

Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter, which is coming out rather later than we had hoped. For one reason and another we have had a very busy time locally during this year and there was also a large volume of correspondence from you all, for which we are very grateful. In fact, we have so much material that we cannot include our regular 'Contacts' and 'Where are they Now' pages. We are not complaining. If you don't write to let us know what you are doing, we have no newsletter.

Included with this edition we are once again pleased to distribute a special commemorative postage stamp issued by Canada to celebrate the year of the Horse. These are provided at considerable expense by Mr. Kim CHAN (Ah Gin) in sufficient quantities to enable every recipient of the newsletter to receive one. Kim's aim is to supply the full Chinese Zodiac cycle over twelve years, which is even more encouragement for us to keep the newsletter going. As ever, we thank Kim for his generosity.

Finally, we have at last had a computer installed at home. We are not yet on the internet but will be sure to include our e-mail address in future editions of the newsletter. We hope you all continue to enjoy reading it.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU
CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS**

NEWS OF MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Jay ALLEN [FAO mid 80s] is still teaching high school in Emmitsburg, Maryland and we congratulate him on achieving a 100% pass rate with his Advanced Placement Classes last year.

Judy ASHTON [Staff] had a bad time with sciatica last year and her back is still not as strong as before; she is feeling better now, however, and we hope that the improvement continues. Judy is still teaching in the UK Diplomatic Language Centre, while husband John ASHTON [FCO early 80s] works in the Environmental Policy Department of the Government

Geoff BABB [FAO mid 80s] is now Assistant Professor at the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Given the world situation there is rarely a dull moment in his life these days.

John BORDWELL [FAO early 90s] has been selected as Army Attaché at the US Embassy in Singapore, with simultaneous responsibility as Defense Attaché in Brunei and left Hawaii to take up his new post in June this year. John gave up his Brigade command in August 2001 and has since been attending a course at the Asia Pacific Center designed to bring military and foreign service personnel together to discuss security issues in the region. John is pictured below with his family; we wish him great success in his exciting new assignment.



Geoff BURDEN [Cantonese late 60s] is still living in the Midlands area of England and it was good to hear from him and his family at Christmas 2001.

Geoff CHADWICK [Mandarin late 60s] has received a prestigious honour in recognition of his services to the Order of St. John. He was invested as a Member of the Order at a ceremony in the historic Grand Priory Church in Clerkenwell, London, late last year. For 74 years Chief Executive and Director of St. John in Derbyshire, Geoff was admitted as a Serving Brother and presented with the insignia by the Prior of the Order of St. John, Lord Slynn of Hadley. His award was approved by Her Majesty the Queen, who is sovereign head of the Order. We offer him our congratulations on this honour.

It was a pleasure to visit **Mrs. CHEN Shu Fong** [Staff] and her husband in their beautiful home in Sydney, Australia in January this year. Our picture shows Mr. Chen, Mrs. Chen, Kay and your unworthy editor at one of the magnificent lunches we enjoyed. Mrs. Chen is still in good health and talks fondly of her time at CLS.



Mr. Kim CHAN Kwok-Kim [Ah Gin] [Staff] has again visited China with the Evangelical Medical Society [EMAS] of Canada. In the summer of 2001 the team completed the 7th Hospital project in a small village in Ningxia A.R. and are looking to work on the 8th Hospital project in 2002. Kim is pictured with two doctors outside the Yinchuan Rehabilitation Hospital during the visit.



Once again we thank Kim for the beautiful 'Year of the Horse' stamps which you should receive with this copy of the Newsletter. Please see inside front cover for more information on this topic and inside back cover for more information on EMAS.

Mrs. CHENG Ya Lan [Mrs. Zhong] [Staff] endured a very cold winter in Rexburg, Idaho so decided to take a three months break in Cape Town, South Africa during the Spring of this year. Just before Christmas 2001 she took a cruise around the Southern Caribbean on a Princess Line ship. So the winter couldn't have been too long, even if harsh.

Jim CHILTON [FAO mid 80s] has been in touch from Missouri on a number of occasions in the past six months. Unfortunately, his health has not been too good this year and he lost a lot of weight through illness. Happily, Jim reports that things have now improved and we hope that he continues to make progress.

It was good to hear from **Vicky CHU** [Staff] who is still living in the North of England and teaching at Durham University.

John DENNIS [FCO mid 80s] was posted to Beijing after his course at CLS and later became Head of Political Section at the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 1992 to 1996. After secondment to the Standard Chartered Bank and the Department of Trade and Industry, John returned to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and since June 2001 has been Director for UK Trade and Investment Promotion in New Delhi, India. John is still in contact with Chris WOOD [also FCO mid 80s] and hopes that he will get the opportunity at some time in the future to revive his Chinese language skills with a posting to China.

