

SOF Annual Dinner

Wow – this will take some beating!

March 25th 2006. After a long absence, Old Framlinghamians returned to the East India Club for their Annual Dinner following the AGM. It was a sell-out with 120 members and guests attending. This was a 'full house' and in spite of the large capacity, we had to run a stand-by list. A number of OF's were disappointed so next year, the same venue, get your applications in early!

Pre-dinner drinks were served in the Smoking Room overlooking St James's Square followed by a three course dinner. Food and wines were excellent - which might have led to the odd murmur of support during the short speeches that followed. The Head was allowed a break (it was end of term) so Andrew Fane, Chairman of the Governors reported on the successes of the College over the past year. The Society's President – Andrew Wright – responded and then manfully oversaw the raffle in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital and the SOFs. Our grateful thanks to those OFs who most generously contributed hundreds of pounds worth of wallet-opening prizes.

Guests included the Head and her husband David Randall, Andrew and Clare Fane, the Head Boy and Girl Ben Mark and Rosemary Lawrence, Julie Atkins, John and Diane Kelsall, David and Louise Boatman, Clive and Jan Norton and Tony Lawrence.

It was a happy affair with members and guests sitting at tables of ten and obviously having a good time – not least as the College had organised a coach back to Suffolk that evening! Equally, at least three tables were organised by 'younger' OFs – well, at least under thirty – so there was a great mix and a lot of reunions.

Next year's dinner will be at the Club on March 24th 2007. I will be contacting OFs by letter and email. Do book early and join us for another great evening. (Contact details p70.)

Michael Holden





RECENT SUPPERS

continued

Essex Supper

The Warren Golf Club, 21 April 2006



ABOVE L-R: JOHN RANKIN, NIGEL WOOLNOUGH (BRANDESTON MASTER), PAULA WOOLNOUGH, ANDREW WRIGHT, JOHN DURHAM (OWNER OF THE WARREN)

The Essex Supper was moved to the above venue this year after having been held for many years at Rivenhall. The Warren is owned by **John Durham**, (K 46-49) and both he and his Staff made us most welcome. 45 OFs and guests booked in on the night. We were welcomed by the Durhams' peacocks and yes, the venue was first class and the atmosphere convivial. The richly beamed dining room, hung with hunting trophies brought back memories of the old College museum! It is also possible for OFs to play a round of golf beforehand. It is hoped that more may take advantage of this option and play next year.

Nigel Woolnough, The Master of Brandeston Hall and Paula Woolnough were welcomed by our President, Andrew Wright, who proposed the health of Brandeston and the College.

Nigel Woolnough then replied and told us about his background and career. He has taken the reins at Brandeston with obvious relish and his enthusiasm showed through as he told us of future plans. He clearly had his mind round the job and his heart in it. He was thoroughly enjoying his tenure at this rural Suffolk school. Having heard, that evening, so many childhood stories of dens, dams and swimming in the Deben, he had an even better understanding of why Brandeston occupied such a special

place in the hearts of its former pupils. He spoke very poignantly of Brandeston's origin as a living war memorial. The Memorial tablet had been moved to a position of prominence in the Hall, and it was planned to have an English translation from the Latin beside it for all to see. This is something which the writer, for one, would have welcomed when he was a pupil at Brandeston.

Next year the Essex supper will again be held at The Warren Golf Club on Friday 20 April 2007. If you enjoyed it this year please tell others and try to come, particularly if you live locally.

John Rankin

Those attending: A G Wright, President; Nigel Woolnough, Master, Brandeston; Mrs Paula Woolnough; N H Porter; P C Howard-Dobson; J F Capps; Mrs M Capps; A J Prentice; C R Milner-Moore; D A Carr; M R K Holden; N G Mayhew; D F Wright; Mrs B Wright; D B Mead; Mrs A Mead; C R Essex; John Durham; David Mallett; Air Vice Marshal S Dougherty; R J Blythe; F R Wolton; Guest of F R Wolton; R J Overend; K E Handley; R L Archer; Mrs C Archer; J A Waugh; P J Golding; M D Smy; Barry Lorkin; D E Mason; G A Duce; Mrs K Duce; Brian Evans; Roger Last; C A Bellamy; P M Liell; R J Nice; Mrs AJ Rankin; J G Rankin.

Newmarket Supper



The Newmarket Supper was held at The Rutland Arms Hotel on Friday the 5th of May. Thirty three members attended together with some wives and were presided over by our President Andrew Wright. Many reminiscences of life at Fram were exchanged and friendships renewed. It was good to welcome new faces and we hope for even more new faces next year.

News of The Society and College was well received by those attending:

Andrew Wright and Margaret, Roger Last, Tony Martin, John Waugh and Sue, Norman Porter and Virginia, Peter Jolly, Rob McLean, Norman Mayhew, Brian Smith, Ruth Elwood, Mike Holden, David Hodge and Gillian, John Raynham and Sheila, Jim Blythe, Chris Bellamy, Michael Smy, Robin Kiddle and Jessie, John Gooderham, Andrew Gooderham, Paul Gooderham, Roland Nice and his wife, Nick Ward, John Rankin, Andrew Golding, Peter Golding and Jan.

