

Society of Old Framlinghamians

The objects of the Society:

- 1. To promote the interests of the school in every possible way.**
- 2. To enable past members of the school to keep in touch with one another.**
- 3. To promote a bond of union between past and present members of the school to their mutual pleasure and advantage.**

The purpose of this special Suffolk Supper is to welcome Paul and Amanda to the College. Paul will be introducing himself to us later. By way of advance reciprocation we would like to introduce the Society to our new Headmaster and his wife – in the process we may even help some of our members present tonight better to understand the history, and guiding principles of their Society. We'll try to crack through it in 20 minutes.

At the outset we must explain the principles which lie behind the Society. According to our constitution: we support the school in every way, we do our best to keep in touch with one another, and we do our best to maintain the links between the generations, past and present.



Foundation

The Society was set up in 1900, some 46 years after the school opened. Should the Headmaster be concerned at the size of his Common Room or indeed at their dress sense, he might draw inspiration from this photo of the staff just before that date in 1888. **(Slide of staff in 1888).**



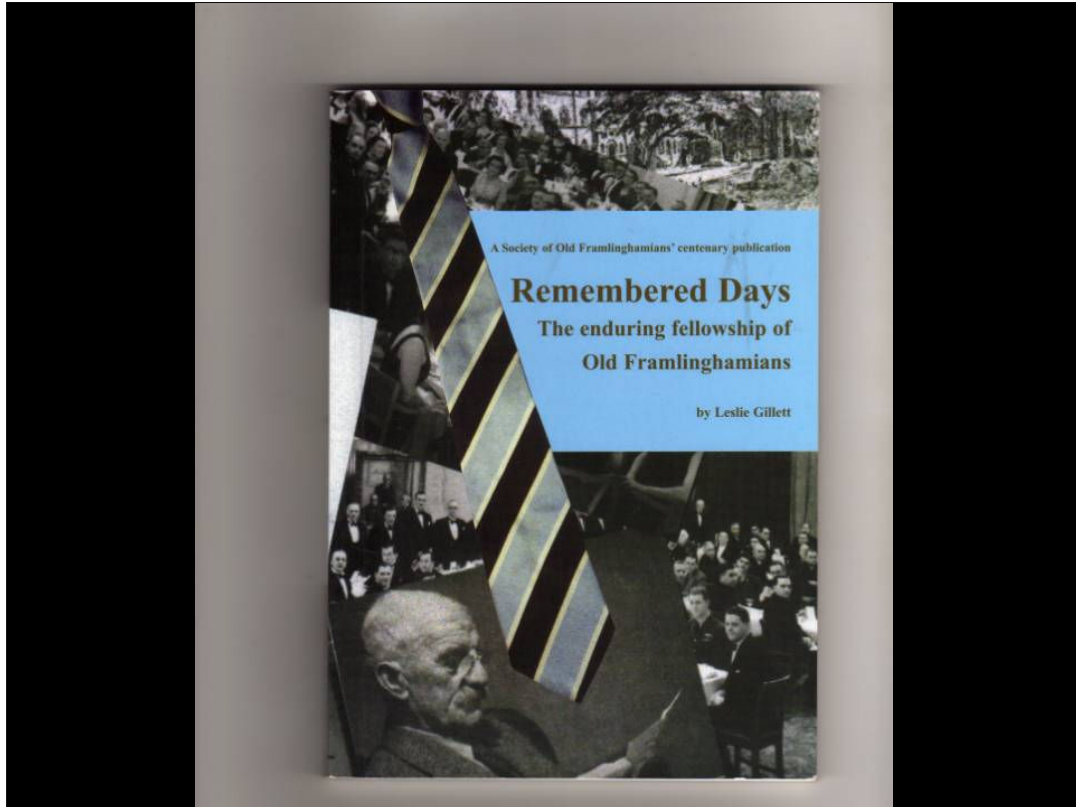
It was a member of staff, Alfred Pretty who, together with his brother Herbert, was instrumental in setting up the Society in 1900.



For some 60 years the Society was well served by the Bromages, father and



... son, who had a massive input.



The Society's Centenary was celebrated in 2000. In that year Remembered Days, a History of the Society, written by another ex member of staff, Bob Gillett, was published. As you see, Alfred Pretty features prominently on the cover.



