

THE

# Framlinghamian

2024 / 2025



Framlingham  
COLLEGE

WHERE EVERY PUPIL CREATES THEIR OWN STORY



## At Framlingham we believe in the individual.

**There is no typical Framlinghamian, no singular path that we take: we are academics, actors, musicians, explorers, sports stars, innovators, scientists, makers, story tellers, teammates, artists, and thought provokers.**

Often, we are many things within one, each with our own story. Everyone at Framlingham is valued for who they are.

Our location in the heart of Suffolk creates a special atmosphere – of freedom and rootedness, of space to think and room to grow. From here, our horizons are global. We are a diverse community with young people from many countries and cultures. With our ambitious learning culture, a focus on the individual and a breadth and blend of opportunities, we really do help every child to discover and develop their talents to create their own story.

Through the pages that follow, we invite you to join with the celebration of Framlingham College. We hope that you will be inspired by the stories of shared endeavour and individual achievement which showcase the creativity, vibrance and individuality of our pupils.

**Louise North, Principal  
Simon Roche, Head of Prep School**





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# SPIRIT OF INQUIRY

The essence of a thriving educational institution lies in its ability to inspire and cultivate a deep-seated curiosity and eagerness to learn amongst its pupils.



**At Framlingham College, we take pride in our dedication to nurturing this essential quality within our young people and our unwavering commitment to developing lifelong learners who are adaptable, informed, and able to navigate the complex information landscape of the modern world.**

During the 2024/25 academic year, every corner of the College echoed with the sound of inquisitive minds and exhilarating journeys of intellectual exploration. We provided pupils with the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, projects and initiatives to pursue knowledge and understanding with unwavering determination, and celebrated the growth, achievement, and personal development of so many of our pupils, from the very youngest to the oldest.

Fundamental to developing a child's spirit of inquiry is encouraging their ability to question not just what they learn, but why and how it applies to the world around them, as well as developing the zeal to explore subjects in depth to satisfy their own interests and make connections between disparate topics, both of which are essential for pupils who engage in Higher Project Qualifications (HPQs) and Extended Project Qualification (EPQs).

Both qualifications require pupils to delve

deeply into a topic of their choice, fostering independence and a proactive approach to learning. By undertaking these projects, pupils demonstrate an ability to formulate precise questions, explore complex ideas, and synthesise diverse information sources. The process of planning, executing, and presenting their projects hones their analytical and presentation skills, which are crucial for higher education and beyond. Additionally, the self-directed nature of HPQs and EPQs nurtures time management and organisational abilities.

The EPQ has tremendous benefits for pupils, not just in the deepening of knowledge and development of key skills, but also because of the contribution its achievement can make to UCAS applications. Equivalent to half an A-Level and additional UCAS points, the EPQ offers pupils an extra project opportunity alongside their A Levels. Pupils are free to choose whatever topic they feel passionate about and select either an essay of around 10,000 words or a practical project, followed by a 15-minute presentation to peers on their chosen topic.

Encouraging our pupils to ask questions, explore connections between topics, conduct research effectively, think creatively, work collaboratively and apply a habit of reflection in their learning are equally all fundamental to the success of



our unique 7-9 curriculum; a theme-based curriculum covering three years and spread across the Prep School and the transition to the Senior School.

The 7-9 curriculum focuses on developing pupils' understanding of themselves and the rapidly changing world around them, as well as helping them hone the skills they need to excel at GCSE level. The learning themes, ranging from identity and innovation to conflict and global power, provide a connection between subjects and help pupils to develop into outward-looking global citizens.

Our dedicated days for Prep School pupils to take part in lessons and workshops at the Senior School are abundant throughout the year. Our Year 7 Prep School pupils enjoyed fantastic science days at the Senior School labs, taking part in a brilliant biology workshop as part of Enrichment Week, while our Year 6 pupils got hands-on in our photography studio, developing their own photos from pin-hole cameras.

Not only do such activities help to familiarise and support our Prep School pupils with their transition to Senior School environment, but it also gives them a taste of the GCSE and A-Level curriculum.

For our Sixth Formers this year, our science and psychology pupils were given an incredible insight into neuroscience during Brain Day 2024.

Hosted by Dr Guy Sutton, the Director of Medical Biology Interactive, pupils gathered in the Headmaster Porter

Theatre on Friday, October 4, for a half-day introductory lecture on neuroscience, followed by practical sessions in our biology labs.

Topics from the morning lecture included:

### **Neuron to Brain, Nerve Cells and Brain Function:**

Introducing the basic structure and function of brain anatomy, from nerve cells and synapses, to measuring the brain's electrical activity with EEG, consciousness and neural decoding.

**Neuroplasticity:** Analysing the benefits of sleep and the effects of sleep neglect on the brain.

**The Damaged Brain:** An insight into the effects of brain damage, including neurodegeneration and Alzheimer's disease.

**Mind, Brain and Crime:** Exploring the effects of prenatal and postnatal abuse on the brain, such as how brain damage, chemical poisoning and brain tumours affect behaviour, alongside how these effects on the brain may link to criminality, and the future of neurotechnology and the legal system.

Pupils then headed to the lab for a fascinating afternoon of sheep brain dissections using the case study of hemispherectomy – a rare type of surgery that removes or disconnects an unhealthy half of the brain from the other half to treat seizures.

Parents also attended a special evening





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**My favourite part of Brain Day was the second lecture about how the mind, brain and, crime all interact together.**





lecture on 'The Development and Change of the Teenage Brain – Exploring the Truths and Myths Regarding the Adolescent Brain', which explored brain development and changes from childhood through adolescence to adulthood, examining the effects of drugs and teenage mental health issues, concluding with the effects of smartphones and social media usage on developing brains.

Year 13 pupil and Psychology Subject Ambassador, Emily H, said: "My favourite part of Brain Day was the second lecture about how the mind, brain and, crime all interact together. Dr Sutton described how the brain can have a serious effect people who have committed a crime, showcasing research examples on how these theories can be applied to real-life circumstances, which made the lecture even more fascinating.

"The way Dr Sutton presented the lectures and the format in which he presented truly inspired me and kept me intrigued throughout the whole day. It made me very excited for future lectures at university and has also inspired me to learn more about how people behave, and how that behaviour can be linked to the brain. It made me even more drawn to Psychology as a subject and how much there is to learn and understand.

"For anyone interested in taking Psychology at A-Level, if you have ever been curious as to why people do what they do, and how behaviour is shaped, then Psychology is definitely the subject for you. It is an extremely fascinating

subject which delves into behaviours and will deepen your understanding of human beings."

Towards the end of October, our Framlingham College academic scholars were able to get hands-on experience in the science labs as part of the annual Biology Week.

Celebrating the sciences alongside the Royal Society of Biology (RSB), Framlingham College hosted an innovative focus week for our aspiring biologists, offering pupils the rare opportunity to carry out high levels of practical work and attend insightful talks by industry specialists.

Pupils rolled up their lab coat sleeves for anatomic dissections, studies of leaf chromatography, and micro-biology research during daily lab sessions – delving into the 'Micro Safari' project where pupils searched for 'The Big Five' multicellular animals (Moss Mites, Rotifer, Nematode, Tardigrade and Gastrotrich) under the microscope at low magnifications x40 to x100, examining species of holly and nettle leaves to determine defensive mechanisms on plants, extracting the colour pigments from various plants in leaf chromatography, and using science to create homemade ice cream with Principal, Louise North.

We were also delighted to welcome experts from the University of Oxford for daily lectures on a variety of topics, including, 'Parasitic and Carnivorous Plants', 'Why Plants Are The Greatest Traders on the Planet', and 'The Universal



'History of Us', alongside a special 'Molecular Modelling, Coral Reef Research and Studying Wildlife' lecture from Space Virtual.

Year 13 pupil and Biology Subject Ambassador, Abdul A, said: "My favourite part of Biology Week were the lectures by the University of Oxford. Hearing from such prestigious speakers from different backgrounds and different academic journeys really inspired me. It was also interesting learning about things that go beyond the curriculum, leading me to expand on my independent research.

"Subject weeks like this allow pupils to explore and delve into the world of a new subject and see how interesting and enjoyable something new can be. I think for younger years, especially for those in Year 11, Biology Week offers an insight into the higher curriculum which can help with their A-Level choices. For me, the week has allowed me to experience things that aren't on the current A-Level Biology curriculum, such as advanced neuroscience, and has broadened my understanding of cutting-edge science – something that I wouldn't otherwise be exposed to. This week has not only inspired me, but reinforced to me that I do want to study science at university.

"For those looking at taking Biology at A-Level, I can assure you it is a very enjoyable and interactive hands-on subject. Biology is one of the most vital subjects because it gives everyone further understanding into human anatomy – from why different muscles contract in the body, to where an electrical impulse is passed

in the brain, to why we tackle infections the way we do. Alongside the trips, conferences, dissections and lab work, the actual curriculum itself and the topics within the subject are complex in their own respect, but very achievable. The teachers and team from the Biology Department are also always there for support you."

Launched by the RSB in 2012, the annual Biology Week takes place every October with the aim to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds in biology.

Speaking about the importance of the week in a statement on their website, the Royal Society of Biology said: "Innovation in biology will help us to support all life on Earth now and in the coming decades. Biology Week aims to celebrate and raise the profile of these achievements and the important work that bio-scientists are doing, and to highlight this to all public audiences.

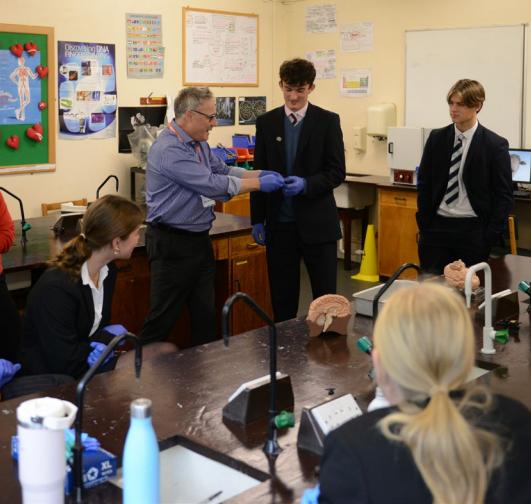
"Biology is an incredibly wide field – the broad range of disciplines that our member organisations cover demonstrates this. Research in these fields will be instrumental in overcoming some of our most pressing global issues, including climate change, developing sustainable food and fuel, and diagnosing and treating diseases."

During the Spring Term in February, our aspiring biology pupils teamed with local schools for another thrilling day of hands-on bioscience research as we played host to the 2025 Biology Conference with University College London (UCL) and University of East Anglia (UEA).

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Subject weeks like this allow pupils to explore and delve into the world of a new subject and see how interesting and enjoyable something new can be.





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Our role as educators is all about creating rich learning environments and promoting journeys of discovery from a very young age.





Led by our Head of Biology, Sam Lebbon, our Year 10 and 12 pupils were joined by friends from Thomas Mills High School, Stradbroke and Hartismere School for an insightful event which included research analysis, practical experiments, lab workshops and fascinating undergraduate level lectures.

The day began with a deep-dive into cell specification with a lecture by Professor of Developmental Neurobiology, Stephen Price (UCL), as pupils pondered and debated the 100-year-old question of 'what causes cells to separate and group together'.

Heading over to the science block, pupils put on their lab coats for a series of fascinating lab work, including separating and extracting the lactose from milk, a heart, lung and liver dissection practical, and identifying vector borne diseases with their host and the symptoms.

The day concluded with an afternoon of insightful lectures in our theatre by our very own Head of Science, Dr Richard Higgins, on 'Medicine, Biology and the Biosciences', and by Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement, Ben Garrod (UEA), on 'What separates humans from apes'.

From modern science to medieval history, during the last year, children across the Prep School were focused on developing their knowledge of our world's history from Norman Castles to Ancient Egypt. Commenting on our youngest pupil's eagerness to delve into learning and

exploration, Head of Pre-Prep, Jo Drury, said: "Our role as educators is all about creating rich learning environments and promoting journeys of discovery from a very young age. Coordination of outings, visits and events all contribute to learning and development and help children to feel excited about learning."

In January, the Year 1 children ventured through the grounds of Framlingham Castle, exploring the 12th century fortress, creating their own castle drawings and uncovering the stories of what life was like living within this Norman stronghold as part of their 'Castle Learning' topic.

Our strong partnerships with guest speakers and industry experts continue to grow and flourish at the Prep School to create an inspiring and immersive learning experience for all pupils.

In November, we welcomed the return of Historian and Archaeologist Mark Halls who, as well as working in schools and museums across East Anglia for the last 11 years, has appeared on BBC's Horrible Histories and many historical documentaries. Our curious Year 3 pupils joined Mark for a brilliant interactive all-day workshop on the fascinating world of the Ancient Egyptians, taking them on a journey through the mysteries of mummification.

During the workshop, the pupils took part in a number of activities, including a fact-finding quiz on Egyptian life and death, a traditional board game of 'Hounds and Jackals', and a presentation of fascinating



Egyptian artefacts, many of which came from Mark's own personal collection.

The pupils then enjoyed an afternoon of re-enactment, learning all about how the Egyptians dealt with the death of a pharaoh, tomb building and decorating, mummification and burial, and the coronation of a new pharaoh. The event finished with 'hunting on the Nile' and further use of Mark's artefacts to demonstrate to our pupils about the many skills, techniques and tools which the Egyptians used daily.

In January, our Year 4 pupils had a fantastic day during an interactive all-day workshop, travelling back to 1066 to experience what life was like for the Saxons, Vikings and Normans.

Hosted by historian and filmmaker Richard Brighton from The History Squad, pupils played traditional Saxon board games, got hands on with the weaponry and armour they used in battle, and analysed incredible one-thousand-year-old crafts and jewellery made by the Anglo Saxons.

The pupils then enjoyed an afternoon of battle re-enactment, learning all about battle tactics and how William the Conquerors' victory changed England.

Another notable guest speaker was award-winning author Kate Rolfe, who returned to our Prep School to celebrate the launch of her new children's book: *Wiggling Words*.

Our Reception and Year 1 pupils were

given an exciting exclusive reading of *Wiggling Words* from Kate, which follows the inspiring story about a child lost in a forest of words and their unwavering determination to conquer literacy and decipher the world around them.

The children then had a go at drawing their own illustrations using letters, just like Kate's book, with a selection of the children's work being exhibited at Kate's official book launch in March - five pupils received a special signed copy of *Wiggling Words* from Kate.

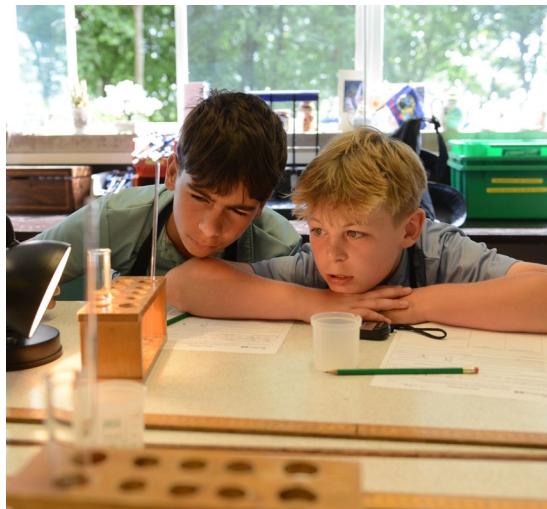
Kate also returned as a guest judge for our annual Poetry by Heart Final - a national poetry speaking competition aimed to inspire and encourage pupils of all ages to embrace and embody poetry, while providing an opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

Our nine Prep School finalists from Upper and Lower Prep showcased their incredible talents by memorising and performing pieces of contemporary poetry and classic sonnets to the school community.

Many of the finalists chose poems by Joshua Seigal, an award-winning professional poet, who visited the Prep School last term for a series of fantastic and immersive poetry workshops.

### **Our Prep School finalists and winners:**

**Year 5:** Rollo L performing 'I Don't Like Poetry', by Joshua Seigal. George W performing 'Don't Get Me Started', by Joshua Seigal.







**Year 6:** Isla W performing 'Airport', by Joshua Seigal. William C performing 'Where I Live', by Joshua Seigal.

**Year 7:** Tilly P performing 'The Mountain', by Laura Ding-Edwards. Teddy P performing 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', by Wilfred Owen.

**Year 8:** Florence M performing 'Mr Kartoffel', by James Reeves. Persey T performing 'King of the Toilets', by Peter Dixon. Amelia T performing 'Backstage', by Joshua Seigal.

**Congratulations to Isla W, winner of the Lower Prep competition and Amelia T, winner of the Upper Prep competition.**

Our Senior School Poetry by Heart Final was judged by Deputy Head (Academic) David Ashton, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular) Catherine Cranmer, Library Graduate Scholar Tessa Hawes, and Year 13 English Ambassador Thea W, our panel scored our finalists based on their power of voice, understanding and theatrical performance.

Our five finalists earned their place in the final after competing in multiple preliminary rounds against a wider group of pupils in Year 10 and 11.

From 1790 works by William Blake, to 21st Century sonnets by Benjamin Zephaniah, the final saw each pupil recite two poems; one published before 1914 and the other published after 1914.

**Our Senior School finalists and winners:**

**Year 10**

Lottie B; performing 'Composed upon Westminster Bridge' by William Wordsworth, and 'Lullaby' by Fatimah Ashar.

Skyla J; performing 'Envy' by Adelaide Anne Procter, and 'Lullaby' by Fatimah Asghar.

Will L; performing 'The Man He Killed' by Thomas Hardy, and 'No Problem' by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Felix Norris performing 'The Tyger' by William Blake, and 'Remains' by Simon Armitage.

**Year 11**

Harriet B; performing 'London' by William Blake, and 'Remains' by Simon Armitage.

This year's competition saw the highest scores achieved in the second half with the poems after 1914, with the average overall score at its highest for many years, however there could only be one winner.

**Our runner up was awarded to Year 11 Harriet B, with Year 10 Felix N being crowned our Poetry by Heart Champion.**

Oracy skills are fundamental to an individual's ability to effectively express themselves, engage in meaningful conversations, and convey their ideas, thoughts, and emotions with clarity, confidence, and persuasiveness.

Developing these abilities in all pupils of all ages remains a key focus of the College's



teaching and learning agenda.

Reading plays a crucial role in developing oracy skills and at the Prep School, fostering a love of literature is always ignited and emphasised by the annual World Book Day.

Our wonderful Prep School pupils let their imaginations run wild for World Book Day 2025 as they transformed into iconic characters from their favourite books.

Pupils and Academic Staff, from Nursery to Year 8, dressed up as inspirational characters from the pages of their most-loved childhood stories – from Harry Potter and Dr Seuss, to Where's Wally and Roald Dahl.

Alongside a fun day of dressing up, the morning saw a fantastic Pre-Loved Book Sale organised by Friends of Framlingham and an afternoon of various literacy activities in the Prep School Library, with our Pre-Prep pupils heading outside in the glorious spring sunshine for a wonderful reading of The Frog and Toad by our Head of Prep Simon Roche.

Launched on 23 April 1995, World Book Day was created to celebrate the importance and value of reading. Its founder, Baroness Gail Rebuck, said: "We wanted to do something to reposition reading, and our message is the same today as it was then – that reading is fun, relevant, accessible, exciting, and has the power to transform lives." Now recognised in over 100 countries, the World Book Day mission aims to promote the fun of reading,

help children develop vocabulary and literacy skills, and to ensure that every child and young person has a book of their own.

## Prep School Enrichment Week 2025

**One of the standout achievements this year was our esteemed Prep School Enrichment Week during which pupils from Nursery to Year 8 had the opportunity to immerse themselves in areas of learning outside of their standard curriculum.**

From June 16 to 20, the halls of our Prep School were abuzz with excitement and energy, with this year's events featuring a wonderful selection of trips, outdoor activities, and classroom workshops that made each day a vibrant learning experience for all.

Under the guidance of our Deputy Head, Dan Jones, the week's programme unfolded, drawing pupils into a world where science, natural history, art and drama intersected with imagination and practical skills.

Starting the week with 'roar-some' adventure, our Year 1 and 2 pupils headed to Roarr! Dinosaur Adventure in Norwich as part of their dinosaur themed week. During an action-packed day at the UK's largest dinosaur park, our pupils became Jurassic explorers searching for all the dino-animatronics through the Valley of The Dinosaurs and picked up their brushes as future palaeontologists in search of fossils.

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We wanted to do something to reposition reading, and our message is the same today as it was then – that reading is fun, relevant, accessible, exciting, and has the power to transform lives.







Back at the Prep School during the rest of the week, the pupils continued learning all about the Jurassic period with a series of wonderful carousel activities, including amber soap making, fossil identification, a mini archaeological dino dig, clay modelling, arts and crafts, and a fossil hunting trip to Bawdsey Beach.

Expanding on their 'Living Things' curriculum, our Year 3 and 4 pupils began the week with pond dipping, in search for the big five – pond snails, water scorpions, water boatman, damsel nymph, and freshwater shrimp – before continuing their water wildlife week in the classrooms, studying life in lakes, rivers and oceans, and creating their own dioramas of the Great Barrier Reef.

Our Year 5 pupils put on their safari hats and became animal adventurers as they explored the 60 acres and over 150 species at Colchester Zoo, kick-starting their week of African Adventures, studying a variety of Sahara species, their habitat, the food web, conservation efforts, and how climate change and human impacts have affected desert life.

After practising their 'swish-and-flick' technique all week, our Year 6 pupils were transported to the wizarding world for a thrilling trip to Harry Potter Studios, where they explored all the magic from the movies; including window shopping along Diagon Alley, adventuring into the Forbidden Forest, stepping into the Great Hall, standing on Platform Nine-and-Three-Quarters, alongside seeing all the wonderful costumes and props from the

films. At the end of the week, they also visited the Senior School science labs for a morning of biology, studying plant life and conducting experiments to see how sunlight effects the rate of photosynthesis.

Our Year 7 pupils had a fantastic day exploring the incredible collection of aviation history at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, home to some of the most famous aircraft in the world, including Lancaster, Spitfire, Hurricane, Concorde and Vulcan. Pupils experienced the evolution of aviation from the early days of flight to the military and technological advancements during the Second World War, through to the future of airspace and conservation projects.

Readyng our eldest Prep pupils for Senior School life and beyond, our Year 8 pupils took part in a fantastic Career's Day, featuring CV workshops, inspirational guest speaker stories of individual success, and advice on how to create your own future pathway. The pupils also expanded their language skills with two brilliant public speaking and performing arts workshops, before closing the week with a taste of DofE in our annual 'Stranded!' activity, having to navigate their way back to Brandeston Hall from an unknown drop off point out in the Suffolk countryside.

We extend our gratitude to the dedicated staff who embraced the week's spirit, and to our pupils whose enthusiasm and participation made the event a testament to the joy of learning at Framlingham College. ■



# ENTREPRENEURIALISM

Recognising the ever-increasing demand for skills in the modern world, Framlingham College continues to find ways to nurture entrepreneurial thinking and skills in our pupils.



**Through a series of innovative initiatives and programs, we are empowering our pupils with the mindset, knowledge and experience needed to thrive as future leaders, and preparing them to tackle real-world challenges and contribute meaningfully to society.**

Kickstarting our 2024/25 academic year, the return of our popular Magazine in a Day project saw Year 10 pupils become editors, journalists, photographers and graphic designers. Whether fashion, sport or travel, our pupils were given complete creative freedom over the type of magazine they produced, whilst learning about target audience analysis and the advertising industry to ensure their content met the needs of their audience. Not only did the pupils have to create their content but also consider how they would advertise their publications for optimal circulation and readership. Prizes up for grabs on the day included Best Concept, Best Design, Best Advert and Best Overall Magazine.

Developing pupils' entrepreneurial thinking is also integrated into the curriculum. In the Summer Term our Year 9 pupils went off timetable for our annual Enterprise Project Day. Putting their business heads on, pupils were split into groups as they teamed up to create a brand-new product for the British market. In an 'Apprentice' inspired format, the Year 9 Enterprise Project Day offers pupils a chance to take part in a hands-on

workshop focusing on strategic business thinking and product innovation.

In groups of three and four, the task was to come up with a brand-new innovative product and create everything they would need in the real world to pitch to potential buyers. From producing a strong business strategy, to eye-catching product design and conducting market research, pupils also had to film an advert before pitching their product to the business department and fellow pupils at the end of the day.

In December, our Senior School academic scholars took to the stage for a thrilling Ethics Cup inspired debate competition.

Launched in 2008 by The London School of Economics and Political Science, The Ethics Cup is a tournament for pupils in Year 11 – 13 in which competing teams battle it out to debate and discuss global ethical issues of public concern.

During our competition, the eight teams each addressed a case study, which they had been independently researching over the past two weeks, with certain criteria they must explore within their debate.

The teams had five minutes to present their case and answers, followed by a two-minute break for the opposing team to confer before a two-minute challenge response.



The judging panel, Deputy Head (Academic), David Ashton, and Graduate Scholar, Tessa Hawes, scored the teams based on qualities of thoughtfulness, insightfulness, and civility.

#### **Some of the topics included:**

##### **A Monthly Subscription to Brutality**

- exploring the spike of true crime documentaries on Netflix and if true crime shows are inherently morally suspect because they treat the harm and suffering of real human beings as a form of entertainment.

**Tears of the Koroks** - analysing violent online gaming behaviour towards friendly 'Korok' characters in the video game The Legend of Zelda, and if there is anything morally wrong with acts of cruelty toward friendly virtual characters who don't actually exist.

**A Phenotypic Prometheus** - exploring the life of Adam Nash 'the world's first saviour sibling' who was conceived through IVF so his umbilical cord stem cells could be harvested to save his sister who was born with a bone marrow disease, and whether 'designer babies' are morally permissible.

**Sartorial Shuffle** - debating the trend of 'thrift flipping'; where people bulk buy from charity shops and transform the clothing items to then re-sell at a higher profit.

**Doomsday Deterrence** - if using nuclear weapons is always wrong, does that on its own guarantee that it is never morally permissible for a state to threaten to use

them or to lead others to believe they will use them?

Congratulations to our two winning teams: Bertie B and Seb B of Team 3, and Edger R, Joe B and Alex S of Team 8 - all pupils received an Amazon Book voucher to purchase challenging reads, interesting works of fiction or research books to support their studies.

Talking about the benefits of The Ethics Cup and our Scholars Programme, Matt Page, Head of Sports Science, PE & Academic Enrichment, said: "Events like this help to challenge and expand pupils' comfort zones by placing them in experiences against opponents they haven't faced before. It also enhances their exposure to other scholars and, as such, different ways of thinking, approaching and presenting problems. We learn a lot through practice and by watching others, so these varied events and competitions provide such a valuable learning experience.

"Our winning teams demonstrated clear collaborative work and strong preparation, evident in their delivery during the debates. They had also thought deeply about each ethical issue, often presenting similar cases or examples to support their arguments, using reliable sources and research to form opinions and to quantify the extent of the problem, maintaining their core objectives through the questioning whilst providing robust responses that showed clarity of thinking under pressure, and challenging their opponents well by bringing in additional lines of thinking or examples to support claims made."

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**Our winning teams demonstrated clear collaborative work and strong preparation, evident in their delivery during the debates.**







The Academic Scholars programme runs over five years from Year 9 to 13 and includes a vast varied range of opportunities, including:

- Access to industry experts and guest speakers, with between 10-15 live lectures across the academic year on a wide range of topics.
- Exciting opportunities for collaborative and independent project work.
- Exclusive competitions and events such

as the Ethics Cup, Poetry By Heart, and Music Concerts.

- 'Dark arts' sessions which provide exclusive insider knowledge from industry experts on a variety of thrilling topics and life skills, from effective public speaking, to debates and politics.
- 'Crash courses', where we explore extra activities that aren't necessarily part of the school curriculum or regular term activities; such as chess strategies, computer coding, and culinary skills.

## NEWS

### Pupils elected as Youth Council representatives

Two pupils from Framlingham College Senior School have been elected as members of the first East Suffolk Youth Council.

Launched this year and comprised entirely of young people from across East Suffolk, the new council was created to ensure the voices and concerns of young people from across our region are heard.

Malachi F, Year 12, and Guy M, Year 11, were the two successful elected candidates from Framlingham College, and they will join the 30 other young electees from across East Suffolk to create the new East Suffolk Youth Council.

Described as an 'innovative initiative

designed to engage young people in politics and enable them to influence decisions affecting their lives and communities', the elections took place ahead of an induction day held at East Suffolk House in Melton on Monday November 18, where the 32 members of the Youth Council were sworn in.

During their induction, Malachi and Guy chose to focus their first priority on improving youth support services in the area, particularly those relating to mental health. The pair also received politics-based training to help them embrace their new roles and understand the structure of council meetings.

Talking about the induction day, Guy said:



"It was so interesting to meet and liaise with the fellow youth councillors during our first induction day. We were able to guide and debate each other on topics which some may have been unfamiliar with and put forward suggestions and changes about current issues the youth of today face.

"As part of the Youth Council, I look forward in bringing about meaningful change to our area and working with my fellow council members to create a well-mannered equitable future for everyone. This generation has a unique perspective and passion to address the issues we face today - we are the leaders of tomorrow."

The youth councillors will set their own priorities, have their own debates and reach their own decisions alongside support from East Suffolk Council to ensure young peoples' voices are heard in council decisions, and to drive real change across the district.

In a statement on the East Suffolk Council website, Cllr Anthony Speca, Chair of East Suffolk Council said: "The East Suffolk Youth

Council is a centrepiece of my Chairship. I'm incredibly proud of our new Youth Councillors who had the courage to stand for election, and the passion to represent their peers and communities. I'm excited for the ideas and energy they'll bring to our local democracy, and I'm looking forward to working with and alongside them."

Catherine Cranmer, Deputy Head Co-Curricular at Framlingham College, said: "We are very pleased to have elected two pupils to be part of the newly-formed East Suffolk Youth Council. The Council is an exciting opportunity for all young people in the area, and we fully support this powerful way of giving them a voice - allowing young people the chance to effect real change is good for us all. Our two Youth Councillors were chosen through a well-attended election, an enjoyable experience which gave the whole pupil body the chance to see democracy in action. As well as having an impact more widely, our two Youth Councillors will be able to benefit personally, learning the skills of negotiation while handling the responsibility of representing their peers."

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**I'm incredibly proud of our new Youth Councillors who had the courage to stand for election, and the passion to represent their peers and communities.**





# SPINE OF SKILLS

At Framlingham College, our philosophy is entirely focused on preparing children for a rapidly changing world.



**We wholeheartedly believe that as a school we have a responsibility not only to support our children in acquiring knowledge, but, as educators, we must diligently cultivate and equip our young people with a versatile skill set that enables them to successfully navigate the complexities of their adult future.**

Developing and nurturing well-rounded and well-prepared individuals is a must for Framlingham College. We want all our pupils to be ready for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter as they step into life beyond our school, emerging from the College as confident, responsible and compassionate young adults who are able to thrive in a dynamic and interconnected society.

## **Navigating AI: Embracing and balancing AI in the classroom**

Since the launch of ChatGPT in 2022, the misconception that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will replace teachers or write pupils

essays for them is now a phobia of the past, and it is crucial that schools now embrace, adapt and balance the use of AI in the classrooms to avoid the risk of falling behind with modern schooling or depriving young people of innovative learning, vital technology awareness and key life skill development.

Following numerous success stories during this last academic year, our use of AI is expanding across our curriculum and beyond - from dictation programmes to support pupils with dyslexia, descriptive writing software to enhance creativity, movement tracking apps in sport to accurately analyse and finesse performance techniques, assisting teachers with planning lessons, to translation apps for our UK and international pupils to communicate and forge friendships.

Talking about our use of AI in classrooms, Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning, Lucy Manning, said: "AI platforms like Sparx Maths and Spelling Shared allow us to tailor education for the needs of individual children. Text-to-talk programmes are incredibly beneficial, particularly for our pupils with dyslexia. At the Prep School, we use creative art tools for pupils to practise using descriptive



words, verbs and adjectives, writing descriptions of dragons and wizards and using AI to bring those images to life. At GCSE level, we use AI to create logos for business studies projects, alongside teaching pupils the ethics of AI so they can identify when AI is assisting in the process of learning and when it is just doing it all for you."

Looking ahead to how we continue to adapt and balance our use of AI, Principal Louise North said: "Schools need to prepare young people for an AI infused world, whether you like it or not, you can't deny its existence, it's out there - but it's not something to fear and we're already using it successfully in the classroom. We of course don't want pupils to use ChatGPT to write their essays because that takes away the opportunity to learn, and our children relish in the chance to learn and conduct independent research - but AI platforms like ChatGPT can help pupils with planning projects, taking notes and structuring revision schedules.

"We are introducing AI steadily throughout our curriculum - a bit like a garden; planting the seeds, watering them and gradually flourishing with our use of AI across the Prep and Senior School. We work closely with our teaching staff to see what works, what doesn't work and what we need to be wary of with the use of AI. We absolutely understand that there needs to be a careful balance with AI as it's not about replacing, it's about enhancing the teaching and the learning experience for all our pupils."

## Outdoor Education: Learning beyond the classroom

The Cadet Combined Force (CCF) at Framlingham College was formed in 1899 and remains an ever-popular extra-curricular activity today. Pupils can join the CCF as recruits in Year 10, before going on to pass the Junior Course by the end of Year 11 and graduating to Lance Corporal or Corporal. The Senior Course in Year 12 allows many to prove themselves worthy of promotion to Sergeant and above. Not only does the CCF play a valuable role in the life and traditions of the school, but also as an educational partnership with the Ministry of Defence.

As a member of the CCF at Framlingham College, our Air Cadets can experience the popular Air Experience Flying and Air Experience Gliding days, while our Army Cadets enjoy Ranger Days and participation in the shooting team.

Led by our Head of Development and Outdoor Education Lt Col. Myers-Allen, and WO2 (SSI) Roy Witham, our CCF continues to flourish, with a plethora of exciting new trips and field days added to the academic calendar. From developing teamwork, communication and strategic thinking with raft building, high rope work, zip lining and field work, to nurturing respect, standards, pride and independence, our CCF allow the cadets to develop skills that are readily transferable to everyday life.

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We are introducing AI steadily throughout our curriculum – a bit like a garden; planting the seeds, watering them and gradually flourishing with our use of AI across the Prep and Senior School.







The start of the Spring Term saw our CCF head to Rock Barracks for an exhilarating hands-on training exercise at MoD Woodbridge. Combining both Army and Air Cadets, our CCF enjoyed a two fantastic days of assault courses and shooting practise.

In May, our Year 11 cadets received their promotions and prizes during our JNCO Passing Out Parade celebrations.

And finally, June saw the return of our every popular Field Weekend at RAF Barnham in Thetford with the cadets putting their skills into practice and successfully completing a series of team-building challenges.

Alongside CCF, our extensive Duke of Edinburgh participation, and newly-launched Junior Duke Awards at the Prep School, offers all our pupils the opportunity to develop a wide range of different skills and nurture essential qualities, including softer skills such as kindness, compassion and empathy which, developed from an early age, places pupils ahead of other children who are solely focused on an academic journey.

This year, our Senior School pupils completed an incredible 2,548 volunteering hours as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Presented with our official 'Duke of Edinburgh Youth Without Limits' certificate by Ruth Marvel OBE, Chief Executive of Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards, the total social value of these hours totalled

an incredible £16,306.

From hosting coffee mornings, tending to the Framlingham Community Garden, delivering food bank hampers, working charity shop shifts, litter picking, community dog walking and more – volunteering at Framlingham showcases the kindness, compassion and dedication of our school community.

The DofE programme at Framlingham College is one of our greatest strengths and plays an intrinsic part in the co-curricular programme to develop key life skills, equipping our pupils with the knowledge, confidence and empowerment to take on their adult world, reach their full potential and make a positive impact on society.

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award symbolises an extraordinary level of determination, resilience, and a strong sense of social responsibility. Those who achieve the award never fail to reference the invaluable experiences gained through volunteering, physical activities, skills development and expeditions that have shaped them into well-rounded individuals.

Head of Development and Outdoor Education, Martin Myers-Allen has led the charge on College DofE achievements for over a decade. He said: "Almost every member of Framlingham College will achieve at least one DofE award. We enjoy a success rate of three times the national average and we are the most prolific school on a per-capita basis in the eastern region.



“Achieving a Gold Award isn’t a competition or about being first or being the best. It’s about our young people setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

“As the DofE website declares; by participating in the scheme, youngsters have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications. These are all very compelling reasons to take part in DofE and we have a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who create an environment that makes that happen here. They join, they thrive and they succeed.”

## Prepared for life: Thinking beyond the curriculum

Ensuring that every child leaves school ready to establish their place in an adult society is imperative. At Framlingham College, our focus is on understanding, guiding and inspiring our pupils, particularly our Sixth Form cohort, to find their voice, discover talents, grow confidence, unearth self-belief, and challenge themselves to achieve more than they thought possible.

Through our diverse curriculum, intimate

class sizes, individualised ethos and vibrant activity program, we inspire curiosity and critical thinking - equipping our pupils with the tools to thrive in an ever-changing world.

With our plethora of clubs, pupils can feel assured as they venture into adult life. From learning first aid and CPR with our MedSoc club, to enhancing public speaking and debating skills with the Politics Society, understanding global issues with our MUN Club, raising awareness of climate change with our Sustainability Committee, or even something as simple as knowing how to re-attached a button on their school blazer with our Sewing Club – the skills gained from these helps to ignite every pupil’s self-confidence.

Our unique, tailored timetable structure helps support pupils’ personal goals and foster organisational skills. Every pupil has a free period after lunch between 13:45 and 14:30 every Wednesday, giving pupils’ the freedom of choice - whether they chose to use this time to invest in their academics, friendships, wellbeing or physical health, this helps to foster independent thinking, self-development and the responsibility to prioritise personal commitments.

Our dedicated partnerships with local businesses and alumni continue to grow, with our school calendar abundant with guest speakers and industry experts. By drawing on passions and expertise from our staff, alumni and external connections, we can bring a diverse

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Achieving a Gold Award isn't a competition or about being first or being the best. It's about our young people setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.







plethora of life knowledge to pupils so that when they do leave, they leave us as inspired young adults ready to embrace challenge and make a difference.

Some of our most notable guest speakers over the last academic year were; 'Managing Finances' with our Head of Mathematics Ian McLean, 'Navigating an AI Future' with James Duez CEO of Rainbird Technologies, 'Preparing for Life Events' with Team GB Olympian Sophie McKinna, 'Identifying Negative Relationships' with domestic abuse liaison officer Paula DeVaux, 'Online Safety Masterclass' with Karl Hopwood, 'Understanding Racism' with Jemma Roye founder of Let's Start A Conversation, and 'The Clothing Lifecycle' with Caroline Smithston design director for Emilia Wickstead.

Our unique Extended Learning Programme (ELP) focusses on developing essential micro-skills, from road safety and car maintenance for pupils learning to drive, to self-defence and cooking classes.

From support in investigating future pathways and developing aspirations beyond the College grounds, to informative talks to help pupils prepare and deal with future unchartered scenarios, our Sixth Form ELP equips our young people not only with knowledge, but also the confidence and skills necessary for future success.

Early in the ELP, pupils spend time with their staff support networks investigating

and unleashing the potential of the UniFrog platform. This platform aims to help young people discover and apply for the best opportunities for them beyond school, whilst also assisting teachers and counsellors to manage the careers guidance process.

The UniFrog mission is to level the playing field when it comes to pupils' post-school destinations, bringing together every step of the process; from students exploring their interests and recording their skills, to finding and comparing apprenticeships and university courses, and submitting applications.

This year, we introduced an additional career advisor role alongside our in-house Oxbridge co-ordinator and UCAS advisors, with career aptitude testing, CV workshops, and interview practise provided to support all pupils with their route map beyond Framlingham.

At Framlingham we fully believe that everyone has the potential to be a leader, so our exceptional leadership programme is designed to do just that, making sure that leadership opportunities are experienced by all pupils, not just the chosen few. From being a Wellbeing Ambassador, House Prefect, Subject Ambassador, Charity Committee member or School Councillor. In these roles, pupils have a voice on real world topics and a responsibility to bring about effective, lasting change at Framlingham College.

At the Prep School, the development of a cross-curricular approach across



Key Stages 1-3 has been an important initiative for the College over the last year. Prep School Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator, Lucy Manning has been instrumental, along with Department Heads, in initiating this change.