Peter Golding

Suffolk Supper

October 1st 2005 (but too late for 2005 Yearbook)

This was promoted as a special opportunity for OFs to say thank you to **Howard (Zowie) Robinson** (Hon OF), who had retired from full time teaching at the College, having spent 25 years there, mostly as Head of Biology, 2 ic Science, but with much extra-curricular activity as well, including most notably his Barbers Shop singing groups. The 2004 Annual Dinner was interspersed by offerings from his singers. This time, Howard gathered together six singers from the past (**Andrew Robinson** – baritone; **Robert Baker** and **Tim Church** – Lead tenors, **Richard Perry** baritone, and **Andrew Cronin** – bass) and this group made light of having had but an hour to rehearse and offered diners rich entertainment. Almost exactly 100 OFs and guests were present, from across the generations, many of the younger ones intent on paying their tributes to an outstanding biology teacher.

At the end of the meal, **Andrew Wright**, (President) updated those present on the affairs of the Society and then handed over to **Norman Porter** (Hon General Secretary) to make a presentation to Howard on behalf on the Society. Norman recalled how Howard had seen five whole generations through the College, devoting the prime of his professional life to one lucky school, and how his biology students remembered him as an outstanding teacher. There were attempts to unravel the origins of the nickname. Norman concluded by saying that the achievements of teachers are not left behind in brick walls, they are left behind in the hearts and minds of young people

who go out into the world, spreading out the legacy of those who have taught them.

Howard, in reply, paid tribute to the College and to his pupils. The combination was producing excellent results. In the course of his 25 years he had attempted to award some three and a half million marks: yes, marking was tedious, but lightened by some of the funny things written by students:

"When you breathe you inspire, when you do not breathe you expire."

"Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull."

"How long does menstruation last? About 60 years, until you stop producing eggs."

"Out in the desert animals either live or die; there is no in-between."

"A fossil is an extinct animal... the older it is, the more extinct it is."

"A remedy for asphyxiation is to apply artificial respiration until the person is dead."

He thanked the Society for having arranged an excellent evening, and looked forward to retiring – reading, gardening, travelling, visiting children, grandchildren – eventually. For the time being, he had to return to the College to stand in for his successor, who was due to give birth in November. At least she must have read up to page 382 in the Biology book!

The Head, **Gwen Randall** wound up proceedings by giving the view from the College. With typical rhetorical aplomb she debunked the reports which had given rise to much bad, but utterly unwarranted publicity, and countered that with glowing references to the Summer's outstanding exam results and the excellent start to the games season. The rugby team was looking very special. And the College shooters had narrowly beaten an outstanding OF shooting team, still flushed from its best season ever, and with a wealth of trophies, on display at the supper.

There was much lingering, a fond recalling of memories, and a strong sense that this was a recipe to be repeated. Our thanks to John Gooderham for organising it, and to the website for the additional publicity.

Norman Porter

West of England Supper



After a break of around 14 years, a West of England Supper was held at the Lamb Inn at Hindon on Saturday 13th May 2006. The Lamb Inn has been a public house since the 12th century and the dining room was a lovely setting for our 3-course meal, which was chosen on the evening.

With probably the widest geographical spread of any UK-based supper, prospective OFs were invited from Cornwall across to Hampshire and Gloucestershire down to Dorset. In total 160 OFs were contacted (some up to 4 times!), of which 10 attended and an encouraging further 60 replied saying that unfortunately they

particularly pleasing to have **Bryan Shelley** and his wife **Diana** present. Bryan had previously organised the supper for a number of years, when he owned the Rose & Crown in Hinton Charterhouse. Also worthy of a special mention for attending are **John Rankin** and his wife **Angela**. Despite living near Harwich in Essex, they had made the long journey across.

One of those who couldn't attend this time was **Eric Jennings** (36-44). A contemporary of Bryan's, he couldn't attend because it was his 80th birthday that weekend and had a big family event planned. We all raised a glass to wish Eric a happy 80th birthday.



The President gave an update on OF and College events, followed by a toast to the College and to HM Queen to mark her 80th birthday in 2006. After further coffee and drink we all made our way off around midnight, with the lucky ones only needing to climb upstairs!

couldn't attend this time but wished to be invited again next time. We were also delighted to be accompanied by 7 wives, making a total of 17 in all.

In addition to the President and his wife, who had travelled hot-foot from the OF Golf in Sussex the same afternoon, it was

Those present were: Colin Bates (58–66), Mr and Mrs Charles Carter (63–69), Robert Currie (48–52), Mr and Mrs Chris Essex, Organiser (69–75), Mr and Mrs Nigel Hyde (55–60), Mr and Mrs Peter Lockwood (60–65), Mr and Mrs John Rankin (47–56), Mr and Mrs Bryan Shelley (39–44), Rodney Walker (44–48) and Mr and Mrs Andrew Wright, President (48–57).

