

Welcome to this edition of the newsletter, the first since the Hong Kong reunion of November 2007. It had been our intention to prepare an issue for the end of last year, but circumstances conspired to prevent this. We hope that it has been worth the wait.

Within the centre pages you will find a brief report on the reunion, together with some photographs and a list of those attending. From the comments received, it seems that while the evening was very enjoyable, it was over far too quickly and several people did not have the opportunity to talk to as many others as they would have liked. We hope that this was put right in the days following, for those staying on in Hong Kong. That was certainly the case for your unworthy editor and Kay.

A plea for help. Mr. James Wong Kwok Wei, who lives in Los Angeles, is teaching Chinese to his young step-grandson, who was born in the United States and whose education was in English. He speaks some Cantonese but no Mandarin at all. James is using the texts of 'Beginning Chinese' by de Francis, and would like to know if anyone can lend him the set of tapes produced at CLS in Mandarin which accompanies the course. He will pay all costs and will return the tapes after copying them. Please help if you can. James can be found at kwong5435@earthlink.net and will be delighted if you are able to help.

Sad News. As we were preparing this edition, we received the very sad news from Jim Morris (Mandarin early 70s) that his wife Gill had lost her fight against cancer after six long years and had passed away on 18 March 2008. On behalf of everyone associated with the school, we extend our condolences to Jim and his family.

Sadly, we also have to report the passing of Bob Sloss, the first Commandant of the School, who died in December 2007. Please see the entry under his name in the 'News of Members' section.

The Newsletter

Please see the important notice inside the back cover concerning the format of the newsletter and the way it is to be distributed in future.

NEWS OF MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Mrs. Lisa AHNERT (Staff) and husband Ed have relocated to Hong Kong where she is now in charge of Mandarin Chinese teaching at the International School. Lisa was not able to attend the reunion but it was a pleasure to see Ed there and to have lunch with Lisa and a number of former teachers some days later.

Geoff BABB (FAO mid 80s) and Melissa spent some time in Europe last year, visiting France, Belgium and Germany in a busy 12-day schedule.

Steve BOLLENS (FAO mid 80s) had hoped to attend the reunion but was unfortunately obliged to attend a meeting of the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages which took place at the same time.

John BORDWELL (FAO mid 80s) has retired from the Army in the rank of Colonel and is now living in Texas. E-mail him at diborjh@gmail.com if you would like to get in touch.

Tony BROWNE (Mandarin early 70s) was hoping to get to the reunion but his busy schedule as the Australian Ambassador to China prevented him from doing so.

Ian BRUCE (Cantonese early 80s) suffered a stroke in 1999 which affected his speech centre and he now has difficulty in speaking. His wife Wendy has been in touch to say that he can barely read or write and can no longer drive, so his life is very restricted, but he does enjoy the newsletter and would have liked to have been able to attend the reunion. If you wish to get in touch wendy.bruce2@ntlworld.com is the address.

Mike BYRNES (FAO mid 80s) is still based in Rhode Island but visits China frequently, where he is involved with two China-specialist business consultancies. Earlier this year he met with former New Zealand student Greg RUMNEY (Mandarin late 80s) for dinner in Beijing. See elsewhere in this issue for details of Greg and other New Zealand alumni.

Mr. Kim CHAN Kwok-Kin (Staff) has once again provided beautiful commemorative Chinese New Year stamps from Canada at considerable expense, for inclusion with each copy of the newsletter distributed. We greatly appreciate his generosity and it should be remembered that the HK Reunion was also originally Kim's idea. He was visited in Canada last year by David SYME (Mandarin late 70s).

Mrs. CHENG Ya Lan (Mrs. Zhong) (Staff), was visited by son Larry last summer and together they made trips to Puerto Villarta and Las Vegas. Later in the year Mrs. Zhong visited friends in Ricksburg, Idaho. Our picture shows her with Larry at Puerto Villarta.



Jim CHILTON (FAO mid 80s) has sent greetings from Arkansas.

Miss Vicky CHU Wai Chin (Staff) continues to teach Chinese at evening classes at Durham University in UK even though the Language School has downsized significantly. She had hoped to get to the reunion but was not able to do so, but did manage a break in France last summer.

Sheena CONNELLY (Mandarin early 90s) is now dividing her time between Melbourne and Hong Kong. Her daughter Sarah is planning a long stay in Europe starting this year.

Brian CONNOR (Mandarin late 80s) had hoped to get to the reunion but at the time the new Museum of Islamic Art was about to open in Qatar and as Head of Security for the Qatar Museums Authority his priority was the training and testing of museum staff before the opening.

Kevin DOYLE (Mandarin late 70s) is now Security Manager at a college in Nottingham, England, which has 10,000 students and over 1,000 staff. Many of the students are Chinese so he is able to use his language skills.

