

## Overseas Bag

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A smaller bag this time but still with several new correspondents. Please keep sending your news, it is all well received whether by letter, fax or e-mail.

The SOF website ( [www.oldframlinghamian.com](http://www.oldframlinghamian.com) ) continues to be a major success in improving communication amongst OFs. More and more OFs are registering their e-mail addresses on the E-mail list. I continue to hear more reports from OFs who have got back in touch with friends as a result of finding them on the e-mail list. We also continue to “re-discover” OFs with whom the SOF have lost contact - for instance, this Bag brings renewed contact with a 92 year old OF. If you know of any OFs who might want to get back in touch with old colleagues or have not received the magazine for a while then log on to the website and submit an Address Feedback form for them – please add comment as to who you are and how we can contact you if you are filing an address for someone else.

I have had several requests to start a photo gallery on the website which seems like a good idea. First I need photos – teams, groups, gatherings or other events. You can either post me photos or better still e-mail scanned images to me.

Currently the website relies on a few volunteers to carry all the workload – if you have some computer skills and can spare a few minutes per month then let me know as we may be able to use your resources in assisting the SOF.

**RMR**

## Australia

The SOF website brought contact in October with the **Bartlett** brothers, **Chris (K60-66)** and **Peter (K58-65)**. Chris wrote:

“I am delighted to find some web activity about the old school. How I wish I was there now in its reincarnation, rather than back in 1963-66 when it seemed like a palace from the front, a factory from the back and a prison on the inside. Not that I speak with any intimate knowledge of the latter. Far from it!

“How well I remember the fear of being on the second washing detail, with no hot water in the middle of winter - and no central heating in the upper floors. Did it make men of us? No not really, but it taught me a lot about creature comforts from then on.

“I have been back in Australia one year, after the previous decade in Europe and the UK. I love the former and miss it, but not the old dart. And with the present rail fiasco, storms, and BSE/CJD on the national agenda I'm glad I'm in the southern hemisphere.

“I must confess that from the end of O levels in 1966 until now, I have not seen or heard, spoken or written to anyone from Fram. Its interesting that you say I'm on the SOF database, and I'm pleased to be so, but no one would have located me as I've been on the move most of my working life. Now with the amazing reach and capacity of email I'd be pleased to communicate with anyone who might remember me.

“Communications is my business. It started in radio, then TV, theatre and finally feature films. Of late I've been with the ORF in Austria after a spell in the US, then the BBC, LBC and Talk Radio in London. Now I'm fully involved in business communications for executives and their companies, using the extraordinary powers of the digital domain to communicate their

message in target. This is focused primarily in Asia, as Australia is not in the same race. Coaching and training takes up much of my time, and the rest is spent producing and writing. There's much more to the picture, but that's enough for now.

“Thank you for the contact and I'm very interested to get the next copy of the OF mag. I often wonder what happened to guys in my year. Maybe now my fascination will be sated.”

Address: Chris Bartlett, 35 Swan Street, Mosman Park, Western Australia 6012; tel: (+61) 8 9286 2680; Cjbartlettaus@aol.com

And then from **Peter Bartlett**:

I left Fram in 1964 after an undistinguished academic career capped by failing my 'A' levels. My memory of the school in the early 60's was one of institutionalised bullying and psychotic masters. The house master in my final year, whose actual name I cannot remember, was known affectionately as 'septic' and I guess that says it all. My father, retiring from the RAF, had decided to take the family to Australia, and I had a year to kill, so I went back to the Ipswich Civic College to try again. Had an amazing social year and failed again.

Australia in the late 1960's was very insular, especially with Perth in Western Australia being the most remote capital city on the planet. It was difficult to rebuild social roots again particularly after a lifetime of moving as a service family, and at that particular stage of my life. I had a range of jobs finally concentrating on Industrial Engineering (work study). I worked for a biscuit manufacturer before joining the WA Medical Department, Organisation & Methods Branch. After 4 years of flying around WA visiting hospitals, I was on the verge of moving on when I met my first wife, and family life started. 20 years and 4 children later (1995) the wife and I made the long promised trip to Europe. I had to revisit Framlingham, and what a change. The term hadn't started and I was able to wander around. Thankfully, there seemed very little connection to the Dickensian conditions I had experienced. Students were arriving before term started; no last second dash through the door on the first day back. I could see why they would actually want to be there. During the brief stay in the UK the only OF I was able to catch up with was **Peter Kemp (59-65)**.

Shortly after returning to Australia, my marriage broke up. About that time, I took a brief holiday in Italy to attend the marriage of my brother Chris, in Pisa. Then almost 2 years ago, I remarried and now have two stepdaughters in addition to my own four children. Only my youngest daughter and stepdaughters are still at school. My youngest daughter is due to return in November from a year in Germany for another 2 years at school.

And I'm still working for the Health (nee Medical) Department, although the O&M section was restructured out of existence. I'm currently the project manager for a statewide fee payment system.

