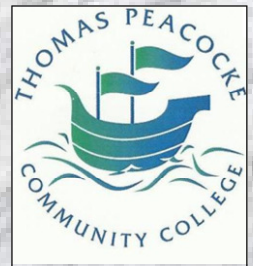




RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

No. 160 December 2010



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

Welcome one and all to the 160th edition of the Bulletin. First let me introduce myself, my name is Claire Spacey (nee Joyce) and at the AGM in May I was voted the new Chair of the Rye Old Scholars Association. I attended Thomas Peacocke from 1978 to 1984 and have been a member on the committee some 6 years. At the AGM we also welcomed two new members to the committee, Mrs Shirley Bannister and Mr Andrew Spacey. If anyone else is interested in becoming a member of the committee we would be delighted to hear from you. Unfortunately as I take over from Richard the website is still a work in progress, a development, I know, Richard wanted to see to fruition during his term. However, please be patient a little longer we will make it a reality although I am not going to promise when, let's just say that behind the scenes work is on going. If anyone has anything they think should be included on the website please let us know using the contact details on the back page. Once again may we remind members that the yearly subscription for the bulletin is £5.00, although we offer a great lifetime membership for just £25.00. Full details on the back page. As always we would like to thank all contributors to the bulletin, all news is always gratefully received. To Richard Moore for his time and efforts in putting all the news etc together to produce the bulletin. Also a big thank you to our advertisers for their support, which, as always, helps with the cost of producing the bulletin. Lastly, To Ann Cockerham thanks for her support who together with the college's Governing body, work hard to continue the success of the college. Finally may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2012.

A PHOTO OF HOPE

The photo below was found in archive when seeking material for the web site and is one of the Committees favourites. Dated 1910 so well before ROSA commenced but it sets the scene of our ethos of keeping in touch with our old "school mates". These young people were full of hope and expectation when this photo was taken but four years on, and the Great War was with us. Which ever year we had displayed here the hope was there at the time, but sadly other conflicts have happened to make us reflect.

Please do not think that this is the format of this years annual bulletin which comes as always with our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year ahead. However, it has its more than fair share of obits, no policy decision made, let's call them memories of our contemporise.

This bulletin also has had trans world support from my dear friend Gordon Boxall in New Zealand who has had the time between a busy and exciting new work schedule to proof read, Gordon makes a lovely comma. Although I stated I would step down as bulletin editor three years ago, it then appears that I put more time into this than ever before so I have promoted myself but do appreciate the Committees support in getting articles to me.



EYESIGHT FAILING

There has been so much news for this bulletin that a smaller font size in places has had to be adopted to fit everything in. So if you had concerns about your sight since the last bulletin, then panic not. Let's hope that we have to continue this policy for the next edition and welcome news from all Old Scholars across the planet.

A REAL SENSE OF PRIDE

In my opinion (RM) it did not matter that we did not have a big reunion event this year (although funds are getting a bit low and subs and donations are never refused). For me I attended a reunion without realising. A Sunday in May after spending a pleasant morning walking around Rye and surrounding villages for the Rotary Club walk. Lois Benton had asked me to assist at a "Where are they Now ? " Concert (Full Report 6 & 7). By the time I got there rehearsals had concluded and help was required elsewhere so I was able to sit on the balcony and enjoy. Enjoy I did and the standing ovation at the end was not only justly deserved, but proof that close on 200 people had gathered to witness something very special. I had another of those moments when I was so proud to be an Old Scholar (last moment experienced when Eric Bourne moved the Wurlitzer to the stage for free). Thanks to Lois and Jo Kirkham for putting it together but thanks to those Old Scholars not only performing, but attending to support, former teachers and other staff came together for a memorable afternoon of fine quality music and talent. And, they all went to Rye.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2011/2012

President Mrs Ann Cockerham
Chairperson Mrs Claire Spacey
Treasurer Mrs Susan Moore **Secretary** Mrs Judith Blincoe
Bulletin Editor Richard Moore
Press Officer Mrs Margaret O'Neill
Overseas Correspondent Mr Gordon Boxall
Committee Mr John Breeds Mrs Margery Nettle
 Mrs Ruth Palmer Mrs Shirley Bannister & Mr Andrew Spacey

Call us for advice or to arrange a free, no obligation quote
01797 228000
 Email us: bournes@uts-bournes.co.uk

It's your move We provide tailor made solutions to your individual moving requirements - whatever they may be

Local, National & International Moving Solutions
 Small and Large Moves
 Full FSA Approved Insurance Cover
 Comprehensive packing services
 Security Vetted, BAR Trained, Uniformed Staff
 Secure Containerised Storage

Our reputation is built on quality. 97% of our customers rate our services as excellent. We move thousands of people every year, our most important move is yours.

Your local, professional Mover

Visit our website for more information for your move
www.bournes-uts.co.uk

PAMELA OLDFIELD

Just as this bulletin was going to print we learnt of the sad recent passing of Pamela Oldfield from her sister Barbara Anthony. For now we find a corner for Pamela with a full feature to celebrate her life in the next edition.



A SEARCH FOR ACHEIVEMENT

For many of us who attended Rye Grammar School, or Thomas Peacocke Comprehensive School in its early years, we have happy memories of those days up until the end of 6th form. Having bought property in Rye, married and had a family, I thought it would be good for my children, Edward and Karin, to be educated at the local schools too and they were happy to attend TPCC. However, their experiences were different and, sadly, they were both pupils at the time the school lost its good reputation and went into Special Measures. As both Chair of the Parents' Association and a Parent Governor I could see what was happening and became very concerned about the discipline and standard of education. In November 2002 my son and many of his classmates applied for 6th Form at the school, had an interview and were all looking forward to starting in September 2003. What a shock for them when, later in July 2003, they received a letter to say there would be no 6th form and they could go to Bexhill College to study their chosen subjects. I had been present at the Governors' meeting when the decision was made to close the 6th form at TPCC and was devastated by the news. This year group managed to achieve well at GCSE level, with the boys out-performing the girls, something that I do not think has happened since. They would have made a great 6th form and been good role models for the school. A number of them did not like Bexhill college, in particular the hour's journey each way and this reflected in their 'A' level results. There were a couple students, Lewis Yates and James O'Donoghue, who coped well and went on to Oxford University, while others spent three years studying for good 'A' level passes. My son and his friend could not wait to get out of education, decided to take a Gap Year but, thank goodness, soon realised they did not want to spend the rest of their lives in Rye. What a relief!

It was while I was sitting in the Nottingham Royal Concert Hall in July this year, when Edward and his school friend, Luke Sawatzky, graduated together, at the age of 24, that I reflected on the level of degree they eventually achieved. I felt so proud of them both and also of Karin, whose graduation ceremony I attended in Sheffield three days later. This gave me inspiration to try to gather a few achievements to include in this year's Bulletin, in the hope of attracting the interest of more recent leavers. Where are you - we would like to hear from you, with or without a degree? With university fees due to escalate it would be interesting to hear how you may have achieved without a degree.

Margaret O'Neill

Beth Holden (1996/2001) After 'A' Levels at Bexhill College, graduated with a 1st class honours degree in English from York University. Then went to London College of Law and graduated here after taking solicitors' exams. Currently working as a qualified solicitor in Ashford. **James Mountford (1996/2003)** - One of the last 6th Form group at TPCC. I have been made partner at Meneer Shuttleworth Solicitors, Bexhill and I also won the inaugural Sussex marathon which took place in Battle in March. **Christina Redman (1997/2002)** I went to Bexhill college straight from TPCC, I got 3 A levels and I also won a placement for a Nuffield Science Bursary to which I received a gold crest award. I have been working with Adults on the Autistic Spectrum since I left college where I got my NVQ 3 in Health and Social Care. After graduating this year from the University of Brighton with a BA Hons Degree in Applied Social Sciences (psychology, sociology and criminology), I am now studying at the University of Sussex for my Masters Degree in Health Psychology.

Christopher Duffy (1998/2003) After leaving Thomas Peacocke I studied A-Levels at the newly built Bexhill Sixth Form College. After here I enrolled at Hull University & Manchester Met University to study Psychology at both degree & MSc level respectively.

