

OVERSEAS BAG – 2019

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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Once again this edition and the 2019 Yearbook contain a bumper crop of articles from over 250 emails received/sent. Genuinely many thanks for giving me such a huge editing task to do again!

During the last year there have been OF gatherings in Hong Kong, Cairns and Sydney which you can read more about below. A huge thank you to the organisers who came forward to make these a great success and to everyone who was able to attend.

I hope others will come forward to organise reunions during 2020 and as always I will help with mailing list and publicity but can't promise to be able to attend them all!

Please keep your messages and news flooding in, especially with your photos. Happy reading!

AUSTRALIA

Paul Bonner (G61-64) got in touch with a new email address.

Phil Bower (G65-74) at the end of 2018 send an update as a result of receiving the Yearbook. He and Dee had obtained their local “skipper’s ticket” and were now licensed to drive power boats “the fools!”. They had also acquired a pure bred Ridgeback pup. He’s was 5 ½ months old, weighs in at 34Kg and is almost the same height as Groot (2 years old mongrel, weighs in at 31Kg – a mix of Ridgeback/Alsation/Collie/Terrier/American bulldog). He went on to say “*we have given him the name of Hackett (keeping with the Guardians of the Galaxy theme, although co-incidentally, the name of Genesis’ ex-guitarist, Steve Hackett, who seems a nice fellow – always replies to emails!)*”.

Homestead now has a new extension housing master bedroom, en suite & robe. Carpets laid so will be moving in just before my older brother gets here on Jan 4th 2019 for a week or so.”

He provided a further update and photos
“Attached is das boot as it was in the boatyard – that is the actual item we bought. The name is a bastardisation of Dee’s mother’s name (she doesn’t know it yet, she’ll see it for the first time when she comes here for the 25th anniv celebs).



It’s 5.1mtr “cubby” with Merc 90hp outboard (couldn’t stretch to a 110hp!). Hoping to get out on the wet stuff tomorrow. The towing vehicle is an Isuzu MU-X – awesome truck! Based on their truck technology – I’ve been trying to break one for years but they just kept on going, even after

hitting a kangaroo.

Purpose of boat? Splicing the main brace, Mr Midshipman Easy and Three Men in a Boat..... soon as we get the old eye in, we're going to declare war on the US navy or similar..... Fishing? Comes under the same concept as golf ruining a good walk..... Interestingly, people here have a real difficulty with having a boat and wanting to do nothing more complicated than poodling about on the ocean wave & being a nuisance to everything submarine!

All the best to everyone for the festive winter. Apparently, we're looking at a possible 35C+ over the holidays! We reached 42C yesterday, according to those in the know. Had to turn the aircon on for the first time this year!"

Phil kindly invited me to his party to mark their 25th wedding anniversary but Western Australia was a little far away!

On further study of the Yearbook Phil decided that there was a Kerrisonite coup in the Overseas Bag and that it's been going on for some time "*Chris Shaw is receiving far too much publicity and he always gets 2 photo's!! This is not good enough! Clearly, there is a conspiracy afoot for the mag to be turned into a Kerrisonite backslapping tome.....*

Seriously.....hats off to all concerned in the production of same. Sad to see the obit pages taking up more space but I expect that's kind of inevitable, really. Even though he caned me a couple of times, it was sad to read De Whalley's obit. A flood of minor anecdotes came to mind as a result..... the time he confiscated the Garret house record player and collared me to carry it to his study, that was all very well until he reached up to get the speaker (mono only in those days) and there etched into the box in clear letters was the word "jerkisagit".....(his nickname was Jerk you may recall), then there was the time he used to confiscate biscuits for some reason and was "caught" scoffing the chocolate ones, and the time his dog, Tarka, went clacking into a dormitory on one of his nightly rounds and a voice was heard to grumble (this is absolutely true!) "get that fxxxing dog out of here"....his response? "Tarka, come here" and he left! I was the victim of a junction box reward one physics lesson (cured me of answering any more questions!). I dare say, we shall not see his like again, unfortunately.

There's a vicious rumour that I might be off on a month "tour" in June. It's local statewide but it takes me up north – into the area currently being hammered by a cat 5 cyclone. There's also an 8 day drive from Mackay back to Perth in September on the cards – I could do it quite easily in 7 days, but I figured if I'm in the area I might as well visit the Qantas museum at Longreach – it's only a 200km detour and it's been on my bucket list for some time. It's so nice when someone else is picking up the tab for fuel and accommodation!

Hoping to get the boat out tomorrow – we're getting the tail end of the cyclone weather system at present so the winds might be too strong for utter novices like us.

*We've been watching with dazed amusement at the Brexit fiasco. How politicians manage to completely bollocks thing up is both impressive and a mystery. It really is like watching a bunch of drunken weasels trying to fight their way out of a mail sack. Anyway, that's about it for now. I'll try to send some more photo's so that **Chris Shaw** can't have it all!!"*

Nick Carlton (G63-70) our retired cruise ship captain has been on his travels again but without a ship! He undertook a long overseas trip during 2019 to Hong Kong and the UK and had a most enjoyable and interesting time.

"Stayed with Chris Hall in his apartment on the Peak in Hong Kong. Although a warm time of year there we managed some long walks and some great dinners. One place I wanted to see that we visited, St Stephen's College at Stanley happened to be very familiar to Chris as he goes to the Chapel there and

knows the Chaplain and his wife very well. An interest of mine is the WWII invasion of HK by the Japanese and the terrible events at St Stephen's on Christmas Day 1941. We visited the next door Stanley Military Cemetery which is most interesting. Getting to Stanley we walked along the Tai Tam Waterworks Heritage trail (pictured) which is a most enjoyable area of Hong Kong with impressive masonry dams and bridges built in the late 19th century.



Chris took me to a lovely small private dinner held by the very exclusive club he belongs to, the Min Chiu Society, a prestigious group of Chinese art and antique connoisseurs as well as dinner at the Hong Kong Club. We also had dinner at the extraordinary Cafe Gray Deluxe (pictured).



Luckily, I didn't experience any problems with or see any evidence of the demonstrations in HK. When we took off from Perth the plane's Captain said there was a general strike in HK and we might divert to somewhere else but we arrived on time without incident. Last week I flew back to Australia on Cathay Pacific via HK and again my trip was trouble-free.

I ended up having six weeks in the UK and caught up with a lot of friends including **William Piper (G61-68)** a couple of times which was great (pictured at Angel Inn at Sudbury). I also went to see June de Whalley a couple of times in Framlingham and although frail is still as bright as a button.

Visited a friend whose twin children, **George and Indigo Hornsby-Cox (G12-17 & P12-17)** recently left Framlingham and it was a pleasure to chat and hear how things were these days.



Had a couple of weeks in the northern Scottish Highlands and a reunion in Southampton with some of the P&O cadets I started out my sea career with... it was great to catch-up.



Managed to cover quite a bit of ground in Suffolk including a trip to Orfordness where we used to sail from Fram and where the lighthouse built in 1792 is threatened with falling into the sea through coastal erosion .. wanted to pay my respects.

Jim Coe (Z80-89) is the brother of OF Co-ordinator **Kate Jackson (P84-93)** and Chris Shaw very kindly arranged for a bottle of Jim's wine (pictured) to be sent to me in the UK. I'm not just saying this but it was the nicest bottle of Aussie red I have ever tasted. It was a wonderfully

smooth shiraz. Jim thanked me for my kind comments and said that he had just been back to England a few weeks earlier and caught up with family and managed to see a bit of the College. He watched nephew George Jackson play a bit of cricket and had a fantastic time.

Kate sent me a couple of family photos taken during Jim's visit – Jim and Kate are in the front of the right hand picture.



Ian Cottingham (61-66) was in touch in October 2019 with a change of address to the wonderfully named Mystery Bay, NSW.

Doug Denby (S51-57) was contacted by a distant cousin of his via SOF Admin and we put them in touch. Doug was diagnosed with Parkinson's some 7 years ago and more recently prostate cancer. Doug is related to **Otto Ziegele** and major benefactor of the College.

Julian Ellis (M72-76) was a fellow contemporary of **Richard Jenkinson (K69-76)** who died earlier this year. He was sad to hear the news. His news was *"I turned 60 at the beginning of the year and took the family to a wilder part of Greece to celebrate. Walking in the hills was paradise. I think I've got used to the discomfort and dangers of bushwalking in Australia, which I do a lot. In Greece there's no need to carry water or food - there are pure cool springs to drink from and orange and fig trees to scrump from along the way. There's a luxury in being able to throw yourself down in the grass without first checking that nothing in there will kill you. I loved it."*

After working in the film industry, then teaching, I'm on to my third and hopefully final career. I went back to studying a few years ago, and discovered that I was a much better student in my late 50s than I ever was in early life. I've found a very fulfilling job with a local NGO, supporting people who've attempted suicide. Well, that's about it. Best wishes."

Mike Garnett (R53-55) was emailed by **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** in January 2019 as a result of the death of **Ken Mackenzie (K45-53)**. Chris mentioned that they had just had 275mm rain (over a foot of rain in 24 hours) in Cairns and that Daintree just north of them had had 425mm or 17 inches of rain in 24 hours. He remarked that East Anglia used to have an average of 30 inches in a year! Mike responded *"What a pity the rains in Cairns cannot be harnessed and sent to the outback properties in NSW and northern Victoria. This may sound ridiculous, but I'm sure there could be a way to divert the water to the southern states. Maybe we should ask the experts in Israel to give us some clues."*

In February Mike was interested to read about the Munnings exhibition. He said *"I included the Munnings painting 'Charge of Flowerdew's Squadron' in my book 'Yeomanry Regiments of Great Britain and the Colonies' which was published last year. The National Army Museum bought a copy*

for their library. *The Charge at Beersheba* by the Australian Light Horse is often quoted as the last great cavalry charge, but in fact it was Flowerdew's charge that was the last - it took place on 31 March 1918, five months after Beersheba. I was closely involved with the establishment of a statue near here that depicts this charge whereby the light-horse men famously charged with their bayonets because swords were not available. I attach a photo taken when the statue was unveiled."