Address: 13a Nandina Avenue, Mount Claremont, West Australia; tel: (+61) 8 928 47951; peter.bartlett@health.wa.gov.au

## **Canada**

**Howard Thistlewood (K66-73)** made brief contact from Canada:

“Thanks for your messages. I will try to send some news before the next issue, but have been rather busy in the last few months, particularly owing to much international travel which as

you know can be rather disorienting to one's life.

“Hope things are going well for you and you are now adapted to life in that corner of north America.”

Address: c/o Agriculture Canada, PO Box 6000, Vineland Station, Ontario, LOR 2E0, Canada;  
thistlewoodh@em.agr.ca

## **China (incl. Hong Kong SAR)**

A report on the latest Hong Kong Dinner from **Iain Fidlin (73-77)**:

“We managed to hold a Supper in the FCC on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. After much initial enthusiasm, however, jobs and/or logistics inevitably proved insurmountable obstacles to the attendance of the majority.

“In the end, four of us met at 6.30 pm in Bert's at the FCC for warm-up drinks. We were: **Ian Howard (S57-61)**, **Nick Jacob (K67-75)** visiting from UK, **Stephen Ngai (75-79)** and **Iain Fidlin (73-77)**. **John Birt (59-63)**, whilst a likely candidate up to the eleventh hour, finally couldn't make it. A number of friendly "outsiders" (but known to IH) were welcomed into the fray and enthusiastically made up numbers during the warm-up session in Bert's. The contingent of four OFs stumbled up to the Hughes Room at around 9 pm for Kobe steaks, two well-chosen bottles of New World Claret and lively banter. Nostalgia inevitably had its turn as the conversation slipped in and out of classic Fram memories and anecdotes.

“Ian Howard conducted himself admirably as Arbiter Bibendi in the FCC and deserves our compliments and sincere thanks for hosting the event. Alas, on leaving the FCC (time uncertain) Nick Jacob had to part from our company to take a conference call in his hotel (Mandarin Oriental, of course). The rest of us had but a few yards to go down the hill (on Ice House Street) before we fell into another hospitable and lively establishment to continue the evening. Appropriately named "Goodfellows", for we were soon joined there by a good two-dozen fellows clad in DJs. As seems typical for an evening out in Hong Kong, there were plenty of familiar faces who we discovered had just attended a charity dinner in the Football Club. The Arbiter Bibendi justly stood down and it became more of a free for all with nobody paying attention (or really caring to for that matter) to the amounts, composition or otherwise of the assorted drinks. Spirits, needless to say, remained high at all times, until the last of us (IH and IF) capitulated and went home before dawn.

“The event, whilst thinly attended on this occasion, certainly stirred up renewed interest generally for the Hong Kong Supper. Ian now hopes to arrange something on a grander scale (more attendees at least!) pre-HK Rugby7s (30 March – 1 April 2001). I look forward to offering logistical and moral (hopefully in Bert's!) support to Ian for that next venture, which should take place towards the end of March – provisionally Friday 30 March 2001.

Address: Flat 1A, Belgravia, 57 South Bay Road, Hong Kong; tel: 2842 9670 – office;  
Iain.Fidlin@commerzbank.com.hk

An e-mail from **Malvern Tipping (M 1973-78)** in UK

“I see from the SOF web page that there is a SOF dinner in Hong Kong in November 2000. As a fairly regular visitor to Hong Kong, I was provisionally expecting to go in October 2001, but may well postpone this until November 2001 if they have a dinner then. I am living in

north Suffolk, but across the county border into Norfolk I have an OF friend, **John Capps (R46-53)**, who was at the college about twenty-five years before me. He owns a foundry near Norwich and cast the lift weights for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation HQ in Hong Kong. He has never been there, but we have discussed the idea of him accompanying me so that he can look at his lift weights and we can both attend next year's dinner. (*RMR – you will need to contact with **Iain Fidin** (above) or **Ian Howard** (S57-62) - [ihoward@bigfoot.com](mailto:ihoward@bigfoot.com) -for HK Dinner dates; the SOF website will also have information when the organizers pass it on to us).*  
Address: [admin@tipping-estates.co.uk](mailto:admin@tipping-estates.co.uk)

**Chris Hall (G62-69)** sent a letter in November:

“Last November I went on a tour of Northern China to see the other, little known British colony in China, Wei-hai-wei. It is a small town of 900,000 people on the Shantung Peninsula. It had been conquered by the Japanese, but Britain did not think it was right for foreigners to take parts of China if Britain didn't get its fair share. Britain therefore told the Chinese Government that it was better for Wei-hai-wei to be British rather than Japanese and took over the town. Once Britain acquired Wei-hai-wei, it didn't know what to do with the place (as there was never much trade), so Britain gave Wei-hai-wei back to China after 30 years. The last British governor of Wei-hai-wei had previously been the English tutor to the last emperor of China – the role played by Peter O'Toole in Bertolucci's film, “The Last Emperor”.