I am now working as an assistant psychologist at a private psychiatric hospital and am soon to complete a doctorate to qualify as a chartered clinical physiologist. **Marianne Holden (1998/2003)** After 'A' Levels at Sussex Downs College, Lewes, graduated with 1st class honours degree in Theatre Dance from the London Studio Centre. Now working in Contemporary Dance and will be performing this Christmas at Sadlers Wells in Matthew Bourne's production of "Nutcracker". **Adam Mountford (1998/2003)** Signed for Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club as an apprentice football player after leaving Thomas Peacocke and completed A-Levels as an external candidate at Brighton & Hove Sixth Form College. After retiring from the game through injury, I enrolled at Hull University to study Sport, Health, & Exercise Science where I obtained 1st class honours. Having travelled through Asia shortly after graduating I am now working for the Kellogg Group in business development. **Edward O'Neill (1998/2003)** Following a bad 'A' level experience at Bexhill College, I worked locally the next year, mainly with a marquee company and decided to apply for an HND course in Building Studies. I completed this at Wolverhampton University and was then accepted onto the 2nd year of a Sandwich BSc Construction Management course at Nottingham Trent University, graduating this year with a 2.1 degree. During my placement year I worked with Interserve Construction at a site in Workop and rejoined the company in July as a graduate site engineer, working in the Midlands. **Stacey Caister (2001/2006)** After TPCC, I studied Travel and Tourism at Hastings College. Following this I opened my own dance school, Splitz Dance Academy, where I am the principal teacher. I completed my IDTA and ISTD dance qualifications and am now Director of Dance at Buckswood School, alongside teaching at my own academy. **Rebecca Dodson (2001/2006)** After taking A-Levels in English Literature and Theatre Studies, plus a BTEC in Performing Arts at Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre, I went to The University of Northampton to study a BA (Hons) in Acting. I graduated with a degree in July and am now looking for work both in and away from acting, but also have a passion for travelling and the outdoors, having recently come back from America.

Luke Sawatzky (1998/2003) After leaving TPCC and gaining relatively minimal A levels at Bexhill college, I worked for a year fitting windows, doors and conservatories. With enough UCAS points to do an HND in Building Studies I went to the University of Wolverhampton, which then enabled me to go straight into the 2nd year of BSc Construction Management at Nottingham Trent University. When looking for a work placement I was able to secure a position with a large public sector main contractor, who then sponsored me to finish my degree on a part time basis. I graduated this year with a 2.1 and still work for the company. I recently received a promotion to the position of Renewable Energy and Design Co-Ordinator, which comes with a great salary, company car and the opportunity for further promotion. I intend to save over the next year in order to spend some time in South Asia and perhaps then seek employment in Western Australia.

Katie Barrow (2001/06) After 6th Form at Hastings College, studying Travel & Tourism in 1st year, Air Cabin Crew in 2nd, employed by Thomas Cook airline as an air hostess. Although some long haul flights, mainly travelling European routes.

Rachael Boorman (2001/06) I went to Bexhill College and achieved a Distinction in Sport along with a Community Sports leadership award. Alongside this I achieved a B and C in Media and Business Studies. I then travelled Australia for 3 months and am now in my second year of Primary Education BA degree.

Jade Bull (2001/2006) After my GCSEs I moved to Andover, Hampshire, where I studied 'A' level Maths & Biology. I went on to Bath University and graduated this year with a 1st Class degree in Maths. I am now currently travelling around the world for 5 months and will return to a graduate job as an Actuary.

Robert Holden (2001/2006) After studying Engineering at Hastings College, joined the Parachute Regiment.

Rosie Holden (2001/2006) A' Levels at Sussex Downs College, Lewes. Now in her final year at the Drama Centre, London.

Amy Kilpatrick (2001/2006) After leaving TPCC in 2006 I went to Bexhill College and completed my A-levels, then went to Roehampton University and completed my Primary Teaching degree. I am now basically taking a gap year to go travelling.

Karin O'Neill (2001/2006) I went to Bexhill college to study A-Levels, including Business and Accounting, followed by a BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance Management at Sheffield University, graduating this year with a 1st class degree. Whilst at University I studied Spanish as an extra subject and spent a summer in California working with Camp America. I now wish to take some time out to travel and to improve my Spanish, before seeking a graduate training programme in chartered accountancy.

Many thanks to Margaret O'Neil and to her sons for collating this splendid news page. Apologies for the smaller print but we wished to contain it to one page. Here's hoping this particular style of reporting Old Scholar news in true Will Dunlop and Win Allen style will return after years of absence, or simply the fact that no one has collected enough gossip together in this way.



MEMORIES OF PAT GREEN 1921-2011

Pat was head Girl at R.G.S. from 1938/39. She volunteered for the WAAF two days after WW2 was declared and served with Fighter Command. Her work was with radar as a plotter during the Battle of Britain and after.

In the late forties, Pat picked grapes near Bordeaux and began a lifetime of interest in wine and its production. In the fifties, she ran an office selling wine before it had a popular appeal. When Pat retired to Rye, she lectured on wine and provided it when entertaining her many friends.

She was generous and hospitable and loved a joke, but did not suffer fools gladly.

On the back of the photo is written the advise " Don't worry it may never happen ! Pat "



Remembering Patrick Beany

We have managed to put a few words together of this local football icon at Northiam during the late 60's.

Patrick died peacefully in the care of St. Michaels Hospice on June 20th aged 67. Husband to Maria and much loved Dad of Darren. Patricks family lived for many years in Northiam and were part of the fabric of the village. Latterly lived in Westfield and was a very pro-active member of the parish council

Patricks cousin Geoff Boxall recalls " my greatest memory of Patrick (apart from the fact he was a legend in his own mind) is scoring a spectacular goal when he was playing for Northiam from the half way line (pity it was an own goal) and of course he was always going to sort out a family get together that was not a funeral

Four Seasons

A Traditional Bed & Breakfast with a Picturesque Garden

Short walk from the heart of Rye

Warm hospitality & helpful advice
For more information please contact

**Rita Cox, Four Seasons,
96 Udimore Road, Rye.
E. Sussex TN31 7DY**

(01797) 224305

coxsam@btinternet.com

RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY

If someone had said two years ago that I would be involved with another project that fits in with family, work, gardening, jam, marmalade and chutney making, Rye Wurlitzer Concerts and of course ROSA I would have laughed. Working on the formula busy people, make time I am so proud to be part of this wonderful project.

Support and interest in this unique scheme (there is only one other similar scheme in the World and that's in New York) has been amazing. We now have 16 students at Rye and extended the opportunity to pupils of Rye and Brede Primary schools in November making a total of 30 having FREE two weekly tuition with Michael Wooldridge from Worthing, himself a professional concert organist in his own right who fits in teaching the students with his own busy concert schedule all over the country. Students also have a FREE practice instrument at home that have been donated from people all over the country (Bristol, Stoke on Trent, Verwood, Coulsden, Barton-On-Sea, Herne Bay, Peacehaven to name just a few)

We had our first Student Presentation Evening in October , an unadvertised, low key affair attended by around 60 parents and supporters and of course our very own John Breeds , Mayor of Rye. The evening had an amazing surprise telling seven of the students that they were going on an all expenses paid for trip to America next year to the American Theatre Organ Convention.

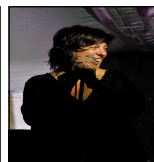
The Netherlands Organ Federation have invited us over in the Spring of 2013 to perform a concert and by then we hope to have one or two students that will have progressed to enter the Young Theatre Organist of the Year at Woking in August 2013 Over £11,000 has now been raised and thanks locally must go to ROSA, RGS Foundation Governors, Rye Rotary, Rye Lions and the Jempsons Foundation for their support. Donations for ongoing teaching costs are always welcome and if you would like to know more please email me r.fm@btpopenworld.com and I will send you a news bulletin with more information.



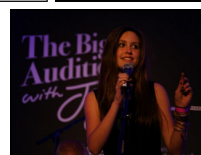
Some of the students of R.W.A. taken in June. Includes James Foster, son of Ian and Grandson of Clifford who helped install the Wurlitzer at the college in 1957. I was delighted he came to the October event.