Lucy Manning explains: "A cross-curricular approach to education offers pupils a multifaceted and enriching learning experience. By integrating different subject areas, pupils can connect knowledge and skills across disciplines, fostering a deeper understanding of real-world applications. This approach encourages critical thinking as pupils can explore topics from multiple angles, promoting problem-solving abilities that transcend the boundaries of individual subjects, and enhancing children's ability to collaborate effectively, as they learn to communicate and work with peers who bring diverse perspectives to the table."

In addition, the College's 7-9 curriculum allows freedom to find overlap between subjects and 'join the dots' with cross-curricular work, which in turn means the world is presented in a much more cohesive way for pupils and encourages a deeper love of learning. Interwoven within academic subjects are themes allocated by term. Themes such as identity, conflict, global citizenship and innovation are designed to help our pupils develop into outward-looking global citizens. They provide an overarching focus for the term and a connection between subjects, giving pupils the opportunity to explore a topic from a variety of angles.

Each theme is reinforced by a set of thought-provoking inquiry questions, to challenge pupils' thinking and draw on their knowledge from across the curriculum to answer bigger questions, such as 'What makes me unique?' and 'Why is our own cultural identity important?'.

During the academic year, pupils also create an ePortfolio. This digital portfolio provides them with a place to set targets, collect evidence of their progress, and helps them to develop the skills to become reflective learners. By acknowledging areas in which they are excelling, areas that need further development, and setting personal targets, pupils take increased ownership of their learning, becoming more autonomous and self-motivated.

Now in its third season, the 'Framlingham College: In Conversation' podcast continues to thrive and provides our pupils with a platform to develop self-confidence and pupil voice.

Notable pupil-led episodes in 2024/25 included 'Creating Your Own Story' with record-breaking adventurer and mountaineer Squash Falconer, 'Brain Day' with Dr Guy Sutton, and a special EDI series called 'Is It Okay To Say...'.

We look forward to many more episodes being driven and delivered by our pupils, allowing them to explore areas of personal interest, express their views and help to educate others on key topics.

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**A cross-curricular approach to education offers pupils a multifaceted and enriching learning experience.**





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Children grow in character, and Ignite enhances their breadth of experience in a way that supplements all the fantastic learning that happens during the week.





## Ignite Programme

This year saw the launch of our Ignite Programme – a new Saturday morning enrichment programme to encourage pupils to BeActive, BeAdventurous, BeCreative, BeConfident and BeCurious.

Designed with children's growth and exploration in mind, the Ignite programme offers an array of exciting activities that provide a dynamic, child-led, learning environment to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, build confidence and cultivate a spirit of adventure.

Available for children from Year 2 to Year 8, each week included a two-hour BeActive session at our outstanding sports facilities at the Senior School which aimed to enhance children's athletic abilities and instil the importance of physical fitness and mental health, followed by a hand-picked activity inspired by the four Ignite 'Flames': BeAdventurous, BeCreative, BeConfident and BeCurious.

From rocket building to our indoor climbing wall, robotics, culinary challenges and coastal adventures, the variety of Ignite activities provides children with engaging STEM projects to develop critical thinking, enhance creativity, embrace the wonders of outdoor learning, and to embark on a journey of self-discovery and personal growth, all while gaining a strong set of real-world skills.

Our first session was an incredible success, with a fully booked programme of 82 pupils from our Prep School and

surrounding schools joining us for BeActive hockey and rugby coaching, followed by our BeAdventurous Survival Safari, which included bushcraft skills, campfire cooking, woodland necklace and flag making and team building.

Prep School Deputy Head, Daniel Jones, said: "We were delighted to welcome over 80 children through our doors, from both the Prep School and our local community for our first Ignite session.

"Enrichment programmes like Ignite play a crucial role in the holistic education of children. Through our Saturday Ignite sessions, children can be children and have the opportunity to be active, adventurous, curious, creative and grow in confidence.

"During the BeActive segment of the Ignite Programme, children benefit from expert sports coaching from our Head of Hockey, Lisa Letchford (Team GB Beijing 2008), Head of Rugby, Will Cotterill, alongside our experienced team of sports mentors.

"The sports session is then followed by a themed activity, specifically selected to allow children to develop additional skills such as teamwork, independence, creativity, adaptability, perseverance and much more. Children grow in character, and Ignite enhances their breadth of experience in a way that supplements all the fantastic learning that happens during the week. We look forward to growing the programme and offering more to further benefit the pupils of Framlingham College and beyond." ■



# GLOBAL CITIZEN

In today's interconnected world, nurturing our young people to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility to the broader global community is not just an educational aspiration, it's a necessity.



**In an era marked by international collaboration, cultural diversity, and pressing global challenges, equipping our pupils with the knowledge, skills and mindset needed to actively engage with and address pressing global challenges is essential.**

Across the academic year, pupils of all ages have taken part in a variety of initiatives and events aimed at promoting a culture of global awareness, thereby empowering them to be responsible, compassionate and engaged citizens of the world, ready to contribute to a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable global community.

Across all aspects of school life, we look to incorporate diverse perspectives into the curriculum, encourage open dialogue on global issues, and facilitate opportunities for cross-cultural experiences such as exchange programmes and international partnerships.

Throughout the 2024/25 academic year, Framlingham College welcomed new pupils from Spain, Germany, Lithuania, Serbia, Cayman Islands, Bermuda, USA, China and Kenya.

Our school community is greatly enhanced by the different cultures, religions, and perspectives each pupil brings with them,

and we are so proud to have such a diverse population and that all our pupils leave us with a greater understanding of, and respect for, the world's community.

One of the exciting parts of the Framlingham College experience for overseas pupils is being placed in a boarding house where they will live and connect with pupils from a range of backgrounds and make friends for life.

Integrating our international pupils into College life is extremely important. Every effort is made to ensure that all pupils feel the same sense of belonging and feel part of a caring, close-knit community when they join the school. There is an International Pupil Representative in each House to provide peer support with wellbeing, a buddy system to help pupils during their first weeks here to understand school rules, navigate the campus and get a better understanding of the daily flow of the school, and a dedicated International Pupil Prefect – often an international pupil themselves – who is responsible for ideas about integrating and embracing the cultures of our international pupils into daily life at Framlingham.

Our international boarders enjoy sharing the traditions important to them, and we showcase our support through celebrations in assembly, special chapel







services, and by bringing those traditions into the boarding houses so our UK boarders can learn more of the world around them.

At the start of the academic year, we saw the return of our cultural fair as pupils at the Senior School celebrated International Languages Day 2025 with an incredible immersive multi-language showcase.

Officially launched by UNESCO in 1999, International Languages Day has grown in popularity with events and celebrations taking place all over the world, with 2025 celebrated as its Silver Jubilee year, the event aims to promote the awareness, preservation and protection of all languages used by all peoples of the world through education, the arts, sciences, and culture.

Starting the day with a language business breakfast in the Fowler Pavilion, pupils attended a drop-in session to hear from multi-lingual guest speakers and industry professionals to inspire pupils with all the opportunities that learning a language can offer. Our guest speakers included an international insurance broker, a diplomat who worked in Iran and a parent whose ability to speak Spanish allowed them to expand their business abroad.

Our Year 9 pupils were given an insight into how languages are vital in the world of sport during an inspiring webinar with Futbol Lingo co-founder and director, Pierce Kiembi, whose ability to speak five languages has taken him to UEFA and coach Premier League football teams.

The main event of the day was in Paul's Court where pupils were challenged to order dessert in a different language, followed by our 'Great International Bake-Off', where pupils and staff went head-to-head to create tasty international desserts and incredible cultural delicacies, all judged by Jamie Hutchinson from Framlingham based dessert company, Hilton Macarons. The final showstoppers included French Macarons, Spanish Espanolotas Aragonesas biscuits and a Belgian chocolate Oreo cake, but it was Mrs Solomons with her South African Peppermint Tart who was crowned 'Star Baker'.

Our language assistants and language ambassadors were also on hand with a plethora of language mini games and speaking competitions, from 'pin the flag on the country', word searches, puzzles and timed translations.

Year 13 pupil and French Subject Ambassador, Edger R, said: "I chose to do French A-Level because I really enjoyed French at GCSE, and I was keen to move on to more complex language progression and topics in French. A language A-Level covers so many different subjects, such as politics, sociology, philosophy and geography, that I really wanted to add to my already rather broad subject choices.

"Being able to speak a foreign language really expands the world available to you, from different cultures, information, resources and ideas. Once you know a conversational level of a language, you become so much more dynamic, and the

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For those who are considering taking a language at A-Level, my advice would be to just go for it and fully embrace the opportunity.





idea of travelling becomes less daunting.

“The value of languages doesn’t have to come from having precise plans to use them, so my main advice for those that want to study a language at A-Level is to enjoy the learning process, embrace the wide variety of content covered, and be open minded to its possibilities.”

Year 13 pupil, Head of Stradbroke and Spanish Subject Ambassador, Oli N, said: “Having previously lived in Spain, choosing A-Level Spanish was a very easy choice for me. I was fortunate enough to already know the foundations of the language when I attended an International School there, and I was excited for the opportunities that were available from knowing a foreign language – from job placements abroad in Spain or South America, travelling on my gap year or doing a study abroad placement year at university.

“Learning a language allows you to expand your skills of interaction, communication, and culture. It’s invaluable in the opportunities that it can create for you, from friendships and networking to further study and your career. For me, my plans are to take Spanish with me to university, where I hope to study Politics and International Relations alongside Spanish in the hope that it allows me to develop not only my entrepreneurship skills, but to also advance my speaking and understanding of the Spanish language.

“For those who are considering taking a language at A-Level, my advice would

be to just go for it and fully embrace the opportunity. The level of support I have received at Framlingham College has been immense compared to other schools – there is always someone there to support you and the smaller class sizes offers a more personable lesson experience.

“The step up from GCSE to A-Level can be difficult, but stick with it, even if you find it hard or struggle with it for a couple weeks, do not give it up. Don’t be afraid of making mistakes, you’re learning, and people still greatly appreciate it when you make the effort to speak their languages and won’t mind if you make a minor error. I’m very excited for what the future holds and where my Spanish can take me, so have fun and immerse yourself in culture.”

International holidays continue to be celebrated, respected and acknowledged across the school throughout the academic year, from Easter to Lunar New Year. With 2025 as the Year of the Snake, our Prep School pupils had the chance to learn about Chinese history and culture with art, crafts, stories, and music. In the dining hall, the catering team created a brilliant menu of Asian cuisine, with the Senior School Library hosting author spotlights featuring Chinese-born authors.

For pupils studying modern foreign languages and international politics, this academic year hosted a number of immersive learning experiences, including our partnership with the Model United Nations (MUN).

In November, our Year 12 pupils headed to



Spain to take part in the MUN Conference at IE University in Madrid. During the four-day conference, delegates from around the world were in attendance to showcase their diplomatic, negotiating, and leadership skills. Within the six different committees, pupils took part in passionate debates on very present issues in the ever-changing world of today – including the European Council's 'stability in the Balkans', UNICEF's 'access to education in conflict zones' and the World Health Organization's 'response to global pandemics'.

Following on from the trip to Spain, our pupils joined our friends at Felsted for the Spring 2025 Model United Nations Conference. Representing Switzerland and Columbia, our pupils addressed and debated key global issues including conflict, health, and politics.

By participating in MUN conferences, pupils can expand their knowledge and skills of independent political research, helping to develop their confidence in public speaking, debating and analytical skills.

Talking about the importance of the MUN in schools, Wayne Rogers, Teacher of Psychology, said: "We are very excited to have recruited more pupils from Year 9 to Year 12 who are all eager to take part in MUN. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to build on confidence, improve analytical skills, practise improvisation, take an extensive look at real world problems, and create peaceful resolutions."

## A-Level Geography Trip to Iceland

In the Autumn Term, our Sixth Form pupils travelled to Iceland as they explored its fascinating landscape of volcanoes, geysers, hot springs and lava fields.

Landing at Keflavik airport, our A-Level Geography pupils' Icelandic adventure began immediately. Driving through lava fields and craters to the Bridge Between Continents (a 15-metre footbridge spanning a fissure between Eurasian and North American tectonic plates) to reach their accommodation under the Northern Lights.

During the next five days, pupils visited the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Station for an interactive tour of the world's sixth largest geothermal power plant, witnessed spouting hot springs including 'Strokkur' – one of the natural wonders – used ice equipment during their Glacier Walk at Sólheimajökull, and got up close to Iceland's three most popular waterfalls; Gullfoss, Seljalandsfoss and Skógarfoss.

Year 13 pupil, Head Boy, and Geography Subject Ambassador, Archie M, said: "The highlight of the trip was our walk on the Sólheimajökull glacier. We were fully kitted out with crampons and ice axes, and it was fascinating to see these geographical features first hand."

"In Year 13 we study tectonics, and Iceland is one of the best places to explore

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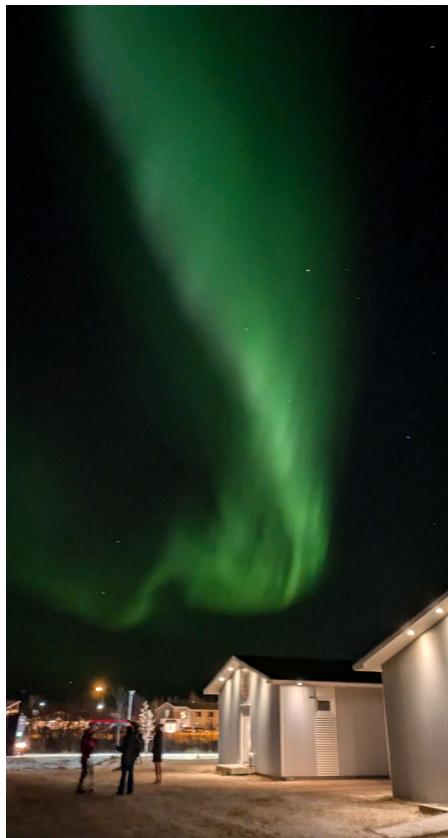


these geographical features. Created 16 million years ago from the Eurasian and North American plates splitting, in geological terms the landform is still very young. Having the opportunity to see, feel and explore volcanic craters, plate boundaries and geothermal power stations really bolsters our studies and helps us to visualise things more easily when conducting research back in the classroom.

“My advice for those in Year 11 who are interested in taking Geography at A-Level would be to go for it. Geography has such a wide range of topics, from human aspects of de-industrialisation and the governance of oceans, to how an ice age will affect sea levels – the variety of this A-Level allows everyone to explore all things global.”

Talking about the trip, Head of Geography, Edward Newman, said: “Iceland is the perfect place to see a wide range of other-worldly physical geography landforms, from glaciers and waterfalls to lava tunnels and geysers – all of which coincides with the units studied at A-Level and the pupils will use several of these as case studies in exams.

“Geography is all about studying and making sense of the world, and visits like this brings these topics to life, something which could be quite abstract when studied only in the classroom. Iceland is so unique with the number of awe-inspiring locations so close together, and we look forward to our visit again in October 2026.”





## A-Level Art History trip to Florence

In the Spring Term, our Sixth Form pupils travelled to Florence to visit the homes of world-famous masterpieces.

Our Year 13 pupils fully immersed themselves in the plethora of Tuscan culture, history, art and architecture as part of their current Art History A-Level studies on the renaissance period.

During the four day trip, pupils explored the Accademia gallery (home of Michelangelo's David) and the Uffizi gallery (home of Botticelli's The Birth of Venus).



visited the Cathedral Santa Maria del Fiore where they climbed the 463 steps to the top for a spectacular view over Florence's historic buildings and terracotta rooftops, before crossing the Ponte Vecchio bridge for some shopping and to sample some delicious authentic Pizza Margherita.

Year 13 pupil, Nina C, said: "One of the highlights of the trip to Florence was definitely the climb to the top of Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore - it delivered incredible views of this beautiful city, and we were all able to fully experience and immerse ourselves in Italian culture.

"The artwork in the Uffizi gallery was truly incredible and it was amazing to see all these famous pieces up close. Botticelli's pieces had to be the highlight of the gallery for me, they were so impressive compared to just seeing them in books, and it really brought to life everything we have been learning in lessons. Actively visiting these historic landmarks, galleries and museums for yourself really helps to bolster your knowledge and your confidence in essay writing.

"Art History A-Level requires you to have a strong interest in art and visiting galleries, so if that's something you are passionate about then I would definitely encourage others to take this in Sixth Form - the curriculum has been fascinating and I'm so glad I chose it." ■

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# ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

Pupils from across both the Prep and Senior School have worked hard this year to shine a spotlight on key environmental challenges and to educate all pupils on the many essential actions required to support the planet.



**Driven by a passionate group of eco-conscious pupils and staff, in April we hosted a fantastic Eco Week, featuring guest speakers, activities and hands-on environmental projects to raise awareness of the current climate crisis.**

The week was an opportunity to showcase the school's sustainable values and encouraged everyone to get involved with conversations about the future of our planet, and how we can be more eco-conscious, collectively and as individuals.

Head of Geography, Edward Newman, said: "Eco Week gives both the Prep and Senior School pupils a chance to reflect on and develop their awareness of the environment and sustainability practices. Sustainability is now a hugely influential factor for businesses and our personal lives. Green jobs are increasing, and to meet our environmental targets we must engage and actively encourage each other to make changes across all aspects of life."

Starting the week with a special Chapel service on sustainability, our school prefects highlighted key climate issues, such as the plastic problem, fast fashion, the aviation industry, greenhouse gases and deforestation, and suggested small changes which we can all make to support our planet.

At the Prep School, our Year 4 pupils welcomed Sarah Clarke from FCC Environment, one of the UK's leading waste management companies, who spoke about the different types of recycled materials, how to identify them, what can and can't be recycled, the recycling processes, and the importance of recycling.

The pupils also observed how the SUEZ energy-from-waste facility in Suffolk turns our black bin waste into enough energy to power 40,000 homes, and exploring the journey that our recycled materials go on to create new products - from transforming tin cans into car parts and plastic bottles into cuddly toys.

Following on from this, our Year 8 pupils actually visited the facility for themselves, having the chance to get hands on experience on the factory floor to help sort materials and understand how energy is created, before hopping on the electric bikes to create their own electricity with the SUEZ Energy Bike Challenge, taking part in a waste-free virtual shopping challenge and writing their own eco-friendly pledges for a sustainable future.

In the Summer Term, our Year 5 pupils were delighted to welcome Charlie Smith from the Born Free Foundation for a brilliant Wildlife Conservation workshop on the life of the African Lion.



As part of their humanities curriculum, our pupils learnt about African Lion behaviour, their habitat, the food web, conservation efforts, and how climate change and human impacts have affected their population numbers. Together, our pupils created wonderful habitat drawings, closing with a brilliant 'Claws vs Whiskers' pop-quiz to test their knowledge on African Lion facts.

In February, the annual Senior School Energy Saving Competition challenged our pupils to consider the impact collective efforts of reducing energy consumption can have on carbon saving. All seven boarding houses embraced the competition this year, and saw pupils encouraging each other to turn off lights, switch off plug sockets when not in use, and avoiding standby options on TVs and computers.

Maintaining the environmental credibility of the College grounds continues to be prioritised, with huge efforts by the experienced and highly knowledgeable grounds team to create re-wilding areas within the College's 100 acres. Projects such as the decommissioning of the golf course and conscious efforts to rewild the grass, newly adopted path-cutting patterns, and multiple areas left to naturally reseed have allowed us to create wildlife-friendly habitats and nurture the natural biodiversity of our grounds, ensuring many insects and animals are able to thrive.

Within these areas of renewed natural richness, our Senior School beehives continue to thrive and flourish, and are now

a key factor in productivity and learning. More pupils across the College have been able to engage with the hives and learn about the important role bees play in the global food production system and their contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

Our Prep School pupils continue to utilise the opportunity to get hands on with the College bees, which are living case studies for Prep School biology and environmental workshops. In June, Year 4 had a fantastic morning getting suited up and hands-on with our resident honeybees, which coincided with their current science topic, Living Things. The pupils explored what life is like for a bee inside a hive, how honey is made and harvested, and learnt about the life cycle, the hierarchy within the colony, and the behaviour of these fascinating, often misunderstood, creatures.

Preserving the quality of our grounds and the local areas surrounding both our school sites includes ensuring they are clear of as much litter as possible to reduce harm to wildlife and ecosystems. Educating our pupils on the impact of litter is crucial to safeguarding the long-term health and sustainability of our natural surroundings.

Our younger pupils have also been enhancing their horticultural knowledge, improving the school's green credentials through the ongoing development of our community gardens.

Our Prep School Gardening Club has been particularly successful in its endeavours, this year being recognised at the Suffolk

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**Eco Week gives both the Prep and Senior School pupils a chance to reflect on and develop their awareness of the environment and sustainability practices.**





ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS





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I am so proud of every member of the club. Our pupils have been actively involved in various gardening activities for the past few years, showing immense dedication, skill and teamwork.





Show for their spectacular Alice in Wonderland themed miniature garden. Launched in 2015, the Schools Show Garden Competition at the Suffolk Show gives schools the opportunity to design and build a 1.5m x 1m show garden to reflect a theme which is different every year. Designed and driven by the proactive pupils in the Gardening Club, the pupils began working on the garden at the start of the Summer Term. The display featured topsy-turvy pots of red roses and white daisies, all grown at Brandeston.

Overseeing the Gardening Club and Head of Early Years at the Prep School, Jo Drury, said: "I am so proud of every member of the club. Our pupils have been actively involved in various gardening activities for the past few years, showing immense dedication, skill and teamwork. We have continued big plans for the school garden and what we can achieve in the future to support the school's eco credentials. We would love to see more of our pupils join the club and reap the benefits."

## NEWS

### **The importance of outdoor education** (as published by *Absolutely Education*)

Set within 23 acres of rolling Suffolk countryside and big blue open skies, Framlingham College Prep School offers pupils the space and freedom to play, explore and learn.

We believe that children learn best through

play and exploration, first with their hands, then with their hearts to make an emotional connection with their discoveries, and then using their heads to think creatively and critically. This 'hands, heart, head' learning approach, allows children to explore independently and make links in their learning.

Throughout the academic year, our aim is to bolster our entire curriculum by encouraging classroom learning to be taken outside – no matter what subject or age of pupils – from our Year 6 to 8 pupils learning camping skills and woodland crafts in our Forest School, to biology lessons with our College Beehives for our Year 4 and 5 pupils, to nature walks, insect counts and pond dipping for our Early Years children – all of which allows children to appreciate nature, grow in confidence and independence, and develop a greater respect and understanding of the world around us.

We also put sustainability at the forefront of our agenda, and since 2021 our Prep School pupils have planted 420 trees across our grounds in partnership with the Woodland Trust, creating beautiful hedgerows to support habitats for Suffolk wildlife which our children can then study and learn about.

There are lots of physical benefits of outdoor learning, from improving motor skills, exercise and boosting vitamin D levels, but spending time in nature also helps lower anxiety and offers a calmness to our pupils' day.



For some, learning can be daunting, but our pupils mainly foster curiosity rather than fear when it comes to the great outdoors. Outside of the often-overwhelming, pressurised walls of a classroom setting, pupils feel free to ask questions without fear, to speak openly without anxiety. With some activities, like our beehives or campfire lighting, many pupils are understandably apprehensive, but with our 'fostering curiosity' approach,

our pupils are taught to be open minded, respectful and identify risks, all while learning in a safe and secure environment.

Overall, outdoor learning and exploring nature provides important opportunities in a child's future development, to experience new challenges, build resilience, awake imagination, understand self-awareness, boost self-esteem and to nurture a love of learning. ■









# CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The College's consistent display of creativity throughout the year reinforces our reputation for providing a diverse range of artistic opportunities and outlets, which both enhances the personal growth and self-expression of individual pupils, and strengthens the school community as a whole.



**This commitment to creativity at Framlingham College cultivates innovative thinkers and confident individuals and empowers pupils to explore their passions, take risks, and express themselves freely.**

Whether it's celebrating individual accomplishments or witnessing exceptional group achievements, this year has showcased the abundant creative potential within our pupil body and proved Framlingham College is a place where creativity flourishes, and where young minds are inspired to reach their fullest potential.

Our Scholars' programmes across Design and Technology (D&T), Art, Drama, and Music allows talented individuals to explore their artistic abilities and offers pupils a platform to act as ambassadors for their subject. Scholars serve as exemplary beacons of creative prowess, illuminating the talent pathway for their peers across the school. The quality of their work not only demonstrates the depth of creativity at Framlingham College, but also acts as a powerful source of inspiration to fellow pupils.

Throughout the year, our Art Scholars explored a variety of work from world renowned artists during our fantastic

Autumn Term art scholar workshops. Starting off in October with the first art scholars workshop of the academic year, our pupils transformed an upcycled wooden dining chair into a vibrant piece of statement furniture inspired by the Bloomsbury group. Working together, while still showcasing their individual art style, the piece featured a kaleidoscope of colours, alongside polka dots, stripes and dainty flowers.

Following a trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum, in November our art scholars created wooden postcards inspired by a piece of art which resonated with them the most during the visit. From 18th century George Stubbs, Pierre-Auguste Renoir landscapes and Glenn Ligon political pieces, pupils used their unique art styles to pay homage to their favourite artist.

Lastly, in December for our final workshop before Christmas break, our pupils were inspired by the works of Sandra Blow – one of the pioneers of the British abstract art movement. Using a variety of brushes of different sizes and bristle textures, alongside scrapers and scalpels, our pupils started small creating personal micro-detailed works, before collaborating in groups to generate an immense statement piece of abstract artwork.



## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS







Inspirational trips for pupils studying Art and D&T are abundant in our school calendar, from our annual trip to Florence to explore the Accademia and Uffizi galleries (home of Michelangelo's David and Botticelli's The Birth of Venus) to termly visits to London's Tate Modern, the V&A, and Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum, to life drawing classes at The Old Jet studios in Suffolk.

For our DT pupils, trips this year included Adastral Park, home to some of the UK's best high-tech telecommunication companies and the hub of BT's innovation labs, and Cambridge Centre of Computing History, to explore the incredible collection of tech from the past decades. From cybercrime to 5G development and 3D holograms, pupils were able to get hands-on and explore how the exciting future of technology can innovate our health, home, retail and space exploration experiences, and learn how iconic brands, like Apple, Microsoft and Nintendo have developed.

At the end of the academic year, the wider College community eagerly awaited the opportunity to see all the incredible creative works by our Year 13 and Year 11 pupils across Art and D&T. This year the quality of work on display in our End of Year Exhibition did not disappoint. It was clear from the range of wonderful pieces on display that each and every pupil had worked incredibly hard across their years of study. They are all commended and congratulated for their efforts.

Art and D&T are key specialist subjects

taught throughout the school and a real source of creative exploration, especially for our younger children. Many of our Prep School pupils have produced some outstanding work this year. In Years 4 and 5, lessons are a mixture of Art and D&T projects, allowing the children to gain confidence in their creative abilities from the very start of their Lower Prep journey. From Year 6, the subjects are taught separately and allow the pupils to further enhance their subject knowledge and hone their talents in both the art room and the design workshop.

Taking to the stage this year, our Year 3 to 6 Prep School pupils showcased their acting skills throughout the Autumn Term, with Christmas production rehearsals starting in earnest as soon as the term commenced. This year the children had the task of transporting audiences into the wonderful wintery world of Charlie Mackesy during our Prep School Christmas Production of The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse.

Inspired by the beloved books and animated series, this enchanting musical take on a story of friendship, courage, hope, and self-discovery was brought to life by our fantastic cast, alongside our amazing woodwind ensemble.

Cameron T (Year 5) played the 'Boy', portraying a real sense of a young soul searching for meaning in a vast and sometimes confusing world.

Charlie P (Year 5) as the 'Mole' brought warmth and humour to the stage, with a performance of endearing charm.









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Farce is an extremely difficult genre to produce – it has to be slick, fast paced but with incredible timing, and these young pupils certainly pulled this off to a very high standard.





The 'Fox', played by Harry A (Year 5), was both dignified and honest – demonstrating how the character changes through a single act of kindness.

Rose W's (Year 5) portrayal of the 'Horse' showcased a graceful presence, providing calm reassurance and steadfastness for those around her.

Meanwhile, our many woodland creatures from Year 4 and 5 brought Mackesy's magical world to life, with wonderful choral singing, contemporary dance, poignant storytelling and poetic narration.

A special mention to all performers in the smaller roles who brought their characters to life with flair and individuality: CJ M (Year 5) as the 'Robin', Evelyn H-D (Year 5) as the 'Red Squirrel', Rollo L (Year 5) as the 'Snowy Owl', Elizabeth P (Year 5) as the 'Worm', Anais O (Year 5) as the 'Snail', Jess L (Year 4) as the 'Raven' and Cecily C (Year 4) as the 'Spider'.

Year 3 represented the transformative elements of nature – including snow, storms and stars – with their physical theatre solos and group performances.

The music, under the brilliant direction of Prep School Head of Music, Kathryn Lines, featured Deputy Head Daniel Jones on drums, alongside our pupil woodwind ensemble; Louis R (Year 8), Gladys T-L (Year 7) and Emilia A (Year 8).

A huge well done to our pupil tech team, Amelia T (Year 8), Florence M (Year 8),

Millie M (Year 8) and Tilly P (Year 7) and our Theatre Technician Steph Coxall for their amazing lighting and sound work to ensure every scene transitioned seamlessly, and to our Assistant Housemaster, Kieran Wilson, alongside Theatre Technician, Tom Howard, for their incredible set design.

A special thanks to Head of Drama and director, Victoria Charles-Saker, for creating such a wonderful show. Most noticeably, this was a production about kindness told by our pupils who believe in its transformative power. Mackesy's imagery already adorns the walls of Framlingham College Prep School, and its messaging is deep rooted in our culture. To have that visually represented before us, and spoken by our children, was a truly magical experience for all.

At our Senior School, the cast of our Senior School Christmas Production, *See How They Run!* was praised for their 'amazing talent' and 'brilliant comedic timing' by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA).

Set in an English vicarage in the 1940's, *See How They Run!* is a typically British farce with timeless fast paced slapstick comedy, impossibly hilarious situations and mistaken identities.

Attending our closing night performance on December 6, Catherine Dixey, NODA East Representative, said: "Farce is an extremely difficult genre to produce – it has to be slick, fast paced but with incredible timing, and these young pupils certainly pulled this off to a very high standard.



"The scene opened with Ida the maid (played by Margot S) – a delightful character who keeps up her Cockney accent throughout. Margot gives an impressive performance of a very determined, strong young lady who won't be pushed around by anyone and ends up hauling one of the characters across the stage and bundles her into the wardrobe. Miss Skillon played by Darcy G is that character – a teetotal, flower arranging spinster who spends much of her onstage time flat out, either intoxicated or being knocked out. Darcy is totally believable during the scene she is hauled around the stage.

"Lucia S-L is the Reverend's wife, Penelope Toop – an excitable, dramatic, character which comes across totally naturally. She becomes exasperated trying to sort out misunderstandings, but the lies and deception get tangled up with the truth, leaving everyone totally confused.

"Daniel B is extremely well cast as The Reverend Toop, as he attempts to keep up their image as a respectable couple in the community – but chaos quickly ensues when Corporal Clive Winton (played by Oscar W) arrives. Oscar – who we have now seen in several productions – is an excellent actor and again this role he plays with total conviction. Malachi F plays the eccentric Bishop of Lax who is absolutely perplexed by this whole confusion of characters.

"These three young men end up frantically racing around the stage – in one door, jumping over a body lying on

the stage, and out the other door. They are all impressive and full of energy with unrelenting enthusiasm.

"Later we see The Intruder (played by Raf K) and Rev. Arthur Humphrey (played by Ella O) also dressed as vicars to add to the confusion, before Sergeant Towers (played by Charlie H) tries to get to the truth.

"Director, Ted Moore, has put together this very talented cast who all brought out the best of the comedy with brilliant timing. They are amazing as they maintained the tempo with the vast amounts of difficult and confusing dialogue without any hesitation. There are a couple fight scenes involving several of the characters which are extremely convincing, well-choreographed and acted.

"The set, as always for these College productions, was ingenious as a box set, with leather Chesterfield sofa and fireplace looking authentically decorated for the period. I'm sure the audience, along with myself, were left wondering if the wardrobe had a false back when several characters were all pushed into it at the same time.

"These young actors had obviously put a massive amount of time and energy into their demanding roles which they achieve very professionally. You know you have succeeded when the entire audience doesn't stop laughing from start to finish. Well done to you all."

Founded in 1899, NODA is the national body that represents amateur theatre.

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**These young actors had obviously put a massive amount of time and energy into their demanding roles which they achieve very professionally.**









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You know you have succeeded when the entire audience doesn't stop laughing from start to finish. Well done to you all.





They support and inspire small productions with the vision that amateur theatre is successful and sustainable, providing a range of opportunities for people to develop their skills, and enjoy taking part at all levels. NODA's mission is to support the education and information needs of individuals and organisations with high quality services and products that contribute to the success of amateur theatre as well as encouraging appreciation of the sector by participants and audiences alike.

In the penultimate week of the Spring Term, the theatre was transformed into 'Fat Sam's Speakeasy' as our incredible Prep School pupils transported audiences to 1920 New York for our Upper Prep School Production of *Bugsy Malone*.

Inspired by the musical from Paul Williams, our incredible Year 6 – 8 pupils showcased two brilliant sold-out shows of slapstick comedy, musical theatre and wise-guy antics to parents, pupils and the school community.

Our final production of the year in the Summer Term was by our incredibly talented Year 9 and 10 pupils who showcased two brilliant nights of thrills and laughter during our fantastic Senior School Junior Production of *The 39 Steps*!

Audiences travelled aboard the Flying Scotsman for a thrilling adventure of light-hearted comedy and fast-paced antics in this brilliant 'whodunnit' murder mystery, inspired by Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film.

The College is proud of its two choirs, Cantus and Cappella Lumina: the Cantus is a large non-auditions choir, while the Cappella Lumina is a smaller elite chamber choir. Between the two, they sing a wide range of music and perform regularly throughout the year in concerts, Chapel services and singing competitions.

The College's first musical showcase of the year was the eagerly anticipated Senior School Autumn Concert in November - a magical evening with a diverse range of stunning performances that celebrated the power of music to inspire and unite. From the harmonious melodies of the Cantus Choir and Cappella Lumina to our fantastic Ukulele orchestra, each ensemble displayed a level of professionalism and musicality. The versatility of our pupils was evident as they seamlessly transitioned from classical compositions to contemporary hits, captivating the audience with their range and artistry.

The school community was also witness to a fantastic sold-out show for our Senior School Cabaret. With this year's 'Cinematic' theme, our talented musicians and singers transported audiences through the last decade of the silver-screen, featuring some of the most renowned and adored music from movies, including *Saturday Night Fever*, *The Bodyguard* and *The Greatest Showman*.

In December, our younger pupils in Years 3 to 8 took to the stage for their Music Recital and LAMDA Showcase, demonstrating not only their dedication to musical endeavours, but also their







enthusiasm for learning and developing new skills. The event featured a wide variety of individual performances, each wonderfully exemplifying our pupils' broad range of talents in music and drama. The children put a great deal of time and effort into their performances and all received to rapturous applause from our parent audience who enjoyed a brilliant evening of drama, theatre, singing and instrumental solos from our young pianists, guitarists, violinists, trumpeters and flautists.

The Spring Term brought with it a further collection of musical highlights. The Year 12 and 13 BTEC bands performed at BTEC Live, a fun and entertaining event that highlighted the hard work of pupils studying our popular Music BTEC course. Taking to the stage in front of the school community, our brilliant music stars presented a mix of group and solo sets performing both covers and original songs.

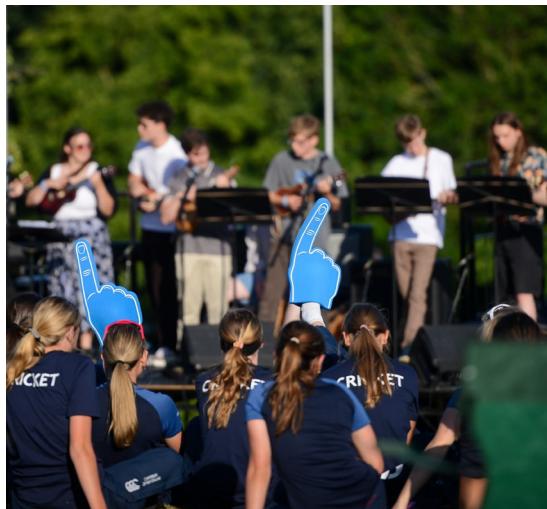
At the Prep School, we saw the return of our brilliant 'Night at the Drums' as our amazing musicians showcased their incredible talents as they took to the stage to perform a mix of covers and drum solos. During our Spring Music Recital, the Prep School pupils showcased their incredible musicality with this year's theme, 'Happiness'. Our parent audience enjoyed a wonderful evening of instrumental solos from our young flautists, saxophonists and guitarists, clapping along to our amazing Year 3 Percussion group before a fantastic finale of Wicked's 'What Is This Feeling', performed by Gladys T-L and Tilly P.

We also saw the return of our ever popular

Year 6 'Shakespeare on the Terrace', this year performing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as our pupils dazzled audiences with brilliant performances all against the backdrop of our wonderful Forest School.

The final musical event of the year, and a key highlight of the College's calendar, was the much-loved Music ReView. Every year the event gives the whole school community the opportunity to enjoy the view of Framlingham Castle from the College's front lawn and soak up a wonderfully summer evening of exquisite musical entertainment. The event once again served as an exceptional creative platform for our multitude of talented musicians, allowing them to showcase their melodious abilities and further refine their performance skills. Spanning across genres including rock, pop, classical, and musical theatre, and not forgetting the Ukulele Band, the performances were nothing short of inspiring, leaving the audience thoroughly impressed and highly entertained. As the sun descended over the historic venue, concert-goers found themselves dancing the night away to a captivating repertoire that ranged from lively, passion-infused headbangers to gentler, contemplative ballads.

This academic year has also witnessed a symphony of musical and theatrical achievements from pupils across the school, collectively demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the world of theatre. Through countless hours of practice and dedication, these achievements are a testament to the exceptional guidance provided by our











dedicated music educators and the passion that thrives within our pupil body.

At the start of the Spring Term, our Prep School pupils took two first place wins, two second place wins and three distinctions during the Suffolk Festival of Performing Arts in March. Imogen B, Betty B and Isla R were awarded first place for Best Group Drama in the Junior Category, alongside Jerry F and Vesper H who were also awarded first place in the Duologue Acting Junior Category. Jack B, Charlie P, Emilia A and Freya S were all awarded second place in the Duologue Acting Category, with Amelia T, Merlin S and Matilda P awarded Distinctions with Honours in the Solo Acting Category.

As many of our outstanding Year 13 musicians performed for the final time on a College stage, this year affirmed the College's unwavering commitment to nurturing and supporting the musical talents of our pupils, many of whom are destined to join the ranks of our hall of fame for the musically gifted.

Our congratulations and special mentions go to Year 13 pupil Katherine W who was awarded a scholarship to study Singing at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and to Year 12 pupil Sebby E-A for successfully secured a place to study Jazz Guitar at Junior Guildhall in London from September 2025. ■





# WELLBEING

The importance of pastoral care in schools must not be underestimated in its ability to support holistic development and wellbeing of pupils, all while encouraging positive habits in young people.



**At Framlingham College, wellbeing is at the heart of all that we do. As a result of the ever-changing social landscape young people face, embedding the College's wellbeing strategy has seen continued focus during this academic year, driven in equal measure by our staff and pupils.**

Enhancing pupil-led engagement, peer-to-peer support and the amplification of pupil voice across the school were all key focus areas for the College's newly created Senior School Wellbeing Ambassadors. This year, the cohort was led by Year 13 Wellbeing Prefect, Mimi B, who led the team of passionate wellbeing advocates, ensuring presence and purpose was felt across the school.

This year, we were delighted that Framlingham College was awarded the 2024 School House Award for Mind and Mental Health Champion. Hosted by County & Town House magazine, the School House Awards showcase and celebrate independent schools across the UK.

Framlingham College was named a finalist for this award alongside Eton House The Manor, London, and Berkhamsted School, Hertfordshire, but it was the judges' notable acknowledgement of our mental health awareness weeks at key points across the academic year – such as

the start of a new term and exam season – alongside our wellbeing book and 'In Conversation' Podcast Series, that led to Framlingham College being named the winners.

This year's judging panel included School House editor, Victoria Lambert; Director and Founder of Child in Time, Chloe Billington; Telegraph journalist and broadcaster, Anna Heseltine; and County & Town House editor-in-chief, Lucy Cleland.

Writing in the October 2024 Scholarships, Bursaries and Champions issue, School House editor Victoria Lambert said: "This issue is very special to us as it plays host to the winners of our School House Awards. As ever, we have been inundated with entries for our categories which focus on what schools are doing for mental health, happiness and satisfaction inside the gates.