“In December the museum of the University of Hong Kong displayed some of my textiles as part of an unusual exhibition, “The Passion of Collecting”. The exhibition was about collectors and collecting as opposed to the individual objects, which ranged from Cultural Revolution ivories and modern fake porcelain through Chinese archery and stamps to important collections of sculpture and furniture. Photos of the collectors were shown including one of me holding a Chinese brocade picture of Karl Marx and another photo of me wearing a Lao skirt. Even if I acquire a reputation as a transvestite, I have the consolation of knowing that I will be considered politically correct, at least in communist China.

“All the best for the new millennium, which some people tell me will not start until next year.”

Address: Flat A2, 96 Repulse Bay Rd, Hong Kong; [chh@gthk.com.hk](mailto:chh@gthk.com.hk)

## **France**

**Brian Rosen (S40-45, BH78-93)** wrote in October:

“I have to say that the highlight of our year was the Centenary Celebrations at the College. My wife Dominique, daughter **Sarah (BH88-93)** and I were also invited to the Brandeston Hall Speech Day the evening before which enabled us to meet so many former colleagues and listen to an excellent and amusing speech by former pupil **David Bull (80-87)**.

“We made a round trip of about 2,700 kilometres specially for the occasion and it was well worthwhile. The afternoon and evening passed in a blur of names and faces from the past, from the forties, when I was a pupil until the nineties, when I was teaching and a parent (for the fourth time. **Roger Last (S35-42)**, one OF of my era with whom I had kept in touch, provided a marvelous interlude with his Jazz Group. This great reunion was really an incredible and unrepeatabe experience. Sarah was delighted to meet so many of her former classmates, having

not seen them since leaving Brandeston to live in France seven years ago.

“Otherwise it has been another good year for us in France, the beautiful summer making it easier to tolerate the strikes, go-slows and demonstrations that are very much a part of life here. The steady decline of the Euro does not seem to make any difference to the standard of living here and has also increased my pension (paid in £) by almost 50% since we moved here over 7 years ago. In September there was a significant change in our lives as Sarah departed to Nottingham University to study Human Genetics. There she has already met **Sarah Gallagher (V89-97)**, classmate, teammate and great friend from her Brandeston days. She has also discovered there are four other OFs at Nottingham: **Scott Cole (Z87-99)**, **Ceiren Leigh (S2000)**, **Ian Archer (Z90-99)** and **Fran Henney (P87-98)**. Sarah is intending to organize a reunion.

“My son **Philip (S63-72)** decided that France may be alright for retirement but it was becoming increasingly difficult to run a business. He sold up everything and with his family (son **Charles** spent a year at Brandeston) moved off to Canada in May. They have settled very easily into a new lifestyle in Montreal. He can be contacted at philip\_rosen@yahoo.ca and I hope that he will write to you shortly.

“Second son Simon has just moved to Cambridge, e-mail: SimonNPRosen@aol.com and No.3, Timothy is still in Chester - tim@rconsult.demon.co.uk

“On one of my brief visits to England I was very pleased to meet **Richard Gibson (Z86-95)**, a former pupil from my Brandeston days at the Southampton Boat Show. He was on the Laser stand and has a good job with Performance Sailcraft in Banbury.

I hope to be able to attend a few more OF functions now that we visit the UK more often. Address: Chemin des Murieux, 38200, Vienne, France; brosen@club-internet.fr

**R Andrew A Emms (R48-52)** sent in a late letter that just made the printers:

“Many congratulations on the very necessary and excellent job that you are doing. You very kindly included some of my letter in the most recent edition of the 'Fram' Magazine. When I was at Framlingham we all used the term 'Fram' and I wonder if that is still the case. Also one never knew peoples' first name. Is change sometimes progress or is it a question of the pendulum swinging back and forth? My father (**A G Emms 10-13**) told me that beer was served twice a day in hall, where I wonder was it made and how was it preserved?

“Where I worked in Kenya it was the norm for first names to be used amongst young and old except in the presence of visiting directors out from Glasgow. The older planters who had all started their life in tea in India had left the Indian system of calling assistant managers “scum” behind them. Having lived with and survived the “shack” system at “Fram” this new atmosphere was heaven itself.

“A tea estate was usually split into four divisions, the factory and three blocks of about 400 acres of tea in various stages of pruning (done every four years - down from 48" to 24"). There were also about 400 acres of trees, used for both building timber and burning in the factory boilers for the firing of the black tea. There were as well African-run shops, schools, dispensaries, butcheries and a football pitch and welfare center. My first estate also had a firing range and 'stew' ponds for breeding fingerlings prior to their introduction into the local rivers.

“After leaving Kenya in 1979 and during our years in the UK we took our holidays in France. One week in a 'gite' in one area and the second week in another. This way we discovered many varying types of countryside, some with named winds which are bad news for buildings and one is told - mental stability. The village in Gascony that we eventually choose was called by

the Romans - Lupiac - because the number of wolves in the area. It's an hour drive to the Pyrenees and half way between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean . Lupiac takes the form of a square guarded at the eastern end by a church , the other three sides having houses with arcades . This means that your upstairs front bedroom is over a 15 foot wide arcade. None of the houses have foundations or dampproof courses and like the Romans they did not use cement but sand, lime and colouring instead.