Friday 24th February 7.30pm
Jazz "Goddess" Liane Carroll in concert *Local*
WITH **Michael Wooldridge**
ON THE RYE WURLITZER
"A Rye First"



With a special guest appearance of rising singing star
Elle Watson - Recent Finalist of Jamie Cullum's
The Big Audition
TICKETS £9 ADULTS £4 STUDENTS
TO INCLUDE INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS



FRIDAY 16th March 7pm for 7.30pm
An evening with Len Rawle M.B.E.

Third year running. Previous evenings have been well received and we hope this is no exception. Welcome Drink, Ploughman's Supper & Dessert, BYOB. Musical Entertainment by Len with a special and unique "Songs from the Shows" finale with a little help and disturbance from Richard Moore **Tickets £10 inclusive Students £6**

SATURDAY 12TH MAY 7.30pm

A night at the movies with Carl Heslop

Carl heralds from the North East of England and is developing a large following in that area for his talents accompanying silent movies. Carl has recently appeared at the Berwick Film Festival. This evening there will be a selection of five films (shorts and a classic) along with popcorn, ice cream and tea and coffee **Tickets £8 Adults £4 Students inclusive**



Rye College plays host to three very special and different events.
Tickets & Reservations Available NOW from Richard Moore
01424 444058 (evenings) or email r.fm@btpopenworld.com

Claire Towler (nee Rhind)

29th Jan 1930 to 29th Nov 2010. A pupil of R.G.S. 1941 to 1945. Passed away peacefully in Woking Hospice, Surrey.

Memorial Garden

Always pleased with the effort that Jim and Janet Holmes put in to tending the ROSA garden travelling from Seaford to prune and look after the hydrangeaceae (variety Madame Emile Mouillere), Helleborus orientalis and Niger, Euonymus Fortunei, (varieties 'Emerald Gaiety' and 'Golden Prince'). Jasminum nudiflorum. Mahonia, Ajuga Reptans, Geranium Macrorrhizum, Hypericum, Cotoneaster Lacteus, Narcissus, Fern, Crocosmia, Aquilegia & Bergenia. After their skilled hands have tended it the area looks an absolute delight. For those who have no interest in gardening whatsoever it's the patch with green leaves and flowers throughout the year to the right of the main entrance to the college.

The Mayor's Bit

I am fascinated by the Bulletin feature 'Can you remember when the school was like this?' Well, in many ways, it was not so very different when I started in 1957. My father, Denis, who started there in 1929 and is a chubby-faced 13-year-old at the back of the 1931 school photograph, certainly remembered Mr. Jenkins. My father would have been 93 this year, so it is quite possible that there is someone 'out there' in their 90s who does!

Mr. Jenkins must have been headmaster of Rye Grammar School for about 30 years. He was certainly in charge when it moved from the High Street to the Grove in 1908 and was still in charge in 1931. He was also Mayor of Rye for five years from 1929 to 1933 and a J.P.

In this section of the school photograph of 1931, Mr Jenkins is seated at the front on the left. Seated front right of the picture is the famous Miss Turner (or Aunt Matt) who was still Senior Mistress and Head of English, and who interviewed me when I started in 1957.

This is what L.A.Vidler wrote in his New History of Rye in 1934.

"Councillor Joseph Molyneux Jenkins, who has filled the mayoral chair so ably for the last five years, had already grown old in the educational profession, and generations of boys and girls, now scattered throughout the world, owed to him their early guidance in the path of knowledge. The success with which he has presided over the, sometimes stormy, deliberations of the Council, his regularity and unflinching wisdom on the bench, and who has, with the unstinted help of the Mayoress, Mrs. S. F. Burnham, so genially carried through the many social and ceremonial duties that have fallen to their lot, constitute an example to their successors and one that calls for the deep gratitude of our Ancient Town."

I am still teaching science full-time at St Simon Stock Roman Catholic School in Maidstone. As I struggle to fit in my mayoral duties with the 65-mile daily return trip to work, I am full of admiration for Mr Jenkins and hope that my efforts are appreciated a little when my two-year term of office ends in May 2012. Beside the chairing of full Council meetings and attendance at committees and working groups, there has been much that Geraldine and I have enjoyed and shall, perhaps, share with you in the next bulletin.

With my very best wishes,
The Mayor of Rye
(a.k.a. John Breeds, ROSA committee member).

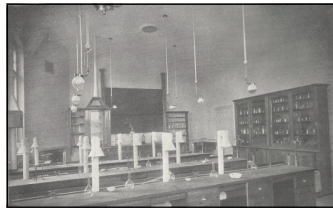


Can YOU remember when the school was like this ?

Just had to share these photos and quotes from an RGS prospectus. Mr Jenkins at the helm and our very own John Breeds writes to the left about this character.



South facing view of the college, cannot be seen like this due to extra building in front now



The Chemistry Laboratory



A view over the town from the Cemetery area perhaps ?



Recreation Field
Now the Sports Centre,
Crèche, Car Park &
Swimming Pool

Quotes

Course of Instruction:-

English—Composition, Literature, History & Geography

Languages—French & Latin

Mathematics—Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid, Geometry & Mensuration

Science—Inorganic, Chemistry, Mechanics, Light & Heat, Magnetism and Electricity, Hygiene & Physiology

Drawing Freehand, Model, Light & Shade & Geometrical

Shorthand & Book keeping

Other Subjects Needlework, Lace-making, Domestic Economy, Gymnastics, Calisthenics, Singing, Drill and Rifle Shooting

School Hours

9 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 4.30 pm

Tuition Fees

Pupils under 12 £2 0s 0d per term

Pupils over 12 £2 5s 0d per term

Board Under 12—10 guineas per term

Over 12 - 11 guineas per term

Laundry & mending 15/-

School Library & Sports

The School Library contains over 500 books. A sub of 2/6 per term is paid for the Sports & Library Fund

School Magazine

Published each term 1/3 per annum

List of Clothes Necessary for Each Boarder

Three Suits of Clothes (One Eton Suit for all boys), Black Ties,

Three pairs of boots

One pair of Leather slippers

Four day shirts (flannel preferred)

Three Night Shirts

Three pairs of drawers

Three vests, eight collars

Eight handkerchiefs

Six pairs of socks

Football & Cricket Suits

Gymnasium Shoes, Dressing Gown

A Corner for Mr Peter Care An appropriate surname—for Peter always cared. A much loved member of St. Helens Parish Church for nearly 52 years. Became a Church Warden in the 1960's. The in-built discipline of a schoolmaster showed itself, not least in ensuring that a Churchwarden was present at every statutory service at St. Helens and St. Barnabas. But it was people that concerned Peter most, being himself involved, and encouraged others likewise, to varied activities within and beyond the Parish. Active in Bible Society events, Christian Aid and the Mission to Seafarers, Formed a group responsible for worship at Waterman's Close in Hastings for over 20 years. During his time at Rye he gained great respect from both students and colleagues due to his integrity, professionalism and his attention to detail. His personal passion was stamp collecting knew no-bounds, and it was a tragedy that 10 years ago an evening visit to a Stamp club meeting was marred by a road accident from which he never fully recovered. Throughout the years he enjoyed the devotion and support of his "Lady", and it is to Cynthia and their great family (of which he was extremely proud) that we extend our sympathy and love as well as our grateful thanks for having known and shared in the life of her beloved Peter—the CARER





A RETIRING YEAR—THE SEQUEL

Gordon wrote a piece last bulletin and wishes to up-date the happening of the past twelve months. Both Gordon and Helen were successful in completing their MBAs and graduated just before setting out to live in New Zealand.

Their arrival in Christchurch was challenging as the house build had, perhaps inevitably overrun and with the escalating costs and a downward spiral of the value of the pound meant they had real concerns they wouldn't finish the project. And then there was the earthquake. Helen was right in the centre of it on the 4th floor of a central office block. All somehow escaped without injury but then began the nightmare journey home with no ability to communicate with loved ones and only an emerging picture of what was happening from the car radio. At the house Gordon's experience was almost surreal as the road seemed to buckle and the house swayed but then settled back into position. Incredibly there was no structural damage.

