishing country full of the pioneering spirit and mountainous terrain! Arriving in 1988, I spent the next 30 years in the Wellington IT scene, ending up as a Consultant to various industries and government departments.*

*Sadly, in August 2006, tragedy struck us down. Our beautiful Samoan son died suddenly in the NZ Army Unimog accident near Blenheim in the South Island. He was only sweet 18, just finished his Basic Army Training. He so loved being a young soldier. His untimely death plunged us into 15 years of deepest grief, out of which we have recently emerged, now able to manage our grief as best we can.*

*There is no such thing as "Closure". But there is an afterlife. Experiences that we have been blessed with since Merry's death have proved to us that he lives on, on the Otherside.*

*Now retired on our 6-acre lifestyle block near Feilding in the North Island - the country home that I had always hoped for - I shoot high-powered PCP air rifles, do local pest control for farmers, travel the amazing South Island and thank my lucky stars that Fiona dropped that soggy magazine on my desk 40 years ago!*

*Life's an incredible journey. We are all here to learn about Love. Lest we forget....."*

Merry's Fields is a small **arboretum** they planted in Merry's honour at their home in Feilding.



Following the 1970s Reunion lunch at the College in July 2025, **Chris Shaw (G64-70)** sent him photos and a long write up on the event which Dave enjoyed. Our other **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** in Cairns Australia was also in touch with Dave and shared his much travelled earlier life. Dave said “You’re right! Manawatu is like Suffolk - **flat farming country** and Feilding is like Framlingham, a small town servicing the local farming community. We do have the Ruahine mountain ranges though - I’m looking at them right now from my office window.

*Tima (my Samoan princess) is currently writing her Samoan Memoirs - putting me to shame! I started to write my book about our son’s tragic death but as you know, grief is a cruel master and I had to postpone it. I will finish it though - it’s my catharsis.*

*Your life sounds as crazy as mine!*

*And thank you for the invite to Cairns! I've been there once on an IT course and wanted to return when John Marsden was alive. Sadly he's now passed. I wanted to go on one of his writing courses over there. Did you ever meet him by chance? He lived in the Macedon Ranges?*

*It's good to be in touch with you both.... Hopefully one day we'll pop in to see you when we visit friends in Brisbane.... It's time we re-visited Aus! I've always wanted to do a course on playing the didgeridoo (I have a good one here)! I love the hypnotic sounds the didge produces! Don't you?"*

Finally in September 2025 Dave was chasing me for the Overseas Bag and wondered if we had contact details for **Chris Calver (K64-69)**. Sadly we didn't. He said *"He used to live in Earl Soham and the last I heard he joined the Royal Navy back in the 1970's.....? As you get older, you'd think you'd have **more time** eh?! But no..... time seems to speed up and life gets too busy!!! What happened to a relaxing retirement?!"*

**Colin Tremlett (R47-55)** was in touch as a result of an email we sent out. He very much looked forward to continuing to receive OF news as he approached his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Richard Warner (Z88-96)** contacted the College in October 2024 wanting to find out if any OF's lived in South Island NZ. After sorting out a different email address for him and getting him registered on the website I told him how he could look the information up himself by using the Connect@Fram facility. If you want to look for OFs in a particular country then click on the "Advanced Search" tab and you will get a screen where you can enter "New Zealand" in the Location search field. I told him he will find that this produces 18 results but sadly not all of them have current email addresses and some have old postal addresses.

**The Wizard of Christchurch (42-45)** – while visiting South Island NZ in February/March 2025, **Jeremy Kemp (S70-79)** sent me an email which said *"Look who I met earlier on today in Cathedral Square, Christchurch whilst on our travels in New Zealand! My only concern was that he thought I may have been in the same year as him at Fram!"*

I told Jeremy that I had met Ian once at an OF event to mark 150th anniversary in Hunter Valley near Sydney on 2016. Great to see he is still alive and well as the Wizard of NZ at the age of 92.



## SEYCHELLES

I think this is the first time a contributor from the Seychelles which is great.

**Dimitar Getov (K92-94)** did have an in the US but was in touch with new details. He said his company is in the Seychelles and he lives between The Seychelles and Bulgaria.

