



RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

No. 159 December 2010

RYE COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL



CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

With my 20 year involvement with the renovation of the Wurlitzer it appears customary to write my Chairman's report before the AGM to save time during the proceedings. I started this report with the words " Its been a quiet year" and then over a period of time wrote a full A4 page of words that I had to reduce the font size on to get on the page. With this in mind it seems fate that I start the words with the same. However behind the scenes things have been happening in preparation of our new website. Taking longer than first imagined but determined to get the project launched during my term of office which finishes in May so I have now set my own deadline for its completion. News for the bulletin seems harder to obtain and I welcome any form of gossip and news of Old Scholars from all corners of the globe. Looking at older issues they were full of little bits of news, rather than the articles we publish these days. We are happy to receive absolutely anything that is relevant to Rye and its old scholars. Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition, be

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it happy or reflective news of a loved one. Can I invite members of Rye Modern School that they are more than welcome to send us something so that we cover everyone.

May we remind members who continue to pay just £1 for their bulletin that that are getting extreme value for money and would hope they make a New Year resolution in adjusting this figure to £5 or better still send us a cheque for £25 for Life Membership.

Full details of payment on the last page.

We are grateful for our advertisers for their support which enables us to keep our costs down

Thanks also, to the 100 plus who we are able to send the bulletin to via email. Will Dunlop would have thought this idea was wonderful I feel sure.

Our Facebook page is also developing interest with close on 100 people in touch and an excellent place to advertise future reunions as they arise.

Thanks to Ann Cockerham for her inspiring support along with the Governing Body at the college who also work so hard behind the scenes to strive and achieve the success the College appears to be having at the moment—and justly deserved it is too.

As the end of the space appears, may I just have room to say a very special Christmas to you all followed by a healthy and prosperous 2011. A

Thanks to all Rye Old Scholars for your continued and future support in whatever you can.

WEBSITE UP-DATE

Having made an immovable deadline in the last bulletin—we have moved it !!

Without hyping the content up too much for fear of disappointment for some, but rest assured the website will be very special once completed.

I spent a very pleasant two hours with Judith Blincow in the archive cupboard on a very wet June afternoon and we both realised the enormity of the task when we found over 300 slides in one small box alone.

It will be worth waiting for once completed.

One thing we wish to include on the website is a Social Time Line, we know the historical date line that Jo Kirkhams has researched over the years but now we want some day to day gossip, sporting achievement whether it be team or personal bests.

Visits to places or visits by people who had an influence on your school life. Anything will be useful to make and create this special feature. Please forward to our email address.

Without the risk of confusing anyone and for the simple fact that it will be a year before we give an up-date on this project and by then it will be live the website address will be

ryeoldscholars.org.uk

Its not live yet but rest assured after this task we will be shouting from the hills when we have finished. Our new email address will be—but don't use it yet will be

info@ryeoldscholars.org.uk

If there was a rumour floating around of a combined 50's & 60's event in the summer this has been put back to 2012 enabling the committee to focus on completing the task in hand

Thank you for your patience.

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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.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

It was interesting to read Madeline Johnson's evocative letter about Stone Age Life, which was evidently not so unlike the Jacobean days. The idea of Rye Grammar School's "smallness" goes back at least to Speech Day 1948 (the first to be held at the Regent Cinema), when Mrs Gow, Chairman of the east Sussex Education Committee, presented the prizes. "Rye Grammar School, with its long history, was in many ways unique, being the smallest and the oldest of our County's Grammar schools" (Rya, 1948 page 12—in which I stand complicit as on of its editors 1) My own researches at East Sussex Record Office some years ago brought out A.R. Jacobs progressive Headmastership. The school punched above its weight: page 29 of that same "Rya" shows how old scholars permeated the World in their various careers ! I forget how (and why) my contemporaries gained the title "Jacobites" we had begun as "The Class of 42" through diligent tracking down of our own form colleagues. This expanded to all who had experienced life in Bedford, both senior and junior to us. Our ten-yearly Dinners in Bedford have given way to regular annual lunches held in Rye in order to avoid night travel. Attendance is not confined to ex-Bedford pupils, just like Stone-Agers were and are privileged to have roots at Rye Grammar School. We would welcome Stone-Age companions to our annual gathering in Rye. "Espirit de corps" was a favourite expression of A.R.J. and it deserved upholding. As he said at that Speech day, 62 years ago, the School was equally proud of ALL its pupils — Keith W. Cook

FRIENDS OF RYE WURLITZER SUNDAY CONCERTS FOR 2011—2.30PM

January 23rd Michael Wooldridge
February 27th Alistair Keirnan
March 27th Andrew Nix April 24th Chris Powell
May 22nd Jean Martyn
September 25th Len Rawle and the Swindon M.V.C.
October 23rd John Mann
November 27th Robert Wolfe

Tickets on the door £7.50
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Children under 16 FREE
with a paying adult.

