

# 香港



## 中国语言学校

42 數

2020年6月

## EDITOR'S NOTES

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**From Kim Winfield**

Alan was an outstanding editor: diligent, dynamic and determined. I cannot match his skills but will do my best to follow in his footsteps. His enthusiasm encouraged us to maintain the newsletter, keeping in contact and sharing memories, updates and articles. I am grateful to Brian Finch for providing the mailing list. David Ellis deserves special thanks. His encouragement and IT wizardry are integral to producing the newsletter. Last, but not least, many thanks to you. Your contributions remain essential. Please make an input whenever you wish. In English or Chinese, both equally welcome.

Finally, the familiar Chinese saying, "May you live in interesting times" has certainly come to pass. Take care and keep safe.

Best regards,

Kim

### **PERSONAL / IN CONFIDENCE**

*We ask you please to remember that the newsletter is intended for the eyes of former students and staff of MODCLS only and should not be further distributed. Requests to add people to the distribution should be made to the editor. (See admin pages at back for contact details).*

### **From Tony Browne**

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Not far from 50 years since my class began in Lyemun barracks in 1973. All but two of the New Zealanders who attended MOD CLS went on to lengthy diplomatic careers. Carl Worker and I both ended up as Ambassador in Beijing. John McArthur was Consul General in Shanghai and Ambassador in Tokyo. Michelle Slade, still very active as a trade negotiator, ran our office in Taipei, as I had done before her. Since I finished as Ambassador in Beijing in April 2009 I have made 37 trips back to the PRC. But none likely in 2020!

### **From Brian Bunker**

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We are still in Hong Kong. Our eldest son is a pilot with Cathay Pacific (although not much flying of late!) Irene is Singaporean, so our sons have dual nationality. Hence our youngest is doing his National Service in Singapore. Looking forward to meeting friends over an ale in London after the current craziness is over.

### **From Robin Crosleggh**

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We are now running a holiday cottage business, as well as having four of eight cottages permanently let. This is the second year since we refurbished the lot and needed a little income to keep the coffers from emptying. Needless to say, we have found plenty to keep us busy. Many of the jobs not tackled since we moved in four years ago are now reaching fruition. Servicing, repainting and renewing parts of the indoor swimming pool have taxed my skills, but I think that I have mastered a few of them! Oh, and by the way, I am now a great grandfather three times over!

### **From Kevin Doyle**

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I have maintained, as best I can, my spoken Chinese by having a language exchange with Chinese students here in Nottingham. I have been doing this since about 2000. One hour's English for one hour's Mandarin works well. Then I joined a company helping and advising Chinese students who want to stay in UK. So it is careers advise.

Kevin also supplied a splendid video of himself reciting a Chinese poem. Delightful to hear his dulcet tones.

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**From Brian Finch**

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*A Chance Meeting*

In April 2019, Brian accompanied a film crew producing a documentary about the “Lisbon Maru”. They were staying at a country hotel in Devon. While Brian was chatting to the film’s director outside the hotel, a very English gentleman approached them on hearing them speaking Mandarin. It transpired that this was Ian Wallace, who was on the N2 course with Brian from September 1968 to February 1971. They had not seen each other since then. Quite by chance, Ian was staying at the hotel at the same time.

Brian’s book, “A Faithful Record of the Lisbon Maru Incident”, was published in 2017. It concerns the Chinese fisherman who rescued British prisoners of war whose ship was torpedoed. If you require further details, please let me know and I will contact Brian.

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**From Bill Graham**

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Maggie and I have been living in Salisbury for most of the past twenty years or so. I retired from work two years ago. My last job was running the Army Dependents Trust, which I did for about 9 years. Our three children are all married now and living in Nottingham and Reading. We have four grandchildren and another one on the way!

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**From Jane Hiatt**

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Jane is a graduate of the very last Mandarin course to be run at the MOD CLS from 1991-1992. Jane currently lives in Canberra and is at the Kumon Education Centre. Due to the pandemic, she has the daunting task of being available 24/7 to take care of over 250 students. Although not having a moment to spare at the moment, an input is solemnly promised once things calm down.

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**From Marianne Hook**

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Marianne attended MOD CLS 1982-1983, together with fellow US officers Jay Allen, Mike Byrnes and Bob Anchondo. After a year, she and Bob went on to study in Shanghai and Beijing. Marianne retired from the US Army in 1996 after teaching Asian studies, keeping an eye on NE Asia in Washington and serving as a brigade operations officer in Iraq in 1991. Marianne has lived in San Francisco for the past twenty years, where she had a second career in environmental education and public information for a large water utility. Fully

retired now, time was available to brush up her Chinese in Taipei, where her son was studying. Marianne has kindly provided some photographs from her time at Osborn barracks, including the infamous dumpling eating competition.



