

RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN 165 DECEMBER 2016

WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT

To say I was honoured is an understatement. I follow in a line of notable individuals who have all left their mark on our educational lives at Rye since the late 1920's - Jacobs, Buttery, Fooks, Loydell, Buchanan, Cockerham and now Moore. I suppose I am doing my best with the education for students of the Wurlitzer so there is a partial resemblance to my predecessors. Ironically, only a few days before our AGM in May I had been approached by the RGS Foundation Governors to take the place of the late Roger Breeds.

Both tasks and positions I will take on with great pride. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Tim Rothwell for taking on the role of Chairman for the next three years. At the ROSA lunch he seemed concerned of what he could do. I suggested the website and that was the last I saw of him. Proof of the announcement that Tim has rolled his sleeves up and just got on with the task has assisted with another ROSA milestone being achieved.

Thanks to all contributors who have made this bulletin an action packed 12 sider; at one stage 16 sides were contemplated and if we continue to get support similar to the ones we have received in recent years, this is a possibility as postage is not different and the printing costs are negligible.

Enjoy the bulletin, enjoy the events we have arranged and to close this piece, wishing you a healthy and happy year ahead.
Sincere Regards
Richard Moore

WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I was very surprised, but delighted, to be asked at the 2016 AGM to be Chairman of ROSA for the next three years in place of Richard Moore, who has been elevated to the Presidency. Richard's honour is thoroughly deserved. He has been a stalwart of the association for many years and without his enthusiasm and sheer hard work it is doubtful whether ROSA would still be in existence. He is a very hard act to follow.

When I became Chairman, I had a think about what I would like to see happen during my three-year term. It would be good if we could increase the numbers at the annual lunch. I would like ROSA to recruit more old scholars who were at Rye Secondary Modern School, especially as my Dad, Roger Rothwell, was the head teacher there from 1958 until the school joined up with Rye Grammar to form Thomas Peacocke Comprehensive. And it is important that income is increased through additional membership and fundraising events – in this way we can provide practical help to the school as well as the association. But top of the list was to see the ROSA website up and running. It has been moribund for some time now, but I am pleased to say that it is expected to go 'live' in February 2017. It will provide up to date news, details of events, information about the school, photo galleries etc etc.

It would be really good to get your ideas about what you would like to see on the website, and even better if you can provide content, articles, photos and the rest.

If you are able to help, please contact me at timrothwell9@gmail.com

We will let those members on email know once the website is up and running, but its address will be

<http://www.ryeoldscholars.org.uk>

Please add it to your bookmarks!

Kind regards, and I hope to see you at the 2017 lunch and other events organised by ROSA.

Best Wishes

Tim Rothwell (RGS 1960-1967)

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2016/2017

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Bulletin Editor Richard Moore

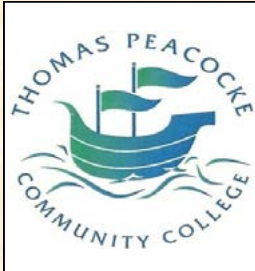
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Mrs Ruth Palmer, Mrs Shirley Bannister.

Mrs Claire Spacey & Mr Andrew Spacey



KEITH COWPER, (1951-1958) THE OLDEST SWINGER IN TOWN

Keith joined the Westminster Bank in 1958 at Tonbridge. After a 37 year career around the Home Counties he retired from the Maidenhead Branch in 1995. His hobby had been amateur theatricals, so he was thrilled to land the job as House manager at The Watermead Theatre in Rickmansworth, Herts. Now more than two decades later he has moved on from theatre management and tells us of his fascinating acting career.

Well here we are in summer 2016 and I am still working. The film work that was on the back burner has blossomed. The theatre is now in the background, although I am usually on stage there with the professional pantomime every Christmas Eve as Santa Claus. It all happened in 2000. I was working happily at the theatre when the first Harry Potter film was released. As it was made mostly at Leavesden Studios a



former Rolls Royce aircraft factory nearby, we were all invited to a preview at a local cinema. Having seen the first film I was so struck by the story that I made a decision that by the time the second film was made I would be part of it. Luckily my two daughters were at the Jackie Palmer Stage School in High Wycombe and the children from that school were being used as extras in the large Hogwarts scenes.

I was asked to obtain a chaperone's licence and for the next ten years worked on all the Harry Potter films. It was a fantastic experience to be part of all the magic, and along the way my two girls became students at Hogwarts so we went to work together. I also had the pleasure of looking after Rupert Grint and meeting Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson who have all grown up and matured into fine actors.

The studios at Leavesden were very dilapidated so when it rained water came through the roof and it was all very basic—a far cry from the modern studios that are there today, after millions were spent on it by Warner Brothers providing a brand new state-of-the-art studio complex. In addition, there is the "Making of Harry Potter" visitor's centre where children of all ages can see the sets and the tricks used to make this iconic film series. Once the series was completed I moved onto other films such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Sweeney Todd and the Woman in Black 1 and 2, where I worked again with Daniel Radcliffe. Recently I have worked on the film Pan, Tulip Fever, Jungle Book and the Huntsman and the new TV Series just out on Netflix "The Crown". In the slack period I have still had the opportunity to work as an extra with some of our greatest film actors in movies such as Philomena, The Man from Uncle, Little Dorrit and Jungle Book. On TV I have appeared in Law & Order and New Tricks and The Outcast. I danced with Sian Phillips on the Last Detective and danced behind Miranda Hart on Gangster Granny and had a ride on a roundabout at The Winter Fair in Downton Abbey.