## SOUTH AFRICA

**Mike Bullock (R55-59)** sent his usual Christmas message 2024 *“Wray and I are well (Mike the writer) and have had a quiet year. Wray entered the “Theatre of Life” in the 80’s in January with suitable family celebrations, I have moved a few rows forward towards the prize seats in the front. On a couple of occasions, we have been to Whiskey Creek with family and friends and recently to Shammah. I have given up bowls but keep active mowing the lawn and other “pottering around the home” things. Wray is passionate about the garden and frequently gets “verbal bouquets” from passing residents and visitors.*

*For Christmas this year we are joining Stephen, Fiona, Daniel, Claire and the Geddes (Fiona’s parents) in Sedgfield which is on the “Garden Route” between George and Knysna. New year will be spent in Pretoria with Allan, Catharine, James Hannah and Jed, David and Hannah. Therefore, over the festive season we will be with the whole family. “*

In March 2025 he made the decision to stand down from the SOF Council at the forthcoming AGM *“Please accept my apologies for the AGM as I am unable to travel easily these days. Consequent upon this and my inability even to travel locally I would like to resign from Council. Suffice to say that I have enjoyed my involvement in the society especially between 1960 and 1980 as we had a very active society in the then Rhodesia with a meeting a year alternating between Bulawayo and Salisbury (now Harare). Unfortunately there are very few OFs in South Africa and those here are well spread out.”*

I responded saying that I fully understand and had updated our records to indicate that whilst he remain a Vice President of the Society for all his past achievements, he was no longer going to serve on Council.

I live near Bath in the UK and he went on to say *“Our one granddaughter is in first year studying Drama at Bath Spa University and elder son has now 2 properties in Bath, one where she stays and one for their visits. It is likely we will be staying there for a few days in May next year as the younger grandson of that family is getting married in Scotland, and of course we will be visiting Bath. As my heart specialist announced recently at my annual check-up “You have a good heart” and my cancer is in remission, and I’ve been off treatment for nearly a year now, but monitoring regularly, all seems well for that visit. We will be travelling with family who will be able to assist. What an objective.*

*I’m disappointed that it appears that you have not yet found a successor for the Overseas Bag. 10 years younger I would like to have taken it on but now I do not have the energy or time left to accept the baton. I was International Relations Officer for a couple of years in Round Table and enjoyed correspondence with strangers with likeminded interest. I met with a few of them (England, Scotland, Sweden, Germany, Turkey, Canada, USA and Australia) and I am still in correspondence with one who lives in Stratford Mortimer.*

*Now Stratford Mortimer was part of our family estate from 1160 to late 1600s.....but that is another story for another day. And another is how we got a bottle of whisky as a Christmas present from Rhodesia to the Solomon Islands. Community service, what a pleasure!*

*Keep up the good work Chris and we'll keep in touch. I'll advise you of our plans for our Bath visit nearer the time."*

He commented that he had seen that **Guy Brooke Smith (S41-44)** died in 2023 and that he was sure he was one of the stalwarts in the old Rhodesian Branch. So I decided to research our amazing digital library of all past magazines (which are fully accessible to all signed in members on the website).

I told him I had dug out the following from 1973 that I thought might bring back some memories. I was at Fram at the time!!

### ***Rhodesian Branch Annual Dinner***

*The 16th Annual Dinner of the Rhodesian Branch of the Society was held in Salisbury on the 3rd November and was well attended. The principal guest of the evening was Mrs. Dorothy Pickard, widow of one of Framlingham's most famous sons, Group-Captain Percy Pickard, D.S.O., D.F.C.*

*Those present were T. E. R. Adnams, Mrs. Adnams, A. B. A. Anderson and Mrs. Anderson, A. D. Barnes and Mrs. Barnes, K. C. Bossert and Mrs. Bossert, G. S. Brooke-Smith and Mrs. Brooke-Smith, G. S. Brooks and guest, M. E. T. Bullock and Mrs. Bullock, M. Cundy and Mrs. Cundy, N. A. Harland and Mrs. Harland, R. B. Harland and Mrs. Harland, T. W. Lewis and Mrs. Lewis, A. B. Richardson and Mrs. Richardson. Also present was Mrs. B. K. Tibbett, whose husband Brian had been called up only two days prior to the dinner, and Mrs. Addison who has a son attending Framlingham.*

