

# PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Overseas Dinners

## Mallorcan 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner – 15 March 2015

The first of many 150th anniversary overseas events was held in Mallorca on 15 March 2015 and we have a selfie from our President at the time to prove it. From left to right - Michael Evans (S45-48), Ian Foster (S46-53) and SOF President Richard Sayer (S56-61). A very relaxed affair with not an OF tie or pair of socks in sight!



## Hong Kong 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner – 25 March 2015

The 150th anniversary dinner in Hong Kong was held at the Windsor Room of the Hong Kong Club. The occasion brought together the following 10 OFs: Standing - Robert Holland (Penang) (K57-65), Henry Tang Shiu-yuen (K03-10), John Ting Yu-hin (G02-09), Chris Hall (G62-69), Richard Rowe (S65-74), Keith Williams (R63-67), Ian Tsang Cheuk-hei (K02-09). Sitting - Jacqueline Lam (V97-01), Moira Theulier (M91-93), Athena Choi (V02-03). Richard Rowe made a great effort to travel from China in spite of many difficulties including being drenched in water by a faulty hose and waiting for his clothes to dry! Nevertheless he made it! Ian Howard (S57-62) was unusually absent but did manage to attend the 150th dinner at Pembroke College Cambridge instead.



## South African 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner – 8 April 2015

Mike Bullock (R55-59) organised a very successful 150th anniversary dinner in Johannesburg, South Africa. The venue was the Wombles in Parktown North. The occasion brought together the following - standing - Anne Campbell, James Campbell (M74-82), Mike Hood (K84-90), Susan Wessels (Senior Deputy Head). Sitting - Mark Gooding (G79-83), Katyala Maine (K84-89), Adam Phillips (G78-83) and Mike Bullock (R55-59). A great time was had by all attending and there was a determination to have another South African dinner soon.



## Dubai 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner – 15 April 2015

Continuing the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, a small reunion was held in Dubai on our way out the Australian 150<sup>th</sup> event. Present from left to right were Eryl Essex, the newly elected SOF President Chris Essex (K69-75), Ed Marr (G85-92) and his

wife Junko. Also present should have been Robert Craig (R63-70) but unfortunately

his short 30 minute plane flight across from Muscat got delayed by over 3 hours!



Despite his 3 hour delay Robert did still complete his flight across and arrived in Dubai around midnight. Chris and Ed met up with Robert for breakfast the following morning, where Chris presented OF socks. Ed had also asked me to bring across a set of the special 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary cufflinks which he wore for breakfast (see picture).

## Australia/NZ 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT – 19 April 2015

After 3 years in the planning by Chris & Rebecca Shaw (K50-56) and Mike Garnett (R53-55) this weekend reunion took place in the Hunter Valley at the Sebel Kirkton Park Hotel. The dinner was held to commemorate both the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the College in 1865 and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli in 1915. Fifty six guests attended, including Chris & Eryl Essex, Simon & Maggie Dougherty and David Ashton (Deputy Head of Academics) from the UK, Stephen and Aileen Sayer (S58-63) from

Oman, David and Fran Newson (S54-63) from North Island New Zealand, and Jack Channell (42-45), the Arch-wizard of New Zealand from



Christchurch. The honoured guest was Trish Evans, representing her late husband Len Evans (G42-48), the legendary figure of antipodean wine.



Some guests arrived on the Saturday, and gathered at Twines Restaurant, which was within walking distance from the hotel and was hosted by Simon Narroway (G72-75). On Monday, there were games of Golf, wine and cheese tasting, shopping and getting to know the Valley, and each other. On Tuesday, when most were going home, there was the worst April storm on record with parts of

the hotel left underwater and 300,000 homes without power for up to seven days, but all made it home safely.

### San Diego 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Weekend – 24-26 April 2015

Jules and Nick Arthur organised a wonderful weekend of events in late April 2015. The weekend kicked off with a cocktail party with food hosted by Jules and Michele at their home on Guy Street, San Diego on Friday evening. This was followed Saturday lunchtime by a beach party hosted Nick & Paddi Arthur at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. Again food and drink were kindly provided by the hosts and there were optional activities such as kayaking, surfing and boche ball that you don't get at your average OF event in the UK!