We have well over 3000 members across the world and a host of volunteers who do their best to run the organisation and fulfil its objectives. All leavers now automatically become members of the Society, with their subscription being paid by the College. Liaison between the College and the Society is through the Development Office.

Benefactors

True to the principles of the Society, its members have been generous with their money and there is an extensive list of benefactors to the College. We mention just a few: Wallace (Scholarships), Emile Moreau – massive benevolence –, Ziegele. There is a list of benefactions and contributions from individual OFs or from the Society. That list includes help in purchasing or building or installing: many acres of land, pavilions, tennis courts, scholarships, chapel pews, Pauls Court, Rowley Hall, swimming pools, library equipment, various seats and Honours Boards, sailing dinghies, Astroturf pitch, and a host of other items. **(Image of Wallace memorial)**



Ziegele

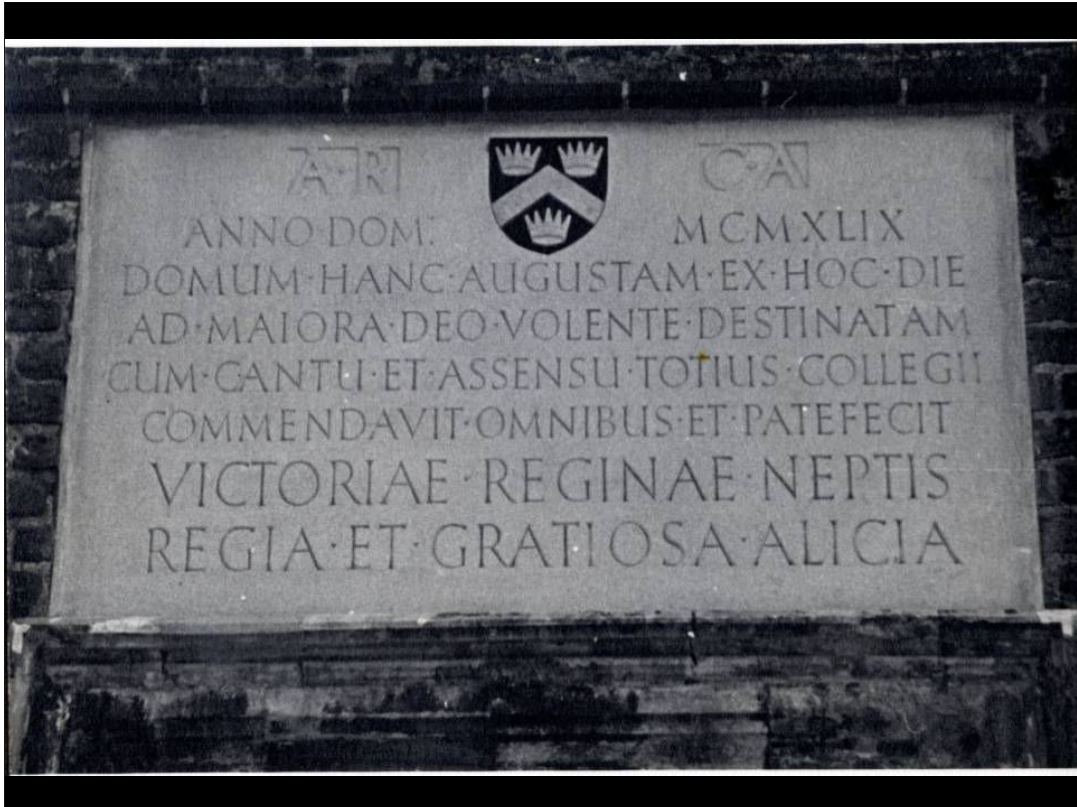


Brandeston Hall

The gift of Brandeston Hall is probably the most generous, most meaningful and most poignant of all the gifts that Old Framlinghamians have made to the College. It stands as a living memorial to those who died in two world wars. To quote the sub-title of the recently published History of the Hall: It honours the past by building the future.