When I was 17 and living in Hastings there was nothing to do on Saturday nights but go to the cinema. I used to think how glamorous it would be to work in the film business.

Well, it took 50 years but when you are in a muddy field at the back of beyond at six in the morning with Rupert Everett and its freezing and it looks like snow, it is anything but glamorous! But, Hey! its fun isn't it ?



Most of the time I am just an extra but on the odd occasion I get a little more action. Some years ago I made a short film with Vinnie Jones. My agent phoned and said "Can you work tomorrow?" I said yes, they emailed me the script and I turned up in the back room of a pub in Acton and we shot the whole thing in a day. Most of the time I was sitting at a desk playing an Arthur Daly-type character and I had the script on the floor by my feet for each take. That was a bit hairy. Four weeks later the producer phoned and said "Are you coming to the premiere of your film tonight ?". I knew nothing about it—but I said OK. I had to turn up in the Electric Cinema in London's Portobello Road, where there was a red carpet, sushi and champagne and we watched the ten minute film on the screen. Everyone clapped and told me how wonderful I was and I went home never to hear another thing about his movie. Luckily, I got a copy of the video which I transferred to DVD so that at least I have a record of it. What a laugh this business is! I'm just pleased the bank pension keeps turning up.



So here I am at 75, the phone is still ringing I have had a lot of fun working on The Proms at the Albert Hall. They often need someone to look after a choir for a few days. Last year if you saw Kiss me Kate with the John Wilson orchestra, I was there. If you saw the Warhorse Prom, I was there. I can't wait to see what the next few years have in store for me. I may get my big break even yet—although I'm not "banking" on it. I owe a big THANKYOU to Hilda Dann and Stella Curran who, when I was rehearsing for the school plays, showed me how to smoke a cigarette properly and in doing so lit an artistic fire which is still smouldering to this day!!!! Keith Cowper

RECENT LEAVER SUCCESS



I left Rye College aged 16 in 2011. I still think of the five years I spent there as some of the best years of my life, even though I've travelled the world and done many amazing and exciting things since. Rye College is where I made some of my closest friends who (five years on) are still very involved in my life. I was quite academic in school, although I was definitely interested in acting, singing and art; I wanted to have all my doors open to give me as many opportunities as possible. I was signed by Select Model Management when I was 15 years old: this was a shock as I never had any interest in working in the modelling industry. I've been lucky to have an incredible career with it so far, but I'm also glad to have worked hard in school to achieve my 12 GCSEs. This means I have other areas to fall back on if I ever decide to change career paths." **EVE DELF**



Since leaving Rye College I attempted the world's hardest military basic training to become part of the UK's fast response elite fighting force—The Royal Marine Commandos. I passed out as a Commando on Friday the 15th July 2016 after the 32 week training program. **JACK COOPER**



I attended Rye College from 2005-2010. I will always cherish my time at school, the knowledge and experience I gained from the Music, Dance and English departments were irreplaceable, putting me in good stead for the next step. I took singing lessons at Rye College with Anneliese Dale and trained and taught in the evenings and weekends at Rye Dance Centre. I went on to do my A levels at Lewes College; I then trained at London Studio Centre, gaining my 1st class BA honours degree in Theatre Dance and award for most outstanding contribution to Musical Theatre. After graduating I worked as lead vocalist in Disneyland Paris and have now just finished a UK tour of Arlene Philips' 'Jackie the Musical'. I currently live in London in order to audition for musicals and stage shows in the UK and internationally. In-between I teach dance and singing, whilst also working in retail for fitness apparel brand Lorna Jane. I have just started working on my ISTD DDI in Modern Theatre at Rye Dance Centre, in hope that one day I will open my own dance school. I am eternally grateful for the honest grounding in education I gained from my teachers at Rye College, who had me ready to face anything! **GEMMA ARCHER**

OTHER SUCCESS STORIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING.....

Tom Bryan - First Class BA Honours in Digital Film Production at Ravensbourne College. Currently self-employed. Has recently been Artistic Director on the film 'Starfish' which is showing in Cinemas countrywide, including a special screening with Q+A at The Kino Rye.

James Jury - Recently completed Association of Accounting Technicians Qualification, and is now working towards becoming a Chartered Accountant

Chloe Polley - Studied DDA qualifications in ballet, tap and modern at Deborah Capon College. Now teaching dance to all ages at Rye Dance Centre

Alice Polley - Studied Fashion Design and Technology at the Arts University in Bournemouth. Now working for Harrods, in the merchandising team looking after premium shoe brands

Ella Grice - BA in English and Drama at University of Sussex. Working as London Accommodation manager for INTO University Partnerships

Lauren Haffenden - First Class BSc in Business Management. Now Assistant manager of student training facilities for the School of Hospitality and Tourism at the University of Surrey

Rachael Boorman - Primary Education at Canterbury University. Now a Year 3 form Tutor, and Maths lead at Ashford Prep School

Jack Munro - BA hons in Professional Musicianship at BIMM. Now teaches guitar and provides freelance technical support for gigs, concerts, music videos etc Also works at Rye College as Educational Visit Co-ordinator

A PLEA FOR HELP FOR THE WALL OF ASPIRATION

Recently we have put together a 'Wall of Aspiration' to show our students what has been achieved by ex-students who left in the last 15 years. We would like to add more to this.