For more details telephone

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visit our website

www.ryewurlitzer.co.cc

OR Rye Wurlitzer on

FACEBOOK



REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF KATH BULL (nee) BATEHUP(1927 – 2010)

By Chris, Mike and Jeremy Bull



What can I say about someone who has been such an important part of our lives for almost sixty years (how scary is that?!) Our earliest memories date back to the time we were living in Wantage, Berkshire . We remember them as very happy times with family holidays by the seaside. We would all pile into the Humber Hawk and drive off to Wales or Cornwall which would take for ever. Mum also particularly loved the open spaces of the Berkshire downs.

We have lovely memories from that time on old cine films. We were made to run towards the camera several times until we got it right and to wear a shirt and tie when supposedly playing in the garden. Those films provide a glorious technicolour view into a past age.

Mum took great pride in preparing the food for three hungry boys and a hungry husband and her delight in cooking and entertaining continued throughout her life and whenever we went to visit she would always prepare something unusual. Of course, as she grew older she did become (slightly !!) more fussy- foods had to be the correct specification (organic was important, low fat and of course it had to come from Waitrose, never forgetting her constant supply of Duchy original biscuits). Even the week before she died she was ringing from the hospital bed to bring her some Waitrose satsumas as no other type would do!

She also loved family and family activities – especially playing games (the family that plays together, stays together ?). Mum was also very good at remembering birthdays and anniversaries and almost never missed sending a card or a present. Mum and Dad were very supportive to us boys throughout our education through both school and university . They continued being supportive to the grand children through their education when they came along . Mum decided to go back into education and did her Open University degree in the days of black & white TV and programs on at 2 in the morning. She then went into teaching. She taught Biology at Kent College in Pembury for many years, becoming head of science until she retired. She continued to be interested in science and biology right until the end of her life. As technology improved she kept up to date with email, photoshop and broadband – not for her knitting, cooking and sewing ! However, she didn't relax easily and was always stretching her mind and keeping herself stimulated so a visit to home could be quite an intellectual challenge. She was married to John for over 50 years and they celebrated their golden wedding in 1998. We shall miss her determination, will power and love of family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KELVIN PAWSEY

If your great grand father was a member of the Mary Stanford crew who lost their lives in 1928 it is inevitable that you're going to have a bit of a soft spot for the RNLI. Kelvin, a former pupil at Thomas Peacocke now living in Folkestone as an art technician who describes himself in the Inverness News as a " amateur cyclist and trainee gentlemen" decided to make the 960 mile solo bike ride from Folkestone to Stornaway in July/August this year.

Long distant cyclists usually wear Lycra, but not Kelvin took to the road in Harris Tweed and completed the journey to raise £3,250 for the Harris Tweed Authority Educational Trust and the RNLI.

To find our more of his epic adventure which includes camping an extra night on Skye in a force eight go to www.verylongtweedride.blogspot.com



OBITUARIES

Just by sheer coincidence we started putting photos in the corner of the obits in the last bulletin. The Italians seem famous for this on their gravestones and the last thing we want to achieve is a morbid theme in something that members only receive once a year right on Christmas. So we intend to carry on this "tradition" of one bulletin and would ask those that send obits in of loved ones that they include a photo so that we may give remembrance and dignity as part of their tribute.

The class of 76.....well, some of them Thomas Peacocke " 50s Old get together"

It's all thanks to Face Book!!! Tim Phillips had seen a photo of me (Maryon Luck as I was known at school) on a mutual friends F B page and asked her if it was me. Well we soon became F B buddies and agreed that it would be nice to catch up with some of the old gang, as it happened there was a reunion at our school and Tim was the main attraction with his band "1066 Rocket Men". We tried to get as many people we knew to go along but unfortunately there wasn't many there that night. The ones that did attend agreed to stay in contact and we met up again in Hastings Old Town a few months later. As it was going to be our 50th birthdays the following year we thought it a good idea to have a big get together!! Thus Oldgettogether night was



booked for the Icklesham Beer Fest. (I think Tim thought it should read Oldgitstogether, but that wasn't fair on us girls!!) . Between meeting that night in Hastings and the Beer Fest we "The Gang" which consists of Tim, Lennie Hollands, Hugh Bell, Mark Sherwood, Steve Howe, Paul Heskett, Julie and myself, oh, and occasionally, Nick Warne and Willie Wickens, met up about every 3 months for a chat and to compare notes on who had seen or contacted anyone else from school days so we could invite them to our BIG event. Oh what a night!!! it was fantastic, quite a few people I had not seen since leaving school, faces I recognised but had forgotten their names and some I did not recognise at all !! Tim and his band were brilliant as usual. Everyone had such a good time. Unfortunately Mick Martin could not come as he now lives in France and there was a strike on so he could not get over until a few days later. A few of us caught up with him then. Some of the friends that did make it include all the names as above, John Masters, Jon Joe Keats who had travelled quite a distance, Barry Hodd, Kevin Pigott, Julie Baker, Jane Tullett, Adrian C, Deb and Terry Barrow, Paul Dengate, Ashley Davis, Gary Walker and I have probably forgotten some!! That's was one thing we all had in common and had a laugh about . . . Our memories or lack of I should say!! The Gang will be meeting up again soon at one of Tim's gigs before Christmas. It has been so nice for me to get the guys and gals together and I'm sure we will continue to meet up now for another 50 years . . . lol !!!