"[For the Mind and Mental Health category] Eaton House The Manor, Framlingham College, and Berkhamsted School were our three finalists. The judges were impressed with all the schools' approach to mental health, but Framlingham came out on top. The school has Wellbeing Ambassadors and a specific Wellbeing Prefect, plus a resident clinical psychologist who offers drop-in sessions for pupils and staff every week. Its latest



scheme – a wellbeing podcast – has proved hugely popular and the judges noted the three mental health awareness weeks per year during important times such as exam season or the start of a new term.”

Wellbeing Prefect, Mimi B, said: “It is an amazing achievement to receive this award. We are very fortunate to have such outstanding pastoral care at the school which is constantly improving. As a pupil body, we are a community that supports and encourages one another. This award highlights just that, and the family that Framlingham College is.

“This academic year, the wellbeing prefect’s goal is to build on the already strong foundation of wellbeing at Framlingham, with an emphasis on making the podcasts more pupil led and informative. I would also like to make the Wellbeing Ambassador programme house led and enhance our already strong pupil voice by showcasing all we do at Framlingham.”

Deputy Head Pastoral, Oliver Lloyd, said: “I’m really pleased Framlingham College has been named the winner of this prestigious award. We have worked very hard to improve our pupils’ wellbeing, mental health and their general attitude towards it.

“Promoting positive wellbeing across the school is essential to ensure young people have the tool kit to successfully navigate their teenage years. With so much research on the teenage brain and its state of flux

and growth in adolescence, we need to constantly give pupils practical advice on how to look after themselves and each other.

“Pupils can get support through our pastoral system, from their HM to the medical centre, the Chaplain to their tutor and teachers. On top of this, we have a dedicated peer support system in place, with our Wellbeing Ambassadors openly promoting positive wellbeing through our podcast series. We also celebrate various mental health days, and every year we look at new ways of reaching our pupils and encouraging their voice to be heard around these issues.”

To coincide with the first week back after Christmas break, our Wellbeing Ambassadors launched a brand-new Wellbeing Week initiative to help pupils settle into the new year.

Aimed to bolster positive mental attitude, spark conversations about the importance of wellbeing, and break the stigma around mental health, the Prep and Senior School focused on a different theme each day to encourage pupils to ‘Take Notice, Connect, Get Active and Give Back’.

From January 6 to January 10, the Prep School hosted yoga sessions, mindful colouring, hot chocolate chats and sports team building, finishing with our annual charity Prep School disco.

At the Senior School, pupils were encouraged to put pen to paper with kindness notes and self-reflecting

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Promoting positive wellbeing across the school is essential to ensure young people have the tool kit to successfully navigate their teenage years.





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**Wellbeing Weeks like this are so important for the school community, especially at the start of a new year.**





journaling, alongside creating their own virtual messages of kindness, a House Bake-Off competition, and a brilliant 'Wear a Onesie' day.

Driven by our Wellbeing Prefect Mimi B, alongside our Wellbeing Ambassadors, Mimi said: "Pupils from across the Senior and Prep School have had such an enjoyable Wellbeing Week – especially with the Bake-Off competition and PJ Day. The idea of recording our own virtual messages of kindness was created by our Wellbeing Ambassadors, Louis M and Finn S, as a fun way to encourage pupils to talk about different ways to improve their wellbeing.

"Wellbeing Weeks like this are so important for the school community, especially at the start of a new year. It provides support across all year groups to make everyone feel less alone with their feelings, and the exciting daily activities adds fun, joy and a reassuring sense of belonging into the first week back."

After the success of Wellbeing Week, the following term saw the Senior School Wellbeing Ambassadors launch their own pupil focused activity week to mark Mental Health Awareness Week from May 12 to May 16.

Driven again by Mimi B and the passionate mental health advocates of the school community, everyone came together to organise a brilliant week of wellbeing activities.

At the Prep School, pupils were given

a special Mental Health Awareness Assembly by our Senior School Prefects, focusing on kindness and community, before heading outside for various outdoor wellbeing activities including cricket and pond dipping.

Speaking in Chapel during a special wellbeing service, Year 12 pupil Rachel H addressed the whole school on the importance of kindness.

"Mental health isn't about feeling happy or sad or by having a good day. It's about how we think, feel, and cope with daily life, and for many teens – including some in this Chapel – it can be a struggle," Rachel said.

"In the UK, approximately 1 in 6 children between the ages of 7 and 16 are likely to have a mental health issue. For older teens aged between 17 and 19, that figure rises to nearly 1 in 4. These statistics are not just numbers, they are people we see every day: friends, classmates, even the people that we think have it all together.

"It's important that you all know that it's okay not to be okay, and it's more than acceptable to talk about it. Whether you speak to a friend, a teacher, our Chaplain, a parent or one of our Wellbeing Ambassadors – you are never alone.

"We can all do our part to support each other. Let's be kind, do not judge if someone speaks to us, and let's create a school environment where everyone feels free to be open about their emotions. It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice."



Elsewhere across the Senior School, green ribbons were given out to pupils and staff as a way to show support and encourage conversation about mental health, and in the library we had a featured book display of works by wellbeing authors and specialist psychologists.

The impact of pupil voice and mental health focused weeks has been imperative to our school community. We continue to offer three mental health awareness focused weeks per year: one in October at the start of the academic year for new pupils and those transitioning into new year groups to gain the valuable support they need to set them up for a successful year, one in January after the Christmas Break, and one in May when helping to manage stress, anxiety and wellbeing is vital ahead of study leave and the exam season.

One annual event which reinforces the College's focus on fostering our core values of kindness and respect is 'Anti-bullying Week'. Celebrated alongside 'Odd Socks Day', pupils wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of unity and acceptance by ensuring the hallways and classrooms were a vibrant kaleidoscope of colours as pupils donned their quirkiest, mismatched socks with enthusiasm.

Our strong pupil voice, passionate ambassadors and annual events offer powerful reminders that in our school community mental health matters, and that by working together, we can break down stigmas, offer support, and promote positive wellbeing for all. ■

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**Mental health isn't about feeling happy or sad or by having a good day. It's about how we think, feel, and cope with daily life.**





# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Sport at Framlingham College has consistently been a source of outstanding achievements, transcending across all disciplines and age groups within our school community.



**These accomplishments serve as a testament to the integral role that sports play in our educational ethos. Beyond nurturing and developing sporting talent, the College's commitment to sporting excellence equally emphasises the cultivation of essential life skills.**

Through perseverance, teamwork and dedication, our pupils have not only

excelled in various sporting disciplines but have also honed qualities such as discipline, resilience, leadership and sportsmanship. The collective success of our athletes underlines the holistic approach to education that Framlingham College embodies, where the value of sport extends far beyond the field or the court, preparing our pupils to thrive in all aspects of their future endeavours.



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We are incredibly proud to have been named in The Cricketer Top 100 Schools for 2025 and to continue the tradition of being on this list every year since its inception.





## Cricket

Once again, we were honoured to be named one of the UK's Best Schools for cricket in the Cricketer Schools Guide 2025. Returning to the list for another year, Framlingham College is the only school in Norfolk and Suffolk to have been included in every Cricketer's Schools Guide list since the publication's inception.

This year's guide was a special 10th anniversary edition and featured the top 100 senior schools, top 50 prep/junior schools, top 20 all-girls schools and, for the first time, the top 25 state schools.

Head of Cricket, Jack Beaumont, said: "We are incredibly proud to have been named in The Cricketer Top 100 Schools for 2025 and to continue the tradition of being on this list every year since its inception. This historic recognition highlights the dedication of our players, pupils, staff and the strength of our cricketing values here at Framlingham College. It's a testament to the true passion and unwavering commitment of everyone involved in the deep rooted cricket culture at our school."

The Cricketer magazine editor Huw Turbervill said: "Here at The Cricketer, we've covered school cricket since 1921 as part of our commitment to follow

cricket at all levels. We're proud of this coverage, and the 10th anniversary of this guide recognises the fantastic cricket programmes that exist in school curricula up and down the country, with one of the most phenomenal things about the last decade is seeing cricket usurp rounders as the sport for girls."

The extensive cricket coaching programme at Framlingham College runs all year round for both boys and girls, and includes regular matches and tours at home and away. As well as matches against other independent schools, our fixtures list also includes matches with external clubs including the MCC, Suffolk CCC, Suffolk Sunrisers, Gents of Suffolk, Gents of Essex and the XL Club, as well as participation in an End of Season Festival with Stamford School, Eastbourne College, and Seaford College.

Cricket at Framlingham College is accessible to all, with every pupil having access to at least one cricket session a week for the entire year. For those performance driven players, we offer excellent scholarships and full year-round coaching to help accelerate their progress into the professional game.



## Rugby

This year marked our Rugby Centenary as we celebrated 100 years of rugby at Framlingham College with incredible games, festivals and inspiring sports speakers across the academic year.

Starting with our Centenary match which took place on September 22, it replicated the first match played at Framlingham in 1924, as our 1st XV rugby team took on Ipswich FC with a fantastic 69-0 win. It was a wonderful moment for Old Framlinghamians, pupils and the school community to come together in celebration for this historic anniversary, showcasing true sport spirit, teamwork and lifelong friendships.

As part of our celebrations, it was an honour to welcome former England rugby player Will Greenwood to Framlingham College as pupils, parents, governors, Old Framlinghamians and members of the school community gathered for a wonderful evening of fine dining, inspiring speeches and a brilliant charity auction to celebrate this incredible milestone of sporting excellence.

Closing our yearlong celebrations in epic style, in March we hosted our first Rugby 7s Festival, welcoming our friends from nine other surrounding schools; Ipswich School, The Campion School, Norwich School, Finborough School, Gresham's, Impington Village School, St Joseph's College, Ipswich RFC and The Coopers' Company

& Coborn School, as the U18s and U16s teams battled it out for the Plate, Cup and Champion trophies.

Principal, Louise North, said: "We were delighted to host the Centenary Rugby 7s Tournament at Framlingham College, and extend a warm welcome to all schools and supporting parents.

"Rugby goes from strength to strength here at the College, and we were delighted to have so many players here from so many schools to share in our love for the game. We had no doubt that we would see some fantastic rugby, but just as importantly, some great team spirit, mutual support and camaraderie. Sport has the magic to bring people together and we hope that our 7s tournament was a celebration of exactly that.

"Our thanks go to our grounds staff for preparing the pitches, to our Head of Rugby, Will Cotterill, for organising the event and to our Director of Sport, Chris Gange."

Will Cotterill, Head of Rugby at Framlingham College, said: "As part of our Centenary Rugby Celebrations, we are so proud to host the Inaugural Framlingham College Rugby 7s Tournament. Rugby 7s has exploded in popularity since its inclusion in the Olympics, and for good reason - it's fast, intense, and highly skilful. This format demands exceptional fitness, sharp decision-making, and creative play, making it a fantastic game for young athletes to play and improve their rugby development.

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Rugby goes from strength to strength here at the College, and we were delighted to have so many players here from so many schools to share in our love for the game.





“

Playing your last year of schoolboy rugby is always going to be a memorable one, but I'm thankful to say I did it surrounded by boys that I get on so well with.





"A huge thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and departments who have worked tirelessly to bring this tournament to life, and to the competing schools, players, parents, and supporters for being part of this special day. I hope everyone had a fantastic experience and that rugby is the winner of the day."

Captain of the Senior 1st rugby team, Felix L, said: "It has been a huge privilege to be Captain of the 1st XV and 1st VII on this Centenary Year. Our season has been full of memories which I will remember for years to come, such as the Centenary Match against Ipswich RFC which saw hundreds of pupils, staff and OFs come out and support the team to celebrate 100 years of rugby at Framlingham College. I hope everyone enjoyed the 7s Tournament and that it can happen every year going forward."

Vice-Captain, Dan G, said: "What a great season to end our final year! I was honoured to be made Vice-Captain of the Centenary Season which has led to Felix and I having to step out of our comfort zone, from talking on interviews with BBC Suffolk to hosting the Framlingham College Podcast.

"Every part of this season has added to how special it is not only for us as players but for the whole school as well. Playing your last year of schoolboy rugby is always going to be a memorable one, but I'm thankful to say I did it surrounded by boys that I get on so well with."

During our year of rugby celebrations,

we were delighted to see five of our U16 players selected as part of the Northampton Saints Development Player Programme (DPP), with Year 10 pupils Felix N, Kit H, Freddie B, Luke B and Alex S all confirming their place in the Foundation Phase this year.

Head of Rugby, Will Cotterill, said: "It is fantastic to have five Framlingham College pupils in the first year of the Foundation Phase, and I hope that we can continue to see more pupils from the College get selected for this pathway in the future."

Talking about his selection, Felix N said: "I am extremely proud to be part of the Northampton Saints Foundation Phase. The extra training sessions are high intensity, and the coaches push me to develop my skills and to be the best I can be."

Alex S said: "I was thrilled to be accepted into the Northampton Saints Foundation Phase after being put forward by Mr Cotterill. I am really enjoying the extra training and the challenge of being around so many other good rugby players. The sessions are intense and are a step up for me – but it's exciting and helps drive my determination."

We are excited to see this success continue into next year, with five Year 9 pupils trialling for the Saints Foundation Phase for 2025/2026, and a current Year 12 pupil selected for the U17 Saints Academy Program this season.

Alongside the Northampton Saints Developing Players Programme, we also



offer pathways with their Elite Performance Group (EPG) and the Saints Academy, with Framlingham College becoming an official Northampton Saints Partner School in 2025/2026, providing world class rugby coaching, training and clinics during term time and school holidays.

Seen as the pinnacle of player programmes in our region, the Northampton Saints pathway offers high quality training sessions designed to give players the best possible chance to develop their rugby skill set, alongside the opportunity to play against other regions at rugby festivals run by the Northampton Saints Academy team, offering players the platform to showcase their ability in a game environment and scouting opportunities for coaches to select players for their academy teams.

We are committed to providing the best possible environment for our talented young athletes to help them achieve their sporting ambitions whilst concurrently realising their full academic potential.

At Framlingham, our pupil Sport Scholars Pathway takes a comprehensive approach to development and sporting excellence, including Individual Coaching and Mentoring, Regular Competition and Fixtures, Support and Development, Individual Focus and Next Steps mentoring for life and careers after Framlingham College. We expect our Sports Scholars to be role models and ambassadors, setting the standards for younger pupils as well as their contemporaries.

demonstrating the highest levels of sportsmanship, respect, commitment and pride in the College's ethos.

## Hockey

This year also saw the redevelopment of our Inskip's hockey pitch, which was officially re-opened on September 19 with a brilliant Hockey Day with the Hockey Mentors.

Players from Wales, York, and the Wirral joined us for a day of training with Team GB and Framlingham College Head of Hockey, Lisa Letchford, after which Principal Louise North did the honours of officially opening the pitch with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by a pitch blessing by our Chaplain Rev Canon Brynn Bayman.

The College's 1st XI girls team then played the Mentors in the first official match to take place on the new astro.

Captain of the College's 1st XI team, Emily H said: "The new pitch is amazing, we've had a few training sessions on it already and it's made a huge difference to play.

"Hockey is a great space to be with your friends and do something that you enjoy outside of an academic setting. During pre-season we became a lot closer as a team and I'm honoured to be the Captain this year. It's wonderful to have such responsibility and be able to embrace the leadership opportunity, support the team and watch the girls grow as individuals."

“

Hockey is a great space to be with your friends and do something that you enjoy outside of an academic setting.





## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS





1st XI team player, Poppy D-R said: "It's such a momentous day for the team as we play our first match on the new pitch. The Hockey Mentors are a very good team and hopefully it will be inspiring for those watching to try hockey."

1st XI team player, Edith D said: "Hockey is a brilliant escape and release from academics. Our coach, Lisa Letchford is so understanding with our school and sport balance. We have three core values: being relentless, being brave and being engaged, which run through the core of our team – to encourage each other, maintain positivity and never give up."

## NEWS

### **Framlingham College pupils selected for England Hockey**

Two Framlingham College pupils are kick-starting 2025 with an exciting future in sport after being selected to play for England.

Sixth Form pupils Holly H (Year 12) and Beth G (Year 13) have their sights firmly set on a successful future in professional hockey after their incredible skills and sportsmanship caught the eyes of England talent scouts.

Confirming their selections back in December, Holly will join the Under 18s and Beth the Under 21s.

Having joined Framlingham College Sixth

Form this academic year, Holly said: "My hockey journey at Framlingham has been an incredible experience. Having only joined Framlingham College this year, I was unsure what to expect with a new school and new people. However, from the beginning, I was so impressed by the strong hockey culture and the support from the coaches and teammates, and it didn't take long for me to feel at home both on and off the pitch."

"In this short but exciting time, the team has gone on tour to Belgium for our pre-season training – an experience that so few have, and I'm very grateful to be given such amazing opportunities. This season, we've played in some incredible matches and celebrated the opening of our new Inskip pitch. Whether winning or losing, sharing the journey with such a talented, fun, hardworking team has made my passion for hockey so much stronger."

Now in her final year of Sixth Form at Framlingham, Beth G said: "At Framlingham we are so lucky to have such incredible coaching staff with Lisa Letchford (Team GB Olympian) and Andy Halliday (Team GB coach), they have been instrumental in my growth as an individual and as a hockey player."

Talking about being selected, Holly and Beth said: "When we found out, we were both absolutely thrilled, surprised, and elated. Representing England has been a dream, so it was an incredible moment for us and our families."

"The process was intense but rewarding.

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In this short but exciting time, the team has gone on tour to Belgium for our pre-season training – an experience that so few have, and I’m very grateful to be given such amazing opportunities.







It involved attending multiple two-to-three-day trials where we were assessed on our hockey skills, fitness, teamwork and ability to perform under pressure. Getting into England isn't just down to performing well, it's a long process of taking something positive from every single training session or match, whether it's a success or failure."

Following in the footsteps of Framlingham College alumni Anna C (England U18 and 2023 European Championships), Hollie D-R (England U21) and Georgie G (England U18, U21, 2023 World Cup in Chile, and Team GB Senior), the sports pathways and professional sporting opportunities at Framlingham continue to grow and flourish.

Every pupil's journey on and off the pitch is individual, and at Framlingham our dedicated sports coaches, personal tutors and pastoral care teams can help provide support for pupils to thrive.

Talking about the girls' selection and the sports pathways available at Framlingham College, Head of Hockey, Lisa Letchford, said: "This is fantastic news for Holly and Beth who both thoroughly deserve the accolade of playing for England. They both embody what it means to be a Framlinghamian and dedicated sportswomen.

"We have a plethora of sports pathways

and opportunities at Framlingham, from scholarships, MT13 camps, training programmes, European trips and tours.

"Scholarships are available for those age 11+, 13+ and 16+. Whilst these offer additional support with fees, our provision is particularly exceptional in that sports scholars get extra access to training sessions, 1-2-1 training with our performance coaches, development plans, video analysis training, regional matches, tailored strength and conditioning plans, physiotherapy and access to our gym (Sixth Form only).

"For those aspiring for a career in professional sport, it is imperative is that you love the journey and not just the accolade for the destination. If you relish the training, enjoy the fitness, strive for improvements and don't shy away from a challenge, then a sporting career is one of the most amazing journeys.

"One of the biggest elements of a sporting career is self-confidence – not necessarily in your current skills but in your motivation to push your abilities further. It's not always the most talented that end up being the Senior International, it's those that work the hardest and know they can improve. If you are confident that you can always progress then there is the potential to be world class."



## Finals and notable matches

### ■ October 2024

Our girls 1st XI hockey team had a brilliant time during their pre-season trip to Belgium with fantastic training sessions at Waterloo Ducks HC and Koezio Parc, watching premier league matches by WatDucks v Manheim men's and the WatDucks v Leuven women's, and played some incredible games against Leopold HC and WatDucks HC at Deutsche Bank Arena.

The U11 girls hockey team made it to the group stages of the Regional Hockey Tournament playing Felsted School, Barnardiston Hall and St Cedd's School, before taking on Glebe House for the Plate.

Our U18, U16 and U14 netball teams all took first place during the North Suffolk Area Netball Festival Tournament, all progressing through to the County Finals.

We hosted the U11 girls In2Hockey Regional Qualifier Festival, welcoming our friends from Ipswich, Orwell Park, Culford, OBH, Barnardiston, Ipswich High and Woodbridge. A very well done to our girls who played brilliantly, securing the Plate for Framlingham.

### ■ November 2024

Congratulations to Sixth Form pupils Ollie W and Dan B for their outstanding marksmanship during the annual shooting competition between the OFRC and our

pupils, with Ollie taking the top shot with a score of 96 and 95. The boys' results mean we retain the Podd Trophy.

Congratulations to the girls 1st hockey team who were crowned County Champions beating Ipswich School in the Indoor Hockey County Cup final 4-0.

The 1st XV rugby team had an excellent game against Bishops Stortford College winning 38-10. Followed by another incredible performance against RHS winning 36-10.

### ■ December 2024

Congratulations to the girls 1st XI hockey team winning 4-1 against Hurstpierpoint College and progressing through to the quarter finals.

It was a nail-biting 1st XV rugby match against The Perse which saw our boys trailing by just two points with two minutes to go. A penalty kick scored by Tom S saw the boys win 13-12.

Our 1st XV rugby team also travelled to New Hall School to finish the autumn term fixture card, with the boys battling some harsh weather conditions from Storm Darragh, finishing in a fine 22-8 victory.

Our boys 1st XI hockey team had a brilliant time during their pre-season trip to Belgium with fantastic training sessions at Waterloo Ducks HC and Koezio Parc, as well as a brilliant match played against Lara Hockey Club Wavre at Deutsche Bank Arena.







## ■ January 2025

The girls 1st VII played their first netball block fixture match against RHS with an excellent 26-11 win.

Four of our 1st XI hockey girls (Emily H, Beth G, Holly H and Mia S) represented the Harleston Magpies in the Indoor Premier League.

A huge well done to Alice K for winning the Suffolk Cross Country Championships for the U15 girls. She qualified for the London Mini Marathon representing the East of England.

The girls 1st VII netball team played fantastically against Felsted winning 30-20.

The girls 1st XI hockey team travelled to Reeds to play them in the Tier 1 England Hockey League, progressing to the Quarter Finals against St Johns.

## ■ February 2025

It was the start of the Rugby 7s season with the boys 1st rugby team playing in the Saints 7s Festival. An early loss to St Joes (19-26) meant the boys just missed out on the Quarter Finals, but two wins against RHS (24-17) and Bishops Stortford HS (52-0) meant they qualified for the Cup.

Congratulations to our girls 1st VII netball team as they played London Mavericks with a nail-biting 19-18 win.

Congratulations to our U13 boys hockey

team who were crowned the winners of the IAPS Regional Hockey Championships, progressing to the Nationals in March.

A huge well done to our girls 1st XI hockey team who played in the Inspire Sport ISHC Finals Day at the Nottingham Hockey Centre. A semi-final victory against Repton Dev XI meant the girls progressed to the finals against Brighton College.

## ■ March 2025

Congratulations to our U13A netball team who won their group stage in the IAPS Regional Tournament and progressed to the Cup Semi Final.

A huge well done to Bay L and Percy S who took part in the Anglian Cross Country Championships finishing in an incredible 2nd and 5th place out of 65 participants.

Congratulations to our U13 boys hockey team who took home silver at the IAPS National Finals, finishing an incredible second place out of 16 schools, narrowly missing out on first place with a nail-biting 1-2 finish against Cranleigh - we are so proud of the team, well done boys and congratulations Cranleigh on being crowned IAPS U13 National Hockey Champions.

Congratulations to Prep School pupil Rafa S for winning the Division 1 Tennis event at Ipswich Sports Club - he finished top of the group with 49 out of 50 points.



## ■ April 2025

The U13 boys hockey team finished the season with a fantastic performance throughout the In2Hockey Regional Finals, finishing in second place after taking on The Perse in the final.

Our boys 1st XV rugby team (Y13) played the girls 1st VII netball team (Y13) in our annual, and ever popular, pupil netball match. A fantastic evening of friendly competitive team spirit, with the girls – of course – securing the win 29-17.

## ■ May 2025

Starting the cricket season strong, our boys 1st XI took the win against Ipswich School by 28 runs, and our girls Junior A team played away against St Joseph's College during the County Cup Round, winning by 6 wickets.

Our boys 3rd XI cricket team won against St Joes by 10 wickets - shout out to our MVP Oak S who scored a brilliant 68. The boys 3rd XI did it again the following week beating Gresham's at home by 29 runs with our MVP awarded to George B.

We welcomed friends from Woodbridge School, St Faiths, Holmwood, Finborough and New Hall for the U13 Tennis Festival – congratulations to our girls team who took second place.

## ■ June 2025

A huge well done to our U13 and U15 teams who took part in the County Cup

Tennis Finals alongside our friends from Hartismere, Old Buckingham Hall, Finborough, Debenham, Ipswich High School, Barnadiston, Stowupland, East Bergholt and Thomas Mills. Congratulations to our U13 girls and U15 girls who both took first place in their groups, being crowned U13 and U15 County Cup Champions. A huge well done to our boys U13s who won third place and the boys U15s who narrowly missed out on the cup with a nail-biting tie-breaker match to win second place.

Congratulations to Ellie S-R who represented the region for the British Dressage Inter Regional Youth Team (U25).

Congratulations to our Prep School pupils JJ, Griff, Harry, Arthur and Barney who played for the Harleston Magpies hockey team and were crowned U12 In2Hockey National Champions.

We closed the summer of sport with a fantastic day at the Prep School as we hosted our annual Sports Day. Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils had brilliant fun competing in everything from long jump to egg-and-spoon races, with many trophies awarded and new school sports records made by pupils from Year 3 to Year 8. Thank you to everyone who came along to support and special thanks to our wonderful Senior School pupils for all their help as umpires.

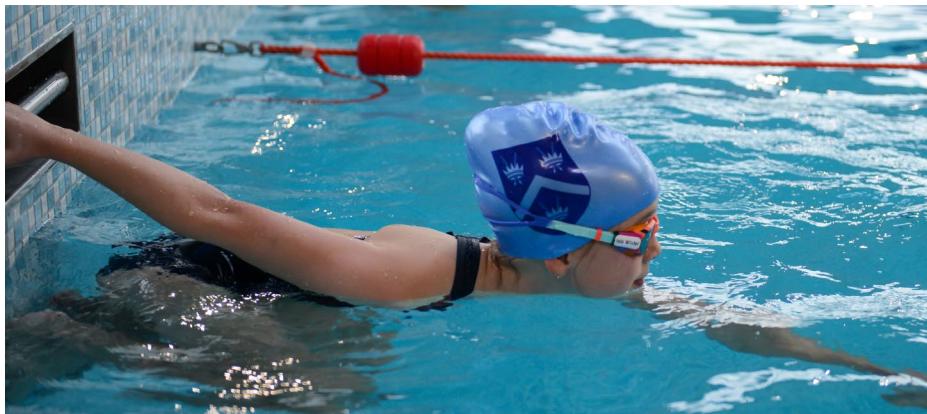
The Senior School Sports Day was held late in the summer, on the penultimate day of term. Pupils from Year 9 to 13, alongside





## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS





staff, gathered on Lords to watch some brilliant athletics against the incredible backdrop of Framlingham Castle. From high jump to javelin, shot put to relay, the school community came together for a spectacular afternoon of sportsmanship and school spirit.

Congratulations to Britten House who were crowned the winners of the Prep Sports Day House Cup and to Kerrison House for the Senior Sports Day House Cup. ■





# SPIRIT OF GIVING

At the heart of our school community lies a spirit of compassion, empathy and generosity that transcends the boundaries of the classroom.



**It is a spirit that embodies the true essence of education – not only the pursuit of knowledge but also the commitment to making a positive impact on the world around us.**

Throughout the academic year, our pupils have dedicated their time, energy and resources to various charitable causes and community projects. They have shown that kindness knows no bounds and that even the smallest actions can create a ripple effect of positive change.

The spirit of giving is a testament to their selflessness and the profound difference they have made in the lives of others. But the spirit of giving is not just about tangible contributions, it is also about the intangible qualities that our pupils have cultivated, such as empathy, compassion, and a deep sense of responsibility to the world. These qualities are the foundation upon which young people can build a brighter future for themselves and for the communities they serve.

The Senior School's Charity Committee is first and foremost a learning opportunity. A pupil-led committee with representatives from each house, whose role is to champion the benefits of thinking of others above ourselves.

The Charity Committee is a well-established tradition at Framlingham College and is a good breeding ground for prospective prefects and social leaders. Being pupil-led, there is ample opportunity to champion a cause, find creative ways to raise awareness, and be part of the complexity of organising fundraising events.

In December, we saw the return of our annual Christmas Hamper Charity Drive, as our Senior School pupils rallied together to produce 27 Christmas themed hampers packed with festive food, sweet treats, toiletries, everyday essentials, and generous Christmas gifts.

A completely pupil-driven project, with support from the College Charity Committee, the hampers were all designed, created, filled, and delivered by the pupils to those in the community most vulnerable – such as single parent families or elderly residents living alone – around Framlingham, Debenham and Dennington.

One special hamper was curated for a young girl undergoing cancer treatment, with the girls from our boarding houses including magazines, beauty items, and her favourite chocolates in her hamper.



Another was donated to a 95-year-old woman who lives alone but still leads a remarkably independent life. She said: “Thank you so much to the wonderful Year 12 boys in Rendlesham House for my Christmas Hamper”.

Year 13 pupil and Charity Prefect, Mimi C, said: “Our Christmas Hamper Charity Drive brings the school community together by involving all tutor groups across Year 9 to 13 to understand the importance of empathy and the spirit of giving. By being aware of the needs and wishes of others, we develop a deeper understanding of the challenges many people face during the Christmas season.

“Working together to assemble these hampers demonstrates our passion and shared values towards compassion and generosity, and each carefully assembled hamper not only provides practical support but is a message of care and solidarity during the festive period. Events like this offers our pupils and staff an opportunity to work together, respect and understand each other and highlights the College as a pillar in the community, reaching out to support and help spread joy in people’s lives.

“For the recipients of these hampers it’s not just about the gifts and food inside – it’s about being seen, heard and cared for, and for pupils it’s about learning that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.”

Our pupil led Sustainability Committee also hosted a charity pop-up thrift shop at the

Senior School, selling pre-loved clothes in aid of this year’s chosen charity, Motor Neurone Disease, and to raise awareness of the impact that unwanted clothes have on the planet.

Pioneered by Year 13 pupil and Sustainability Prefect, Lily F, the inspiration behind the thrift shop was to help raise awareness about how the school community can reduce waste and embrace sustainability in a fun and fashionable way.

“As many know, the fashion industry is responsible for generating massive amounts of waste, from clothes ending up in landfill sites, to the amount of energy and water used in the manufacturing process”, says Lily. “I wanted to showcase how thrift sales and charity shops can expand the life of pre-loved clothes, keeping them in circulation for longer and out of landfill sites.

“There has been an amazing response from the school community, with incredible donations from pupils, teachers and parents. Promoting sustainability through events where the whole school can be involved is a great way to bring people together, increase awareness and strengthen community spirit within the College.”

Our Prep School pupils have also shown huge dedication to giving back this year and have been highly engaged in charitable fundraisers. Supporting key events such as Children in Need and Comic Relief, as well as initiating their own fundraising activities, has instilled a sense

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of empowerment and responsibility in our younger children.

Launched in 1980, BBC's Children in Need helps to give every child the childhood they deserve and the support they need to thrive. As part of the annual national event, our Prep School pupils rallied together for an afternoon of fun and fundraising. Putting on their Pudsey ears and sporting colourful spots, the pupils set up various stalls to help raise money for the charity, selling delicious hot chocolate and scrumptious sweet treats.

For Red Nose Day, our Prep School pupils unleashed their comedy and creativity to help raise as much money as possible for Comic Relief. Wearing something red, pupils personalised their red noses before taking on the teachers in a Pupils vs Staff Fun Football Match. Such events allows children to develop vital life skills such as creativity, teamwork, and leadership, and help shape them into well-rounded, empathetic and socially responsible individuals.

On March 26, the Prep School hosted its annual and ever-popular Colour Run to raise money for the Sick Children's Trust. Open to all pupils, this exuberant house event brought together pupils, parents, and staff in a whirlwind of colour and excitement. The run, which takes place on the Prep School's beautiful grounds, saw enthusiastic participants traversing a designated course while being showered with eco-friendly, non-toxic, colourful powder by parent volunteers from our Friends of Framlingham College

community. The powder, made from corn starch and natural food dyes, created a dazzling spectacle as the children raced through the course, transforming the event into a moving vibrant rainbow of laughter and energy.

In just a few days we reach our original target and after 10 days managed to beat last year's total (£3,374) finishing with an incredible final total raised of £4,520.

This year's fundraiser was also in collaboration with our Head of the Prep School, Simon Roche, who took part in the 'ONER' on March 29, a 24-hour 140km (86 mile) race along the Dorset Coast.

The Sick Children's Trust is an amazing charity that provides families with seriously ill children in hospital a comfortable place to stay during their treatment. Our total raised will cover 110 nights of care for families within the charity's network of Homes from Home across the UK.

In a further display of community spirit, our Year 8 pupils demonstrated their youthful ingenuity as they took the reins to organise our charity summer fete, raising money for our partner school in Sierra Leone; the Rogbonko Village School. The event buzzed with excitement as our enterprising young minds showcased their talents with a unique blend of fundraising stalls including face painting, pie throwing, slip 'n' slide and more. This charity summer fete was not only a showcase of innovation and creativity but also a testament to the compassion of our pupils. It was a day filled with fun, laughter,



and heart-warming support for a charity the College has now been supporting for over 20 years.

The ever-popular Wednesday Phab Club also continues to grow in popularity, with pupils taking great pride in their active involvement with the club and demonstrating their commitment to fostering inclusivity and community spirit. College pupils never fail to create a warm and welcoming environment for club members, offering friendship, support, and engaging activities that promote social interaction and personal growth. A testament to how the College values kindness within our community, our Phab Club members also benefit from forging meaningful connections with individuals of all abilities and backgrounds.

Year 13 pupil, Lily F, delivered an emotive and inspiring speech during a Senior School Chapel service about her incredible work with Phab.

Founded in 1957, Phab was created when a young disabled man called Terry Rolfe campaigned for 'opportunity, not pity' for disabled people. Since then, Phab has grown as one of the most inclusive charities in England and Wales, creating over 130 clubs across the UK – with one of those clubs being at Framlingham College.

The Phab Club at the College has been going for just over five years, with families and members of the community joining us every fortnight to take part in activities from table tennis to archery, art workshops to rocket launching.

Over the summer, as part of her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award, Lily F volunteered at Phab's residential camp on the edge of the New Forest, which offers outdoor activities such as high ropes, abseiling, rock climbing, mountain biking, and kayaks all of which are accessible to everyone.

Addressing the school in a special charity focused Chapel service, Lily said: "The camp gives those living with disabilities under the age of 18 an amazing experience away from home, in a place where they feel valued and accepted for who they are. It is a chance for them to form lifelong friendships whilst gaining independence and confidence.

"When I arrived, little did I know that I would be meeting some of the most amazing people who have inspired me and given me a new perspective on life. The connections I made with both the participants and fellow volunteers are something I cannot put into words.

"More than 60 children took part, and on arrival, many of the children were understandably anxious. For many of them, it was their first time away from home. A personal highlight for me was watching each participant grow in confidence and come out of their shell, with many going from not wanting to take part in anything, to flying down the zip wire and paddle boarding across the lake.

"Volunteers are an integral part of Phab, and seeing the smiles on the faces of the children when they accomplish something new is a memory I will treasure. I left

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SPIRIT OF GIVING







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I left feeling that I had made a real difference to the lives of those who took part. It was without a doubt one of the most rewarding things I have done...





feeling that I had made a real difference to the lives of those who took part. It was without a doubt one of the most rewarding things I have done, and I can wholeheartedly say that the people there were some of the most inspirational people I have ever met, so much so that I have already signed up to return next summer for their camp in 2025."

Engaging in outreach activities with local primary and secondary schools holds immense importance for the College. By sharing resources, expertise and opportunities, we hope to enhance the quality of education in our local community, thereby contributing to social cohesion. Over the course of the academic year, we hosted a number of events for pupils at local state schools, welcoming visitors from Wickham Market, Sir Robert Hitcham's and Rushmere Hall Primary Schools for maths and DT workshops at the Prep School, and science conferences with Alde Valley, Farlingaye, Thomas Mills and Hartismere at the Senior School.

Generosity of spirit is also seen by the benevolent donors who generously contribute to the College's fundraising efforts and play a pivotal role in enhancing the overall educational experience for our pupils, both present and future. We are extremely grateful to each and every one of the kind individuals who have shown a commitment to enhancing and enriching the educational experience for our pupils. Their generosity has made a profound impact, ensuring that our school remains a place where curiosity is nurtured, talents are cultivated, and dreams are realised.





## NEWS

### **Framlingham College awarded special recognition at Education Choices Awards**

We were delighted to be awarded the judges Special Mention recognition at the Education Choices Magazine 'Education Choices Awards' for Local Charity champion this year, following a fantastic year of fundraising, volunteering and community partnerships.

Framlingham College's focus on supporting local charities and the community has been more important than ever, with our pupil led Charity Committee, Charity Prefect, Phab Club Volunteers and Friends of Framlingham this year celebrated for all their brilliant work and continued passion to support our local community and raise money for causes close to our hearts.

Talking about the award recognition, Principal Louise North said: "I am delighted that the pupils and staff at Framlingham College have been recognised for the work that we do with our local charities and our local community.

"At Framlingham we are preparing our young people for their adult world, and a huge part of this is for them to understand their social responsibility. It is about showing humility and gratitude for all that

we have through sharing and giving back to others whenever we can."

Our Head of Phab Club, Adrian Bloore, said: "Charity initiatives support our pupils in better understanding the needs of others and encourages them to think beyond their own experiences. This builds empathy and emotional intelligence – essential life skills for building healthy relationships and being a responsible member of society.

"When working in volunteering teams, pupils learn to collaborate, communicate, and solve problems together – true teamwork which they can take with them in future personal and professional environments. Charity work also gives pupils a chance to be a leader, take initiative and organise activities, enhancing leadership skills and self-confidence – all valuable skills in any future career or community role.

"Taking an active role in our Phab Club helps pupils find meaning and responsibility in helping others. It nurtures a sense of pride, purpose, motivation, and belonging; all of which contribute to their own long-term mental wellbeing and resilience." ■





# SPIRITUAL LIFE

**Religion and the Christian calendar give us a rhythm and routine that provide structure and emotional security to those in our community.**



**Chapel life and its devotional depth adds vitality to all who share in its strength, and a place of solace for present and past Framlinghamians alike.**

We continue to remember and honour the 250 veteran OFs, and serving members of the armed forces. For our 2024 remembrance services on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, led by our Cadet Combined Force (CCF) squadron, the service began in song with 'I Vow To Thee My Country' and 'The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended' performed by our magnificent choir, followed by prayers from Principal Louise North, our College Chaplain Brynn Bayman and Lt. Col. Martin Myers-Allen.

Readings from the service included Michah 4: 1-5 read by Senior School Head Girl (Katie H), 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae read by Chair of Governors, Charles Packshaw, 'The Trees Are Green In Suffolk' by H. Lonsdale an Old Framlinghamian poem read by our Prep School Head Boy (Henry B) and Head Girl (Florence M), and an address by Major Ben Kendall, Old Framlinghamian of Kerrison House.

As the festive season approached, the onset of advent ignited the College with Christmas cheer. Parents, pupils and members of the school community

attended our Senior School Christmas carol service, this year held at the magnificent St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. Led by our Chaplain, Brynn Bayman, the carols included Once In Royal David's City, God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman, See Amid The Winter's Snow, and Hark The Herald Angels Sing. There were also fantastic solos by Michelle O, Lucia S-L and Katherine W, with readings from Evie D, Alex S, Jack B, Holly H, our Heads of School Katie H and Archie M, and our Chair of Governors, Charles Packshaw.

Our Prep School Christmas carol service was held at our Senior School Chapel, again led by our Chaplain, Brynn Bayman, the carols included, O Little Town Of Bethlehem, Away In A Manger, and O Come All Ye Faithful. There were also fantastic solos by Olivia P, Elizabeth P and our Prep Choir, alongside readings from Rafa S-J, Rafe C, Kit L, Betty B, Charlie P, Anais O, Louis T, Vesper H, Harry R, Tilly P, our Heads of School Florence M and Henry B, and Head of the Prep School, Simon Roche.