*The toast of Framlingham was proposed by Dick Harland, who was in the chair, while Geoff Brooks proposed the toast of the guests to which Mrs. Pickard replied. Letters of good wishes had been received from the President of the Society, Major General Pat Howard Dobson, and the Editor of the Overseas Bag, Tom Saul, and these were both read out during the evening.*

*Mike remember most of them well "Richard Harland, son of Dick, shared a house with me at Hippo Valley for a while before going of as a Game Ranger. I'm surprised Alan Dods was not there, perhaps he has died by then. Dick and Neville were tobacco farmers at Inyazura and I went there as an agricultural college student."*

I decided to look up all the attendees of that reunion. Apart from Mike and Wray, **Mike Cundy (K61-64)** seems to be well and living in Woodbridge and we have an email address for him if you wanted to contact him. **Brian Tibbett (G49-53)** may also be alive but no contact details. I notices that he was a cousin of **Percy Pickard DSO\*\* DFC (26-32)**. **ABA Anderson (41-42)** and **AD Barnes (42-46)** are also shown as alive with no contact details but I think age means that they are sadly probably both dead. Finally whilst **Alan Richardson (S43-40)** has died, his brother **Hugh (S43-48)** is alive and well in Sydney and I do hear from him occasionally. I have met him in Sydney and hope he will attend a reunion being organised there shortly. As for **Alan Dods (R27-32)**, he died in 2006.

In August 2025 Mike was good enough to provide another update “Since my last update I have remained off my cancer treatment and my status remains “in remission”. At my annual check up the heart specialist said that “You have a good heart” so that has been good news on the health front.

Although I have given up playing bowls regularly I do get the occasional game in. I continue to mow the lawn once a week in winter and more often in summer. I continue with my small woodworking projects, DIY and regular walks.

We have had several family events this year including our granddaughter’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in Johannesburg, my sister-in law’s 80<sup>th</sup> in Cape Town and we look forward to a grandson’s wedding at Gleneagles in May next year. We expect our second great grandchild in a few weeks.

I have a new interest, namely identifying the moths and butterflies in our garden. I had started before I was told that it was the fastest growing interest in the country. So far I have 17 moths and 15 butterflies identified and I cannot wait for spring as I started late autumn!

Not a world shattering report but that one that shows that I am healthy and occupied most of the time even it is chasing butterflies with my net.

If you send me Adam’s and James’ emails I will see if we can get together somehow although I am not able to travel at night and I find flying very difficult these days.”

I provided **Adam Phillips (G78-83)** and **James Campbell (M74-82)** email addresses and very much hope that a reunion will happen again in South Africa. Adam had now asked me to send him the details of OFs so fingers crossed for an event in Cape Town.

**James Campbell (M74-82)** provided the following update in August 2025 “My brother, **Jonathan (M74-84)** and I frequently meet despite Jonathan living in London and me close to Johannesburg, South Africa. Two of my four daughters are married and I have my first grandchild. I still work in the diamond exploration and mining industry, running Botswana Diamonds plc, a London AIM and Botswana Stock Exchange listed company. However, times are very tough in the diamond industry at the moment. I have also recently commenced a doctorate, a legacy project with a proposed thesis entitled “A conceptual business incubator framework for junior mineral exploration and development with a Southern Africa focus. I am attaching a picture of my brother and I at a family gathering.”



**Adam Phillips (G78-83)** was contacted to see if he fancied organising a gathering in Cape Town where there seemed to be about 10 OFs, due to a recent influx of 2022 and 2023 leavers from the area. Adam

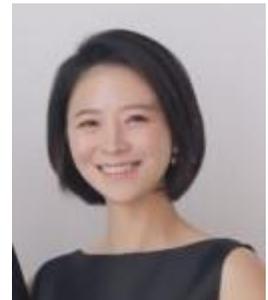
pointed out that most were either Herschel Girls or Bishops for Boys. With his agreement I sent out an email to all OFs in South Africa and invited them to contact Adam.

Adam provided the following update *“I am still playing hockey and padel. I spend a lot of time up in Namibia, as I run the finance side of a copper mine. Not as interesting as diamonds, but we are making good progress. I never thought I would ever be involved in mining! Truffle farming is still quiet, but making good headway on an agricultural project (glad it won't be affected by tariffs) and oil business we have. The Treasury business moves long, which allows me to look at the other projects. All in all, we are more than surviving down here, for which I am humbly grateful.”*

## SOUTH KOREA

I think this is also the first time a contributor from South Korea which again is great.