If any ROSA members fit into this bracket (we would like to keep it fairly current), and are willing to email me a photo and mini-bio, that would be fantastic.

We are also moving towards delivering Careers (CEIAG) through subjects, as well as in tutor time and workshops. If anyone has a job that links to a specific subject, and would be willing to come and speak to our students, we would be very grateful.

Please feel free to contact Donna Starkey by email at dstarkey@ryecollege.co.uk if you feel you can help in any way.

JANET NEILLSON (nee GILL)

It is with sadness that we report as the bulletin was being prepared the passing of Janet after a short illness bravely born. Janet lived in Fairlight, her parents owned the Church Cafe when it was a thriving wooden shed. She emigrated to Australia, but was often seen at gatherings with her many friends in the area who will all miss her everlasting smile. May she be at peace.



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RECOLLECTION 1964-1971 BY DAVID GOODLET



Roy Fletcher & I 1966

I was surprised and interested when I was asked to write an article for this bulletin. I used to receive a copy (and read it) until 2006. I was even more surprised to see that I had contributed 'life chapter from David Goodlet 1964-1971' in the 2004 copy. To complete that item I completed the last 10 years of my working life as Principal of Coulsdon 6th Form College and have been retired for the last three years. I have now relocated to Macclesfield to be nearer to my four lovely grandchildren. As my career was that of a Maths teacher, and initially a semi-professional footballer, who became a Principal you may assume that I was a compliant and well behaved pupil. That was never the case. Alf Buttery threatened to cane me on three occasions but miraculously I avoided the actual physical punishment each time. Like many others I did get 'slipperd' by Muscles (David Holness) on more than one occasion for trivial misdemeanours. All of my schooling was in Rye and I was shocked that I was the only one of my group of mates to go to the grammar school. I still meet with my primary school mates, Alec Tiltman,

Kev Miller (sadly passed away in 2015), David Stoodley and Barry Marchant. Steve Blattman joined us later as we always remind him. We have in recent years enjoyed 2 great "lads holidays" at my house in France.

In my first week at Grammar school all of the teachers threatened me with severe punishment as they had assumed I would behave like my elder brother Roy. Stan Jones was probably a big influence on my choice of future career as he was a good man and a very good Maths teacher. Brian Sealy deplored my French, which is now ironic as I spend a great deal of time in France communicating satisfactorily. He promoted me to the under 14 football team in my first year which was a significant development in my football life. Donald Darby constantly bemoaned my English and made me visit his tutor group containing my brother and all the naughty boys in the lower fifth, Brian Webb, Nicky Rundquist, Robert Cheseman and his son Nicholas Darby. My biggest influence was probably Muscles, David Holness, as he was the leading P.E. teacher. I knew him before I joined the grammar school, his encouragement and influence really nurtured my sporting career. I am still very grateful for the early introduction to Basketball, Athletics, Gymnastics, Cross Country Running and Tennis alongside the major sports of Football and Cricket. He was also my form (Sanders house) tutor in the year before he left, my upper fifth year. I valued his guidance and support. I remember cheekily offering a snowball fight with him when I was 13 not knowing that he had been the javelin champion at Loughboro. My bruises took some time to heal! I felt part of a 'dying breed' as the school changed to Thomas Peacocke comprehensive school in my 4th and 5th year at school. Despite my relative success at school I am committed to the principle of comprehensive education. I think that is because I saw opportunities I had not offered to so many of my contemporaries from Rye.



Yorkshire Dales Trip—Summer 1969

I really enjoyed the post O level trip to the Yorkshire Dales organised by Mr Smith the father of my friend and classmate Alistair Smith. I think it played some part in my decision to go to Leeds University and gave me a passion for the outdoors. I led many Lake District and overseas expeditions in my early teaching career. It was my connection with Gus Allnut that led to me signing for Rye United at the age of 15 although I had already played a full season for East Guildeford and remained part of the East Guildeford youth teams that made a clean sweep of the East Sussex competitions. The school and club coaching was responsible for me developing and to going on to represent Sussex. I feel fortunate to have grown up and been educated in Rye. My three lovely sisters and my big bad brother all live in that locality now. That in addition to my Rye based friends mean I visit often and would love to catch up with more of my contemporaries, I did meet Alistair Smith, Sue Chapple, Elizabeth Pierce, Colin Bradley, Dan Mankowitz, Carolyn Moss and Guy Bedford (where is 'slim' David Henbury?) from my year group at the last ROSA event. It would be great if even more could make the next reunion.



RGS Under 13's 1965. Fresh from defeat against Hastings Grammar 3-2



East Guildeford Under 17. Double Winners 1969

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THE CLASS OF 1996 RE-UNITE



THOSE ATTENDING WERE.....