In January, we held a special Holocaust Memorial Service to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Pupils and staff gathered in our Senior School Chapel for a service, led by Principal Louise North, on reflection and acknowledgment as we remembered



the Old Framlinghamians who assisted in the liberation of Auschwitz and helped free the Jewish people. One in particular was Constantin Karadja, a pupil at Framlingham College between 1906 and 1908.

During his two years at Framlingham, Constantin was President of the Debating Society and was noted for his knowledge of languages, speaking English, Swedish, Romanian, German, French, Danish, Norwegian, Latin and Greek.

Upon leaving the College, he qualified as a barrister at the Inner Temple in London before returning to his native Romania to become a diplomat. He held posts in Budapest, Stockholm, and Berlin.

Through his diplomatic activity, both as Romanian Consul General in Berlin from 1932 to 1941 and as the director of the consular department of the Romanian Foreign Ministry from 1941 to 1944, he saved the lives of thousands of Jews with Romanian nationality across Germany, France, Hungary, Greece and Italy.

His assistance for the Jewish people led to him being labelled as persona non grata by the German authorities and he returned to Romania where he continued to save Jewish lives against the will of his own government, which was allied to the Nazi regime, thereby putting his own life at risk.

After the Second World War, Constantin was in danger from the Communist regime in his country, and he died in 1950 in Bucharest having been denied his

pension and stripped of all honours.

It was not until the fall of the Communist regime that Constantin's actions came to light, and in 2005 he was officially recognised after it was verified that his actions had saved 51,000 documented Jewish lives – including a train full of children which he had diverted to Romania. His granddaughter submitted the request for his recognition, and he was posthumously awarded the Yad Vashem medal and certificate in September 2005.

A core goal of Yad Vashem's founders was to recognize non-Jews who, at personal risk and without financial or evangelistic motives, chose to save Jews from the ongoing genocide during the Holocaust. Those recognized by Israel are known as the Righteous Among the Nations. They are honoured in a section of Yad Vashem known as the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations. Constantin's name is engraved on a plaque and on the wall in this garden.

It is said that he was influenced by his humanistic and juridical education to constantly follow the principles of international law respecting human rights. He persevered in the protection of the rights of the citizens under his care regardless of their ethnicity or religion.

Closing our service, Ms. North said: "I hope that we can all take some inspiration from Constantin Karadja. I hope that whatever adversity we may face in our lives, we might remember the selfless courage shown by this particular OF and find the

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We are capable of infinitely more than we believe, we are stronger and more resourceful than we know, and we can endure much more than we think.





## SPIRITUAL LIFE







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We pray for our farmers and the animals in their care to be treated with dignity and respect.





same within ourselves. We are capable of infinitely more than we believe, we are stronger and more resourceful than we know, and we can endure much more than we think."

Another key remembrance service this year took place in May as we marked the 80th anniversary of VE-Day. In a special Chapel service, we honoured and celebrated all those who gave their lives for us all. Led by our Chaplain Brynn Bayman, the service began with our CCF parade and our opening hymn; 'I Vow To Thee My Country'.

Addressing the whole school in an emotive speech, our CCF Commanding Officer Lt Colonel, Martin Myers-Allen, recited Churchill's speech from 1945 and honoured the Old Framlinghamian's who gave their lives for our country and our school.

Closing our service with 'Jerusalem', our Heads of Houses then released the red, white and blue balloons from the ceiling of the Chapel and the whole school erupted in celebration.

One incredible highlight of our academic year was our Pet Blessing Ceremony in May, as we welcomed our four-legged furry friends to the Prep School to raise money for local animal charities and thank our pets for all the joy and happiness they bring to our lives.

Led by our Chaplain, Brynn Bayman, the service included a poem read by Head of the Prep, Simon Roche, a wonderful flute solo by Amelia A, and a special tribute

to our own Prep School wellbeing dog, Walter the golden Labrador.

Talking to our parents and pupils about Walter, his owner and our Head of Learning Support, Natalie Harding, said: "Walter has greatly enriched my life and the life of Framlingham College Prep School over the last six years. For many pupils, he helps reassure and calm them when they have been anxious or worried about anything, and is always there to greet any nervous new pupils in the car park on their first day of school.

"For others, he provides hours of ball throwing training for our aspiring cricketers and is very popular on our Open Morning tours. For our staff, a quick pat or cuddle with Walter in the corridor makes their day even better."

Our pupils then read prayers for local charities, animal shelters, and all those who help our pets and animals: "We pray for the RSPCA and Suffolk Animal Rescue. We pray for our farmers and the animals in their care to be treated with dignity and respect. We pray for Framlingham Vets and Debenham Veterinary Practice, and all those who care for our pets, may they know your wisdom and compassion. We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us, and all the ways they enriched and blessed our lives."

We closed the ceremony with 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' alongside a special blessing to the 40 dogs, two cats, one ferret, one tortoise and one parrot in attendance. ■



*God, our Creator, help us love all creatures as kin, all animals as partners on earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all beings as expressions of your mysterious design, and all tadpoles to frogs as symbols of hope.*

*Go out into the world to love one another. Cherish your animal family, protect against abuse and neglect, exercise stewardship of all creation so that all creatures, great and small, can experience God's peace.*

*Go out our furry, feathered, slippery and squawky, our scaly, creepy creatures. May Christ, who gathered into his love all things in heaven and on Earth, give you his peace.*

*And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.*

*Amen*





# HOUSE SPIRIT

The boarding experience at Framlingham College is a fully integrated part of our educational approach.



**Boarding offers the pupils in our care the opportunity to further develop social and emotional skills and independent learning, whilst also enhancing everyone's understanding of their personal attributes and characteristics, their appreciation of place as global citizens of the world, and their realisation of the importance of health and wellbeing.**

Our location offers our boarders a chance to rejuvenate and provides a safe environment in which to reconnect with themselves. Whilst boarding staff share in the ambition to drive forward successes in every pupil at Framlingham College, be it academic, sporting, musical, dramatic, artistic or something else entirely, they also recognise when it is time to help the boarders practice self-care, support life-skills and to prioritise wellbeing. Living and working healthily is taught through positive role-modelling, enriching activities, dietary nourishment, and exciting trips, and brings balance to a busy boarding life at school.

Boarding empowers our pupils to grow in confidence and maturity so they can manage many aspects of their lives which may otherwise not be considered until adulthood. Whilst fully supported by experienced pastoral staff on their journey to achieving this, our boarders become adept at managing their own workloads

- they learn how to prioritise, gain self-discipline, become confident in their own abilities, as well as improving skills in empathy and problem-solving.

However, boarding does not mean a separation from family life. Far from it. Our Housemasters and Housemistresses and our on-site residential staff are a very important part of the boarding experience as they live and work alongside our boarders. They share in all experiences with them - everything from evening sports activities to meals in the dining hall, from weekend dog walks to shopping trips, to vital support during exam season. The fact that there is such a wide network of support available in a natural form for our boarders enables a strong sense of community and undoubtedly helps them to develop their own paths to success.

A plethora of boarding activities and house events take place throughout the academic year, starting with House Singing in the Autumn Term, as our seven houses make their voices heard in our theatre, battling it out for the House Singing Cup.

From chart topping singles by Little Mix and Adele, to reimaged classics by Prince and Van Morrison – and even singing farmers chanting about their ‘Brand New Combine Harvester’ – this year’s House Singing was full of incredible performances, memorable



moments, amazing House spirit, and fantastic costumes.

It was a tough job for our new Prep School Deputy Head, Daniel Jones, who was initiated into Framlingham College life with the task of judging the performances and selecting the winners.

After careful consideration, with just half a point difference separating first and second place, it was Moreau who were crowned the winner for the Part Song section with their emotive and harmonious performance of Adele's 'When We Were Young', with Rendlesham being named 2024 Champions, scooping the coveted House Singing Cup with their rendition of Van Morrison's 'Brown Eyed Girl'.

Year 13 pupil, Archie L, Head of Rendlesham House said: "Rendlesham has been on a mission to claim the House Singing cup for five years now, so this win was one of the best ways to start the year. Our reaction to the win consisted of a lot of screaming and jumping – mainly from me screaming at the top of my lungs while wearing a large fur coat with the trophy above my head. After picking up the trophy, we paraded back to House, where we had a music rave - lots of flashing lights, loud music, and incredible House atmosphere, which really helped everyone in House feel more connected and strengthened our friendship bonds."

Year 13 pupil Margot S, Head of Moreau, said: "We were absolutely over the moon that we won the Part Song cup for our rendition of 'When We Were Young' by

Adele. We had all put so much time and effort into this part song, and we had all really come together when practicing. When Mr Jones announced us as the Part Song winners, we all jumped out of our seats in celebration – it was a tough competition, and we knew all the other Houses had all also worked so hard.

"After the competition, we went back to House, and everyone from Year 9 to Year 13 was dancing to our main song, 'Does Your Mother Know That You're Out' from Mamma Mia. This has become a bit of a theme in Moreau. Whether we win or lose, we know we have done our best, and we always come back to House and dance it out. We also do our 'Mozza' Moreau House chant and scream it so loud as a way of showing how proud we are off each other."

Talking about the reason behind their Main Song choice, Archie said: "Rendlesham has always been a House that sings with passion and strength, which made the choice for our main song very easy. 'Brown Eyed Girl' is an upbeat and up-tempo song that we knew the boys would not only enjoy but would also show off our musicality."

"I believe our greatest strength, which helped us scoop the win this year, was that fact we started practising immediately on the first day back from the summer. I told the boys that it would be tough, but it would also be the best two weeks of your year at Framlingham, and as Head of Rendlesham I could not be prouder of them."

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## HOUSE SPIRIT









Talking about the reason behind their Part Song choice, Margot said: "After careful consideration, we agreed that this song was highly impactful emotionally, and it felt like a real winner for us – which it evidently ended up being. The song had moments of solo, duet, and group work – shining a light on everyone, and we all felt emotional while we sang it. The lyrics of the song related to us all individually, from Year 9 to 13, as we grow up. Not only for those singing, but also for our fellow 'Moz' gang – everybody felt emotional at this point in the night, strengthening the connection between us all."

Talking about the benefits of House Singing, Archie said: "These events help year groups to connect, build trust and friendships which, once established, lasts for a lifetime. The energy that an event like House Singing creates is immense – it amplifies everyone's belief, courage and integrity in each other, something that Rendlesham has so much of."

Margot said: "Events like our House Singing and House Dance competitions uplift everyone. As it takes place just two weeks after the start of term, it's a great way to integrate new pupils, get back into the rhythm of school life, and most importantly it brings everybody together for the new Year 9s and Year 12s. You can see it helps everyone grow in confidence, become more comfortable in their Houses, and helps build the foundations of the house family that the Year 9's will have for the next five years. I can't put my finger on exactly what it is, but the atmosphere of the theatre switches and it is the starting point

where you feel supported and not judged here.

"Personally, from starting at Framlingham in Year 9 from another school, House Singing was such a positive turning point for me, and it is such a special memory to hold onto and talk about with fellow Framlinghamians in the future."

At the Prep School this year, pupils took to the stage for our Christmas House Singing Competition, with Britten House crowned the winners with their amazing cover of 'This Is Me' from The Greatest Showman.

The second biggest Senior house competition of the year was our House Dance, as our seven houses reunited for an impressive night of incredible group dance-offs, featuring confetti cannons, quick changes and even a 'dirty dancing' lift.

Taking place this year at the later date of June 26, pupils from each house across Years 9 to 13 formed a dance group and created everything from the costumes to the choreography, ready to impress the crowd and battle it out for the coveted House Dance Cup. It was Moreau who was named House Dance 2025 winners with their epic synchronised routine showing true house spirit, togetherness and girl power.

For those who prefer sports over singing and dance, our House Sports competitions remain a staple throughout the school calendar, with house matches for netball, cricket, rugby, badminton and tennis.



## HOUSE SPIRIT







## Senior School House Champions for 24/25 were:

- House Football (Junior): **Garrett**
- House Football (Senior): **Rendlesham**
- House Rugby (Junior): **Garrett**
- House Rugby (Senior): **Stradbroke**
- House Netball (Junior): **Pembroke**
- House Netball (Senior): **Moreau**
- House Basketball (Junior): **Pembroke**
- House Basketball (Senior): **Moreau**
- House Hockey (Girls Junior): **Pembroke**
- House Hockey (Girls Senior): **Moreau**
- House Hockey (Boys Junior): **Stradbroke**
- House Hockey (Boys Senior): **Rendlesham**
- House Cricket (Boys Senior): **Stradbroke**
- House Cross Country (Boys): **Kerrison**
- House Cross Country (Girls): **Moreau**
- House Shooting: **Garrett**
- House Tennis: **Victoria**
- House Academic Cup: **Rendlesham**

Traditional calendar events are also celebrated with house spirit. For Halloween, our Prep School pupils and boarders embraced the spooky season with ghostly goings-on and haunting delights during a fang-tastic week of Halloween events and activities.

Kicking off the week with classic pumpkin carving, pupils embraced their incredible creativity by designing Jack O' Lanterns featuring vampires, Frankenstein, Monster's Inc and the Cheshire Cat.

Other activities throughout the week included apple bobbing, party games with trick-or-treats, a popcorn filled movie night, torch light hide-and-seek and dress up day, finishing the week with a Halloween Banquet in the dining hall.

There was an abundance of festive cheer and weekend activities for our Prep and Senior boarders throughout December – from festive sports events, Christmas shopping in Southwold, the Framlingham Christmas light switch on, ice skating in Norwich, Christmas house dinners, tree decorating, wreath making, bauble decorating, Christingle creating, festive baking and Secret Santa gift exchanges.

In the Spring, our Senior School pupils eagerly awaited the annual House Easter Egg Hunt which takes place across our grounds, while our Prep School pupils had a fantastic afternoon during our annual Pancake Day Races, as the four houses went head-to-head to sprint the fastest and flip the most pancakes in the quickest time.

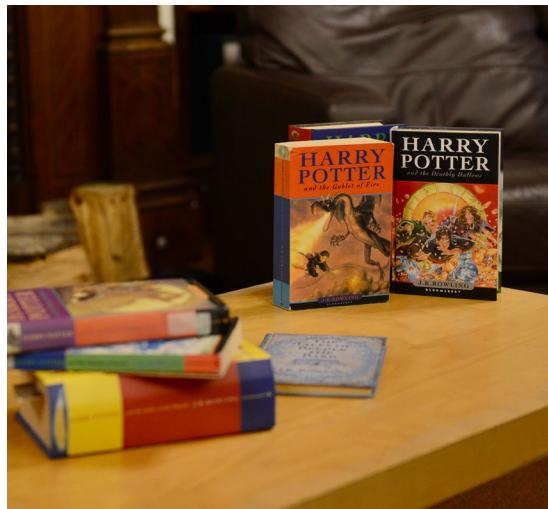




## HOUSE SPIRIT









Also at the Prep School, our immersive themed activity weeks for our boarders offers pupils unique enrichment activities, the chance to try new things, enhance skills, build teamwork, have fun together and support each other. In October, Framlingham College Prep School was transformed into Hogwarts for our fantastic Harry Potter Week as our Prep School boarders experienced the wizarding world of Harry Potter with a magical week of events and activities.

Starting off the week just like Harry Potter's first day at Hogwarts, pupils were sorted into Hogwarts Houses before taking part in an evening of potion slime making and wand crafting workshops.

Other activities throughout the week included a Horcrux Escape Room – where pupils worked together against the clock to find all the hidden horcruxes to defeat Voldemort and escape the common room – as well as a classic Harry Potter film night complete with sweet treats from 'Honeydukes Sweet Shop'.

For the final evening, pupils dressed to impress as their favourite Harry Potter characters and headed to the 'Grand Hall' for the closing House Dinner 'feast', before gathering in the common room for a wonderful reading of The Philosopher's Stone by Head of the Prep School, Simon Roche. ■





# HOUSE REPORTS



# Garrett

## HOUSEMASTER: *Chris Gange*

What a year it has been for Garrett House! Once again, it has proved itself to be an incredible place to live, work and thrive, with the boys ensuring that every single term was packed with energy, laughter, and a healthy dose of competition.

The year began in true Garrett style with our legendary House Socials – a Pizza and Games night to bring everyone together, followed by a high-octane paintball battle. We carved our way through the annual Pumpkin Competition, hunted for chocolate in the Easter Egg Hunt, and cheered our way through the Live Darts Showdown, where The Mac Attack (Henry M, Year 12) narrowly edged out The Alfenator (Alfie D, Year 10) in a tense final. Many waffles topped with ice cream were consumed along the way – strictly for team morale, of course.

On the competitive front, Garrett House shone. We reclaimed our crown as House Quiz Champions, claimed bronze in the Energy Saving Competition, stormed to victory in Inter-House Shooting, and

delivered a memorable win against Kerrison in the Senior House Rugby. The Junior Boys lifted the House Rugby trophy, while the Seniors battled to an impressive runners-up finish in House Cricket. It was a joy to see such strong Garrett representation in House Cross Country and Sports Day events, with plenty of personal bests and team triumphs to celebrate. Off the sports field, Garrett talent sparkled in music and drama. Our boys took part in the Autumn and Summer Concerts, Cabaret, The Voice, and the Music Review, with two of our younger stars, Wilf A (Year 9) and Milo HR (Year 9), earning rave reviews for their starring roles in the Junior Production of The 39 Steps.

It was a year fuelled by a never-say-never attitude and some extraordinary personal achievements. Seb B (Year 10) earned his gliding licence, George B (Year 10) secured a cricket hat trick, Kit B (Year 12) completed his BTEC Leadership Award, and Tommy B (Year 13) not only achieved Grade 8 in recorder but also built a piano-playing robot for his EPQ. Edgar R (Year 13) and Oleh S (Year 13) impressed with their continued involvement in Model United



## HOUSE REPORTS







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Garrett House is defined by its people, and you have all been nothing short of amazing. Here's to another unforgettable year ahead.





Nations conferences, while Charlie H (Year 12) captivated audiences with a standout performance in the Senior Production of See How They Run.

Beyond the walls of the House, the boys threw themselves into a calendar full of trips and adventures – cheering on Saracens RFU, braving the rides at Pleasurewood Hills, battling it out at Planet Laser and paintball, and soaking up the sun at Southwold.

The House Dinner provided a perfect finale to the year – an evening of good food, warm company, and heartfelt speeches that reflected on everything we had achieved. Awards went to Josete RS (Year 9), Alex S (Year 10), Charlie C (Year 11), Toby C (Year 12), and Ben B (Year 13), with House Colours awarded or re-awarded to Will V, Billy A, Ben B, Abdul A, Tommy B, Oli S, and Hamish M – ties to be worn with pride.

As always, the end of the year brought farewells. We thank our Head of House, Will V, along with his deputies Ben B and Billy A, and the entire prefect team for their leadership and dedication. To our Year 13 leavers, you will always be part of Garrett – don't be strangers. We also bid goodbye and best wishes to Mr Leonard and Mr Gray as they move on to exciting new roles in other schools.

To every boy, parent, and member of staff – thank you for your effort, passion, and enthusiasm this year. Garrett House is defined by its people, and you have all been nothing short of amazing. Here's to another unforgettable year ahead.





## HOUSE REPORTS







# Kerrison

## HOUSEMASTER: *Tim Cope*

Another top-quality academic year from the Kerrison boys! In September we welcomed the new Lower Sixth, all dressed smartly and armed with an excellent set of GCSE results that they should all be proud of. Our new Year 9 also arrived with their new uniform and excitement of the new challenges that lay ahead. I cannot continue without congratulating our leavers of 2024, who, armed with an excellent set of A-Level and BTEC results are ready to face the world beyond Framlingham, whether that be work, university, travelling or apprenticeships. All have left their legacy on both Kerrison and Framlingham.

First on the 24/25 calendar was House Singing. Armed with Firework by Katy Perry, the whole house flung themselves into the challenge of learning the words and performing them to the whole school, hopefully in tune! Unfortunately, despite numerous break time and lunchtime practices we were unable to secure a podium finish, however all of the boys had fun and it was lovely to see them bonding together, with some of the new Upper Sixth Form showing support for the new Year 9 pupils - by the end of the experience it was hard to believe the new pupils had only been with us for a matter of weeks.

The coming weeks were filled with great house spirit with numerous games of pool, social nights and house bonding - building on the strong friendships formed from House Singing. Senior and Junior House Football saw the whole house getting involved, either through support or playing, with performances by Alfie G and Philipp G securing the senior team a win over rivals Garrett. The Junior team also showed real grit and determination with some great performances from Sidney T, Ollie G and Leo O. Kerrison proudly secured second place overall which was a fantastic result! House Rugby next, with some key players in both the senior and junior competitions unavailable due to injury, most notably our Head of House, Dan G meant it was always going to be a hard day at the office. With the Junior team down to bear bones, they battled hard with incredible team spirit and securing some great wins. The Senior team showcased the real spirit of Kerrison, with some of the boys only starting to play rugby this year. Special mentions must go to George N, Philipp G and Max M.

Leaping into the Spring Term, we saw the Year 11 and Year 13 pupils experience their first taste of mock examinations. The Common room was a hive of activity

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Overall another successful year for Kerrison and we are building on the strong foundations of the past to help the house become even better and one we all continue to be proud of.







with pupils from other houses joining us for group revision sessions, in-house testing and marking of past papers. The boys embraced the challenge with vim and vigour, showcasing that the reward of better grades only comes with real hard work and a secure revision plan. The Spring Term also saw House Hockey, where the seniors performed above expectations, winning two of their three matches, only surpassed by the B team who remained unbeaten – special mention to Ollie F, Dan P and Callum V.

The Summer term brought with it the long anticipated good weather, with all cricket matches going ahead - a very different situation to last year! Even with the looming exam season on the cards, it was clear the returning Year 11 and 13 had found some real determination and drive to succeed over the Easter Holidays and, alongside their sporting ambitions, the house was again full of revision and encouragement - with some of the Year 12 pupils offering to help, share advice and knowledge with their younger counterparts. Sport this term was a strong mixture between tennis and cricket, with most of the house getting involved in the teams and house matches – a great outlet to release the pressures of examinations. House matches showcased some excellent performances; for the Juniors mentions must go to Felix N, Raff L and Jack B for their prowess on both the cricket pitch and tennis court, for the Seniors, Ollie F found himself in cricket competition with the Garrett boys about who could hit the biggest six, with Ollie hitting one from the first XI pitch onto the

tennis courts – luckily no-one was playing at the time! Further performances from Will P, Charlie L and Jack I showed again the strength in depth for the boys in Kerrison.

The Summer term came to an end with the eagerly anticipated Sports Day, with some nail-biting performances and results. It was a great deal of pressure for Kerrison, having won the competition three years out of the past four and, as the day progressed, the final result was not a foregone conclusion. However, the boys did it, and there was much celebrating at the announcement of Kerrison again being crowned victorious – a great way to end the Summer Term.

However, the end of the Summer Term also sees us say goodbye to pupils moving on to pastures new, and I have to say I have really enjoyed getting to know all of them. Our best wishes and good luck to Upper Sixth pupils Henry B, Will H, Jasper R, Furkan A, Ned H, Raff S, not to mention our Deputy Head of House, James H and invaluable Head of House Dan G - I would like to thank them immensely for all of their hard work, effort and assistance over the past year.

Special mention must go to Mr Moore who left us for a new challenge at Easter, I would like to thank him for all the time he has spent as Assistant Housemaster and for all of his help and assistance he has given me over the past 18 months - we would all like to wish him well for his new challenge. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the wealth of experience and assistance



the other tutors in Kerrison who give their time generously to help the Kerrison boys become the best version of themselves - so thank you to Mr Hastings, Mr Moore, Mr Newman and Dr Higgins. I would also like to thank Mr Rose, our resident tutor for all the care and support he has given me and the Kerrison boys this year.

I must also thank Irene and the domestic staff for tidying up after the boys and helping them with the new recycling system. And of course, to Kyra - the

backbone of the house, a person the boys, staff and support staff highly respect and turn to often. Without her, the success and happiness of the boys would not be where it is.

Overall another successful year for Kerrison and we are building on the strong foundations of the past to help the house become even better and one we all continue to be proud of.

Once Kerrison, Always Kerrison!





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**It has been lovely to welcome back a number of former Moreau girls throughout the year, all of whom said it felt like coming home when they walked back into the common room.**





# Moreau

## HOUSEMISTRESS: *Lucy Bloore*

We have had yet another packed and memorable year in Moreau, where house spirit and a sense of togetherness have shone through every challenge and celebration.

Year 13 led the house with the energy, commitment, and good humour we have come to expect from them. With Margot S as Head of House and Kate M as Deputy, there was a strong feeling of belonging and mutual responsibility. They have always been a close-knit group, and we couldn't be more proud of their hard work, enthusiasm, and support for the rest of the house.

The year began triumphantly with our victory in the coveted Part Song prize at House Singing—our third consecutive success in this competition. Later, we topped this by winning House Dance and Sports Day. These accomplishments were all the more meaningful because Year 12 stepped into leadership roles, bringing warmth and resilience as they inspired the rest of the house. Another highlight was our win in Cross Country, which was achieved thanks to every girl stepping up and giving her best effort. This was a wonderful example of our shared belief in team spirit and everyone's contribution counting.

Service to others remains central to our ethos. This year, Year 13 went above and beyond by mentoring Year 9 pupils individually, ensuring each new student had someone dedicated to supporting her as she settled into school life. Although we have always had a buddy system, this personal approach created strong bonds and demonstrated that leadership at Moreau is truly rooted in service.

Year 9 and 10 have also been fantastic, participating enthusiastically in junior house competitions and forging supportive friendships through co-curricular sport, music, and drama. Their willingness to get involved and cheer each other on has added so much to our community spirit.

Year 11 impressed us all with their quiet determination as they navigated their first public examinations. Every girl in the year balanced her academic focus with ongoing co-curricular commitments. We are confident their hard work will be rewarded with excellent results and look forward to congratulating each one of them in August.

Our House Nights have once again provided wonderful opportunities for the girls to bond and relax together. Pie Face Quiz has firmly established itself



as a favourite event, alongside making slime, crafting oyster shell trinket trays, and the ever-popular gingerbread house night. The Christmas Party was a particular highlight, with every year group contributing a performance or game. The Year 13 Nativity, performed for the last time, was a true Moreau tradition – legendary and much loved.

As the year ends, we bid a fond farewell to the girls who are leaving us and wish them every success for the future. It has been lovely to welcome back a number of

former Moreau girls throughout the year, all of whom said it felt like coming home when they walked back into the common room.

Finally, heartfelt thanks go to Nat for her kindness and support as matron and to Miss Hawes, who has been such a positive presence as our resident tutor this year.

We look forward to another year of spirit, service, and shared memories in Moreau.





# Pembroke

**HOUSEMISTRESS:** *Lincey Solomons*

As this academic year draws to a close, I find myself filled with pride and deep gratitude. Pembroke House has once again proven itself to be a vibrant, nurturing community—one defined by resilience, joy, and an unwavering sense of togetherness.

From the very beginning of the Autumn Term, our girls embraced house life with enthusiasm and heart. House Singing was a triumphant start, with Pembroke placing third in both the House Song and Part Song. The energy and collaboration displayed that evening was a beautiful reminder of the power of community and the shared joy found in collective effort.

Throughout the year, Pembroke has remained a warm, welcoming home for all. Our House Nights have become cherished traditions—whether it was singing our hearts out at karaoke, enjoying film evenings and hot chocolate socials, or expressing our creativity during canvas painting sessions. These informal gatherings have played a vital role in

building lasting friendships and making our new pupils feel part of something truly special.

We also celebrated outstanding achievements across every corner of school life, culminating in our proud retention of the prestigious Douglas Shield. Our pupils shone academically, excelled in LAMDA exams, and made their mark in both sports and the arts. Highlights included victories in both Junior and Senior House Cricket, a strong team spirit in Junior House Tennis, and unforgettable performances in House Netball—where the girls played with remarkable unity, and determination.

Special events added even more sparkle to the year. The Great Gatsby House Dinner was an evening of glamour and laughter, while the Sixth Form Dinner and Céili stood out as a joyful celebration of our senior pupils' journeys and accomplishments.

This year also brought a change in leadership within the House. I am

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just a House – it is a home.  
A place of heart, spirit,  
and connection.





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**It has been a true privilege to lead this extraordinary community, and I look forward with great excitement to all the new memories and milestones the coming year will bring.**





incredibly proud of Phoebe T and Amélie A-H, our new Head and Deputy Head of House, who have stepped into their roles with integrity, imagination, and genuine care. I have every confidence that they will lead Pembroke with strength and kindness in the year ahead.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our exceptional team: to our wonderful Matron, Tracey, whose care and dedication have touched every girl in the House and who also celebrated her wedding this year (congratulations once again!); to Ms. Hewitt, our committed Assistant House Mistress; and to our

dedicated team of Tutors whose guidance and support never wavered.

To our leavers – thank you. Your warmth, courage, and contributions have left an indelible mark on Pembroke. Though you may be moving on, you will always be a part of this House and its legacy.

Pembroke is more than just a House – it is a home. A place of heart, spirit, and connection. It has been a true privilege to lead this extraordinary community, and I look forward with great excitement to all the new memories and milestones the coming year will bring.







# Stradbroke

**HOUSEMASTER:** *Alberto Henriques*

This academic year has been filled with energy, unity, and growth in Stradbroke House. From spirited competitions to academic challenges, the boys have shown remarkable resilience and camaraderie. The support of our entire tutoring team, along with Mr Weal and Michaela, has been invaluable and contributed to a tremendous year.

As this was my first year as Housemaster, I felt warmly welcomed by the boys from day one, which set a positive tone for the months ahead. The Autumn Term saw the arrival of the long-awaited tuck shop, which was a success from the start. The boys gave excellent suggestions and fully enjoyed it—what a pleasure to see their engagement! Academically, Year 13s focused on UCAS applications, while Year 11s prepared for their January mocks. Chapel services were uplifting, with enthusiastic participation. The House Dinner in November was a memorable black-tie event filled with speeches, laughter, and spirited karaoke.

In competitions, our senior rugby team secured a remarkable fifth consecutive cup, and the shooting team achieved second place.

Spring brought more sporting success, especially in hockey and Rugby 7s. The boys competed passionately in the well-regarded Rosslyn Park tournament, where they rubbed shoulders with some of the best teams in the country. The Common Room remained a vibrant hub, now featuring a dartboard and Xbox. Chess tournaments and the buzz around the Sixth Form Dinner added to the lively atmosphere. On the academic side, Year 13s sat their mock exams, and we continued to see real improvements in punctuality and dorm tidiness.

Summer saw Year 11 and 13 immersed in exams, while Year 12s began preparing. In cricket, Percy M and Rikin K led strong performances as Stradbroke triumphed in the Senior House Cricket competition—well done boys! Tennis also stood out, with

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The dedication, teamwork, and spirit shown this year have made it truly special. We look forward to building on this momentum.





Myles G performing at a fantastic high level. The House placed a brilliant second in both Junior Tennis and House Cross Country, with notable efforts by Percy M and Max S.

Cultural life thrived, with three rounds of the House Quiz, a standout Cabaret Night performance by Sebby A-E, and Lucien D-N receiving a Head's Commendation for photography. Boys' wellbeing remained a focus, with regular treats: Michaela's cakes—always a must – and hot dogs at break, alongside community time in the Common Room. Myles G and Ed S inspired us all by completing a full marathon to celebrate the end of their exams, running from the College to Aldeburgh and back.

We said farewell to Mr McLean and Mr Weal, whose impact on the House was deeply appreciated. As we also say goodbye to our Year 13s, we wish them every success and hope they stay in touch. Our new prefects have already shown strong commitment and leadership.

This has been a remarkable year for Stradbroke House. We finished second in the Stocks Shield competition, and I believe next year we will go one better. Thank you to all the boys for their attitude, engagement, and behaviour, which have honoured both the House and the College. The dedication, teamwork, and spirit shown this year have made it truly special. We look forward to building on this momentum.





# Rendlesham

## HOUSEMASTER: *Johan Black*

Rendlesham House has enjoyed an exceptional year — one defined by unity, leadership, and achievement across all areas of school life. With immense pride, we reflect on a year in which our pupils not only reached high standards but did so with integrity, humility, and unwavering House spirit.

We are particularly delighted that Rendlesham won the prestigious Stock Shield — a highly coveted award that recognises all-round excellence in academics, co-curricular participation, and community contribution. This victory is a direct result of the collective effort, drive, and positive attitude shown by every boy in the House.

Our commitment to scholarship was reaffirmed with a third consecutive win of the Academic Cup — a remarkable achievement that highlights the sustained dedication of our pupils.

Rendlesham pupils participated actively and successfully across a wide range

of sports, cultural activities, and House competitions. Sporting highlights included winning Senior House Football and Hockey, with strong contributions from our juniors in their respective sporting events.

Cultural and creative achievements were also celebrated by the boys of Rendlesham, with success in House Recitation and continued strength in drama and music. Standout performances in See How They Run, The 39 Steps, Cabaret, and an increased number of pupils contributing to musical events — including excellent performances at the Autumn, Cabaret, and Summer Concerts — showcasing the boys' artistic flair.

Rendlesham maintained a strong sense of community throughout the year, demonstrated by winning the Energy Saving competition — another first for a boys' House — and by enthusiastically supporting the wellbeing ambassadors and their various initiatives. Our annual House Dinner was another memorable occasion, bringing us together to celebrate

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**As we prepare to welcome new and returning pupils in September, we do so with confidence and excitement.**





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Rendlesham stands as a House where excellence is pursued not only in achievement but in character, and where every pupil is supported...





the Year 13s and share a funny story or two from their time in Rendlesham. The House common room continued to serve as the beating heart of the community — a space for dialogue, laughter, games, and rest, where boys from all year groups came together in friendship.

We are grateful for the outstanding leadership provided by our outgoing Year 13 pupils, particularly Archie L and Harry B, who have led with commitment, warmth, and authenticity. Their example has left a lasting mark on the House.

Looking ahead, we proudly welcome our new leadership team. We wish new Head of House, Louis M, and Deputy Head of House, Finn S, all the very best as they lead the House and emulate the success of this year. Their energy and vision will ensure that Rendlesham continues to thrive.

This year, we also said farewell to long-standing member of staff Mr Constanti, who retires after 24 years of dedicated service to Rendlesham and the College. We thank him — and all departing staff — for their immense contributions.

As we prepare to welcome new and returning pupils in September, we do so with confidence and excitement. Rendlesham stands as a House where excellence is pursued not only in achievement but in character, and where every pupil is supported to grow, lead, and contribute meaningfully to the life of the College.





## HOUSE REPORTS







# Victoria

## HOUSEMISTRESS: *Lucy Collishall*

As I reflect on my third year as Housemistress of Victoria House, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the progress we have made as a community. This year has been a period of growth and development, both for the students and myself. The community and sense of belonging far outweighs a full trophy cabinet, although it was a real highlight to win Senior House Tennis once again!

Victoria has been ably led by our wonderful Head of House Eleanor C. Since joining the College in Year 9, she looked up to the Head of House each year. A dream role for Eleanor that she truly flourished in. A role model, who led with integrity, fairness and compassion. Bea W and Faiza K were fabulous Deputy Heads of House, it gave me so much pleasure to see the team work together with such drive and cohesion.

The year began with welcoming a new group of Year 9 and Year 12 students, who quickly integrated into the Victoria House

family. Their energy and enthusiasm has been contagious, invigorating the entire house. Our returning students have shown remarkable leadership, helping the newcomers adjust and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

Academically, our students have excelled, with many achieving personal best scores in exams and receiving accolades in chapel for their hard work. The dedication and perseverance of our students have been truly inspiring.

In terms of extracurricular activities, Victoria House has continued to shine. We have had huge representation in the drama productions across the year, with some outstanding performances in *See How They Run* and *The 39 Steps* respectively. The arts have also flourished, with students participating in music recitals, various choirs and art exhibitions. These activities have not only showcased their talents but also built a strong sense of camaraderie and teamwork.

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This year has been one of remarkable achievements and personal growth for Victoria House.





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I am immensely proud of our students and their accomplishments, and I look forward to building on this success in the coming year.





Pastoral care remains a cornerstone of our philosophy. Our wellbeing ambassadors have really grasped their role and have made such a positive impact with their new initiatives. The feedback from this has been overwhelmingly positive, and we have seen a noticeable improvement in the overall mood and resilience of our students.

Our House Dinner was such a wonderful occasion. We were treated to a unique and classy 'Under The Stars' theme, in which all the girls bought in to. The evening was topped off with such fun and dancing in Pauls Court, and was certainly a night to remember with DJ Mimi C on the decs keeping everyone dancing!

As Housemistress, I have continued to grow in my role. The support from my colleagues and the relationships with the students and their families have been invaluable. A huge thank you must go to Ms Coxall for her unwavering support across the year. New matron Jeanette has been a wonderful addition to the team. Her kindness and level of care is exceptional.

This year has been one of remarkable achievements and personal growth for Victoria House. I am immensely proud of our students and their accomplishments, and I look forward to building on this success in the coming year. Together, we will continue to nurture a supportive, vibrant, and successful community. ■





# YEAR 13 LEAVERS

After an incredible celebration of achievement from the 2024/2025 academic year, on the final day of the Summer Term our Year 13 leavers savoured a memorable last hurrah during our Prize Giving and Speech Day Ceremony followed by a fantastic 2025 Leavers' Ball later that evening.



**This grand event took place in the splendid marquee, elegantly positioned on the Back. Commencing with welcome drinks in the Piazza, it was a day filled with merriment, camaraderie, and a touch of nostalgia as our Year 13 pupils prepared to conclude their chapter as Framlinghamians.**

For many, the weeks ahead were filled with eager anticipation and, perhaps, a hint of apprehension, as they awaited their exam results. When the results were finally revealed in August, they served as a genuine testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work these students had invested in their studies.

#### **A-Level Results:**

This year, Framlingham College saw 39% of grades achieved at A\* – A or equivalent (BTEC Distinction\* or Distinction), with 1 in 5 pupils achieving at least 3 A\* – A grades (or equivalent).

Nearly two thirds (61%) of grades scored are A\* – B (or equivalent), and 87% of grades scored are A\* – C (or equivalent).

For BTECs – which Framlingham College has seen grow in popularity this year, with 64% more pupils choosing BTEC courses in academic year 2024/25 compared to 2023/24 – 71% scored Distinction\* / Distinction (equivalent to A\* / A), with 100% of the BTEC cohort achieving Distinction\* – Merit grades.

Our Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs – equivalent to an extra half an A Level) saw 63% score A\* – A, with 88% scoring A\* – B.

This year, we offered the UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma (a creative arts and design qualification equivalent to 3 A Levels) for the first time, which saw an outstanding 100% Distinction grade rate across the cohort.

Principal Louise North said: “I am delighted with the A Level and BTEC results this year which are the result of our pupils’ hard work, perseverance and aspiration. The results reflect the creativity and individuality that characterises a Framlinghamian. We are so proud of them.”



73% of our leavers who chose further education pathways were awarded their first choice at university, with places secured at institution including University of Cambridge, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, Loughborough University, University of Sheffield, Newcastle University, Manchester Metropolitan, Royal Academy of Music, Courtauld Institute of Art London, and Harper Adams University. The degree courses of which included History of Art, Computer Science, Fashion Marketing, Architecture, Psychology, Business Management, Natural Sciences, Engineering, International Relations, Film Making, Music and Geography.

Reflecting our pupils strong entrepreneurial spirit and sense of adventure, 45% of our leavers are also considering alternative international pathways (with four pupils securing places at universities abroad), or have decided to pursue exciting career opportunities; from hospitality school in Switzerland, rugby training in Australia, lifeguarding in New Zealand, teacher training at local Prep Schools, mountaineering expeditions to Mont Blanc and Everest, acting, ski instructor training in Canada, and a Level 4 Agriculture Apprenticeship.