**Ji Young (Cristina) Ahn (V98-00)** got in touch in September 2025 to register on the website to get in touch with contemporaries. She is a professional Korean-English Conference (simultaneous) interpreter at the Seoul National University in Korea. After registering she added *“I've updated my profile. I am currently living in Seoul, Korea. Since I am working as an interpreter for Rolls-Royce Motor cars (freelancer), I often visit UK.”*



## THAILAND

**Michael Regan (M77-79)** had been reading the newsletter and noticed an OF is buried in Kanchanaburi. He asked if the society would like him to visit the grave as it is not too far from where he lives. I replied that I was going to get in touch with him for 2 reasons.

Firstly, as he had seen, I had just completed 4+ months work researching each of the OFs who died in WW2 and as he says one of those was **Staff Sergeant Edward Pugh (24-25)**. I pointed out that the photo I had found of his grave was not the normal design for a CWGC grave which is usually upright in Portland Stone. I welcomed some more pictures of the grave and location to include.

Secondly I was going to contact all OFs in Thailand to check how they have been affected by this dreadful earthquake. Apart from the disastrous collapse of the partly complete tower block in Bangkok how are other areas? Had he been affected?

Michael replied that he will travel to Kanchanaburi tomorrow and will be there until Friday 6th June 2025. He will send the photographs but understand there is also the grave of his brother.



He brother was not in the Green Register and therefore for some reason he didn't go to Fram. I found on Ancestry that he was born 21 June 1913 so he's a younger brother but it didn't say where he went to school.

You can see the full biography on Edward Pugh in the Distinguished section of the website, but here is a picture of Michal at the very well looked after grave. I'm hugely grateful to him for visiting.

In September 2025 he thought Thailand was heading for another General Election and maybe another military government. He also advised of a new email address.

## USA

**Jules Arthur (K75-84)** along with a number of other OFs in California were contacted by me in January 2025 when around the world we were shocked to see the wild fires in and around LA. Jules said *"The magnitude of the devastation is insane. My son lives in Highland Park near Pasadena and other than power outages they were largely unaffected."* He went on to offer Lawrence Pretty help if he was affected by the fires. You will have read elsewhere from his brother Bryan in Australia that he was greatly affected but was OK in the end.

In March 2025 with the grand prix season starting again soon, I asked whether he planned on attending many this year. While sitting on a plane flying back to the UK he replied that he was going to attend two - Belgium & Hungary. He was somewhere over Greenland at the time. Amazing what you can do on a plane now.

**Alan Best (K49-56)** sent a message via the website in October 2024 *"Enjoying an active and supportive life in a super retirement community in Portland, OR, USA. Surrounded by retired professionals: academics, teachers, doctors, lawyers, nurses and more. Activities include exercise, lectures, music (all kinds), outings to Oregon's gorgeous landscapes and cultural offerings."*

**Aragan Burlingham (Z81-86)** responded to my email about the fires, but whilst he lived in California he was based in San Francisco well away. He did however, have family in LA that came close to needing to evacuate.

**Eleanor Carvill (V18-25)**, pictured, is thriving at Syracuse University, USA, where she is embracing a wide range of classes including social



psychology, cognitive neuroscience, creative and academic writing, plus communication and media. Eleanor is choosing to declare Psychology as her major, with the exciting prospect of a dual major in Public Relations next year — working towards a BA in two subjects.

Eleanor shared how much she is enjoying campus life, even noting how it “feels like a bigger version of Fram!” We’re delighted to see her flourishing and look forward to following her journey.

**Dave Connett (K71-73)** is a contemporary of mine at Fram and I noticed that we didn't have a current postal address for him. He replied that he had relocated to Vancouver in Washington State, as opposed to Canada!

He commented on the dreadful wildfires at the time saying they were much like the previous Maui fires. He went on to say “Beginning to dread reading the OF magazine these days. I'm expecting the obituaries for our generation of Framlinghamians to start rolling in. Inevitable I suppose. We'll all end up listed there eventually. Anyway, Happy New Year!” I mentioned that **Barry Prewett (R70-78)** had died recently and I had gone to his funeral.

