

The Framlingham Yearbook was re-established not only to inform contemporaries, students, parents and former students of the events of the year just past, but also to ensure that successive years are chronicled and that the unique history of the College and Brandeston, together with the exploits of those who pass through those schools, is accumulated and made available to generations to come.

As your General Secretary and Editor it has been a privilege to have had my curiosity aroused by the many extraordinary people, achievements and incidents which have been interspersed amidst the history of those years. Of course, there have been good times and there have been bad times. There have been achievements of which we can be collectively proud and there have been moments of uncertainty. On today's evidence though, both schools have emerged stronger from the vicissitudes of fortune. In that respect schools are like life itself, even though they are so much more than the sum of individuals who pass through them.

So this year's theme is history. In an age of increasing uniformity, often imposed from without, the distinctive character of a school resides in its history. That is unique to the school concerned and is something to be celebrated. Most of us are swept along by everyday life. Certainly those at school have little time to reflect on the heritage that they enjoy. Even those for whom schooldays are an exercise in selective nostalgia pause only occasionally to ponder upon the historical uniqueness of the places where they were educated. So what has led your editor, a linguist by training and conviction, to use this editorial to focus on the history of the College and of Brandeston and to impress its importance on to our readers?

Firstly the discovery of the list of the names of Suffolk people whose donations helped to set up the College in the mid-1860s. There are close on 1000 names on that list. How were they all so moved by the death of Prince Albert to subscribe with



TREASURE HOUSES OF HISTORY – JOHN BOOTH'S FIRST 60 YEARS, BOB GILLETT'S SECOND 60 YEARS, AND THE 'GREEN' BOOK (ONLY UP TO 1968)

such generosity and in such great numbers?

Secondly, the fascination of genealogical research undertaken in response to inquiries from OFs and non OFs trying to build up family histories. John Booth's 'Green Book', cataloguing the exploits of Framlinghamians through to 1968 is an invaluable source of information.

A re-reading of John Booth's history, The First 60 Years, and a better knowledge of the extraordinary exploits of early generations of Framlinghamians, including those who served in the First World War, together with the recent setting up of the Framlingham VC case in the Imperial War Museum and Chris Essex's Website feature about Distinguished Framlinghamians have combined to stimulate interest in those early years.

Finally, celebrating current events, we have the imminent celebration of Brandeston's sixtieth birthday, and the writing of the history of those years, together with the 30th anniversary of the arrival of girls at our two schools.

We have histories, reference books, registers, memorials, – a rich historical resource, and one which kindles both pride in the past and determination not to let these traditions lapse, but to commemorate, celebrate and carry on recording present times.

For our generation it is a privilege to have access to material carefully recorded by previous generations. It is our responsibility to ensure that generations to come have the same sort of historical

treasure chest to dip into, with records of individual and collective endeavour. The Yearbooks, when preserved in bound volumes, such as our predecessors bequeathed to us, will do part of the job. The new electronic Green Book (See Website Report) will provide records for future research, but only if individuals make it a matter of pride to ensure that our data base is complete. That is why we urge all those whose school achievements and records go back to the 1960s to visit the website and ensure that their individual records are filled in. This is your opportunity to achieve self-perpetuation! In this respect it would be a grievous loss if we lost all track of the missing hundreds, those who in recent years did not join the Society.

Joining is no longer a problem, since the College now pays the SOF subscriptions of all qualifying leavers. If you know of any OFs who are not members of the Society, do please urge them to consider joining. £99 ensures membership of the Society for life, and delivery of publications for 20 years, as well as access to the website. Otherwise records of the schooldays of these 'OFs' in theory but not in practice will be lost to posterity.

So let us collectively ensure that we hand down to future generations a rich archive of information, worthy of our heritage. Ancestry research has become a fascination to many. Each and every one of us is history in the making. Ensure that it is recorded.

*Norman Porter, Editor*