

✚ In the late 1970s we were regularly being asked by the media and television companies about the history of police use of firearms and I found that there was very little on it in books. I started to research the subject and this resulted in London's Armed Police which was published by Arms and Armour Press in 1986. This traced the subject back to 1829 when the Met was first formed. Since then I have given talks to historical societies and other groups that express an interest.

In 1987 as a Chief Inspector I became the Met's chief firearms instructor and as a result I sat on several national committees which drew up police firearms policy. I became a Superintendent in 1992 and was appointed head of police firearms operations carried out by the teams and the armed response vehicles in London.

In 1994 I was promoted to Chief Superintendent and appointed i/c the Met's Firearms Unit in its totality. This included all operations and training and (aside from that of the Commissioner) this is recognised as being one of the most high profile jobs in the Met. It certainly kept me awake many a night. In 1999 I was awarded the Queens Police Medal for Distinguished Police Service by Her Majesty the Queen in the Birthday Honours List. I retired from the Police Service in March 2000. During my time with the Firearms Unit I saw it grow from just 16 officers when I joined, to a strength of over 350 when I left.

Since then I have acted as an Independent Consultant with appointments which include:

- Providing expert witness evidence for legal proceedings.
- Being the project consultant on a revised National Police Use of Firearms Tactical Manual.
- Co-author of the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum.
- An Expert Mission on Use of Police Firearms as a part of the Strategic Police Sector Assessment Project – Kyrgyzstan – on behalf of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)."

An impressively authoritative basis on which to write his Armed Police: The Police use of Firearms Since 1945.

SOF Annual Dinner, March 24th 2007 – another sell out!

The Society again held its Annual Dinner at the East India and Public Schools Club and, again, it was oversubscribed.

120 Old Framlinghamians and their guests met up for drinks and a chat and then moved to the dining room for a splendid dinner. Following this, our newly elected President, Brian Smith, made a speech welcoming our guests and introducing the Head, Gwen Randall. Other guests included the Master of Brandeston and his wife and two Senior Prefects.

The Head outlined some of the College's recent achievements and thanked the Society for its continuing support and hospitality.

After dinner, we were able to have a further chat with old friends before setting off for home.

OFs confirmed that they welcomed the return of the Dinner to the East India Club; most agreed that the Club is well located for such a function and that the meal was excellent and reasonably priced. In particular, the Dinner at the Club is obviously attractive to younger OFs of both sexes who this year attended in even greater numbers.

Here's to 2008!

Michael Holden

Essex Supper, April 20th 2007

This was held for the second successive year at The Warren Golf Club, Woodham Walter, near Chelmsford.

Golf is available for those who wish to play and some thoroughly enjoyed a game on this splendid course on a perfect late April day. It is hoped that more OFs will join in next year.

Some wives/partners came and there was a room set aside where tea was provided and drinks available for those not attending meetings.

30 guests, including our President, Brian Smith, and his wife Valerie, attended the Supper after the Council Meeting which had been held in the afternoon.

Brian and Nick Chaplin were both succinct and entertaining in their speeches, and brought us up to date with Society, College and Brandeston news. It was a good evening.

Next year the Essex Supper will be held on Friday April 18, again at The Warren.

Those attending; Brian Smith and Valerie, Nick Chaplin, Peter Howard-Dobson, John Slade and Brenda, Harold Slade and Janet, Douglas Thomson and Dorothy, Chris Essex and Eryl, Brian Evans, Norman Mayhew, Jim Blythe, David Mason, Bill Collard, David Turnbull, John Durham, David Carr, John Waugh, John Gooderham, Gary Duce and Karen, David Mallett, Michael Smy, Chris Bellamy, James Brocks, Roger Last, John Rankin.



NORMAN PORTER SURROUNDED BY A GROUP OF YOUNGER OFs AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

Newmarket Supper, 4th May 2007

Another successful Supper was held at The Rutland Arms Hotel on Friday the 4th of May 2007. Thirty one members and guests attended and in the absence of our President, Brian Smith, Norman Porter took the chair and gave us a brief résumé of College and Society affairs. Unfortunately, the College's representative was, at the last minute, unable to attend. However, this did at least give members more time to reminisce amongst themselves.