Thanks to Maryon and Tim of course for putting this all together



REMEMBERING DAPHNE JONES (NEE BREEDS)

Taken from the eulogy delivered by Rev. Christopher Breeds at her funeral in Playden Church on Thursday 18th November, 2010. Daphne was born to Frederick and Beatrice Breeds at the family home, 18 Lion Street, Rye, in 1927. She grew up in Rye, along with her brother, Dennis, and her sister, Cynthia, both of whom predeceased her. Daphne went to Rye Grammar School during the war years and was evacuated along with the rest of the school to Bedford. Apparently, Daphne had some ambition to be a doctor, but she was persuaded to train as a teacher by her mother who said that it was the only suitable profession for a lady. The whole Breeds family seem to have heeded her advice as nearly all of us have ended up as teachers. Daphne married Basil Jones in Rye Parish Church in 1950. In fact, Daphne and Basil had been at the Grammar School and were evacuated together. Daphne's wedding was a particularly special occasion because it was a double one, her sister Cynthia being married to Jim Plummer at the same time! After the wedding all of the guests walked down Lion Street to the George Hotel for the reception. After marriage, they started a family and along came Peter, Richard and Martin. There was another son, Philip, who sadly died in infancy. Daphne bore this tragedy with quiet dignity. Basil took over the running of the Central Garage in Rye, and 59a Cinque Ports Street, perched up on top of the town wall above the car park, became the family home. The family lived there for some years until the garage was tragically destroyed by fire. The stress of all this led to the family leaving to start a new life at 2 The Grove next to the school. Throughout this period, I'm sure that many of us remember Daphne's generous and hospitable nature. The door to the family home was always open, and she was a homemaker and host par excellence. I will always remember her kindness on the frequent occasions when I and other members of the extended family would spend the day there. After moving to The Grove, when the children had grown up, Daphne went back to teaching part-time, and she and Basil also started to do bed and breakfast. She made many new friends this way, and some of her guests enjoyed her hospitality so much that they became regulars, returning again and again. Indeed, some such regulars are at this funeral. Daphne's home at The Grove, as at the garage, was always beautifully kept, warm and welcoming. After Basil's death, she stayed there until the cruel illness which began to afflict her necessitated her going into nursing care at Bexhill and then St. Leonard's.

Daphne was a very gracious, intelligent and cultured lady and she involved herself in many aspects of community life. She followed her brother and sister into teaching, but took the ethos of serving beyond education, as a special needs teacher, assistant at Hill House, with the Inner Wheel and the Red Cross. Even when she was in nursing care she thought that many of her fellow residents were bed and breakfast guests who needed her to look after them. In the 70's Daphne was also invited to become a JP, and she sat on the bench at Rye and Hastings for a number of years. She loved music and often attended concerts and went on musical holidays. She even gave musical soirees at home and whenever she was in residence, Radio 3 would be constantly providing a gracious and refined ambience to the place.

REMEMBERING MIKE THOMAS

Sadly last Summer Mike Thomas passed away after a short illness, due to complications following his hospitalisation. To many Old Scholars when they think of Mike Thomas their first thought will be – “Cricket”.

Mike was the first “Mr Cricket”. He arrived as Head of The Lower School on The Ferry Road Site in the late 1970s. For the next 25 years or more Mike was responsible for engendering amongst the students of Rye and the wider population of the Rye area a real interest and love of the game.

He did this through his enthusiasm at Thomas Peacock to provide as many opportunities as possible to learn and to play cricket. There were the Easter Coaching Courses he ran. Lunchtime coaching sessions in the Lower School Hall, and the summer lunchtime Inter Form Cricket tournaments and Single wicket competitions on the Lower School playing field.

All of these were run with meticulous precision and had to be done correctly. For those lunchtime matches the young players were not only playing, but they were umpiring in oversized umpire coats and scoring. Those young people who were involved are still engaged locally in cricket for their clubs, Rye, Iden, Pett, Northiam and further afield.

Mike’s work in cricket happened not only inside school, but also extended into the wider community. Mike seemed to do every possible job role at Rye Cricket Club, but with the same meticulous precision and attention to detail. Mike at one time or another was Club Skipper, Fixture Secretary, grounds man, youth coach etc.

Mike was famed for his precision as a skipper – making sure the field was in just the right place, woe betide the fielder who strayed off his position. Mike’s efforts were instrumental in ensuring that in the late 80s and early 90s Rye Cricket Club enjoyed a phenomenal period of success winning leagues and cups and producing players who played in the Sussex Youth representative teams. Mike kept on playing into his 70s, still pushing and running.

