



RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

No. 160 December 2009

RYE COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL



CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

An eventful year for me as Chairman as it was my turn to arrange the 70's event. Did it live up to is expectations - you bet . A full report is inside.

With assistance from the College audio visual unit it would appear that the big screen presentation showing photos of times gone by is a popular part of the reunions so I encourage all those attending reunions in the future to email/copy photos so that they can be put onto disk and used in the future. Plus of course they can also be exhibited on our website. 2009 was a year when I discovered that there are more Rye Old Scholars talking to each other than I imagined—encouraging to say the least. ROSA set up a FACEBOOK page as an interim line of social networking and was pleased to discover that Jamie Lee Tiltman, Craig Varty and Leanne Bilsby had established the Thomas Peacocke Community College Alumni which had had over 600 observers. Stacey Mercer on the other hand had set up Thomas Peacocke School Reunion with over 400 I found

most encouraging that at least there is a link and hope that over a period of time we can develop this link to become members of Rye Old Scholars.

It seems ironic there are over 1000 old scholars happily talking to each other through the modern medium of Facebook—long may it continue.

2009 could never hope to top the success of last year with the centenary Weekend in August and the touching Hither Green Event in November, but still, a year where progress has been made.

Sadly, it's a year when we have lost some real characters both former staff and pupils and this bulletin acknowledges their achievements in the usual way—God Bless them.

To conclude in a year of deep recession credit crunch and all other commodities that have hit the fan—ROSA has survived and held its own in such times.

Thanks to Ann Cockerham for her infectious support towards ROSA and her own dedication in striving to maintain Rye College in the forefront of local education.

Wishing all members, wherever you are a happy and healthy 2010.

R.O.S.A. JOINS THE WORLDWIDE WEB

Not a day too soon we hear some say.

Admittedly its taken longer than first thought, but we knew once we started such a project it would have to be right to uphold what the College and the town of Rye represent - something special.

We must thank Oliver Campion for his support to date and hasten to say that the site is not live - yet.

The launch and by announcing this through the bulletin gives us now an unmoveable deadline.

Click on www.ryeoldscholars.org.uk on **June 1st 2010** and you will see what we mean—something very special.

The site will major on a mammoth pot puree of photographs of the school in the last 100 years. For those who attended the Centenary reunion you are aware there are hundreds. We are currently selecting and putting a story to all the photos, which although time consuming yet very interesting and thanks must go to Jo Kirkham for her wealth of knowledge in this.

However, it will also cover news of reunions, and smaller gatherings that we get to hear about through the course of the year.

The end of the bulletin ? Not at all, rather an extension as a lot of members choose not to have computers and our predecessors would be turning in their resting places if they thought their years of dedication was to be cast aside.

2009 has been a year when ROSA stepped forward into cyberspace and contacted the world in a different way . Lets hope that it is now supported and enjoyed from June 1st 2010 and for many years to come.

ROSA is all about social networking and has been a fore runner in this since before the Second World War. We look forward to enhancing what we have done so well for the past 80 years.

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CONGRATULATIONS RAY FOOKS M.B.E.

Sadly, your're not first to know about this if your're thinking - "how wonderful and justly deserved". Ray was awarded this prestigious honour in the New Years Honours list for 2009.

I spoke to him on the day and he still seemed in a state of shock and overwhelmed with the whole situation. In true Ray style he said " I can't think why I have been nominated, I just like getting on with things when asked". We totally agree Ray but it's a fact that you have carried out this simple deed for so long and for so many clubs and organisations in Rye that this award could not have gone to a nicer person.

Members of ROSA and former colleagues can take some credit in making such an award happen, but all those who wrote testimonials did so as a priveledge to be connected with such a well deserved application.

A reception was held for Ray and Marjorie at The Mermaid Hotel where a wonderful buffet was arranged courtesy of the hotel to around 50 colleagues and representatives from the different clubs and organisations Ray was connected with and photos are enclosed in this bulletin.

Ray and Marjorie have since moved to Oxford in August this year to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren

TRIBUTE TO JULIA (JUDY) ELIZABETH QUILTER nee TERRY

10th July 1927 to 4th March 2008

We knew her as Judy, always Judy, never Julia. Judy was born in Wittersham at Sydenham House, baptized in the church of St John the Baptist, started her education at the primary school, and was married to her first husband in St John the Baptist. She was the third of four daughters, representing two local farming families, the Terry's and the Bates. Judy continued her education at Rye Grammar School. Soon after the start of the Second World War when she was just twelve, the School was evacuated to Bedford. While in Bedford, Judy had the added responsibility of looking after her younger sister, seven old June. I recall that during school days, Judy was a popular, energetic, vibrant and essentially happy girl who enjoyed life and was fun to have around. She had a great sense of humour much appreciated by her friends and the Staff. The school eventually returned to Rye in 1944. At the end of her fifth form year Judy gained her School Cert., left school and started training to be a nurse. Sadly this came to an early and abrupt halt as she was confirmed as having TB. She returned home and shortly afterwards, collapsed while mowing the lawn. Then followed two years living in a sanatorium; in Davos, Switzerland, part of one lung was removed.. She was then given a place in a special college in Surrey to learn new skills, in Judy's case, secretarial skills. Whilst there she met and eventually married her first husband, Dick Culpin. Judy and Dick purchased Mead End Cottage, a dream thatched cottage and barn surrounded by open farm land just outside Portsmouth. Following extensive restoration, the cottage developed into a kind of children's' heaven - Judy loved children; she had three -, and welcomed all their friends and her nephews and nieces. During those years, Judy assisted Dick with his pig breeding and was secretary of the local Conservative party. Sadly after 25 years Judy's marriage broke up. She bought herself a house in Arundel, took a job with an agency which provided live-in companions/housekeepers' to elderly widows, then moved on to become a live-in secretary-cum manager' at a nearby development of retirement apartments .A few years later when Judy found she had no need to supplement her income, she trained as an adviser in the Citizens Advice Bureau at Littlehampton. She started house hunting, and met Keith Quilter. Keith, too, was house hunting, for similar properties, so they pooled their resources, shared their viewing, and finally, together they bought 2 Stone Corner Cottages; Mrs. Culpin became Mrs. Quilter, and Judy returned to her roots only a couple of miles from Wittersham. Within two years, despite needing a daily afternoon rest, Judy had become heavily involved with local activities. She was Treasurer of Stone PCC, Chair of Ashford CWCC, and Governor of one of the Ashford schools. She ran the Stone-cum Ebony flower show, joined a luncheon club and a local women's yoga group. Keith and Judy had ten happy years when with Judy reasonably fit, they did a lot traveling. Six years later Judy became very ill; she did recover, but with reduced lung capacity, she was dependant on supplementary oxygen twenty four hours a day. This made her virtually housebound and increasingly weak. She died in Ashford Hospital in March 2008, following a fall involving a broken hip. Judy had a very strong Christian Faith. She loved the Kentish countryside and especially the view she had from her bedroom window at 2 Stone Corner. Judy also loved people, most of all her children and grand children. Her dearest wish was that they will love one another after she has gone. As Keith concluded in his funeral tribute -'Judy had a naturally magnetic aura, which seemed to draw people, especially the young. She so loved people, they couldn't help loving her back'. We all miss her—Kath Bull