Since then the June earthquake has caused some further damage, but again minor and they are hoping that the hundreds of after-shocks experienced since then are beginning to subside. It is an ill wind though and Gordon got a call from the Ministry of Health a few days after the main 'quake asking him to support the disability provider sector to get back onto its feet. He felt it was great to be part of the recovery, doing something useful. That worked lasted until the end of June since then there has been a stream of opportunities that have kept them both very busy.

They are now looking forward to a steady stream of visits from friends and family to show off their lovely home, superb location, and above all, the wonderful community they live in.



Update from Liz Ashley (nee Tait) Saltcote 1970 - 1974

After moving from Newbury, I spent 10 years in London working as PA to CEO's in the City and West End, including a few years as Support Services Manager for Waltham Forest Borough Council. I was glad to leave city life behind me and now live in sunny North Cyprus with my dog and cat. My daughters are both self-employed in UK so don't need mum. Am lovin' it! I live in a renovated Cypriot house in the heart of an agricultural village situated on the east coast, and just adore being able to go for walks in the mountains or swim in the sea most of the year – quite often having the whole beach to myself. I am shortly going to be launching a new internet sales promotion company here as well as open the house as a Bed and Breakfast for anyone interested in visiting Cyprus. (Little Saltcote?). I would love to hear from friends who know me, I lost touch with everyone after so many house moves (40 to date – but finally settled). Am looking forward to the 1970's 2014 reunion. Do drop me a line on Facebook – Liz Ashley – Cyprus. Email: happyliza737@hotmail.com

75th Anniversary Football Match. History to repeat itself R.O.S.A. v Icklesham Casuals Saturday 16th June 2012

ROSA has been approached by Icklesham Casuals Chairman Robert Baker to participate in the re-creation of their first football match at the club 75 years ago this coming year. Who else would they have played with Will Dunlop around but ROSA. Now we are not looking for original members of the team (but they are welcome to come along and watch). The match is to take place in June as part of a weekend of celebrations. In the first instance please email your interest in taking part to Richard Moore r.fm@btopenworld.com, please for one minute do not even think that I am going to play but we need a squad of 15 I should think. A full report and photos of this historic match will be in the next bulletin. But for now put on your dancing shoes, sorry football boots.

Icklesham Casuals FC was formally founded on Saturday 3rd April 1937 at a meeting held at Thompson's tea Rooms in Rye. Will Dunlop had left the Rye Old Grammarians after being involved in forming them the previous year. Those present were Percy Allen, Les Beeney, Frank Crisford, William Dunlop, Jack Munn, Geoff Smith and Robert Woolley. The first match was played on the 11th Sept 1937, a friendly against the Rye Old Grammarians which resulted in a 3-2 victory with two goals from S. Apps and a 35 yard free kick from Les Beeney. The line up for the first game was Bob Huxstep, Percival Allen, Jack Munn, Robert Rich, Les Beeney, Peter Grummitt, Cyril Barden, Leslie Barden, S. Apps, Frank Crisford and Leslie Jeffrey.

The club plays its home games on the original pitch at the Recreation Ground in Icklesham. This venue has been used throughout its history with the exception of a break during the War and some more recent ground improvements. The club still continues to play in its original colours of green and white quartered shirts. The continuity can also be seen as the club has only had three secretaries in its first 74 year history. Will Dunlop holding the position for the first 50 of those followed by David Mayne and then Keith Scallow for 15 seasons passing to Steve Baker the current secretary.

The contribution made to the club by both Will and brother Andy Dunlop who managed the second team, can never be underestimated and is greatly appreciated for those who have enjoyed playing for the club. Will is still warmly remembered by those who knew him and anecdotes regarding his commitment abound. He rarely missed a first team game either home or away in his lifetime. More irreverent tales are also told not least because of the legibility of his handwriting—despite receiving postcards with match details players still had to wait for the delivery of the local paper on a Friday to be sure where they were playing.

A time table of events are planned by the club throughout 2012 which includes a special event on founders day on 3rd April. The proposed match on June 16th. 25th June—75 Holes of golf in a day in aid of local charities and a formal dinner in September bringing to a conclusion the years celebrations.



Icklesham Casuals after their match with R.G.S. 1944/45. They look happy, they must have won



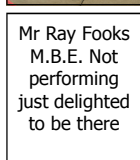
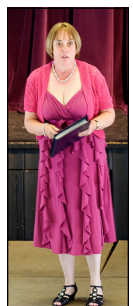
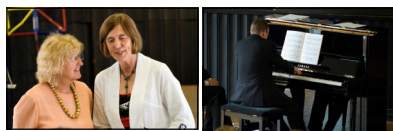
Icklesham Casuals with Will Dunlop in the line-up circa 1938/39 a motley looking bunch of individuals



Anyone recognise any of these players (apart from William) of course. We think its around 1937-38



WHERE ARE THEY NOW—PICTORIAL MEMORIES OF A FINE AFTERNOON OF MUSIC



Delighted to report that the concert raised £1,404 to be divided between the Rye Memorial Care Centre and the Lady Tower at the Rye Museum, a magnificent result.

Mr Ray Fooks
M.B.E. Not
performing
just delighted
to be there

This collage of characters from the event is brought to you courtesy of James Kirkham who spent the afternoon flashing.

This unique concert by former pupils of Thomas Peacocke School, who all studied with the much loved Head of Music, Lois Benton. All artistes performed pro bono in aid of The Women's Tower appeal at Rye Castle Museum, and the Rye, Winchelsea & District Memorial Hospital. Chandler's of Rye for donated a piano for the day, Morfeys for the piano moving. Martello Bookshop sold the tickets. Rye College gave the use of the hall, Friends of Rye Wurlitzer assisted with setting up the Wurlitzer. Rye Museum and Rye Hospital printed the programme and posters, provided tea during the interval and arranged the raffle. The organising committee were – Lois Benton, Jo Kirkham, Anne Whiteman & Rebekah Gilbert. The programme included.

David Sheppard, Counter Tenor

Up the dreadful steep ascending Jephtha **GF Handel** Fantoches **C Debussy**

Steven Martin, Organ

Fugue in G major (alla gigue) BWV 577 **J.S. Bach**

Rebekah Gilbert, Mezzo

The Swimmer from Sea Pictures **E. Elgar**

Catherine Parkin, Mezzo

The sweetest lad was Jamie **L. van Beethoven** Sunset **L. van Beethoven** Welcome sweet melody **John Field**

James Cruttenden, Double Bass

Adagio **C. Gouinguene**

Gary Marriott, Tenor

Where e're you walk Semele **J.F. Handel**

Ich liebe dich E. Grieg

Anne Whiteman, Contralto

The fiddler **F. Austin** Love's philosophy **R Quilter**

David Alexander, Piano

Etude-Tableaux in C minor Op 33, No3 **S. Rachmaninoff**

Jonathan Breeds, Baritone

O mistress mine **R. Quilter**

Caro mio ben G. Giodanit

Amy Leake, Saxophone

Introduction & allegro Jazz Sonata

Ramon Ricker

Jochem van Ast, Baritone

Largo al factotum Barber of Seville

G Rossini

Anne Whiteman & Gary Marriott

Dialogue: **Coridon & Mopsa** The Fairy Queen **H. Purcell**

Catherine Parkin & Jochem van Ast

La ci darem Don Giovanni **W.A. Mozart**

Rebekah Gilbert, Amy Leake & James Cruttenden

Mack the knife Threepenny Opera **K. Weill**

Steven Martin

Allegretto Grazioso **F. Bridge**

Sortie in Eb Lefébure-Wély

David Sheppard, Rebekah Gilbert & Anne Whiteman

Three little maids from school The Mikado **A. Sullivan**

Jonathan Breeds & ensemble

When Britain really ruled the waves? Iolanthe **A. Sullivan**

MUSICAL CREDENTIALS OF THE PERFORMERS

David Alexander, Piano

David studied at the R.C.M. from 1996-2002 with Yonty Solomon and Andrew Ball. During this time he won many piano prizes including the Dannreuther Concerto Prize on two occasions. He was awarded the highest possible mark for his B.Mus(hons) final recital and, after a further two years of postgraduate study, graduated with distinction. Since then he has performed frequently as a soloist, accompanist, and chamber musician at venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Purcell Room & St. Martin In-the-Fields. David was awarded third prize in the 2003 British Contemporary Piano Competition, and has received critical acclaim in *The Times* for his recitals for the Park Lane Group.