When Rye Cricket Club looked forward to its 250th season in 2003, it was Mike’s meticulous planning that led to a fantastic season of league and cup victories, and the beginning of Rye’s prestigious bi-annual fixture against the MCC. It was Mike’s connections and enthusiasm that has created the legacy of the MCC fixture.

Mike might have passed away but he is not forgotten. Rye Cricket Club are working with Mike’s wife Angela and family to host the MCC next August and to celebrate Mike’s life with a memorial bench, and to publish a history of Rye Cricket Club, which Mike had collated, but which members of Rye Cricket Club are going to edit.

The MCC game will be played on The Rye Cricket Salts, but it will be without the Sidney Allnut pavilion that so many Old Scholars had enjoyed using since 1957. Sadly on August 21st the pavilion fell victim to arson. It was totally destroyed internally and has been condemned. (Pictures attached) The person responsible has been convicted and received a 5 year sentence. However there is a real challenge now for Rye United FC the owners of the pavilion to rebuild. Sadly they are playing all their home games “away”. Rye Cricket Club is putting plans in place to play at home, but it will not be easy.



This is a plea to Old Scholars who might know of porta cabins available for purchase or rent that might be used by both clubs on the Rye Cricket Salts.

**Please contact Martin Blincow
blincsfamily@aol.com
if you might be able to help.**



REMEMBERING MICHAEL BARCLAY

Michael was born in Wittersham, Kent on April 1st 1932 and lived there while attending Rye Grammar School until 1948. From there he went to the Regent Street Polytechnic in London to study photography. During that time he dated Joy Batehup—also R.G.S. and attending a Teachers College in London too. Two years in National Service followed this. No photographic work was available on his return to civvie street so took odd jobs that included driving the legendary Dengate’s buses. He and Joy were married in 1953.

Wanting adventure they emigrated to Stratford, Ontario, Canada in 1957 and Mike began working in insurance claims. Canada proved too cold and now with two daughters drove in a small V.W. van pulling a trailer and heading south drove the whole length of Route 66 to Santa Monica, California. Still in insurance claims they moved around this area until he retired in 1997. After retirement Mike and Joy travelled all over the U.S. and finally settled in New Mexico with a never ending view of the 10,500` Sandia Mountains in a new home in an Active Adult Community. Throughout his life he enjoyed hiking, camping and photography, his family and the beautiful scenery that surrounded him. Mike passed away after a very short illness on Feb 6th 2010 and survived by his wife of 56 years and a wonderful family.



Joy wishes to thank Mike’s “old” friends for remembering him

259 NOT OUT

No, not the start of a cricket report but the combined ages of our oldest family of Rye Old Scholars Mrs Biddiscombe (Bridgewater), Mrs Violet Noakes (Brookland) and Sidney Vincent who has recently moved to Fleet in Hampshire. Belated congratulations to you all for your recent Golden Wedding Anniversaries. They all enjoyed looking at the 1936 Scout & Guide Photo (see, told you someone would know someone) and were able to add several names to the group.

THE JACOBITE FESTIVAL OF FELLOWSHIP 2010

Thanks to the untiring efforts of the evergreen Gordon Sexton the now (annual) Jacobean Re-Union lunch was convened at the "Top of the Hill", Rye in May and was a great success thoroughly enjoyed by all. Those present included Ann Cockerham (President), Richard Moore (Chairman), Judith Blincow (Secretary), Sue Moore (Treasurer) and we lesser mortals namely Keith Cooke, Len Allen, Alan Shearer, Helen Page, Ken Howlett, Burt Hacker, Paul Turner, Keith Thompson, Norman Glass, Gordon Sexton, John Webb, Paul Cope, Tony Moore, Julie Fuggle, Ivor Walker, Luigi and Lillian Samaden, Maureen Gage and Jo Kirkham. In his welcoming speech Gordon Sexton pointed out that we were a special part of the school history, a tightly knit group who were sadly diminishing in numbers. There were three losses in our group during the year Kath Bull, Edwin Sutton, and Mike Barclay. He paid special tribute to Kath who had been such an ardent Jacobean supporter and had organised last year's get together. He went on to say that the school had been so closely knit in Bedford that apart from forming life long friendships many marriages had been spawned and he named several of them (successful ones at that)

As Len Allen so eloquently explained in his report a couple of years ago, it was an absolute miracle that a tiny County Grammar School was uplifted from Rye to Bedford and yet managed to maintain its high standards and traditions. The dedication of the staff was exemplary and they gave up much of their spare time keeping us occupied in our outdoor activities, they were in many ways acting foster parents. I remember having a bout of tonsillitis and being moved from my billet to "Sick Bay" (in complete exile, as it was a small hospital for all evacuees to Bedford). On the second day I was visited by Miss Turner of whom I was terrified. Not only had she walked a considerable distance to see me she bought me a small bag of sweets (part of her own personal sweet ration). It wasn't until I was 30 plus that I realised what a wonderful woman she was.