NEWS OF JILLIAN ELDRIDGE (NEE COLEMAN)

When I left Rye Grammar in 1967 , halfway through the A level course, Miss Elliott our Art teacher told me I would regret it for the rest of my life, and she was right. I married in 1970 and had two children in 73 & 75 . It was great bringing the children up on Romney Marsh. The boys went off to University eventually and I decided to do what I should have done on leaving school, which was to go to Art College.

I took Foundation Diploma at Hastings College in 1983-4 and then went on to take a Fine Art degree at Wimbledon School of Art in 1984 - 87, wonderful. My marriage broke up, unfortunately, and I moved to Newenden where I turned half of my small house into a studio and continued painting, supporting myself by also teaching adult courses at Hastings College and selling work at exhibitions locally and in London. During 2005-6, I took an MA degree at The University of Brighton. Soon after, artist Nick Archer was looking for someone to share his studio space in a barn in Wittersham and moved all my equipment there though very cold in the winter months!

Last autumn we heard that the old Secondary Modern School was to be turned into an art centre with studios for rent. We applied, and have been in The School Creative Centre since March this year. We have marvellous, spacious studios and amenities and over the summer months the artists who rent space have grown quickly. There are now four painters, one painter/ illustrator, a book binder, goldsmith, jeweller, ceramicist, sculptor, stone mason, weaver, two textile artists, a printer and an art therapist. There is also a new department setting up which will provide exciting art courses for troubled teenagers. There has been a theatre production and aerial performance. I run painting classes in the well equipped art room and there are other courses and exhibitions held throughout the year. Its great to be involved in this project which has turned from an empty shell to a thriving art community. We hope it has a few years yet in which to develop and become better known, and I've finally done what I should have done in 1967.

OUR PRESIDENT ANN COCKERHAM, PRINCIPAL, RYE COLLEGE

I have really enjoyed meeting Rye Old Scholars at the various reunion events held over the course of the past five years and have appreciated the support that so many of you continue to give to our work. Some of you are now parents (and even grandparents) of students attending Rye College now. We are proud of our heritage and we are working hard to build up and preserve our archive of photographs, documents and memorabilia which represent the past 100 years of secondary schooling in our town. In October, we held our second Rye College Dedication service at St Mary's Church and based on the format used years ago for the Founders Day Service. We have even reinstated the school hymn! Thank you to the Rye Old Scholars Committee for their support of our current students in the form of regular sponsorship of awards. Again this year, members of the committee will be attending our annual Leavers Awards Evening to present prizes and trophies. They will also be promoting ROSA to a future generation of members! Thank you to you all for your continuing support of our young people.

**THE LIFE & TIMES OF
GEORGE W. BLACKER
1920—2009**



We are sad to report the passing of George Blacker in April of this year.

Known simply as Mr Blacker to generations of children in Rye where he spent all his teaching career. He had spent six years in the army before coming to Rye, rising to the rank of Captain and had been on the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten in Burma.

He joined the staff at the Modern School in New Road where he taught English. Also arriving at the same time in 1948 were Bob Huxstep and Harold Pearce.

George travelled to Rye each day on the train from Eastbourne and was known to do his marking en route.

Back at Eastbourne in the evening, he put on another hat, that of hotelier helping Elizabeth his wife in the small family hotel they owned in the centre of the town.

High standards were paramount in all aspects of life not only in the classroom. He came to work each day impeccably dressed in a dark suit always with a white handkerchief tucked into a cuff. When he rarely raised his voice—you knew about it.

In 1968 both the Grammar and Modern School joined to become Thomas Peacocke on the site of the current school. George became House Master of Meryon a post he shared with Eleanor Hill and later Margaret Woolard. He continued to teach English and was in charge of careers together with Margaret. George retired in 1985 aged 65 and returned to Eastbourne. Having sold the hotel two years later, he and Elizabeth moved to the Meads area and continued to lead their busy social life. He had always been a Freemason and like everything else held high office in various lodges.

At retirement George drove a mini bus for Age Concern and found time to be Treasurer at their local church.

A pride and joy was his motor car which almost never came to Rye but saw much of France and other parts of Europe. A speck of dust was hard to find in or on the car and his wife a rarely had to open the door herself. He is survived by Elizabeth, Nigel & Fiona.

Thanks to Mr Wright & Mrs Woolard for this piece

**REMEMBERING HAPPY DAYS
WITH ANNA JONES
(nee SLY) 1960—2009**



Anna Jones (nee Sly) recently died after a six-year battle with cancer. She was diagnosed in 2003, weeks before discovering that her oldest daughter, Kat (then 14), had a brain tumour, which sadly took her life in 2006. On Friday, 23rd October, Anna died at home in Brighton, leaving behind husband of 30 years Jonah and daughters Ruby, 18, and Alice, 12. In 1975, Anna moved to Rye, East Sussex, and became a boarder at Salcote, the boarding home attached to Thomas Peacocke Comprehensive. An instinctive and imaginative artist, Anna thrived at school in the subjects she loved - Art and English. She adored her art teacher, Kitty French, who took her under her wing and remained her friend when she finished school.

After Anna left school, she enrolled on a foundation art course in Eastbourne and while there met Jonah. Anna and Jonah settled in Brighton in the early 1980s. Their door was always open - Anna loved people dropping by for a cup of tea and a chat, and she became a much loved member of the Patcham community. Anna loved a party but was equally happy curled up on the sofa with a good book.