Those attending were: Jon Ford, Norman Porter, James Ruddock Broyd and Christine, Roger Last, Michael Holden, Tony Martin, Jim Blythe, Peter Jolly, David Hodge and Gillian, John and Sue Waugh Norman Mayhew, Chris Bellamy, John Thurlow and Peggy, Andrew Gooderham and Pat, John Gooderham and Ella, Paul Gooderham, Chris Ward, Andrew Glaister, Robin Kiddle and Jessie, John Kiddle, Michael Smy, Bob Clayton, Peter Golding and Jan.



Special Suffolk Supper, September 22nd 2007

The Suffolk Supper on Saturday September 22nd became a celebration of 30 years of girls at the College and at Brandeston. Not only was a special reception and menu laid on for the evening, but the afternoon offered Tea on the Terrace and Tours at Brandeston and further Tours at the College. The girls flocked back, many for the first time in years. For probably the first time in history, the girls outnumbered the boys at an OF gathering. The dining room was full, with 150 diners somehow fitted in.

Before the meal, guests gathered in Paul's Court for a Cava reception, to the somewhat drowned-out strains of music played by current students. Once guests were seated, they were treated to four numbers from the Musicals by two Theatre Vocals groups. These girls performed with real polish and verve. Canon David Pitcher delivered a Grace appropriate to the occasion and a packed dining hall settled down to an excellent meal provided by Director of Catering, John Betham and his staff.

The two speeches were very much keyed in to the occasion. President Brian Smith looked back on the 30 years and welcomed back some of the principle figures from those times – Ann Nesling,



one of the first Housemistresses, **Pam Rogers**, responsible for getting girls' sport going, **Carol Kirkup** (née Machen), one of the original 3 girls, **Sophia van den Arend**, representing the Lady Governors, **John Maulden**, given housemastering responsibility for the first girls, and current house mistresses, **Ruth Noble**, **Helen Myers-Allen** and **Kate Tipton**. Then there was **Ruth Elwood**, for so long a loyal member of Council, and sole Lady Vice President, and, of course, **Gwen Randall**, the Head, and, indeed, the first female Head of an HMC school. The President introduced those who would be providing the entertainment in "Words and Music"



later in the evening, thanking **Robert Goodrich**, Director of Music, the man central to the musical performances of the evening, and **Tony Lawrence**, not only Master of Ceremonies on the night, but also responsible for nurturing so much theatrical talent over the years. It not being right that the girls should entirely monopolise his speech, the President also applauded contributions to the Society by **Tony Martin** and **Chris Essex**, and by the editorial and design team responsible for the Yearbook: **Chris Keeble**, **Andrew Payn** and **Norman Porter**. He drew attention to initiatives with the digital Register of OFs and to the developing careers networking

- ❖ service, and applauded the shooters for their magnificent efforts over the season, and for their help to College shooters.

The Head, in response, concentrated on the enormous contribution made by her predecessor, **Laurie Rimmer**, to the introduction of girls. Brandishing a large portrait of Laurie, she described how his original reaction to the idea of girls in the school had been "over my dead body". But so impressed had he been with the qualities of young female interviewees and Wrens on naval interview boards, that he did a complete U turn and became determined that those qualities should be given a chance to flourish in *his* school. And flourish they did. He championed the idea at all levels and with the help of enthusiastic governors pushed through the changes necessary. The College owed him a great debt for his vision of what could be possible, and for his enthusiastic urging of the cause.

We include below brief profiles of the performers who held the stage after the speeches:

Imogen Slaughter (V 92-94) has appeared on television and in theatres in such works as *Look Back in Anger*; in the title role of Elizabeth in the 4 part series on Channel 4, as well as so much more we could mention, and more recently as Juliet Fleming in the TV series, *Doctors*.

Jane Sims (P 83-88) has for the last two years directed and produced for The Romany Theatre Company – and starting in January, she's working with the Common Ground Theatre Company on a new musical theatre piece called 'Gallows Song'. Jane is also a communication skills expert and now runs a training company with her husband, Stefan.