The building being opened by Princess Alice



Latin Inscription



Distinguished Framlinghamians:

A feature on the OF website pays tribute to the hundreds of OFs who have gone on from this place to make their mark in the world beyond school. We can but give a handful of examples:

a/ War memorials/Military

The Society is deeply proud of the three VCs won by Framlinghamians Augustus Agar, William Hewitt and Gordon Flowerdew in the early years of the 20th century. But these are just the most eminent of the many awards won by Framlinghamians in conflicts around the world. Group Captain Percy Pickard is remembered for his role in Operation Jericho – a daring WW2 bombing raid. You only have to visit our website feature to discover the courage of so many young men who went forth from this College to engage in conflict.

(Image of Agar VC)



This silver cigarette case was a gift from fellow OFs



Hewitt VC



Flowerdew VC



Pickard



WW1 Chapel Memorial



WW2 Chapel Memorial



We might also add in Prince Karadja, celebrated in the chapel last year, who was instrumental in helping thousands of Jews to escape from the Nazis in Romania. And, more recently the awarding of the George Medal for fireman Jeff Warnham, for his heroic, but ultimately tragic efforts to rescue victims from a blazing fire.



b/ Sport – Norman Borrett

The Times Obituary to Norman Borrett described him as “probably the most talented all round amateur sportsman of the post war years. He won the national squash championship five times, captained the silver-medal winning Great Britain Olympic Hockey team in 1948 and played cricket to county standard. He was not only educated at Framlingham, but returned to teach here for many years, finishing up as second master. The astroturf pitch celebrates his memory.



His Olympic silver medal



This picture came up on our television screens during a test match in the 60s. It features three future internationals: Andrew Hancock, England Rugby, David Larter, English Cricket, and Norman Porter, Scotland hockey. Interestingly enough the Captain, John Iliffe, is Professor of African Studies at Cambridge University. All-rounders indeed.

(Image of 1957 cricket team)

2nd Innings **ENGLAND** 5th Test.
BOWLING

Bowler	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.
Coldwell	23	4	60	1
Larter	21.1	0	88	4
Knight	11	3	33	1
Illingworth	21	9	54	1
Allen	27	14	52	1
Dexter	6	1	16	0
Barrington	2	0	10	0

BBCtv



Picture of Larter

There is no shortage of younger OFs similarly making their mark on the sporting scene. Indeed, on this very day Rob Newton has made his cricketing debut for Northants.



c/Arts

Pre-eminent, of course, is Alfred Munnings. He was a war artist and in that capacity painted the cavalry charge in which Gordon Flowerdew won his VC. One Framlinghamian painting another. Another artist – Bob Williams, formerly Head of Art at Brandeston, thinks is a worthy successor to Munnings - is Bruce Pearson, sometime Wildlife Artist of the Year. In this equine connection we ought to mention Fram's connection to Newmarket, the Waughs, the Butters, trainers of lots of Classic winners –and, indeed the scene of the first OF supper at the Rutland Hotel. We've also had a Grand National Winner (jockey not horse!).



Bruce Pearson



d/Other and contemporary

Nothing could be more invidious than having to pick out a few names here. We have a high court judges, university professors, distinguished services members, singers both pop and classical (***Image of Laura Wright at Ipswich Town Football Club***), a TV presenter, a politician, (and several bankers), successful businessmen, brewers, the managing director of Al Jazeera International...



Perhaps we can best encapsulate the essence of the list by reference to General Sir Pat Howard Dobson –distinguished soldier, former President of the Royal British Legion, but also a man who found the time to return to his old school, to help to govern it, and to become Chairman of the Governors. It is fitting that his son Peter has become the most recent of OF Governors. Peter was the inspiration behind the Moreau Scholarship scheme – it was our Society and our Trustees who came up with this marvellously inventive way of involving young leavers.





Activities : The Society does its best to provide a range of sporting and social activities to bring members together.

Suppers

The blue riband event of the Society is the Annual Dinner in March. In recent years it has been held in London at the East India Club (***see image***), but has also often been held at the College. Next year, by special request it is being held at Brandeston.



Regional suppers are held on a regular basis in London, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, SE England and the West of England. There is also a Northern Gathering –in 2008 this was in Edinburgh, (*image of tattoo*) next year it will be near Sedbergh – plus a Hertfordshire cricket gathering. There are occasional gatherings OFs in Hong Kong, Australia and other far-flung locations.