That time growing up in Rye was very precious to Anna and the friends she made at school remained close to her for the rest of her life. She called them her 'sisters' and, latterly, 'fairy godmothers': Caroline Johnstone (nee Machray), Anne Ciccone (nee Catt), Sarah Edgecumbe (nee Davies), Tamsin Ewing and Tracey Jewsbury (nee Foster). With these and other good friends, led by Anna and Caroline, it became a tradition to return to Rye for a couple of days every year for a fun-filled reunion. Whenever possible, it was arranged to coincide with the larger ROSA school reunions and Anna absolutely loved those trips down memory lane. Anna was a fantastic mother, wife and the loveliest of friends - funny, warm and full of life. She had an infectious sense of humour and a wicked laugh. She was also incredibly thoughtful and caring; however you were feeling, you could be yourself with her. Anna had so many gifts but her most precious gift was the unconditional love and friendship she gave to people she met along the way. Anna had the wonderful ability to make everyone feel so very special, a part of her family. Throughout her life Anna did a lot for charity, particularly Age Concern, where she worked for many years. She was passionate about improving the lives of elderly people in the light of the poor experience her own father received. Anna gave us her heart - and we will keep her

h e a r t i n o u r h e a r t s f o r e v e r .

**REMEMBERING
MR RON DIPPER
1921-2009**



It was in the late 50's that Ron came to Rye, teaching first at the Secondary Modern then moving to the Lower School of TPS where he stayed until his retirement in the late 70's. Ron's teaching skills were directed towards those pupils with special needs and he was actively involved in the "Learning to Live" or Newsom Course. He was particularly good with younger children and had great empathy with the less able. Although he sometimes roared with displeasure, he could be great fun and his pupils received a good grounding. Always interested in music and the theatre, Ron was responsible for a number of productions and also ran the Chess club. A somewhat rotund figure, Ron by his own admission, loved food and was one of the few people who actually enjoyed spam fritters ! this, no doubt, from his service days. He seldom spoke of these, but he seen memorable war service as a radio operator in North Africa. After the fall of Tobruk his unit was cut off from their own forces and had no choice but to march for 2-300 miles, behind enemy lines, narrowly avoiding capture on a number of occasions. Ron's subsequent foot problems were a legacy of his suffering during this time. Those of us who remember Ron do so with real affection. His rubicund features had a "polished" look, likewise his car so lovingly dusted with a handkerchief each day. Oblivious to cold, shirtsleeves sufficed whatever the weather. Everything about him was neat and precise, fastidious in fact, he could infuriate, but was a kind and supportive colleague and a cheerful and amusing man with an appreciation of the ridiculous.

In retirement, Ron's love of music continued (particularly dance music) and he took up gardening which have him great pleasure. Thanks to Mrs A. Chapman (nee Miss Lewis) for this tribute

SOME WORDS TO CONSIDER FOR

THOSE OF A TENDER AGE

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO WERE BORN IN THE 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's ! First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos..

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, raw egg products, loads of bacon and processed meat, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes or cervical cancer. Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright colored lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking. As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle. Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonalds, KFC, Subway or Nandos. Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on the weekends, somehow we didn't starve to death! We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this. We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy Toffees, Gobstoppers, Bubble Gum and some bangers to blow up frogs with.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because.....WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!! We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of old prams and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. We built tree houses and dens and played in river beds with matchbox cars. We did not have Playstations, Nintendo Wii, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 999 channels on SKY, no video/dvd films, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them! We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no Lawsuits from these accidents. Only girls had pierced ears! We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns at Easter time...We were given air guns and catapults for our 10th birthdays. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them! Mum didn't have to go to work to help dad make ends meet! RUGBY and CRICKET had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!! Getting into the team was based on MERIT

Our teachers used to hit us with canes and gym shoes and bully's *always* ruled the playground at school. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! Our parents didn't invent stupid names for their kids like 'Kiora' and 'Blade' and 'Ridge' and 'Vanilla' We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL! And YOU are one of them!

CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good. And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

Copyright and credited unknown - but who ever you are - well done

LEASAM REUNION MAY 2010

Have been informed via Claire Louise Humphreys via the ROSA FACEBOOK page that there is a Leasam Reunion at the **RAFA Club in Eastbourne** in **8th May 2010. 7pm to 11pm.** All those wishing to attend should contact Claire via this page for more details. We wish the evening every possible success and a report will not only be in the next bulletin but photos will appear before then on our Facebook Page and our ROSA website next summer.



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Over the past year we have had many really enjoyable visits from some lovely former Saltcote Girls. Thank you for the pictures you have contributed to our collection and for the stories you shared. It seems the pampered breaks are catching on hence our new cards. We've had a few weddings since the last Rosa newsletter and more than a few wedding Anniversary celebrations, it's been great fun. We're look forward to spoiling a few more of you and if you come and stay with us for two nights and mention ROSA you will find a **FREE** bottle of chilled Champagne to welcome you. **Ask for our Brochure**

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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.

CONGRATULATIONS SAM

Sam Creavin has become Keele University Student of the Year. Sam achieved a MPhil degree at the same time as his undergraduate studies in medicine, the first at Keele to achieve this. He performed well and gained Best Overall Performance in every progress over the past four years. He has had work published and has presented at conferences nationally and internationally. Charity work also played a part in his extra curricular activities being a member of the Bone Marrow Project, British Heart Foundation and founding Chairman of Medsin Keele encouraging young children to deal with health professionals. Sam started work as a junior doctor in Bristol in July

THE 70'S WEEKEND THAT WAS - IN WORDS

I thought I would write this article the morning after whilst all was fresh in my mind. Arranging a reunion takes over your life in a strange sort of way. I don't mean the setting up of things on the day (or before in this case and thanks goes to Ian Ruddock who flew over from New Zealand especially for this occasion, and to catch up on old friends). The date had been set 18 months previous and on and off during this time you develop ideas of how you want things to happen. I am still not convinced about Friends Reunited having sent block emails out twice to all those that are registered for the 70's plus individual messages to about 200 students of that era. The only problem being its tedious and has to be done around 6am to 7.30am when the network is quieter. You can easily become a private detective and had to smile on the Saturday evening when People were studying the 6th form photos to see who they remembered. I had been doing that for the previous three months trying to spread the word as much as possible.

The idea of an annual Golf Tournament; participation in a local 10k run and a small tennis tournament were early casualties and although promoted in the same way as the rest of the event these were shelved in May due to lack of support. What made it more unnerving that with only two months to go only 4 tickets had actually been paid for? Do I cancel and call it a day or take the chance and continue as the Band had already been booked for the evening entertainment.