Another lasting memory is one Saturday afternoon in St Peters Square J.J. (Jumbo) Broome and his wife stopped near to us in his little highly polished Morris * (private petrol ration four gallons per month). He got out and walked round to the passenger door helped out his wife and as she walked away to the shops he solemnly raised his large trilby hat. What a gent.

Perhaps the most poignant memory all however is that very first day in Rye Station when our parents bade us farewell, I remember my mother and George Roberts' mother comforting one another in tears, my father shaking hands awkwardly and George saying " I think we had better be friend don't you ?". Seventy years on we still are.

I thought about those moments many times since, both as a Father and Grandfather and I don't know how they let us leave like that. To us it was a great adventure and not too big a problem (we would be home again by Christmas) but to them it was a possibility of never seeing us again, with stray bombs falling anywhere and the imminent possibility of invasion etc I don't think I could have made the same decision that they did.

After the meal Gordon introduced Ann Cockerham and thanked her for giving up her valuable time. In reply she thanked us for her invitation and said how much she enjoyed listening to our stories and anecdotes and how indeed the current pupils too are interested in the Bedford era and she kindly invited anyone interested to visit the school and perhaps talk to some of the pupils. Richard Moore then gave an amusing speech about his trials and tribulations as Chair of ROSA and organising the other larger reunions, hair raising expectancy but eventual resounding success. He told of the successful efforts made in raising money to restore and preserve the Wurlitzer and the pleasure it gave to so many. He concluded by very kindly giving every member present a cleverly decorated jar of his home made marmalade—thank you Richard—mine was multi fruit and beautiful.

Gordon then read apologies of absence from Derek and Rosemary Barham, Jim Dunster, Betty Law, Jim and Janet Holmes, Peter Webb, Ron Sinden, Peter and Joan Skinner, Ann Arnold and George Roberts, all included their good wishes for a successful event. We then adjourned to the garden for a photo shoot and goodbyes for another year. The date for next

years Reunion is **Saturday 21st 2011** at the **Top O' The Hill, Rye 12.30pm for 1pm lunch.**

Footnote—Thanks Alan for the write up. Thanks too you all for making me all so welcome. It was good to put faces to names I have typed in the bulletin for years. Here's to the next one. Perhaps a jar of ROSA chutney next year !!(RM)

For more details contact **Gordon Sexton (0114) 2475742** or email **geeess@talktalk.net**

Photo of The Jacobean Group of 2010 Ladies and Gentleman, can I make a plea now, that if I can attend next

year I stand up, as the youngest one in the photo I feel as though you are all gathered around me as I sit in a Bath chair amputated from the waist — everyone's got legs apart from me



RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY

Over the years the priority has always been the restoration of the instrument and to this end apart from one major project in the summer of 2011 it is virtually complete. However, I was delighted to receive a donation last November in memory of Rita Akehurst of Guestling.

I was inspired to fund raise and have been delighted with the response of over £3,000 in the past year that has enabled professional organists to visit the college and either give private concerts to the students or more regularly since April one to one tuition with Michael Wooldridge from Worthing. Currently four students are receiving tuition with a further very enthusiastic 10 about to start. Each pupil has a home practise instrument that has also been donated from all parts of Kent and Sussex.

This is a very special developing project as it is the only scheme like it in the country that gives FREE tuition to students. Further funding has been applied for which we hope to give tuition to older old scholars and if anyone is interested in this idea in 2011 please get in touch so that I can record your interest in this developing idea.

Thanks to **Bournes of Rye** who seem to have a 50 year association with the Wurlitzer having delivered to the college and now are collecting organs from Kent and Sussex that have been donated.

NEWS FROM JAMES PHILIPS

James resided at Leasam House from 62-67 and has recently moved to the Newbury area in Berkshire. He writes as follows (but, was sent long before the popular TV drama Downton Abbey was televised)

For the past 24 years I have been estate Farm Manager on the Earl of Camowon's Highclere Estate, a wonderful 5000 acre place just South of Newbury. I was one of the few ex-Leasam boys who pursued a career in Agriculture.

I have fond memories of my time at Leasam and RGS where I met my first wife Jenny Butler who sadly is no longer with us. Our one daughter has provided me with two wonderful grandchildren who live in France. I re-married eight years ago and Karen & I intend to end our days on the Highclere Estate, although we currently have a farmhouse in France where we go as much as possible.



REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF A MOTHER THROUGH A DAUGHTERS EYES KATHLEEN HAYWARD (nee) ARNOLD



MOST of you will only have known my mum in the later years of her life, BUT even so you will have known her as a funny, vibrant and an especially kind woman with a twinkle in her eye. INDEED my mum is all of those things – BUT two other aspects to her are particularly in my mind today

ONE: her enormous courage and quiet determination

TWO: her elegance of mind and beautiful simplicity

FOR SURE had mum not been the resilient woman she was, how different my own life would have been. And in this context I want to share two stories about her.

MY MUM had two life ambitions: to be a teacher and a spy — in both she was thwarted.