“Our house walls have 1½" thick terracotta tiles laid on the earth and a 10" square heart oak horizontal beam put on top of the tiles . On top of this beam are fitted upright oak struts (5" by 5"). These are 18" apart and are topped off with another horizontal oak beam . Between the vertical struts is earth! As the soil has so much clay in it dries rock solid and some of the houses here have fortified walls of earth 3 foot thick built by making wooden shuttering and putting in earth, stones, and oak struts in and left to dry. The same process is repeated again and again till the required height is achieved.

“We had in fact bought two adjacent village houses, one a ruin and one habitable, the previous owner would not sell one without the other. We started whilst on holiday trying to measure and draw up plans. There seemed to be no right angles or straight wall lines either horizontal or vertical. One upstairs room had a sloped floor with one side of the room being 11" lower than the other. If our children had still been young it would have been a marvelous area for dinky car races! Having supervised artisans all my working life I now had to set to and try build myself.

“Lots of jobs were re-done several times before Annette, who is an architect, agreed to move on to the next job. I did the carrying, mixing of mortar and wood work and she did the planning, working drawings and the laying of blocks and rough stones.

“We are now at the end of our first ten year programme with a fair percentage of planned jobs actually completed. Forward then to the next ten year plan although with advancing years we had better make that a fifteen year one!

“Farewell from the village of Lupiac, reputedly built in 1071, and the birthplace of the musketeer called D'Artagnan who did well for himself and lived in the local chateau of Castelmor. Some say that D'Artagnan was a myth created Mr. A. Dumas - anyhow it is good for tourism and pushes up house prices!”

Address: Au Village, 32290, Lupiac, France; tel: (+33) 5 62 09 20 38; e-mail: asemms@aol.com

## **Malaysia**

**Tim Kestin (R60-69)** wrote in November:

“I hardly qualify for an entry in the Overseas Bag for just going on holiday overseas - lots of people do that - but I did, briefly, swell the OF population of Malaysia by 50%, and cause a Penang Supper to take place, so here goes.

“I was a frequent contributor to the Overseas Bag in the 1970's, as I spent most of that period either living or working in South Africa, Rhodesia (as it was then) Australia or New Zealand; or traveling, overland preferably, in Third World countries in between. I saw lots of weird, wonderful and warm places, things and people, and had experiences too good to keep to myself. So now, 20 years on, blessed with a wife, Sue, and two teenage daughters, Emma and Katie, I decided the time was right to take them to see some of 'the sights that dazzle'.

“We went to Langkawi first, an island group untouched by tourism up until only 12 years

ago. The island is still pretty much as nature intended: towering mountains, wide sweeps of beaches, tall, dark forests supporting families of hornbills and chattering monkeys, paddy fields with the odd inert water buffalo, and Malay villages with houses traditionally built on stilts. It was a good place to do very little, so a good way to start a holiday.

“Penang is very different. It has its rural green mountainous parts but much of it is well developed. Georgetown is a flourishing city, and over 200 years old. It was founded by Englishman, Francis Light, who reputedly fired gold coins from his cannon as an incentive to his coolies to clear the jungle more quickly. Today Georgetown has a strong Chinese influence with a large minority of Indians. There are buildings for every conceivable world religion - Hindu, Chinese, Anglican, Thai Buddhist and Burmese Buddhist, all ornate, colourful and new to most of us. There are shops selling strange food and stranger medicines, food stalls, and bicycle rickshaws to be pedaled about in as there are so many obstacles on the pavements!

“**Bob Holland (R57-65)** invited us round for an evening. He and Elena live on the outskirts of Georgetown in a penthouse apartment 14 storeys up with magnificent views over much of Penang Island. We watched sunset turn to dusk over a round of Singapore slings and then drove out to the Tanjong Bungah Club, where **Derek Seagrove (G39-43)** joined us. Forget your Chinese takeaways in provincial England. Here we had real Chinese food. Of course I hadn't a clue what I was ordering but Elena did us proud and we had probably the best meal of the holiday. Bob explained that both he and Derek had come to settle in Penang under the government's 'Silver Hairs' scheme. If you're over 50, and presumably have a certain amount of capital, it's an open door. You're not allowed to work but as a consumer you're a benefit to the economy and even provide employment in a small way. Nowhere in Malaysia is really crowded and everyone gains. Bob says that only in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Ipoh is there a really large expatriate community (5000 +) thus ensuring a healthy social scene, and apart from a 13 hour flight back to the U.K. it's got everything going for it: low cost of living, warm climate, safe, politically and economically stable.

“Our conversation flowed well and ranged from old Malaya to modern Malaysia to the fate of rural Post Offices in the UK. It also transpired that Francis Light, founder of Penang, came from Woodbridge. That'd make a good paragraph headline such as the 'Bag' sometimes has: Founding Father of Malaysia is Woodbridge Boy! But that was in 1786, before Fram was conceived or Prince Albert even born - so no chance of him having been an O.F.!”