However, I must stress at this point that the event would not have taken place without the drive, professionalism and commitment to ROSA if Our intrepid secretary Judith Blinco had not stepped in to arrange the Bar and the food along with her team of daughter Alex, Sue & Tony Moore, Margaret O'Neil, Claire Spacey and of course Ann Cockerham. Not forgetting Shaun who poured a mean bottle of J2O throughout the evening for me. I cannot thank them enough for making this event happen as if we had gone ahead with outside caterers the event would have made a huge loss and I would have had to step aside and think after arranging the 70's reunions since 1985 enough is enough. It was teamwork at its best and proud to have been part of that team.

But in reality what happened was a superb one man show from Old Rocker Mick Mephram at the Pipemakers Arms on Friday evening. Mick regularly plays there so it was an add on event for the 70's weekend. But for those ROSA members attending they were treated to 70's & 80's rock played and sung at its best and with such gusto. With a radio mic. on his guitar Mic was able to wander around the audience as and when he wanted. A great night enjoyed by all and a good start for the weekend proceedings. It was good to see Anna Sly, Tracey Foster, Sara Davis, David Gasson, Trevor Blackman and of course Ian Ruddock in attendance.

The following lunchtime saw the Standard Inn play host to a gathering of former Leasam and Saltcote pupils who sunned themselves in the walled courtyard. So much so, that Mr. Dick Wright complained at the evening event that he was there for 45 minutes and did not see anyone — possibly hiding from you ? or was it the passage of time that students have got that Much older that they are unrecognisable ? – I think not. Attending were a Gaggles of Bousteads Pete, Sally and Gail, Tracy Foster, Anna Sly, Carolyn Ashdown, Graham Fletcher, Ian Ruddock, David Foster, Aurelia Pyke, Mandy Carter, Jacqueline Corline and Sarah McDowell by now David Gasson had got the taste of these events and as he claimed he had spent a lot of time at Saltcote by fair means or foul felt the need to come along as well. In appreciation for arranging the event I was presented with a delightful picture of Rye signed by those attending and I can assure you it hangs with pride .

With a bit of fine tuning and decorating to Fridays set up it was the evening event that was to make or break the whole thing. Actual Ticket sales had risen only to 15 (kept that to myself beforehand) but with word of mouth and messages hoped for around 100 to turn up and attend. We were short of this and actually 70 came along. I can safely say it was quality not quantity for this evening as the whole thing went not only to plan but enjoyable from start to finish – I hope. It was good to see some first timers returning since leaving school some 30 years previous and hopefully they will now return – no names mentioned but they started the evening early at The George.

The 1066 Rokit played a blinder which was to be a difficult evening. The hall with a capacity of 450 is a big place for all attending, but when some leave or go to the chat room, the event then divided but in its own way still continued to be a success. Those that wish to eat each others ears when talking in the hall and of course were able or for those who wanted to warm their hands around the urn, chat and look at school photos were able to do so.

The evening ended all too quickly and by 11.15pm I had succumbed to a sit down and a cup of coffee in said chat room, by chance returning to the hall to witness not just the capable Paul Sergeant on drums but an even more enthusiastic Lenny Hollands beating out an impressive syncopation as well. Sadly, the random photos I were taking throughout the event were not of the quality desired unless they resemble the Black Hole of Calcutta as sadly the flash was not working. Or, was it that I had not turned the flash on ?

For the record I list those who attended in the hope that in five years time when the next one takes place it may jog some ones memory to think, hey, lets come along and give it a try. Ladies I have used your Maiden names for ease of recognition. Raymond Carter, Pete Boustead, Sally Boustead, Gail Boustead, James Watson, Jane Boiling, Carolyn Ashdown, Brin Snowden, Paul Goodsell, Roger Burrows, Sarah Wood, Jo Wood, Debbie Curley, Karim Brazier, Kevin Burgess, David Dengate, Richard Pearce, Gordon Boxall, Heather Grand, Virginia Clement, David Barling Gasson, Carol Baker, Ian Ruddock, Karen Taylor, Graham Fletcher, Paul Dengate, Kezzie Turner, Will Spall, David Bannister, Tracey Foster, Sarah Davies, Anna Sly, Maxine Marsh, Joe Sykes, Anna Crouch, Robin Bloomfield, Jane Tullett, Kim James, Debbie Wilson, Terry Barrow, Michael Sherwood, Steve Howe, Maryon Luck, Paul Heskett, Mark Sherwood, Julia Cox, Lennie Hollands, Sue Nelson, Nick Warnes, Hugh Bell, Alan Dickinson. Staff attending including Mr & Mrs Fooks, Mr White, Miss Benton, Miss Getley, Miss Lewis, Mrs Longfield, Mr Wright, Mr Martin, Mr & Mrs Leeds, Mr Gray, Mr Fletcher.

To conclude arranging a whole decade event is difficult as you can only publicise on mass and hope. For more successful events there could possibly be one person from each year as a king pin who would the create a ring round of their own contemporaries. Overall the evening was attended by the mid 70's but it is hoped as per a school report we can do better next time. Thanks to everyone for their support. Compared to a very small surplus four years ago, this event was profitable .

Lastly, it was good to see a recent leaver in attendance and helping with such enthusiasm, not only that he played a mean game of cricket the following day – well done Craig Pierce and thank you.

THE RYE EVENT REPORT

I had made a larger space for this event but as you can see it did not justify and we are left with a small slither, only to say that it did not quite get the gusto and commitment from any of the Committee even the Chairman who attended for 30 minutes and realised it was one of those evenings you put down to experience. Thanks to Judith for letting me sit in the bar for this time, it would have been a marvellous setting. I had to smile when reading the London Reunion who stated that their numbers were down due to the Rye Event, I don't think I would have made much of a difference by trying to attend both would I. Needless to say we shall continue to mention the London Evening which, without much assistance from this bulletin last year went ahead as normal long may this continue for the sake of Tony Buchan.

THE LONDON REUNION REMAINS ALIVE AND WELL

Attendance was slightly lower than average this year. There were two possible reasons for the decline; the announcement in the last newsletter that the event was cancelled and secondly the organisation of an alternative OSA event on the same night in Rye.

In spite of these set-backs, a good evening was had by all; in many respects this year's star was Hugh Bourn who left the then Rye Grammar School in 1959.

Hugh is probably best remembered in Rye as being the lead guitarist with the *After Hours Hot Five* – a skiffle group which played weekly at the, then, Playing Card Coffee bar in the Mint and at many other venues around Hastings and Rye.