Jon Colegrave, Matt Archer, Chris Wall, Leigh Gammon.
 Tim Godden, Lawrence Hatter, Euan Mcgrah,
 Justin Erswell, Ben Osbourne, Jason Pike, Gareth Jebb,
 Anita Hollands, Lisa Doughty, Lisa Greenhalf ,
 Hannon McKeown, Ruth Jones, Katherine Bambery,
 Natalie Clarke, Sabrina Beenie, Michael Pepper,
 Laura Hodges, Claire Bullock, Sam Toothil, Liz Standen,
 Karen Wright, Carole Turner, Sean O'donoghue ,
 Rob Perfitt, Piers Lewis, Nicola Mitchell,
 Bonnie Minshull, Joseph Pamborris, Cherry Couves ,
 Gillian Padgham, Sharon Haddock

WITH THANKS TO JON COLGRAVE

Speaking from experience of getting my own decade together of the 1970's, I know the first reunion I arranged was the hardest as contact needs to be re-made, which in Jon's case was 20 years. It was a great effort and let's hope that if he decides to do it again more will support it.

RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY



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Two photos show highlights of our year. Success again in the Young Theatre Organist Comp in Barnsley with a Third Place and Most promising student. The other on the bridge of the MV Balmoral entertaining over 300 passengers on a day trip sailing from Rye Harbour to London's Tower Bridge in June.

TENSION? STRESS?
 ACHING BACK
 & SHOULDERS?



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REMEMBERING JIMPER SUTTON BY JIM HOLLANDS

A Great Ryer and Englishman who had a Heart of Gold and who could bring the World Alive with just a Pen

There are some people you meet as you go along time's highway that are much larger than life. Jimper was one such person. A country man with an unrivalled knowledge of plants and animals and an instinctive ability to write about them, or anything else if it came to it. Almost his entire life is documented in the hundreds of stories, books and articles he wrote.

The uncanny accuracies of his tales is easily explained. He kept a detailed dairy, writing up the days events before he went to sleep. "Always put people's full names in" he once told me "That way you can separate the Johns and the Jims as time fades your memory". When Elvis Presley died, my brother Richard, who was a great fan, said "He will live forever in his songs". This always stuck with me and it is so true. Elvis is well known to people who weren't even born till after he died – Jimper will live on in the same way – in his stories.

Everyone whose path Jimper crossed will have their own memories of him. Long John Silver with a collecting bucket and a Parrot perched on his shoulder on Bonfire Nights. Jimper was top collector on many, many occasions. Jimper outside Jempson's signing his latest book, the full takings of which always went to a local good cause or charity.

I once had an American gentleman who came to the "Rye's Own" office, when we were in Cinque Ports Street and asked to buy back numbers of the magazine. "I only want the ones with Jimper's articles in them". He told me. I offered him the first ten on the rack – every one had something of Jimper's in it. He ended up taking thirty. He would have had more, but thought that would put him over the weight limit on his return journey to Boston!

Jimper was a unique person. We saw him as a scrap merchant, as a farmer, a fisherman, bee keeper, even a politician. He created the Sutton Industrial Unit at Winchelsea Beach. He has been The Bonfire Boys Chairman, served on the District Council. Most of us saw him as all these things but predominantly we saw him as an Author. We learned much about him, and ourselves from his writings.

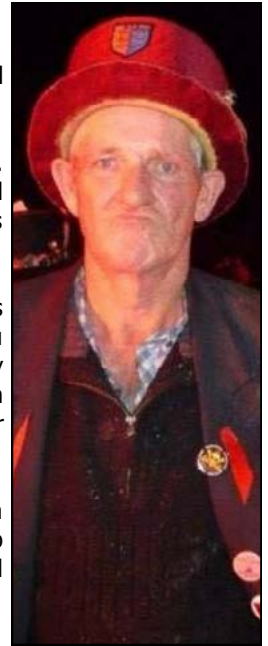
I can't think of another writer who covered so much ground. I remember the very last time I saw him and he told me two of his books had been withdrawn from sale at a local store because they were "too erotic" – he chuckled when I said that would turn them into best sellers. He published almost twenty books covering so many subjects from novels to Bonfire Stories. Many are out of print now but stories from them all, and hundreds of short stories, many yet unpublished, will appear in the pages of "Rye's Own" throughout the months and years ahead. Jimper is with us no longer, but his knowledge, experience, adventures, stories and memories will continue to entertain, inspire and brighten our lives, and the lives of many yet unborn, throughout the continued history of this town of Rye he loved so well

Jimper wrote :- "Life is like a novel. The front cover is the start and the back cover the end. So it is from birth; the pages lead you on your journey. The title on the cover is your name and the page you first come to is your baptism. There the title is repeated. The introduction next, represents your family. The first chapter sets you out on life. Usually all the main characters are in place by the end of the first chapter. At school, you have learned the place you are to take in life. Then it is off to work and chapter two. Any good novel has a few red herrings to lure you from the chosen outcome. So it is with life. In the early years girls are courted and the adult world around you explored. Then you reach a certain point and get married. Another high with the honeymoon leading to lows and highs as you set forth together. More intrigue. You now have two families, hers and yours. The mystery deepens. Reading on, things that seemed to matter no longer have such meaning, and can be discarded, but they have served their purpose of moving you on in life. You have children; more highs. Then sleepless nights and the lows. Like all good books, it has its high and low points but they work to carry the book on. The children grow and find partners of their own. A minefield for conflict. You both grow old then suddenly you die. There is no law to say that books end happily. Some though, like people's lives, are read only once, and then tossed into the bin. Others are read and put on the bookshelf to be read and remembered for a long time after the life of the author. A book is so like life."