## YEAR 13 LEAVERS







# FULL LIST OF 2024/25 LEAVERS

Surname	Forename	House	Surname	Forename	House
Adil	Abdul	G	Royall	Annabelle	M
Anderson	William	G	Sidebottom	Margot	M
Bell	Thomas	G	Sledmere	Florence	M
Brownhill	Ben	G	Strover	Hannah-Grace	M
Franklin	Oscar	G	Winter	Maria	M
Morris	Hamish	G	Brayshaw	Emily	P
Reader	Edger	G	Collins	Florence	P
Shulzhenko	Oleh	G	Creasy	Honor	P
Stirling	Oliver	G	Dring-Richardson	Poppy	P
Vendy	William	G	Green	Darcy	P
Arif	Furkan	K	Holmes	Grace	P
Baskerville	Henry	K	Hook	Katie	P
Graves	Daniel	K	Keddie	Eloise	P
Hay	William	K	Lomas	Sophie	P
Hayward	Ned	K	Lorigan	Martha	P
Howard	James	K	Mullineaux	Martha	P
Kelly	Rafael	K	North	India	P
Roberton	Jasper	K	Ogunlesi	Fiyinfoluwa	P
Searson	Rafferty	K	Pearson	Tabitha	P
Sizeland	Jack	K	Sanusi	Maryam	P
Bailie	Mimi	M	Baldwin	James	R
Duffield	Edith	M	Bishopp	Harry	R
Gardens	Bethany	M	Burrows	Noah	R
Gibbs	Kate	M	Duke	Lucas	R
Gooderham	Chloe	M	Hall	Riley	R
Hicks	Emily	M	Jones	Archie	R
Judge	Tara	M	Legg	Archie	R
Pearson-Smith	Alexandra	M	Lloyd	Henry	R



Surname	Forename	House
McEwan	Archie	R
Powell	Edward	R
Taylor	Thomas	R
Turner	Jack	R
Beech	Harrison	S
De Neson	Lucien	S
Green	Oliver	S
Green	Thomas	S
Gurr	Myles	S
Lagerberg	Felix	S
Mackee	Angus	S
Moore	Percy	S
Nisbet	Oliver	S
Paffett	Freddie	S
Pearce	Sebastian	S
Romer-Lee	Harry	S
Slater	Edward	S
Slater	Joseph	S
Williams	Oliver	S
Carvill	Eleanor	V
Cooper	Amelia	V
Easton	Katie	V
Fookes	Lily	V
Gordon	Anna	V
Green	Lilly	V
John	Charlotte	V
Johnson	Rosanna	V
Johnston	Isla	V
Kafala	Faiza	V
McCausland	Ophelia	V
Morecroft O'Leary	Emilia	V
Wallis	Beatrice	V
Williams	Katherine	V
Wilson	Camille	V
Wilson	Thea	V







# OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I walk through the familiar grounds of the College, memory meets me like an old friend.



**The echo of laughter carried on a breeze;  
the steadfast, stately walls that have  
watched generations come and go,  
whisper of a spirit - intangible yet ever-  
present - that lingers with you long after  
you leave.**

It rests in the union of tradition and community, in the quiet continuity of a place that shapes both lives and hearts. To return now as President of the Society of Old Framlinghamians, is both a joy and a profound humbling experience.

This year marks a milestone in the Society's history: I have the privilege of serving as its first female President in 125 years, as well as its first overseas President. As a German in this distinctly British society, I hope I can quietly symbolise what Framlingham has always stood for: a place where backgrounds may differ, but where belonging is shared, and where the threads of our varied stories are woven into one tapestry. My purpose is to tend to those invisible threads, to strengthen the ties between the College and the Society, so that pupils of today may look to the Old Framlinghamian family and see a future full of kinship and strength.

I am grateful for the trust placed in me and for the warmth of the community that

continues to welcome me, no matter the miles or years that may lie between visits. Framlingham remains, at its heart, a home.

## Reflecting on a Year of Community, Achievement, and Tradition

This year has been one of celebration, connection, and meaningful contributions. One of the most inspiring endeavours came with our collective support for the College's hockey programme. The Society's contribution towards the Inskip pitch refurbishment became more than an act of restoration, it was the spark for further growth, securing bursarial support, enhancing coaching, and laying a foundation for a lasting hockey legacy at Framlingham.

Sports overall gave us many cherished reunions: in Golf, Tennis, and Shooting Old Framlinghamians, pupils, and staff gathered in the spirit of friendly rivalry and kinship. Perhaps most moving of all was the Jeff Wornham Memorial Cricket Match. Two decades after Jeff's tragic death, his classmates returned to Framlingham College. Candles were lit, stories were shared, and when his brother called for the remembrance of Jeff and others gone too soon, the air grew heavy with love,



memory, and gratitude. It was more than a match; it was a testament to friendship's power to endure.

Beyond the playing fields, our Society has continued its duty to memory. This year, we helped secure the safekeeping of Gordon Flowerdew's Victoria Cross, ensuring that this symbol of extraordinary courage will remain on public display to inspire generations to come. Such acts remind us that history is not merely to be remembered, it is to be preserved, protected, and passed forward, so that bravery is never forgotten.

We also welcomed two new Moreau Scholars, celebrating the twentieth anniversary of a scholarship that has become far more than a financial award. It is a community, a living legacy that reminds us that while excellence may take many forms, it is ultimately character and service that distinguish an ideal Old Framlinghamian.

And throughout the year, the vibrancy of our community shone, in literary and artistic achievements, in reunions at home and overseas, in dinners that stretched across Australia and Germany, and in laughter shared at the 1970s and 50th anniversary Leavers' Lunch. At its heart, it has been a year rich not only in achievements but

in fellowship, in the joy of reconnection, and in the reassurance that the bonds of Framlingham extend far beyond its gates.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and generosity of so many: trustees, Council members, volunteers, contributors, donors, organisers, supporters, College staff, and attendees. Whether you gave your time, your resources, your expertise, or simply turned up with warmth and enthusiasm: THANK YOU!

## Carry The Flame Forward

The strength of the Society has always been found in those willing to lend their energy, their vision, and their heart to shaping its future. As we look ahead, I especially encourage young Old Framlinghamians and women to step forward, to organise, to lead, and to help us grow into a community that reflects the richness and diversity of those it represents. Join us, share your talents, and be part of the next chapter of our story. Together, we are not merely preserving memories but shaping a living legacy that will endure long after us. After all, "tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire." We cannot wait to welcome you in our midst!



# SUPPERS & DINNERS 2024-25



# OF reunion in Germany – September 2024



L-R: Jasper Lüer, Christian Scherpel, Yac Schröder, Yannic Schröder, Dominik Scheffer

## Heidelberg Old Framlinghamian Dinner 2024

### A note from the organiser and President of the Society of Old Framlinghamians

**Kim Alexandra Dickel (M97-98):** Six years have passed since German OFs gathered in Germany to celebrate the unbreakable bond brought to us via the life altering time we spent at Framlingham College. This year we finally met again on September 7th in Heidelberg, a backdrop that was carefully chosen as the city celebrated another German-British union. While the Heidelberg castle bathed in a mysterious red glow, fireworks over the Neckar reminisced the arrival of Elizabeth Stuart who received this opulent welcome from

her then betrothed elector Friedrich V. in 1613. Over 400 years later German OFs watched proudly knowing that they, too, played a small part in the beautiful tradition of Anglo-German friendships. With very little interest in German OF reunions in the last years, I was overjoyed to welcome well known and new faces. We started the day with an exclusive and private company tour at tech incubator Ameria at Heidelberg's newly developed innovation park. We then moved to the more picturesque part of town and met at the Kulturbrauerei where we enjoyed hearty comfort food and a cordial catch



up after all these years. At nightfall we watched the castle illuminations near the river before promenading over to Heidelberg's beautiful old town. Some OFs had excellent local expertise and our celebration lasted well into the early morning hours. Drinking, dancing, laughter and lively conversations made it a night to remember.

On all our behalf I would like to extend my gratitude towards the College and the Society with a special thanks to my co-host Johannes Tröger, past President Chris Essex and current President Nicholas Whitehead, who ensured that financial and hands on help was extended whenever needed. Lastly, I would like to applaud the enthusiasm of our attendees! The

high-spirited, humorous and friendly personalities of our Framlingham College alumni always ensure that our reunions are heart-warming occasions. Our unique community founded by the common experience that is Framlingham College remains a source of comfort, inspiration and friendship. I look forward to our next reunion like I look forward to Christmas. See you all there!

List of attendees on Saturday 7th of September 2024 in alphabetical order: Kim Dickel (M97-98), Anna Sophia Heine (P20-22), Nicholas Kuhn (K09-10), Jasper Lüer (S06-08), Dominik Scheffer (K12-14), Christian Scherpel (R09-10), Jac Schröder (R17-18), Yannic Schröder (G22-23) and Johannes Tröger (R96-98).

## West of England OF Supper 2024

### **Chris Essex (K69-75) writes:**

The West of England Supper met again at the Lamb Inn at Hindon, Wiltshire on Sunday 29 September 2024. The Lamb Inn has been a public house since the 12th century and the dining room was again a lovely setting for 13 of us to meet for our meal and much conversation.

We came from a wide geographical area covering Bath & North East Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, and even Essex in the form of former SOF President Simon Dougherty and his wife Maggie.

We were also delighted to welcome Andrew Cook who only joined the College as Director of Development a few weeks ago and had travelled all the way from the College to attend his first ever OF event.

Some of those present had not attended a West of England gathering before or in fact any OF gathering for more years than they cared to remember. I believe local gatherings around the UK and abroad are so important to enable those of us not within easy reach of the College to get together and reminisce.

After the meal I gave a brief talk about



a few items. Firstly I was delighted that all except one attendee had already subscribed to the new website and I described why this was important. Secondly I updated on the area of communications with members and how we were going ahead with the annual OF Newspaper and proving regular News Digests taken from the website.

Lastly I mentioned the Distinguished OF section of the website and that there were some fascinating characters to be found, including some of those in the room! I added that one of the sections is about iconic families and none more so than the Simpsons who were at the College on day one in 1864. I showed a copy of an amazing book written by OF Charles Simpson on his family.

I read a message from our President Nick Whitehead who was unable to attend and then we raised a toast to the

College and Brandeston.

Andrew Cook then spoke about the College and what's happening there and challenges they face and his new role. Andrew already had his children at Brandeston (FCPS) before taking up his role as Director of Development. He ended by toasting the Society.

In terms of next year, we all agreed to stick with a Sunday night but in late October and to stick with the superb Shooters Menu.

Those present were left to right : Andrew Cook, Ian Vicary (K58-62) , Julian Stapleton (G58-63), Carol (Alan Limer's partner), David Lowe (S66-68), Alan Limer (S56-65), me, Simon Chaplin-Rogers (S68-73), Barry Prewett (S70-78), Maggie Dougherty, Simon Dougherty (G60-67), Sue Kestin and Tim Kestin (R60-69).

As you can see Tim Kestin was brilliantly resplendent in his late father's OF blazer.



# OFs gather to celebrate 100 years of Rugby at Framlingham College

On Sunday 22nd September a small group of Old Framlinghamians and guests gathered to celebrate 100 years of Rugby at Framlingham College. We were kindly invited to a casual buffet lunch prior to the Centenary Rugby match between the College 1st XV and Ipswich RFC. This match replicated the first match ever played at Framlingham in 1924.

Those in attendance were: Chris Bellamy (G54-64), Ben Boyce (R88-91), Natasha Card (V85-89), Bob Clayton (G50-57) and Moira, James Coleman (G90-95), Andrew Cook (Director of Development), (Duncan Cork (K89-94), James Cundy (Z90-97), Mike Cundy (K61-64), Simon Dougherty (G60-67) and Maggie, Cristian Everett (K89-94), Jim Fennell (K91-94), Kate Jackson (P84-93), David Jakes (G90-97), Jeremy Kemp (S70-79), Jenkin Leung (K79-84), Mel Lewis (V87-97), Peter Metcalf (R55-60), Norman Mayhew (R48-56), Martin Myers-Allen (Director of Outdoor Education & Development Projects Manager), Louise North (Principal of Framlingham College), Charles Packshaw (Chair of Governors), Katie Rixon (P89-98), Chris Sneath (K51-56) and Liz, Pete Twentyman (S05-10), Rich Wilson (R88-93) and Zoe Wilson (V88-92) and their son Sebastian.

Many OFs who had come for the



celebration were former 1st team rugby captains from the various decades. The College had also created a fantastic exhibition of rugby from over the years which was on display for all to see.

The match took place on Lords and was well supported by OFs, pupils, parents and the school community. It was an epic match, and the College 1st XV won convincingly beating Ipswich RFC 69-0. It was good to see so many OFs had come to watch the match, catch up on old times and celebrate this historic anniversary. After the match we all enjoyed afternoon tea in Paul's Court.

Pictured from L to R : George Wright (K78-83), David Ibeson (K78-84), Jenkin Leung (K79-84), Tim Mosse (K78-82), Robert Bellfield (K81-83).



# A November 2024 lunch at Snape for Senior OFs and partners



**Richard Sayer (S56-61) writes:** The thought that some older OFs might prefer a lunch to a supper and that the presence of spouses and partners would enhance the event, was behind the decision to hold a 'Seniors' lunch on November 6 at the Plough and Sail, "the OF pub in Suffolk".

62 diners signed up. A few had to drop out but 55 made it, 33 men and 22 ladies – who of course greatly improved the overall ambiance, and stopped us men from the customary over the top reminiscing.

It was pleasing that the lunch attracted many from outside Suffolk and Norfolk – James and Christine Ruddock-Broyd came from Oxfordshire, others from Southern counties, with the most intrepid probably being Andrew and

Pat Freemantle from Dorset.

Special guests were Trish Mayhew (Ken's widow and sister in law of Jimmy Mayhew whose 105th birthday takes place on November 22nd), ex-Headmaster Paul Taylor, former Chairman of Governors Andrew Fane, and Andrew Cook, the new Director of Development at the College who worked the room well to chat to a large number of the OFs present.

Full list OF attendees was Anderton Robin, Bellamy Chris, Cook Andrew, Cooksey Clive, Dodd Norman, Dougherty Simon, Edwards Ted, Ellerby John, Fane Andrew, Ford Jon, Freemantle Andrew, Holden Michael, Holland Dudley, Horton John, Howard Ian, Howard-Dobson Peter, Keeble Chris, Lillie Andrew, , Martin Tony,



Mayhew Norman, Mayhew Trish, Mayhew Andy, Moore Andrew, Porter Norman, Powlesland Ross, Ruddock-Broyd, Sayer Richard, Sharman Michael, Smy Michael, Sneath Chris, Taylor Paul, Tipping Malvern, Wigg Colin and Youngs Peter.

It proved to be an ideal venue. Alex Burnside, husband of Chris Sneath's grand-daughter, runs the pub and did us proud: The food was excellent, chosen by each diner in advance (we could not have done it without email) from a choice of three mains and three puddings, and was accompanied by the very palatable house wine. We had our own section of the restaurant area, with seven tables of eight, adjacent to the bar, and were very well-looked after by the staff.

A repeat event will take place on Thursday November 6th (avoiding Bonfire Day) at the same venue. OFs are requested to put that date in their diaries now, which would greatly help the organiser in reducing his email count from less than this year's 400 odd.

Addendum Report by James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52) :

I had earlier said to Richard that the reason we were here today is given in an Oxon "Friends" report. The writer was referring to the old school societies of her husband and herself "which are now suffering drop-off in interest from recent school leavers because millennials just do not 'do' AGMs and committees and minutes and agendas and procedures and points of order." Their

response is "Why do you need all that stuff when you can communicate by smart phones and WhatsApps *inter alia*?"

In my 120 seconds allotted by Richard I said a John Bird had appeared in our retirement village in Oxfordshire who farmed at Westerfield and went to school at Uppingham. I referred this to Tony Martin (G47-55) who no one will know as he is quiet and unassuming (laughter) but does know the College history back to front and guided me to Entry no 89 in the Green Register where Frederick Bird is recorded as farmer at Westerfield and in the College first entry in 1865. It turned he was John's great great grandfather.

John had been Cattle Steward at the Suffolk Show and shot regularly with David Hodge (S44-50) and his three sisters went to East Anglian School for Girls where my sister went through whom I met the late John Edward's sister, Sally, who has worked for the College.

I then introduced my wife Christine's first book "A Fairy Wedding" with her own illustrations on all 50 pages for 5 to 11 year-olds. She has self-published it with the expert graphic design services of Chris Keeble (S53-59) - see website for further interest.

Richard and his team are to be congratulated on putting together such an excellent occasion. There was a trio of Seniors present who all reach 90 in the following nine months - Holland, Dodd and myself.



## OF Norfolk Supper – Thursday 28th November 2024



### **Ed Wharton, organiser of the OF Norfolk Supper writes:**

'The Norfolk Supper was held on Thursday 28th November at the Kings Head in Bawburgh. The supper should have been held at the Strangers Club in Norwich but with initial uptake poor, it became unviable for the Club to host the dinner. In typical fashion there was a late surge in interest and 26 OFs sat down to dinner. It was especially good to see one or two younger OFs plus a few who would not normally attend. The Kings Head looked after us well and lived up to its

reputation with a superb meal. After dinner Andrew Cook (Director of Development) gave an honest and informative update on how things were going at the College. He reported that although there were concerns and challenges, due in the main to a change in Government, the College was well placed to deal with them. On a day-to-day basis the school was performing well, particularly on the sports fields with a number of notable achievements including a 1st XV victory over Greshams.



Most departed at around 11pm but a few headed off to the bright lights of The Prince of Wales Road.....'

Pictured from the left and moving round in a clockwise direction : Neil Jackson (77-78), Jason Living (S80-84), James Chapman (G75-84), Luke Matthes (R81-85), Chris Bellamy (G54-64), Tony Martin (G47-55), Hilary Ling, Michael Smy (S57-66), John Ling (S49-56), Ed Wharton (standing up) (G80-85), Andrew Cook (FC), Charlie Tacon

(G86-89), Andy Allen (K74-80)

Those who attended were Andy Allen, Chris Bellamy, Jack Bonham, Sam Daisley, Will Dickerson, Jack Caswell Dodd, James Chapman, Mike Chapman, Andrew Cook (Director of Development), John Fuller, Chris Garrard, Nick Gowing, Kate Jackson, Neil Jackson, Hilary Ling, John Ling, Jason Living, Tony Martin, Luke Matthes, Simon Mills, Andrew Morton, John Reader, Michael Smy, Charlie Tacon, Mike Townrow and Edward Wharton.



# Moreau Scholar hosts pre Christmas gathering at home



Moreau Scholar **Alicia Pryce (M12-24)** writes: "On the 20th December 2024, I hosted a small gathering with 13 other Old Framlinghamians at my home in Suffolk.

The attendees included Alice Verebelyi, Evie Brice, Eden Butler, Maddy Buchannan, Maddy Brown, Tilda Hardy, Alex Ebbens, Jake Croft-Sharland, Charlie Royal-Dawson, Ben Peacock, Fazil Akyol, Will Brett and Charlie Hall.

The event comprised of drinks, a dinner and then lots of time to catch up and update each other about the different paths which we have all taken since leaving Framlingham. It was particularly nice to spend time with a larger group which hasn't been possible since the start of university terms and soon won't be able

to happen again with lots of people going traveling.

The evening was a great success, with lots of time being spent reminiscing on our time at school together and retaining our established friendships. "

Pictured from left to right (going clockwise from the end seat closest) of the photo is as follows: Charlie Royal-Dawson (S19-24), Jake Croft-Sharland (R16-24), Eden Butler (M22-24), Alex Ebbens (S22-24), Tilda Hardy (M22-24), Ben Peacock (S22-24), Maddy Buchannan (M19-24), Charlie Hall (S08-24), Maddy Brown (M22-24), Alice Verebelyi (M16-24), Will Brett (R22-24) and Evie Brice (V22-24). Fazil Akyol (G22-24) was also present as mentioned but not in the photo.



# German OFs celebrate Carnival in style



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)**, 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. Conny and Johannes even tried to copy the "Funkemariechen" and her marching dance, see for yourself if they did a good job.

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).



# SOF dinner in Sydney, Australia on Friday 2nd May 2025



**Chris Shaw (K50-56)** writes : Australia is a huge island continent, most of which is dry, red sand, the flat remnants of an ancient inland sea. Every fifty years or so in Queensland, we experience an enthusiastically wet, Wet Season, and we've just had one. To us that means Lake Eyre in South Australia will eventually have water in it again, and the grass and the birdlife go crazy. The drainage basin is 1.2 million km<sup>2</sup> and the lake is 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> in surface area, to a depth of 15 metres. The last time this happened was in 1974, a year

after I arrived in Cairns. Closer to home, it was also the venue that Donald Campbell broke the land speed record in Bluebird CN7 of 403.1mph (648.7 kph) on July 17th, 1964.

Hone your focus now on a ubiquitous yellow sandstone building in Sydney within sight of the Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, affectionately known as the 'Coat-hanger', and see three men and a woman meet up for the first time in ten years. The instigator of this meeting is



Michael (Mike) Garnett (R53-55), OAM of Romsey, Victoria, who is visiting Sydney for events arising from his Order of Australia Medal. This dinner meeting was organised by Col Lipman (R53-61), who runs a business in Sydney and kindly makes the arrangements for such meetings, for which we give due thanks. The last of the three men, Chris Shaw (K50-56), with his wife, Rebecca, who had travelled from Cairns in the Far North of Queensland where most of the Cyclones that bring the prodigious rainfall to fill Lake Eyre about every 50 years, make landfall. The 'watering hole' of these four was the Royal Automobile Club of Australia established in 1905, and a large step back in Australia's history.

The three men have in common being students at Framlingham College in Suffolk in 'England's fair and pleasant land'. That their presence at 'Fram' was in the 1950s and 1960s was shown by the snow on their heads, their slightly frail gait, and the enthusiasm of their handshakes alluding to their awareness of the lack of sand left in their hourglasses. These three are survivors of life's 'slings and arrows', and had joined to celebrate their separate journeys, linked by the golden thread of 'Fram's' training and philosophy, and Mike's richly deserved reward. Rebecca, Chris's wife, was a Librarian for a quarter of a century and has just completed a 12-year project of Tudor cross-stitched portraits and scenes.

Four glasses clinked to unite these people, and a sip to sign the deed, left Col to give

us a copy of the new President of the Society of Old Framlinghamian's letter to connect with our meeting. The new President is Kim Dickel (M97-98), who lives in Dusseldorf, and is to be congratulated on her Presidency. I've seen her name many times in relation to events and dinners in Germany, reported by Chris Essex in his Overseas Bag reports.

Dusseldorf, 01.05.2025.

To Colin and all attendees of the Australia Old Framlinghamian Dinner.

It is wonderful to hear that the strong and enduring connection between our Australian OFs and the Society of Old Framlinghamians is celebrated in Sydney on May 2nd. Many thanks to the organisers past and present who ensure that our bond rooted in common values and mutual respect remains relevant and intact.

For generations, Australia and Great Britain have been linked by language, culture, and tradition. Attending Framlingham College, however, transcends a shared history and translates democratic ideals and a rich literary and artistic heritage into a lived experience. Overseas OFs have always contributed more than just academic ability. They bring a fresh global perspective, a spirit of openness, and a natural curiosity. They help foster cultural exchange, broaden discussions, and build bridges between peers from diverse backgrounds. In our



current global climate these traits remain invaluable and are a fundamental pillar to shape a kinder world.

As the first overseas president to the Society of Old Framlinghamians, I am particularly happy that the first dinner of my term is in Australia as it reminds us of the vibrancy and global nature of our community. You truly are ambassadors of the close friendship and warmth that connects all Old Framlinghamians across the globe.

Thank you, Colin, for making this possible. I wish I could be there. Enjoy your evening!

Kim Alexandra Dickel (M97-98) President to the Society of Old Framlinghamians

Thank you, Kim, from all present in Sydney on 2nd May 2025.

Col very kindly transported us to the 'Fish on the Rocks' restaurant where we were assailed by yet another reminder of UK, the dreaded 'spiral staircase', which took a tad longer to ascend than in former years.

We were joined by John Clarke (G57-60), and his partner Shauna, bang on time from a two-hour drive, albeit with a broken gearbox en route. None of us knew him, so we made both very welcome.

Prior to the meal being served, Col suggested a 2-minute précis of our lives.

John said he had been in Australia for

quite a long time and had spent most of it in Western Australia, had had many opportunities to make big money but had a continual need to move on from wherever he was. His admission to 'not passing anything' at Fram meant he left early, but non-academic minds have an infuriating habit of being successful human beings, and we loved his humour.

Chris told of his career in pharmacy in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth Caribbean Islands, and in Australia. He had done most things that pharmacists do, including working in Her Majesty's Prison Service in Norwich and as a Caribbean drug peddler, albeit as a pharmacist Medical Representative for a British Pharmaceutical company.

Col's story centred around his family's connection with England and Australian Rugby Union. His son had played for both England and Australia.

Mike had been awarded the Order of Australia Medal mentioned above, for services to the military by helping to arrange for a bronze statue of a Lighthorse man and steed to be erected near his home, a miniature copy of which Mike and Chris had donated to the College as a table decoration. Further services to local amenities, and to his contribution in facilitating a Real/Royal Tennis court in Cheltenham, Victoria, including his many books on the subject.



# Jeff Wornham Memorial Cricket Match



**Crispin Hardy (G90-95) reports:** It was 20 years ago this year that we lost a great friend, son, and brother when Jeff gave his life trying to save another's whilst serving for the Hertfordshire Fire Brigade.

Jeff was a wonderful friend; funny, kind natured, and effortlessly cool. We miss him dearly. To mark the anniversary of his passing we decided to organise a game of cricket in his honour. Jeff loved Cricket so what better way to celebrate his life.

Despite the busy calendar and extremely precious nature of 'The Back' (I'm sure you

all remember!) the College understood the importance of the event and worked hard with us to find a date to make it work. It just would not have been the same playing on Penny Farthings! So back in January of this year we booked the date and venue for our game - 29th June.

Next - to find some players. This was not hard, a group of 5 soon ballooned to 55 as word spread of our mission to get together for a game of cricket to remember Wornham. It was such fun to see the names popping up, some of us had not been in touch for 3 decades. The years seemed to



just fall away though as the anecdotes/banter flowed over the preceding 5 months of comms.

As well as playing cricket we wanted to try and raise some money for The Firefighters Charity too. We decided to have a go at an auction of promises. Our group did not let us down and soon we had 12 fantastic prizes, including Coldplay Tickets, fishing, signed F1 race gear, and a Caribbean holiday of a lifetime to name a just a few.

Many sleeps after our initial group shout out the Memorial Weekend was upon us. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny weekend, which was just as well as we had zero wet weather plan! On Saturday the 28th OF's from all corners of the globe descended on Fram to honour Jeff. We met at The Station pub where many memories were shared of the happy years we spent at The College, it was such fun to see old friends, like we had never left.

The next morning, we met with weary heads on The Back at 11am, match day! Before we got underway the early birds were treated to wonderful tour of the school by the current school Chaplain Brynn Bayman. The tour culminated at Jeff's George Medal in the Chapel where we were invited to light a candle of remembrance. A lovely touch – thank you Brynn.

Teams were split into College Road (K and G) v Main School (everyone else).

As you can imagine – the Cricket was not the standard usually associated with The Back. However, Messrs Buck, Carruthers, Erith, Baird and Lee showed glimpses of the old magic – square cuts down the hill. We discovered during the game that **Evans (K 90 – 95)** is actually pretty good at cricket and **Bunting (R 90 – 95)** needs new trousers.

During tea **Tom Wornham (K88 – 92)** gave a lovely speech about his brother [see full speech at the end]. Particularly moving was the moment where Tom asked us to remember not only Jeff but other OF's that have passed away –

"Simon Lee, Karen Buttenshaw, Ali Boyce, Lucy Tomkin, Ali Litz, David Chow, Jason Joslin, Robin Holloway, Chaz Taylor and Patrick Joyce All School leavers during Jeff's time at school. All of them taken drastically early in life. All of them much loved and greatly missed. May we take a moment to remember them"

This was especially poignant as we had **Nick Lee (G89 – 94)** and **Martin Buttenshaw (R90 – 95)** with us on the day to remember their siblings with us as well as Jeff. After Tom's speech Peter Mayo (K89 – 94) donned his Auctioneers Tie and with some very generous bidding sold the 12 lots. In total we raised £6,375 for The Firefighters Charity, not bad!

The match ended in exhilarating fashion with the result coming down to whether or not **Erith (S91 – 96)** could hit **Evans**



**(K90 – 95)** or at least 4 runs from the final ball (he couldn't). Who would have thought such a mixed skill base of players could conjure up such an epic!?

Many back slaps and shared stories later we peeled away from magical Fram back to our everyday lives. Whilst only a short period of our existence in the context of our lives, our time at Fram forged beautiful memories and lifelong friendships. It was wonderful to be able to get together, from all corners of the globe to remember some of those times and of course to remember our wonderful friend Jeff who we miss dearly.

Those in attendance (that I can recall!!):  
**Crispin Hardy (G90 – 95), Jon Phillips (G90 – 95), Will Buck (G91 – 95) (travelled from Singapore), Nick Lee (G89 – 94), Tim Humphrey (K91 -96), Richard Dyde (K90 -95), Dan Evans (K90-95), Pete Mayo (K89-94), Tom Wornham (K87-92), James Blyth (79-94), Jon O'Sullivan (Z91-96), Barry Turner (Z90-95), Huw Williams (R92-97), Adam Carruthers (Z90-95), Jim Howe (R90-95), Paul Moxey (S90-95), Tom Bunting (R90-95), Marcus Booth (Z90-95) (travelled from Dubai), Danny Erith (R91-96) (travelled from France), Ollie Drury (S90-95) Peter Johnson(S90-95), Rob McLeod (S90-95), Marcus Veevers Chorlton (Z90-95), Ali White (K92-95), Stuart Clarke (S92-97), Martyn Buttenshaw (R90-95) (travelled from Switzerland), Henry Bale (G90-95), Rob Baird (Z90-95), Ben Coulter (K90-95),**

**Chuma Orakwusi (K93-95), Duncan Cork (K89-94), James Walsham (R90-94), Jim Fennell (K90-94), Matt Earley (G90-95), Mike Roberts (S90-95), Phil Dougherty (G90-95), Mark Rodwell (91-96), John Barker (Z90-95), Mat Howlitz (S89-94), Dom Vipond (Z88-93), Colin McKay (Z88-93), Will Townrow (R88-93), Matt Davies (G88-93), Simon Dougherty (G60-67), Norman Porter (K50-57), Imogen Slaughter (V92-94), Katie Coe (P88-93), Antonia Key (P89-93), Lucy Clarke (P91-96), Henry Mayo (K92-97), Dr Baird – (Hon OF) College Staff captain of the all-conquering cricket team in the 90's, as well as doing some English!**

Special thanks to **Sam Hayes (Z89-94)** and **Jamahl Misick (G90-95)** whilst not in attendance, very kindly donated auction prizes. Robert Wornham and Mark "History" Robinson (Hon OF) for umpiring, (good to see you at the pub the night before too MR). Simon Dougherty for being the official photographer! The College, the catering team and the ever-youthful **Martin Myers-Allen (Hon OF)** who helped organise. To those unable to attend due to work commitments / prior engagements, you were missed but don't worry, we hope to gather again!

Footnote: Whilst the 20 anniversary was in the minds of many a special mention to Jim Fennell for raising the idea, to those who helped organise the day and making it happen and of course the Wornham family for agreeing to the event.



## AUCTION LOTS

Use of lovely Isle of Wight residence for up to a week – courtesy of Marcus 'not running the country yet but working on it' Booth

3 x 70cl bottles of very fine Barra spirits, Vodka, Rum and Gin – thanks Aduuum Carruthers

Use of VW California Campervan for up to a week – From Crispin Hardy

4 nights in Luxury Caribbean Hotel – RRP £1200 per night. (more nights can be purchased if required) flights not included. Courtesy of Mr Caribbean, Jahmal Misick

Coldplay tickets for sold out Wembley gig 22nd August – these are very good seats BTW, feel free to check online Section 104 Row 10. Thanks to "GIVE THE BALL TO" Chuma Orakwusi

1/2 case of very nice English 'Higham

Pink' Rose from one of the vineyards Tom manages. Thanks Tom Bunting

A day out fishing on the high seas with Jim Howe, (this is proper fishing by the way!) take home and cook what you catch. Thanks Jim

Use of lovely North Norfolk Holiday home previously voted in top 30 cosiest cottages in England. Thanks 'cosy' Dan Evans?! (Dan not included)

A case of fine Chateau Trois Moulins 2016. Thanks Ben Coulter – you always had an extraordinary nose for wine.

Chef Crispin and Sommelier Tom for hire, let us wait on your every desire for a night of fine dining, we'll cook for you, serve you and even wash up at the end. Thanks Crispin and Tom Wornham (can bring poultry)



# 50th Anniversary of Leaving Lunch in London



**Charlie Blackmore (K65-75)** decided to mark the 50th anniversary of leaving the College by organising a London Reunion for mainly 1975 leavers. The lunch took place on Friday 27th June 2025 at the Travellers Club, 106 Pall Mall, London SW1, starting at 12 noon.

18 OFs attended and in the group photo above are L to R: John Worby (66-75),

Simon Bloomfield (K68-75), Drew Payne (R67-74), Rob Giles (G66-75), David Carr (S67-74), Bill Shipley (G67-76), Piers Hedley (G65-74), Nick Innell (S67-75), Ollie Pugh (R69-75), Jim Mehta (S67-75), John Halahan (S72-75), Kevin Horrocks (M66-75), Nick Jacob (K67-75), Simon Cain (G67-75), John Waller (S70-75), Charlie Blackmore (K65-75), Pete Rodulfo (R70-75) and Richard Shipley (G67-76).



# 1970s Leavers Reunion 5 JULY 2025



**Chris Essex (K69-75)** writes: After just 4 weeks notice, 20 1970s leavers and 5 partners travelled up to the College to enjoy a great lunch, an extensive tour of the place and best of all sharing many happy memories with contemporaries. At least one of those attending had not been back in side since they left over 50 years ago!

I provided some statistics on 1970s leavers - there were 886 pupils who left the College in the 1970s and sadly we are aware of 47 deaths. Of the 839 I was able to email 311 and there are another 110 we only have a postal address for and therefore just receive the annual OF Newspaper. The other half (418) we sadly currently have no contact details for & I circulated the list. Please encourage any OFs you are in contact with to make sure that the Society has their up to date contact details.

After the 3 course lunch in Paul's Courtyard, I read out quite a number of messages from those not able to join us on the day,

starting with an apology and message from our new Society President Kim Dickel (M97-98). There were also apologies from our new Hon Gen Sec and former President Simon Dougherty MBE (G60-67) who with his wife Maggie were walking in the French Alps.

Andrew Cook, Director of Development at the College, gave an update on the College and then led us on the tour.

Those attending, in leaving year order, were Norman Porter (K50-57 - former SOF President), Chris Shaw (G64-70), Fred Limer (S61-71), Ian Cockill (S67-73) and Jennifer, Richard Elliott (R64-73) and Sarah, Terry Hurlock (R66-73), David Carr (S67-74), Simon Bloomfield (K68-75), John Ellerby (G67-75), Chris Essex (K69-75), Nick Jacob (K67-75), Andy Slade (K71-75) and Louise, Paul Geater (R68-77) and Judy, Mike Schneidau (M72-77), Malvern Tipping (M73-78), Andrew George (K74-79), Paul Goring (M74-79) and Sarah, Jeremy Kemp (S74-79), Graham Scott (M74-79) and Michael Stewart (K69-79).



# Moreau Scholar hosts summer gathering at her house for 2024 leavers



**Moreau Scholar Alicia Pryce (M12-24) writes:** "On the 14th of June 2025 I hosted a lunchtime barbecue at my home in Suffolk, to which the entire 2024 leavers cohort were invited to attend. The afternoon comprised of an outdoor meal and drinks with lively conversation, providing everyone with a chance to reconnect and reflect upon our individual journeys over the last year since leaving the college.

The event ran from 12pm until 6pm, after which, the majority attendees – Alice Verebelyi (M16-24), Tilly Mcoughlin (M20-24), Evie Brice (V22-24), Bea Uthwatt

- Bouverie (P19-24), Will Brett (R22-24), Ralph Barker-Smith (R22-24), Jake Croft-Sharland (R16-24), Harry Ford (K19-24), Rory Salter (S12-24), Ben Peacock (S22-24), Sam Pleasants (G18-24), and Charlie Royal-Dawson (S19-24), continued to the Easton White Horse where additional members also joined.

Overall, the afternoon was a thoroughly enjoyable event for those who were willing and able to attend to strengthen existing friendships and maintain the sense of community which the college has provided us with"



# PEOPLE HERE & THERE

## 2024-25



## Kate is leaving the building!

On 13 February 2025 we said a fond farewell to **Kate Jackson (P84-93)** as our brilliant OF Co-ordinator for the last 7.5 years. She is off to explore an exciting new opportunity in the hospitality business with her husband Neil.



Kate will be sorely missed by us all and we sent some flowers as a small show of our appreciation. Neil and Kate have a warm welcome waiting for OFs at The Sorrel Horse in Barham, Suffolk. It's a warm, traditional village pub offering delicious homemade food, a spacious beer garden, and comfortable accommodation.

## OF Publishes book on the history of Paul Strickland Scanner Centre

**John Hanney's (S50-55)** new book *Working Together*, documents the history of the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre.

John said: "I really enjoyed serving on the Board, first as a trustee and later as the chairman. I visited the centre at least twice a month and it was clear that it was one big family, with all the staff getting on very well. There was such a nice atmosphere. It was hugely satisfying to see how the centre was developing, with the number of scans growing from about 5,000 per year using two scanners in the late 90s to about 17,000 using 5 scanners when I retired from the Board. It's a story worth telling."

John has produced the book at his own expense. He would like to print further copies to help raise money for the centre and is asking anyone who is interested in the book to register their interest by indicating this on the accompanying donation form or by emailing: [appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk](mailto:appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk)

## Book Review (edited)

by James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52) – December 2024

**John Hanney (S50-55)** became a Trustee of the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre near Watford in 1995 and chaired that body from 1998 until he retired from the Centre in 2010. He has written "Working Together" which is the Centre's history from 1986 which is published in A4 format on stiff quality paper.

The 19 pages of narrative have two or more coloured pictures on each page; four pages have facsimiles of letters, one of which is from the then Queen sending good wishes for the fundraising Charity Ball at



the Science Museum in 2006 organised by Moor Park Lions Club and one from the Duchess of Kent, commending the book, who opened the Centre and attended its 30th Anniversary in 2015.

The founder of the Centre was Dr Paul Strickland OBE, MB, BS, FRCR, FRCP, a cancer specialist whom John met on a medical legal case some time ago. Dr Paul was Director of the now Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and it was on that hospital site that the Strickland Centre was built. An appeal was launched in 1983 and the first scanner was a CT one (Computerised Tomography) and an MRI scanner was purchased later.

Richard Baker OBE cut the turf and George Michael has been a major donor and opened the Cyclotron Building in 2003; other fundraising has included being done through Golf Days. The Centre is a charity and the major part of its work is for NHS under contract on a low profit basis and later it has performed PET scanning. In the early days it carried out some 5,000 scans a year for patients and in the 2020s that figure has reached 17,000.

John records some of his work for the Centre which included visiting Hadassah University Hospital in Israel and later a school friend **Mike Geddes (S51-55)** became Marketing Manager in 2002.

The book is a well-worth read of a comprehensive survey of the progression of scanning for early detection of cancer and it shows how a charity can be run by dedicated and efficient management.

## OF appointed Joint Managing Director of family business

**Jack O'Brien (S04-08)** has stepped into the role at Prime Appointments, a long-standing recruitment agency based in Witham, Essex and Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. He has now stepping into this leadership role alongside founder Robyn Holmes, his mother. This appointment marks a significant step forward for the family business, which has been proudly serving the community since its founding in 1992.



In addition to Jack's appointment, **Katie Holmes (P10-15)**, Robyn's daughter, has played a vital role in the business since joining in 2019, as Manager of the Office & Finance divisions.

## OF based in Framlingham expands overseas

A Framlingham-based recruitment firm, founded by **Graham Ventham (K90-95)** in 2001 (pictured 2nd left), has expanded overseas, opening new offices in the



United States. Conrad Consulting now has operational bases in Orlando and Tampa, Florida.



The company's head office remains in the Framlingham Technology Centre, but has expanded significantly since 2001, establishing regional hubs across the UK, including in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Skipton and Edinburgh. The company is known for its recruitment services across sectors including civil and structural, construction, building services, architecture, and surveying.

Graham said to the EADT: "This US expansion is a fantastic achievement and an exciting next step for Conrad Consulting. From our small Suffolk base, we've built a company that now meets recruitment needs across the UK, and we're thrilled to bring that expertise to the US market as well."

## Group of 1978 leavers visit the College and get a tour

While the Inskip hockey festival was happening on Sunday 16 March 2025, Martin Myers-Allen gave a group of 1978

leavers a tour of the College.



Pictured above from left to right are **Adam Godfrey (R72-78)**, **Tony Malkin (R73-78)**, **James Bushell (R73-78)** and **Steve Macfarlane (M71-78)**.