Hugh gave up his semi-professional music career to train as a teacher. Later, his other love, that of sailing, seduced him into leaving the classroom and setting up as a boat designer. After selling his highly successful company he developed a second hobby, that of photographer. He soon gained a national reputation for his marine photographs; using his skills as a yachtsman to produce incredible action shots of yachts in mid-race. This new career burgeoned and Hugh's photographs, including some of Royalty were features in the national press.

Now Hugh has decided to take life more easily and has returned to his early interest in folk music. For the last year he has been a resident disc-jockey with Saint-Fm, one of the South East's most popular independent radio stations (<http://www.saintfm.org.uk>).

Any report of this year's event should not ignore Tony Buchan's attendance – it's been calculated that next year will see his 50th appearance at the London Reunion – why not join him there on 1 November next year.

**London Reunion 2010 - 1st November at 7.30 pm
at The Albert 52 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London, SW1H 0NP**

REUNIONS – OVER 40 YEARS LATER AND 12,000 MILES AWAY!

Jenny Bell (now Layton) (Saltcote, 1964 – 1965) didn't think she'd see any of her Rye Grammar School friends again when she emigrated to Auckland, New Zealand in 1973. But Graham Alcock (1958 – 1965) emigrated in 2005 and lives nearby, and Geoff Harris (1958-1965) and Joyce Care (now Gustard) (1958 – 1966) visited her in 2006 and 2009 respectively. Jenny and Joyce particularly enjoyed reminiscing about Leasam boys and the "87 Club"!



RYE COLLEGE NEWS IN BRIEF

Rye College Carnival set off around the streets of Rye at the end of July in a blaze of colour. The culmination of months of hard work by Year 8's and college staff, the Art dept and visiting artists and community were realised. Supported by other Primary schools and youth groups the spectacular procession swayed and moved through the town. The students were thrilled by the huge numbers lining the streets and the rapturous applause.

A group of 38 students all Year 9 went to the South of France at the end of June for a water sports activity trip. The trip was an outstanding success

In June Year 8 & 9 students were given the privilege and honour of being asked to open the national Making Good Progress Head Teachers Conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre Westminster. Head of English Sarah Pearson addressed the delegates with a summary of the College's participation in a national pilot on the teaching and assessing of Shakespeare at Key Stage 3. The students then demonstrated their performance skills. This was well received and the students were complimented on their lively and engaging delivery

The Year 11 Prom was held at Bannatynes Hotel in St.Leonards at the end of June. Students voted Oscar Ellis and Jessica Robertson as their Prom King and Queen. The event was well attended by students and teaching staff alike.

Year 7 Cricket had an unbeaten record having won all their fixtures on route to winning the Hastings & Rother League

August - Congratulations to Year 11 leavers who achieved the best GCSE results that the College has known since GCSE was introduced. This year, the College is again one of East Sussex's most improved schools.

September - Rye College opened its doors to an additional 10 students after there were appeals for places.

November - The Rye College carnival band was privileged to lead the Rye Bonfire procession. great fun was had by all! Their next appearance will be in the Rye Christmas Festival parade on December 5th

A SPECIAL CORNER FOR A SPECIAL DAY

Justin Erswell married Emma Spencer at Rye Town Hall in July. Justin of Winchelsea Beach and Emma daughter of Joan and the late Terry Spencer of Rye.

The wedding was announced to the town by the Town Crier who then led the couple to a lunchtime reception at the Standard Inn.

Mr & Mrs Erswell will continue to live in Rye and plan to have their honeymoon later in the year.

THE CRICKET REPORT BY MARTIN BLINCOW

This was a day for batsmen as the Rye v Rye OSA Cricket match produced 2 Centurions, Simon Bourne for the OSA and James Hamilton, also an Old Scholar, for Rye. However at 20-3 the OSA made a sticky start as Sam Cooper another Rye Old Scholar, took 3 early wickets, including a superb catch by Darren Smith to dismiss Barry Stunt. However Simon Bourne 100 in partnership with Karl Khan 89 took the attack to Rye as the OSA notched up 251-8 off 42 over's dec. It threatened at tea to be an imposing target, but James Hamilton 138 had other ideas as he began to smote the ball to all parts of the ground, supported by Ben Fair 26 and young Jackson Woodcock 41. Rye eased to victory in just 37 overs. It was an enjoyable day and many thanks to Old Scholars Mick Mephram and Trevor Blackman who umpired and to Judith Blincow for laying on the tea. It was also a sad day as many of us said a Rye goodbye to Ray Fooks who the following week left Rye to begin his new life with Marjorie in Oxford.

The best part of the day was the post match discussions in the bar which went well on past sunset. Rye have very kindly offered to host the game again next year – so any budding cricketers who fancy a game please contact Martin Blincow on blincsfamily@aol.com or through facebook.



Top Row Umpire: M.Mephram B.Blackford B.Stunt K.Pawsey T.Brownbill N.Hacking K.Khan M.Blincow Umpire T.Blackman Bottom Row J.Nunn C.Nolan S.Cooper P.Nixon M.Cook D.Smith I.Harris D.Deer S.Bourne C.Pierce B.Fair J.Hamilton Seated: J.Woodcock N.Paine

AN APPEAL FROM PAUL TURNER

Just had to make space for this piece as the ethos of the bulletin is for old scholars to keep in touch. Paul came late to RGS after starting in Lewes, then, moving to Northiam when his father came out of the army. Paul came to the Jacobite lunch from Wiltshire, but, the date had been changed. He hopes to come along again in 2010 but would really like to meet up with some contemporaries from the villages of Northiam, Beckley and Peasmarsh. In particular Pat Paine from Wittersham who moved to Kenardington when she got married. Paul moved to Brighton Tech after completing his school certificate but has promised a life chapter for the next edition. For now, I think he is pleased that ROSA exists and there is a possibility for some serious reminiscing. So, if you remember Paul Turner please get in touch or make arrangements to attend the Jacobite lunch in May.

NEWS FROM JAMES MOUNTFORD

After taking 'A' levels at TPCC James went to Hull university to study a Degree in Law, followed by one year in York for his L.P.C. (Legal Practice Course). At the end of his 2-years' training at Meneer Shuttleworth's office in St.Leonards he was offered full-time employment and is currently working in their Bexhill office. In October he graduated from The Law Society in Chancery Lane. James enjoys long distant running and recent success include Winner of the 2009 Beckley 10k, 2nd in the 2009 Bexhill Poppy Half-marathon. At the end of last year he was the first Hastings man in the 2008 one-off Hastings marathon.