*Marianne Hook's team. Dumpling eating competition 1983*

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#### **From Lt Gen Charles W Hooper US Army**

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General Hooper retires on 1 October after over 41 years distinguished service. This is reflected in his current appointment as Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, some 20,000 personnel. His next assignment is to his dream home near a bucolic pond, where he will fish every evening.

I remember Charles as a student at MOD CLS from 1989-1981. I also remember him as a youthful Lt Col, rollerblading through Jianguomenwai from the diplomatic compound to the US Embassy. We also could tell a tall tale or two of our fishing exploits around Beijing. However, my enduring memory is of our attendance at a banquet in the Great Hall of the People. For some arcane reason, spurs were part of my dress uniform, although I have never ridden a horse. Charles walked behind me up the steps into the Great Hall. He was mortified when he accidentally trod on my spur, which when I moved forward, came off my boot completely while still attached to the heel. We sneaked off to an empty anteroom. Now, Charles is a big man. We placed my boot, minus spur

and heel, onto his anvil-like left hand. I then held the heel in place on the bottom of the boot. Charles then smote down on it with his sledge hammer of a right fist. Mission accomplished. Boot as good as new, if not better. Chuckling, we went on to banquet and had a beer to celebrate. My best wishes to the impromptu cobbler for a long and happy retirement.

### **From Tony Insall**

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Tony is still a Senior Visiting Research Fellow in the War Studies Department, King's College, London University. He is researching and publishing mainly on the Second World War and the early part of the Cold War, with a focus on Scandinavia and the Nordic countries. His most recent book, "Secret Alliances", about Anglo-Norwegian resistance cooperation, was published in 2019, and draws extensively on Norwegian and Russian intelligence archives. If you would like more information, please let me know and I will contact Tony.

### **From Mike Jackson**

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Mike has provided an abridged tale of his exploits since joining the TA as a 17 year old gunner. He attended course C3, 1970-1972, with Ian Livermore, David Hickman, Tim Milnes and John Prince. He worked in Tsuen Wan 1974-1975. Thereafter his wanderings took him to Old Sarum, Tidworth, Oman, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Ashford and London. (Who can forget the unbridled joy in packing and unpacking MFO boxes?) Eventually Mike returned to Hong Kong in June 1989, shortly before the Tiananmen Square massacres, where he worked with Ian Livermore for two years. Thence to Wilton for five years, followed by five years providing advice and support in places such as the Balkans and Nepal. Retiring after such distinguished service, Mike still had the energy and drive to work for 18 years as a defence consultant. He continues to do so, albeit on a very part time basis. Colleen and Mike still regard Hong Kong as their second home, but have not been back since 1991.

### **From Teresa Kwok-Hung Mei**

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I am with my husband at a retirement home called Kendal in Ithaca, New York. I was one of the earliest Cantonese teachers at MOD CLS, from the beginning of the school until 1971. After that, I went to graduate school, then got a Library Science degree. I worked as a catalogue librarian at Cornell University for 41 years. I retired at age 81 in 2019. Many of the names in the newsletter I have

never met before. However, I thoroughly enjoy reading every issue of it. Hong Kong was a much better place then than it is now.

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**From Marie Lam**

I and other Cantonese colleagues with whom I keep in contact are all very well. They include Cantonese and Potunghua instructor Mrs Wong; members of staff May and Ling, and Sergeant Bob Lau and his family in UK.

Marie's third book was published last September: Ji-zhi Solidarity and Solitude. If you require any information about the book, please let me know and I will contact Marie.

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**From Frank Le Maitre**

Frank continues to live in Guernsey, his home, and is coping very well. He would like to ask if anyone knows the whereabouts of Nigel Champion, course C1, and Brian Trueman, Frank's course C2. If anyone can help, please let me know and I will pass the details on to Frank.

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**From Shaun Lewis**

Two years ago, my wife and I sold the family business and took early retirement. Thank goodness that we got out in time, as we ran a large garden centre. Since then, we have been enjoying life in our rural idyll and I have been working part-time on my writing. My fourth novel on the Royal Navy in World War I is now with the publisher. For my next book I am working on a new idea, mine disposal in World War II. I hoped to meet with Ken Pickles in September, but the pandemic seems likely to interfere with this.

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**From Ian Livermore**

Although the number of ex-students with whom I have shared a San Mig has sadly shrunk over the years, it is still enjoyable to read of the others. I am in sporadic contact with Brian Connor who was a member of my team. He is now one of two ex-Int Corps pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. After I retired, I returned to Germany within the year and have lived here ever since. A few years back, anticipating the likely effects of Brexit on my life, I applied for German citizenship. The advantage of applying at that time was that I was able to retain my British passport. Nevertheless, it was a bit of a shock that when I received my passport my nationality was given as German! I still use my

Cantonese, but rarely. Most of the “Chinese” restaurants in the area are run by Vietnamese! However, I did go down a treat when in Vancouver!