TO EXPLAIN: my mother's parents were of modest means, which meant she had to leave her beloved Rye Grammar School aged 16. She was dispatched to London to learn secretarial skills and take up a job in the Stock Exchange. Her dreams of becoming a teacher were never fulfilled — that is until I came along and she made it possible for me to pursue the career she had so craved.

As to the second story: when WWII broke out my mother immediately wanted to be of use. She was quite good at French and tried to sign up as a spy and join the Resistance in France. Fortunately for me, her French wasn't fluent enough AND she was politely urged to try something else. SHE did, she joined the WAAF and became a Section Officer with 600 women under her command. HOWEVER she determined that no daughter of hers would ever be refused spy duty for lack of French fluency. Thus I became the linguist she never quite became.

This is not to say that my mum did not have a great career — she did. She was Company Secretary to the American Women's Club for 20 years and turned an ailing concern around into a highly successful organisation. When she retired she transferred her considerable administrative skills to charity work — in particular for the Atkinson Morley Hospital that specialises in head injuries. She even published a book about this great benefactor to medical research. Mum moved here (Exeter) 9 years ago into the lovely house that she and I designed, and together with the wonderful master builder John Wills we made her a home that is full of light. She was happy there and made a life in Exeter. She was swimming and driving her car until she was 90. She also engaged with Age Concern in the last 3 years of her life and made several friends. Thus my mum had a full life — she travelled to places throughout her life. As late as last May, I took her to Paris for her 93rd birthday.

She loved art and music and sang in choirs even to her last days.

SHE was strong, she was lovely, I loved her — and I carry her love for me always.

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REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF OLGA CLARKE by ANN DUNLOP (nee Fisher) 1951-1958

Olga E Mills (nee Clarke) died on the 18th August at her home in Boston , Lincolnshire. Olga came from Westfield and was head Girl at R.G.S. 1951-52 (Maurice Stunt was head Boy) when I joined the school.

She had a most beautiful singing voice, and got a scholarship I believe to the Guildhall School of Music.

I met up with her again in the 1970's when we were both working at Hillcrest School.

She went on to teach there for many years, gaining outstanding success for the school in the annual Hastings Music festival.

She was a person of integrity and character with boundless enthusiasm for everything she did.



REMEMBERING DAPHNE ANN NORTON

Joined RGS at Bedford in 1942 leaving in 1947 when she took a teaching post at a private school in Benenden Married in 1953 to Reginald Norton whose family owned Farrants Ltd. haulage contractors in Tunbridge Wells They had three sons, two of which in due course joined the family business. On the death of her father-in-law Daphne and husband carried on the business with Daphne being one of the few women to hold a Road Transport Managers Certificate at that time. Her husband died in the early nineties and Daphne carried on until the Company was sold in 2000 when she retired to her bungalow at Winchelsea Beach where she very active in various activities until her death from a heart attack in 2009

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

This academic year has got off to a flying start with so many students celebrating success in the summer GCSE examinations. We are delighted that, year on year, our examination successes have increased thanks to the hard work of students and staff and the tremendous support we receive from parents (many of whom are Rye Old Scholars!) Everyone has been delighted by the improvements to our facilities this term. Our students are already making excellent use of the new Saville Studios for Drama and Dance. Our PE classes and sports teams are also enjoying the use of our new Astro turf pitch, which is to be officially opened towards the end of November.

We were overwhelmed by the number of families who visited us on our Open Evening and Open mornings recently to find out more about our work. Our College continues to be oversubscribed with many appeals for places, which makes our attempts to improve our accommodation even more important. Rye Old Scholars who live locally will have been intrigued by the construction of our new Drama and Dance Studios, created from a capital grant given to us when we became a Specialist School for the Arts. They were designed by a French company, DALO, who specialise in innovative buildings using high-tech materials that are energy efficient.

Lord Saville of Newdigate was invited to open the new studios on October 19th. Born in 1936, Lord Saville is a Rye Old Scholar, having been educated at Rye Grammar School. He studied at Oxford University, gaining a first class honours degree. He enjoyed a distinguished career in Law and went on to become a Justice of the Supreme Court and one of only a small number Law Lords in the Country. In 1989 Lord Saville was appointed to chair the second Bloody Sunday Inquiry, commissioned by the Prime Minister. Lord Saville has long been a supporter of Rye College and last visited us in 2005 when he came to present some awards to our students. In spite of the pressures of his office, he offered to speak to students wanting to follow a career in Law and took an interest in our efforts to raise sponsorship to become a specialist school. In the month of his retirement, we wanted to honour Lord Saville's many achievements by naming our new building after him.

The opening was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Rye (both former students) and many of those who sponsored our application to become a Specialist School. At the time, this meant raising £50,000 in local sponsorship. We thank everyone for their support, including many Rye Old Scholars, spurred on by the enthusiasm of Professor Brian Bellhouse who helped us to raise sponsorship. Without the backing of so many of you, none of this would have been possible. Having lost out on government funding to rebuild our school, we are now determined to move forward with our next fundraising project: to remove the "ROSLA" building so many of you will remember (erected when the school leaving age was raised to 16) and the creation of a new music block. We look forward to achieving this ambition within the next two years. I hope to be able to meet many of you in the not too distant future. Don't hesitate to call us if you are in the area and you would like a tour of our campus. Our students are always keen to meet former students and hear about their memories of their school days!

