# OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS AND "UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE"
AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB?

Any visitor crossing The Ditch from Australia to the Land of the Long White Cloud will almost certainly come across the Wizard of New Zealand, AKA Ian Brackenbury Channell QSM who was at Framlingham from 1942 to 1945. Ian describes himself as an educator, comedian, magician and politician but above all, he is a much loved and cherished NZ institution.

I first met Ian at the Hunter Valley 150th OF Reunion and he made an immediate impression on us, resplendent in his robes and pointy hat.   However, it was not until I read up on the legend that I discovered that we are members of a very elite Club: OFs who have appeared on *University Challenge.* Ian went to Leeds University as a mature student from 1960-63 and appeared on *University Challenge* on 5 October 1962 as "champions" and beat Manchester Uni. I was at the University of London from 1962-65 and appeared on the program on 31 December 1963. We were roundly beaten by an inform team from Christchurch Oxford. Ian and I appeared, therefore, in the first year of broadcasts of the program (which is still going after 46 complete seasons).

To exemplify the passing of time, here are screen shots from 1962-3 and more recent photos for comparative purposes.

www.oldframlinghamian.com
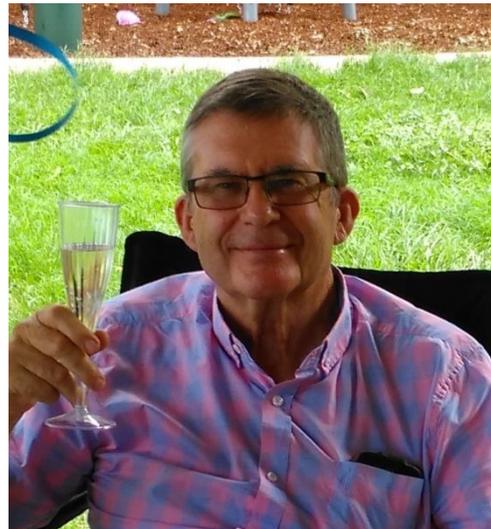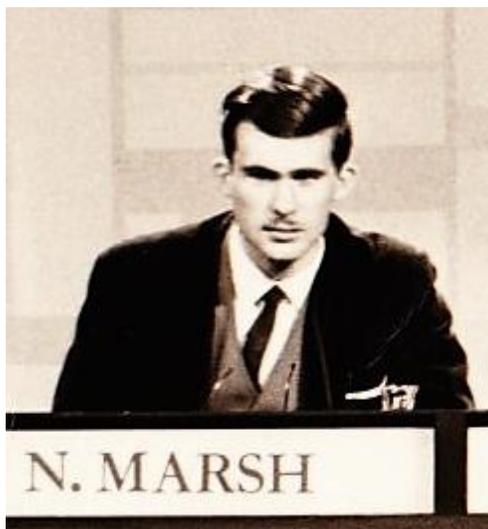
Ian and I also share the honour of answering the first starter question correctly. You can view part of Ian's stellar performance on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oZk6DWlw8I. Unfortunately, the tape of my appearance has been lost but for the record, my starter for 10 was "Who recently had a birthday cake with a bridge ...". I cut Bamber Gascoigne off at that point with the answer "Winston Churchill". It was the last question I answered!

A question to readers then: are there other OFs out there who have made the small screen and can join our elite club? For those of you who need evidence of the Wizard and are travelling through Wellington, be sure to have a look at the sculpture suspended from the ceiling ... or is it Gandalf?