Chris Essex

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London Suppers

We have two London Suppers a year, following on our Council Meetings in July and January (February next year) at the Farmers Club in Whitehall Court.

These are splendid occasions, enthusiastically organised by Richard Sayer, and almost invariably attracting back faces from a familiar past but not so familiar present. Former members of Stradbroke, whipped up into a glorious frenzy by Richard playing

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the ebullient host, are sometimes in the majority – but don't let that put you off – and the Dining Room is almost invariably full to its capacity of 40.

For those of you who work in London and prefer to take the train home after a sociable evening, (a 7.30 sit-down means that supper is finished by 10pm) this is a perfect recipe for meeting up with old friends and for catching up with the affairs of the Society and of the College.

If you haven't already done so, give it a try – young and old. For younger members there is still plenty of time after the Supper to get out on the town. Richard's contact details are on p70.

Amongst those attending this last year, including various newcomers, returnees, globetrotters, long-distance travellers, members of the old College Jazz Band, shooters etc – all welcomed by their genial host – were: Messrs Barringer, Benson, Bloomfield, Blythe, Booth, Burnip, Carr, Collard, Coomber bros, Corner, Ellerby, Essex, Fayers, Ian Foster from Mallorca, ex-Pres John Gooderham, Halahan, Hall,

Handley, Henderson, Holden, Peter Howard-Dobson, Jacob, Last, Lee, Liell, Marriott, Ian Marsh, Mason, Metcalf, Mitchell, Stuart Munro (ex-Aussie), ex-Pres Overend, Podd, Secretary Porter, Rankin, Ruddock-Broyd, Russell-Fish, Sayer, Smith bros, Stapleton, Stevens, Tong, Turnbull, Wade, Waller, President Wright, plus distinguished senior College figures Payn, Chaplin and Head Gwen Randall.

Dates for 2007: Monday 5th February and Tuesday July 10th.

Northern Gathering

For the second year running this was held at the Otley home of Douglas and Dorothy Thomson. Douglas had (almost) single-handedly erected his marquee, and he and Dorothy provided the main ingredients for an extended lunch-time, launched in glasses of Pimms and concluded with tea and cake. The temperature never looked like matching last year's mid-eighties, and the breeze swirled around the loose canvas, but activity within was convivial.

The company included John Vincent (R49-54), David Allen (51-56), Jim Butchart (51-60), John Nickolds (59-64), Norman Porter (K50-57), Douglas Thomson (K53-61), and his brother Michael Thomson (K51-59), together with wives.

This was another generously hosted occasion, so thanks to the Thomsons for all their hard work and hospitality. Douglas is hoping to make the Northern event peripatetic, perhaps taking his marquee across to Cheshire next year, if a suitable garden and willing host can be found. A gathering in Scotland is being considered for 2008.

BELOW: OFs AT THE NORTHERN GATHERING



Golf

This has been another busy year for OF golfers. The **Team results** were as follows:

- March 25th: match v. Aldeburgh, lost 6/4
- April 6th: Halford Hewitt, first round, lost 3/2 to Wrekin
- May 13th: Grafton Morrish, didn't qualify. (Got 69, needed 81)
- June 22nd: Cyril Gray, lost to Eastbourne in R1
- June 23rd: Cyril Gray, reached Semi-Final of the Plate, beating Brighton 2 1/2 to 1/2. Blundells 2/1 but losing 2/1 to Kings Canterbury.

For these matches, the Team was captained by Richard Cullinan and the following played: Richard Graves, Mathew Stolls, Peter White, Peter Watts, Robin Anderton, Martin Lamb, Guy Jenkinson, Norman Mayhew, Mike Schneidau, Andrew Towler, Gavin Cowell, Alex Cameron, Charles Plunkett, Michael Spencer and Richard Cullinan.

On June 19th, the annual friendly match between the OFGS and the Old Ipswichians was played at Woodbridge and the OFs won 5/1. It was a most enjoyable day and our thanks to Norman Porter for organising the fixture. The series now stands at 2-2.

The Spring Meeting of the OFGS was held again at Stowmarket on May 18th, followed by the AGM, and 22 OFs played in fine spring weather.

The Autumn Meeting took place at Aldeburgh on September 15th with 24 OFs playing and we had an excellent day. Trophies this year have been won as follows:

The Captain's Prize (May): Peter Howard-Dobson
The Minter Cup (May): Richard Cullinan
The Coronation Cup (Sept): Michael Spencer
The Le May Cup (Sept): John Wybar
The Lamb Trophy (Sept): Michael Spencer
The Howard-Smith Cup (Sept): Andrew Wright

Sadly, no match was possible this year against the College Team, but we hope this will change in 2007. John Wybar, hcp 3, is a very good young golfer who left Fram in July and hopefully will represent the OFs in the future. (You will recall his sister Kirsty was last year's Cambridge University Captain, responsible for their remarkable Varsity match victory). This year, now aged 16, Patrick Spragg has been playing for