## Family at dugout opening

**John Edwards (K45-55)** died back in 2020 and played an huge part in the life of the Society and the College over many years. He left a legacy to the College to which the Society and some members donated a further £5000.



At the Inskip hockey festival, John's family were there for the official opening of the John Edwards Dugout.



The unveiling was followed by a brilliant mini triangular tournament against staff, Old Framlinghamians and current pupils. The final scores saw the OFs take overall winners with the following matches finishing:

- Staff vs OFs 3 – 3
- Staff vs Pupils 2 – 5
- Pupils vs OFs 0 – 3

The OF Team consisted of Andrew Cutting, Cameron Cooke, Haydn Macaulay, Rory Salter, Charles Kent, Jack Caswell-Dodd, Taylor Ball, Simon Stacpoole and Mark Rodwell (GK). A huge thank you to all the players, umpires, and the school community who came along to support.

## Remembering those who died during WW2

With the approach of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May 2025, it seemed a fitting time to complete detailed research on all OFs and staff who died during WW2. The same was completed in respect of WW1 in 2018 to mark 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War.



The research in respect of WW2 is now complete and available to all OFs, College staff and the general public as a whole to explore in the Distinguished section of the SOF website.

In total there are 84 OFs and 1 master included. This compares with 150 during WW1. In terms of date of birth they range from 18 April 1877 to 10 October 1925 and age just 18 through to 67 at the time of their deaths.

They are remembered in the UK and across the world, including France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Singapore, Libya, Holland, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, New Zealand, Burma, Greece, South Africa, Bangladesh and Mauritania and for most I have tracked down a photo of their grave or memorial.



Where possible **Chris Essex (K69-75)** has tried to source a photo of the person or their grave. For the graves in northern France he visited all these back in 2014 & 2015.

He has presented the College with a bound folder containing all these biographies.



## OF recounts escaping from the Los Angeles fires



**Laurence Pretty (S49-54)** has for many years worked and then retired in California, USA. He is now 89 and he has sent in this first hand account of the dreadful fires around Los Angeles earlier in 2025 and we thought we would share them. At the time of the fires he was living in a retirement apartment building, called Monte Cedro, just north of Pasadena.

"I have had an eventful last two months. On January 8, I was awakened by an LA Fireman in full gear pounding on my door who told me I had 15 minutes to evacuate. I threw on street clothes, put my two cats in their carrying boxes, and was directed to a line of school buses passing in file past the main entrance of our building which is a cement and steel large building that is fireproof. The scene I saw was as horrific as a war. We passed down two blocks of wooden homes on either side of our road which were all fully aflame as our bus passed through. I have never seen anything so horrific. Seventeen residents of Altadena were burned to death, many of them in the residential streets around out four sided block.

We were driven to downtown procedure to a large enclosed arena where we remained until evening while the police and fire workers sorted us by origin, gave us water and cookies, and sorted us into groups for transportation. It was all efficiently done although my cats were not thrilled by the long cage time. By about 7.00 pm our group of residents from Monte Cedro were sorted into a group that was driven by bus to another elder care community 60 miles south also owned and operated by our parent company. About midnight we were in very pleasant apartments for senior living and close to the Pacific Ocean.

I stayed there until the end of the second week in March when we were returned to Monte Cedro. During that two months, damage caused to Monte Cedro, which had been caused by the extensive smoke, heat and fierce winds, was repaired. So that was my big adventure. Along the way, I had my 89th birthday.

So that, I suppose, was Laurence's big adventure. I am not hoping for another one."

His brother **Brian (S52-56)** has in the last few years moved to Sydney, Australia.

## Hon OF receives Legion d'Honneur in College chapel celebration

**Steve McDowell (G82-86)** provided the following report: **Dougie Cracknell (Hon OF)** was just 18 when he set foot on the Normandy beaches straight into the thick



of the action to liberate France. He did not expect to live to see his 21st birthday.



Like so many of his generation, Dougie Cracknell rarely talked about his experiences during the Second World War, even as he was yesterday made a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur for his exploits in Normandy.

He was awarded his medal by the French Military Attaché to the UK, Colonel Henri Leinekugel in the chapel at the College on April 14.

'Dougie', 99, of Cransford near Framlingham, had worked in the College kitchens as a server and cleaner after leaving school at just 14 years of age. It is for this reason he was made an Honorary OF last year. He recalls the College being bombed by a stray Luftwaffe bomber in 1941.

"It was a Sunday afternoon. We ran for the shelter which was at the end of a playing field carrying trays of cutlery. There were knives and forks flying all over the place. I think the pilot must have been lost."

The College was evacuated to Repton in

Derbyshire putting Dougie out of a job. He then worked as an agricultural engineer until he was called up.

"I could have refused because it was a reserved occupation," he says. "But that didn't seem right with everyone else going off to the war."

With almost no additional training other than the basic he received as a teenaged member of the Home Guard, he found himself on the beaches of war-ravaged Normandy two weeks after D-Day.

Coming ashore via the famous Mulberry harbour at Arromanches as a rifleman in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, he rapidly became involved in heavy fighting. Three days after landing, his first contact in late June 1944 at Bayeux saw 20 of his comrades killed including the commanding officer.

In almost continuous action for the following weeks, Dougie fought with his battalion taking heavy casualties through France, Belgium and in September was defending Nijmegen Bridge until armoured columns could cross the Rhine during the ill-fated Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands.

He was wounded twice – once with a German bullet that struck his weapon and shattered into his face.

Latterly deployed as a dispatch rider in Germany after the war, he did not return home to Cransford until he was demobbed in 1948. He worked as a lorry driver and



transport manager until his retirement in his mid 70s.

Asked if he had experienced any problems on his return to civilian life, he laughed: "Yes, I got pulled over by the police in the Buttermarket in Ipswich for driving on the wrong side of the road."

Widowed in 2020, Dougie was represented at the ceremony by his daughter, Jenny, grand-daughters Vicky and Sally, great-grandsons Fin and Harry, their families, and friends from the village.

Also attending was Lt Col (Rtd) Andrew Trelawny representing The Rifles whose father had served as an officer in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and Jason Tietjen whose grandfather was killed in the notorious battle for Hill 112, an action in which Dougie took part.

The Legion d'Honneur is France's highest



civil award and as a D-Day veteran Dougie is among august company.

Lt Col Martin Myers-Allen (Hon OF), said: "Dougie did his bit. He served his country with courage and distinction. Last year he received an OF tie. A great honour but today, Dougie received something even greater. Presented with the Légion d'Honneur—France's highest and most prestigious order of merit—for his service during the D-Day landings.

"It is only fitting that we gather here in Chapel, in front of our WWI and WWII memorials on the West Wall. Here, we continue to remember the masters, staff, and old boys who made the ultimate sacrifice. Here, in the 1940s, from this very pulpit, the Headmaster would once recount stories of Old Framlinghamians at war—of bravery, of medals won... and of the fallen.

"If the ghosts of the past could join us today, I've no doubt they would be proud of Dougie Cracknell."

"It really is so overwhelming," said Dougie, "I just did what I thought we had to do, like so many others. I never thought I would be here, in this place receiving this medal. I didn't think I'd live to see 21."

On Monday 5 May 2025 the BBC marked the first day of the VE Day 80 celebrations with live coverage of a special military procession taking place in London. It also featured various interviews including a wonderful interview by HM Queen with **Douglas Cracknell (Hon OF)** at Clarence House.



In recognition of this honour, he had been added to the Distinguished OF Section.

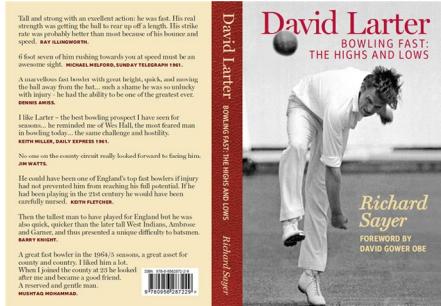
## Happy Birthday to our only OF Test Cricketer

We wished OF **David Larter (R51-57)** a very happy 85th birthday in April 2025. He has the notable distinction of being the only OF so far to play test cricket for England.



**Richard Sayer (S56-61)** has written a wonderful biography on him, told through the observations of David and of those who knew him.

David is also included in the Distinguished OF Section.



## OF giving talk at the UK's Biggest Motorcycle Festival

**Simon Harby (S78-81)** gave a talk at Ragley Hall, Warwickshire in June 2025 about his amazing around the world bike trip which started in 2002 and ended three years later. Crossing the Sahara, Himalayas, the Shan Plateau of Myanmar before turning south to the Outback of Australia and finally to USA. This was to raise awareness for the eye care charity "Orbis".



The festival ran from 27-29 June 2025 and has been described as "Glastonbury with motorbikes and posh toilets"!

Simon's adventures are recognised by his entry in Distinguished section.

## OF celebrating 500th anniversary of Lavenham Church

**Reverend Canon Simon Pitcher (Z76-82)** is currently the Rector at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Lavenham, Suffolk. Many



will be familiar with the beauty of the village.



The church is celebrating the 500th anniversary since the construction of the tower at St Peter and St Paul's church. Standing at 140 feet, it is one of the tallest in the UK and was built in 1525 when the village was a wealthy cloth trading hub.

Simon says "This wonderful church tower has been here for the highs and lows of people's lives over the last 500 years. All the joys and struggles of life have been celebrated and marked between these walls throughout all these years. It's a permanent and reassuring presence in the village."

The tower was funded by John de Vere, the 13th Earl of Oxford, and Lavenham cloth merchant, Thomas Spring. Relatives of Thomas Spring, some of whom now live across the globe, have been invited to attend a special service of thanksgiving at the church on June 29.

The celebrations also include a Tudor day, choral concerts, historic lectures and family fun days. A special beer, brewed by Roughacre Brewery, has been made to

mark the anniversary.

Simon has a strong connection with the College. He is the son of **Canon David Pitcher (R44-51)** who features in Distinguished OFs for his book "All Change for Framlinghamian". Simon's son William attended for just one year in 2010/11 after they moved from Yorkshire to Southwold. He married **Olivia Castle (M06-11)**, head girl that year. Their oldest daughter Elodie was baptised by Simon in the College Chapel a couple of years ago, and Elodie is currently in Brandeston nursery!

## OF appointed new chairman of Reform UK

**Dr David Bull (Z80-87)** was appointed the new chairman of Reform UK and was the party's former deputy leader (2021 to 2024). He is also a former TV presenter and hospital doctor and has written a couple of books



See David's entry in Distinguished.

Also a reminder that we have another OF as Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems – **Daisy Cooper MP (P97-99)** and **Jack Abbott MP**



**(R07-09)** who was elected for the Labour party for Ipswich at the 2024 General Election

## The Flowerdew VC is handed over to Lord Strathcona's Horse for safe keeping

At the beginning of 2025 the Imperial War Museum decided to disband the Lord Ashcroft Gallery displaying the

3 Framlingham VCs. At the same time and to mark 125th anniversary of Flowerdew's regiment, Lord Strathcona's Horse approached the Society about lending the Flowerdew VC (in our ownership) to their museum. The Society

was extremely grateful to the Regiment for ensuring that the Flowerdew VC would remain on public display and agreed a loan arrangement with them. As part of this process, the Flowerdew family were rightly consulted and this led to the family also deciding that the miniature VC and Death Penny in their ownership, should also be lent to the Regiment on the same terms. The handover of all these items took place at a special lunch held at the Canadian High Commission, just off Trafalgar Square. The venue itself was inspirational, with views from the third floor looking out on to Nelson's Column, The National Gallery and St Martins in the Fields.

The group included Brigadier General Dwayne Parsons and Col Chris Quinlan,



(representing the Regiment), Joanne Sommerville, (organiser of the event) Will Herschel-Shorland (Representing the Flowerdew family), Jenni Fewery (Representing the Imperial War Museum) and **Chris Essex (K69-75)** and **Norman Porter (K50-57)**, representing the SOF.

After introductions, the group gathered round a screen with a video link to the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Jamie Cade (Ret'd) back in western Canada at 4am local time. He expressed the huge pride, still felt by the Regiment, in the gallantry of one of their number at the Battle of Moreuil Wood. To have the keeping of Gordon Flowerdew's VC for display in the regimental museum, was an honour to be cherished and treasured. A fine three course meal followed, with conversational topics which seemed to very much enhance Anglo-Canadian friendship. At the conclusion of the meal, the guests gathered around the VC display for official photographs, and for one last lingering handling of the medal before it finds its way across the Atlantic Ocean to Calgary.



Pictured from left to right below: Col Chris Quinlan (representing the Regiment), Will Herschel-Shorland (representing the Flowerdew family), Brigadier General



Dwayne Parsons (representing the Regiment), **Chris Essex (K69-75)** (Chair of SOF Trustees), Jenni Fewery (representing the Imperial War Museum) and **Norman Porter (K50-57)** (representing the SOF).

## OF Celebrates 90th birthday

### **James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52)**

celebrated his 90th Birthday in style. Largely arranged by his wife Christine, they had three Events over three Days. The Birthday on 22 August 2025 was for Five of close family including James' two daughters from Brighton and Castlemorton. Next day on the Saturday some 80 family and friends from far and wide gathered for a Party at their Richmond Retirement Village at Witney which included the celebration of the 21st anniversary of their wedding on 23 October 2004 at Framlingham College and the 26th anniversary of first meeting on 12 September 1999. On the Sunday, Christine and James hosted 40 village residents to an Afternoon Tea.

James had to greet guests to the Party on 23 August from a chair as he had recently had a life-threatening infection so the event was an especially happy time. The Party comprised a Buffet Lunch, speeches by James, his daughter Susannah and brother David with Ron King as Chairman of the Residents Association replying on behalf of the Guests. Jo Cambrey, Activities Manager recalled James' contributions to Choir, Drama and the Talks Programmes and Christine was thanked for her contributions to Art, Crafts and the

Literary world over the last eight years. Sub-Manager Claire Godwin gave a moving rendition of le Barcarolle from the Tales of Hoffmann which had been sung in the Dining Hall 21 years previously and the Steel Solid Band provided background music.



Sadly their Best Man Roger Gardner could not attend as he has had three bad falls after his home at Queen Camel suffered a flash flood; he has shown great interest in the SOF and College since they met in 1955 doing Articles in The City. **Chris Essex (K69-75)**, the OF with whom James worked with most in those respects in recent times could not attend due to a family commitment.

The OFs were staunchly represented by brothers **Brian Smith (S53-56)** and **Clive Smith (S54-58)** with their wives Valerie and Jean but James was specially saddened by the absence of his vintage OF friends who were incapacitated or unable to travel distances. They were: **Bernard Bridges (S45-54)** who fell down his staircase on the eve of his 90th the night before (he and James were at bottom of the Sixth Form in 1952 – not sure in which order but B comes before R), **Mike Craddock (S49-53)**, **Bill Collard (S55-58)** and **John Hanney (R50-55)**.



# WITH THE SERVICES

Contribution from The Armed Forces



What a year it has been for those serving in the Armed Forces! Global stability is already under serious threats from the China-Russia-Iran-North Korea axis (CRINK), but add an unpredictable US Administration under Donald Trump, and you have a toxic cocktail that bears a risk of regional conflicts conflating into a global state-on-state competition. All OF's serving in the military will have been impacted by the geo-strategic risks, none more so than Rear Admiral Tim Woods, our own Defence Attaché in Washington. It has been great to have an update from Tim as he enters his last 5 months in Washington, and a return to Suffolk. There are many more OFs currently in uniform and while we haven't achieved much contact for this round of the newsletter, for those still serving, I do ask that you come forward to see how you can best support the College to encourage the excellent young men and women to consider an exciting career in the Armed Forces. Andrew Cook (email: [acook@framlinghamcollege.co.uk](mailto:acook@framlinghamcollege.co.uk)) is a great contact if you would like to put something back into the College and help raise the profile of the benefits of service with the Royal Navy, Army and the Royal Air Force.





## Rob Bellfield (K81-83)

I left the College to join the Royal Navy at Britannia Royal Navy College Dartmouth in 1983, the year after the Falklands War, which was fresh in the minds of so many of the officers and sailors that trained us, and whom we served with. At the same time, we were still deep into the Cold War with the spectre of the Russians rolling over the plains of Europe, and fighting their way into the North Atlantic, at the forefront of our minds. It is rather ironic that we see Europe staring conflict in the face again over 40 years later that I decided that it was time to retire from the Royal Navy and return to home in Suffolk, and spend time with Zoë, get afloat, and do a bit of work! I handed over the Naval Regional Commander London & Eastern England role at the end of April and gracefully made my way home, ending almost 42 years in uniform. A surprise 'leaving lunch' at HMS PRESIDENT was suitably raucous, and I was 'seen off' from HMS PRESIDENT on my final day on a Met Police launch, which was then immediately tasked on a 'shout'. Operational to the end!

It has been great to see some of my old Kerrison housemates during the year getting together with Jenkin Leung, George Wright, David Ibeson, Tim Moss and George & Charlie Wright. Zoë is still working in the Admissions Dept at the College which keeps me in the loop on what is going on. It is great to see the school doing so well in these uncertain times in the independent sector.



## Tim Woods (Z83-88)

With just under five months to run in this three-year posting, it has been a fascinating time in Washington under two different US Administrations, two different Prime Ministers and two Ambassadors, the latest being Lord Peter Mandelson. Amongst the day-to-day strategic military liaison with the US, there are no shortage of senior visitors and we have welcomed the current Prime Minister four times since he was elected, as well as various Defence Ministers. The Duke of Edinburgh is also a regular in Washington and has been a delight in his engagement with the US and British Embassy families.

In addition to my routine work on operational deployments, alignment over events in Ukraine and the Middle East, I am also the Military Advisor to the Governor of Bermuda (a real hardship!) and I have managed a couple of trips to the beautiful island.

There is also a large ceremonial aspect to my role and, in June, I was back in London for the rededication of the George Washington Statue, tucked away in the corner of Trafalgar Square. The statue was originally gifted to the UK in 1914 ahead the centenary of the Treaty of Ghent that ended the war of 1812, but the onset of World War One delayed its dedication to 1921. On a hot day in London on 18 June, the Governor of Virginia, former PM Teresa May, and the





Mayor of London led the ceremony, with a Grenadier Guard band and honour guard providing the backdrop. When Washington died in December 1799, just 23 years after the Declaration of Independence, Royal Navy warships busy blockading and sinking the French navy flew the White Ensign at half-mast as a mark of respect to the man that George the Third described as the “greatest man of the age” in response to Washington’s resignation from the US Army to preserve unity in the fledgling democracy.

We are very much looking forward to our return to Suffolk at Christmas!



# OVERSEAS BAG



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 minuscule 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 ... 20 secs 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 bush fires as last year but they still cannot provide a reliable electricity or internet service ... one hour from Perth International 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 3-month 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 17th to inform me he'd been admitted to a hospice. I last spoke to him briefly on March 25th and a few days later he was gone. During our conversation of the 17th 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 (1st XI wicket keeper and early order batsman), Rugby (1st 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.

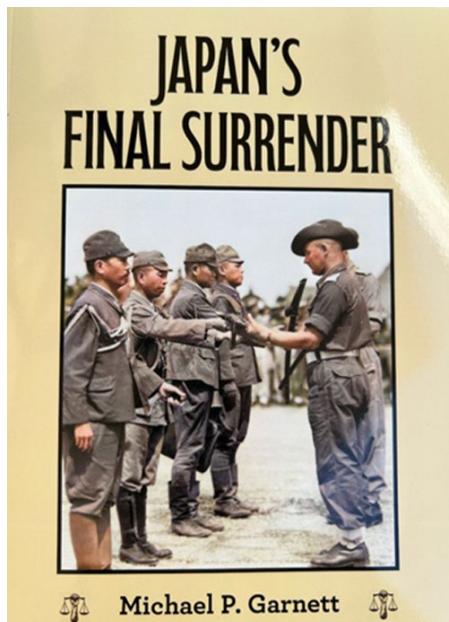
**Mike Garnett (R53-55)** told us in October 2024 that he had enjoyed reading the latest News Bulletin "The old Fram blazer worn by Tim Kestin is really impressive and I have seen one before. Back in my day a chap called Rippon wore one that belonged to his Dad. Rippon was a good sportsman, senior to 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



Michael P. Garnett



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 80th 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."

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 is 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 94th birthday in September 2025 and a year earlier advised that he had changed his email address and marked his 93rd 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. "

John is pictured below 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 2nd 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/discardng unwanted things – not an enviable task. Our furniture uplift is on Saturday 11 April and we settle on our sale on the 15th, moving into our retirement unit on 17th, 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 having 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 responder, 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 responder 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 Burlingham 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 complemented 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 its 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 to 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 29 November 2025 at Chris Hall's apartment.

## 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).**

**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.



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 Framlingham. So when he invited me to write a few paragraphs about what brought me here, I was delighted.

After leaving Framlingham 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 80th 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 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.

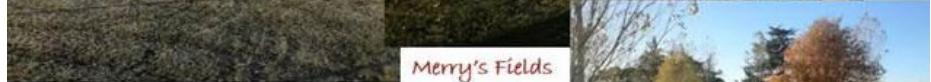
Now retired on our 6-acre lifestyle block near Feilding in the North Island - the country home that I had always hoped for - I shoot high-powered PCP air rifles, do local pest control for farmers, travel the amazing South Island and thank my lucky stars that Fiona dropped that soggy magazine on my desk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

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.



*A beautiful Autumn morning at home!  
In Merry's honour.... ❤*





Timi (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 digge 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 90th 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 Sedgefield 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 off 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 notice 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 21st birthday in Johannesburg, my sister-in law's 80th 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. His 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 Michael 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 Connell (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 Rodulfo (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 Rodulfo 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 Rove (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 fugit 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 Rove (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 portaloo 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.





# MOREAU LEAVING SCHOLARSHIPS

2025-28



**The 2025 awards have marked the 20th year of the Moreau Leaving Scholarships programme and it was as hotly contested as ever, with a dozen applicants for the two scholarships on offer.**

David Mallett has been on the selection panel since the very beginning, and has chaired the team for the last seventeen years – we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. It's never easy to select just two of the applicants, each of whom has so much to offer and a desire to keep their leaving-group in touch with each other. This is why the process takes place over the entire year, culminating in a series of interviews with a short-list of candidates in their last Summer Term.

At the end of this process, two candidates shone through, and we're delighted to introduce Hannah-Grace Strover and Oli Nisbet as our 2025 Moreau Leaving Scholars.

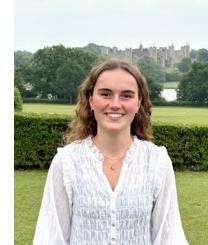
On Speech Day, after receiving their awards from Charles Packshaw (Chairman of Governors), Hannah-Grace and Oli met up with their mentors – Hetta O'Connor (P94-99) and Nick Whitehead (K2006-11) respectively, and a host of other Society luminaries.

Our group photograph shows, L to R: Richard Sayer (S56-61), Angus Nisbet, Oli Nisbet, Nick Whitehead (K06-11) (Oli's mentor), Imi Strover, Peter Howard-Dobson (R65-69), Hannah-Grace Strover, Hetta O'Connor (P94-99) (Hannah-Grace's mentor), Simon Dougherty (G60-67) and Norman Porter (K50-57).

## HANNAH-GRACE STROVER

**Scholar 2025-28**

I joined Fram in the spring term of Year 8 and always tried my best to get stuck in ever since. Within my first few weeks, I was lucky enough to go on the Prep School netball tour. Being able to represent the school so soon after joining made me feel part of the community straight away, and it gave me some of my favourite early memories at Fram. From then on, the College helped me grow through my subjects, friendships, netball, art, and so much more—something I will always be grateful for.



When I moved up to the Senior School, still feeling relatively new from the Prep School, I completely underestimated how big a part of my life Moreau House would become over the next five years. From the chaos of slime night to the celebrations after House Dance victories, Moreau genuinely felt like a second family. I joined the school feeling nervous, as I'm sure many of us did, but we grew so much as a group, and the House helped me develop so many key skills—whether through boarding, house nights, or just some of the best catch-ups in the common room. I will always miss Moreau hugely, but I also look forward to seeing where everyone goes next and to staying in touch for years to come.



Academically, Fram gave me the chance to explore many subjects and for A-levels I chose to take English, History, and Art. I thoroughly enjoyed my studies and plan to go on to study English Literature with Media in 2026 after taking a gap year. Art also became a huge part of my life throughout Sixth Form. I'm incredibly thankful for the amazing facilities and the supportive art teachers who allowed me to experiment and express myself in so many different ways. The art department genuinely became one of my favourite places to be during the school day.

As I mentioned, netball was a major part of my time at Fram and a sport I absolutely love. The College gave me so many opportunities both in and out of school to grow as a player and to enjoy the game. Through netball, I formed some of my closest friendships. I was lucky enough to captain the 1st team in my last year, and Saturday matches—win or lose—were a real highlight of the past five years. More than just the performance side, Fram allowed us all to enjoy the sport for what it is, and moments like the boys vs girls netball match (which I'm very happy to say we won!) are memories I'll always cherish.

Framlingham College has given me so much—opportunities, memories, friendships, and life skills that I'll carry with me into the future. While I'll definitely miss the College, I'm also excited to see all the amazing things everyone in my year group goes on to do. I'm extremely grateful to have been awarded the Moreau Leaving Scholarship and I hope to give back to the

Fram community by helping to keep us all connected with each other, and also with the school, as we all head off on our own paths in the years ahead.

## OLI NISBET

**Scholar 2025-28**

I spent my early childhood living in London and Cambridge before spending around 6 years living in the south of Spain, undergoing the IB system at an international school which exposed me to a variety of different cultures. I then joined Framlingham College Prep School in year 7, where I was given endless opportunities, both there and at the College through to year 13, and I have particularly loved the sports and skills that I have learnt at both schools.



I applied for the Moreau scholarship as I am keen to give back to the school that has done so much for me over the years. Framlingham College has been a massive part of my development academically and socially, making me the person I am today. Having joined from a completely different setup beforehand, I am grateful for the opportunities that the school has provided me, whether it be the support I have received through academics, sports or boarding. The most important asset that I believe I have developed is the communication skills that I have learnt



throughout my time there, from boarding, socials or sports teams, the College provided me with a significant amount of time to build meaningful connections and I would like to continue this now that I've left.

I have many amazing memories of my time at the College, and it is impossible to write them all down on one page. Firstly, sport was a key factor in my time at Framlingham, representing the College in a variety of teams has been a special memory in itself, however House competitions and Stradbroke's success in these competitions will always be a highlight, whether it was winning House Rugby every year at the College or winning House Cricket as a year 11, despite us being heavy underdogs. I will always be thankful for Strad and the friendships I made and the successes we had over the years. Although sport was a key aspect for me, being involved in other house competitions such as House Singing or House Dance was something I never thought I'd enjoy as much as I did, from being involved in House Singing nearly every year as well as performing in various House Dances, I enjoyed every minute of it.

In Sixth Form I took a wide range of subjects; History, Spanish and Photography. This range of subjects led to me to applying to do International Relations with Spanish at Newcastle University, where I hope to combine skills, such as the intake of knowledge and analytical essay writing, that I learnt through history as well as the high level of Spanish and use of sophisticated

phrases and grammar. I'm also hoping to use the creativity that I learnt thanks to Photography. However, I do plan on taking a gap year before this and undergoing a ski Instructor course in Whistler, Canada.

Framlingham has provided me with so many opportunities, and for that I will forever be thankful. I will definitely miss the College and all that it has provided me with; however, I hope that I am able to give something back thanks to the Moreau Leaving Scholarship through being responsible for maintaining and strengthening the tight bonds and relationships that have been created throughout the last few years.





# RECENT LEAVERS

2024-25



## OF TREKS 100KM ACROSS THE SAHARA DESERT

OF **Alex Baines (R10-15)** trekked 100km (62 miles) across the Sahara desert dressed in the distinctive red-and-white stripes of a famous children's book character – Wally!

He was inspired to take on the five-day challenge in Morocco in aid of Cancer Research UK by his grandmother, who died from pancreatic cancer in 2007, and a friend who was diagnosed with cancer. He was joined by a group of strangers who were raising money for different charities.

He said: "It was quite a powerful adventure because everyone had their own emotional stories to tell and their own battles... with additional challenges



like the extreme temperature. Even the news about Donald Trump [winning the election], we only found out a few days later and no blisters at all."

In preparation for his trip, Alex spent weekends walking up to eight hours at a time across Essex and Suffolk. He also ran the 2023 London Marathon dressed as Wally, and said he enjoyed being spotted in the crowds of runners by children who recognised the character.

He has dressed up for other events, including the Three Peaks Challenge, this year and had so far raised more than £1,000 for Cancer Research UK.

The trip was fully paid for so all funds raised go straight to Cancer Research UK. His 2024 challenges raised £1600.

He was interviewed on BBC Essex Radio, BBC Look East and on the BBC Late Show.

## OF MUSICIAN COMPETES TO REPRESENT GERMANY AT EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

**Ollie Trevers (G2011-13)** is the lead singer of the band The Great Leslie. They made it to the finals of the Chefsache ESC 2025 competition after impressing a panel of judges. They came 5th overall and the winner was chosen to perform for Germany at this year's Eurovision, which took place in Basel, Switzerland, in May 2025.

The Great Leslie were initially part of 24 acts chosen to audition for Germany's



Eurovision selection competition, having been picked from a pool of about 3,000 entrants. The four-piece group then made it to the semi-final after performing an "authentic" rendition of Coldplay's Fix You.

Ollie said "I was absolutely exhausted by the end of it but it was amazing and incredible. When you go up there, it's one of the most nerve-wracking experiences of your life because you are going on television in front of millions of people."

He went on to say "I made a bit of a faux pas because the studio air was really, really dry, as they had loads of dry ice. I was sucking on a cough sweet to try and keep my vocal chords lubricated, but as I went up on stage I forgot I still had it in my mouth. So for the entire performance I was fighting for space in my mouth while I was singing, so I freaked out a bit at the beginning! The whole competition is a really great opportunity for everyone involved and there are some really lovely talented people there. But, I am confident and I think the judges really like us, so I

am hoping we go through."

Ollie has the distinction of being the only OF with both parents, Perry and Maria in the Distinguished section of the website

## TWO OFS DELIVERING AID TO UKRAINE

**Wilf Sheepshanks (R15-23)** has been in touch for support for an upcoming trip he, Ollie Currie (K17-23) and 6 other friends are taking part in with the registered charity Pick-Ups for Peace from the 7th to the 11th of May.

Wilf writes: "Pick-Ups for Peace is a Scottish Charity Number: SC052484. The charity's mission is to deliver non-lethal equipment to the 24th Mechanised Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. They are in dire need of all kinds of kit, so every donation counts in order to acquire and deliver four off-road vehicles as part of the effort to support the Brigade. We will be driving the vehicles out to Ukraine in a convoy. I will be in a vehicle with Ollie Currie so I was wondering if it would be at all possible if you could put the details of our trip in some kind of OF newsletter?





Again every donation helps, so the more people that know about it the better! They sent a convoy of 100 vehicles to Ukraine in May 2024, so the logistics have already been tested. Do get in touch if you have any questions or are willing to contribute - every bit helps. “

At the time of going to print they had raised over £45,000 towards their target of £50,000.

## SWITCHING SUFFOLK FOR GRAND BAY, MAURITIUS

**Marc Schroeder (R15-16)** responded to SOF Honorary General Secretary **Simon Dougherty (G60-67)** about restarting OF gatherings in London. To our surprise Marc lived thousands of miles away from London and this prompted our Overseas Bag Editor **Chris Essex (K69-75)** to ask about his story so far that brought him to Mauritius. We thought we would share the story more widely to show the amazing life he has already had since leaving the College less than 10 years ago.

Marc 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!

## MOREAU SCHOLAR RUNNING FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK IN JULY 2025

**Lyla Endean (M2021-23)** writes: This July, I'm running 62 miles to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Cancer will affect one in two of us in our lifetime — a statistic that hits close to home for many. Friends and family of mine have been impacted by cancer, and it's made me want to do something meaningful in response.

By taking on this challenge, I hope to support the vital work that Cancer



Research UK does — funding research, advancing treatments, and helping those affected by cancer. Every mile I run is a small step toward progress, and any donation, big or small, will help make a difference.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OF JACOB DREW (R22-24)

Jacob took 5 wickets against the MCC in his final 2024 season at the College and was invited to Lords in July 2025 to be presented with his award on the hallowed turf during the tea break of the England vs

India Test. The presentation was made by Lord King (right in picture) as President of the MCC.



He was one of 20 pupils from across England who were invited for scored a hundred or taking 5 wickets against MCC in 2024.

## FROM FRAMLINGHAM TO THE CLASSROOM: AMELIA UDY'S JOURNEY INTO TEACHING

**Amelia Udy (P13-18)** has been busy since leaving Framlingham College – and is about to take the next big step in her career.

Amelia credits much of her inspiration to teachers at Framlingham, including Dr Noble, Mr Nunn, Mrs Bloore, and Mrs Cranmer, whose encouragement helped shape Amelia's path into education. After completing a degree in Primary Education at Anglia Ruskin University (2019–2022), Amelia went on to achieve a PGCE at the University of Bedfordshire (2022–2024).

Alongside Amelia's studies, sport



continued to play a huge role in her life. Having played cricket at Framlingham, Amelia went on to represent the University of Cambridge's 1st XI for a season while at ARU — a highlight of her time there. Amelia also captained the women's hockey team at ARU, describing the experience as both special and rewarding.

Amelia's time on placement during her PGCE confirmed a passion for teaching in Key Stage 1 and Early Years, and this September Amelia begins a first teaching role in the Cambridgeshire area.

We're proud to share Amelia's journey

and wish her the very best as she begins this exciting new chapter.

## SCIENCE AND SQUASH: A PROMISING START FOR ZOE TANNER

It has only been a year since **Zoe Tanner (V22-24)** left the College, yet already exciting opportunities have begun to unfold for her.

Zoe writing to Dr Noble (Teacher of Biology and Chemistry) shares her first year of studies :

Currently studying Human Neuroscience at the University of Birmingham, Zoe has just completed the first year of the programme. The course, which combines psychology with biological science, will become increasingly specialised in the second year, with modules such as Neuroscience and Endocrinology and Cell Development.

This summer, she accepted a lab experience offer at Peptide Proteins, a specialist laboratory in Hampshire. The company, run by a couple who's children are well known in European squash circles, welcomed Zoe into its purification lab. There, Zoe has gained hands-on experience with high-pressure liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry — key techniques used to refine and test peptides before they are sent on to quality control.

Reflecting on the experience, she noted



the learning curve and the challenge of long hours on her feet, but also expressed how valuable the placement has been in clarifying future ambitions: "I've really enjoyed the work, but I know I'd want to be involved in projects where I can see more of the final outcome. It's taught me a lot about how I work best."

Outside of the lab, sport continues to play a central role. Zoe has recently concluded a successful junior squash career, achieving a highest national ranking of 8th in England and 34th in Europe. This summer brought a first taste of professional competition, and Zoe now has a coaching role lined up at the prestigious Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham from September, alongside competing in BUCS squash for the university.

She also recently caught up with one of the German students, **Nella Frash (V22-22)**, who came to Fram for a term. Unsurprisingly, she also spoke very highly of Dr Noble when they reminisced, and says that she is the reason she took the high level Biology when she went back to Germany. She graduated last month with flying colours.

Zoe says in reference to Dr Noble "Your influence on my work ethic and passion for details has really benefited me beyond Fram, and I am sure it will continue to do so."





# SPORTS REPORT



## GOLF REPORT FOR THE FRAMLINGHAMIAN 2025

### Autumn Meeting 2024

This was held on Friday, 13th September, when Society Captain James Blyth and 16 members played at Aldeburgh Golf Club. We wished a warm welcome to Howard Gilbert, a new member of the OFGS. The course, on a cool but sunny day, was in great condition, with the gorse cut back, but with slow greens due to hollow-tining and sanding. Due to work on altering the second hole, the seventh was reduced to a par 3.

The morning 2 balls, on the main course, were followed by a very tasty lunch then 9 holes of four ball better ball on the River Course.

**Morning results were:**



#### **Coronation Cup for best stableford score**

Barry Hitchcock..... 39 points

#### **Le May Cup for best stableford scratch score**

Hugh Curle..... 26 points

#### **Div. 1 for stableford runner up**

Hugh Curle..... 38 points

#### **Div. 2 for stableford winner**

Clive Cooksey..... 35 points

#### **Lamb Trophy - Div 1 for combined Spring & Autumn**

Hugh Curle..... 73 points

#### **Howard Smith Cup - Div 2 for comb. Spring & Autumn**

Kevin Hambling ..... 55 points acb

#### **Mayhew/Sneath Salver for best front 9 - 70 yrs plus**

Peter Howard-Dobson..... 20 points

#### **Afternoon 4- ball better ball results:**

Winners - Barry Hitchcock and Howard Gilbert ..... 22 points



### **OFGS v Aldeburgh Golf Club 2024**

The annual match v Aldeburgh was played the following day, Saturday, 14th September.

### **OFGS v College 2024**

The match against The College was held at Aldeburgh Golf Club on Friday, 4th October.

### **Dick Watson Trophy 2024**

This was held at Aldeburgh Golf Club over the weekend 12th/13th October

### **Halford Hewitt 2025**

We had been drawn at Royal St. George's for the 3rd year running

An abundance of youth and exceptionally low handicap golfers meant the HH Captain, Jonny Newton, could relax on his family holiday, John Wybar captaining the team on this occasion. The team, with a number of HH debutants, had a tough draw in Round 1 v Wellington, the golf being of a very high standard. Framlingham went down to a 3.5/1.5 defeat, but that does not reflect how tight the individual matches were. The pairings and results were as follows:-

John Wybar & Matt Pennock..... Lost  
Rob Atton & George Jackson..... Lost  
Fraser Johnson & Callum Pearce ..... Won  
Harvey Finbow & Henry Moore.... Halved  
Harry Bush & Archie Winter ..... Lost

Framlingham had a tough match in the first round of the Princes Plate against last year's winners, Forest. The match went

to the wire, with Framlingham narrowly losing the first two matches. The highlight was a terrific match for Callum & Fraser, which was halted on the 18th tee with the game standing all square. At the time Callum & Fraser were 1 under par, with four birdies and an eagle in the match, a frustrating end for the young pair.



L-R Henry Moore, Rob Atton, Callum Pearce, Fraser Johnson, George Jackson, Matt Pennock, Harry Bush, Archie Winter, Andrew Towler, John Wybar (Captain), Harvey Finbow and Peter Watts (partly out of shot)



Four of the younger golfers enjoying a well earned Indian meal later on. L-R Callum Pearce, Henry Moore, George Jackson and Fraser Johnson



## Spring Meeting 2025

This was held at Woodbridge Golf Club on Tuesday, May 6th.

This was the first time since 1993 that we had played at Woodbridge Golf Club, where twenty one members played 18 holes on the Heath Course; we also played there in 1991 and 1992.

Of those, six were members of Woodbridge, and could sign-in the remainder, thus enabling a lower green fee. Our thanks go to them.

The course was in excellent condition despite the prolonged dry weather.

Play was from 10am followed by a 2 course lunch and then prize giving and the AGM

James Blyth won the day and his own Captain's Prize on 38 points on count back from Hugh Curle, who won The Minter Cup for the best scratch stableford score of 29 points.

Jeremy Kemp was third in Div 1 with 36 points.

Andrew Lillie won Div 2 on count back from James Brocks, both with 35 points.

The AGM followed, conducted by our secretary, David Turnbull and captain, James Blyth.

We hope to return to Woodbridge next spring on Tuesday, May 12th.

## Grafton Morrish Qualifying 2025

The Framlingham side assembled on 18th May, a hot Sunday morning, at Gog Magog in Cambridge for the Grafton Morrish qualifier. The course was in fantastic condition and played beautifully

The team consisted of Jonny Newton and Matthew Pennock, Fraser Johnson and Callum Pearce, and Dickie Graves and Harvey Finbow.

Newton and Pennock were out at the top followed by Pearce and Johnson, with Graves and Finbow third. Sadly, it did not quite go our way with the team struggling to find rhythm in any of the pairs. Putts were scaring the hole but never dropping and 71 points was not enough to qualify for the finals.

Our thanks are due to Harvey Finbow for organising the team and he would like to thank all players for their availability.

We look forward to having another crack next year at trying to qualify for the finals.



Richard Graves' shot to the green



## Cyril Gray Tournament 2025

At the end of June we took part in the annual Cyril Gray over 50's Tournament at Worplesdon Golf Club near Guildford.

