

Dringo's update

I left Northern Ireland for good in 1977 after my parents moved to Cheshire. I came back once for Helen Green's wedding but sadly never since. Graduated from Nottingham University with a degree in Engineering Geology then started work as an entry level geologist with EXLOG in the Middle East. Quickly moved on to Halliburton and then 32 years with Baker Hughes. In the later years as a more senior manager I got to travel a lot, at one stage I had six moves in seven years. In addition to Europe some of my overseas tours included Kuala Lumpur covering all of Asia, North Africa living in Algiers (fun!) and Cape Town for all of Sub Saharan Africa. Overall I have worked in approaching 50 countries, good fun at the time but not missing the air miles! I am happy to be back based in Aberdeen and working for myself, trying to breathe life into a depressed North Sea. If I cannot do that in the next two years I will retire gracefully and a little poorer! I say Aberdeen but we live in Banchory about 20 miles inland up the Dee Valley.

I married Julie in 1983 and have two grown up kids, the eldest Jennie (30) is a geneticist at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and the youngest Laura (28) a teacher in Aberdeen. Laura married Colin this summer and I am a little poorer for the experience! Great kilted Scottish wedding though!

Very keen on golf and skiing, long since finished my hockey, cricket and squash careers.

I see there have been several London meetings, my work has me in London once every six weeks so it would be good to meet up. In the longer term I want to bring Julie to see my old haunts in Lisburn, hopefully combining that with a get together with a few of you. Rather envious of some of my so called friends that look no different now than they did at school, must be clean living!

Reading the blog and looking at all the photos brought it all back.

- Getting Mr Jamieson off geography and onto politics
- The pure theatre of a Hector Simpson Latin lesson (Do you know what a yo yo is boy?)
- Fleck and Woods breezing through Further Mathematics!
- Doing the reading at morning assembly (pure fear!)
- The rickety old chemistry lab akin to Harry Potter
- Drinking with the teachers in the Robin's Nest (never happen today)
- Institutions such as the Film Club, the Disco and the School Play
- Brown Shaw's tireless dedication to school sport
- Brilliant hockey tours to Scotland, England and Ireland
- Neville Jones sliding dive to score the winning goal against Newry and almost putting himself in hospital
- I'm Mr. Hunniford and you're a funny hoard (corny or what!)
- The worn curved steps in the older part of school, trodden for hundreds of years
- The boys playing football before, during and after school. (Must have been pre girl interest!)

Sorry I could not make Saturday but "one day soon" .