I can tell you that Jimper's books will never be tossed into the bin. They all contain a wealth of knowledge, some nonsense, much good advice and a reminder of the great things we have shared in Rye & District over the 72 years of Jimper's lifetime. Jimper had a way with words. He wrote :-

The World was in darkness the night I was born, not a light was to be seen, and then, as I grew and could walk and run, the lights came on all over the Kingdom."

And then the adventures of his life really began. When he was young he roamed the fields around his parents' home in Winchelsea Beach, where relics of the recent war lay in abundance. Shell cases, copper wire, instruments from crashed aircraft and doodle bugs. He had a few 'encounters' with live shells but survived to tell the tale. He made close friends, explored Camber Castle from top to bottom, built the biggest kite in the world and launched it behind a tractor on a metal hawser, which showed up on the Radar, causing Lydd Airport to suspend flying. He spent a week up a pole outside an early girlfriend's home, navigated the Military Canal from Pett to Hythe and back in a canoe, blew up a cannon, and these were just a few of the of the adventures while he was still at school.



In April 1966 the very first of his "Jimper's Jottings" appeared in "Rye's Own". One Saturday, around that time, I met him in Cinque Ports Street pushing a wheelbarrow full of manure with a wind-up gramophone on top playing Benny Hill's 'Harvest of Love'. He told me it was a bet. He had to push it from Winchelsea Beach to Wittersham without letting the spring run down.

He worked with his dad and brother on their farm, in their scrap business and fishing keddle nets on each tide at Winchelsea Beach. The farm produce and fish were sold in their roadside shop which brother Hughie still runs today. Later Jimper fished from a boat working out of Rye. He was a very keen member of the Bonfire Boys and his stories of those days in the 50's, 60's and 70's, when they dragged a real burning boat around the town with Rye Fire Brigade following them, and the Dragon of Rye spouting 10 ft. flames, tell how it really was in the days before Health & Safety. He became a member of the Oast House Gang, along with such well known local people as Martin Wright, Charlie Coleman, Brian Matthews and Liz Kent. They always had a special tableaux in the Bonfire procession; one year it was so high it got trapped under the Landgate Arch and inspired Charlie Colman's memorable cartoon of the Tower in ruins, the clock strewn across the road and Jimper's caption saying, "The Procession was bigger and better than ever this year".

By this time Jimper was already being described as a Rye character. His writings appeared in all sorts of publications and he was becoming an authority in nature conservancy, even being introduced to Prince Philip on one memorable occasion. The television people were aware of him too and he made several appearances on Scene South East, once in relation to an "unexploded bomb" he had found sticking out of the bank of a ditch. The Bomb Disposal Squad were called and the TV and Press were present when it was pronounced to be, not a 500 pound bomb, as was first suspected, but an oxygen cylinder!

Jimper married Heather in 1976, they celebrated their fortieth Anniversary very recently. Una came along in 1978, Claire in 1979 and James in 1983. Farming on the family ground at Winchelsea Beach and Wittersham, fishing the nets at Winchelsea Beach and at sea on his 36' fishing boat that he operated out of Rye for 20 years and bee-keeping kept him active but that was not enough for Jimper. He was always interested in local politics, and was elected to the District Council in 1978 where he pulled no punches, achieving quite a lot in the four terms (16 years) he served. When we were young I often told Jimper he was destined to become a famous son of Rye. My prediction came true; he appeared on television many times, wrote and published 14 books and over 1,000 short stories, was made Life President of Rye Bonfire Society, had his portrait painted by one of the finest artists ever to reside in this town and had a bus named after him.

His knowledge was boundless, his kindness legendary and his enjoyment of life immeasurable. He was a 'One and Only - in a class by himself'

There will never be another Jimper Sutton, but he will live on with us forever, in his stories.



NEWS IN BRIEF

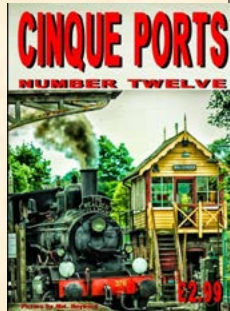
NIGEL SPOONER- CHEMISTRY TEACHER Nigel cycled from Land's End to John o' Groats (981 miles) raising money for the charity Medicins Sans Frontieres in August. The whole thing was quite an adventure for Nigel and he enjoyed the adventure of the great variety of countryside in just two weeks. Currently teaching at Bolton School.