I sent him a copy of the OF newspaper. He responded “*Although it must be cheaper to produce than the glossy magazine, I think I prefer this format. Also seems to have more content. It was especially great to see a photo of **Jonny Amos (S67-71)**. Still in Japan I see. I must re-connect with him shortly. And **Jim Mehta (S67-75)** (my old Athlone Hall bandmate) continues to look dapper on page 23 & 29. Wasn't aware **Howard Thistlewood (K66-73)** was in Canada. Like **Pete Rodolfo (R70-75)**, he was a fabulous artist. Funny, the photo on page 35 of the gathering at Railway Inn contains six fellows all from our era, none of whom ring a bell for me. Passage of time is the culprit I suppose. I'm planning a visit to the UK at some point this year. I must try and make it coincide with an OF function and hopefully meet up with some OF chums.*”

In June 2025 he was planning a visit to the UK in November and said “*I'll spend some time in London as my son lives there. Then I'll head up to East Anglia to visit with Pete Rodolfo and hopefully Jim Mehta. Also must go by Fram. My last visit there was 1986, where I had a delightful tea at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Borrett (he was one of my favorites at Fram). Alas, it seems doubtful many of the Masters are still around. Do they even call them "Masters" these days?*”

I sent him a link to the 1975 reunion in London organised by **Charlie Blackmore (K65-75)** and he said he'd heard from Pete Rodolfo that it was a great time. He also wished to be remembered to anyone attending the 1970s reunion I organised at the College in early July 2025.

**Tim Grace (G64-70)** contacted me in June 2025 to say he was in touch with **Ian Lillie (K63-70)** – he was living in Jersey. Tim lives in Evergreen in Colorado (Rocky Mountain foothills) and couldn't make the 1970s reunion lunch but did say they get 300 days of sunshine and sent a picture of elk at the local lake and his house in winter.



**Janos Magasrevy (G70-71)** was another OF who responded to my invite to the 1970s reunion at the College in July 2025. He said *“Thank you for the invitation for the 70's reunion, unfortunately I will not be able to attend due to previous commitments. I have been unable to find my buddy from that era whose name is **Nick Wood (G68-71)**, no idea where he lives or if he is still alive. Wishing all of you a very successful reunion.”*

I sadly reported that we had no contact details for Nick Wood. Janus added “I moved to Florida in 2003 seeking a better life for my family after things in my home country of Venezuela got really bad with the election of Hugo Chavez.” I hope he ends up seeing other OFs in Florida like **Richard Rowe (S65-74)**.

**Paul Mabie (G71-73)** was put in touch with me via his late brother **Brian (G71-73)** daughter who sent a lovely message I read out at the 1970s reunion. I'd not been in touch with Paul and Brian in 50 years. Paul said “Brian visited the college with Maggie and her siblings in 2004. He expected to impress them with the spartan accommodations we enjoyed. Instead he found a comparative luxury resort. The children never again believed our tales of early 1970s college life.” Paul lives in Kirkville New York State but does plan to move before too long.

**Peter MacFarlane (Z73-81)** responded magnificently to my midyear request for any news. *“Much here is as it has been (if we can ignore the political debacle) for the 22 years that I've now lived in the US. How can that many years pass so quickly? But there are a few updates.*

*I'm now the music director of the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra. This is a community orchestra of about 50 musicians, playing traditional music from a variety of traditions. Each year we have a couple of seasons in which we learn new tunes, selected and arranged by me, and perform a public concert at the end of each season. Various videos are available at [www.vermontfiddleorchestra.org](http://www.vermontfiddleorchestra.org). I took on the role in January 2020, not the best time to step into a new social setting. My first season closed down after about seven weeks due to the Covid pandemic. And our next two seasons were entirely online, the very sad existence of people playing along individually with me via a screen, courtesy of the now-ubiquitous Zoom. But we've now been up-and-running in person for several seasons, and raising the bar with each concert.*

*Things have also been happening in the canoeing world. In 2023 I completed a long circuit in New*

*Hampshire and Maine, a route that I devised myself. This involved descending the length of the Androscoggin River to Merrymeeting Bay in southern Maine, where it meets the Kennebec River. Here I picked up the route that Benedict Arnold took on his 1775 march to Québec: up the Kennebec, across the Great Carrying Place to the Dead River, now flooded as Flagstaff Lake, up the North Branch of the Dead River to near the Canadian border (I deemed it unneighbourly to continue farther to lay siege to Québec City!) then back down the North Branch, up the South Branch to the Rangeley Lakes ... which empty into the Androscoggin River. This was a trip for which no-one had to drive a silly number of miles to drop me off or collect me. And the fact that I have friends who live no more than half a mile from the Androscoggin made the start/finish point an easy choice.*