Address: Tim.Kestin@axa-sunlife.co.uk

## New Zealand

**Lloyd Kenyon (26-29)** wrote to RMR in June and November:

“What a great read the Spring 2000 Mag has been. The photos and the article from the old Illustrated London News were especially interesting. I found the plan of the original layout of the buildings interesting too, even more so when **Bill Collard (S55-58)** was good enough to send me a copy of the programme for the centenary celebrations with a plan of the place today. Not surprisingly, there are considerable changes, and growth, since my day. The new block (I think that is what we called it) in particular seems to be much bigger than according to my memory. Where are the Kerrison and Garrett houserooms? The more I look at the plan, the more curious I get but it is no good me asking all my questions from afar and with such delay in waiting for the next mag. Incidentally, Bill Collard asks if I knew his father, **Geoffrey Collard (S29-30)**, who

went to Fram the year I left. Unfortunately the answer is “No”. I left at the end of the summer term and he probably started in September.

“What news is there from NZ? I think that our successful defence of the America’s Cup is still the sporting highlight. We are disgusted that our skipper and tactician have succumbed to the temptation of big money to leave us for the Swiss challenge next time. The designer has gone too but he is not Kiwi so that is not so bad. Our other big success, and very many would give it priority, has been in footy, i.e. the rugby competition between NZ, Aussie and S. African teams, which was won by one of ours. Where we South Islanders get special delight is that the final was between two South Island teams. Similarly the netball championship was between two S. Island teams. You will gather that there is considerable rivalry, mostly but not all good natured, between the two islands. Similarly there is rivalry between the bulk of the North Island and the portion “North of the Bombay Hills” (i.e. the Auckland area). We are pleased too that of the 25 man All Black squad for this year, 15 are from the two major S.I. teams.

“Politically, our new Labour government, although dropping in popularity, seem to be doing quite well; and their first budget has not been condemned.

“We have had a good autumn and an early winter with many warm days and enough rain to keep the farmers happy. Last weekend a bitter southerly wind brought a good fall of snow to the delight of the skiers.

“As to ourselves, my wife and I are both well but leading a quiet life. We do not drive far and seldom go out at night but are kept busy with the garden – it seems to take longer to do things than it used to!”

In November, Lloyd continues:

“It is a wet afternoon, so I can type away on this machine – my wife does not enjoy me tapping away in the evenings. After the wettest August on record that killed many lambs, the farmers were happy that we would escape a third drought year. Now the ground is baked hard and virtually nothing is growing – except the weeds in my garden! Maybe it is just because I am slower with coping with them. Our Christchurch daughter and her husband and their daughter came down last week and put down pine bark on a lot of the beds. People used to put down lots of newspaper first but now there is that plastic which lets the rain through but stops the weeds coming up. Sounds like magic!

“Our sports are going through a poor spot. We had hoped for better in the Olympics, the All Blacks are not coming up to expectations, Tua was defeated in the Heavyweight boxing and our girl just missed World Championship in squash. Our golfer, Campbell, is our bright star at the moment. I do wish they would get that farce of a US election sorted out, we are sick of hearing about it.

“I look forward to the arrival of the Autumn 2000 mag.”

Address: 15 Oxford Street, Waimate, New Zealand

And a brief message from **John Saul (R49-56)**:

We are off to New Zealand in mid-January and I am planning to call on my Father's old pen-friend Lloyd Kenyon, who features regularly in the Overseas Bag. (*RMR – we look forward to hearing about your travels and hopefully some pictures*)

Address: John.Saul@care4free.net

**Richard Warner (Z88-96)** sent another message from New Zealand in October:



“Having graduated from the Royal Agricultural College Cirencester (RAC), with a 2.1 diploma in Agriculture and Farm Management in October 1999, I am currently Assistant Farm Manager on a 221 hectare farm on the Coromandel Peninsula, where I am in charge of milking 460 cattle. The winter here during the months of June to September, was quite good with little rain, making a change from previous years. With the calving season over, the farm is now into land cultivation. The summer is on its way and is very warm at the moment with average temperatures of 23°C. Two weeks ago, we had a killer shark in the Mercury Bay area, after shoals of local Snapper fish!

“The dollar meanwhile has slumped against the pound, making holidays for fellow English travelers more expensive although still relatively cheap in comparison to other U.K services. Fuel is extremely cheap here at 25p a litre, perhaps I should ship some back! Weather patterns are not looking very positive with the potential for drought situations for many 'cow cockies' ( Kiwi dairy farmers). Life down under is 'good as gold', apart from the odd Possom taking fruit from the orchard and stripping the trees.

“I complete my employment here in New Zealand during March 2001, and am seeking to pursue a career in Veterinary sales on returning to the U.K.”

Address: Whitianga, Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand; richardwarner5@hotmail.com.