Brian GOPSILL [Mandarin mid 80s] has been in touch to send greetings to our readers and to say how much he enjoys this newsletter.

John GROVES [Cantonese early 70s] continues to work at the Office for Civil Nuclear Security in the UK. His job has involved much travel abroad in the past year.

It was a pleasure to see **Bill GUEST** [Cantonese early 70s and Mandarin mid 70s] at an Army reunion in Leeds, in the North of England, in April this year. Bill is still living in London.

Dave KITCHING [Cantonese late 60s and Mandarin late 80s] has finally left Hong Kong and will by now be settled into his new home in Spain. Dave has sent an interesting brochure on the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, formerly the lower part of Lyemun Barracks. Unfortunately, lack of space precludes its inclusion this time but we hope to be able to feature it in the Autumn issue.

Miss Marie LAM Fuk Kuen [Staff] has sent greetings on behalf of herself as well as **Ah Mei** [Staff] and **Ah Ling** [Staff] who are still living and working in Hong Kong.

We were pleased to receive a beautiful Lunar New Year card from **Bob Lau** [Staff] earlier this year. Bob sends greetings to all our readers.

We congratulate **Mrs. Sara LEE [Miss Siu]** [Staff] on the birth of twin baby girls in May 2001. Sara says that looking after the family takes up nearly all her time, so travel abroad is not likely for some time. If you are in the Dallas area of Texas please call in to see her and Jimmy and the girls; you will be most welcome at their new home. Below is a photograph of the family taken at Christmas 2001.



Shaun LEWIS [Mandarin late 80s] has left Goldman Sachs and is now a florist and gift shop proprietor in his home town. The business has been very successful and Shaun has gone on to open another shop selling high quality foods and tableware. He is looking to establish a mail order department; check out dunscardirect.com if you want to do some e-shopping. Shaun also has it in mind to visit China to buy direct, which will enable him to make use of his Mandarin skills.

Willie LUI [Staff] has moved house but is still operating a Chinese Takeaway business very successfully in the south of England.

Caroline MASON [Mandarin mid 80s] is now lecturing part-time at Durham University in the north of England, where she has frequent contact with Vicky CHU. Caroline and your unworthy editor met up in London in June at an Institute of Linguists Conference and we found much to talk about.

Teresa MEI [Miss IP] [Staff] was in Hong Kong at the beginning of this year and while there visited the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village. Regular readers will recall Alan ROBERTSON'S feature on this village in this newsletter some years ago and our centre pages will give you the flavour of this very attractive development. We thank Teresa for providing this.

The late **Tim MILNES** [Cantonese late 60s] is remembered with affection by many staff and students of the school. We are pleased to say that Claire has been in touch to report on the wedding in New Zealand of their son Robert, who was married in late December 2001. Claire has started a Diploma Course in Counselling and can be contacted on e-mail at Clairemilnes@aol.com if you would like to communicate in this way.

Alan NASH [Mandarin early 70s] has moved to the north of England, in order to be closer to the beautiful walking areas of Hadrian's Wall, the Cheviots, the North Pennines, etc. The terrible outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease last year severely curtailed this activity, which gave Alan and Jan time to complete two of the three books on Walks which they are getting published.

Ken PICKLES [Mandarin late 80s] is in his final year of service in the Army and is looking to leave during this summer. Ken is likely to live and work in Germany, where he is currently posted, following his retirement.

FCO Students of the 1980s will remember **Jumbo PARTRIDGE** who was the officer at the British Trade Commission in Hong Kong responsible for their administration. Jumbo and Paula are now living in Queensland, Australia and were visited by Kay and your unworthy editor early this year. Our picture shows them on the porch of their beautiful home.



Kevin RICE [FAO mid 80s] is still Commandant at the Defense Language Institute [DLI] in Monterey, California. He is due to retire from the Army in 2003 and is likely to settle in California or Arizona. Earlier this year Kevin saw Mr. James WONG when he visited Pebble Beach, California and he has provided news of other former FAO students which you will find else where in this newsletter.