LATE NEWS REPORTED

Keith Tillman died suddenly on 10th October 2009. He attended Rye Sec. Mod 1961/1966. His twin brother, Peter, was killed many years ago in a motorbike accident

Thanks to those for sending on numbers missing from our last plea. To up-date you here are the missing bulletins to make the complete set of ROSA Bulletins. **1 through to 25 then 28,32,33,36,45,46,47,48,49,50,52,53,58,61,62,70,111.** We are hoping that ancient old scholars can have a rummage through their drawers for the earlier issues. The bulletins were put on display in the summer for the 70's weekend and a lot of interest was made about them.

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THANKS SON

Albeit nearly a year ago my thanks to oldest son Joe Moore for taking part in the Hastings Marathon on December 14th in a worthy time of 3 hrs 49 mins. More importantly his efforts raised £200.00 that was divided equally between the Hither Green Memorial Fund and the Wurlitzer Audio Visual Appeal for 2009.

Rye Cricket Club have opened a new ground at New Road—the home of the town's Rugby Club. The venue will be home to Rye III, who will be playing in Division 12 of the East Sussex Cricket league. It will also be used by Rye Colts and Rye College. The artificial wicket has been financed by the Lords Taverners, The Sussex Community Foundation, Rye Town Council, Rye College and Rye CC. The opening was conducted by Town Mayor Clr Sam Souster.

FRIENDS OF RYE WURLITZER CONCERTS FOR 2010

January 24th Nicholas Martin
February 28th Janet Dowsett
March 28th Iain Flitcroft
April 25th Tony Whittaker
May 23rd Phil Kelsall
September 26th Paul Roberts
October 24th John Mann
November 28th Robert Wolfe
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WURLITZER MASTERCLASSES 2010/2011

Now that the Wurlitzer restoration is virtually completed, the priority can now focus on FREE tuition for the music students at Rye College. Delighted to report that five masterclasses have been arranged commencing February 26th with Len Rawle, others are planned in April, May, September & October. Initially the masterclasses will benefit just Rye College students but there are possibilities to expand this subject to demand. It is also hoped that students making the grade will have the opportunity in visiting the United States to perform on much larger installations. This is something I have wanted to do for years, but priorities had to be made and funding was not available. Therefore, delighted that this project is about to start. More news on its development in the next bulletin. Donations towards the project will be most welcome.



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THE JACOBITE LUNCH 2009

We wondered if the Jacobites had been casualties of a non event report. However, unlike Dengates buses on the deadline two arrived within 24 hours—, hold on, that is like Dengates buses !!. No space for paragraphs. On 30th May 2009, 19 Rye Old Scholars with their husbands, wives or partners gathered together for a Reunion Lunch at the Peace and Plenty Inn at Playden. East Sussex. This event has become somewhat of a ritual. Originally the brain child of Gordon Sexton, the event was conceived as a meeting point for Old Scholars of the Rye /Bedford/Rye era. I am one of these Old Scholars, - the bond of the Bedford years remains as strong as ever, and I am constantly amazed at the recall of fellow Bedfordians as they recount pranks and events both in and out of the classroom. Laughter is a number one priority at these lunches. As, over the years, the Bedford contingent has reduced, the number of younger members has increased. It is nice if you do know at least one other Old Scholar at the lunch, but if you don't, then you will still be assured of a warm welcome. We have often discussed changing the venue and time of year, but inevitably, we return to status quo. Playden is convenient, near to Rye, and the Inn has ample parking facilities, and we have always had sunshine. If you are interested in joining 2010's lunch, the provisional date is **Saturday 22nd May**. Please contact Gordon at or me at kath.bull@virgin.net, to register your interest. I would like to express members' thanks to Gordon for his efforts over the years to produce well organised and happy annual Reunion lunches.— **Thanks to Kath Bull.**

Those attending included Len Allen, Judith Blincow, Kath Bull, Keith Cook, Paul Cope, Julie Fuggle, Maureen Gage, Norman Glass Bert Hacker, Ken & Audrey Howlett Sue & Tony Moore, Helen Paige, Alan Shearer Edwin & Marie Sutton, Keith Thompson, Ivor Walker, Peter Webb

Once again it has fallen upon me to write a few lines about this gathering. As my last report seemed to be well received, I was somehow persuaded to try again. I feel I cannot compete with previous years literary spectaculars. After all, Aunt Mat never gave me high marks in English. Each year enables those present to recall events of the past 55 years in relation to activities in Bedford. Events at Ixworth Court (sadly no longer standing) and other social activities were brought to light.

Lunches, which arrived in a van in containers at Russell Park Hall, were compared to the excellent fare provided by the Peace & Plenty, but none of us starved and sweet rationing was at its height so coupons, I recall, were of great financial value !!!

Much discussion took place in relation to lessons which were 'out-shopped' either to Bedford school for Chemistry, or to the Fox & Hounds pub in Goldington Road where we had lessons over the Public Bar. We were also distracted frequently during lessons to observe the Flying Fortresses returning from daylight raids when they were going into Thurleigh USAF airbase. Many of us who had bikes found moving around various school locations easier than walking.

Those of us in Scouts recalled days spent in Stagsden Woods and regular Scout meetings at the tennis club in Goldington Road. Scout camps with Mr Douglas upon our return to Rye were re-called Broadstone warren and Wareham (1945).

Our return to Rye in 1944 was as always a major topic of events. Never without tales of Dengates Famous Bus Fleet!!! And that wonderful 4.08pm steam train leaving Rye with all those happy RGS scholars bound for Winchelsea, Three Oaks and Keith Cooke for Hastings.

The annual Jacobite Reunion is a great event, superbly organised this year by Kath Bull, and allows us all to exchange news and reminisce of events long past in a pleasant environment with excellent food and drink. Conversation gets louder as the alcohol flows and our hearing gets poorer.

A splendid event enjoyed by all those present. Here's to the next on May 22nd.

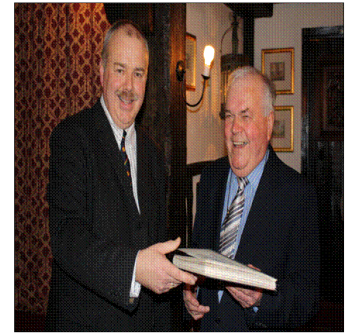
Edwin E. Sutton
RGS 1943-1950



AN EVENING AT THE MERMAID WITH RAY FOOKS M.B.E.