In March Mike commented that that the Magazine was most impressive, both for the content and the layout/design. He was particularly interested to see all the activities now available to scholars for instance equestrian, sailing and overseas visits. He was saddened to see no mention of squash. He went on to say "Nice to see my mates Chris and Rebecca featured at Cairns – also a very nice obituary of Stephen Sayer by his brother Richard. Separately I have heard from Stephen's widow Aileen who is trying to settle down to normality back in Muscat. Interesting that General Chauvel's grand-daughter Jojo Maberly featured on page 136. I did a chapter on General Chauvel in one of my military books, perhaps she would like a copy. "

John Gates (S44-48) has been in touch on a regular basis and has been very good at visiting **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** nearby to him. Around Christmas 2018 John and Ruth had the following review of 2018 "John was hospitalized early January for a Global Amnesia Episode. Had an MRI on the following Friday 5th all clear with a follow up with our Doctor so no problems with our Travel Insurance. Most important. Mid January we had a great weeks visit from friends from Yorkshire it was lovely and hope they may come over again though know that it is a long haul. In March we had a 4 week cruise round Australia. Sarah and Lauren joined us as did Ellen who came over from Banff in Canada. We had a great time. Enjoyed it so much that we have booked a similar trip in 2020. If you don't book you don't have a chance.

John still at the gym 4 days a week. I have added another Yoga class and continue to walk. John had a scare a few weeks ago. They found a small cyst on his Pancreas. After consultation the Doctors decided it was benign and will do another test end of February to see if it has changed. Poor John he has been put through the wringer. However we try to think positively.

We still play bridge. Not always very good. And not always together. However last month with a bit of luck I won a Trophy my 1st. John and I are off on 27th December for yet another cruise round NZ for 2 weeks. Because it was so close to Christmas we had a Christmas luncheon at a lovely restaurant in the hills above Maroochydore. (John pictured 2nd from right)"



John also had an update on Peter Bailey *"I popped in to see Peter Bailey yesterday, it was around 33C outside with very high humidity, so felt like 37C. Peter was sitting in his Room with no air con on, no air coming into his room & wearing a very thick sweater, I could hardly believe it. He told me that he was very muddled, so of course I put his air con on, made him take his sweater off & got the temperature down very quickly to about 19C."*

Peter is definitely deteriorating, and now has to have a Catheter in situ all the time, and he said I only saw you John a few days ago, it was over 3 weeks. He is absolutely Skin & Bone, I am amazed that he can move about even with a walker, it is distressing to see him now as to when I remember him about 3 years ago down in the Hunter Valley.

No fun growing old Chris, both Ruth & myself now getting Arthritis in our feet & knees. Ruth has to walk & do her Yoga, and I have to walk up the stairs at my Gym, then do 20 minutes on the Bicycle, & 5 minutes on the cross walker, then all the weights for another hour, all hard work. When I get home Ruth says did you enjoy it, my reply is NO but I just have to do it.

All the very best for a cold Christmas Chris with plenty of snow & a healthy & hopefully better Financial year in 2019."

With John and Ruth's cruise to Hawaii imminent I put him in touch with **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)**. They were both at the College at the same time and in the same house. John gave the following details of their cruise *"My Wife Ruth and myself will be cruising on "Sea Princess" and visiting Honolulu on Wednesday 11th of September 2019. We arrive at Honolulu at 6.00.a.m. and have to be back on board by 8.00.p.m. We will also at MAUI on Thursday 12th of September 2019 arriving at 7.00.a.m. and back on board by 4.00.p.m. Any possibility that we could meet up?"*

Bryan replied saying that he and OF ship's captain **Nick Carlton** had talked about him quite a bit as he believed they had got together a couple of times. Bryan said *"We sailed with him on many occasions and we had an historic OF meeting in Alaska, complete with gorgeous OF cake - did you see it in the Mag? We were sad when he swallowed the anchor, but did get to sail with him just before he retired.*

The timing of your visit couldn't be worse unfortunately as Celestine and I will be in Suffolk, visiting my brother and our daughter, when you arrive. We have sailed on Princess 25 times, but never on the Sea Princess.

Yes, I was in Scarlet with the Rosen bros. Was in the ROTC and represented Fram twice on the shooting team, only shot once at Bisley though as the 1947 event was cancelled due to a mumps outbreak.

I hope you enjoy your short visit to Honolulu and the other islands, we have visited Sydney twice over the years, very expensive place !!"

Bryan sadly had to cancel their planned trip to the UK and therefore got in touch with John & Ruth to say they could not meet up. John provided the following reply *"Quite by chance I opened my emails this morning, as joining Sea Princess today in few hours time. I confirm our arrival in Honolulu on Wednesday 11th September. How about we meet you in the CRUISE TERMINAL (assuming there is one) at say at 10.30.a.m & we will take you & your Wife out to lunch?"*

Bryan I have quite a bit of difficulty in walking, so don't want to walk very far, so somewhere close would be best. I refuse to use a "walker" as once you start using that sort of thing you become reliant. I go to my gym 4 days a week and walk up & down the stairs, I intend to carry on for many years to come, in fact we have just renewed our Pass Ports for another 10 years. We have been to the Arizona Memorial a long time ago possibly around 1980, when I was a General Agent for the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California- those were the days- earning big money. So look forward to seeing you on the 11th."

Sadly at the last minute John & Ruth were not well enough to get off the ship so they didn't manage to meet up after all these years.

John Ling (S49-56) (Honorary Aussie!) as you will read elsewhere in this report, has been undertaking a world tour and while visiting Cairns in Australia spent some time with **Chris & Rebecca Shaw (K50-56)** and then in Sydney **Colin Lipman (R53-61)** organised an OF reunion. On leaving Perth they were flying onto Singapore and then their next stop was in Myanmar on a mission to go to a WW2 site where a Bergh Apton boy was killed in 1944.

Colin Lipman (R53-61) responded to a request from **Will Ponty (R11-16)** in November 2018 to meet up with OFs near Sydney during his 6 months based in the Waverley area playing rugby. Colin's son Michael had played for Australia U19/20 and then was capped 10 times for England and as he was now back in Sydney was sure we could help Will with his rugby if required.

On the news that John & Hilary Ling was coming to Sydney, Colin immediately volunteered to use this as an excuse for another OF reunion in Sydney. The date was set as 2 September 2019 to meet for drinks at The Lord Nelson, followed by dinner at the "Fish at the Rocks" and then drinks afterwards back at The Lord Nelson. The date chosen was also **David Summers (G48-56)** 81st Birthday and he knew John at Framlingham.

Here is the report on the Sydney OF gathering:

*An OF dinner was arranged in Sydney, NSW, Australia by **Colin Lipman (R53-61)** to create the opportunity for OFs to meet **John (S49-56)** and Hilary Ling from Bergh Apton, near Norwich. Present were Colin and Lexie Lipman, **Hugh (S43-48)** and Julia Richardson, **David (G48-56)** and Rosie Summers, and **Mike (R54-62)** and Bunny Allport.*

The gathering collected at the Lord Nelson for drinks, then moved to a small, but within staggering distance, 'Fish at the Rocks' restaurant. The evening was enjoyed by all, with many old and new stories being told. David Summers was celebrating his 81st birthday, and he had known John at Brandeston so many moons ago that it does not bear calculation.

Sydney, through the kind work of Colin Lipman, always puts on a good show. The short lead-up time was unavoidable since John and Hilary are on a quasi-Phineas Fogg journey around the world, albeit not in 80 days, but with a time frame that did not, perhaps, allow full exploitation of SOF hospitality in Oz.

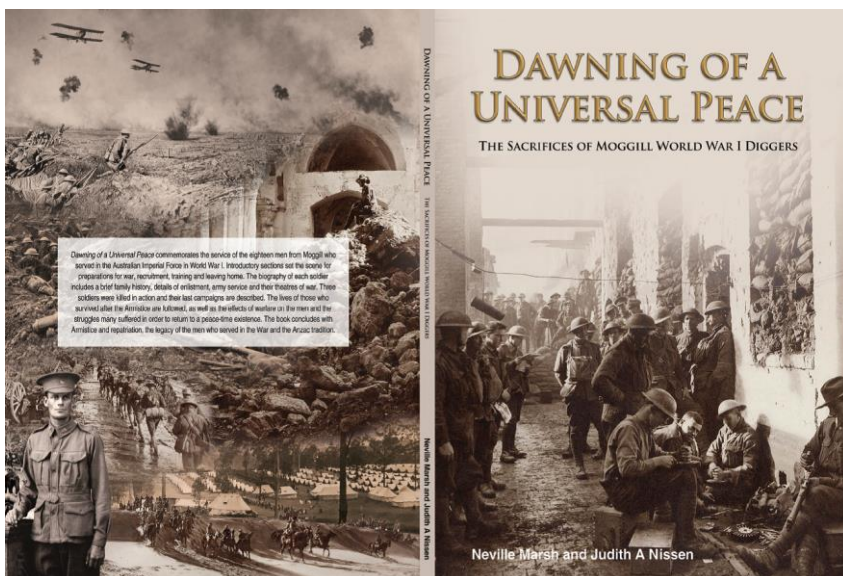
A fine time was had by all, and, apart from David Summers, the Garrett birthday boy, it was an exclusive Stradbroke and Rendlesham affair, untainted by any Kerrison stay-at-home influence? I wonder what Neville Marsh would make of this House blend.