**Bob Craig (R63-70)** sent in an interesting snippet of information:

“I have on my desk at the moment a photograph (see below) of the Fram hockey 1st XI from about 1921/22. The captain was Eric Bailey(1919-22), whom my mother nursed in his final



years. The picture was taken with a corner of the old school as a backdrop. The corner is to the left of the main entrance where cars now park - the wooden door is the masters entrance. It's amazing how timeless it is. Apart from lashings of Brillcream, a few too many centre partings, and the "old English" headed sticks it could be the present day team. That particular corner of the school remains unchanged. What's really interesting is what's holding up their shorts. These guys are using a variety of school ties and belts, and one looks like a scarf...quite bizarre!

“Also I'm pleased to report that **Jon Amos(67-71)**, **Martin Hogg(63-71)**, **Bob Fox(66-71)** and myself(63-70) are all in regular email contact. Bob Fox and Jon met up in Perth as they both live there. Martin and I met up last September when I was in UK. email is great stuff!”

Address: Address: 563 Ridge Rd, Albany RD3, Coatesville, Auckland, NZ; e-mail:

## Norway

**Julian Stapleton (G58-63)** sent a message in November:

“Living up a mountain in Norway is probably the best way to avoid the terrible flooding that has hit most of Europe in recent months.

“I enjoyed reading the Centenary Edition of the OF mag, with all the pictures of the 1st July celebrations. Looked like a grand do, and sorry to miss it, especially **Mike McGuire's** musical contribution. However, that weekend I was on an amazing island off the southern Norwegian coast. Anyway, I drank a toast to OF friends with good champagne. I suppose **Jon Ford (S58-62)**, as President, can't avoid being in every picture - his PR machine is working well. Keep up the good work, Jon!

“Now preparing for the Norwegian winter - snow tyres, shovel, and ski rack. If all this rain turns to snow, I might have to hibernate for the next five months. When I re-emerge, we might all then know who the next US President will be.”

Address: Grytestien 8, 3160 Stokke, Norway; tel: (+47) 33 36 65 15; mobile: (+47) 975 33 686  
fax: (+47) 33 36 63 96; e-mail: staple@online.no

## South Africa

**Ben Simpson (Brandeston 84-86)** managed to find a break from his itinerant life style to send a message from Cape Town:

“I'm not sure if two years at Brandeston really qualifies me as an OF. (*RMR – you bet it does!*) Never the less I'd be interested to hear of some of the friends I made in my short time there - and perhaps they might like to hear from me.

“I spent the past year flying for the world food programme into Southern Sudan and Somalia. I resigned at the beginning of April with a pocket full of money and bought a 625cc off road touring bike. After a lot of faffing about I finally rode off from Kenya for Cape Town early July. My route took me through Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and eventually South Africa. I've been on the road for three months now so I'm quite happy to stay put for the next few weeks. Cape Town is a wonderful city. It's spring, the sun is shining and all the girls are in summer clothes. Wonderful!

“As for the future I plan on shipping my donkey over to South America. I'd like to learn to speak Spanish and dance the Tango. At some point next year the funds will run out and I'll probably have to rejoin the human race and work again. Ho hum!”

Address: benjoyman@hotmail.com

## Switzerland

**Anthony Mudge (S87-92)** sent a letter in October with news of himself and his brother, **Philippe (M86-90)**:

“It's now eight years since I left Fram (ten in the case of my brother Philippe), more than

enough reason for us to contribute something to the Bag.

“As it is, I'd not expected to qualify for entry as I had every intention of settling in Scotland - preferably Glasgow - after nearly seven years north of the border. University studies took me there originally, starting off in Stirling to read German, then going off to Paisley to do IT (a dead loss academically, though thankfully the town more than made up for it) and finally Glasgow for tourism. All good for the cv but boy was I looking forward to getting out into the real world!

“And so it was, come July this year, that I found myself leaving the UK for a job as resident manager in a Swiss hotel-cum-hotel school. It's all good fun marred only by the fact that I can't seem to escape the institutional atmosphere of education, in one form or another. Still, it means that Phase Two of my Big Plan should be rather easier as it involves leaving Switzerland for Vienna in three or four years' time, a more evident move than trying to get into Austria from Scotland.

“Why Vienna? I spent a year there in 1995-96 and loved every bit of it, even the Austrians' capacity for rudeness, but it's largely to satisfy the musician in me. After a long near drought on the musical front, my composing started to take off again when I joined Paisley Abbey choir. True, it may be very much restricted to choral music, but it's satisfying to have future performances in the works.

“Philippe, in the meantime, returned to France straight after leaving Fram and had some trouble adapting to French academia (through no fault of his own), though he put those wilderness years to excellent use by indulging in his love of motor mechanics - including building a kit car which was sadly written-off after being driven into - and also finding time to rewire our parents' new house to the most up to date standards. Then he got a job as a service engineer in the electronics industry working on backend machinery (front end is basically the making of chips on silicon wafers, backend is the assembly and test of microchips). This has taken him on numerous business trips mainly in France but also to Singapore, Morocco and Malta, traveling to the latter so frequently that he's has seen everything worth seeing. This is despite the fact that there is rarely time to do anything but work.

“One bit of sad news: our grandmother - "Granny Mudge", as she was known by my contemporaries in the Choir - died this September after five years of semi-disability brought on by a stroke. How either of us would have managed at Fram without her we don't know.