Those attending included Stewart & Jo Doyle, Gordon Boxall, Don Beany, Doug Gray, Tony White, Richard Seely, Seymour & Helen Leeds, Margaret Woolard, George & Mrs Hunt, Janet Jones, Andrea Chapman, Judith & Martin Blincow, Margaret O'Neil, Jon Izod, Mrs Rita Cox (Mayoress of Rye), Cllr Sam Souster (Mayor of Rye), Cllr John Breeds, and his wife, Maureen Getley, Peter Jobling, Graham Turner, Kevin Hogan, Charlie Crowther, Tony & Ann Tookey, Richard Moore, Ann Cockerham. Not forgetting Ray & Marjorie Fooks



A wonderful evening was spent in January with 50 former colleagues and representatives from clubs in Rye to celebrate Rays national recognition for Voluntary Service to Rye. A Life & Times book was compiled (in just 20 days) with messages from former school friends, university and former teaching posts before arriving at Rye.

MEMORIES FROM JOHN E. SWAN

I attended Rye Grammar School 1947-1953. At one time I was a member of the Scout Troop, then from 51-52 a member of the Air Training Corps Squadron commanded by Mr Peter Mitchell an ex-Navy CPO PTI who was also the boys PT Instructor, and along with Mr Alnut the Games master. In Class V I remember sitting along side Mark (now Lord) Saville and in the gym, sparring with Norman Hickman. I boxed for the ATC winning once and losing once and played football and Cricket for Peacocke House and for the school 2nd XI's.

As a member of the school dramatic society I appeared in "Twelfth Night" and "The Shoemakers Holiday" (1952) along with illustrious names such as John Larkin, Michael Lawrance, Valerie Jupp and Bridget Wing. I left school in 1953 and joined the Royal Marines and actually qualified as a Commando before I reached the age of 18. Later I served for two years on HMS Centaur and whilst overseas my family moved away from Rye so I really lost touch with the school and Rye contacts. I have been back a couple of times but never set eyes on the old gang. I left the Marines after suffering a back injury in 1957 but two years later after getting fit again I enlisted in the Army (The Royal Hampshire Regiment) then after three years in the infantry, transferred to the Royal Engineers where I stayed for nine years ending up as a Staff Sergeant, Chief Clerk. Married and with three young sons I settled in Lewes working first in a business/financial environment and then re-training as a Teacher of English as a Foreign Language and running my own firm, working with German and French companies teaching mainly business English (1980 - 2006). Now aged nearly 73 I think I have finally retired, although the urge to travel just won't go away. I should mention that my father, his sister and her husband also attend RGS and I have a school prospectus of 1923 showing my father at carpentry class.

RECENT LEAVERS

Our fledgling recent leavers returned to the college on November 26th to collect their achievement awards list below. This years key Special Guest was 70's sensation James Watson who gave a great thought provoking and motivational speech. Kevin Williams presented the Hither Green Award for the second time. It was a great evening to be part of.

Best GCSE Results James Jury Katie Wood **Most improved Student** Calvin Hatter **Student Voice Advocate of the Year** Lydia Turk **Overcoming the Odds Hither Green Award.** – Laurie Freear **Head Girl** – Lauren Haffenden **Head Boy** – James Jury **The Anne Mair Award –Community Award** – James Jury **Sports Person of the Year** - Brendon Doughty and Alice Polley **Art Award** Eliza Starkey **Dance Award-** Lauren Mewburn **Drama Award** – Richard Smith **Liz Baldwin – contribution to college life** – Lydia Turk **ICT Award** – Jacob Edir **Food Tech** – James Thompson **Graphics** Jack Bloomfield **Resistant Materials** –Tom Griffin **Maths** – Katie Wood **Science** – Katie Wood **English** – Claudia Coleman **Attendance Award** – Calvin Hatter and Jade Morgan Special attendance awards = Claudia Coleman, Thomas Griffin, Lauren Haffenden, Robert Joy, James Jury, Katie Wood **HEAD OF HOUSE awards 2 per house- outstanding contribution to the house Citadel** – Chloe Lyden and Alice Yates **Landgate** – Jess Robertson and Ryan Reed **Strand** –Paige Shafe and Charlie Clark **Windmill** – George Ball and Lauren Haffenden



Awards were sponsored by
Rye Grammar School Exhibition Foundation Governors & ROSA

REMEMBERING A BROTHER WITH FONDNESS

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of my brother Alan John Jarvis who attended R.G.S. with myself in the 1950's.

We were brought up in Bodiam where our father grew hops for Guinness's. Our journey to School was first by taxi from Udiam Farm to Northiam and then by Den-gates bus to Rye. Later our sister Eleanor also attended R.G.S. in the 60's, we had two other sisters Janet and Evelyn who also went to secondary school at Roberts-bridge.

Alan and I were both prefects and played football and cricket with the First XI, sport was always a passion to us both. We both played golf in later years and Alan was always a keen angler. Most recently No.1 sport was cycling. This was unfortunately the reason for his death.

For many years his cycling club from Sydney toured Europe, cycling thousands of km, usually just before the Tour De France.

This summer they were cycling in Italy where an accident occurred and Alan was killed. His body was flown to England and a funeral service was held at St.Giles Church, Bodiam, followed by cremation at Hastings. Two urns of his ashes were received, one scattered in the River Rother at Udiam Farm and the other taken back to Australia by his widow Robyn where a memorial service was also held.

After leaving school Alan worked for the old London County Council while studying to be a structural engineer. In 1963 he met an Australian Robyn Moran who was working in London whilst on a world trip. They fell in love and when Robyn returned to Australia Alan followed in 1965 and were married the same year,

He became a very successful builder particularly building high rise skyscrapers in Sydney. Eventually he formed his own building firm and called it Bodiam, becoming extremely successful. They had two children who are now both married and have since produced five grandchildren.

In 1982 Alan invested in Tasmania beginning a large estate called Interlaken with 50,000 acres of land and lakes, where he could enjoy his passion for fishing. He stated that this was his pension and he sold it in 2007 for five times what he paid for it. He had purchased another house in Tasmania in Falmouth as he had grown to love the island. He did eventually give up building but formed a large company called City Pharmacy, based mainly in Papua New Guinea of which he was the Chairman at the time of his death. His family home was in Vauchise in Sydney overlooking the Harbour. I had visited Australia six times and we have so many happy memories of Alan—we were very close although 10,000 miles away.

Whilst writing this in memory of my dear brother can I please convey my best wishes to all contemporaries of R.G.S. Best Wishes, Mark Jarvis

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PHOTO TAKEN IN 1936—ARE ANY FAMILY MEMBERS RECOGNISED ?