Jonathan Breeds, Baritone Following study of Music & Performing Arts at Middlesex University, he returned to work at T.P.S., before working as a baker, a mortgage advisor, and a shop assistant. He is now the Landlord of The Standard Inn in The Mint, Rye. Continues to perform locally, including with Ryesingers. Recently been returned to Rye Town Council, having served since 1998

James Cruttenden, Double Bass Left TPS in 1985 going on to study for a degree at Birmingham School of Music. Returned to Sussex in 1988 teaching A level, GCSE and Double Bass at Bedgebury School, Mayfield Convent and Benenden School. In 1996 he began teaching Double Bass part time for ESMS. So has gone full circle within the East Sussex music education system. As well as work with ESMS he teaches Double Bass at Vinehall School and Eastbourne College. He plays regularly for local Choral and Amateur Dramatic Societies.

Rebekah Gilbert (nee Smith), Mezzo Rebekah studied at the London College of Music (1989-91), and the Royal Academy of Music (1991-93), and gained an MA in Arts Management at City University (1994). She co-founded a highly successful orchestra in 1991 based at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, giving over 40 concerts a year, working as a soloist on many occasions. She has also appeared as a soloist at St John's Smith Square, the Purcell Room, and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Rebekah was a soloist on *Classic FM's* first Christmas evening broadcast. She recently recorded the film music for *Peter* at the Cadogan Hall, by local composer, Michel Duvoisin. A change of career took her into politics, working in the civil service, the Greater London Authority and the House of Commons at shadow cabinet level. She has been an elected London Borough Councillor and served on the board of the London Fire Authority. She currently co-directs an executive recruitment and coaching company, and is also a qualified sports massage therapist and nutritionist. Rebekah has passed the viva in a Doctorate of Professional Studies at Middlesex University, and is completing the final stages of the project.

Amy Leake (nee Metcalfe), Saxophone Attended TPS between 1987-1994, first exposed to contemporary jazz at a Trevor Watts gig, and fell in love with the sax. After A levels, studied at Chichester College with Bobby Wellins, then on to a BA (Hons) jazz degree at Leeds College of Music where she met her husband – also a saxophonist. Moved to London to teach. Returning to Hastings in 2001, toured Europe and North America with Trevor Watts' Celebration Band for 3 years. Currently plays in jazz ensembles, theatre orchestras, function bands and big bands. Completed an ABRSM Certificate of Teaching in 2004, and teach at Vinehall school, Lewes Old Grammar and privately.

Gary Marriott, Tenor After leaving Rye, Gary spent time in the construction industry, but now works in mental health. Singing is still a big part of his life and he is well known in the East Sussex music scene. In the operatic world he has performed with Pavilion Opera, Opera South East & Cameo Opera in *La Boheme*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *Dido & Aeneas*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Carmen*, *The Mikado* and many more. Gary also sings oratorio regularly with Battle Choral Society, Hastings Philharmonic Choir, Eastbourne Phoenix Choir, Winchelsea, & Stonegate Singers. Recent concerts have included *Elijah*, *St John Passion*, *Messiah*, & the *Nelson Mass*. On the concert platform, Gary is particularly fond of English song, from Purcell to the present day. He recently performed *The Fairy Queen* with Occasional Singers and Rossini's *Messe Solennelle* with Winchelsea Singers. In June, Gary will be singing Handel's *Theodora* with Baroque Opera.

Steven Martin, Organ Steven went to read music at the University of Exeter. After gaining his MA there, he attended the University of Bristol, where he obtained his PhD. The focus of his research was the issue of funding for Opera during that time, looking closely at the ways and means by which operas by English composers reached the stage. In January he was awarded the McCann Research Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music, where he is working on a history of travelling opera companies in Britain, with a particular focus on the Carl Rosa Company. During his time at Exeter, Steven was the University Organ Scholar, and directed the Exeter University Choral Society and Exeter University Singers. Whilst studying at Bristol, Steven continued to live in Devon and was a Bass Choral Scholar at Exeter Cathedral. Since 2008 he has been Director of Music at Crediton Parish Church. Steven currently directs two other choirs, *In Ecclesia* (a chamber choir based in Taunton) and the Exeter College Choral Society.

Catherine Parkin (nee Collison), Mezzo Catherine trained at the *Guildhall School of Music*, gaining her AGSM diploma in singing and teaching with Distinction. She made her professional debut while still a student, with *Les Arts Florissants* under the direction of William Christie. Singing regularly in the extra-chorus of the *Royal Opera*, Catherine made her debut solo role with the company in 2000 as "Apprentice" in the acclaimed Graham Vick production of *Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg* and again in 2002. Catherine has performed extensively internationally, with recent performances at the Lincoln Center New York, The Lucerne Festival, in Paris, Nice and in Berlin with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. This year Catherine will perform a recital programme of Art song with Clarinet Obligato in the Canterbury Festival after her successful appearance last year.

David Sheppard, Counter Tenor David studied Music at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, and now works as a performer in the UK and abroad. His studies in Wales started him on his career with its interesting (sometimes bizarre) mix of music and theatre. It was whilst living in Cardiff that he started working with ELAN Wales, a company that allowed him to sing, compose, dance and act. Whilst on tour with this company he got to see much of the UK, Italy and the rest of Europe. Since moving to London, David has concentrated on his classical voice studies and has worked for many opera companies. He is a regular performer with Electric Voice Theatre, a company that commissions new Opera. David has also studied Massage and Reflexology. His Holistic practice in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire - alongside his singing teaching studio and performing - is keeping him busy.

Anne Whiteman (nee Davis), Contralto Went on to study Music and Education at Sussex. When she graduated she taught briefly at TPS, undertook peripatetic piano teaching for the ESMS and finally ended up at Frewen College, Northiam, firstly as a piano teacher and then as Head of Music, where she still is today teaching students with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. Anne also sings with numerous local choirs both as a member and a soloist, performing regularly in the local area. Other interests are early music where she plays and sings with the St. Leonards based group The Queen's Consort.

Jochem van Ast, Baritone Trained at The Guildhall School of Music in London and at the Rubin Academy of Music, Jerusalem. He made his debut as Louis Lipmann in Opera North's production of Gershwin's *Of thee I Sing* and has gone on to sing with many opera companies in Britain and the rest of the world to critical acclaim. Particular highlights in recent years have been singing the role Morel in Lully's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Purcell's *Fairy Queen* at the Herod Atticus theatre in the shadow of the Acropolis, Athens. Jochem will be touring with Hatstand Opera this summer and is delighted to be joining The Royal Opera House in their UK premiere of Rimsky Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride*.

Saltcote Place
Rye

5 star gold accommodation
Weddings and Anniversaries
Pampered short breaks

Tel 01797 222220
Email stay@saltcote.co.uk



A message of help and perhaps of hope
SEARCHING FOR DAVID MACDONALD
LEASAM HOUSE 1962-1967.

I am writing this article in your newsletter in the hope of finding news about an ex Leasam pupil who attended RGS from 1962 to 1967, a man who is very important to me, his name is David MacDonald and he is my father. I was born in June 1969 and adopted at six weeks old as he and my birth mother were no longer together and she could not support me alone. I have been searching for him for over 23 years and this year, with the help of Friends Reunited, I finally managed to locate the school he attended and had emails from two people who remembered him, one of whom told me the name of his best friend, James Phillips. I have since been in contact with James, we have spoken on the phone and exchanged a few emails, he has helped me to build a picture of my father and this helps me to feel I know more about him, his personality, my roots. I would be really happy if anyone who can remember him would be so kind as to contact me via Richard Moore or my email address, if anyone knows anything about him or where he is now this would mean so much to me. I have never felt anything negative towards him or my birth mother, who I am now in contact with, for putting me up for adoption. I have had a nice childhood and upbringing but my need to know where I come from is on my mind every day. I have a few photos of David, one is below (David is fourth from the left). Please would you contact me if you know anything about him, to my email address which is jainejaine@hotmail.com Richard Moore has been fantastic with helping me, also Ann Cockerham and Judith Blincow, I would like to express my gratitude to them all.