鯉魚門公園
及度假村

*Lei Yue Mun Park
& Holiday Village*



康樂及文化事務署
Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

市區中的綠洲

A Green and Serene Oasis in Urban Hong Kong



康樂及文化事務署轄下的鯉魚門公園位於港島柴灣區，遙望鯉魚門海峽，面積達十九點四六公頃，內設市區首個度假村。

公園四周遍植樹木，園林景色，環境恬靜怡人，空氣清新，是調劑都市緊張生活的消閒好去處。

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Lei Yue Mun Park in Chai Wan is a green and serene oasis which contains the first holiday village in the urban Hong Kong, covering an area of 19.46 hectares. It overlooks the Lei Yue Mun channel and is set in a quiet and relaxing environment with a beautiful landscape, plenty of trees and shrubs and an abundance of clean, fresh air. It is an ideal place to relieve the stress of city life.

Alan ROBERTSON [Mandarin late 60s and Cantonese mid 70s] has been a frequent correspondent during the past year. He has contributed an article on Kuching, Sarawak which will be of great interest to British Army personnel who served in the region during the 1960s. The article can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Simon RODWELL [Mandarin early 70s] is still working in the Department of Trade and Industry of the British Government, with special responsibility for links with businesses in China. His frequent visits to China give him the opportunity to keep his Mandarin skills polished.

John SHANNON [Cantonese late 60s] is now a full time PhD student at Hong Kong University, researching Monastic Buddhism in Hong Kong from 1945 to 2000. He is also lecturing on a Bachelor of Management Studies programme at the University where his course is entitled 'Hong Kong Business Environment'. Our picture shows John in his study.



Willie

ST. MAUR SHIEL [Cantonese mid 80s] sends greetings to all recipients of the newsletter who may know him.

David SYME [Mandarin late 80s] celebrated his 60th birthday this year but is still in uniform, serving with the Territorial Army. He has seen duty trips to Switzerland and Bulgaria during the past year and in November 2001 he ran in the New York Marathon. We recall David's advice on getting through a marathon run at a not-so-young age, which is to "start off slowly, then gradually ease off. We hope he keeps on running for many more years.

Mr. TANG Pong [Staff] is still living in San Jose, California, from where he sends greetings to all former staff and students.

Mr. TSANG Chi Fan [Mr. ZENG] [Staff] continues to work as a lecturer in the Division of Language Studies at the City University of Hong Kong in Kowloon.

Mr. TSE Hau Loong [Staff] has sent greetings from Vancouver, Canada, where he now lives.

Mrs. Anne WEIR [Cantonese early 90s] has written to say how much she enjoys receiving our newsletter.

Richard WELKER [FAO early 80s] joined the Northrop Grumman Corporation in January last year and now represents the Company in Taiwan. He and Melinda are living in Taipei.

Steve WHITE [Mandarin late 80s] is still serving as a Commander in the Royal Navy and is currently working in London.

Chris WOOD [FCO mid 80s] has been busy refurbishing his house during the past year, but took time off to visit Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. Chris now heads the International and Policy Division in the Deputy Prime Minister's Central Policy Group of the UK Government and is spending much time preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development due to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa in September this year.

James WONG Kwok Wei [Staff] continues to have trouble with his legs and can walk only limpingly. This did not prevent him from visiting Kevin RICE in Monterey earlier this year. They had much to talk about. James will visit Hong Kong or Shanghai before the end of this year, if the condition of his legs allows. Pictured is James at Christmas 2001.



We have also received news of the following, although we have not had any direct contact with the individuals concerned. We thank Kevin Rice for passing these details on to us:

Karl Elkenberry [FAO mid 80s] very narrowly escaped death in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on 11 September, 2001. The crashed aircraft destroyed the offices around and under his. Karl is soon to be promoted to Major General and is currently Deputy Director of Strategy, Plans and Policy for the US Army.

Mike BYRNES [FAO mid 80s] is still living in Beijing where he directs the operations in China of the Rockwell Corporation. Mike has now been in China for more than ten years.

SARAWAK AND KUCHING REVISITED
by Alan Robertson

For their excellent 1971 account of the 1962 Brunei Revolt and of the Indonesian 'Confrontation' faced by the new Malaysia in the early 60s, Harold James and Denis Sheil-Small chose the apt title 'The Undeclared War' (New English Library, paperback, 1973). During that campaign, Commonwealth casualties for the whole period were 114 killed and 181 wounded; civilians suffered 36 killed, 53 wounded and 4 captured, while the regular and irregular Indonesian forces lost at least 590 killed, 222 wounded and 771 captured.