*Furthermore, following my two through-paddles of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, I've been working intermittently on a book. It was suggested by many people after my first trip (2013), and I started writing probably in 2015. It then made sense to include the second trip (2018). And now, after about 10 years of writing and rewriting and battling with technology, I have a couple of PDF files, content and cover, ready for printing. I'm taking the route of self-publishing. This news is hot off the presses. The book itself has not quite reached those presses, but that should happen any time very soon. I'll try to remember to let you know.*

*My online presence has undergone some reorganisation. Having encountered someone who wished to add to her portfolio by remaking my canoe-building website, [www.OtterCreekSmallcraft.com](http://www.OtterCreekSmallcraft.com) now has a new look. (In return I made her a canoe paddle.) And all of the personal side of things has migrated to a new site: [www.petermacfarlane.net](http://www.petermacfarlane.net)."*

In early September 2025 I asked for an update on the book and told him that I was bringing all my family to Boston USA next August and then taking a cruise to Montreal followed by visits to Ottawa, Toronto and Niagara Falls to mark my 70th.

He responded "*Your timing is in fact impeccable: I've just today received a message saying that my book has been shipped. Still not in my hands, though. The reality will sink in when that happens. The initial order is for 100 soft-covers, and print-on-demand will be available through BookBaby.com. If there is sufficient demand, I may make the extra investment in e-book format. And if there's huge demand, I wouldn't mind turning it into an audio book, with me as the reader. As for the title: The Wolf Faces Backwards. If you're wondering what that has to do with anything, the reveal is in the book!*

*Your trip next year sounds wonderful—congratulations ahead of time on reaching this landmark. I assume 'cruise' refers to the water route, along the Maine coast, around Nova Scotia and up the St Lawrence. If, however, it's a land cruise, Addison, Vermont, is not too far from a line between Boston and Montreal, and you'd be very welcome to drop in. Our abode is humble but the welcome is warm."*

With the book published I asked for some words to use to promote on the OF website and he provided the following "*In The Wolf Faces Backwards author Peter Macfarlane guides the reader on a pair of solo canoe journeys the full length of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the longest marked inland water trail in the USA. Built from his travel journals, the book immerses the reader in the day-to-day life, decisions, challenges, despair and elation of two odysseys of over 700 miles each. It is, though, much more than a journal, being laced with memoir and more, sufficient to give the reader an insight into what it takes to develop the skills and personality to undertake such a challenge, and to do so in a canoe he had both*

*designed and built.*

*The book is in two halves. Part 1 depicts Peter's 2013 through-paddle, which was characterised by some remarkably inclement weather. Part 2 jumps five years ahead to his second through-paddle. This time, to make a difference, he set out from the 'wrong' end, embarking on a journey with many more miles of upstream than downstream, a journey which—for very good reason—nobody had previously been recorded as attempting, let alone completing.*

*The Wolf Faces Backwards is available in soft-cover, either directly from the author (details at [www.petermacfarlane.net](http://www.petermacfarlane.net)) or by print-on-demand through [www.BookBaby.com](http://www.BookBaby.com)”*

Here is a link to the OF website story <https://www.oldframlinghamian.com/news/the-arts/another-of-debuts-as-an-author-of-a-book/>

**Ted McKean (G65-66)** had visited the College in August 2025 with **Clive Hedley (G58-67)**. Ted was an American English-Speaking Union exchange student in 1965/66 and felt that this was his swansong visit to the College. Ted added “*I made great friends as a result of my year at Fram, and left with great fondness for the experience, and appreciation of the English Speaking Union, my sponsor, and of course the College. It was an eye opener, but I received support from many sources helping to make the year a true success. I never regretted it for a moment, and left for home a year later with some chagrin. Later, I had OF visitors to my home in the U.S. and cemented life long friendships.*”

**Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** in early August got in touch to say that he had just sent an email to James, **Nick Carlton's (G63-70)** boy, for his 21st birthday, remembering the party we attended on the ship at Southampton in 2008....tempus fugits for sure ! He had also had no word from John Gates for ages and hoped he was OK. Bryan had lost his younger brother in April and several friends since then. He said “*I guess the writing is on the wall at 94!!*”

I responded saying we had just booked a P&O cruise for October this year out of Southampton and thought of Nick and when we had all met up with him. I said I had not heard recently from John but that he was definitely still with us. I asked him to let me know when he hears from Nick or John.