Neville Marsh (S53-61) has continued his long running quest to find whether any other OFs have appeared on University Challenge. We have previously reported that in addition to himself he has found that the **Wizard of NZ (Ian Channell (42-45))** was on the programme. **John Cooper (S64-68)** has now also come forward, having taken part in 1971 when he was at Pembroke College Cambridge.

In December 2018 Neville sent Christmas wishes and said *“Well done again on a magnificent Overseas Bag. As usual, the Australian component occupies well over 50% of the issue (21 pages out of 38), so I am pleased that us Aussies are keeping up the correspondence. I shall enjoy reading everyone’s stories over Christmas and New Year.*

Hoping to be the first of the batch of emails for 2018-19 (but I suspect I am now well down the order of merit), I thought you would like to know what my recent activities have been, namely, co-writing a book on the experiences of local men who went off to World War I called Dawning of a Universal Peace. This has been produced as part of our Centenary of Armistice commemorations. I attach an image of the front/back cover which comprises a series of images by Frank Hurley, the photographer on Mawson’s and Shackleton’s Antarctic expeditions. Here is a summary of the book:



Dawning of a Universal Peace commemorates the service of the eighteen men from Moggill who served in the Australian Imperial Force in World War I. Introductory sections set the scene for preparations for war, recruitment, training and leaving home. The biography of each soldier includes a brief family history, details of enlistment, army service and their theatres of war. Three soldiers were killed in action and their last campaigns are described. The lives of those who survived after the Armistice are followed, as well as the effects of warfare on the men and the struggles many suffered in order to return to a peace-time existence. The book concludes with Armistice and repatriation, the legacy of the men who served in the War and the Anzac tradition.

As you can image, this book has taken up much of my time in the second half of 2018, so I am looking forward a slightly quieter start to 2019. As always, I stay in touch with other Queenslander OF's by phone and email: Peter Bailey, now approaching the grand age of 97, John Gates and Chris Shaw. We all work our way through age-related health issues but on the whole, we stay upright and compus mentis.

In August 2019 he was in touch to say that he had passed on the SOF New Digest to Hetta Simpson, **Peter Simpson (K32-40)** widow and that he will continue to do so as and when they come in. Other than that, all is well. Brother Ian is in fine form. He still plays golf twice a week, tends his veggie patch and tries to keep up with Christa! However, he finds travelling up to London at night time difficult, hence his absence from London Suppers.

His other news was that **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** is comfortable in his nursing home although now quite frail. He is always pleased to hear from us. John also pops in from time to time. Peter's son **Brett Bailey (K58-65)** is living quietly in Canberra. He reported that Chris and Rebecca Shaw was enjoying life in their new retirement home villa and that his best mate at Brandeston, **John Ling**, was doing a Phineas Fogg-type journey around-the-world including Cairns on 26 August. He added *“We are coping with the vicissitudes of life: Alison had open-heart surgery in February to correct a congenital defect which had*

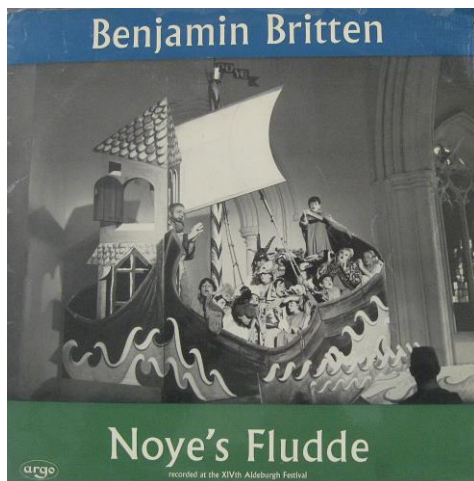
finally become troublesome. She is well on the way to full recovery and we shall head up to Cairns shortly, to meet up with Chris and Rebecca for the inevitable, albeit small OF Lunch.

I was interested to read about the Agar Centenary. I was fortunate enough to find a copy of Footprints in the Sea on eBay which was signed by the great man. Inside the book was a letter written by Agar to one of his RNC Greenwich colleagues which is an interesting artefact."

You can read Chris Shaw's report below of when they all met up in Cairns.

Just before the copy deadline Neville said that he and **Brett Bailey (K58-65)** had twice visited father **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** over the last two days. He reports that Peter is now very frail but in good spirits. Health wise he is in excellent shape for his age (97.5) although short-term memory is fading. *"That said, Peter perked up when we got one of his RAF log books out and talked for a long time about his operational career and some of his colleagues."* Brett and partner Sue do a sterling job dealing with any of Peter's requirements (mainly a good supply of wine which he continues to enjoy with both lunch and dinner). We said they had missed out on seeing **John and Ruth Gates** as Ruth had a bad cold, but apart from that, they are well.

Bob Munro (R56-60) was good enough to contribute to a long email discussion about Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde production in 1958 in which he played the recorder in the orchestra – see marked below.



Afterwards Bob said how much he had enjoyed researching the subject. "I can now go back in the shed and try and fit all the stuff back where it came from!"

He would love to attend some of the Aussie reunions, but the tyranny of distance makes it hard. His nearest major city is Adelaide (4 hours solid driving), and Melbourne is about 6 hours away. But he loves it in Mildura, so there is no chance of him going back to live in a city.

In November 2019 Bob was in touch with the sad news that his brother **Murray Munro (R58-65)** had died in Queensland. He writes as follows :

“My youngest brother, Murray, died towards the end of October and was finally put to rest on 12th. November 2019. The delay due to the fact that an autopsy was necessary, as it appears that he had been dead for a few days before he was found. He was born with the spinal defect 'spina bifida', and whilst it did not affect him until he was well into his forties, from then on he started suffering numerous medical problems. And for the past few years he was, unfortunately, constantly in a great deal of pain.

The funeral service was held at Deception Bay, North of Brisbane (Qld.), not far from where he had been living.

Murray went to Brandeston Hall / Framlingham College from 1958-1965 (R), following myself and Stuart (R55-62).

After doing an Engineering degree, and trying his hand at some various jobs, he gave it all up in the early 1970's and came out to Australia to visit his big brother, via the "hippie trail" as it was then known. He had some adventures along the way, including passing from Afghanistan to Pakistan through the notorious Khyber Pass.

Not long after arriving in Australia, and deciding that this was the place to be, he decided to try and get into the Australian Army, and he succeeded. He was in R.A.E.M.E., originally as a Captain but was quickly promoted to Lieutenant and finally as Major. And he absolutely loved every minute of it, especially when he was out in the bush on exercises with his troops. From time to time he was put into doing desk jobs, and these he was not so keen on - Murray was an outdoors person through and through. And there is a lot of outdoors in Australia!

Murray had two children, and in turn two grandchildren, and he adored them all. His family is what kept him going when the pain became hard to bear.

Murray requested that his cremated remains be scattered in the Murray River - he loved swimming in the river when he came to Mildura for a visit, the last time in 2015.”



Will Ponty (R11-16) contacted Norman Porter at the end of 2018 to say he was currently working in London on a placement year doing insurance and was very fortunate to be travelling to Australia as of January with the same company in their business relations department. As a result you will have read earlier that I put him in touch with **Colin Lipman (R53-61)** in Sydney, who was most helpful but I'm not aware if they met up.

Chris Shaw (K50-56) has been brilliant as always in keeping in touch with me and even more importantly with OFs who live in Australia and NZ. At the beginning of 2019 they had suffered flooding and he sent the following picture of nearby Daintree village.

His report continue :

‘Had a bit of rain, mate?’

'She got a bit damp yesterday, but as long as the snakes, crocs, spiders and sharks don't all try to get into our house at once, we'll be apples!'

'Sorry, mate, can't light the barbie.

She's under twenty foot of water.'

'The missus? She's on the roof, mate.'

'We closed the front door when the water started to come up. When it started to go down, we opened the back door and let the water and the critters that got in, get out. I'll hose off the floor and the barbie, and we're back in business. Come round for a snag (sausage) and a chook (chicken) for

lunch - should be done by then. I'll get you to give us a hand with a salty (croc) that won't leave

while there's food still around, (us). He's only a babe around 12 foot, but I need someone on the bitey end. The missus will be in the middle, so its all good!'



Chris says this sums up the Australian way of life!

He was sorry to hear about **Ken Mackenzie (K45-53)** saying that he did have a conversation with him many moons ago, by email, and he seemed to be having breathing problems but would not define a particular condition. They reminisced a bit, and wished each other all the best.

He finished off by saying *"Just to bring you bang up to date: we think we did very well with 275mm rain (over a foot of rain in 24 hours) in Cairns, but the Daintree area, where ancient tropical rainforest meets the sea north of Port Douglas, had 425mm, around 17inches of rain in 24 hours. East Anglia used to have an average of 30 inches per year, and these guys have had more than half that in a day! Funny old world."*

In March 2019 he sent a message to OFs in New Zealand, on behalf of all Aussie Old Framlinghamians, to give condolences for the atrocity in Christchurch. *"That it should be in gentle New Zealand is unthinkable: that it should be at the hands of an Australian, in part, is deeply disturbing for us too. Oz is known to be quite socially abrasive, but New Zealanders have always been thought of as 'gentle souls' so for this to happen is a great shock. I believe I speak for all OFs in Oz and around the world that you have our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time."*

I was next in touch with Chris to thank him for very generously sending me a bottle of **Jim Coe (Z80-89)** Shiraz from his winery. I reported *"Last night I cooked my wife mussels, followed by duck in an orange sauce followed by a bought bread and butter pudding. I needed a good wine to go with this and the exceptional heat we have been having here, so we opened the bottle you sent from Jim's winery - see attached photo. I'm not just saying this but it was the nicest bottle of Aussie red I have ever tasted. It was a wonderfully smooth shiraz. Thank you so much for sending over despite all the problems I had with customs in the UK! Hope you are not too chilly during your winter and you are coping with temperatures in Cairns falling below 25C occasionally!"*



Chris responded that he and Rebecca had just returned from a speaking engagement in Townsville. The City Libraries put on a 'meet the local storytellers' evening. This was in conjunction with an Eats Festival just outside. He told his son that he would be speaking to either 10,000 people or 3. *"We didn't know the setup, but found the library was on the second floor and impossible to find. So I talked to three people, and sold one book. NOT a good return on a 800km return journey, plus hotel stay, but that's just a part of the apprenticeship and the discipline of a professional in whatever field you operate."*

Chris provided more information on his latest novel *"I published my first novel, 'The Imposter: A Norfolk Romance.' I have to say there was much rejoicing and hat-throwing since it was ten years in the making. It's an historical romance set in Norfolk and France/Belgium between 1914 and 1920.*

What's an 80 year old SOF member doing writing historical romance, I hear you cry? A great question, and the book will tell all. It's available from Amazon and The Book Depository online. If that method doesn't suit you, your favourite bookshop can get it for you, and quoting the ISBN 978-0-9805882-5-5 will help them no end. It's a great read, and may bring back memories of fields of waving golden corn, dairy herds, and flint, brick and thatched buildings.