“The address below is my work and home in one (I hope to move into a flat in January as it can get a tad claustrophobic here); Philippe can be contacted by email at [ph.mudge@fnac.net](mailto:ph.mudge@fnac.net).”  
Address: IHTTI School of Hotel Management, Avenue de la Gare 15-17, 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland; [amudge@netscape.net](mailto:amudge@netscape.net) ; <http://members.tripod.co.uk/tonym/>

## USA

**Martyn Buttenshaw (R90-95)** just made the bell with an e-mail at the end of November:

“I graduated from university in '99 with a degree in mining engineering. After working for a while in London for a software company, I started work with Rio Tinto. At the moment I am seconded to US Borax, the world largest borate mine, situated in Southern California (about 180km NE of LA) as a mine planning engineer. So far are having a great time, and making the most what California has to offer. If anyone wants to get in contact directly, or needs a bed for the night, my address is below.”

Address: US Borax Inc., Mining Department, 14486 Borax Road, Boron, CA 93516-2000, USA;  
tel: +1 760 762 7776; mbuttenshaw@hotmail.com

**Richard Rowe (S65-74)** writes from Florida:

We seem to keep busy with work, social, our 15 month old son, James, and another one on the way in February 2001. These last few weeks we have had two SOF visitors.

The first was a trip across to Fort Lauderdale to visit the Boat Show and to meet up with **BRYAN PEARSON (S45-47)** and his wife, Celestine, who had flown in from Hawaii to board the QEII for a trip to UK. I picked them up from their hotel late morning, went for lunch and then found our way to the quayside for a quick photo session. It was great to be able to meet the person behind all the Overseas Bag communication and we had a good chat covering many topics from acting to Tahiti to sailing. I only hope that one day I might be able to accept Bryan's invitation to visit Hawaii.



My second visitor was **David Metcalf (R50-55)**. David had recently found the SOF website and had fired off a simple message that he was about to visit his uncle, **Maurice Metcalf**, in the US and would report back. I did a quick check in the 1967 Register to discover that Maurice is **R20-24** aged 92 and was listed as living in Sarasota (only 1 hour's drive from me in Florida); and that David was shown as having worked in Hong Kong where I used to work. David confirmed that he would be traveling nearby in Florida so we arranged to meet for dinner. However, Maurice has since moved to North Carolina so I was not able to meet him but David has sent a report below.



At dinner, we talked briefly of Maurice who had two brothers at Fram – **Robert (17-21)** dec'd (father to **David R50-55** and **Roger R52-58**) and **Thomas (R23-27)** (father of **Peter R55-60**). Sadly, Maurice lost his wife earlier this year. And then talk turned to Hong Kong where David was based from about 61-72 mostly as company secretary for the Wheelock Group. These were exciting years for both Hong Kong and David with the riots of 65-66 and doing business in the era before the corruption scandals of the 70's. Hong Kong was also where David met his wife who sadly died about 7 years ago from a brain tumour – which has forced David into readjusting to life as a bachelor again. Amongst his many social roles in organizing HK Hockey and The St Georges Society, David was also the main organizer for the SOF HK Dinners. These were the days of **Russell Watson S24-29** (former editor of the South China Morning Post and now buried in Happy Valley), **CI "Punchy" Stapleton (13-15)** (a benefactor to the College who died c.1989), **Mike Newson (46-55)**, **Reginald Parsons (R21-26)** plus various naval officers who called in from time to time particularly **Frank Craig (G45-53)** who played hockey against David for Albion (apparently David saved a crucial short corner taken by Frank but only discovered his identity after the game). David said he returned to Hong Kong in 1997 for the World Cup Rugby 7's competition which also allowed him to rekindle old friendships. As David demonstrated over dinner, he is still fluent in Cantonese learnt from his days as a special police officer.

On a personal front, we have been doing a lot of traveling with a semi-business trip in June to Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Mongolia; and then another trip in August to take part in the Swan World Cup Regatta in Sardinia followed by a visit to my family in UK. Young James had clocked up 24 flights within weeks of his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

If any OFs are ever over in our area, please give us a call.  
Address: As for Overseas Bag communication.

**David Metcalf (R50-55)** sent a brief report on his visit to his uncle, **Maurice Metcalf (R20-24)** in November 2000:

“Maurice at 92 still has a twinkle in his eye. He walks unaided and plays poker regularly. He lives in the Friends Home at Guildford, Greensboro and is one of 265 residents of which 200 are ladies. Although many of the residents have zimmer frames, Maurice is determined to continue unaided and has expressed a wish that he will live to 100. He regularly listens to the World Service of the BBC on his short-wave radio but states that in his opinion the newsreaders read too fast and therefore foreigners who are listening to the news so as to improve their English might have difficulty in understanding what has been said.”

Address: David Metcalf - david@greenacre86.freemove.co.uk.