It was as a member of the 17,000 strong Commonwealth naval, land and air force in Sarawak and Sabah (Australian, British, New Zealand and Malaysian) that I first found myself in Kuching in 1964-65. With more than enough work to keep one fully occupied, and with much fighting going on not far away, there was precious little time to do any more than to grow familiar with Sarawak's capital Kuching, then an attractive, small riverine town showing many vestiges of the Brooke family era, the 'White Rajahs' and utterly overtaken by the military influx, since Kuching was not only the headquarters of one of the three brigades, but was also the port and base for the whole operation. For reasons that now escape me, I (then entirely innocent of the language) was befriended by a Chinese family living in India Street, with whom I kept in touch after I left Kuching, and whom I last saw at Christmas 1976 when I contrived to escape there from CLS. We had thereafter remained in touch by letter, and later by e-mail.

Seizing the one-off chance of a very low-priced Malaysian Airlines return flight London Heathrow to Kuching, I was luckily able to spend a week there in mid-September 2001, overwhelmed by the Chinese hospitality I needn't describe to Newsletter readers; seeing what changes 25 years had wrought; and reaching places inaccessible in 1965 other than by helicopter; even crossing on foot with Chinese friends, passports unchecked, via a good metalled road over the border into Indonesia (Kalimantan) at Tebedu, scene in former times of more than one bitter fire fight.

With a population close to 300,000 and bureaucracy expanded to match (two mayors, North and South!) Kuching itself now boasts, if that is the word, all the trappings of civilisation: International Airport, Holiday Inn, Hilton Hotel, McDonalds, traffic jams, a thriving tourist industry, karaoke lounges. Fortunately, the old central part is little changed: the Open Air Market, which is actually covered, with its rightly-famed cheap food; India Street (pedestrianised); Carpenter Street; Green Hill Corner, where I breakfasted on 'zhou', 'you tiao' and delicious Indonesian coffee; and very friendly people - Chinese, Iban, Bidayuh, Malay and Indian. The Fata Hotel is still there too.



The march of 'Malaysianisation' has made some impact: a huge new mosque (on the same site as its smallish predecessor); all the former 'streets' restyled Jalan, but with Chinese names still below; rather more covered female heads than in bygone days. Linked by a footbridge from the famous Sarawak Museum, and housed in a beautifully restored building is a new Sarawak Islamic Museum.

Happily, however, Kuching's distinct Chinese heritage has in no way been swamped, and the Chinese, just over 33% of Sarawak's population, still play a large part in the professions, commerce and local government. Chinese primary and middle schools are thriving, the latter sending many on to university in Taiwan, Singapore and UK. In the former (c1912) waterfront Chinese Courthouse is the Chinese History Museum, well worth a visit, wherein is documented the Chinese migration to Sarawak and the trades followed. Directly opposite is the Tua Pek Kong Temple (大伯公宮)



dating from 1876, but mentioned in 1846, while another temple, the Hong San, (弘 安 堂) at the junction of Jalans Carpenter and Wayang dates from 1897, dedicated to a lad who distinguished himself in the Great Fire of Kuching (1884).

At the eastern end of Jalan Padungan is a large Chinese Gate, outside which is The Great Cat of Kuching.



This is one of several, in my eyes, bizarre feline statues. These, and the interesting if kitsch new Cat Museum on a hill south of the river all hang on the fact that Kuching is Malay for 'cat'.

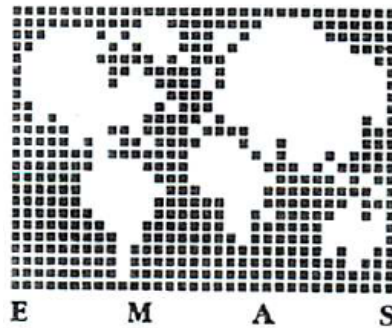
Sarawak (Malaysia's biggest State) rightly considers itself different, behaving to Malaysia rather as Bavaria does to Germany. Foreign travellers who have already gone through customs and immigration rigmarole on arrival at Kuala Lumpur are subjected to a repeat performance when they reach Kuching by what is classed as a domestic flight! But I have yet to meet anyone, of whatever rank, who served in Kuching and who failed to fall in love with the place. In that connection, only when I mentioned to our respected editor that I meant to revisit Kuching did it emerge, to our equal surprise, that he and I had actually been there at the same time during the Confrontation era!

EMAS

EVANGELICAL MEDICAL AID SOCIETY

EMAS was founded in 1948 by a concerned group of Christian physicians, dentists and pharmacists for the purpose of sending medical equipment and supplies to church related health care centres overseas.

This initial vision remains an important objective of EMAS. EMAS has since expanded into many new and exciting areas of service, by God's grace and the devotion and expertise of a broad range of health care professionals.



EMAS relies on support from individuals. An audited financial statement is available on request. EMAS is a Registered Charitable Organization.

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