The story has been woven to include some people I knew in Norfolk, many of whom were part of my family. However, in this story, some are out of context in time and relationships, while others are entirely a figment of my imagination. That imagination has also allowed me to change the roles of the main characters in both time and history, and how they played them.

My uncle, Cyril Frank Matthews, and my aunt, Gwen Bell were actually married in 1938 but had no surviving children. Cyril was shot down over the North Sea as an RAF pilot of a Blenheim Bomber in 1944, and Gwen did work at the post office in East Dereham for many years.

I have tried to weave a new tapestry from what was a real-life tragedy, and turn it into a story with a happy ending. I can't change actual history, but I can attempt to make things more fulfilling for my lovely Auntie Gwen, and for Uncle Cyril (Frank), the love of her life. Auntie Gwen also loved me for the whole of her life, and, as the boy she had so wished for, I fervently hope I was able to be part of fulfilling the family life she so dearly wanted.

Gwen Matthews, nee Bell was, in real life, a generous and loving person with gorgeous red hair. I wish I had met Cyril Frank Matthews, but I only knew about him through my mother, Margaret Shaw, nee Matthews. I would like to say that I had based the character of Frank on myself, but I was never that strong, wise, or accomplished.

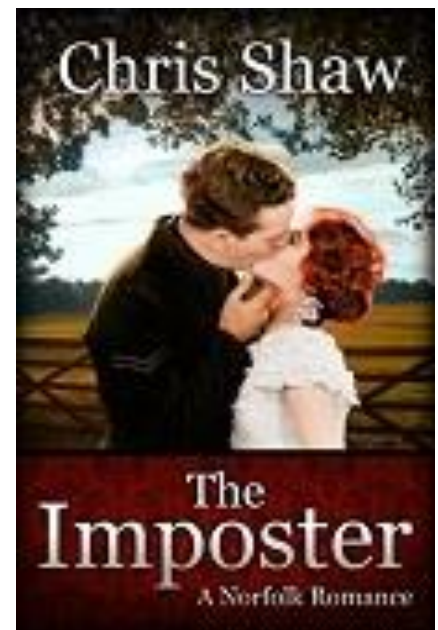
However, I have been blessed with the love and friendship of my Rebecca - a relationship closely akin to that which Frank and Gwen were so fortunate to achieve in this novel.

In absentia, I wish these lovely people, their families and their descendants, well. This is the life they would have led if I had been in charge of things.

It's a good read and since it was written in 10 weeks in 2010, it's been a long time cooking! I'll let you know when it comes out, and I think it will be available from Waterstones."

Following the visit of Neville and Alison Marsh, Chris was very punctual providing the following report :

Dateline: Cairns August 2019



Two Scarlets and a Blue walk into a bar in Cairns to sample the hospitality of the region; its warmth and its lush scenery. Alternatively, it could be said that a Professor, a Soldier and an Author walked into a bar, except that the timing was a tad off.

Neville Marsh, with his wife, Alison, visited Cairns on their way to Darwin, and caught up with local residents Chris and Rebecca Shaw. The change in Cairns after a number of years since their last visit was duly noted during a long discussion over a lazy lunch at the Yorkey's Knob Yacht Club. ('Yorkey' was an ex-Yorkshire immigrant fisherman of colourful character [drunk], who lived on the headland known as the Knob, in case you were wondering). We all had a great time with stories of past exploits, which both wives probably knew by rote, but you get that.



The following week Chris and Rebecca caught up with John and Hilary Ling. They were on a round-the-world trip taken, in part, to celebrate John's 80th birthday; a slightly extended Fogg adventure. Had they been a week earlier we could have had a proper SOF Dinner in the Tropics with three OFs!

John and Chris had been good friends at Brandeston, but on ascending to the College, the Fram 'sorting hat' put John into Stradbroke and Chris into Kerrison, making contact rare.

'Of all the tropical places, in all the Commonwealth countries, in all the world, he walked into mine,' with 140 years of stories to catch up on in 3.5 days. I have to say that we did our best, and we did cover a lot of ground.

On the evening they arrived, having driven the 2000+ km from Brisbane via Harvey Bay, the Whitsundays, Townsville, the Atherton Tablelands and the Daintree, we dined on the Cairns waterfront at Dundee's, and started the process of downloading the highlights of those intervening years, and

basically deciding that we were both very lucky to be alive what with a shipwreck, ladder-fall, heart attack, sharks and toxic jellyfish, hostile natives and over-active horses; and that's only Chris's highlights.

The following day was a tour of Cairns City and views, lunch again at the same yacht club, and an evening seafood feast, that only Queensland can really justify. Wash that down with innumerable stories of derring-do and the inevitable learning-curve failures, and, in essence you have three OFs who have contributed their knowledge, discipline and integrity to those societies in which they found themselves. The following day John and Hilary spent on the reef, forewarned of the dangers of Noel Coward's 'Sultry-ultra-violet rays' on to East Anglian Anglo-Saxon, white marble skin. Their day was perfect with clear, warm seawater and a plethora of colourful fish and corals. They walked on Michaelmas Cay where a number of species of terns nested in the sand and sparse grass.

In the evening, they still had enough energy to treat Chris and Rebecca to a great meal at a restaurant appropriately called, Linga Longa. They didn't – linger longer - that is! They caught an afternoon flight into the arms of the Sydney OFs lead by Colin Lipman and David Summers to continue the hedony that we try to provide for visiting SOF members in Australia.

Their cherished wives, I have to say, show great stoicism in the face of our introverted story repetition. They have their own stories, in their own language, and seem quite happy discussing their own priorities, while we look back with our grey hair and wonder how we ended up in a totally different place to that which we had imagined in our youth. But, what journeys!



David Summers (G48-56) reacted to the news that **Peter Hughes (G52-56)** had died. “Very sad news, but not unexpected as Peter and you (Chris Shaw) had let us know (Peter's 80th Birthday celebrations in July) that his health was fading fast. I have copied this email to **John Ashon (G52-56)** for his information. The three of us (John, Peter and I) were good chums in our youth, being in Garrett together and for a few years after Fram, until we diverged geographically within UK and later to distant lands!

I'm sure you'll be a great support to Janet on Friday. Our thoughts are with Janet and we send our condolences. I agree that a celebration of his life is more appropriate than a sackcloth and ashes idea.

Rosie and I are both well and have just returned from Europe. On a light note we met up with John and Belinda Ashon in London for a celebratory lunch for our 80th birthdays! “

Aubrey Whitear (G58-65) sent his Christmas message about what had happened during 2018 *“The clock is ticking, the hours are passing by, the past increases, the future recedes, possibilities decreasing, regrets mounting.” But what the Hell, it’s Christmas! And what can be better than that!*

It’s been another great year with a Royal Wedding or two to distract us from the business of life. Our world stopped, as I am certain yours did too, when Harry Windsor, a prince from well down the regal batting order, married at vast expense a previously little known television actress from the USA. What’s that all about? Anyhow, lucky for them they did not have to rely on an office romance to get together as these now appear to be strictly verboten! As a beneficiary of an office romance myself, I shudder at the thought of where life might have taken me had even the mildest of flirting been banished from the office all those years ago. It’s hard to escape the conclusion that AJ Liebling could see the future when he wrote in the 1950’s “women resent being thought of as enjoyables; they consider such an attitude as evidence of male chauvinism. They want to be taken seriously like fall-out. It appears the function of the sexes is destined to be mutual boredom”.

Meanwhile, as now happens on an almost annual basis, we have a new Prime Minister. Last year’s model, Malcolm Turnbull, has gone; no longer the Big Wheel or even a cog in the wheel. In the great pageant of Australian Prime Ministers he will be remembered as no more than the grout between the tiles. The entire government in Canberra is pure Lewis Carroll as it lurches along without a majority, hostage to an increasing band of motley independents and an opposition that opposes everything on principle just to show they have no principles. It is sobering to think of how stupid the average independent member of parliament appears then to realise that half of them must be more stupid than that. Next year, we shall have a general election. I will not be surprised that I’m not surprised when the socialists win. How do I feel about that? Take a wild guess!

On a happier note, our grandchildren continue to be a joy to us as they grow and do (to us) increasingly amazing things. (Do you know another two-year-old who uses the word ‘viaduct’?) How nice for them to be of an age where another year is all upside! We see a lot of four-year-old Fleur and two-year-old Partick as we get to pick them up from day-care once a week and they (fortunately with their parents) also visit us at Flinders from time to time. Naturally, Di and I do our best not to undermine parental discipline by for example handing over the iPad or by dispensing ice cream and lollies prior to mealtime but it’s in the grandparents’ charter to fail occasionally.