Pat FARR (Mike was a student of Mandarin in the late 60s) has now moved to New Zealand. Her e-mail address remains unchanged at patfarr02@hotmail.com if you would like to contact her.

Brian FINCH (Mandarin late 60s) has kindly agreed to distribute this newsletter electronically in future so please see the important notice inside the back cover. We are very grateful to Brian for taking this on.

Mike FREEMAN (Cantonese early 80s) is the Head of Procurement at the European Police Headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands.

John GROVES (Cantonese early 70s) is now retired but has done some contract work for the International Atomic Energy Agency, drafting a guidance document on information security and leading an inspection team to Indonesia. John and Cindy have moved house and his e-mail address is john.groves@bigfoot.com if you want to contact him.

Bill GUEST (Cantonese early 70s and Mandarin mid 70s) was hoping to be at the reunion but unfortunately his health hasn't been too good and he was unable to make it. Anthony GAYNOR (Mandarin early 70s) has since visited him in London and has told him all about it.

Stan HENNING (USLNO at MODCLS late 80s) retired from the US Army in 1993 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and from service with the US Government in 2004. He travels to China annually and visits Richard Booker when in Hong Kong. His main interest now is in Chinese Martial Arts (see <http://seinenkai.com/articles/hennino/index.html>) and his e-mail address is hanning@clearwire.net (yes, hanning *not* henning).

Charles HOOPER (FAO late 80s) is serving as Defense Attache at the US Embassy in Beijing in the rank of Brigadier. He served as Assistant Army Attache in Beijing 1995-1998 and as Senior Country Director for China in the Office of the Secretary of Defense 2001-2003. Before moving to his current assignment Charles was Chairman for Foreign Area Officer Training and Education at the US Naval Postgraduate School.

Mr. HUANG Yao Ping (Staff) is still working for law firm Johnson Stokes & Master in Hong Kong although he is now of venerable age.

Mrs. HUANG Leung Ling Hsiao (Staff) and **her** husband kindly entertained Kay and your unworthy editor to an excellent *dim sum* lunch at the Riverside Restaurant near Osborn Barracks following the reunion in Hong Kong. Many readers will recall 'training lunches' at this venue.

Mrs. JIANG Lin Lin (Staff) is now living in Tianjin and it was a great pleasure to see her at the reunion after so many years.

David KITCHING (Cantonese late 60s and Mandarin late 80s) is still living in Spain.

Miss Marie LAM (Staff) has sent New Year greetings and reports that she is currently studying Theology, Greek and Latin with a view eventually to become a teacher of these subjects.

Kevin LAU (Staff) is still living and working in the London area and sends greetings to all for the Year of the Rat.

Sara LEE (Miss Siu) (Staff) has also sent greetings to all for the New Year from her home in Texas. She was in Hong Kong from May to July last year and again for the reunion.

Willy LUI (Staff) regularly sends us beautiful Chinese calendars with views of Hong Kong or New Year themes and this year was no exception.

Jim MORRIS (Mandarin early 70s) was hoping to be able to get to the reunion but unfortunately the illness of his wife Gill prevented him from doing so. Since then we have learnt that Gill finally lost her fight with cancer on 18 March 2008. We hope that Jim can take some comfort from the fact that many people will be thinking of him at this time.

Rufus ORME (Mandarin mid 80s) was also hoping to attend the reunion but the event coincided with a house move. While preparing for the move, he presented a number of his Chinese dictionaries and other books to the University of Bath for possible use on their courses.

Jumbo PARTRIDGE (FCO Admin Officer mid 80s) and wife Paula have been in frequent touch from their home in Australia. To quote Jumbo they are both "about as fit as one might expect for a couple of oldies".

Andrew PEARSON (Mandarin early 70s) has put us in touch with Bill CLEMENTS (DA Course mid 80s) who retired from the Army in the rank of Colonel and is now living in England.

Mel PETRIE (Mandarin early 80s) has kept in contact with Kim WINFIELD (Cantonese late 80s) over the years and has kindly provided details of his current whereabouts. It was a pleasure to see them both at the reunion.

Ken PICKLES (Mandarin early 80s) is still in Moldova working for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Brod PURDY (Mandarin mid 70s) is now living in Lincolnshire, in the eastern part of England, where he is doing some tutoring and examining in English. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2006 and has been busy raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support (see www.pr4motorsport.com and www.justgiving.com/c2c5) by carrying out long-distance sponsored drives. Please support this worthy cause.

James RAND (Mandarin late 60s) is still working in Guangdong Province in China but his home is still in Thailand. He had intended to be at the reunion but broke an ankle the very week of the event and was not discharged from hospital in Hong Kong until 14 November 2007. He has now been working in mainland China for 16 years.