There is an Old Framlinghamian Masonic Lodge.



Sport: -

Staff and boys used to play in the same teams –I thought you would like to see this picture of Alfred Pretty and the 1888 football team – (***Image of football team***) they used to play in the Suffolk Cup. Now matches are played annually against the College in cricket, hockey, golf and shooting, but the staff are far too busy to do anything but coach (which they do brilliantly!).



Shooting

This is one of the strongest OF activities. The school has always had a strong reputation for shooting and this carries through to Old Framlinghamian shooters. They not only regularly win silverware at Bisley but also play a major part in coaching young College talent. This picture shows how the club includes all generations, and both sexes. A recent leaver, Sandy Walker, has been picked to represent Great Britain.

(Bisley image)



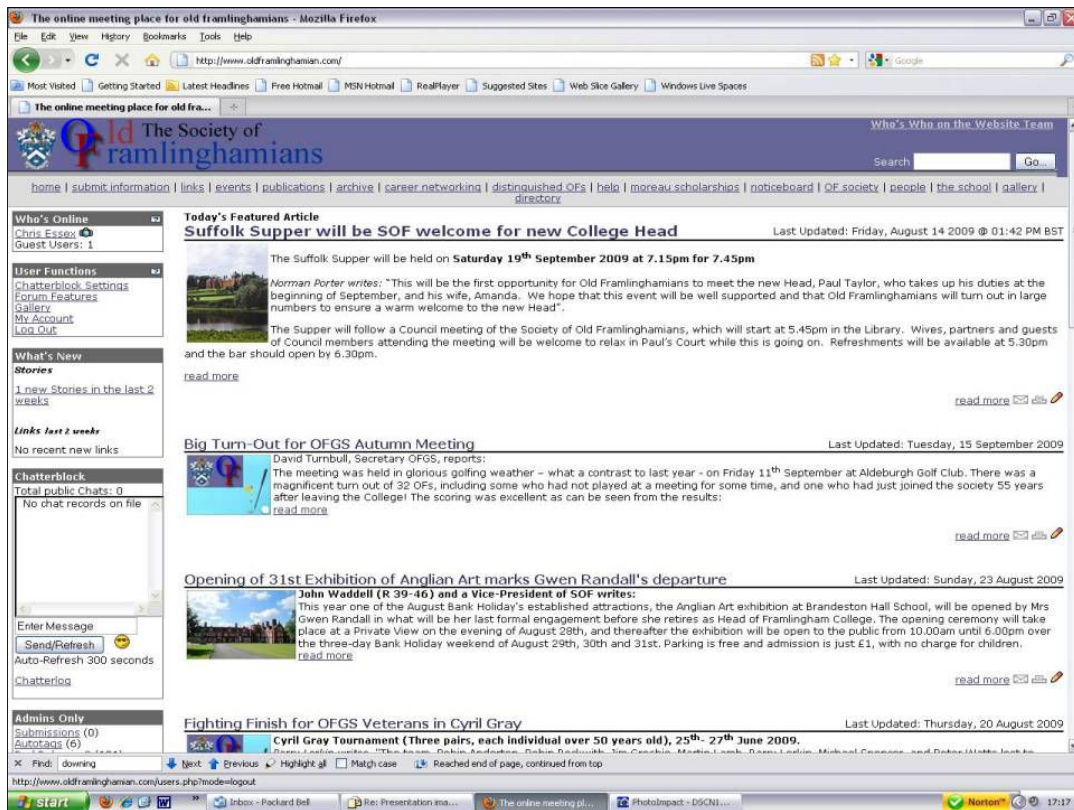
Golf:

The OF Golf Society holds Spring and Autumn meetings and enters teams for major Former Pupils events such as the Halford Hewitt. Team members are encouraged to promote their corporate identity, complete with crest. The College has recently produced a number of outstanding young golfers, and they are being actively recruited for OF teams. Kirsty Wybar gained a Blue at Cambridge, John Wybar represents Scottish Universities, and their non OF Governor, David, is the genetic explanation for this.