Starring opposite Jane, a College Lady Macbeth of some moons ago, we had **Charlie Mackrill** (G 04-), brother of Abigail, one of our first Moreau Scholars. Charlie is in his last year at the College and is playing Macbeth in this term's production of the play. The past and the present met in a powerful scene pitting the ambition of Lady Macbeth against the hesitancy of her husband. As we all know, Lady Macbeth prevailed and Charlie had an acting experience to remember!

Christina Johnston (V 01-06) who is midway through her first year at Guildhall, was chosen to be in The Young Guns of London, a music agency for a limited number of students from the Academies. She has sung at various venues around London and, as she puts it, to fill in time is learning 3 languages and perfecting her dancing.

Chantal Clelland (M 98-04), who is currently studying at the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, recently sang at the St Mary-le-Tower Concerts in Ipswich, with Christina Johnston and Laura Wright under the title of The Three Sopranos, in a lunchtime programme of solos, duets and trios with Rob Goodrich at the organ and piano.

And finally, someone who is still at the College, preparing for her A levels and playing a full part in the life of the school. We refer, of course, to **Laura Wright** (M 02-), who is currently Head Girl and whose recording 'All Angels' was nominated for 'Best Album' at the Classical Brit Awards and which became the most downloaded CD of 2006. Her extraordinary achievements have already been well documented in our publications, so it was a real bonus that she had no external commitments on this day, and was able to join our other talented performers.

The performances would have been diminished without the splendid bass playing of **Clive Norton** (Hon OF).

The word on many lips was "stunning". Talent past and present appeared before diners, who, although well wine and dined, watched and listened in admiring silence. Not many schools could match the quality of what was heard, so our grateful thanks to the performers and to Robert Goodrich, conductor and accompanist, and to Tony Lawrence, Master of Ceremonies, who, between them, put it all together and gave us a night to remember.

And there was still time to mingle yet awhile, and for a historic photograph to be taken of some two dozen Old Framlinghamiennes paraded on the Paul's Court stairs. History had been both made and celebrated.

Norman Porter and John Gooderham

West of England Supper, 9th June 2007

The West of England Supper was held at the Lamb Inn at Hindon, Wiltshire on Saturday 9th June 2007. The Lamb Inn has been a public house since the 12th century and the dining room was again a lovely setting for our 3-course meal, which was chosen on the evening.

Whilst we were relatively small in number we came from a wide geographical area covering Bath and North East Somerset, Berkshire, Devon, Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Suffolk - so almost a different county for each of us! We were also delighted to be accompanied by 7 wives, making a total of 17. A good time was had by all.

In addition to the President and his wife Valerie, it was also particularly pleasing to welcome our Hon Sec, Norman Porter. He combined his visit with a stay with Bob Williams (Hon OF and former 2nd master at Brandeston) and his wife, in order to discuss the book Norman is writing on Brandeston to mark its 60th anniversary.

I couldn't let the evening pass without reference to the Distinguished OF section of the website, which has been a labour of love of mine over the last 9 months. I was delighted to point out that 3 of the 10 OFs present were included - Charles Carter (for his OBE, that was awarded for his work with The United Nations Force in Cyprus), Richard Vaughan-Griffith (for being the most recent OF to be awarded the Military Cross, while serving in Aden) and our Hon Sec Norman Porter (who played hockey for Scotland 12 times).

The president gave an update on OF events and what's been happening at the College and, after further coffee and drinks, we all made our way home (or upstairs!) around midnight or a bit after!

Those present were: Mr and Mrs Charles Carter (R 61-69), Mr and Mrs Chris Essex (Organiser, K 69-75), Ian Hardaker-Jones (R 64-69) and his partner Christina Ecclestone, Mr and Mrs Nigel Hyde (R 55-60), Mr and Mrs Peter Lockwood (R 57-64), Mr Norman Porter (K 50-57), Mr Bryan Shelley (G 39-44), Mr and Mrs Brian Smith (President, S 53-57), Richard Vaughan-Griffith MC (K 60-64) and Mr and Mrs Bob Williams (Hon OF).

Chris Essex (K 69-75)