To see our two English-Australian grandchildren, six-year-old Faith and two-year-old Sam, is always ample justification for a trip to Europe where we went twice this year. Our first trip was at Easter, which for astronomical reasons I don’t fully understand, came inconveniently early in the year. When we landed in Amsterdam we found we had abandoned a perfect (sunny, 25 degrees) Melbourne autumn for the rigours of the interminable Northern (rainy, 8 degrees) winter. For the next two days we wandered the streets overcoming our jetlag whilst taking shelter variously in coffee houses, shops, and best of all, the Rijks Museum. The following week, we joined Faith, Sam and their parents in a rustic sixteenth century farm cottage in Wales, in the Snowdonia National Park. There turned out to be a clue in that name. When we arrived it was even colder than Amsterdam and we could tell it was still winter because it was snowing. The snow soon gave way to torrential rain but it didn’t get any warmer. The daffodils seemed reluctant to raise their heads and the new-born baby lambs seemed to be wondering into what they had emerged. We saw them snuggling under their mothers looking for a way to get back in. Despite the weather, Wales was beautiful. Amongst other things, we rode on a steam train, went down disused mines, visited the amazing Italianate Portmeirion and walked a little in the very muddy countryside. So a good time was had by all. When we eventually returned our hire car in Manchester, my principal concern was that the hire company would charge me for a new set of windscreen wipers.

After we had left our grandchildren with their rightful owners, Di and I flew to Seville in Spain. The rain came with us on the plane, and continued, as predicted by Alan Lerner, to fall on the plain when we arrived. But it was warmer and there was the fragrance of orange blossom everywhere. Our hotel turned out to be in a little alley off a narrow street in the impenetrable maze that makes up Old Seville. We would never have found it if our taxi driver had not led us there by the hand. We checked in, walked out and promptly got lost. As we tried to find ourselves, we were not encouraged by the sight of all the other tourists who were walking around, eyes down staring at their maps and looking equally lost as they missed seeing the sights they had come to see. Eventually, somehow we stumbled on the way home. For dinner, it was mostly seafood paella, the local specialty, but I don't remember having a memorable meal. Our highlights were a night at the flamenco and a visit to the Cordoba mosque from which we discovered the Moors had been evicted by the Catholics in the thirteenth century. We found the Christians had done a fine job building a full-size Catholic cathedral inside the mosque leaving room to spare. The mosque is a magnificent example of Moorish architecture with candy-stripe arches going on as far as the eye can see. They put me in mind of a series of Roman aqueducts. I half expected the Moors to suddenly reappear saying, "hello, we're back". Perhaps one day they will.

Next we visited Madrid. It was a lot like London - cold, wet and crowded and it was impossible to find anywhere to eat dinner before our bedtime. Only the excellence of the Manzanilla kept me awake. We particularly enjoyed a surprisingly safe city cycling tour and a couple of nice galleries but the Royal Palace was shut as inconveniently the King was in residence. After three days (which I calculate to equate to 0.01% of my lifetime) we left. It was sufficient.

From Spain we made our way to Italy for five days walking in Lazio starting in Bracciano and ending in Tarquinia. Spring had arrived, the sun was shining and there was birdsong in the air. We could also buy a respectable glass of wine with our dinner for 4 Euros. It might not have been Petrus, Cote Roti or Cheval Blanc, but I did notice it had a label on the bottle. Our first hotel, where the owner announced his arrival in the breakfast room with an enormous fart, was just one jump up from sordid. Fortunately, things improved after that. Bracciano has a formidable castle that looms over the town – vintage 1470, well used, several not so careful owners, sacked occasionally by the French but nicely renovated as recently as 1846. Well worth a visit. You may never have heard of Tarquinia, (certainly I hadn't) but you should certainly go there. The name might just ring a bell if you are, like me, very old and, not like me, studied Macaulay conscientiously at school – Lars Porsena of Clusium and the Great House of Tarquin and all that. Anyhow, in April we were there and had the amazing experience of standing in 2,500 year old frescoed Etruscan tombs – in great condition for their age, careful owners long since departed etc. Back in town, there was also the magnificent and uncrowded Tarquinia museum where we could get close enough to touch an array of artefacts taken from the tombs. You have to do it, you really must!

A new holiday experience for us this year was Japan. Tokyo is a gray city full of polite, gray people. Very safe – no litter, no graffiti, no beggars. Kyoto is a smaller colourful Tokyo with many pretty girls in traditional dress. Our room at the traditional ryokan may have been devoid of furniture as if the bailiffs had just been in but the toilets had more controls than the space shuttle. It rained a lot and so many people were wearing facemasks that I didn't know whether we had stumbled into a surgeons' convention or there was about to be a major bank heist. Once we had mastered the metro we got around with ease and saw a lot of interesting stuff too extensive to detail here. We were ashamed that the bullet train made Australian so-called fast trains look like they move at the pace of stagecoaches. But even the Swiss must blanche at some of the prices. We were recommended by a friend to go to a traditional 12 seater sushi restaurant where we had an excellent but eye-wateringly expensive sushi meal, despite the absence of chips. Later he told me he had only ever been there on someone else's expense account. A few nights later when we went to a tempura restaurant I was careful to opt for the startling menu rather than the extortionate. Still they took the shirt off my back.

I don't know what we were thinking when we decided it might be fun to go on a twelve hour bus excursion from Tokyo to Mount Fuji. The trip was billed as an opportunity to see Mount Fuji in all its splendour, to ride a cable car and to cruise on a lake. That sounds like fun doesn't it? What could

possibly go wrong? I know better now. It was raining when we were picked up from our hotel straight after breakfast. Thereafter it didn't just rain a lot, it rained all day. It was cold and there was low cloud. Fuji was never more than a figment of our imagination. The cable car turned out to be old and run down (it would never do for the Swiss) and went from nowhere to nowhere. The "cruise" was no more than a fifteen minute ferry ride. And the lunch was miserable. The day should have more accurately been billed as a four souvenir shop tour – there was one at Mt Fuji, one at the cable car, one at the ferry and another at lunch and we were required to walk through all of them although I couldn't distinguish one from the other. When we eventually got back to Tokyo it was dark and instead of being returned to our hotel we were dropped off downtown in the rain, pointed in the general direction of Shinjuku station and told to make our own way home. I know PJ O'Rourke was writing about war zones when he wrote "Holidays in Hell" but he could have been on our trip to Mount Fuji.

Of course, our year is never complete without a few days in Switzerland. And this year, we discovered a new activity – swimming in the Rhine at Basel. This activity is at once effortless and hair-raising, if hair can be raised when you are in the water. First your hotel supplies you with a Wickelfische which is a waterproof bag-like devise in which you place all your clothes (other than your bathers, which by now you are wearing). Next you jump together with your Wickekfische into the fast flowing Rhine, having first taken the precaution of looking out for concrete barges and other boats plying their trade and which might well do you a serious injury. Now you are free to relax, be swept downstream with only the bridges, the cold and where you might be able to escape from the river before you arrive in Amsterdam to worry about. Highly recommended! Do let us know how you get on.

Soon in Melbourne the jacarandas will be coming into bloom, spreading their carpet of purple flowers over the ground. Christmas cannot be far away. So Di and I would like to congratulate you on still being around to read this, and to wish you a merry Christmas, a festival from which we recommend wine should not be entirely excluded. Good health and may the New Year be kind to you.

CANADA

Sadly for the first time I can remember, I have received no messages from OFs in Canada during 2019. I hope to be deluged with message in 2020.

DENMARK

In contrast I've had a rare message from an OF in Denmark. **Carl Gustav Scavenius (G92-93)** was in touch with a revised email and postal address and provided the following update "*I left Fram to finish College in Denmark. I then studied Economics at the University of Copenhagen, including a course at LSE and a year at the University of Vienna. Since then I worked 15 years as a Lloyds Class Underwriter for a Lloyds syndicate and an agency respectively. I have now taken over the family farm which my wife and I are developing.*"

FRANCE

Ian Connell (R68-73) proposed that **Andy McConnell (R66-71)** be added to lists of distinguished OFs. He is probably one of the worlds most celebrated glass experts and of course the resident glass expert on the Antiques Roadshow. I was happy to add him with assistance from Andy. Ian himself has promised an update for a future Overseas Bag.

Gerald Hendrie (K49-52) was pleased that we forwarded onto him an enquiry we had received from non-OF Andrea Albertin. Gerald told us that Andrea was an Italian conductor and keyboardist and thanks to us emailing him he had now been in correspondence during the last couple of days.

Brian Rosen (S40-46) was interested to see that **Cmdr John Simpson (K32-36)** had celebrated his 100th birthday. Brian followed John as SOF President in 1975 and was then followed by John Edwards. He wrote *“I knew John well of course (and a good many other Simpsons over the years!) When I arrived in Fram in 1940 his two brothers Michael & Peter were joint head prefects, but I never realised they were twins (as I seem to remember them they were not much alike in appearance.)*

I remember John as a thoroughly decent chap (well, he did bestow upon me the great honour of the Presidency) but he was, and probably still is, the sort of chap who gets on well with everybody. I am absolutely delighted that he has reached his centenary, over 10 years ahead of me. His generation was quite different from those who followed. I have a copy of the College Register (1968) in which I underlined in red all those OF's who 'served in 2nd World War.' (For a Remembrance Project at BH). John is on page 398, just one page of more than a hundred pages with names underlined.

I wish that I could be there. I am sure it will be a wonderful occasion and I much regret missing the opportunity to meet John again. “

In May 2019 Brian was back in touch with the following news from France “It has been my intention to write to you for some time but we were, and still are, awaiting momentous news that may, but possibly will not, affect the lives of those of us living in the European Community having permanently left the UK. However, it seems unlikely that anything much will be clarified soon.