JOY LOFTHOUSE raises the roof at Wimbledon. Following our article in the last bulletin about former lower school teacher Joy Lofthouse (93) flying Spitfires and Hurricanes during the War, she was invited to Wimbledon to be part of Britain's finest and had a justly deserved ovation from the centre Court crowd

JOSEPHINE DAVIES After leaving Rye Josephine Davies studied classical and jazz saxophone at the Guildhall school of Music & Drama, whilst there winning the 1999 Perrier Young Jazz award with a quintet co-lead with trumpeter Tom Allan. She has since performed and recorded with the London Jazz Orchestra, Ronnie Scott's Vanguard Band, The Laurence Cottle Big Band, Sax Appeal, Vortex Foundation Band, Matt Wates Sextet as well as a two year stint with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

THE REVEREND DR. STEVEN MARTIN Obtained a Doctorate of Music at Bristol University. Left TPCC in 1997. Completed two years teaching at Theological College. Ordained as a curate at Tavistock in September this year by the Bishop of Plymouth. Married with one son whom he baptized at his ordination.

GRAHAM SLACK Left TPS in 1980. Recently returned to Rye after living and working in London. Is now a freelance film/TV/media composer and teaches three days a week in London



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With thanks to Jim Hollands

NEWS FROM GERALD BEESLEY (1962-1966)

I attended Rye Grammar from September 1962 (Lower 5A) until June 1966 (Upper 6th) and was Head Boy in my final year (Pat Comport was the Head Girl). I was in a small group who took Pure Maths, Applied Maths and Physics for 'A' Level; others that I can recollect being Philip Michael ("Sam") Seale from Smallhythe, Margaret Tedham from Northiam, and Philip Wood. Some of the others in my year were John Beckerson, Anthony Breeds, Judith Hyde, Susan Murphy, John Parkin and Susan Turner.

I subsequently graduated from Brighton Polytechnic with an honours degree in mechanical engineering and since 1970 have had a career in the railway sector, which has involved projects in many countries in the world. In August 2010 I was appointed the Commissioner at the Railway Safety Commission in Dublin, Ireland (which, due to an extension of its role, is to shortly be re-branded as the Commission for Railway Regulation).

Rye Old Scholars & Rye Town Council

In recent years there have been a number of Rye Old Scholars who have been Rye Town Councillors and have subsequently become Mayor. Since 1974 when Rye ceased to be a borough these have included the late Roger Breeds (RGS 52-57), Paul Carey, Paul Osborne (TPS 75-80) – currently Chairman of Rother District Council, Ian Potter (TPS 89-96), myself - John Breeds (RGS 57-65), Shaun Rogers (TPS 84-91), and, the current Mayor, Jonathan Breeds (TPS 85-93). Rebekah Gilbert – nee Smith (TPS 81-89) and Sam Barnes are also currently councillors.

The present Mayor, Jonathan Breeds, was actually born in Kensington although his grandfather and great-grandparents were born in Rye. After TPS he studied for a degree in Performing Arts at Middlesex University specializing in operatic singing. On returning to Rye he worked for three years as a carer for a student (Sam Bull) at TPS before joining Abbey National for three years and finally settling for a career in the licensed trade – currently managing both the Queens Head and the Cinque Ports Arms. He also sings with both the Rye Bay Crew and Rye-singers. As if this wasn't enough, he has to chair every Council meeting and attend numerous events within the Cinque Ports and beyond. His current major projects include attempting to

buy accommodation to rent to a needy Rye family, attempting to buy back some of the Town's former assets and to oversee completion and submission of the Rye Neighbourhood Plan. John Breeds (old scholar and proud dad!)



A fond farewell from Ann Cockerham

After 12 years as Principal of Rye College/Thomas Peacocke Community College, I took retirement at the end of August and look back fondly at my time in Rye.

I feel enormously privileged to have worked with so many remarkable governors, staff and students throughout that time and to have been so very well supported by the Rye Old Scholars' Association.

I have loved every minute of my thirty eight years in teaching, always looking forward to the day ahead. I was a Head teacher for twenty two of these years, working in four very different schools. Of all of these schools, Rye College will always have a very special place in my heart. It is the only school that I have ever worked in that has the strength of so many former students behind it and I have learnt so much about the rich history of our Rye Community from the tales I have heard at ROSA reunions! Such camaraderie can only be founded on great friendships, fond memories and strong community spirit. Our school has nurtured these things over the years and has worked hard to be a school at the heart of its community.. and one of which its community can be proud.

We are fortunate to have many varied skills and experience amongst our "old scholars" that can benefit our young people today. The Rye Academy Trust is now comprised of three schools (Rye Primary, Rye College and Rye Studio) serving young people from 2 to 19 years of age. My special thanks to Rye Old Scholars for all that you do to support their success

I wish the students who are in our schools today all the happiness, success and fond memories that they deserve in the years to come.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL J. DOUST

It is with deep sadness that the family of Michael J. Doust, Commander RN (Rtd.) announce that he "Crossed the Bar" on 24th April 2016. Michael "Punchy" Doust joined the Royal Navy in 1951 as JREM Electrical branch, then on to pilot, senior pilot, AWI, squadron commander and ultimately 'Wings' of HMS Hermes in 1979. He flew the Sea Balliol, Sea Vampire, Wyvern, Sea Venom, Sea Hawk, Gannet, Buccaneer and Phantom aircraft all with great skill and professionalism, before retiring from the Service in 1983. He "Crossed the Bar" in Virginia, USA, where he lived post retirement but is to make one last flight home to be buried at St.Thomas the Marty, Winchelsea, East Sussex beside his family.