Mick ROBERTS (Cantonese mid 70s) reaches the age of 65 this month and will be retiring fully from work. He is also divesting himself of other commitments (including examining Chinese to English candidates for the Diploma in Translation of the UK Institute of Linguists - would anyone like to take this on?) pending his move from Guernsey to Kent in the southeast of England in the summer. *Please see inside the back cover.*



THE HONG KONG REUNION 2007

The reunion took place as planned in the magnificent surroundings of the Jockey Club at Happy Valley, with 70 people present. A list of those attending, together with some photographs, can be found in the following pages. Mrs. Stella Lau was unable to attend the dinner, but turned up later in the evening to talk to former students and members of staff. The success of the event was largely due to the number who attended, some of whom had travelled long distances from all over the world in order to get there. However, the efforts of the following deserve special mention:

- **John and Doris Shannon**, who were responsible for arranging the superb venue and for protracted negotiations with the Jockey Club over menus, prices and the general format of the evening. They also took care of many small details - flowers, display board, lettering above the podium, the sound system, and so on. Without their hard work the event would not have been possible.
- **John Prince**, who arranged corporate rate accommodation for a number of those attending.
- **Richard Cater of Cathay Pacific Airways**, who kindly arranged discount flights on CX from a number of world airports.
- **Simon Rodwell**, who contacted Bob Sloss, the first Commandant of MODCLS, for the message which he read at the reunion. The full text is as follows:

"Greetings to you all. It was a great privilege to have been the first Commandant of the MOD Chinese Language School (indeed it was I who insisted that it should be known as the 'MOD' rather than the 'Army' CLS). I send you my best wishes for the future. I am proud of what was set up in terms of the school, the staff and the students - but most of all, of your collective achievements."

Sadly, Bob died in December 2007, barely a month after the reunion.

HONG KONG REUNION 2007

The following people attended the reunion:

Ed Ahnert	Lee Mein Ven
Margaret Beeson	Sara Lee (Miss Siu)
Paul Beeson	Lindsay Liesel
Sheila Bingham	Caroline Matthews
Neil Brodie Mrs.	Michael Matthews
Neil Brodie Marie	Cath McMahon
Byrnes Mike	Kevin McMahon
Byrnes Carolyn	Ng Sam Yuen
Cater Richard	Diane Petrie
Cater Geoff	Mel Petrie
Chadwick Chan	Lorraine Poon
Pok Kim Chan	John Prince
Alice Chang	Vaughn Rixon
Sheena Connelly	Kay Roberts
Lesley Croslegh	Mick Roberts
Robin Croslegh	Alan Robertson
Helen Cummins	Simon Rodwell
Dennis Eves	Doris Shannon
Mandy Eves	Elaine Shannon
Brian Finch	John Shannon
Cathy Finch	Christina Siu
Gillian Finch	Andrew Syme
Romana Fisch	David Syme
Anthony Gaynor	Fiona Syme
Judith Gaynor	Pat Syme
Bill Graham	Cyril Thomas
Maggie Graham	Gabrielle Thomas
Hau Mei Ling	Tsang Chi Fan (Mr. Zeng)
Ho Pui Kei	Steve White
Huang Yao Ping	Dani (White)
Patti Jehan J	Rod Whitticase
iang Lin Lin	Elaine Winfield
Camilla Le MaTtre	Kim Winfield
Frank Le Maître	Wong, Leung Ling Hsiao
	Wong Mui





NEWS OF MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Alan ROBERTSON (Mandarin late 60s and Cantonese mid 70s) has had much success in locating many of his former Hong Kong Military Service Corps colleagues through the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association website and you may wish to try www.hkesa.com.hk if there is anyone you wish to find.

Simon RODWELL (Mandarin early 70s) has been in touch with the sad news of the death of Bob SLOSS, the first Commandant of the School. For more details see below.

Greg RUMNEY (Mandarin late 80s) has been in touch and has provided updates on a number of other former students from New Zealand. These are included in a summary elsewhere in this issue. Greg himself is currently working as International Security Advisor for Boeing (China) Co. Limited based in Beijing and has been involved in China since 1985.

Neal SEALOCK (FAO mid 80s) is still in post as Director of Spokane International Airport and Industrial Park in Washington State. He is also serving on the Boy Scouts of America Regional Commission, the State Veterans' Cemetery Board and the Governor's Aviation Council.