I was, as usual, most impressed by the Year Book and am pleased that there may well be an electronic version in future, which I will find easier to read on my 32” computer screen. How incredibly different Fram is now compared to those dark days in the early 40's. (And yet we left feeling privileged).

Despite managing to offload *some* of my work with the RAF Association, I still find myself Vice Chairman of RBL Lyon, with both the President and Chairman having returned to the UK, leaving me ‘in charge.’ There is a great deal happening in 2019, with many 75th anniversaries being planned. Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Lyon last year. They were very well received by the Lyonnaise and many of us were able to meet them. Dare I suggest that HRH was impressed when I mentioned that I had marched in his mother's coronation parade 65 years ago.

The most important event of 2018 for us was the 90th birthday celebration of my brother Michael (S 1940-5) which was held at the British Racing Drivers' Clubhouse at Silverstone. Many family members came from abroad including Canada, Singapore, Switzerland and France, a sign of the times I suppose. Michael was also reunited with two cars that he built and raced over 60 years ago – still racing and worth about £2 million now.

Unfortunately this major occasion precluded another visit to the UK very soon after, for the Brandeston anniversary. I did manage to be at the council meeting and lunch there in October but met none of my former colleagues.

In a follow up message he said “Despite all the various disruptions we are very busy and enjoying life as we impatiently await the arrival of summer. The uncertainty does not bother me – I have a “Carte de Sejour’ for another 10 years so will be almost 100 if it expires before I do! My only concern is the exchange rate, having seen our pensions drop by 20%. What will happen, nobody knows.

The coronation seems a long time ago! It was a wonderful experience and I was lucky enough to be marching for 21 SAS Regt. TA. With the London Rifles we were 10 abreast leading the Territorial Army Contingent – but that was all a long story and not relevant to the magazine.

I forgot to mention that there was a commemoration North of Lyon a few weeks ago. A plaque was erected in Cuisery in recognition of a landing in 1943 of an RAF Hudson, far behind enemy lines. Percy

Pickard was the pilot and they had considerable difficulty leaving with Resistance members aboard, having become stuck in the mud. They took off just before dawn. Unfortunately I was not there (not knowing that Pickard was involved) but the Chairman and Standard Bearer from RAFA Lyon did attend as well as members of the Swiss RAFA. I will send a copy of the report to Bill Collard and to you also. This episode of Pickard's career you may not have heard about. Unfortunately I was not at this event, not knowing that PP was involved; However there is a report on page 3 of *'The Roundel'* - the Newsletter of the RAFA Swiss branch. I am not sure why they waited 76 years to put up this plaque.

Robert Kos (G76-82) contacted us with an email address as a result of a letter he received regarding changes to the Framlinghamian in the future.



GERMANY

Very much look forward to hearing from **Kim Dickel (M97-98)** about a 2020 reunion in Germany.

Alexandra Klotz (M00-01) advised at the start of 2019 that she had moved from Petersberg, Germany to Stuttgart, Germany. She was working for Daimler in Sindelfingen and that's why she has moved to Stuttgart.here.

HONG KONG

Jonathan Hancock (S77-86) attended the London Supper in July 2019 and met up with fellow HK resident **Ian Howard (G58-62)**. Jonathan is the son of distinguished OF and England Rugby International **Andy Hancock (S52-57)**. We got his contact details updated on the SOF database.

On returning to HK he was good enough to provide the following summary of the last 33 years "Went to work at Warburg securities in April 1987 and after a secondment to Australia was seconded to Hong Kong in 1991 and continued to work as an Equity Salestrader until May 2017. In 2010 I married Angela and have a daughter, Montana, who is currently studying for her A-Levels in the UK.

I represented HK at international rugby level between 1991 and 1996 and have recently returned to play for URFC at the tender age of 51 after 17 years on the sidelines. I still live in Hong Kong and catch up with Jenkin Leung on occasions.

I am now working with my wife helping others to reignite their lives at their company www.bustarut.net and is also a Board Member at AnimalsAsia Foundation (www.animalsasia.org).

Ian Howard (S58-62) has spent the year moving around the world, including time in Thailand, Nice, Dubai and Sussex, as well as HK.

Jenkin Leung (K79-84) met up with **Richard Weare (G79-82)** for the first time since 1982, but not in Suffolk, not in London but in HK, where they had a brilliant night out. It was a pure coincidence that they were reconnected through some common friends. They tried several times to meet in London as they literally live less than 10 mins from each other but eventually ended up meeting in Hong Kong! He has also just got back in touch with his brother **Andrew (G78-81)** as well!

Moirá Theulier (M91-93) took over the organization of the annual HK Supper and managed to get excellent numbers attending, including UK visitors **David Copeman (K42-49)** and his wife Ann. Moirá was excellent at meeting them at the cruise terminal and showing them around HK, which they were

very grateful for. She then returned them to the ship before they came back into HK for the dinner, which was timed for their arrival in HK. What follows is Moira's supper report which can be found in full on the SOF website.

*The Hong Kong Club,
Central, Hong Kong.*

On 18th February 2019, a number of OF's (living in Hong Kong and visiting!), either met for the first time or were reunited, at the Hong Kong OF Annual Dinner. It was a fabulous evening.

The HK OF's enjoyed a record turnout, seating twenty around one large table, in the Hong Kong Club, Central, HK. See list of attendees at the end.



*Special thanks to **Ian Howard (S57-62)**, who's early kindness and membership at the club, provided us so appropriately, this year's venue for our get together, both at planning stage, whilst the number of attendees grew and whilst we were able to be joined by **David Copeman (K42-49)** and his wife Ann. (Both David and Ann were stopping in Hong Kong as part of a world cruise aboard the 'Queen Mary 2') and in hindsight to that, perhaps no finer venue appropriate to the two great circumstances.*

It was so special to be here on this night too because whilst numbers are now popping at the seams for the ensuing years, we perhaps witnessed a wonderful evening that was both; where Ian Howard had so effectively hosted a few annual dinners in a last years (alongside choosing other wonderful private dining rooms, such as at the China Club etc, also over past years) and to where the first (like a 'premiere' for OF HK Annual Dinners to come!) was enjoyed and will be remember fondly, only to reunite OF's again whilst numbers will grow again to any given space where attendee are aplenty and warm exchange, shared news and plenty of giggles, are shared.

As the evening began with drinks, at 7.30pm in 'The China Room' of the club. The immediate warmth of those either meeting for, the first time or even reuniting, were a plenty and interestingly not easy to differentiate :) The ease and warmth of welcome, amongst all, was a wonderful way in which to start the evening.

Throughout the evening, I was reminded (in such company) of what we certainly enjoyed in our time at the College. I was reminded to; our reflected warmth, care and respect amongst our peers (a wonderfully ideal environment in which to grow). The dinner, with diverse year groups present, seemed then to show more than just the gratitude that we could possibly carry with us since those independent years. By being joined by the various year groups, at such an occasion, there was a wider sense of appreciation to the College's influence as a whole - given the various years and the great characters of all those present.

It was so special, to have also spent a part of the day, with David and Ann Copeman, whilst they stopped in HK - as part of their world tour aboard the Queen Mary 2. and on to Shanghai and so many other wonderful destinations, after Hong Kong. Whilst they were able to join us for dinner (and rather planned to the chosen date as such), their journey to and from their ship turned out to be as easy as expected. So, whilst particularly honoured to have their company, we felt appreciative to learn how reaching out a little can bring the spirit of getting together with other OF's 'home' a bit more and in doing so, appreciate the 'small world' OF's living or tripping around the world, that we perhaps do not so easily recognise, once we live far from the UK.*

The dinner started with, what has become a lovely tradition, 'each person signing every menu. This year, was significantly more taxing than previous occasions (mistakes learnt and all that!) with so many menus losing inner and signed pages, around the table. This was perhaps the evenings unnecessary icebreaker - only serving as a teaching experience for me (as I walked around our table reassigning our pupils' homework) and sympathising with David, to my seated left, who had become too used to electronic ways of typing so that twenty signatures (also needing to be written around a bowl of soup!), was alarmingly challenging and rather too dexterous.



David instead kindly reapplied his honorary status, to kindly make a speech and a lovely one at that. I had said a few words, and then passed onto to David, as our guest in HK and most senior OF present. We did then and on the spot, nominate the youngest OF present, Tze-Hoi Tsang to also say a few words. A few words we got, whilst we laughed to 'Please start.' and tucked into a delicious meal.

It was such an enjoyable evening. It was just after David and Ann has left, to return to their ship and so 'just so happens to be the very gang of OF HK's attending the Annual Dinner 2019 memories made, friendships united and reunited, aspirations to events in the future and, as I had spoken of, ending my welcome to the gang, I had heard once that '...education is something that cannot be taken away from you' for that which we are very fortunate - we thank Fram and even those who enabled us to go to the College. However, my point now is not just recognising that the gift of our education and character is something that we have in common but that, as OF's, its the reunions, the friendships, the events to those, that we stand to the wealth of that and to so many more great times ahead.