*Ann
Cockerham,*
Principal, Rye College



RECENT LEAVERS 2010

Our fledgling recent leavers returned to the college on November 12th to collect their achievement awards list below. This year's key Guest Speaker was Beijing Paralympian James Martin would give an inspiring speech of setting targets in your life that you can achieve and to strive on even in moments of adversity. Kevin Williams presented the very special Hither Green Award for the third time. It was a great evening to be part of. **Best GCSE Results** Tom Bryan & Kitty Tucker **Most improved Student** Sophie Cogswell **Overcoming the Odds Hither Green Award** – Lily Savage **Head Girl** – Kitty Tucker **Head Boy** – Tom Bryan **The Anne Mair Award –Community Award** – Daisy Jarvis, Winnie Jarvis **Art Award** Becky Headde **Dance Award-** Josh Holbrook, Gemma Archer **Drama Award** – Kitty Tucker **Liz Baldwin – Contribution to College Life** – Tom Bryan **ICT Award** – Molly Ely **Food Tech** – Aaron Shotton **Resistant Materials** – Charlie Mills **Maths** – Chris Bunn **Science** – Elizabeth Hacking **Sports Personality of the Year**—Billy Blackford & Georgina Homewood **Performing Arts** Asa Croucher & Sophie Nash **Geography** Charlie Mills **R.E.** Kitty Tucker **Sociology** Cassie Turner **History** John Law **Business Studies** Jack Bristow **Textiles** Lauren Payne **Photography** Lauren Kooij **M.F.L. Award** Daisy Jarvis **English** – Kitty Tucker, Gemma Archer **Attendance Award** – Gary Lam, Thomas Barclay-Devine **HEAD OF HOUSE awards 2 per house- outstanding contribution to the house Citadel** – Jack Marshall & Tony Sims **Landgate** – Charlie Mills & Elizabeth Hacking **Strand** –Evie Allum & George Clare **Windmill** – Callum Munroe & Gemma Archer

Awards were sponsored by Rye Grammar School Exhibition
Foundation Governors & R.O.S.A.

A LIFE CHAPTER BY PAUL TURNER

I was born in Lewes, and started my Grammar Scholl education there, before moving to Northiam when my father came out of the forces and took a building business. I only spent about 4 years at RGS, the School was back from Bedford, moving on to Brighton Technical College for Building studies. I did not excel at any seat of learning but through hard graft have had a successful life-family, work and play. Meeting you all at reunions I wonder why I need to keep in touch- all of you who I have meet were far brighter than I, there are many who I would very much like to know how their lives have panned out. I belonged to RGSOSA for many years after I left, and received newsletters from the Will Dunlop era., but somewhere along the line I lost contact for many years. We (family) have moved about - for years we owned a Building company in Wales-we both worked for W.H. Colt of Bethersden and went with the agency for them for the whole of Wales.. I finished my working life with Thamesdown Council (Swindon).. I rejoined ROSA a few years ago, the first newsletter carried a report on the Jacobite reunion and carried the name of Edwin Sutton among others, he was a best mate at school, sadly I only met him at one reunion. My passions are Welsh Rugby, our 1972 VW Camper, the Swindon and Cricklade railway where I work part-time, restoring rescued railway buildings, a member of the Swindon Male Voice Choir and of course my wife and family. Keep smiling.. Paul Turner.

Author Helen Simonson visits the Rye Festival



I recently came home to Rye, to appear at the Rye Festival, and found that I'm a Rye Old Scholar. I attended Thomas Peacocke School from 1979-1982, when Mr. Fooks was the Headmaster. My maiden name is Phillips and my mother is sure you must all remember Helen Phillips playing Aunt