<p>It is with great sadness that we report the death of Bob SLOSS, the first Commandant of the School, on 11 December 2007. His son John notified Simon Rodwell that he had died and we are grateful to Simon for keeping in touch with the family and for passing the news to us. Bob had been unwell in recent years but had continued to take an interest in MODCLS and elsewhere in this issue you can find his message to the reunion, which was kindly read on his behalf by Simon Rodwell on the night. Bob's sons may be holding a memorial dinner in Cambridge at some time in the near future and we will pass on the details as and when we receive them.</p>

David SYME (Mandarin late 70s) visited Kim CHAN Kwok-Kin (Staff) in Canada in June last year and following the November reunion, spent a rain-soaked weekend in Guernsey in December visiting your unworthy editor and Kay. In spite of the weather he ran all over the island several times while he was here.

Mr. TSANG Chi Fan (Mr. Zeng) (Staff) has now retired from his post at the City University of Hong Kong.

Peter TUSTIN (DA Course early 70s) who was the British Defence Attaché in Beijing in the mid 70s, has moved house but is still living in the south of England.

Anne WEIR (Cantonese early 90s) was looking forward to the reunion but unfortunately developed problems with a hip which made mobility difficult and ruled out any long-haul flying. She sends best wishes to all.

Ian WELFARE (FCO Mandarin Course early 80s) had a long and satisfying career in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which included 15 years in China. Ian says that he got so much more out of postings to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong thanks to the excellent schooling in Chinese that he received at the CLS and he gives special thanks to David Syme, Kevin McMahon and his teachers.

Kim WINFIELD (Cantonese late 70s) has joined us from the eastern part of England where he now lives. After tours of duty in Attache posts, Kim retired from the Army in the rank of Brigadier two years ago.

Steve WHITE (Mandarin late 80s) has left the Royal Navy and is now the bursar at a public school in London. We are looking forward to seeing him with Dani in Guernsey in April 2008.

Mr. James WONG Kwok Wei (Staff) has been in frequent touch during the past year or so and he has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the newsletter. It was a great pity that Susan's leg fracture meant that he was unable to attend the reunion, but he did telephone in the days leading up to the dinner wishing us well.

Chris WOOD (FCO Mandarin course mid 80s) is now Director for the Americas at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London. Most of his work is taken up with South American affairs and he travels extensively in that region.

OTHER NEWS

Paddy ASHDOWN (Mandarin late 60s) (now Lord Ashdown) was rumoured last year to be in the frame for the post of UN Special Envoy in Afghanistan. The job eventually went to General John McColl.

Richard BARTLE, who was a good friend of the School during his time as the staff officer with responsibility for it at Headquarters British Forces in Hong Kong, has not been in good health during the past year. We are pleased to report that he is now getting better.

Richard BOOKER has moved from the University area of Pokfulam and is now living on Lantau Island. It was good to see his father-in-law, Mr. CHAN Pok, at the reunion.

Dave CLARK (Mandarin late 80s) is now living and working in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Karl EIKENBERRY (FAO early 80s) completed a successful tour of duty as the Lieutenant General in Command of Combined Forces in Afghanistan and is now the Deputy Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium.

Mrs. Stella LAU (Staff) is currently Headmistress of the Diocesan Girls' School (DGS) in Gascoigne Road, Kowloon.

It is reported that **Jez TIPPETT** (Cantonese early 90s) has moved to Canada.

The following information on New Zealand personnel was kindly provided by Greg RUMNEY:

- **John McKINNON**, a Chinese linguist (though not a former student of CLS) is now Secretary of State for Defence in New Zealand. He may be known to some of our readers.

These all attended CLS at some time:

- **Carl WORKER** is now Director of the Americas Division in the New Zealand Foreign Ministry.
- **John McARTHUR** is now Deputy Secretary of State in the New Zealand Foreign Ministry.
- **Michelle SLADE** is now Director of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei, Taiwan.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

At the reunion I announced that after some 12 years Kay and I were to give up producing the newsletter. The main reason was that we would both be retiring during 2008 and so we would not have access to bulk photocopying facilities free of charge. Postal costs also figured in this decision. Since the Guernsey Post Office was privatised two or three years ago costs have increased significantly and with pensions providing our only income, the newsletter looked to become a pretty expensive undertaking. We also thought that after 12 years a fresh editorial approach was needed.

After discussion with several people at the reunion, a way forward was found. Kay and I were persuaded to continue to act as the point of contact and to edit and produce the newsletter. Brian Finch has kindly agreed to distribute it electronically in future and we will forward the 'master' copy to him. He will maintain the electronic database of e-mail addresses of recipients. ***It is therefore essential that you provide Brian with your e-mail address if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically.*** Brian is at: bfinch@tiscali.co.uk

I shall continue to produce paper copies for those who do not have access to e-mail, but you must let me know if this applies to you. If Brian or I do not hear from you, we will assume that you no longer wish to receive the newsletter and we will remove your name from the distribution. My contact details are on the back page.