Address: Maurice Metcalf, 925 New Garden Road, Apartment 712, Greensboro NC 27410-3256, USA; tel: 1 (336) 292-0425

## Zimbabwe

In November, RMR had news about and from **Chris Seddon (S43-50)**. First an e-mail from **Bernard Bridges (S45-54)** in UK:

Thanks for your e-mail in response to my registering my brother, **Oliver Bridges (S45-50)**, and I with the SOF e-mail list. I only gave my e-mail address for my brother as the registration form did not appear to accept an entry without an e-mail address (*RMR – this problem has now been corrected*). Sadly I do not think I can persuade my brother to move into the technological age, at least not yet!

Communications with Zimbabwe are not good - post from abroad now takes up to 4 weeks - but the telephone/fax seems o.k. and I guess e-mail also works. If you were to contact Oliver it would have to be by phone but I know he is about to leave for S. Africa for 2 to 3 weeks and would not be able to help your deadline of 2nd December for the Overseas Bag.

In response to your question about other OFs in Zimbabwe, I believe my brother has not had any contact with **Peter Stanford (30-35)** or **Michael Thomson (K55-59)** but I believe **Alan Dodds (R27-32)** in the U.K. keeps in contact with Peter. **Chris Seddon** may be a better bet for you. He is a solicitor in Harare whom my brother and I know well and he was over at Framlingham for the centenary celebrations in the summer and came to stay with us in Henley.

I believe the numbers of OFs in Zimbabwe has steadily declined over the past years as there is very little incentive for 'foreigners' to go there for work and white farmers are now being forced to leave.

Address: Bernard.Bridges@chubbsecurity.co.uk

RMR then contacted **Chris Seddon (S43-50)** using the e-mail address obtained through Bernard Bridges and received this reply:

“Many thanks for your email about OFs in Zimbabwe. Rose Lillywhite is the widow of **John Lillywhite (R44-52)**. I have not seen her for a little while so do not know whether she is still at the Enterprise Road address here. I do not know either **Peter Stanford** or **Michael Thomson** and did not know they were here. I will try and contact them using the details you provided. I believe that **Percy Pickard's** widow still lives here. Both the **Harland** brothers, **Richard (G25-28)** & **Neville (G27-31)**, who came out in the twenties or thirties have died. Their daughter's in-law's family farm near Kwekwe has been listed and invaded but they now live on the Harland Farm near Rusape.

“You certainly live in a state to which all eyes are turned at present for the Presidential election and it is most appropriate that the editor of the Overseas Bag should live abroad.

“Having not written once to the Overseas Bag in the fifty years since I left Fram I did think that following the Centenary in July, which I did make the effort to attend (it was a most rewarding occasion) I should write and account for myself. I will try and let you have something for a future Overseas Bag though I am not known for being a good correspondent as I have to write too many letters in my work.”

Address: 7 Balfour Road, Greendale, Harare, Zimbabwe; home tel/fax: +263 490382; seddoncc@africaonline.co.zw

**Michael Thomson (K55-59)** sent in more news in November:

“The general election in Zimbabwe has come and gone since I last wrote. The opposition MDC (Movement for Democratic Change) party won nearly half of the seats in the Parliament in an election which was marred by violence and voting irregularities. These deficiencies however were probably minor compared with elections in some other countries. This new make up of the Parliament has ensured some rowdy debates but since most of the power in the country is vested in the President it makes little difference to how the country runs. Although not making the headlines abroad intimidation continues particularly of the members of the opposition and their party offices and officers. Independent newspapers are still appearing but they sell very fast in contrast to the daily Government backed organ, The Herald. From Government announcements the taking over of white owned farms continues apace but what that has actually meant on the ground is difficult to assess. The IMF and other aid agencies are maintaining a watching brief before committing their money. The Zimbabwe dollar has been devalued several times and there are nearly 80 to the pound as opposed to 2 to the pound at independence in 1980. Prices rise inexorably particularly for fuel which is sporadically available. The world price of crude oil has a disproportionate effect on impoverished countries none more so than Zimbabwe which being landlocked has to pipe its supplies in to the country mainly through Mozambique. Much of this broader picture passes us by in this spot of rural Zimbabwe. The only outward signs are a very intermittent water supply because the Town Council won't or can't pay for the fuel to run the water pumps and a stripping of the trees as the locals resort to fires to cook their daily sadza (a cooked form of maize flour) because the electricity is too expensive. On the other hand salaries continue to be paid and the local Health Authority is nagging us about staff appraisal forms which seems quite incongruous. There is this strange dichotomy between the overt national incompetence and inertia of the politicians and rulers and the covert drive by others to continue with business as usual. Perhaps there is hope here for the future. Given a change of ruler(s), the

next milestone of which will be the Presidential election in 2002, the many good parts of Zimbabwe and its people will remerge. Let's hope so.

“I finish my work here soon and think that I shall be back in UK in Feb 2001 before the next contribution is due but who knows where I will be after that!”

Address: PO Box 20, Murambinda Mission Hospital, Murambinda, Zimbabwe; e-mail mthomson@healthnet.zw (or michael.thomson2@virgin.net )