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**From Richard Lovell-Knight**

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Richard works for a security company in UK which does business in China and Hong Kong. The company have good partners there and in South East Asia. They are always interested in potential consultants living in the region with language and current commercial security skills. If you require further information let me know and I will pass your details to Richard.

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**From John McArthur**

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John is about to retire after a long and distinguished career in the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade. His postings have included Beijing, Shanghai and five years in Taipei during the early 90s. He served as Ambassador to Japan, and then 10 years on the Ministry’s Senior Leadership Team. He is currently Strategic Policy Adviser in the Chief Executive’s office. Despite all the above achievements, he assures me that his days at the MOD CLS were the highlight of his career in the New Zealand Foreign Service. Very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

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**From Paul McLeod**

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Lyndy and Paul have retired to Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. As with many retired officers, he has accumulated a medley of presidencies, including the local Rotary Club, the District Air Force Association and the local Veterans’ Centre. Intriguingly, he is also on the Board at the National Cartoon Gallery. Despite all this, he still finds time to go sea fishing and disrupt the peaceful tranquility of the nearby hills with his Royal Enfield motor bike.

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**From John Prince**

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Some 50 years ago, John disembarked at Kai Tak after a 29 hour RAF flight to join C3 at Lyemun barracks. He describes learning Chinese a truly a lifechanger. He loved everything about Hong Kong, especially the can do spirit and never-say-die optimism of the Cantonese people there. Like many of us, he hopes that this will bring the place through the storm clouds currently swirling around it. John has spent some time there of the past 20 years, first at HKU, then in a consultancy role based in Singapore. He has visited more recently as his son,



born in Hong Kong, works at HKUST. He hopes to renew annual visits as soon as possible.

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**From Kevin Rice**

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Kevin was a student at the school 1983-84. He retired from the US Army in June 2003. His last posting was three years as Commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language School in Monterey, California. Since then, he and Kitty have lived in San Luis Obispo, California, half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Kevin very kindly put me in contact with Marianne Hook.

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**From Vaughn Rixon**

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Vaughn was one of the Australians on the 1987-1988 Mandarin course, along with Bob Tyne, Laura Barcham, Kevin Harkin and Matt Vanderlugt. He is still in the Navy, the only one of the group still in permanent military service. He finished his posting as DA in Seoul in 2017, then spent two years at Fleet HQ. He is currently Director of Maritime Plans there, and is pretty sure that it will be his last posting!

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**From David Syme**

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*“Fishing in Muddy Waters” (Hun shui mo yu)*

The Commandant and Chief Instructor at MOD CLS were not given watch-keeping duties, nor an exercise role. It only seemed fair that, when asked, the officers in these posts should accept a responsibility on the sporting front. The highest profile example of this is Kevin McMahon’s involvement in the murky world of Hong Kong football, when he chaired their disciplinary committee with no-nonsense Yorkshire aplomb.

It fell to me (and subsequently others) to become Chairman of the British Forces Angling Club. This all-male club had its home water at Stonecutters’ Island, but competed regularly with local angling clubs near Sai Kung, in the main harbour and south of Aberdeen. The club’s Hon Sec asked me on one occasion if I could apply for a financial grant for a trip to an island group in the South China Sea. “What happens is”, he enthused, “you get on this trawler at Aberdeen and it steams out to this island group called the Paracels. They take you to an uninhabited island. You reach the shore with rowing boats carrying kit

and food for a week. You camp and fish for 5 days, then they come and take you back to Aberdeen. Lots of the local clubs do it and we would like to have a go.”

I applied for a grant and was told to seek security clearance for the trip. I filled in forms and submitted them to HQBF. They were turned down because it sounded too flimsy an arrangement. With help from a member of staff, we found and translated a leaflet advertising this trip which put it in a more favourable light, and re-submitted the form. There followed a long delay. The forms were sent to MOD London, where considerable debate took place. We had not realized that these islands, part of the Spratlys group, were claimed by the PRC, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam and perhaps a few more countries. Time passed. Our club lost patience and set off on an alternative angling trip to Thailand.

Later, out of the blue, I received a signal from HQBF authorizing the trip to the islands. But, I quote, “On no account should any British military person display a flag or any item showing the “Union Jack.”

What diplomatic consequences might there have been?

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### **From Jez Tippet**

Jez was part of the last intake at the school from 1990-1992 with Brian Hughes, Gary Zanelli and John Greave. He served in Hong Kong for the next five years and was on the last military flight out in June 1997. “Great times for sure!” Jez has now retired to Canada and is the owner of a craft brewery in central Ontario. “Living the dream!”