Rosalyn Smith.



THE CLASS OF 76 GET TOGETHER AGAIN

Maryon Seaman (nee Luck) had a mid life moment and forgot to take her camera to this year's get together at the Icklesham Beer Festival but a good time was had by all listen to Tim Phillips and the 100 Rockitt Men. Before a group met up for a meal that included Mick Martin (over from France) Sue (Nelson) Hugh Bell Lenny Hollands Ricky Pierce John Russell Julie (Baker) Tina (Baker) Sue Barden Mark Sherwood Paul Heslett Debbie Walker Jane Tullet Gary Walker & Nicky Warne. With a group of names like that a good time was had by all. (Maiden names used)

Rebekah Gilbert (nee Smith, 1981-89) retrained as a massage therapist in 2005-7 and had a small practice in Bromley before returning home to Rye last year. Qualified to practice professionally in holistic, & sports & remedial massage, she is currently undertaking advanced CPD training at the prestigious London School of Sports Massage with the world renowned tutor Mel Cash. Looking to re-establish her practice in Rye, if you are suffering from any muscular injuries, sports-related or otherwise, or just looking for a de-stressing holistic massage, she can be contacted on info@vivawellbeing.com or 07974 001818. Rebekah also qualified as a nutritionist last year, passing with honours, & gained a Doctorate in coaching from Middlesex University in October 2011.

COLLEGE NEWS by ANN COCKERHAM

Rye College continues to grow from strength to strength. Our examination results have been rising year on year in recent years and this summer we were the highest attaining school in the Hastings and Kent border area. We continue to be popular, attracting students from a very wide area (from St Leonards to Ashford). We always love to meet Old Scholars - many of you have visited us in recent years and have been a real inspiration for our students, talking about your school days or about your experiences in the world of work. Many of you who live locally have supported our school in raising funds for building projects or in donating your skills to improve our site.

I am grateful to Richard Moore for setting up the unique Wurlitzer Academy here at Rye College, offering young musicians the chance to learn to play this amazing instrument! It is a joy to hear the notes of the Wurlitzer drifting around the building on their tuition days. Our science classrooms are next to the organ chamber and when Wurlitzer lessons are taking place, science takes on a different dimension as (mostly) soothing music beats out from the chamber. Not forgetting Michael Wooldridge who is such an inspiring tutor and accomplished musician. Our students are very privileged to be given this chance to develop their musical skills and they are loving every minute! If you remember the Wurlitzer being played in assemblies, we would love to arrange a recital for you!

We continue to be ambitious for our young people. We believe that they deserve the very best opportunities for success. In 2010, Ofsted judged our school to be good with outstanding features, now we are on a mission to ensure that Rye College becomes outstanding in every aspect of school life. If you would be willing to help with any of our school improvement projects this year, please contact me.

The next building project we hope to undertake is the replacement of our ROSLA building by a purpose built music block. If you or anyone of your contacts could help us to achieve our dream, then we would love to hear from you.

Wishing you all every happiness and success in 2012.

Living in the Land of the Long White Cloud

Kai Ora (No I'm not asking you of the older generation if you want an orange juice, I'm saying hello in Maori) I could also say Haere Mai or Tenakoto or Tenakota depending on how many people I am speaking to. Or I could revert to my native language and just say Watcha. I married a New Zealander; a shock to the older members of my family who were most disgusted that I married a "Colonial". My husband brought me to NZ in 1989 and I now class myself as a Kiwi. When I told my husband that I'd been asked to write a piece about NZ and the differences from the UK he asked me if I wanted to go back. You have to set the picture in your mind, here we are sitting having a coffee in Tauranga, it's the end of March (beginning of Autumn) and it's 23 degrees, there is a light sea breeze, not a cloud in sight, the most beautiful deep blue sky and I have chocolate cake, what more could a girl want!!!!

If you want to understand what a Kiwi is like, you have to understand the lifestyle. Most people are outdoor types, they fish, swim, hike, bike, hunt, play sport, play more sport, have bar-b-ques, watch sport, drink beer and just enjoy their leisure time. I like to think that Kiwis are a cross between, Jamaican's and the Irish, they have the lovely smiley nature of the Jamaican's and the laid back attitude of the Irish. Everyone uses their first names, hardly anyone is called by their surname. Let me give you an example of the difference, I came back to the UK for a visit a few years ago and decided to see some of the cultural hotspots of London. I travelled on the train from Hastings to Charring Cross, being indoctrinated into New Zealand life, I smiled and started up a conversation with my nearest travelling companion. Shock, Horror, I was actually talking to another human being, I soon realised that people were hiding behind their papers, no eye contact was made, just ignore her, oh no she's a crazy colonial!!!!

No one in New Zealand should ever go hungry, there is plenty of seafood itching to be caught or gathered, when you see a king prawn in the UK, Kiwis laugh and say it's a "Wee" one. The minimum legal size of a Kingfish is 75cm and a Snapper is 27cm. Herrings are considered live bait for the larger fish. Oysters, Mussels, Pipi's, Kina, Pua, and many more are easily harvested. I live in the area known as the Bay of Plenty, in fact the town I live in is called Katikati or Maori for Nibble Nibble. When I first started gardening I was told to make sure I read labels on how big Plants grew and then you double it. I grow tomatoes outside for 5 months of the year, fruit trees are abundant and I especially love picking my own fresh lemons.

Don't get me wrong there are disadvantages to living in NZ for a start they are also nick-named the Shaky Isles. Yup Earthquakes. I had been in the country for 3 weeks and were staying with the Mother in law until our furniture arrived. We were watching the evening news, when suddenly everything shook. I nervously looked at my Mother in law and Husband expecting to see the panic in their faces that I felt in my stomach. No they just carried on as if nothing mattered, just a little 4.3. My next encounter was a bit more violent. I had just had my first son, my husband had gone to work, (he worked shift hours and left about 5 am) I stayed in bed until I was jolted out of it. A 5.9. When I could find my legs I raced into my son's room and sat there in his doorway with his nappy bag, my handbag and him on my lap. My Husband rung me and with the laid back Kiwi attitude, told me how "Cool" it was to see all the logs at the port sway about. There are 3 different types of shaking, the side to side, the up and down jolts and the rolling wave. The 5.9 was a rolling wave. It is very unnerving watching a brick house roll, just like a wave from the sea. You then spend the next week feeling like you are on board a ship as the aftershocks continue. I think the worst thing of an earthquake is that you do not know if this is the "Big One".

Cyclones are another interesting experience. There is a cyclone season, and it covers November to April. This year has been particularly bad, although they seem to have just skimmed the coastline and not made land fall. A few years ago we had two, the first was called Drena and the next one to hit 10 days later was called Fergus. They did make land fall and caused quite a bit of damage, although most Kiwis are not at all interested in a cyclone until it reaches a category 2 or above.

Creepy crawlies. Well there are no snakes and very few nasty spiders, although a native Australian has made it's home here, it's called a Whitetail and can give a nasty bite (typical Ozzy really). The prehistoric native creepy crawlies are fascinating, the best is called a Weta (quick Maori language lesson, you must pronounce all vowels for example Tauranga is pronounced 'Tau' as in Towel without the l at the end, 'rang' as in Wrong and 'a' and as in Apple, Wh is pronounced a F sound, so have a go at Whakatane) Back to the Weta, it is a cross between a Cockroach and a huge Grasshopper. It has the armour body of the cockroach and the looks of a grasshopper, and when I say they grow big I mean big. They normally sit on the palm of your hand and take up the whole of it!!!! Word to the wise, if you ever get bitten by a Weta, flick it up the bum, they have barbs on their legs and will grip on tightly.