Michael John Doust was born in 1933 at Fernbank Maternity Hospital Hastings to Jack Doust, Rye Harbour Master and his wife Margaret. Initially home was in Winchelsea but then moved to Rye Harbour when Coastguard Cottage, Inkermam Cottage were home before moving across the river to purpose built Harbour Masters House and office. Michael often recalled fond memories of Rye which he considered to be home despite spending many years serving with the Royal navy and his subsequent emigration to America. His fondest would be the wonderful fishing trips with his father and brother Brian.

During his years at R.G.S. he joined the A.T.C. Which no doubt fuelled his lifelong love of flying. During that time Michael flew in a Tiger Moth biplane but within five years would be piloting a De Haviland Sea Vampire jet as a naval aviator which would be his career for the next 32 years. Michael joined the Royal Navy as a rating in February 1951 and served until his retirement in 1983 at the rank of Commander. During this time he married and had two children. After retiring from the Royal Navy Michael and May emigrated to America finally settling in Virginia but remained very English at heart.



NEWS FROM JANICE GILL & HER INTERLINKED FAMILY MEMBERS

Janice Gill TPS 1972-1979. I sat GCE 'O' Level and 'A' Levels and then trained to teach at La Sainte Union College of Higher Education. I taught at Guestling Bradshaw C of E Primary School for 10 years. I moved to Worthing in 1995 and taught in a junior school in Littlehampton for 8 years, before obtaining a post as a Senior Lecturer in Education at Canterbury Christ Church University (2004). I worked on an Employment- based Teacher Training programme for 4 years before taking on the role of Programme Director for a Foundation degree in Childhood Studies. I am currently Faculty Director of Childhood and Education Studies with responsibility for 4 different undergraduate and post -graduate programmes. I live in Canterbury.

Joan Gill (nee Ashenden) My mother, Joan Gill attended Rye Grammar School (1948-1953). She took GCE 'O' Levels and then entered the civil service. She worked at Rye Post Office from 1954-1961 and then 1984-1997 at Hastings Post office and finally Battle Post Office (1998-2007). She is currently living in Hastings, caring for my sister who has learning difficulties and her husband (Norman Gill who attended Rye Secondary Modern School and was in the grocery business in and around Rye until 1999 - a real life Arkwright!)

David Gill My brother, David Gill, attended TPS (1985-1993) and took GCSEs and GCE A Levels. He studied for a degree in computer sciences at the University of Greenwich. He is currently working as a civil servant for the Child Support Agency in Hastings. He lives in Hastings with his partner, three adult children and has one 'step' granddaughter.

Anne Newstead (nee Ashenden)

My Aunt, Anne Newstead, attended Rye Grammar School (1962-1969) and took GCE 'O' Level and 'A' Levels. She trained to teach at Bognor College of Higher Education and then taught at Westfield Primary School and Battle and Langton Primary School. She lives in Hastings and has two adult children and a granddaughter, who all keep her very busy!

My Uncle, **Leslie Ashenden**, attended Rye Grammar School (1950-1955) and was taken on as an apprentice at Ellis Bros in Rye and worked as a plasterer. He emigrated to Perth, Australia in 1969 with his family and is now happily retired. He spends his time with his many grandchildren and great grandchildren and still maintains an avid interest in steam trains.

Finally, my Uncle, John Ashenden, attended Rye Grammar school (1957-1963) and joined the police force as a cadet. He stayed with Sussex Police until he retired. He now lives in Fairlight and has four children. He and his wife are currently very busy looking after their young twin granddaughters

A NEW CHAPTER FOR PHIL & JULIE LAW



We knew each other as 20 somethings (as friends from school), and met again by chance in Rye after a gap of about 30 years. Phil was a Senior Manager for the NHS in Mental Health for many years and is a talented musician & pianist. He has taken early retirement from the NHS and now concentrates on his music, currently working on projects with several local musicians. Phil has a website: phillawmusician.com

I qualified as a nurse in 1984, and have also worked with Yr 1 primary school children as a Teaching Assistant, but currently I am a carer for my daughter who has learning difficulties. I left Thomas Peacocke in 1974. Phil & I got married at Rye Town Hall on 20th April and had a reception party at The Globe which was enjoyed by all! We are currently living in Rye.



THOMAS PEACOCKE 50 CLUB GATHERING, JULY 2016

Saturday 2 July saw a second reunion for the Thomas Peacocke 50 club again held at the Ypres (with many thanks to landlord Garry). The weather wasn't fantastic, an occasional drizzle and a definite chill put some people off attending. Despite this, some thirty classmates spent a good four hours or more catching up, reacquainting and renewing friendships with a lot of laughter and yes, alcohol. A good time was had by all. A November reunion is imminent and indoors! Our Facebook group is open to those born between September 1st 1964 and August 31st 1965. Is this you? **Drop us a line via Judith or find the group The Thomas Peacocke 50 club on Facebook.**



THE ROSA 2016 LUNCH REPORT BY TIM ROTHWELL PHOTOS BY ANDREW SPACEY

The ROSA Annual Lunch, which is superbly hosted by Judith Blincow, Claire Spacey and their team at the Mermaid in the first week of May, seems to be establishing a number of very welcome traditions.