I never imagine that just one week later I would spot the following death announcement in the Daily Telegraph

**CARLTON - Nicholas Charles, Captain Nick Carlton, died on 11th July 2025 in Mandurah, Western Australia, aged 72. He leaves a son James.**

I was totally shocked. He seemed such a fit guy. I also found a link that allowed you to watch a recording of the funeral, which I sent to Bryan and watched.

**Richard Rowe (S65-74)** got in touch in September 2024 about Hurricane Helene, coverage of which I'd just seen on the BBC breakfast news. I presumed that he and his family might still be in Cape Cod but I hoped everything was OK back in Fort Myers. Richard replied that they were fine “*Fort Myers Beach got about 1ft of water and a lot of gusts but nothing more than our contractor's portaloos tipped over. We are*

*in South Carolina trying to drive home, so may be a blustery drive. It is about 1500 miles / 20 hours from Cape Cod to Fort Myers. ”*

*When he got home he added “We are home safe and sound. It was a very wide storm with a lot of rain. Fortunately only glancing off the Fort Myers region - but causing the second highest water level surge (rise) on the river - but nothing like that at the Beach*

*In South Carolina, a lot of overnight rain. The maintenance crews were great getting trees cleared from the roads. A few towns with no power, so no gas (petrol) stations operating. But otherwise we drove south on fairly empty roads and blue skies ”*

A few days later Richard was exchanging Hurricane messages with **Chris Shaw (K50-57)** in Cairns and said *“We are heading to Italy today - Venice, Florence, Tuscany and then a cruise. A little concerned to depart with Hurricane Milton heading straight at us in 3-days’ time but have done what we can to secure the house - and left my 87-year old mother-in-law in charge (ably assisted by other family!!)*

*I am keeping an eye on the America's Cup sailing competition. Great Britain just battled through to win the right to challenge the NZ holders. Could GB finally win back a challenge trophy that we first lost to the USA about 160 years ago and have never won it back?”*

Richard provided a further update a few days later *“We are safe as we are in Italy - now in Florence and moving onto other parts of Tuscany. But our kids and home dodged a bullet. Milton sucked in a lot of dry air just before coming ashore, so reduced from Cat 5 to Cat 3. There was tidal surge but our homes are dry and still have power. That was looking really bad until the last few hours. Phew! Stay safe.”*

In April 2025 Richard provided some help to **Michael Regan (M77-79)** who you will have read earlier was visiting a CWGC cemetery to photo the grave of an OF. He also hoped that Michael had not been affected by the terrible earthquake in Thailand.

Then in July responded to my invite to the 1970s OF Reunion at the College on Saturday 5th July 2025. Not surprisingly he couldn't attend and of course USA has a big party the day before!

Richard offered to organise another Florida gathering when he returns from summer in Cape Cod “unless someone else jumps in”

In September 2025 I contacted Richard to say that I had been firming up on plans for a US/Canada family trip next year to mark my 70th. I said it would be great to meet up in Cape Cod in late July 2026. Richard warmly welcomed the opportunity and we'll keep in touch.

**Lottie Summers (V04-19)** has completed an exceptional year at Syracuse University, New York, where she played Division 1 hockey while studying for a master's degree in Supply Chain Management.

Lottie first picked up a hockey stick at the College, sparking a passion that led her to represent Beeston Hockey Club in the UK Premier League, the Great Britain Elite Development Program, and her Loughborough University team. Lottie completed a marketing and management degree at Loughborough University, then followed a prestigious placement at GlaxoSmithKline, where she worked on global health strategy and sustainability initiatives.



Lottie's master's degree course in supply chain management will complete in May 2025. Looking ahead to a future Lottie hopes will include both a career in supply chain management and hockey. Currently, Lottie is interviewing for jobs in London, equally would love to work in New York City. Lottie hopefully will continue to play hockey, possibly back in the Premier League, if she can accommodate it around her work schedule.

**Giles Townsend (K59-67)** lives in Carlsbad, south of LA and had not been affected by the fires.