Cultural differences you would think are small, being both English speaking countries. I beg to differ. If you ask for 'Chips' you are likely to get Crisps, Chips mean both Crisps and Chips. A Tinnie is not drugs, but a small metal boat for fishing. Bring a Plate, does not mean that the family you are going to visit doesn't have enough crockery but it means you need to bring some food with you. A Barracuda can mean a fish, but if a young man asks a young girl if she wants a Barracuda, it means a bite on the Bum, and no I am not going to let you know how I know that one!!!! Christmas in 30 degree heat, is just odd. If you wish to fit in to a conversation, remember to end each sentence with an "eh". Eg, "Nice weather eh" Corrugated Iron Roofs, 15 year olds in school uniforms getting their drivers licence. Hokey Pokey Ice Cream. I could go on for hours. Yes of course I miss the UK, (especially Walnut Whips), but I suppose I am lucky to have the best of both worlds the UK and NZ.

Best Wishes to all that remember me. *Susannah Heagren (nee Glazier)*

PS I knew I should have paid attention to Mr Meredith in Geography

PPS My Husband would like me to point out that although Australia is our nearest neighbour it takes a Jumbo Jet 3 ½ to 4 Hours to get to them (word of advice never call a Kiwi an Ozzy by mistake, it's the only time you will ever get to see their "Dark Side.")

Memories of Sheila Ennis nee Roberts (TPS 1967-74) by Liz Ashley (nee Tait) I was really sad to hear that my best friend from TPS, Sheila, had died a few years ago. It appears she had a serious fall at home, hitting her head, from which she did not recover. Sheila grew up in Winchelsea Beach and attended both the junior and senior schools. She was a bright student and very sporty representing the school in sprinting and hockey. We used to enjoy dancing at the school discos and going up to Grays Inn at lunchtimes for our bowl of chips and a few cigs! She also used to visit me in Saltcote on a few occasions. She and Lawrence Easter had a long relationship throughout senior school – not many romances lasted that long during school! We had fond memories of some of the adventures we used to get up to including apple and strawberry picking, the 26 mile sponsored walk, good times at the Standard and seeing the local groups at the Pipes. Sheila also used to work at The Hope & Anchor. After leaving school she met her former husband Mick Ennis on a day trip to France – he lived in Rye Harbour. They lived in Hastings where Sheila used to take in foreign students as well as work full-time for a company in Polegate. After the break-up Sheila moved to Rose Cottage in Guestling where she lived with her lovely children Stacey and Stephen. My sincere condolences to her children, parents George and Ann Roberts and her sister Judy. I would love to stay in touch and would be grateful if you could forward your contact details to me via the Old Scholars

Remembering Tom Shearer

On 5th April 1923 the announcement was made by Thomas and Winifred Shearer of the arrival of Thomas Henry and his twin Jim at Icklesham in East Sussex – shortly they moved to Doleham Farm at Guestling and there the family grew by another brother and sister, Peter and Janet. As an infant Tom went to Westfield School, then at the age of 11 moved on to Rye Grammar where he continued his studies until he left at the age of 15. During this time Doleham Farm moved forward and became a Dairy Farm, Jim became a Bank Clerk at Lewes but Tom, given the choice of staying at home and driving the new Fordson tractor or going to Wye Agriculture College to try for a BSC in Agriculture - opted for the new Fordson! Two Thomas's in the same family resulted in Young Tom and Old Tom working with the cows, with young Tom developing a dislike of milk. With the 2nd World War on the horizon Young Tom continued to work at home. In October 1940 whilst ploughing in the Brede valley his eye was caught by a cloud of dust being thrown up in the next field. As the dust settled he was amazed to see an aircraft with black crosses – together with a number of bullet holes in it. Old Tom arrived in his car – and the German Pilot, Young Tom, Old Tom and Will, the farm labourer all drove up to Doleham farm where Mrs Shearer provided tea and cakes to all whilst waiting the arrival of the East Sussex Constabulary.

This contact with aircraft had quite an effect on Tom. A soon as he was old enough, he applied to join the RAF – he managed to get accepted for Air Crew – but his legs were too short for him to become a pilot so he started training to become a navigator. Sadly he suffered from air sickness and this realistically saw him grounded and discharged. He managed to get deferred service at home and was able to use his RAF Navigation knowledge to lecture at the local Air Training Corps – this gave him a petrol allowance and evening visits to lecture at Hastings, Rye and Battle which in his own words 'made for a good social life'. This good social life included meeting his future wife - Eve.

With the war ending, aircraft still exerted their pull on Tom – he started work with BOAC as a Traffic Trainee ultimately checking the 'ships papers' – in Khartoum. There was only one aircraft each day – but as this was a Dakota 2 engine plane – loaded with up to 14 passengers together their luggage, mailbags and other goods – the tally of weight had to be accurate. Unfortunately this was a time of reorganisation and really there was not enough to keep Tom busy – he was offered release from his regular contract with BOAC and returned home to take control of Counter Farm in Sussex. All be it not before arranging the shipment of his MG car from his station in Malta to his home!

Time moved on and Tom and Eve were married. Tom became employed by the National Farmers Union as their Cambs East and Haverhill Group Secretary. This resulted in the family moving to Suffolk and ultimately settling in Kedington in 1962.

Tom continued to work with the local farming community until his retirement some 30 years later – his gentle approach to business, yet commitment to detail and fairness - coupled with a strong desire to help people enabled him to forge strong links with his customers that resulted in many firm friendships that lasted throughout his life.

His interests were varied – be it caravanning, dingy sailing, foreign travel, golf, or the various groups he joined in order to support the local community. If any of these could be combined then all the better. With sailing dingy tied onto the car roof and caravan behind, the family would head for France during summer holidays to meet up with other friends. Oh yes, he also enjoyed wine – especially French red wine. Put this together with good food and he was a happy man.

He was a member of Haverhill Golf club from the start – but why he and his brother Peter thought they needed to practice driving golf balls over the roof of the house was never quite understood – especially when the golf balls rattled off the bedroom windows! He loved travelling to Lanzarote to visit the home of daughter Sue – he saw that plants can grow in a very stark bleak landscape – lack of rain, and even poor soil could, with due patience, produce a crop. He did grow to love that landscape. Tom was a dependable gentle gentleman with a wonderful sense of humour whose company will be sadly missed.

WILLIAMS BROTHERS

**46 CINQUE PORT STREET,
RYE, EAST SUSSEX TN31 7AN**

**TEL/FAX (01797)
222219**

**EXOTIC FRUIT
SPECIALISTS**



**BASKETS OF FRUIT MADE TO ORDER
SUPPLIERS TO THE CATERING TRADE**

FLORISTS

**CUT FLOWERS, POT PLANTS
FLORAL BOUQUETS & TRIBUTES
BELGIAN CHOCOLATES HELIUM
BALLOONS ,SOFT TOYS**



**LOCAL DELIVERIES
ASK FOR PAUL OR
KEITH**

FRIENDS OF RYE WURLITZER CONCERTS 2012

JANUARY 22ND 2012 2.30PM

MATTHEW BASON Our cheerful Chappie from the Midlands with the special extra attraction of **JONATHAN ADAMS & THE ACCORDIONTRON**

SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2012 2.30PM

SIMON GLEDHILL International star with frequent sell-out concerts in the U.S.A.

SUNDAY 25TH MARCH 2012 2.30PM

DAVID LOBBAN Direct from the mighty Wurlitzer at Blackpool's Tower Ballroom

SUNDAY 22ND APRIL 2012 2.30PM

DONALD MacKENZIE Resident Organist at the famous Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square, London

SUNDAY MAY 20TH 2012 2.30PM

PHIL KELSALL M.B.E. We proudly present **MR BLACKPOOL** himself

SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2012 2.30PM

NICHOLAS MARTIN International recording artiste makes a welcome return

SUNDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2012 2.30PM

JOHN MANN How can our year be complete without this highly Entertaining individual—music and mirth at its best

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25TH 2012 2.30PM

ROBERT WOLFE The Maestro himself for a very special Christmas Concert

Tickets on the door for all concerts

£7.50 Non-Members £5.50 FRIENDS

Under 16's FREE Admission includes interval refreshments

THE JACOBITE FESTIVAL OF FELLOWSHIP 2011



Derek Barham Audrey Howlett Beryl Cook Keith Cook John Webb Alan Shearer Peter Webb Len Allen
Keith Thompson Bert Hacker Luigi Samaden Tony Moore
Rosemary Barham Julia Fuggle Helen Paige Sue Moore Gordon Sexton

Another bright sunny day and 21 senior citizens gathered at the Top O' the Hill Inn. What else could it be, but another Jacobean Re-Union. Was it the Bedford air of the 1940's, the subsequent Sussex air or the disciplined life of the school that has kept so many of us to survive and meet up each year. Long may we be able to do it.