2016 was no exception. First, the weather is usually kind to us – the group photo illustrates this perfectly. We all had the sun in our eyes! The food is always wonderful, as is the company. We are all given a splendid jar of the finest jam, marmalade or chutney, thanks to Richard Moore and his unsurpassed skill at preserve-making. And numbers are increasing.

We hope very much that the last tradition continues in 2017, when the lunch is held at 12.30 pm on Friday 5 May, following the AGM. Details will be circulated shortly, but the good news is that we expect that the cost will remain the same at £19.95 a head, great value for a three course lunch at one of England's finest.

This year there were about 40 of us gathered round the tables in the Tudor Room at the Mermaid. It was good to see Maureen Getley and Lois Benton from the school staff joining us, as they usually do, but we missed the presence of Tony White, the former physics teacher, who sadly died just a month after being with us at the 2015 lunch.

But despite that touch of sadness, there was much (noisy) merriment and reminiscing, not all of which would be suitable for publication.

The lunch is a great way to meet up again with old friends, and indeed to make some new ones too, as partners of old scholars are very welcome.

It really is a special occasion, and we do hope to see as many of you as possible in 2017.

Tim Rothwell



THE ROSA 2016 LUNCH REPORT BY TIM ROTHWELL



2016 LUNCH ATTENDEES

Tim Rothwell, Libby Rothwell, Jim Holmes, Janet Holmes, Maureen Getley, Louis Benton, Tony Moore, Sue Moore, Richard Moore, Judith Blicow, Martin Blicow, Andrew Spacey, Claire Spacey, Peter Goodsell, Mary East, Christopher Breeds, Kay Breeds, Alan Pope, Keith Tompson, David Tomkinson, Jenifer Tomkinson, Yvonne Strudwick, Margery Nettle, Rosemary Craggs, Geoff Craggs, Barbara Sherlock, Brett Sherlock, Wendy Dumbleton, John Dumbleton, Bertie Hacker, Margaret O'Neil, Norman Glass, David Goodlet, Leonard Banister, Helen Paige, Julia Ann Fuggle, Jo Kirkham, Gillian Winterbottom, William Eldridge, Jaqueline Tarrent, Diane Pope

Why not join us in the wonderful atmosphere of the
Mermaid Inn, Rye.

Friday 5th May THE R.O.S.A. LUNCH 2017

To register your interest please contact
Richard Moore (01424) 444058
or email r.fm@btopenworld.com

who will forward a menu to select from.

The three course lunch will be £19.95 per person.

R.O.S.A. A.G.M. 12noon

(All members welcome to attend)

12.30pm for 12.45pm Lunch

A warm welcome to Tim Hulme, Chief Executive, Rye Academy Trust

Tim joined the Trust in September 2016. His career to date has included Executive roles in a range of industries, including pharmaceuticals, construction and hospitality. With a strong track record in leading transformational change and business recovery, Tim has operated in the charitable, public and private sectors and he has a strong belief in the power of education and the impact it has in changing communities and peoples lives.



In accepting the role as the Trust Chief Executive, Tim is particularly focused on establishing a sound business platform from which the Trust, in all its dimensions, can grow. Of the education provision in Rye, Tim is keen to point out that, "across the country, there are probably around a dozen or so combined education Institutions which offer a young person an education from the age of 2-19. Rye is very fortunate to be one of those and I look forward to nurturing and creating a sustainable model for the future."

On behalf of ROSA can I wish Tim every success in his new role and look forward to supporting the college in any way we can in the years ahead as we have done since 1929—Richard Moore

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 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
 10. 'In Those Days' - Recollections of Donald Sanderson, Herbert Wright, Donald Southenden £3.00
 11. Schools In Rye £4.00
 12. Ryers Recall (including John Smith) £4.00
 - 13 'When I was Young' (including Will Dunlop) £4.00
 - 15 Bygone Broad Oak & Brede £4.00
 - 16 Transport Around Rye £4.00
 - 17 Countryside Ways £4.00
 - 19 More About Transport Around Rye £4.00
 - 20 'Rye Shipping' £4.00
 - 21 'Wings Over Rye' 2nd Revised Ed. £3.00
 - 22 'Elastic Down!!' Rye Bloomers. £2.00
 - 23 Memories of Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital. £4.00
(Proceeds to League of Friends of the Care Centre)
 24. Ghosts of Rye, and things that go bump in the night" in the 'Rye Memories' Series. £5.00
 - 26 Bygone Rye Harbour New Illustrated Edition £5.00
 29. The Story of Rye College (From Anglo Saxon times to the present day) £5.00
 31. Ryennium - Ancient Rye at the Millennium - Price £14.95 Limited Edition. Special Price £7.00 (half to go to Rye Town Council)
- All proceeds from the sale of these books are used to buy local history books for the Rye College Library.**

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THE 1960'S DECADE REUNITE FOR ANOTHER EVENING OF NOSTALGIA

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PLEASE EMAIL RICHARD MOORE
r.fm@btopenworld
FOR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CELEBRATE THIS MOMENT IN TIME

LIFE MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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.
Please send a cheque payable to R.O.S.A. To:-

Mrs Judith Blincow ROSA Secretary, The Mermaid Inn, Mermaid Street, Rye, East Sussex. TN31 7EY

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

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