(Image of Halford Hewitt golfers)

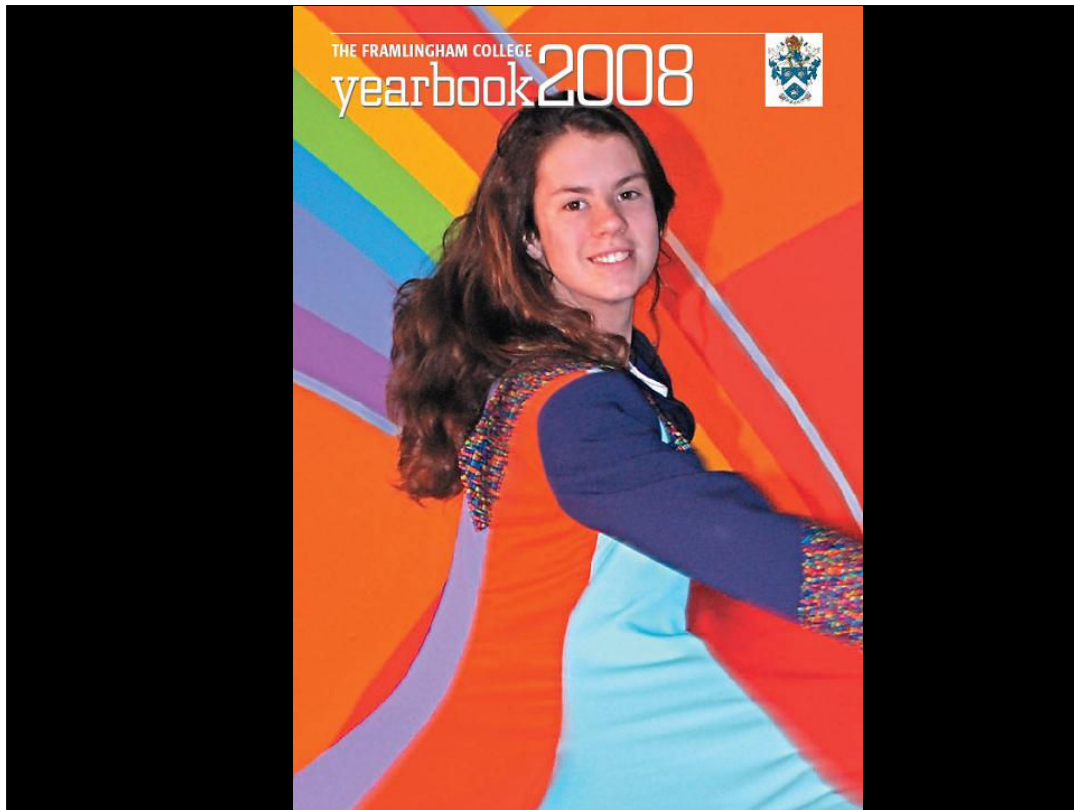


The Wybars



Communications

Website - : We have over 3000 members on our mailing list. Well over 1000 of them are registered users of the OF website and have full access. Unregistered members have partial access. There is a full database, available to members, a frequently updated news page with a host of other features, including a Distinguished OFs feature, a picture gallery, a career networking site, Notice Board, list of forthcoming events and contact details for officers of the Society. We have a great team of administrators: Peter H-D, Tim Mitchell and Chris Essex and Richard Rowe.



Yearbook and Newsletter:

We also publish OF news in a section of the Framlingham Yearbook. This Yearbook, combining as it does, news of Brandeston, the College and Old Framlinghamians symbolises our commitment to what we are proud to call the Framlingham family – coverage moves from those at the Brandeston nursery right through to Obituaries. We have many contributions from Framlinghamians living overseas, still called in a quaintly colonial way The Overseas Bag. We include a Services section too. The Society also publishes an independent mid-year Newsletter.



Merchandise

Coes of Ipswich stock a full range of OF kit and gear. The striped ties are difficult to miss, but can be useful on visits to Lords. Plenty to choose from for the sartorially conscious, and useful for Christmas presents.





Girls

In 2007 our special Suffolk Supper celebrated 30 years of girls at Brandeston and the College. Uniquely, on that occasion the girls outnumbered the boys. The College went fully co-ed in 1977, and showed its commitment to the co-educational cause by appointing as its Head, Gwen Randall, the first female member of HMC. Since then the girls have gone from strength to strength, even though they remain outnumbered on most OF occasions. (We'll see what we can do about that!)