*My thanks goes to **John Ting (G02-09)** who now takes over the role, to host the HK OF Annual Dinners. We look forward to the next!*

Those attending were as follows :-

David & Ann	Copeman	K	1942	1949
Ian Ashley	Howard	S	1957	1962
Jenkin Ching-Kei	Leung	K	1979	1984
Moirra Caroline	Theulier	M	1991	1993
Yu Hin John	Ting	G	2002	2009
Cheuk Hei Ian	Tsang	K	2002	2009
Shiu Nam Adrian	Woo	G	2005	2009
Henry Shiu Yuen	Tang	K	2003	2010
Ho Yan Tom	Chan	K	2002	2011
Annie Hiu Lai	Wong	M	2008	2012
Gabriel	Ho	K	2009	2012
Jacky Sin-Lung	Chiang	R	2009	2013
Brian	Chung	K	2009	2013
Ella Chan Yan	Chan	P	2011	2013
Abiel Chung Hay	Li	S	2011	2013
Marvin Wang	Cheung	G	2009	2014
Vanessa Ho Yee	Chan	V	2011	2014
Keith kai-Chun	Chan	K	2012	2014
Matthew	Cheong	S	2012	2014
Tsz Hoi	Tsang	M	2012	2014

David Copeman (K42-49) sent the following report “We were greeted at the ship’s Kowloon terminal on 18 February by **Moirra Theulier**. Indifferent weather was no trouble to Moirra as we sped around some of the Island’s lesser known semi hairpins on a whistle tour of surprisingly wooded countryside. Moirra ventured to suggest that at an earlier age she hankered after being a rally drivers. That we could readily believe but anyway we survived to enjoy lunch with her at a local restaurant and then back to Q.M.2 to prepare for the evening’s entertainment. Entertaining it



most certainly was with **Ian Howard**, our joint host and a long time member of The Hong Kong Club, in top form. The Club, just like it’s twin in Penang, retains that feeling of historic associations and with the Raj but is now of course multi racial as the OF signatures will testify. Around 20 OFs attended the Supper and our thanks go to Moirra and Ian for all their efforts. We departed with reluctance at, to us, a fairly late hour as either the copious wine remnants were being consumed and/or more supplies being ordered. Either way the party was still in full swing and we certainly wanted to remain ship-shape! “

JAPAN

Jonathan Amos (S67-71) was aware of the death of **John Rixon (S65-70)** at the age of 64 on 14th January 2019. John was married for 40 years to Jonathan's sister Sarah. He recalled "Poor old John was a misfit, he hated Fram but he would have hated any other school just the same. I think he hated lots of things. My memories of Fram, as a boarder, are memories of my life from 13 to 17, the two are inextricably linked. All those memories of first girlfriends, The Beatles, sport, exploring the surrounding countryside, cycling, friends etc. are not school but were so closely linked to school that the two together conjure up a glorious youth. But I think John must have hated his youth in general. He only blossomed when he left the shackles of school and was able to live his life as he chose."

Arisa Kikumoto (P09-11) lives in Kobe and provided a new email address.

MADAGASCAR

In what must be a first we heard from **Nicholas Dowling (G73-78)** in Madagascar. He had left his job in Oman and just started a new one as Engineering Manager of a refinery in Madagascar (Ambatovy). He was wondering if there are any OFs in the vicinity (Antananarivo or Taomasina). Sadly there are no others in the vicinity. He provided further details on his role in Madagascar "*This is a nickel-cobalt refinery and attached open-cast mine connected by a 230 km pipeline. Actually I am flying out for Christmas back to the UK since my wife and children are based in Berkshire for the moment. Problem is that Madagascar is in a cyclone - prone region and one is heading this way right now. I am hoping that it doesn't get in the flight path (can't it wait till the new year please?)*"

MALAYSIA

David Copeman (K42-49) and his wife Ann were on the Queen Mary 2 for 94 nights departing Southampton on 10 January 2019. On 10 February they docked in Penang for a memorable if brief visit. Here's his report "*Once ashore greeted by Elana Holland and **Bob Holland (R57-65)** arrived with the car.*

Then a whistle tour around George Town with a visit to Khoo Kongsi – a gated Chinese temple complex recording successive generations of settlers. Bob would doubtless have a more precise explanation. Another highlight was a most enjoyable lunch at his club, The Penang Club [pictured with Elana & Bob standing]. Then bad and good news. My camera "mislaid" – it had, it transpired, fallen down adjacent to the back seat of the car and been overlooked when saying goodbye – the loss only appreciated as we

tendered back to the ship! At that stage I feared the worst, namely, it had fallen out of the car and into the road. Now the good news. An email exchange put my mind at rest. Furthermore we miraculously had a 14 March return visit to Penang in the schedule when said camera, thanks again to Bob, was residing at the Penang Club and duly retrieved!! "



David is going to advise further on their QM2 January 2020 trip “assuming we survive that long!”

Bob Holland (R57-65) had been contacted by me in January as soon as I heard David and Ann were docking in Penang. He replied “We are currently in Hong Kong, but will be back in Penang before the 10th Feb and would be happy to meet David and Ann. (We will be leaving on the 17th Feb for a cruise around NZ)”. I therefore put them in touch with each other to sort out arrangements, which they did. Below is a picture of David and Bob outside the temple at Khoo Kongsi.



NEW ZEALAND

Richard Bearne (K59-62) responded to Chris Shaw’s email following the atrocity in Christchurch. He said *“As has been said so many times, this was not New Zealand! It is not what we are about, it has been devastating to us. The whole country is in mourning for the tragic loss of life, our hearts broken still go out to the victims and their families! It will take time for us to recover however the whole population has come together to condemn racism!”*

Simon Betney (G74-79) also responded to tragedy saying *“It certainly has been a bit of a shocker to say the least. I would say we felt gratefully immune from the atrocities that seem to happen around the world, now we are part of it, and more than saddened by the loss of innocence. We are heart broken for the victims. We can cope with earthquakes and cyclones and anything nature has to throw at us, but find it hard to understand the appalling behaviour of some who belong to the human race. Thank you for your kind words, they have been received with gratitude.”*

Nick Marsden (G72-76) was sad to hear the news of the death of contemporary **Rich Jenkinson** at the age of 62. He went on to say that he hasn’t retired yet, but he is finding the idea increasingly appealing! He has survived about 5 restructures at his institution and they were about to go through another... He is still writing novels and was working on a novel at the time.

David Newson (S54-63) had news in October 2018 that the recent earthquake had not troubled them. David was continuing to enjoy retirement and Frances finishes her job at the end of November 2018. They will then become full time grandparents!

He went on to report that his son George had acquired a yacht which now sits on our section and has become a great play house for the grandchildren. Later that day he was taking it to an inland lake to try it out .

He enjoyed reading my Christmas 2018 email to all overseas OFs.

Finally the **Wizard of NZ (Ian Channell (42-45))** was pleased to receive my Christmas message as well and sent *“Merry Winter Solstice from the upside-down Wizard celebrating the Summer Solstice.”*

NIGERIA

Adetunji Adesina (M79-81) sent Xmas greetings and said it was very kind of me to remember we overseas OF, including many in Nigeria

SOUTH AFRICA

Guy Brooke-Smith (S41-44) sent in a great update in February 2019 as a result of me asking for some advice about places for my eldest daughter and family to visit in South Africa, saying *“When my wife and I retired from Johannesburg in 1995 we moved down to the “ Garden Rout” in the Southern Cape. Perhaps the most beautiful part of South Africa. We bought in Hoekwil, 28 Km from George. In 2008 my wife was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease and moved here 2013. She passed away three years ago now.*

We were unable to cope any longer with our lovely property on 3 plus Hectares and 4 bedroom house – and we did B & B for some years. From the property and veranda we had magnificent views of the Outeniqua Mountain range some 25 km away to the north and the Indian ocean.

In the southwest about 2 km away overlooking the Lakes and Yacht club, of which we were members and I ended up as Commodore! Wonderful sailing and it was in the Wilderness Game reserve – what more could one ask for? Very sadly we had to sell and Andrew and his wife (the eldest) offered us a cottage on their farm here, 10 Km outside Louis Trichardt. It is also a lovely area and we are in the foothills of the Zoutpansberg range in Limpopo, about 90 Km from the Limpopo river and the same from the Kruger National Park - a long way from Cape Town!

However, I am mentioning this to you for your family’s information, as there are far better places than the Cities and Cape Town! Probably look at the Garden Route giving information on B&Bs and hotels in George, Sedgefield, Knysna, Plettenburg Bay, Wilderness etc - a very popular holiday and tourist area – and very beautiful too of course. George is about 420 Km from Cape Town and one can fly or go by road on the N2. We lived in Hoekwil for just over 20 years and attended the Wilderness Anglican Chapel where we were part of the group to look after Anglican priests on holiday with families in Wilderness. Attached to the Chapel was a thatched cottage where the Priests stayed and the condition was to take the Service on Sundays – we had most interesting people from SA, UK, Australia etc , including from Curates to Bishops! I hope this may be of some assistance.”

Mike Bullock (R55-59) told me in January 2019 that he was going into hospital on Wednesday for a knee revision on his right knee (a re-replacement) as his first replacement had not really gone the distance. He had hoped to have had it last year but *“the orthopaedic bod did not want the deadline of our holiday in France hanging over the recovery period. Here is a photo of me in my Fram rugby jersey which I proudly wear when it is cold.”*



He went on to say *“I recall hitting **Dave Larter (R51-57)** for a six on the front at school and meeting him again at The Police Ground in Salisbury/ Harare when an English team were touring Rhodesia. I never got further than the 3rd eleven because of my slogging and impatience!*

Meanwhile I am recovering well from my knee revision. I’m walking without a crutch and have started practising bowls and will probably play a game on Wednesday.”

In September he was involved in the Noye’s Fludde correspondence (see earlier) and sent the following message *“I have read with interest Bill Collard’s insert in the latest digest and especially contact with Bill Payne that has resulted. Please will you send contact details as I would like to write to him [done]. William, as we knew him, used to practice on the organ in the chapel from time to time and sometimes I used to slip in and soak up the music that he played. He knew that I liked Jeremiah Clarke’s Trumpet*

Voluntary and played it for me on many occasions. I remember Bill fondly whenever I hear it played. Wray and I had as part of our wedding service nearly 52 years ago. Keep up the good work and amazing how such "small" things can bring back so many memories, and questions."

James Campbell (M74-82) was very helpful giving advice for my daughter's visit. He recommended people stay at or close to the Waterfront as this is a central place to stay. He tended to choose the apartments and in fact, had just returned from a week at the Canal Quays apartment. My daughter subsequently booked this place for 5 nights.