This year, our team organised by Hugh Curle, welcomed three debutants, Simon Harby, Kevin Hambling and Dominic Wade. Thanks are due to Barry Hitchcock for attending as reserve.

The draw was unkind to us, meaning that, having lost 2-1 to Taunton starting at 12.10pm, we had to play Stonyhurst in the Plate at 4.40pm the same day. We also lost that match 2-1.

### ▼ Taunton

Rob Atton/Peter Watts .....	Lost
Harby/Wade.....	Lost
Hugh Curle/Hambling.....	Won

### ▼ Stonyhurst

Atton/Watts .....	Won
Harby/Wade.....	Lost
Curle/Hambling .....	Lost



L-R Dominic Wade, Simon Harby, Kevin Hambling, Hugh Curle, Peter Watts and Rob Atton



At the time of writing the following events have yet to take place in 2025 -

Autumn Meeting at Aldeburgh GC  
Match v College at Aldeburgh GC  
Dick Watson Trophy at Aldeburgh GC

Unfortunately, the match v Aldeburgh GC this year has been cancelled due to AGC celebrating the opening of three new holes.



## VICTIMS OF OUR OWN SUCCESS?

### OFRC season report 2025

Steve McDowell, captain and Treasurer.

There's no doubt the highlight of the 2025 season was the OFRC's third 'international' tour. The OFRC competed at the Guernsey Spring Meeting for the second time but this time two of the College's seniors, Oliver Williams and Kit Beaver came with us.

But the shorthand is that we were able to bring these two lads through in one of the most competitive meetings in UK shooting to the point where they both finished the three days of competition with maximum scores of 50.





Guernsey has an enviable infrastructure for training and maintaining the skills of its young people. Elizabeth College on the island teaches TR as a part of its sporting curriculum and with their own 600 yard full-bore range, it is no stretch of the imagination to grasp they are very skilled.

We have had some help from the SOF, for which we are always grateful, but this tour was substantially funded by its participants, including paying for our two youngsters and by fund-raising from a Guest Day at Bisley last September.

The intention was to give the two most senior members of the College team (Kit is this year's captain) the skills and experience necessary to pass the wisdom and knowledge down to their juniors.

In this we succeeded, as was evidenced by the College CCFs enhanced performance in the Schools Meeting and Ashburton shield this year, which will be the last in its historical format. More on that later.

It is hoped we will be able to press forward with a similar exercise next spring – the Scottish Open is currently under discussion.

## THE OFRC SEASON

The OFRC has endured a challenging season; largely because we appear to be victims of our own success.

For reasons known only to themselves, the NRA is currently restricting multi-distance shooting to only a few days of the year



and so our Q Matches, our bread and butter competitions, invariably clash with larger competitions and/or National team selection shoots.

So with James Mehta slated as the captain of the GB team to Canada and the USA in 2026, Kim Heath nee Pope, competing for Ireland as vice-captain, John Halahan, Ireland and the Army; the retirement of John Horton and the death of Neil Joy in February, we have found ourselves very short-handed.

Indeed, our last match, we were down to three participants. While we actively recruit where we can, these circumstances remain an intractable challenge for the foreseeable future.

Our strategy, as an Open club, is to invite qualified participants to join in – otherwise known as ‘ringers’ – and to expend appropriate resource (and time and effort) on bringing forward the younger generation at the College.

Any oldsters who fancy coming and having a go would be most welcome as well.

### THE IMPERIAL MEETING

The Public Schools Veterans match is the opening shoot of the historic Imperial Meeting (the 158th this year). In recent years this has been very popular with the members, sometimes fielding even a D-Team (five per team).

However, this year, due to unmitigatable reasons, we were down to seven.



Nonetheless, with average age of firers at 64.5 years (the oldest 81 and youngest 36) – The OF team managed 14th from 44 teams. A creditable performance in that quality – especially with Sandy Walker shooting a perfect 50.10.

The Astor is a National competition with one team representing each county. This time the average age of firers was a mere 55 though two under 30 and one under 35. It was 10 years to the day since we unexpectedly won it and five of the originals still shooting/coaching the match this year. We came 8th from 22 teams, which is a great result.

James Mehta again showed why he has acquired the moniker ‘Captain Crossfire’, by doing exactly that with his last shot to break into the second stage of the Kings Prize. A near perfect 105.17 was in



his grasp, but snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, he expertly drilled in yet another V-Bull. On the wrong target. Doh!

He later redeemed himself with a bit of silverware winning the county junior team championship and a minor unofficial piece of silver – the self-invented Coffee-Pot Challenge – between him and his girlfriend, Ros. He won by one V-Bull and luckily, on hand to present was our friend Andy Sturrock RE, a recently retired Major General in full uniform.

Elsewhere, Kings Prize finalists Sandy Walker again (29th 75.11 & 72.6) and Ros Woodhouse 72nd (72.7 & 72.7) held up the club's name high and in the St George's shield Sandy Walker, a previous winner, was 80th with 145.17.

James Mehta and Ros represented Scotland and John Halahan, Ireland – forgiving us our high-jinx when we stole his birthday watch and gave it to the Chief Range Officer. Despite some hints about a subtle as a Russian train crash, he took hours to locate it.

Sasha Radkovskii is off to Canada and USA next month representing Great Britain and of course James is recruiting for his GB team for next year.

McDowell, putting aside his Target rifle, shot the Running Deer unlimited competition and came 12th with his .357 Magnum underlever 56 ex 100 and 19th in the Dewar Cup 29 ex 50 with a .223 straight-pull – both of them not designed for the discipline, so that was fun.

## OFRC MEMBERSHIP

Despite the losses mentioned above the OFRC membership remains quite stable at 22 members, with attendances being quite high despite short numbers

## COLLEGE SHOOTING AND THE OFRC – PLANS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

The College faces severe challenges with full bore shooting in the coming years.

Firstly, the forthcoming retirement of the much-esteemed SSI WO2 Roy Witham.

Roy has been instrumental in keeping shooting alive at the College and his replacement (yet to be appointed) will have big boots to fill.

Secondly, the MoD, in its wisdom, withdrew the 7.62mm Cadet Target Rifle from service – meaning the Ashburton Shield is consigned to history. Only 5.56mm Cadet SR and .22 and air rifle shooting will remain.

However, going forward, there are two rays of light.

The NRA is in negotiations with the MoD to acquire 1200 of the best Cadet TRs and re-create some sort of Cadet Competition beginning next year. Quite how the youngsters are expected to compete without any familiarity with the rifle and distances is anyone's guess but we await further developments.

In the meantime, given we have now sorted out the legal paperwork with both



Suffolk and Surrey Police – the OFRC is now able to deploy the four civilian target rifles in the College's possession. Added to that, we are now able to deploy the two club rifles we have on our Firearms Certificate.

Roy has booked in the CCF calendar a full-bore training weekend at Bisley in March next year for six of the best young shooters. Naturally, this will be hosted by the OFRC and a good chance to get to know the new SSI.

Cadet shooting is governed by labyrinthine and often non-sensical rules

from the MoD which makes it extremely time-consuming to organise.

The good news is that, as junior members of a Home Office Approved club, ie the OFRC, they will be able to shoot as civilians which is infinitely less complicated and good for us since we can train them with decent rifles and kit which is ours – so they can use it as future full members of the club.

So for the time being at least, it looks as though we can make it work.

**SM July 2025**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OF COMING 18TH IN LONDON MARATHON

**Alex Lawrence (S06-17)** finished the 2025 London Marathon in 18th place in 2 hours 21 mins 19 secs, only 4 places behind world triathlon champion and fellow Brit Alex Yee. Our Alex was representing Victoria Park Harriers. Congratulation to Alex and any other OFs who managed to finish the London or Manchester marathons yesterday. Great achievement.

## OF NAMED IN KENT WOMEN'S FIRST CRICKET TEAM

**Sophie Singer (M19-24)** was been selected for the Kent Women's First Cricket Team for the 2025 season — a significant achievement in her developing cricket career. She is a talented all-rounder known for her right-handed batting and right-arm leg-spin bowling, caught the attention of Kent selectors following her impressive performances in county cricket for Suffolk. Her inclusion in the squad follows successful trials at The County Ground, Beckenham, and is a testament to her growing reputation within women's cricket.

Still only 18 years old, she joined a strong Kent line-up led by captain Megan Belt. She made her first appearance for the team in the opening match of the Metro Bank Women's One Day Cup against Middlesex — gaining valuable experience at the top level of domestic women's cricket.



During the 2025 season Sophie contributed to Kent's campaigns in both the One Day Cup and the Vitality Women's T20 competitions.



# CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS



## OF SOCIETY OF THE ARTS 2024-25

It was hugely encouraging, this time last year, to bring you news of OFSTA's first sponsored exhibition – The Artworks of Chris Lenton.

At that time, we also spoke of our ambition to arrange a Gala OF Concert, to take place at the College (or perhaps even within the walls of Framlingham Castle), but finding space in the College calendar for this was simply too difficult, and we need to learn how to work better with the overall arts and music team. We spoke, too, of our ambition to sponsor a Pupil and OF expedition to Jack Bullen's Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair this November. While this still remains a possibility, the loss of the College's Head of Art over the course of the Summer, has delayed the decision process, and the target of 15th November begins to seem unachievable. While these may be frustrating

disappointments, there has been plenty going on, within the OF Arts community, throughout the year.

### OF SOCIETY OF THE ARTS SPONSORS WOOLWICH PRINT FAIR VISIT

#### **Peter Howard-Dobson (R 65-69),**

Secretary of OFSTA, reports that he has been working closely with Andrew Cook (Framlingham College's Director of Development) on plans for a joint Pupil and OF visit to the Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair on Saturday 15th November 2025.

The WCPF was founded by **Jack Bullen (G03-08)** and his wife, Lizzie Glendinning, and this is now the tenth year of these increasingly renowned exhibitions.

OFSTA will meet the cost of the Coach journey, for pupils, to and from Woolwich, and Maria Clarke-Wilson (the College's acting Head of Art) will promote the





opportunity across Years 9 to 13. **Caroline Mallett**, former Head of Art at the College until 2015 and an Honorary OF, will be OFSTA's representative on the day, and is looking forward to meeting pupils and OFs attending.

Peter says, "we're keen to offer places on the coach to OFs and Honorary OFs with (or even without) an interest in the Arts, and with contemporary prints in particular. A seat on the coach will cost just £30 – an amazing bargain, and Jack Bullen has kindly offered discounted Print Fair tickets at £12 until 30th September or £16 thereafter. If accompanied by children, they will need a ticket but these are free up to age 16". If you're interested, just contact Peter (secretaryOFSTA@oldframlinghamian.com) for more information or to reserve your place and arrange payment.

The coach is expected to depart from the College at 9.00am and to return by 7.00pm.

### **WORLD-CLASS COLLECTOR, CHRIS HALL DONATES ENTIRE CHINESE TEXTILE COLLECTION TO MUSEUM IN HONG KONG**

Earlier in 2024, **Chris Hall (G62-69)** 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. Click [here](#) to see previous news article.



At the end of 2024 Chris has now 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"

Full details of this amazing donation are contained in his Distinguished OF entry on the SOF website.

### **OF THROUGH TO THE SEMI-FINAL OF THE US VERSION OF THE VOICE**

**Adam Bohanan (K97-02)**, who lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, got through to the semi finals of the US version of The Voice in 2024. His last performance was



of "What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye. In 2025 he released his first solo single with this band, "Open Your Heart." Additional singles and a full album will be out later this year.

#### OF PUBLISHES 3RD BOOK

Distinguished OF **Nigel Parsons (R64-76)** has published a third book in March 2025, following previous success with two earlier books - 1) "Manouche - Living with the Gypsies of France" and 2) "Three Lives".



A young man leaves behind a failed marriage and a grim London winter in the late 1970s to seek his fortune in the Amazon. He finds his slice of paradise, only to have it brutally snatched away and is forced to go on the run. His subsequent travels take him through South America, Africa and Australia as he searches for some meaning to his life and the point of it all, only to discover the answer much closer to home and in the

A young man leaves behind a failed marriage and a grim London winter in the late 1970s to seek his fortune in the Amazon. He finds his slice of paradise, only to have it brutally snatched

most unexpected way after returning to the UK.

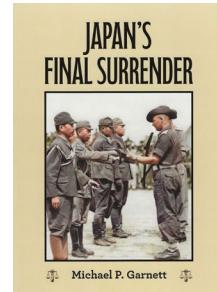
The book is available via Amazon if you are interested in reading this book.

#### OF PUBLISHES NEW BOOK TO MARK 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY

##### **Mike Garnett**

**OAM (53-55)** has written a number of books on Real Tennis as well as 3 booklets on local militia to where he now lives in Australia. However to mark 80th

anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August 2025 he has written a book on the Japanese surrender "Japan's Final Surrender". There will be many currently at the College, as well as OFs, who had parents, grandparents or great grandparents who suffered under the Japanese in Singapore, following incarceration at Changi, and subsequently on the Thai/Burma railways, Sandakan etc.



Quite a number of the OFs commemorated on the WW2 Memorial in the College Chapel died in Singapore and across the Far East - you can read the recently researched biographies on the SOF website.

Mike has kindly sent a copy which has been donated for safe keeping to the College Library. It is not at present



available to buy on-line as Mike has done a limited print run.

## ANOTHER OF PUBLISHES HER FIRST BOOK

**Elizabeth Reece**

(V88-93) lives in

France and has

published her

debut novel. She

says "I'd love you

to take a look and

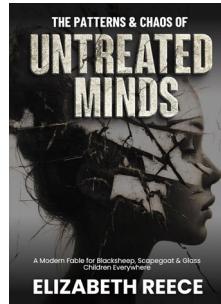
support the importance of the messages

it carries. You will recognise the setting

of several chapters and perhaps some of

what the central character experiences

after her time there."



Here is one of the reviews on Amazon "I was lost in the novel from the first page. A gentle yet intense story which carries the reader to its message. Slivers of identification, recognition and what it's swept through me. Memories, fear, sacrifice and above all courage. What would I do? I love a story that makes me care enough to frustrate and fascinate me, but also makes me smile and appreciate that joy exists not only in great stories, but in my life as well. A wonderful journey through life and to freedom."

You can purchase from Amazon.

## OF RESEARCHING COLLEGE MUSEUM HAS FULL PAGE ARTICLE IN EADT

**Professor Neville Marsh (S53-61)** has

spent considerable time thoroughly

researching what used to be the College

Museum. This work will shortly be completed and published in a new area of the SOF website.

In the meantime,

he had a full

page article published in the EADT in April 2025 and the following is the words from that article. If you can help Neville in any way then please email him neville.marsh@adelaide.edu.au



## THE TERRIFYING SPIDER CRAB AND AWESOME PIKE

Anyone who attended Framlingham College before the 1970s will remember the Museum with its array of magnificent and mysterious objects displayed along the Chapel cloisters. Young boys could not fail to be mesmerized by the macabre exhibits including, in a sinister little bottle of oil, a lock of black hair, alleged to have belonged to the beheaded Henry, Earl of Surrey, whose tomb is in the parish church.

The Museum, started in 1888 by Edward Lynch, a teacher at the school, was a quintessentially Victorian phenomenon conceived when explorers and adventurers would collect all manner of animals, vegetable and mineral specimens without the slightest regard for conservation or the environment.

Lynch began gathering artefacts donated by Old Boys into a small museum. Over the next 90 years, more than 20,000



artefacts were gifted by current and former students, parents and others coming from all parts of the Empire.

The items ranged from unique 'type' fossils from Suffolk Crag, through all manner of militaria to a vast collection of stuffed animals dominated by a 1.6 m albatross, a huge stuffed pike donated by the Headmaster Oliver Digby Inskip and a spectacular spider crab from the South Seas. Notable donors included Baron Anatole Von Hugel, the first Curator of Cambridge University's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Frank Noverre, violin teacher at the College and great-grandson of Marie Antoinette's dancing teacher and Sir William Thisleton Dyer, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

By the late 1960s, the Museum had become unloved and in 1973, the then Headmaster Laurie Rimmer decided that it should be disbanded, and the space used for other purposes. Where possible, items were returned to their donors and the remaining material was auctioned off in Woodbridge. We know, for example, that a huge case of 56 ducks, donated by Lord Huntingfield, was sold for £50.

Fifty years on, it still rankles with former curators, that this amazing collection of material was scattered to the four winds. We are trying to identify donations to the Museum from entries in the College Magazine, The Framlinghamian, and create an online catalogue. Photographs of any of the lost items would be great

and so we are appealing to anyone who attended the auction in Woodbridge in 1973 and bought items from the Framlingham College Museum.

Perhaps you have the huge pike on your lounge wall or the albatross sitting in the front room.

### OF RETIRES AS A REGIONAL POLITICAL JOURNALIST AFTER 43 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY

**Paul Geater (R68-77)** retired from the East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star on Thursday 12 June 2025.

He had worked for Eastern Counties





Newspapers' Group and its successor companies Archant and Newsquest for his entire 43-year career. He was one of seven trainees on the first ECNG training course in Norwich in January 1982 and is the last to leave the business.

Between 1983 and 1991 he worked at branch offices in Bury St Edmunds, Halesworth and Leiston as a district chief reporter before transferring to the Ipswich office in 1991. After volunteering to cover the 1992 general election he has specialised in politics ever since, becoming political correspondent for both the Star and EADT in 2010.

He said in his final column: "Life has certainly changed in EADT journalism since I started at the Bury office in 1982. When I was working in Leiston the following year we would put our stories on the 4pm Eastern Counties bus for them to be picked up in Ipswich. Now my colleagues are using AI to help them out!

"I've been specialising, although not exclusively so, in politics and local government ever since the 1992 general election – but it's a subject that has fascinated me since I was a schoolboy. When I was a student at UEA in the late 70s I joined the Conservative Association. I later joined the Shirley Williams/Roy Jenkins SDP – but once I got my dream job as a reporter I was never a member of any party. That's unlikely to change.

Paul went on to pay tribute to some of his colleagues who are no longer with us

including David Henshall, who initially gave him the politics brief. He wrote: "He was acting editor of the Star in 1992 when I asked him if I could cover that year's general election. He said: "Do you really want to do politics? Well dear boy get on with it and don't hash it up!"

Since then Paul has gone on to cover nine general elections, and a parliamentary by-election in Ipswich in 2001, as well as annual council elections.

He won't be totally turning his back on news, however, as he will be continuing to do some voluntary work for local community radio station Suffolk Sound.

Former EADT Editor and OF **Terry Hunt (K68-75)** has known "Geats" since they were both at Fram together. He said "He cut quite a dash, aged nine, in a blazer and grey shorts!". He went on to say "At the EADT/Star, he has always been a real force of nature – a significant figure in the newsroom. His unrivalled knowledge of Suffolk and Ipswich, his interest in politics, and his love of creating a little





bit of mischief have been invaluable for decades.

Geats has been greatly respected – and a little bit feared – by Suffolk's decision-makers, who have known that he has his beady eye on what they're up to. I'm sure his presence has stopped many really daft decisions about spending our money!

Most of all, he has always been fair-minded, never one to indulge in a vendetta, and with Geats it never gets personal. Always professional. One thing is certain. Local politicians from all parties won't miss his often hard-hitting opinion piece each Thursday.

His enthusiasm for a good story has never dimmed. I helped him recently with a story which shone a light on a piece of bureaucratic nonsense, and he was simply bubbling with it. And that's after more than 40 years as a reporter!

Just as importantly, he has always been fun. Ever ready to laugh at himself – especially when donning outrageous outfits for various stories. I remember the Frenchman, complete with bike, onions and stripy T-shirt. And, of course, the "Fake Sheikh." Great fun...

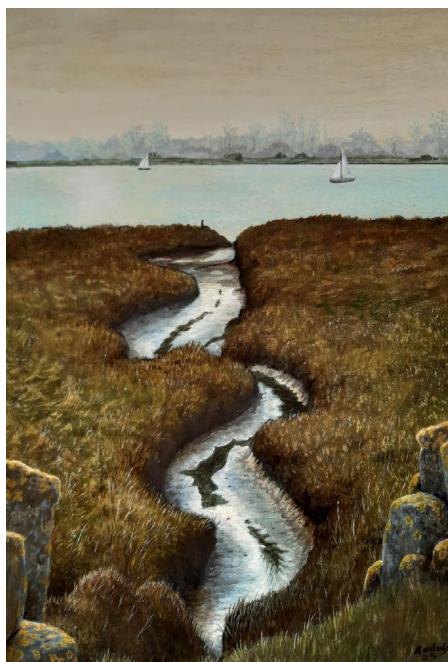
Most importantly of all, Geats has been a valued, respected and greatly liked colleague to literally hundreds of EADT and Star journalists over the years. Genial, helpful, and kind. A great guy. Thanks for everything, Geats – I'm sure you'll enjoy spending more time with your trains, at

Minsmere, enjoying a beer or a glass of red, or watching some dubious new superhero movie! "

### OF DISPLAYED ART WORK AT GALLERY IN JULY & AUGUST 2025

Peter Rodulfo (R70-75) was showing a few new paintings at Chappel Galleries, 15 Colchester Road, Chappel, Essex, CO6 2DE in July/August 2025. He invited OFs to attend the opening day on Saturday 19th July 2025 and enjoy wine and so on from 10am to 5pm. The show ran until 17th August 2025 and was open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm.

The image below is one of Peter's paintings.





# NOTICES AND TRIBUTES



## WEBSITE REPORT

We are encouraged by the increasing numbers of OFs and the public who've accessed the site, from the UK and abroad. The website support team (Chris Essex, Tim Mitchell and Peter Howard-Dobson) continue to be hugely encouraged by the numbers of society members and members of the public who've accessed the public areas of the site from the UK and around the world. It's perhaps interesting to note that well over 50% of those visits have been by mobile phone, rather than a tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

At the time of writing, we now have nearly 1,200 members who've registered on the site and we have over 3,000 members for whom we hold a current email address. So there are still nearly 2,000 of you who have not yet registered to enjoy all the features that the website has to offer.

The website offers these key features: access to information on your contemporaries, latest news, births, marriages and deaths, forthcoming events, information on the Society, including our registered charity, all past publications, biographies of all distinguished OFs and a wonderful gallery, all at the click of a button.

Not all of this is available to the general public, so you'll need to register if you want the full experience. If we already hold your email address, registration will only take you moments – and, even

if we don't, you only need to email [admin@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:admin@oldframlinghamian.com) with your contact details, years and house at the Prep School and College, and we'll soon set you up. Once registered, you can use Connect@Fram to find other Framlinghamians by name, location, leaving group and, if they've provided details, by business skills and leisure interests. You'll also be able to publish your own News, Photographs, and Events, as well as information about Engagements, Marriages, Births and Deaths. You can easily do this from either a desktop or a mobile. Just use the accompanying images as your guide.

For those of you who prefer to use the bigger screen of a desktop, laptop or tablet, our first image shows you the way-in via the main News page. Then the second shows how to add a News story, and you'll see that, along the top, are tabs to add photographs to the Gallery, to announce a Marriage, and then further tabs for Events, Engagements, Births and Deaths.

And for those of us who prefer to do everything on a mobile phone, here's the equivalent way in, once again via the main News page. The difference here, is that you'll need to scroll up just a little to select any of the alternative categories of submission.

Once again, please feel free to just dive in and have a go and email [admin@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:admin@oldframlinghamian.com) if you need any assistance.



## THE SOCIETY OF OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Society is to take place at 6.15pm on Saturday 18 April 2026 at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 14th April 2025.

The Minutes will be available on the website ([www.oldframlinghamian.com](http://www.oldframlinghamian.com)) or by application to the Hon Gen Sec, sending a stamped addressed envelope.

3. Matters Arising.
4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025.

Copies of the accounts are available on the website, or from the Trustees [trustees@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:trustees@oldframlinghamian.com).

5. President's Report.
6. To Elect Officers of the Society.  
President; Vice Presidents; Honorary General Secretary; Honorary Treasurer; Young OF Chairman; Finance Committee; Independent Examiner; Council Members. For names of current Officers please refer to the SOF Website.

7. To Elect New Honorary OFs.

8. Any Other Business.

It is intended that the meeting should not last more than 45 minutes.

#### **Simon Dougherty**

(Honorary General Secretary)

White House, Abberton,  
Colchester CO5 7NH.

Tel: 07808 931 656

Email: [gensec@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:gensec@oldframlinghamian.com)

## SOF ANNUAL DINNER 2026

The Annual Dinner will be held in the Sovereign's Room at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY on Saturday 18 April 2026 at 7.30pm.

The Churchill Bar which will be open at 6.00pm.

Pre-dinner drinks will be served at 7.00pm with dinner being served in the first floor Sovereign's Room at 7.30pm.

The first 20 OFs aged under 30 years on 18 April 2026 to register and pay for their tickets will receive a 50% discount on the price of their ticket.

Full details and application forms will be published by January 2026.



## YEAR 13 OLD FRAMLINGHAMIAN SPEECH DAY PRIZES 2025

The Mawby Prize for service to the College	Katie Hook
The Karen Buttenshaw Prize for 5 years exceptional service to the College	Archie McEwan
The Ellis Arthur Memorial Prize for Rugby	Joseph Besley
Jonathan Hulley Memorial Cricket Prize	Percy Moore
Year 13 Albert Award	Oliver Stirling
Year 13 Albert Award	Edgar Reader
Year 13 Boys' Hockey	Freddie Paffett
Year 13 Boys' Tennis	Myles Gurr
Year 13 Drama	Margot Sidebottom
Year 13 English and Journalism/Media	Hannah-Grace Strover
Year 13 Foreign Travel Award	Edgar Reader
Year 13 Girls' Cricket	Annabelle Royall
Year 13 Girls' Hockey	Bethany Gardens

*Profiles of the two Moreau Scholarship winners, Oliver Nisbet and Hannah Grace-Strover, can be seen elsewhere in this publication.*





## OBITUARIES 2025

As ever, we have an all-too-large a crop of Obituaries. This may be a challenge in terms of finding space in the SOF Newspaper, but we must console ourselves with the thought that so many OFs must have remained in touch with the Society for the channels of communication to have remained open.

As ever, we are dependent on the material offered and researchable, so the length of the obituary in no way reflects the importance attached to the life being thus consigned to our historical archive.

**Norman Porter – Obituaries Editor**

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**SOPHIA EMMA van den AREND MBE (Hon OF)** passed away peacefully on 19 July 2025 at her home in Chelsea, London. She had previously lived in High House, Easton, much closer to Framlingham. She was made an Hon OF on 26 March 2011, having been appointed as Governor of the College in 1996. She retired as a Governor in 2015, and subsequently moved away from the county. She was the wife of the late Jeremy, adored mother of Henrietta, Charles and Nicholas and much loved grandmother of Freddie, Archie, Mary, Alistair, Joshua, Johnny, Thomas and Arthur.

She was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2010 for "For voluntary service to the British Red Cross Society".

There was a private funeral followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Chelsea Old Church, London SW3 5LT on Tuesday 16th September.

**ALAN BEWICK (K47 – 53)** died a while ago, apparently in 2020, at the age of 85. This was discovered through the returning of an OF newspaper. James Ruddock-Broyd recalls that he was a Vice President of the Society, and hence a Member of Council for several years, until he found himself confined to bed around the turn of the millennium because of a collapsing back. He then had to register automatic apologies for his absence from meetings. James also recalls that he was 1st XV scrum half in 1953 – indeed his end-of-season performance was described thus: *"Very unfortunate in the matter of injuries. Usually gave a long and accurate pass from the scrum, but like his partner was overfond of kicking for touch. Plucky and sure in defence".* (We include this as a reminder of how these end-of-season sports reports used to be phrased – some praise, but usually as much criticism as praise – even though the players had made it to the dizzy heights of the 1st XVI!).





Alan is 2nd from the right, back row, excluding HL Baly (coach). The other coach is JD Melsom. No track-suited coaches then!

Alan was obviously a splendid all-rounder at school – his leaving credentials mention his being a Sub-Prefect, member of the Rugby XV in '51, '52, 1st XI Hockey '51, '52, '53, 2nd XI Cricket '53. He was also CSM in the C.C.F.

#### **ROBERT JAMES "JIM" BLYTHE (K48-54)**

died peacefully, at home in Suffolk on 19th December 2024 aged 86 years. Jim wrote up his life in January 2008, for "Distinguished OFs." That item has been edited as the basis for this Obituary.

Jim was born on January 9th 1938 in Southwold, the youngest of three boys. His early childhood was dictated by WW2, with evacuation, the billeting of soldiers in the Blythe home and memories of local bombing. His father, James William Blythe, also went to the College.

In 1948 Jim gained a County Scholarship and was duly shipped off to Brandeston for its first term. He was the second boy to arrive, P. M. G. Stewart (K48-53) being the first. Having experienced evacuation, being away from home now presented no problem. He remembered his mother trading family sweet coupons for clothing coupons, just to get the Cash's name-tags! Jim loved Brandeston, with the excitement of the exploration of the Hall and grounds, and all those army "treasures" left behind after the war-time requisition of the

Hall. Added to that, there were spiral staircases, secret passages, hollow trees and ponds with the most beautiful dragonflies. There were also properly organised games and swimming in the river, and the man whom Jim called the "amazing loco parentis" in the figure of Headmaster, D.D. Kittermaster, who understood that boys will be boys, and that was something to be encouraged. He also exercised firm discipline, as required, meted out with the back of the billiard table brush, or the eighteen-inch ruler. He remembered also, with affection, "Doodie" Day, a grandfather figure, and Peter Arbon, the gardener's boy, who kept him in fresh fruit, as available. Reading the mags of the time, Jim recalled that he seemed to do well at chess, billiards and table tennis, but he came to find that difficult to believe. Three years later, in 1951, he moved up to the College - a shock to the system! Rather too many prefectorial beatings for minor offences and multiple log(arithm)s. He over-produced these, and sold on the surplus! In 1952 he played "Peasebottom" in Bob Gillett's production of A Midsummer's Night Dream in the Castle, but was shamed to find that the programme listed him simply as 'Other Fairy!'

He sat O levels in 1953/4, and then followed his brother into the Merchant Navy. In 1956 he was in the last convoy to clear the Suez Canal before the invasion of Egypt. The next convoy was stuck in the canal for 4 1/2 months. After three years he was promoted to Third Officer at £70 per month and in 1958 he gained his 2nd



Mates Certificate and joined the Union-Castle Line. There followed six years sailing mostly to South Africa, carrying the Royal Mail both ways in those pre-Air Mail days. There were also passengers, including masses of beautiful women, with many of whom Jim fell in love, and vice versa – maybe because of the beautiful uniforms. His autobiographical write-up may (or may not) be tinged with hyperbole, but he claimed to have been engaged seven times. By 1963 he was exhausted, and retired from the Merchant Navy, swapping it for three months in Benidorm.

Jim then joined animal feed compounders, Richard Silcocks. He also met his wife, June, who was running the family Nursery, but she also had 500 hens. They married in 1965. Jim was promoted to a position in Norfolk, married and bought a bungalow in Blofield. He soon joined his wife's family business, Potash Nursery, the beginning of a whole new chapter in his life. He took it over when his father-in-law died in 1966. Within the space of a few years, there were three children: Wendy, Fiona and then James (K79-86). He found that being a nurseryman was very much to his taste, and thrived, tutored by June, well steeped in the long-established family business. June was enjoying much success showing plants, and that was the route they decided jointly to follow, exhibiting nationally with much success, and selling young plants of new varieties. They started locally, then County Agricultural shows and finally the RHS shows. They specialised in fuchsias, ending up with

400 good varieties, having trialled over 4,000. Jim learned how to display the plants en masse, and they started winning awards. Invitations to exhibit flowed and in 1982 they showed at Chelsea for the first time. Jim was now attending 40 shows a year. June grew the plants. Jim showed and sold them. By the mid-1980s he was getting invitations to RHS Committees and ended up on the Panels for Westminster, Chelsea and Hampton Court as well as the General Show Committee.



Accompanying HM Queen Elizabeth II at the Chelsea Flower Show. This appeared in Hello Magazine in 1993.

At the turn-of-the-Millennium OF Ball, Jim offered as an auction prize the right to name a new fuchsia, an offshoot of their success in breeding new varieties.\* In 1984



they sold the retail side of the nursery, and concentrated more on the shows. They set up a purpose-built nursery in Bacton, and found they had to expand to stay still. Ten years later they sold up and retired. They moved to Stowmarket in 1998 and after four further years it was back to Reydon, Southwold – a stone's throw from where Jim was born.

In retirement he helped the RHS at the Chelsea and Hampton Court shows, and the BBC Gardeners World Live.



With former President, Brian Smith and joking about the twine belt.

In addition, he qualified as a Judge (horticultural). Jim was a supportive and an ever-present, larger-than-life character at the Suffolk Show, often to be found in the Flower Show, floral marquee, possibly still exhibiting, probably more likely to be judging.

Retirement brought a little golf at the Southwold Club that he had joined sixty years previously, sailing model boats, helping out at the Alfred Corry museum and attending Here4u Dementia Group which he loved. He could also now indulge his main love outside the family: The SOF and the College. To be invited to Armistice Sunday at the Chapel was very special for Jim. He found that it stirred the soul and continually reminded us all of the debt that we owe to so many who laid down their lives for us – including so many OFs.

Jim, in his early days, became secretary of the OFGS, held this post for some time, graduated to Council and was then OF President 1983/85. On moving back to Suffolk he was invited to join the Governors and thus started a further 17 years of fulfilment and challenge, including being a representative on the Health and Safety Sub-Committee. For Jim these were thrilling times of development at both the College and his beloved Brandeston. He retired as a Governor in 2005, but continued to watch developments with pride and to glory in the success of the pupils. He was also an SOF Trustee.

Ex-President, Andrew Wright, on hearing



*Jim in full flow, delivering a wonderful tribute/reflection on his own schooldays at BH, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Tea, on the Terrace in 2018.*

of Jim's passing wrote: Jim was unique, a walking history book of Framlingham, a great servant of the college and the SOF and a really kind and caring man. We have lost a legend. For the writer of this Obituary Jim Blythe was Framlingham (together with Brandeston) incarnate.

- Does anyone remember who won that prize, or what was the name chosen for the new plant? We think the picture below gives a clue – so very appropriate.



## NICHOLAS CHARLES CARLTON MM

(G63-70) died on 11 July 2025 in Mandurah, Western Australia at the age of 72. Nick was a Captain with Princess Cruises. His obituary was spotted in the Daily Telegraph on 11 August 2025 stating the following : CARLTON - Nicholas Charles, Captain Nick Carlton, died on 11th July 2025 in Mandurah, Western Australia, aged 72. He leaves a son James.

His funeral was on Thursday 31 July 2025  
at Bowra & O'Dea Mandurah Chapel,  
460 Pinjarra Road, Greenfields, Western  
Australia.

He features in Distinguished for saving a life "In 33 years at sea Captain Nick Carlton has never heard the cry "man overboard", until August 2003. At the time he was Captain of the P&O liner Pacific Sky. When the shout was made he immediately turned the ship around and headed back to search. After nearly 3 hours of searching in 25 knot winds and rough seas, the man was remarkably found and brought back on board."

## CHRISTOPHER HEW CARRUTHERS

(Teaching Staff – 1966-1973) died peacefully at his home, Holmains, Dalton, Lockerbie, on 14th October 2024, aged 84 years. A Private Cremation took place in accordance with his wishes. He joined the teaching staff at the College in September 1966.

David Carr recalls that he was Housemaster of Rendlesham, and that



he taught Latin, 1st XV rugby, colts U16 cricket and hockey. He left to become a Housemaster at Fettes College, Edinburgh, subsequently giving up teaching to take over as Bursar/Finance Manager. Whilst at Fram, he played cricket occasionally for Deben Valley CC, and was a keen tourist with the Sou'westers CC (a team of mostly schoolmasters) who played as many as 20 fixtures each summer holiday in the South West.

As well as teaching Classics, he was an excellent all-round sportsman and particularly enjoyed cricket. After he moved to Fettes he became deeply involved in Scottish cricket, and became President both of Cricket Scotland and also of the eminent Grange Cricket Club.

**MICHAEL FINLAY CRAIG (K53-56)**  
died on 1st October 2024. Mike was the nephew of Doctor Craig, the GP in Framlingham who provided medical cover for the College in the 1940s-60s (and

whose sons also attended the College). Mike was only at Framlingham for a short period, going on to study at Kingston and Kings College, Durham, before embarking on a long and successful career in the shipbuilding industry based in Newcastle. He and Dorothy were married just over 60 years and had two children.

**David Boulton (1951-7)**

**ANGUS HOWARD CUNDEY MBE**

**(G50-54)** died on 12 August 2024 after a short illness at the age of 87. He had been Chairman and driving force behind Henry Poole & Co, a very distinguished family-owned tailors in Savile Row, London, for many years. Clients of the Company, over time, included Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens, Napoleon and Winston Churchill. In January 2013 the Company was presented with the Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade by HRH Princess Anne.





The company, now headed by his son, Simon, made the following announcement at the time of his death: "It is with a very heavy heart that we share this message. After a short battle with cancer, Angus H Cundey MBE, the sixth generation to lead our family business, passed away peacefully at his home on August 12. He lived and breathed Henry Poole, built special relationships with clients, and was fond of and proud of the skills of all the staff and of their achievements in making Henry Poole what it is today: one of the finest tailors in the world. He was called "the Godfather of Savile Row" as he fought continuously to achieve the Row's global recognition, its protection and preservation. He was the chairman of trade-related organisations such as the FMT in Europe, the SRB and the BTBA. He was much loved by the trade and all the people involved in it, and was honoured with an MBE for his services to the industry. He leaves a legacy and will be greatly missed by all of us. Rest in peace."

**MIKE GEDDES (S51-55)** passed away on 1st July. Mike was born 21st August 1937 in Northwood, Middlesex as an only child. He attended Framlingham January 1951 – July 1955 where he met two life-long friends, Roger Gibbard and John Hanney, so he enjoyed almost 75 years of friendship.

He did National Service for two years, and found himself stationed in Cyprus among other places, which he loved.

He had various jobs throughout his life,



starting off in the post room and working his way up the ladder to Managing Director in a number of different companies. He also ran a successful catering business with his wife, Jenny, so many weekends were taken up with weddings, funerals and parties. They also ran Little Hay Golf Club for a couple of years.

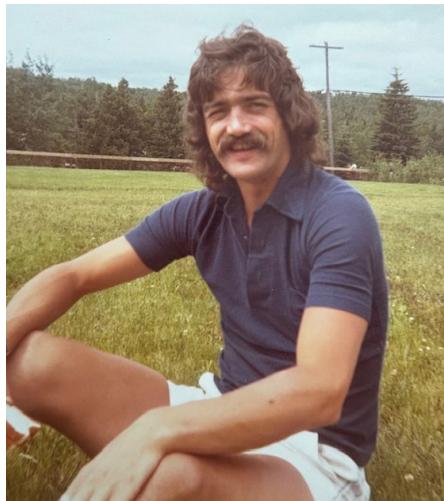
*Alison Geddes (daughter)*

**GORDON GIBBONS (R 66-71)** died on March 31st 2025 in Ontario, Canada after a short illness. He was 71. "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



17th to inform me he'd been admitted to a hospice. I last spoke to him briefly on March 25th and a few days later he was gone. During our conversation of the 17th he was nothing but complimentary about the hospice, 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 (1st XI wicket keeper and early-order batsman), Rugby (1st XV fly half), Tennis (doubles with me at Wimbledon Schools and other tournaments), and he was awarded the Rendlesham square. After Framlingham 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).

**Robert Craig**

**DAVID HODGE BEM (S44-50)** of Cockfield Hall died peacefully at home (in the house in which he was born) on 6th February, 2025, after many years of frustrating ill health. Beloved husband to Gillian for 66 years, father of Judith and Andrew and grandfather of Charles and Eleanor, and Rebecca. A private family cremation was followed by a Thanksgiving Service on Saturday 8th March, at St Peter's Church, Cockfield.

On 17 June 2017 David was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Cockfield, Suffolk. In his more healthy years he was also a regular attender at SOF suppers.

**JOHN STENTON HOYLAND DFM (S1938-42)** – News reached us in February 2025 via his daughter Allison (Metzler), living in Canada, that John died on April 6th 2023, in his 99th year. His father, Stanley, and uncle, Hamilton, had both attended the College in the early years of the century. John is buried in the Millennium Rose Garden Walk of Remembrance in Ipswich.



John represented the College at hockey, cricket and tennis. He then served in 578 Squadron, RAF Bomber Command, during WW2 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal "In recognition of gallant devotion to duty in the execution of air operations." He lived in Ipswich and worked with Wholesale Grocers, Burton, Son and Sanders. He became a representative of Caterers Buying Association.