The bar soon became crowded as more arrived from all parts of the U.K. After greeting each other and ordering a drink, came the task of deciding on our courses from the extensive menu. We always start our formal gathering with a "word of grace" and a remembrance of those who sadly passed from this life in the past year. Those remembered were Pat Green, Audrey Brakefield, Alex Law and Robin Wigg.

The earlier lubrication was well need. It was difficult to get a mouthful of food with all the talk and reminiscences going on. The old instruction "don't speak with your mouth full" was easily forgotten. As is often the case, when one is enjoying oneself, time flies too quickly and all too soon it was time to gather for a group photo and to bid farewell and a promise to make it again next year.

Apologies for not being able to be with us had been received from Lambert Parkes, Jim & Janet Holmes, John Tanner, Betty Law, Norman Glass, Jim Dunster & Maureen Gage. Their good wishes for us to have a good time together were certainly fulfilled. Those attending this year were Keith & Beryl Cook, Derek & Rosemary Barham, Alan Shearer, Len Allen, Helen Paige, Ken & Audrey Howlett, Bert Hacker, Paul Turner, Keith Thompson, Gordon Sexton, John Webb, Peter Webb, Paul Cope, Sue & Tony Moore, Julia Fuggle Luigi & Lilian Samaden.

If there are any others out there who were at the School during the 1940's—50's who haven't joined with us yet, make the effort before it's too late.

Details for next year are as follows.

Saturday May 19th 2012
Top O' the Hill Inn—12.30 for 1pm Lunch

If interested contact
Gordon Sexton, 7 Kingswood Close,
Owlthorpe, Sheffield. S20 6SD.
Tel@ 0114 2475742 Email geeess@talktalk.net



Rye Memories Publication List

- 1 'Goodbye Bijou': Memories of Arthur Woodgate £2.00
- 2,3,4, Leisure Activities : 3 books £1.00 each
- 5 Rye Childhood's: Memories of Messrs Rhodes, Clarke & Croucher £2.00
- 6 Postal History of Rye £2.00
7. 'Memories of My Town' -ladies of the Womens' Institute & Eileen Bennett & Theresa Hodgson £2.00
- 8 Recollections of William Cutting & Dolly Beeching. £2.00
- 9 Recollections of Ella Harvey, Raymond Balcomb. £2.00
- 7 'In Those Days' - Recollections of Donald Sanderson, Herbert Wright, Donald Southerden £3.00
- 11 Schools In Rye £3.00
- 12 Ryers Recall (including John Smith) £3.00
- 13 'When I was Young' (including Will Dunlop) £3.00
- 15 Bygone Broad Oak & Brede £3.00
- 16 Transport Around Rye £3.00
- 17 Countryside Ways £3.00
- 19 More About Transport Around Rye £3.00
- 20 'Rye Shipping' £3.00
- 21 'Wings Over Rye' - 2nd Revised Ed. £3.00
- 22 'Elastic Down!!' Rye Bloomers. £1.00
- 23 Memories of Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital. £3.00 (Proceeds to League of Friends of the Care Centre)
- 26 Bygone Rye Harbour New Illustrated Edition £5.00
27. Huguenots in Rye and Winchelsea by Jo Kirkham £4.50
28. Rye, St.Mary's & The Fecamp Connection £2.00
29. Ghosts of Rye, and things that go bump in the night" in the 'Rye Memories' Series. £4.50
30. The History of Rye College (From Anglos Saxon times to the present day) £5.00

TO ORDER THE BOOKS CONTACT:

C/o MRS JO KIRKHAM.
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
RYE COLLEGE
COLLEGE ,THE GROVE
RYE, SUSSEX. TN31 7NQ

CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
RYE COLLEGE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
PLEASE ADD P & P 75p per book.

Please support this unique local history group.

Get the free Visit Rye app
from the iPhone App Store.



What to see and do in the Rye area, the best places to eat, amusements for children and adults and the most romantic places to stay.



*The Mermaid Inn, Mermaid Street, Rye, Tel: 01797 223065 Fax: 01797 225069
www.mermaidinn.com AA Rosette AA *** Supporting the Rye Old Scholars Assoc.*

STANDING ORDER INFORMATION

Make it easy for yourself & ROSA by setting up a standing order to pay your annual subs.

ACCOUNT NAME RYE OLD SCHOLARS BANK DETAILS SORT CODE : 60-18-09 ACCOUNT NO: 59114479

SUBSCRIPTIONS

News and subscriptions go hand in hand in keeping the ROSA Bulletin alive.

Can we remind you subscriptions are now £5.00 per annum . Life Membership at £25.00 has been maintained for many years now, which we think offers great value for money for a one-off payment

To keep our costs down we set and design the bulletin ourselves with printing by the College reprographics department.

If you are reading this bulletin for the first time, please consider joining R.O.S.A.

BULLETIN NEWS & FURTHER INFORMATION

LETTERS, SUBS, LIFE MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

**R.O.S.A.
RYE COLLEGE,
THE GROVE,
RYE,
EAST SUSSEX
TN31 7NQ
TELEPHONE**

**Judith Blincow
(01797) 223065**

EMAIL r.fm@btpenworld.com

**PLEASE VISIT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**JACOBITE LUNCH
MAY 19th 2012**

Top O' The Hill, Rye

**A.G.M. May 17th 2010
THE LONDON REUNION**

November 5th

**NEWS DEADLINE FOR
BULLETIN 161**

November 20th 2012

Despite the back page location, how could we ever forget

Mr. George Smith

George Smith - died 11th November 2010, a week or so before his 89th birthday. George taught biology and chemistry at the Secondary Modern School in New Road from the early 50s until he was asked to head the Biology department at the newly formed Thomas Peacocke School when things went comprehensive in the mid sixties. He continued teaching there, confining his activities later on to the Botany side of the syllabus. He retired in 1982.

He was well known particularly perhaps in the earlier days, for infesting the biology lab with all sorts of creatures – boa constrictors, chameleons, exotic toads... I can even remember as a small child finding a small alligator in the airing cupboard at home. Apparently it had to be kept warm in the school holidays! Trips on Romney Marsh for frogs and newts were a regular outing, as were those to the rock pools at Pett Level for sea anemones and hermit crabs to fill the marine tanks in the classroom. His other main claims to fame were the Youth Hostelling trips to the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. These started off in the 50s, and initially occurred every other year and involved a long journey by steam train – it must have been a bit like going off to Hogwarts. I was lucky enough to go on four of these trips – by this time in the 60s it was on one of Alec Henshaw's coaches. There were usually about 25 – 30 children and three members of staff on these expeditions. I do a lot of walking in the Lake District these days and quite frankly it staggers me what everyone achieved back then. The equipment was laughable by today's standards, and as for Health and Safety....!

When he retired in 1982, he left Rye and with his wife Molly, who as many of you will remember was the local district nurse and midwife, headed back north to Scotland where they had met just after the war. They settled in the lovely coastal town of Kirkcudbright and enjoyed many more years together touring around Scotland in their caravan with Toby the dog.

My mother passed away in 1998, but George continued an active life, with trips down to Yorkshire to see his three grandchildren. His love for animals persisted and he gained quite a reputation as a breeder and provider of guinea pigs to any small child in the neighbourhood whose parents couldn't say "No" quickly enough.

Ill health got to him in the end sadly, and he spent the last four years of his life being well cared for



in a nursing home a few miles from his home. Throughout these final years he never lost his sense of humour and enjoyed reminiscing about the old times.

Thanks to Alastair and Clare for this piece.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print in BLOCK letters

Surname _____ Forenames _____

Years at School _____ To _____

Day / Leasam / Saltcote / Rye Secondary Modern

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____ Email _____

I enclose a cheque (sterling only if under £50) made payable to R.O.S.A. being
(a) Annual Subscription (£5) (b) Life Membership (£25) (c) donation/other (d) I have
changed my standing order to the new subscription rate of **£5.00 per year. Don't
forget a potted history**