James went on to give an extensive list of recommendation along the south, many of which my daughter went on to visit, so much appreciated.

Adam Phillips (G78-83) was also really helpful and his wife Fiona was even able to offer accommodation at a couple of lovely properties she owned in Cape Town with view of Table Mountain and in the winelands on a secure golf estate near Franschhoek.

SPAIN

Ian Foster (K46-53) passed on Christmas wishes and said that all expat OFs always appreciated hearing from me around the world.

Raphael Marcos (G12-13) provided an up to date email and postal address and said that he had fond memories of his time at the College. Hopefully he will provide an update for a future OB.

Lourdes Rodríguez (P92-93) also provided an up to date email and postal address in Madrid.

THAILAND

Terry Chintaganond (R93-98) was in touch in April 2019 with a new email address. I put him in touch with **Michael Regan (M77-79)** who will be pleased to have another OF on email in Thailand. Terry provided the following update since leaving the College *"I was at Rendlesham House through year 9 to Sixth form. My housemates were **Edward Plumbly (R93-98)**, **Oliver Hill (R93-98)**, **Harry Mitchell (R90-98)**, **Mike Coker (R90-98)** etc..."*

After Framlingham, I graduated from Oxford Brookes with BSc Business Administration & Computing with honours and then I post graduated from Royal Holloway University of London with MSc Business Information System with honours.

*At first there were quite a few people that stayed in touch but until today I'm afraid there are not anyone that I regularly get in touch with. There is **Gareth Morris (K90-98)** (in China) that we occasionally communicate through WeChat."*

Michael Regan (M77-79) got in touch with Terry but I don't know whether they have managed to meet up yet.

UAE

Toby Hockley (G91-98) and **Guy Robinson (R98-99)** both responded to an email from me about **David Copeman (K42-49)** calling in at Dubai during his world cruise and both said that they had moved back to the UK, so we got their address details updated.

USA

Jules Arthur (K75-84) has been active on Facebook throughout the year travelling all over the world.

Graham Belcher (R55-62) responded to my Christmas message to all OFs overseas. He went on to say "I have from time-to-time wanted to arrange a USA OF dinner, but last time I enquired there were very few people who lived near me. Perhaps times have changed. Please would you send me a list of any OFs who may live in or near New York City. I live in New Jersey about an hour west of NYC so a gathering of anyone who lives in that state or NYC itself might be possible attendees."

I thanked him for getting in touch and for offering to try and organise an OF dinner in his part of USA. There are 20 in the broad area of NY and surrounding states but we only have email addresses for 11. Fingers crossed he will try some time to organise something.

Andy Bevan (K93-98) has moved up to Washington DC and should be there for a couple of years. He was also interested in whether any OF's were in the area. His move to Washington was prompted by getting married last year and his wife is a Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard (active duty) and has been deployed to DC for 2 years to work at National Guard HQ.

I responded that we don't have any OFs actually in Washington DC but we do have OFs in the surrounding states and when we last visited I met up with **Michael Blake (K72-76)** who lives very nearby in Falls Church, Virginia.

Desmond Bishop (R72-77) thanked me for the Christmas message 2018.

Rosie Bullen (M06-11) as you will read elsewhere in the magazine is currently in her second year at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music in New York and the SOF have in a small way helped her financially to be able to study there. In July 2019 she happened to be in London at the time of the OF London Supper and came along and sang for us.

Anthony Cowan (59-64) responded to the 2019 Annual Dinner invite saying *"I would love to attend a SOF Annual Dinner in the future, and have you set the date for 2020, at this point of time? At present, my wife and I divide our time between Seattle in Washington State, and Le Marche, Italy, and often set up our Flight Schedules way into the future! I have not visited Framlingham or the College in a long, long, time."*

Simon responded saying that the Annual Dinner 2020 will be held in London on Saturday 28 March 2020 and is likely to be at the RAF Club. Anthony responded saying "Many moons ago, I used to play Squash at the RAF Club. On one occasion, anticipating my friends shot, I ran into his backswing and ended up in the Moorfield Eye Hospital!!

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) responded to my Christmas message with the following update *"Warmest greetings from across the pond. So nice to hear from you. I have been wondering how your trip out west went in the summer. Sounded like one you wouldn't want to end."*

After a long humid summer here in N.C., we enjoyed a quiet restful two weeks in Bermuda, going at our own pace, and enjoying the sites and local folk. The hotel where we stayed was superb in all respects and the weather was unusually dry and sunny for November.

Now Christmas is almost upon us, with its usual hustle and bustle and emphasis on the material aspects of the season. This generation it seems has to do everything at a double quick pace. Maybe it's me who needs to speed up a little!!!

At the moment our government is partially shut down, thanks to this hopeless individual we have as a President. I feel very sad for my adopted country and only hope some wiser heads will prevail in the months ahead. I hope this year brings a sound and satisfactory solution to the Brexit dilemma.

I look forward to receiving my copy of the school magazine in the new year. The news letters are always welcome and provide much interesting information on the accomplishments of many of the students and alumni.

Time for the old man to go! Take care of yourself, have a wonderful warm family Christmas and many blessings to you and the family for the New Year."

Peter Macfarlane (Z73-81) in 2018 completed an epic canoeing adventure and in 2019 he embarked on giving some slideshow presentations in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Alfred Molson (K38-43) was for many years a regular contributor to these pages largely through lengthy and regular phone calls to me as OB Editor and to Richard Rowe my predecessor in the role. It was therefore with much sadness that I received news from his son Alan that Alfred had passed away on 31 March 2019 at his home in Houston, Texas, USA. Alfred was born on 26 February 1926 and died at the age of 93.

I only met Alfred once, despite tens of phone calls over the years, and this was in 2014 on Houston Railway Station when our train stopped there briefly. Alfred wasn't keen on this photograph but it seems appropriate to now include.



Bryan Pearson (S45-47) in early 2019 was in touch to say that the little restaurant he took Eryl and I to when we visited Hawaii in October 2018, was on the verge of losing their lease and having to close after nearly 60 years. However the good news was that the lease was renewed and they are safe for many years to come. It was quite a quirky décor in the restaurant as this photo demonstrates.



He went on to say "I am fascinated by all the fuss about **Ed Sheeran (BH96-02)** and his meteoric rise to stardom. Is he really that fabulous and how did he go from a Framlingham College leaver to an international star at such a young age, eclipsing my achievements in the West End 69 years ago??!"

Trust all is well with you. Celestine and I will be coming over in September for 10 days to visit our daughter and family at Mildenhall AFB then, in October, cruising on the Grand Princess for 10 nights to celebrate our 50 years together. Mexican coast so hope the hurricane season will spare us !" Sadly Bryan decided subsequently that the trip over to the UK was too much.

As you will have read earlier this meant that they would be around when **John & Ruth Gates (S44-48)** docked in Hawaii and therefore plans were put in place for Bryan to meet them off the ship 72 years after being at Fram together. Sadly a couple of days before Bryan received the following message from John *"Very, very sorry, have gone down with a bad cold, stayed in bed all day yesterday. Hence could not sleep last night. Still feel under the weather. Do not want it to get worse, colds always seem to go to my chest, have commenced anti biotics. I regret that it would be wise to cancel meeting up, I just feel at this stage I would not be able to walk a 100 yards. Both Ruth and myself were really looking forward to meeting you both, but afraid not possible."*

Frank Rahman (S81-83) got in touch in September 2019 via email having previously been out of touch with the SOF/College. He was interested in getting involved with OFs in the New York/New Jersey area. He said *"I left for my Undergraduate Studies in Boston University USA. I completed my Graduate Executive MBA at Babson College. Since then I reside in the USA having worked 14 yrs on Wall Street. I remember my days at Framlingham College with fond memories."*

Andy Roberts (G73-79) had just got the newsletter and it reminded him to give you an update. *"Both Kirk Adams (S70-80) and Andrew Stroud (M70-80) have been in touch with me. Andrew reminded me of the long hours we spent fishing when he was staying with us - on one occasion we got home and told my mum that we had caught a fish that nobody had ever seen before and the natural history museum wanted it. We got away with that story for quite a few weeks until they didn't call! Also I am now a grandfather twice - AJ just turned 2 and got a motorcycle for his birthday - I used to race and his mother has 8 brothers and they all race so you could call it genetics. My granddaughter Salem was born 6 weeks ago so no motorcycle yet!"*

Richard Rowe (S65-74) my predecessor in this role and direct contemporary at Fram, is always traveling around the world on business. As an example he sent me this amazing itinerary in April 2019 :

April 2019 - Rome and Med cruise
May 2019 – Houston, Brazil, Colorado, Panama
June 2019 - Caribbean cruise, Israel & Jordan, Cape Cod
July 2019 - China
August 2019 - India
September 2019 – Portugal, Israel, Tunisia
October 2019 - Brazil
November 2019 - China

In June 2019, while in Israel & Jordan he was sad to hear of the death of Hon OF Ruby Graham saying *"Definitely a wonderful and kind hearted lady. I certainly remember the occasional glass of sherry before dinner in her room by the dining hall, or partnering her at bridge on a club evening. Very sad but great memories. "*

Ian Seeley (S58-65) is included for the last time and he is usually the very last entry in each Overseas Bag, but funnily enough not this time. In February 2019 he notified us that he had moved back to Devon in the UK from Bethel Connecticut in the USA. He wrote *"We're in the South Hams in Kingston and its beautiful. Member of local Historical Society and enjoying the warmth. It is -17 back home in USA I hear. My house in CT is being refurbished. We came over on the QE2 with our dog Bozley who turned 15 this week."* We look forward to hearing where Ian is going to permanently settle.

Ivor Telford (K79-81) completes our entries for this year by providing an address in California and a current email address.