(Image of first girls)



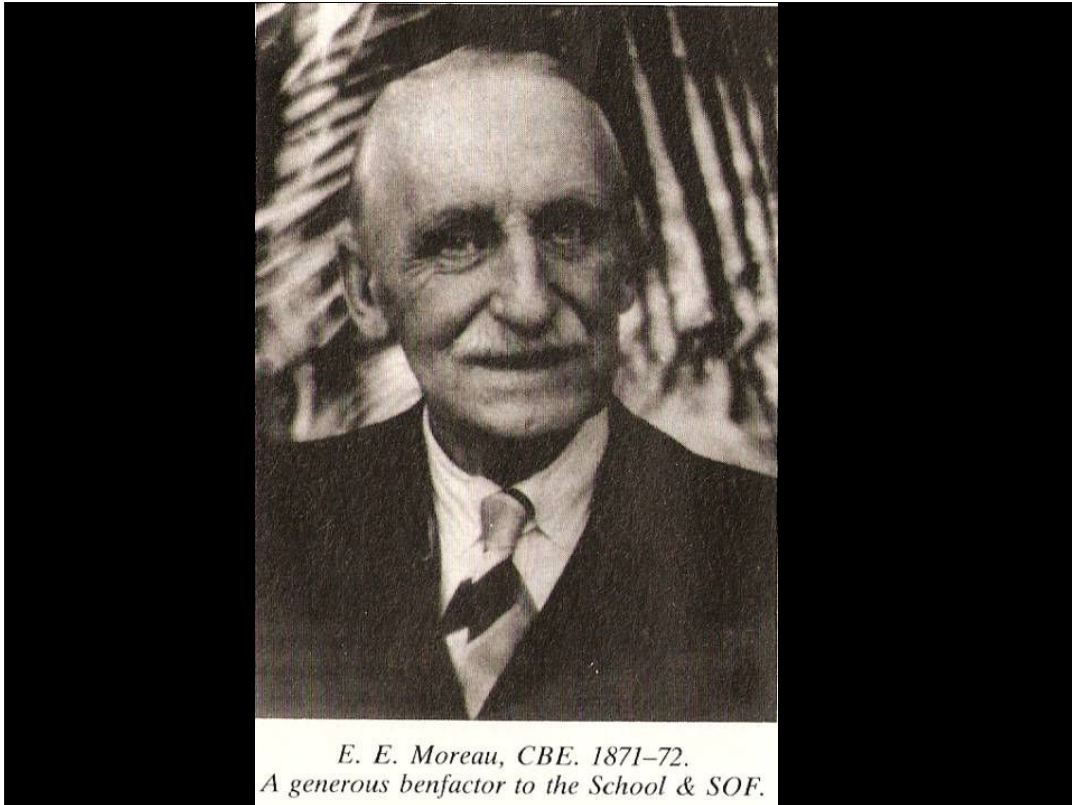
Two sopranos at Annual Dinner



Suffolk and agriculture

The College was founded to educate the sons of middle class farmers. It was rooted in the soil of Suffolk. Many of its alumni have remained true to those roots. You need go no further than the annual Suffolk Show to realise the extent of OF input into the county agricultural scene. OFs have held the highest positions within that organisation.

Image of John Kerr with Suffolk punch and glass of Adnams



Moreau Scholarships

Emile Moreau was the greatest benefactor both of the College and of the Society. Every year 2 scholarships are awarded, bearing his name. The scholarships are worth £800 a year for three years. The recipients benefit as they proceed through further education, but they also automatically become members of the SOF Council, ensuring that the voice and interests of younger leavers is fully represented. In this way the Society does its best to transcend the generations, bringing together all those who have just one thing in common, a Framlingham education.



Moreau Scholars with Mentors

Conclusion

So that's it, in a brief scamper through what we, as a Society, aim to do. Most of us are conscious of a tradition which holds that Old Framlinghamians are up there, amongst the most supportive and active of former pupils societies. The Society has, in the past, shown generous support for the College and all that it does. We can but do our best to be worthy of that heritage in the future.