Lets give you a clue, if your struggling to find your grandparents. Madeleine has assisted a little in this by mentioning that Margaret Baker is in the back row 4th from right, and sister Noreen is seated 3rd from right. Andy Dunlop (Will's brother) is on one side of Mr. Grealey. She is on the other side with Joan Field. Winnie Kempton is behind Mr Grealey, Eve Blackman 4th right from her and now married to Les Beany seated in front of Mr Grealey. Can anyone help with the others ? It could make a wonderful party game for Christmas, in fact for the whole of next year !



Recollections of a Stone Ager 1932 – 1937

Reading in the last 2008 Newsletter of the Centenary Celebrations of RGS moving to the new site in The Grove made me realise that it had been there only 24 years when I first became a pupil. So before we pre-War scholars vanish without trace I felt it was time to describe those early years, so vastly different to the present day.

RGS, may have been a "small country grammar school", as one Jacobite described it, but the townsfolk of Rye were very proud of it and it was considered a privilege to be a pupil there, especially as they totalled only around 200 and places were scarce, since it covered quite a large area extending from Staplecross, Broad Oak, Guestling across to Wittersham and Beckley entailing travelling by train or bus and some pupils cycling miles from the more remote villages in all weathers. As an 11 year old new girl the school looked an imposing building, a solid brick structure with huge sash windows lining both sides, a curved entrance porchway and cloakroom wings on each side. In front was a large concreted area which converted to two tennis hard courts leading to the football field and a grass tennis court. Running alongside the hard courts was a low black timber building containing the dining hall, tuck shop, Ben Biddle's boiler room, the Domestic Science room and the Woodworking workshop, the haunt of Bob Huxstep and Horace Spedding. There was also a bicycle shed but contrary to the old joke nothing went on behind it because unfortunately there was a small ditch in the way! At the back of the school was another grass tennis court, and a grassy bank on which some of us, under Aunt Mat's directions, performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and an unlikely lot of fairies we were. Jo Baddesley as Titania, Esmeé Kerr, Beryl Winter, Joan Field and myself as the four nymphs. (I am using our surnames as they were then).

The gymnasium which backed onto this area was complete with parallel bars, boom, ropes and vaulting horse, but also doubled as the assembly hall and each day began with morning assembly, all the staff wearing their black gowns and the Headmaster also complete with mortarboard. After prayers and a few words we were dispersed to our various classrooms, depending on the subject, each teacher having their own room and you moved around ending the day back in your own form room where you had your own desk and could leave your books etc. Boys always sat in one half of the classroom and the girls in the other half, although as we grew older and began to find boys a little more interesting there was a tendency to find a desk nearer the dividing line. Our uniforms for girls were brown gymslips, blue sashes, blouses and school tie with brown blazers and top coats, brown velour hats for winter which completely swamped us, St Trinian style, and Panama hats for summer, both with the school ribbon and silver hat badge, I still have mine, and blue dresses for summer. The most ghastly item of clothing was our PT kit, nicknamed a 'modesty', a hideous brown woollen sort of sleeveless mini-dress with an elasticated waist, under which we wore what would now be called 'Bridget Jones' type knickers only brown. The boys wore grey flannels, brown blazers, shirt school ties and caps.

Mr Jacobs arrived as Headmaster during my second term, I think he found a co-educational school a bit of a shock and did not encourage fraternising with the boys and I think he also wielded the cane on a few occasions. The other staff were Miss Turner (Aunt Mat), Miss Tunstall, Miss Seed, Mr Pigrome, Mr Broome (Jimmy) and Mr Stott; Mr Graely came later, all trying patiently to instil some knowledge into us, apart from Mr Stott who hurled well aimed chalk at us if we annoyed him. All this was put to the test when we finally sat the Oxford School Certificate examination where English, Maths, Geography, French, History and a Science were all compulsory subjects. If you attained the required marks you passed – otherwise you failed – and no messing about with B, C, D or E grades. If you got excellent marks in five subjects you Matriculated. No calculators, computers or laptops in those days. Going to University was not then the rule and as far as I remember only Percy Allen did, while Dennis Breeds (Dabby) went to Winchester College. We had three houses, Meryon, Peacock and Sanders and rivalry was strong, especially on Sports Day on the Salts. Apart from gymnastics, we girls played hockey and tennis, the boys football and also cross country running.

Compared to the school trips now to Russia, Europe, cruises etc., our were far more modest consisting of just a day to somewhere exciting like Bodiam Castle or the Cricket Bat factory at Robertsbridge, though in 1936 Miss Seed took our form to Hampton Court Palace where we had an unforgettable day. Our Guide outings also consisted of one day in the summer learning to cook over a fire in the middle of a field, resulting in burnt sausages and eggs covered in ash. The school had a combined Guide and Scout troop of sixty, and as the enclosed 1936 photograph shows, we were quite a smart looking bunch in the uniform of the day, with Miss Tunstall and Mr Graely as our Leaders. Several of those in the front two rows could possibly be today's Jacobites and recognise themselves. So in 1937 we all went our separate ways, then came the war and afterwards I spent fifteen years working in West Africa, so it was not until the mid-1960's that I was able to revisit Rye and take a nostalgic look at the Grammar School, only to discover that it had shrunk beyond recognition by so many extensions being built onto it, and only the central porch area remained untouched.

However, that disappointment was overcome by being able to attend the annual 'Old Scholar's Dinners' renewing old friendships with so much to talk about, they were always a great success and the numbers grew so we were usually around 75 or more, and the Mermaid became our favourite venue where Aunt Mat was a guest of honour at quite a few, still looking very regal and still calling the "boys" by their surnames.

Unfortunately the years eventually caught up with us and finally the journey to Rye became impossible and the numbers dwindled, but I am fortunate to still be in touch regularly with Les and Eve Beene (Blackman), Dick and Win Shearcroft (Kempton), Joan Gipson (Field) Esmeé Phillips (Kerr) and Beryl Howell (Winter) in Australia. It says much for Rye Grammar School that we made lasting friendships and we still talk or write nostalgically about those long ago days. As our numbers diminish I hope the Editors will be able to find a space for this tribute to all the 'Stone Age' group, and to show that there is still life before the Jacobites. Happy memories from Madeleine Johnson (nee Baker)

Madeleine forwarded the photo on the opposite page that may be of some interest to those of this era.



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 THE LONDON REUNION November 1st
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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