Back row left to right : Jules Arthur (K75-84), Jenny Darney-Lane, Nick Arthur (K57-64), Steve Darney-Lane (Z78-85), Anthony Cowan (R55-64) and wife Jenny, Irina and Paul Martin (S81-86). Front row left to right Michele Arthur, Giles Townsend (K59-67) and Anne Landa,



Then in the evening it was cocktails at sunset followed by dinner at Eddie V's in La Jolla, where most attendees were staying.

From left to right Giles Townsend, Nick Arthur, Giles's wife, Anne Landa, Duncan Lumsden, Michele Arthur, Caspar Zafer, Steve Darney-Lane, Nick Arthur, Jenny Darney-Lane, Paddi Arthur, Anthony & Jenny Cowan

## Toronto 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Dinner – 3 July 2015

The first Canadian SOF Supper in 150 years was held on a warm, dry evening at the Queen & Beaver Public House in Toronto, Canada. **Julian Bayley (S50-53)** was the first to arrive after a 205km drive in from Western Ontario. Old friends 'canoeist' **Patrick Vincent (R47-51)** and **Brian Mayhew (R46-52)** spritely sauntered in shortly after and joined hotelier/organiser **David McMillan (K54-58)** and some in-depth reminiscing and serious name searching ensued. Brian's return from the UK only 72 hours earlier and an 85 km drive-in spoke volumes. Common denominator names included memorable masters Haig, Bailey and Borrett with many crossover student names dug up from the early and late 50s.

Fifty percent of the SOF's attending were sporting bright, drip-free OF ties from start to finish and despite the consumption of reasonable quantities of Fuller's London Pride, all were upright as they strode out into the night with multiple memories re-awakened.

Left to right - Patrick Vincent (R47-51), Brian Mayhew (R46-52), Julian Bayley (S50-53), David McMillan (K54-58)



## Hamburg 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Weekend – 10-11 July 2015

This weekend was enthusiastically organised by **Kim Dickel (M97-98)** and **Jens Kippenberger (G91-92)** and included a dinner organised at Jen's sailing club (Norddeutscher Regatta Verein), an Alster boat trip, a meal and a few beers at the oldest brewery (Groniger) and finally a pub tour for those still up to it!

Of all the previous OF overseas events organised, this one in 3 ways surpassed all others. Firstly



there were 37 OFs present, which is more than any other overseas event and even in the UK is only exceeded by the Annual Dinner and the Suffolk Supper. Secondly, they were the youngest OF group ever assembled with ages ranging predominately from 16 to 40 with just the President, Hon Sec and Richard Rowe (on a flying visit to Germany for work) older. And finally it was great that the current Headmaster, Paul Taylor and his wife Amanda were also able to attend.

Kim, Jens and I share a hope that this will be the first of

many OF events around Germany and we will provide all the help and support we can to anyone prepared to organise future events around this huge country. A number of possible volunteers came forward on the night, so watch this space.

### **Uganda 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Dinner – 7 July 2015**

A couple of days after Speech Day 2015, staff and pupils at the College departed for Uganda in the latest of a series of “Journeys of Self Discovery”. Led by Martin Myers-Allen, he was also accompanied from the College by Susan Wessels and Chris Hobson. Prior to leaving Martin contacted OFs in Uganda and at the same time OFs were meeting for the London Supper, Martin, Susan and Chris were meeting up with **Chris Bagnall (R89-99)**. They met at the wonderfully named Red Chilli Lodge in Kampala.



### **Alaskan 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Event – 8 August 2015**

Just when we thought the last SOF Overseas event to celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary had been held, I hear from Nick Carlton (G63-70) that a celebration was held in Alaskan waters on Saturday 8 August 2015. Nick as many of you will know is a long standing captain with Princess cruises and is currently captaining Grand Princess. On board for this latest cruise was OF Bryan Pearson (S45-47) and his wife Celestine. Bryan is the only OF based in Hawaii and has cruised with Nick as captain a number of times.



They decided to have an impromptu lunch to celebrate the 150th Anniversary in what was fittingly called College Fjord, which is the northern sector of Prince William Sound. At latitude 61 degrees North this is definitely the most northerly of the 150th celebrations and in fact the most northerly OF event ever. They were also the only overseas event to have a special cake!