**NEIL JOHN RELTON JOY (R47-51)** died on 5th February 2025 at the age of 91. Neil lived in Chiswick, W London. OFRC Captain, Steve "Train-crash" McDowell, pays tribute to the club's longest-serving member, Neil "Mad Professor" Joy.

Rifle shooting at long range is an eccentric sport. To be any good, one needs a combination of calm concentration and a childish love affair with explosions, blended with a reasonable understanding of physics and precision engineering as well as a grasp of basic meteorology.

That's a paradox in itself, since the definition of the word 'eccentric' is 'off-centre' – a result all rifle shooters strive to avoid at any cost. It should come as no surprise then the sport has its fair share of off-kilter participants. And few of them came more eccentric than Neil Joy, who has died after a long struggle with cancer five days short of his 91st birthday.

Neil was well named – it was always a joy to see him turn up on the Bisley ranges for the Old Framlinghamians Rifle Club. And he always did.

In his later years he grumbled about old age, fading eyesight and increasing decrepitude, yet competition after competition there he appeared. Always in his beloved (and also increasingly decrepit) silver Ford Capri 2.8i, which he bought new in 1983 and drove to almost his dying day – complete with 80s style Go-Faster stripes.

At the beginning of each season there would be smiles all round from the rest of us as we had a quiet guess which home-made gizmo he would produce. He was an engineer after all. Horrified by the cost of specialist shooting eyewear, yet (like many of us) frustrated by deteriorating eyesight – he simply made his own. The origin of the giant lens he had soldered to a recycled wire frame remains unknown but it gave rise to one of the many monikers we all acquire over the years. He became known as 'Cyclops'.

Neil was characterised by gentle humour,



kindness, willingness to muck in and sheer tenacity. Even well into his 80s he would cheerfully run the butts (marking targets) for our Guest Days. A tedious and physical task, yet vital to raise funds to keep the club fiscally healthy.

Another admirable quality was his modesty. When he fired a shot he didn't like, he would unfailingly apologise to the coach. A few years back I was coaching him (sitting next to the shooter; reading wind, plotting his shots and making sight corrections) at 900 yards. As usual, this rumpled figure with borrowed gear, black socks sticking out of the end of the ubiquitous shabby sandals, shuffled up to the firing point and settled down. Neil complained that he was too erratic 'these days' and apologised in advance for any wild shots. But on this day he showed his class and experience of 70+ years of shooting. He was hitting the middle, just, but keeping it in the bullseye – no mean feat for anyone given you are more than half a mile away from the target. I was muttering words of encouragement and watching closely to keep him focussed. It was getting quite exciting.

"Sorry about out that one Steve, a bit high." It was. But still in the bull. His sixth consecutively. I was not prepared for the next shot, however, because as the bullet exited – so did his teeth. Without putting the rifle down, he calmly pushed the top set back in with his thumb. "Sorry Steve, these are new choppers, I haven't quite got the hang of them yet." The shot was bang in the middle.

He dropped only one point that day, finishing with 49.2 from a maximum possible 50.10. He took some convincing it was a genuine score too, but there was no hiding his utter joy at finally putting a great score together. It kept him coming back for many more years.



We embarrassed him once. The Public Schools Veterans shoot at Bisley, the last of the season and a 'must' for Neil. It's a huge match with upwards of 50 teams of Old Boys taking part. The tannoy burst into life announcing to more than 1000 people across a half-mile wide range that



someone from Haileybury School was shooting his 60th consecutive Veterans match. Neil said it was his 75th. We had that announced, too. We cheered him. Neil looked at his sandals.

Neil Joy was born in Portsmouth on 9 February 1934. His father was a Merchant Navy officer and the family (**with his younger brother Kit**) relocated to Singapore until the Japanese invaded in 1942 and they were evacuated to Australia. Returning to the UK in 1947, he was promptly dispatched to a bleak Rendlesham House at Framlingham College. Unlike most of the rest of the OFRC, Neil thrived and by all accounts he was very successful. He was 1st XV rugby, shooting captain and a scholar.



National Service in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers yielded another great Neil moment. This caused great consternation with John "Irish Imam" Halahan, himself a former REME squaddie, when he revealed he had been a 2nd Lieutenant. "Oh yeah," said Halahan, "I was a corporal... and so was Hitler."

Being an officer was most unusual for a

National Serviceman but he explained that the base commander had two sons and he wanted Neil to teach them to shoot though, in order to do so, he had to accept a commission. Naturally, helpful and willing as ever, Neil obliged – for nearly two years.

A scholarship to Imperial College, London, to read Chemical Engineering followed as did a wife, Sheila, whom he met at a college dance, a long career in all kinds of engineering – including project managing the construction of the Channel Tunnel – and two sons. Sadly Sheila, later a primary school teacher, became extremely ill with MS and Neil became her full-time carer for many years before her death in 2010.

He is survived by Gordon and Nicholas, three grandchildren; Nicholas, Peter and Marie-Guiliane and a 1983 Ford Capri.

He will be greatly missed by many, I'm sure, but by the OFRC most certainly.

#### **RACHEL MARGARET SMITH**

**(nee Knights)** - additional

We apologise that last year's Obituary notice gave but the briefest of details. The sadness and circumstances of Rachel's passing demands further recognition. We were subsequently in touch with Rachel's mother, Gill (Hon OF), formerly a science teacher at the College, who further elaborated:

It was not just her family who thought she was a special person - we were told this



by so many others who knew her. Further, we were touched by the eulogy given by her boss who was fulsome in his praise of her both in terms of her ability and also of her as a person. Likewise, comments made by junior colleagues referred not only to how capable she was but also how she was always willing to help them and how much they had learnt from her.

So many people were affected by her death but none more so than her little girls who will have to live the rest of their lives without their wonderful Mum.

Rachel's parents, Gill and Malcolm Knights, also requested an addition to this Obituary, namely a mention of the fact that, as a result of their asking for



donations to Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust for research into the illness for which Rachel's younger daughter is receiving ongoing treatment, the wonderful sum of £10,000.00 was raised. This they feel is eloquent testament to the esteem in which Rachel was held by so many.

Rachel, aged just 39, died at Ipswich Hospital on 15th July 2024. Wife of Matthew, mother of Lucy and Millie, daughter of Malcolm and Gill and sister of Howard. She was also a much loved niece and cousin and a friend to many.

A private service was held at Seven Hills Crematorium on Friday 16th August 2024. This was followed by a memorial service at St. Michael's Church, Framlingham, with refreshments afterwards at Framlingham Sports Club, Badingham Road.

**Dr MICHAEL McGUIRE (K54-64)** died on Boxing Day morning, December 26th 2024, precisely 25 years after his mother had died on that same date in 1999.

Michael was Head Boy at both Brandeston Hall and Framlingham College. He moved on to Imperial College and the University of Sussex, qualifying with a BSc (Eng.) Metallurgy (London) and a D Phil in Materials Science.

He was a sportsman, a musician and a dedicated engineer. He spent most of his working life maintaining the integrity of nuclear power installations, doing a job keeping us all safe. In later life he researched carbon capture techniques



and how to recycle organic rubber materials into more useful products.

The funeral took place on Monday 20th January at Alford Crematorium. He is survived by his 2 children and their mother.

**Timothy McGuire - Brandeston Hall and Framlingham College (K62-73).**

**IAN MARSDEN (S48-51)** died of sepsis with associated pneumonia after a short illness, on Wednesday 13th August 2025 at QA Hospital Southampton. No further details are available.

**BILL PINNEY (G63-70)** died on 15th January 2025, aged 70. He was a long-standing member of Woodbridge Golf Club, from whom we learnt this news via other members of the Club.

His father was the founder of Pinney's smoked seafood business at Orford and Bill took over the company. Butley had



once been famous for its oysters but they had been left to become derelict. Bill's father set about restoring the oyster beds. He also fished. And he began smoking what he caught. He developed a unique method of burning whole oak logs. The business remains largely as he created it, with the running of it taken over by his son, Bill and his wife Janet, along with the next generation, Jodie and George. The business expanded to include a restaurant and a shop overlooking Orford Quay. Bill spent his life out and about on the boats, or tending his oyster beds. And he lived in the derelict cottage his father stumbled across and restored many years ago.

Meanwhile Pinney's of Orford's delectable smoked fish, oysters and hampers are renowned far and wide. The oysters business expanded into farmed Smoked Salmon, Smoked Mackerel, Smoked Trout, Hot Smoked Salmon and Smoked Prawns. A proper Suffolk treat, still to be savoured on site, in the restaurant, or in many other restaurants far away from Orford.

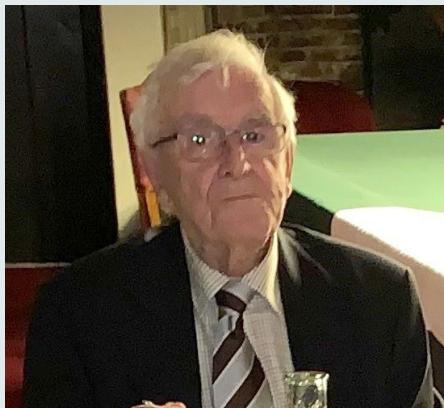
**MICHAEL POWLESLAND (R40-45)** died peacefully at home on 15 November 2024, aged 95. This was reported in the Eastern Daily Press. He and his three brothers all went to the College. Beloved husband of the late Joan, and loving father of Sarah and Mary, grandfather of Verity (V00-02), who often supported him at Norfolk suppers, David and Ruth, and sons-in-law, Tony and David.

Michael had organised the Norfolk Suppers for many years, before the time



of Brian Dent, John Capps and Colin Wigg. He was also a long-standing Vice-President of the Society and a member of the OF Golf Society for many years. He was a regular member of the Halford-Hewitt team over the period of the late 60s to the early 80s. The funeral was on December 19th at St Peter's Church, Strumpshaw.

The picture below was taken at the 2022 Norfolk Supper.



**BARRY D PREWETT (R70 -78)**, passed away on the 2nd of November 2024 whilst on holiday in Spain, at the age of 62. His working life started at the Avon Rubber Co in Melksham, Wiltshire before taking a job opportunity in Florida, USA. He spent most of his working life abroad, moving to Mexico, and then Costa Rica, as the business developed in new markets. Barry was tasked as Plant Manager for Hutchings Hose Products Inc to open new factories as the business grew. Barry would often use his vacations to see his



Barry at school – work out which is he from the picture above!

parents in Melksham and his siblings.

Barry retired in his late 50's and returned to England, briefly settling in Manchester where he married Mary. Wishing to spend more time with his mother, they relocated to Melksham where he would visit her daily. Barry was also able to attend the West of England SOF Dinners where he had rekindled some school-time friendships.

His cremation service was held at West Wilts Crematorium, Trowbridge on Wednesday the 4th of Dec 2024, attended by family, OFs, Avon Rubber work colleagues and Melksham Rugby Club members.

He leaves Mary and three children, an older brother and a younger sister.

Barry had recently attended the South West dinners and was very pleased to meet up with some of his contemporaries. The pictures were taken at a gathering



in Winsley in October 2023 organised by Bob Williams (Hon OF). Inside the pub, pictured left to right, are Madeleine Williams, Mary Prewett, Barry's son, Barry Prewett (R70-78), Tim Smart (R73-81), Bob Williams (Hon OF) and Jonathan Campbell (M74-84).



Andrew Prewett (R66-73) Barry's older brother

**MIKE RUTTERFORD** (Hon OF) died on November 28th 2024. Mike was Head Groundsman. Bob Williams who had close dealings with Mike when he was i/c the Brandeston grounds, before he became over-all responsible, responded by saying that nothing was ever too much trouble for Mike. He simply never ever said no to any request with reference to pitch preparation, provision of equipment etc. Bob lost count of the number of years that Mike must have turned out, at the crack of dawn on a March Sunday morning, to ensure that the course marking/roped off zones' / Finishing Funnel, etc., were all in place, on the Front, around Lord's, etc, for the Annual Eastern Area Prep Schools C.C. Championships, with even more preparation involved for the July BH Sports Day.



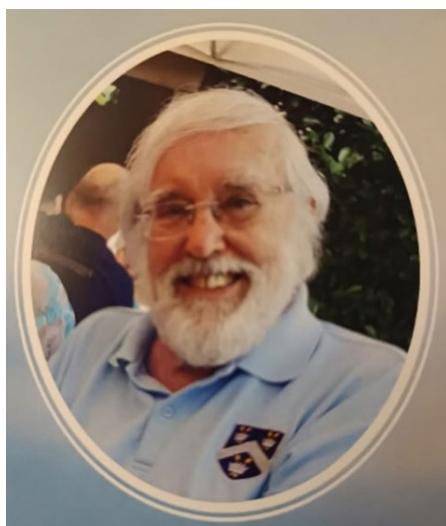
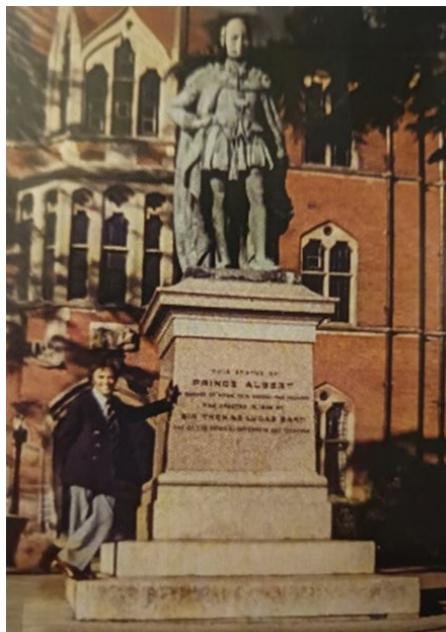
The funeral took place at St Peter's Church, Monk Soham on 18th December 2024. It was well attended, a good turn out on a grey and very windy lunchtime,



a tribute to the esteem in which Mike was held by so many people. The family was well represented – Colin, Mike's brother, Wendy, Mike's partner of 24 years, and daughters Emma and Sarah with partners/husbands. The congregation included many former ground staff colleagues, past Brandeston teachers, parents, OFs, and local residents, many of them Hon OFs, listed – in no particular order: Robin Sampson, and his wife, Christine, Carlos Reynell, David Morgan, Lucy Flack (née Clarke) OF, Michelle Davidson, Ray Pike, "Tiger" Pike, Jason Wright, Nigel Johnson, Chris and Sue Hobson, Bill Neckrews, Steve Wright, Matthew Todd, Paul Taylor, Colin Rutherford, Paul Baker, Andrew Payn, Suzy Pym (McEwan) OF, Naomi Wheeler (Horton) OF, Julie Brumby (Cooper) OF, Lord and Lady Cunliffe, Chris and Geoff Clarke.

It was reported to have been a good service, very much celebrating a life well led. There was no opportunity to meet up afterwards.

**JOHN-HADDON SILVER (S48-56)**  
passed away on 9th October 2024.  
John was Head of College in 1956. After Framlingham he attended the Sorbonne and went on to become a French teacher in and around Stowmarket and Great Finborough. John was cremated wearing his Stradbroke rugby shirt on 4th November. His ashes were due to be scattered on The Mere, in sight of the office he occupied as Head Boy.  
He is survived by his wife Bridget.



daughter Annette, son Julian and two grandchildren.

**RAYMOND “TREVOR” TREVETHICK**

(G45-53) passed away on 7th March 2025 following a short stay in hospital due to a chest infection. He was a member of the 1864 Club, and much enjoyed returning to the College for Club gatherings. His daughter, Rachel Bailey, shared the fact that Trevor had “the most incredible life and career,” shaped by his time at Framlingham College and later at Sandhurst. Framlingham College was always at the heart of his world, leaving a lasting imprint on his life.

Rachel recounted several moving stories that reflected Trevor’s deep connection to the College. After a recent fall, he said to himself, “Don’t just lie here, Trevethick, you’re a Fram Boy—get up and get help.” During blood tests, he told the nurse, “Just get on with it, it won’t hurt—I’m a Fram Boy.” And to Rachel, he said with determination, “I’m a Fram Boy, this won’t get me down. I’ll soon be back at Halsey House, and I’ll buy everyone a beer. I might even have one myself.” Sadly, as Rachel wrote, ‘he didn’t get that chance’.

His funeral was held at Cromer Crematorium on Holt Road on 4th April.

**DAVID TWITE** (R 50-57) died on 30th of March 2025, aged 85. He was a policeman, a Sergeant in Framlingham and lived in the police house. He attended both Brandeston and Framlingham’ College, as did his sons, Andrew and Mark.

David was born in 1939, in Aldeburgh,



Suffolk. His father too, was a policeman, serving in the East Suffolk Constabulary. He grew up during the second world war and remembered this time and events, some of which he spoke of: the flying bomb that narrowly missed their house; walking across a fen to get to school; hearing the sirens sounding and jumping into a ditch just as a German bomber passed overhead, giving him a clear view of the tail gunner.

He moved a few times during childhood as his father was promoted, living in Lowestoft and then Framlingham. Whilst in Framlingham he passed his 11 plus and was eligible to go to Brandeston Hall, which at that time was a Direct Grant School. He started there in September 1950 – biking to and from school 5 miles each way 6 days a week, in all weathers. He moved on to Framlingham College in 1953, as a day boy. He went on to join the sixth form in 1955 and in September 1956



was made a house prefect. This meant he had to return to school after supper at home to supervise prep for the boarders. His school day was 8.30am - 9.30pm. His sons, Mark and Andrew, later followed in his footsteps, but as boarders.

David was involved in sports – rugby, football and cricket and was also a member of the CCF. During school holidays he worked as a labourer in the fields. He left school on his 18th birthday in 1957. His father wanted him to be a policeman, but David had different ideas. His father even tried to get his Chief Constable to persuade him to change his mind - but to no avail. Instead, he went on to do an apprenticeship at GEC Coventry, training in telecommunications and was there 1957-1962.

In Coventry he met his wife-to-be, Pat. They married in 1962, went to live in Bridge, Kent where daughter, Nicola, was born. They moved on briefly to Chilwell, Nottingham, before emigrating to America, taking the last voyage of the Queen Mary in September 1967.

David first worked in Galion, Ohio, where Mark and Andrew were both born. Then in 1974 the family moved to Anchorage, Alaska. In 1978, they made the decision to return home to England. David got a job in Maidenhead and the family moved to Oxfordshire. A year later David moved overseas again, to Jordan, and Nicola and Mark went to boarding school in Suffolk, Nicola to All Hallows, Ditchingham, Mark to Framlingham

College. Andrew later joined them, attending Brandeston, then Framlingham. Then there followed Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Ghana. In retirement travelling continued to be a theme, with he and Pat making trips to Europe, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, Canada, America and many other places.

David had a keen interest in genealogy and researched the Twite family tree right back to the 1600s. He also enjoyed gardening. He was unexpectedly predeceased by Pat in 2014, but continued to keep busy in his village community of Garboldisham, going on rambles with the local walking groups, attending the Methodist chapel in the village, and joining the U3A, helping with the Genealogy Club and going to the Gardening Club.

In 2022 he decided to move from the family home of over 40 years to a smaller flat in an independent living complex, Oxlip House, in Bury St Edmunds. It was a big adjustment, but he embraced his new home and new way of life. Over the last few years his health was failing, and he had several hospital admissions, each one taking more of a toll on him. Just after Christmas 2024 he suffered a stroke and although he returned to his flat, he never really recovered, and the next hospital admission was the last one.

**MICHAEL VIPOND** (Hon. O.F.) 1941-2025 died on Friday 25 July. He was born in Chepstow on 8th January 1941 (therefore sharing a birthday with both Elvis Presley



and David Bowie, something that O.F. sons, Andrew and Dominic, were rather proud of!). Following school attendance at Paston Boys Grammar School, North Walsham, in Norfolk. Mike's youthful years were somewhat London-centric. A calling to pursue a career in teaching saw him, as a student, take up a place at Trent Park College (now Middlesex University) and, as a young man, he played rugby for Saracens and in later years, Upper Clapton RUFC. Postings at various London Primary Schools led to a Headship at St. Patrick's Catholic Primary, Walthamstow.

Mike devoted the greater part of his teaching career to Brandeston Hall, Framlingham College Prep School. During his long years of service, from the mid-1970s through to the late 1990s, Mike was Head of Wolsey (Green) House and undertook multiple responsibilities that, at one time or another, included Director of Studies, Head of Boarding and Drama. Between 1980 and the year 2000, Mike directed some ten successful annual productions. This undoubtedly love for drama led to his also taking a memorable role in a staging of Peter Pan, in the Athlone Hall, Framlingham, when he actually took to the boards himself and 'doubled' as a splendid and sinister Captain Hook and Mr. Darling! No surprise therefore that he invariably enjoyed performing to an appreciative young audience in the Staff Panto in the days when they were de rigueur, following the annual Christmas Lunch.

On the sporting front he enjoyed coaching

the throwing events in the athletics season and, of course, also enjoyed considerable success as a rugby coach, the pinnacle of achievement perhaps being with his 1981-82 1st XV who recorded a 100% record of seven out of seven matches won.

Mike was always willing to involve himself in extra-curricular activities further afield. For a number of years, in the 1980s, together with wife Ann, he took novice ski groups to the Italian resort of Aprica in northern Italy. Then, closer to home, he was a regular (invariably attired as Sir Walter Raleigh!) accompanying the annual Y.6 pupils' visit to Kentwell Hall. Effectively transporting the transfixed youngsters back to the 1580s, Mike would wax lyrical in appropriate Shakespearean English, which came so easily to him. He was also a published poet and, from time to time, over the years he and I would amuse ourselves with an exchange of newly penned verse! He had that gift of being able to dash off a poem, to suit the occasion, at the drop of a hat.

Mike was also integral to the religious life of the school, on the rota for taking Morning Assemblies and fronting appropriate Remembrance observations on the 11th of November each year. He was, himself, also an ordained Deacon in the Catholic Church and had been "running" St. Clares, Framlingham, for many years. Mike's funeral, attended by many with College/Brandeston Hall and town connections, took place in the church on Monday 11th August, with the burial being preceded by a Requiem Mass.



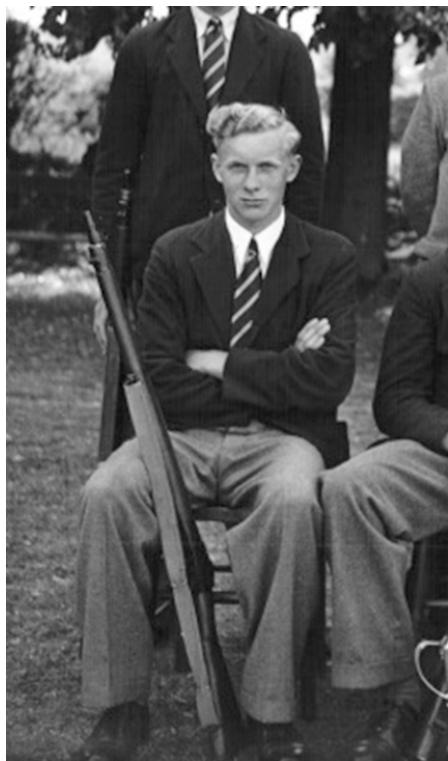
In his retirement he and his wife Ann, had continued to reside in Framlingham where they were very much part of the local community. Less widely known perhaps was Mike's involvement as a governor of the Robert Hitcham Primary School, a trustee of the Mills Charity, a pivotal member of Framlingham Churches Together and responsibility for running the Food Bank in the town. Across the county he had, over the years, acted as Chaplain and prison visitor at Hollesley Bay and, together with Ann, operated a soup kitchen for the needy, in Ipswich. Appointed an Honorary OF in 1991, Mike was always keen to support SOF events on offer at the College.

We extend our very sincere condolences to Ann and sons, Andrew and Dominic.

**Bob Williams (Hon OF)**

**RODNEY WALKER** (G45-49) passed away in January 26th at the Blandford Grange Care Home aged 93. There was a private funeral at the Broadstone Crematorium. The news was passed on to us by his son, Mike. (Managing his father's emails, who was briefly at Brandeston in the 1960s

This obituary is an edited version of words written and spoken by Rodney himself, and by his children, Mike and Jenny. Rodney was born in Shadwell, a small village on the Norfolk/Suffolk borders in 1931. The family then moved to Rushford where his father became Estate Manager of a large estate owned by the wealthy Musker family. Rodney enjoyed a happy



and idyllic childhood, roaming over all 1300 acres of the estate, fishing in the river, shooting rabbits, riding on horses, carts and tractors, especially at harvest times. He was always in trouble!

He was 8 years old when war broke out. Norfolk and Suffolk were covered with British and (later) American airfields. Aircraft crashed nearby and he would be quickly on the scene collecting unexploded ordnance. An American 'Flying Fortress' crashed not half a mile from the family home. Rodney arrived on the scene, stuffing ordnance into his pockets, only



to be caught by a burly policeman who arrived and took possession of him and his explosives. He was eventually let go with a good ticking off!

In 1945, he was sent to Framlingham College, where he really enjoyed the Combined Cadet Force and the rifle shooting that went with it. He was a school prefect, played rugby, did well at cross-country running and eventually won his shooting colours. He went on CCF camps and rose to the rank of Cadet Sergeant. He became interested in the Royal Marines, and was attracted by the thought of being 'a soldier and sailor too'. So, he left school at 18 and joined the Marines, had 1½ years of hard training which saw him top of his squad in seamanship and marked for early promotion. His shooting ability stood him in good stead. He emerged as a fully-fledged Royal Marine Commando Sniper.

After training he was sent in 1951, to Japan and Korea, which was then at war. He took part in raids behind enemy lines, and was sent home to be trained as an Officer. This took 3 ½ years and he had to do the arduous Commando Course all over again. He saw service in Cyprus in 1956/57 as Commando Troop Subaltern with 'B' Troop 45 Commandos. This was the time when Cypriot nationalists were fighting for the end of British rule.

Before going to Cyprus he had met Fay, then a student nurse at St Georges

Hospital in London, whom he was eventually to marry in 1956.

Rodney was then posted to Royal Marines Poole where he volunteered for training as a Swimmer Canoeist with the SBS. A broken ankle meant that he had to transfer to specialising in Landing Craft. Michael was born at this point and describes how Rodney continued to serve in the Marines up until the mid-70's with postings to various locations, including a significant one to Singapore in the mid-60's, with Commando patrols in the virgin jungles along the border with Indonesia. A difficult time for the family. In the early 1970s Rodney did a long stint on HMS Intrepid, with the family staying behind in Corfe Mullen. His final posting was to the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, where he undertook a Human Resources role.

Following his retirement from the Marines he embarked on a new career as a Lawyer. This involved much of studying and time away attending Guildford Law School. He qualified, and started work as a solicitor, eventually becoming a Partner with Coleman and Loffett in Broadstone. He worked there until 1995 when the other partners retired and the company was taken over. After this he worked as a locum at various locations.

Around 1997 they sold their property in Hinton Martell and moved to Witchampton village, where they spent their later years.


**DUDLEY FRANK WRIGHT (K46-52)**

The Society was notified by his son that Dudley Frank Wright died on 14 December 2022, aged 87. There was a private family funeral in January 2023 and a celebration of his life was held later in the spring.



The following tribute was written at the time:

Dudley Frank Wright was born on June 2nd, 1935, at Colchester Lexden Maternity Hospital, the first born son of Frank and Mary Wright. Dudley was just four years old when, during World War II, he was evacuated to Kendal in Cumbria, where there was no enemy bombing. Here, he

was looked after by his cousins in his aunt and uncle's house until it was safe to return home.

Until he was ten years old Dudley lived in the flat above the butcher's shop in Crouch Street with his parents and his beloved Dachshund. The family then moved to "Scarletts" in Layer-De-La-Haye which had a beautiful garden, tennis court and cricket net.

Dudley began his schooling in Colchester at St Mary's, before joining the Royal Grammar School, and then Framlingham College as a boarder. At Framlingham Dudley met his lifelong best friend, David Mead.

In 1951 whilst at Framlingham, Dudley went to Catterick in Yorkshire with the Army Cadets for a week's training. Conditions were very basic, and at the time there was a serious polio epidemic which Dudley contracted. After his recovery he returned to school, but was then struck down by a kidney disease which meant he was unable to complete his education.

Dudley's grandfather was the chief meat buyer for the Co-op. His father, Frank, who was born in Halifax, moved to Colchester in 1933, and bought 43 Crouch Street which then became Frank Wright & Son, following in his own dad's footsteps.

Upon leaving school, Dudley joined his father at the family business. He excelled, and was soon managing the shop.



charming customers, and establishing Frank Wrights as one of the most renowned and successful independent shops in Colchester.

Despite his own questionable cooking skills, Dudley was often heard giving culinary cooking advice to his customers, much to the amusement of those of us who knew he was quite capable of burning his own toast!

Dudley married his beautiful wife, Barbara in 1968 after a whirlwind courtship. They held their wedding reception at The Talbooth in Dedham, and then drove to Scotland for their honeymoon in a convertible TR7.

In 1971 they welcomed their son Roger, with their daughter Lucinda arriving two years later, whilst Dudley was watching Ipswich Town play Wolves at Portman Road!

Dudley was sports-mad and played table tennis for Essex and hockey for the Young Conservatives Club. He also opened the batting for Colchester & East Essex, and it was no coincidence that he insisted that Lucinda was christened Lucinda Barbara Wright, the initials spelling LBW or Leg Before Wicket.

Dudley was a member of Colchester Golf Club, and enjoyed squash, snooker, chess and, in retirement, regular games of bridge with good friends. He was also a season ticket holder at Ipswich Town and

Colchester United and Charlton Athletic, when he was growing up.

Dudley was never more content than sitting in his favourite chair with a glass of red, reading a good book, doing the crossword or watching sport on the TV.

In his latter years he enjoyed a sleep in his chair after lunch, which was always followed by a strong cup of tea and a slice of cake. He had a seriously sweet tooth, so boxes of chocolates, biscuits and bags of sweets had to be hidden, or they would be eaten in one sitting!

Dudley adored his three grandchildren, Hugo, Edward and Ralph and was extremely proud of their achievements, however big or small. He was also very close to his son-in-law, Robin, whom he admired greatly. He was a brilliant father, making many sacrifices and working long hours to ensure his children received the very best education.

Dudley was chivalrous, honourable, kind, generous, loyal and liked by all who were lucky enough to know him. He also had a wicked sense of humour, a trait he shared with his daughter. The world has lost a true gentleman. We will miss him dearly.

A description of the Wright butcher's business follows, as it is of historical interest:

The two-story shop was renowned for its character, featuring traditional butcher's



blocks and wonky wooden floors. The staff could always be seen dressed in smart, striped aprons. The remarkable customer service brought the family business a legion of loyal customers, including those from the hospitality sector. Upon Dudley's retirement, the butchers was eventually leased outside of the family for the first time in its history. Around a decade later, the freehold was sold to the estate agents Palmer and

Partners, which now sits on the old site. On the store's significance, a family member said: "Wrights was a family business who traded at a time when independent shops thrived in the town centre. They were widely regarded for their high quality produce and first class customer service. At Christmas time the queue would stretch half the length of Crouch Street and they couldn't make enough of their award-winning sausages."



# EVENTS & CONTACTS



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18 April 2026 at  
The Royal Air Force Club,  
128 Piccadilly, London  
W1J 7PY

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

### ■ JANUARY 2026

Via Zoom  
Thursday 22nd January 2026

### ■ APRIL 2026

Via Zoom  
Thursday 29th April 2026 (TBC)

### ■ JULY 2026

Via Zoom  
Tuesday 28th July 2026

### ■ OCTOBER 2026

(TBC)

## OF EVENTS AT THE COLLEGE

### ■ OF DAY AND OF THE YEAR CEREMONY

Saturday 23 May 2026  
Framlingham College

## LUNCH, DINNER AND SUPPER DATES

### ■ SOF LONDON LUNCH 2026

Tuesday 10 February 2026 at The George, 75 Borough High St, SE1 1NH

### ■ SOF ANNUAL DINNER 2026

Saturday 18 April 2026 at The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY

### ■ ESSEX LUNCH OR SUPPER 2026

May 2026 – Date and Venue TBC

### ■ NEWMARKET/BURY SUPPER 2026

Date and Venue TBC

### ■ NORTHERN GATHERING 2026

August 2026 – Date and Venue TBC

### ■ SUFFOLK SUPPER 2026

Monday 12 October 2026 at The Sorrel Horse Inn, Barham TBC

### ■ WEST OF ENGLAND SUPPER 2026

18 October 2026 at The Lamb, Hindon

### ■ OF SENIORS LUNCH 2026

Thursday 5 November 2026 at The Plough and Sail, Snape

### ■ NORFOLK SUPPER 2026

Thursday 26 November 2026 at The King's Head, Bawburgh, Norwich NR9 3LS



## DINNER AND SUPPER SECRETARIES

### ■ ANNUAL DINNER

SIMON DOUGHERTY

Tel: 07808 931656

[annualdinner@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:annualdinner@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ LONDON LUNCH / SUPPER

TIM MITCHELL

[londonsupper@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:londonsupper@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ ESSEX LUNCH / SUPPER

SIMON DOUGHERTY

Tel: 07808 931656

[essexsupper@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:essexsupper@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ NEWMARKET/BURY ST EDMUNDS SUPPER

IAN FULCHER

Tel: 01638 576000

[Ian@Fulcher.uk](mailto:Ian@Fulcher.uk)

### ■ NORFOLK SUPPER

ED WHARTON - 07799 111440

[ed@whartonfarms.co.uk](mailto:ed@whartonfarms.co.uk)

### ■ SUFFOLK SUPPER

RUTH ELWOOD

Tel: 01449 768828

[suffolksupper@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:suffolksupper@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ WEST OF ENGLAND SUPPER

CHRIS ESSEX

Tel: 01225 873 878

[westernsupper@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:westernsupper@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ NORTHERN GATHERING

DOUGLAS THOMSON

Tel: 01539 621747

[thomsond43@outlook.com](mailto:thomsond43@outlook.com)

## OVERSEAS

### ■ HONG KONG

JOHN TING: [tingos\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:tingos_99@hotmail.com)

### ■ MELBOURNE

MIKE GARNETT

[garnettm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:garnettm@bigpond.net.au)

### ■ CAIRNS

CHRIS SHAW: [cjrcshaw@bigpond.com](mailto:cjrcshaw@bigpond.com)

### ■ BRISBANE

JOHN GATES: [johnrgates@bigpond.com](mailto:johnrgates@bigpond.com)

### ■ PERTH

PETER HOLLINS: [peterhollins@outlook.com](mailto:peterhollins@outlook.com)

### ■ GERMANY/DUSSELDORF

KIM DICKELE: [kimdickel@mail.com](mailto:kimdickel@mail.com)

### ■ MUNICH

SANDY-GWYN PAETZ

[sandy.paetz@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.paetz@gmail.com)

### ■ SOUTH AFRICA

ADAM PHILLIPS: [Adam@umkhulu.com](mailto:Adam@umkhulu.com)

### ■ LOS ANGELES

JULES ARTHUR: [thearthurfamily@me.com](mailto:thearthurfamily@me.com)

### ■ FLORIDA

RICHARD ROWE: [rowe88@gmail.com](mailto:rowe88@gmail.com)

### ■ THAILAND/BANGKOK

MICHAEL REGAN:

[michaelreganbangkok@gmail.com](mailto:michaelreganbangkok@gmail.com)

### ■ OF LODGE

GARY DUCE (Secretary)

Tel: 07850 350363

[gary.duce@btinternet.com](mailto:gary.duce@btinternet.com)

### ■ YOUNG OFS

LUKE QUARTERMAINE

[Lukequartermaine23@gmail.com](mailto:Lukequartermaine23@gmail.com)



## SPORTS

### ■ OF SPORTS COORDINATOR

CAM GREENHALL

[cgreenhall@framlinghamcollege.co.uk](mailto:cgreenhall@framlinghamcollege.co.uk)

### ■ CRICKET

CAM GREENHALL

[cgreenhall@framlinghamcollege.co.uk](mailto:cgreenhall@framlinghamcollege.co.uk)

### ■ CRICKET (LADIES)

(TBC)

### ■ GOLF

DAVID TURNBULL: Tel: 01689 603198

[SecretaryOFGS@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:SecretaryOFGS@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ HOCKEY (GENTS)

ANDY CUTTING: Tel: 01473 890071

[GentsHockey@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:GentsHockey@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ HOCKEY (SIXES)

JOSH CUTTING

[HockeySixes@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:HockeySixes@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ HOCKEY (LADIES)

Taylor Ball

[LadiesHockey@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:LadiesHockey@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ RUGBY (GENTS)

HARRY BUREAU

[Rugby@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:Rugby@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ NETBALL

RENE BAHAR

[Netball@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:Netball@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ SHOOTING

JIM OVERBURY

[SecretaryOFRG@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:SecretaryOFRG@oldframlinghamian.com)

### ■ TENNIS

LUCY GARRARD

[tennis@oldframlinghamian.com](mailto:tennis@oldframlinghamian.com)

*Details of College v OFs fixtures are on the SOF website and on Facebook.*





# HONORARY OFS 2025



Any person may be proposed for election by an Annual General Meeting as an Honorary Member of the Society of Old Framlinghamians in recognition of outstanding service to either the School or the Society. In addition, any member of Framlingham College Staff may be invited to become an Honorary Member, after working there for 10 years.

We are delighted to welcome the following Honorary Members after their election at the Annual General Meeting on 14th April 2025.

**DOUG CRACKNELL** had served in the kitchens aged 14 during WW2 in 1940. He was awarded his Hon OF insignia in October 2024, ahead of the 2025 Annual General Meeting, as he was 99 years old! Doug was also presented with the Légion d'honneur medal on 14th April 2025, in the College Chapel - This is covered elsewhere in Here and There Article



**JOANNA MUGLISTON** has

been a science technician at Framlingham College for over 11 years. She has been a Tutor in Pembroke House for 5 years. She has a Master's degree in Biology from Warsaw University, Poland.



**DOMINIC NUNN** is assistant Director of Music at Framlingham College.

**ADRIAN SCHOEBERL**

was a former Head of History at Brandeston Hall who left after 4 years, for medical reasons.



**NATALIE**

**SKILTON.** Natalie has worked in education for over 20 years. Starting as a part-time teaching assistant to a qualified HLTA, to progressing to her new role as new Head of Learning Support in September at Framlingham College Prep School. She specialises in social and emotional skills having





also gained qualifications in this area. She is looking forward to her new role supporting children with additional needs at the Prep School.

**KATY WILLIAMS** is Deputy Head (Pupils) at Framlingham College. Katy is unusual as she is an Old Framlinghamian in her own right having been at Framlingham College from 1984-1994 in Pembroke House. After election, Katy wrote: "If someone had told me as a pupil at Framlingham College in the early 90s that I'd one day return not just to teach, but to be part of the leadership team of the school, I'm not sure I would have believed them. And yet, that's exactly what's happened and it's been one of the most rewarding and meaningful chapters of my life.



After fifteen years of teaching in the state sector, I joined Framlingham in 2014. The contrast between the two working environments was striking at first, but I felt my days as a pupil here gave me a real advantage in understanding and

appreciating the values that define Framlingham College. One fundamental truth, however, has remained constant throughout my career - young people are young people. Their individuality, energy and untapped potential are what make this work so purposeful and are what continue to inspire me every day.

The education sector has had to adapt and evolve in countless ways over the years and every teacher, myself included, has had to do the same. Framlingham gave me the confidence to face change with optimism and to see opportunities for growth rather than obstacles. Over the past decade, I've had the privilege of serving in a number of roles here; Assistant Head of English, Head of Teaching and Learning, Housemistress of Pembroke House and now Deputy Head, Sixth Form. Each of these roles has deepened my understanding of the school and allowed me, (I hope!) to help shape the experience of pupils in meaningful and lasting ways. To now have experienced my own children thrive here adds a further sense of connection. Framlingham has become part of our family story.

To be made an Honorary Member of the Old Framlinghamians is an enormous honour. Of course, it is not without a certain irony given I already hold Ordinary Membership by virtue of being a former pupil. It's a rare and slightly unusual distinction, but one I accept with great pride. It feels a fitting reflection of a journey that began over thirty years ago and has, in many ways, come full circle."





“

**Academically, our students have excelled, with many achieving personal best scores in exams ... the dedication and perseverance of our students have been truly inspiring.**





For more information on Admissions,  
or to book a visit, please contact us at  
**admissions@framlinghamcollege.co.uk**  
**Senior School: +44 (0)1728 727217**  
**Prep School: +44 (0)1728 684112**

**[www.framlinghamcollege.co.uk](http://www.framlinghamcollege.co.uk)**