



## Flotsam and Jetsam

### Conway Families

#### The Fraser – Smith Connection

Often friendships made at school can last a lifetime and there are many examples of such friendships to be found within the Conway Club; indeed without them, there would probably be no such organisation existing today. Although within the Club we revere our 'Old Wooden Mother', it is the forging of such ties made so long ago that sustain and enhance our gatherings. Similarly, there are many examples of siblings, fathers and grandfathers who have each followed the other to join The Ship and pass out into the wider world to pursue often diverse careers. Occasionally such families and friends have joined together through subsequent marriages.

The late Ian Fraser and his brother Brian are well known to many OCs. They were former Cadets at a time when The Ship was still in The Mersey. Ian became well known for his daring exploits in the Johor Strait in 1945 and also for being a frequent attendee, together



*Left to right: Archie Smith, Cathy Fraser, Eleanor Fraser, Richard Smith, Mim Smith, Martin Fraser*

with his wife Melba, of many OC functions throughout his lifetime. In September 1963, Brian and Ian Fraser each sent their sons, Neil and Martin respectively, to Plas Newydd to begin three years in the Ship. Joining them a year later in the same term was past President Archie Smith (64-66). And so began a friendship between Archie and Martin that was to last down the years culminating in the serendipitous uniting of the Smith and Fraser families in 2010 when Archie and Mim's son Richard and Martin and Cathy's daughter Eleanor were married. This happy event has now been blessed with the arrival last autumn of a baby daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter Ula.

Our best wishes are extended to the proud parents and also to Archie who retires in April.

*Left: Melba Fraser, Ian Fraser's widow, holding baby Ula Smith*