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### **From Bob Tyne**

I am still with the Army after 44 years, although now as a civil servant where I manage the entire LOTE capability for the Australian Army. I am lucky to stay in touch with hundreds of Australian Army and Defence linguists on a daily basis, including quite a few MOD CLS graduates. The world of international engagement continues to build momentum in the Australian Defence Force and LOTE plays such an important role in supporting the Army’s international engagement initiatives. The ADF School of Languages celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 with an afternoon parade and an evening reception. It was terrific to catch up with many linguists from years gone by, including quite a few MOD CLS graduates.

### **From Clive Walker**

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Clive has many happy memories of his time at MOD CLS. He lived in the Lyemun officers mess and enjoyed the variety of mess mates there and whisky sampling with Scottish colleagues. Occasional trips to Wanchai refurbished his Cantonese. On one such occasion, a member of the team disappeared and was later found asleep under the front wheels of the car in Victoria barracks, still clutching his pint pot. This was to ensure that they did not leave without him. Clive also has many fond reminiscences of the staff and students.

In 1992 Clive took early retirement from the Royal Hong Kong Police and moved to South Africa. Then, as a consultant for a security company, he was embedded in an oil and gas company in Hebei. The local Mandarin dialect proved somewhat challenging. It was very guttural and different from the “Queen’s Mandarin” of MOD CLS. Clive has a delightful two-page compendium of the linguistic challenges he faced and how he overcame them. Let me know if you would like a copy. It is well worth reading.

### **From Rich Welker**

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I retire from the US Army in June 1999 and worked at the American Institute in Taipei for two years before joining a defense contractor in Taipei for the next five years. Melinda and I now live in Aiken, South Carolina, a very pleasant small town near Augusta. We recently moved here from a community in the Hilton Head area.

### **From Rod Whitticase**

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I’m still in Hong Kong. Last year I retired from St. John’s Cathedral Choir after 35 years as a bass. I am still in regular touch with Caroline Mason and Jim Morris from N5 (I think).

### **From Chris Wood**

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Chris has been British Consul-General in Shanghai since July 2019, a very different city from the one he first visited in the summer of 1984 towards the end of his MOD CLS programme. And latterly, as elsewhere around the world, in a very different environment from what we might have expected of 2020. Shanghai is the hub of British business in China, with around two-thirds of UK companies in China being based in and around Shanghai, but normal business was knocked sideways around Chinese New Year. Shanghai reacted quickly and

effectively to the spread of Covid-19, with lockdowns, thorough testing and effective treatment and, remarkably for a city of 24 million, reported only seven deaths. At times, it has felt like one of the safest places in the world to be. In common with colleagues in British diplomatic missions across China, Chris and his team had to repurpose themselves several times over in recent months, rapidly developing expertise in procurement, logistics and Customs rules as the UK sourced vast quantities of supplies of Personal Protective Equipment from China for the NHS (total contracts so far across China exceeding £1bn). Shanghai life has mostly returned to normal, but for the ubiquitous face masks and for tightly restricted international travel. Here's hoping for continued improvement through the second half of 2020!

### **From Carl Worker**

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I am currently in Buenos Aires for a second posting as NZ Ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, having cross-posted in December 2019 from my second term as NZ Consul-General in Hong Kong from 2017-2019. Before that I was NZ's Counter Terrorism Ambassador based in NZ from 2016-2017, Charge d'Affaires a.i. Washington DC June-December 2015, Ambassador to China 2009-2015 and Director MFAT Americas Division 2006-2008.

My earlier China postings were Second Secretary (Political) from 1984-1986 and Counsellor/DHOM from 1992-1994. This was followed by Consul-General Hong Kong and Macau from 1994-1998. So I am pleased to have been able to put my Chinese learned at MOD CLS to good use across three postings in Beijing totaling 10 years and two in Hong Kong totaling 6 years.

I have stayed in touch with classmate Chris Wood and was delighted last year to catch up with John Dennis in Hong Kong.

I have two younger sons as well as two grown up ones. The younger ones were at school recently in Hong Kong at the Australian International School, across the road from our old classrooms.

## GALLERY

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### Photo Gallery

*US Marine Corps Ball. HK 1983*



*First CLS visit to PRC 1982*



## GALLERY

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*Some familiar faces!*



*Who is the lady Jay Allen hanging around with?*



## GALLERY

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*Dragon Boat Team*



## E-MAIL CONTACTS

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For sending in contributions and other editorial matters, please email Kim Winfield at [kim.winfield@btinternet.com](mailto:kim.winfield@btinternet.com).

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The address is: [bfinch1941@gmail.com](mailto:bfinch1941@gmail.com)

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