Eller in *Oklahoma* (I think she still has it on videotape!). My school experience was a strange mixture of good and bad. I remember being part of a small mini bus of students who were taken up to have a look at Oxford. This was part of the school being on an academic upswing. I remember my very committed history teachers, and the Headmaster, each giving me extra tutoring so I could take 'S' level history. I remember that after a year of discussing centralization of power in 17th Century Europe, I chose to write my exam essay on a comparison of the Reformation and the Renaissance (I got a distinction, so all was forgiven). It was a lifelong lesson to me that one should really listen to what kids are interested in, because they will learn anything on subjects they love, while even the committed students have an enormous capacity to filter out information on more boring topics! I remember I did not enjoy travelling by bus and felt bullied. Then I reached the Sixth Form and, magically, the bullies slid aside, gave me space on the upstairs back seat and never again threw me so much as a nasty look. Such was the ingrained power of Sixth Form. My younger sister, Lorraine, claimed her rightful place as sister-of-a-sixth-former and we rode to and from school in style! I was not a popular teenager and always felt like a bit of an outsider. Now that I'm a writer I'm quite sure being an outsider is part of the character-building experience. At the time it seemed lonely. I hope times have changed and that working hard and being smart are not considered 'uncool' - but if they still are, I hope all the smart, sarcastic, hard-working kids keep right on looking to the future. It's a huge world out there beyond school. I was accepted to the London School of Economics and, after my degree, I got a job in an advertising agency in Eastbourne; as a trainee copywriter. A year later, I married my American college sweetheart and moved to New York City. After some years in advertising, including becoming an Advertising Director for a Cruise Line, I quit work to stay home and raise two boys. It was during the years 'at home' that I found time to take writing classes and to pursue a master's degree in creative writing. In 2009, at age forty-five, I sold my first novel *To Random House (USA)* and *Bloomsbury (UK)* and in March of 2010 my book, *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, appeared in bookstores. This year has been quite a wild ride with book tours, media interviews and movie negotiations. However, nothing quite compared with being invited to read at the Rye Festival. More than fifty people turned out at the Mermaid to meet me, and my family saw many old friends - including Miss. Benton, our school music teacher. I also touched base with the Old Scholars, through Judith Blincow, and was delighted to find that there is a community of people who support the school and the students of Rye. I love this little corner of Sussex and would not trade my time growing up here for anything. Thank you to all at the Festival for welcoming me home. Happy Holidays, from Helen Simonson

THREE IN A BED



Jenny Hadfield (nee Burke a few weddings back) tells us the story of her role, with her partner Richard Martin, in the recent Channel 4 *Three in a Bed* series.

How did we get into this?

The run up to the Channel 4 programme in May started in the previous autumn; when Channel 4 approached Jeake's House telling us about a new series they were planning called 'Britain's B & Bs'. The idea was for competing pairs of B&B owners to experience each others brand of hospitality. The Channel 4 producers were keen to find out - from the start - whether we were able to receive and give 'constructive criticism'. At then end of each stay, the hosts were paid what the visiting pairs thought appropriate in a final stand off. Eventually the respectable name of 'Britain's B & Bs' was changed into 'Three in a Bed'.

The filming started at Jeake's House as the two unknown pairs arrived. Then we travelled to Great Yarmouth and finally to Scotland. All in the space of two weeks. First to arrive with us were two very nice sisters who ran a successful B&B in Yarmouth followed by a couple from Aberdeenshire. Despite meeting in strange circumstances, we all got on very well. After showing them to their rooms we took them on a tour of Rye. I was so pleased to show them my lovely town and especially proud that I managed to lead a film crew up to the top of the church tower. We finished the day with dinner in the 'Wipers' (Ypres Castle), where the nice Yarmouth ladies felt able, after a few jars, to say the picture in their room (dog and erotic half nude lady) was 'a bit rude' ...

Two days later, we were driven to Yarmouth and had a tour of the beach and the lovely old pier. *Remember our own Hastings Pier? I certainly do as I went to see The Rolling Stones in the 60s and got caught up in the Mods and Rockers stand off - what a shame that its gone.* I knew already that the Yarmouth women would probably win. She worked incredibly hard and what they provided for £50.00 a night was amazing.

We came back home to a busy weekend and early the next week, we flew up to Aberdeen. We were picked up by Channel 4 and were driven 50 miles to the third B&B. We did wonder whether we were going to a castle!

It was lovely to see the pair again. No castle though - just a strange variety of stuffed toys. In the evening a motley crew of ghost hunters from the nether regions of Scotland arrived with hand held gizmos to take us through a rigorous assessment of our intuition and ability to spot the ghoulies and ghosties who might have been lurking. Until the series was screened I had been unaware that Richard had fallen asleep in the middle of the 'ghost safari'.

The breakfast was truly wonderful although I was feeling a little tired after having been kept up by the film crew until 4.00 AM.

The feedback at the end of each session was always tense and difficult - for us when we were on the receiving end as well as when we had to make a decision about what we were prepared to pay. The really difficult time was when we had to give feedback to our Scottish friends, who we really liked - but the fact that there was only one shared bathroom between six people was tricky. *Perhaps not a problem for families, or walkers who tend to be a tough bunch and used to going in the bushes.*

The B&B in Great Yarmouth received the highest percentage of their bill paid. We felt it was well deserved.

I am very happy to say that we have had an enormous amount of bookings on the back of this programme. Perhaps people are coming to see if we are as mad as we looked. I have also had some very interesting propositions...

I have to thank my little sister Sally Burke for helping to write this article.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ? A SPECIAL CONCERT SUNDAY MAY 15TH 2011

Word from **Lois Benton** that fine up-standing music teacher from 1963 to 1997 who has remained in Rye since her retirement and does some wonderful good deeds in keeping the Guide movement alive and of course with her own singing and conducting skills with Ryesingers, Peasmarsh W.I. and other talented bodies.

Lois is arranging a concert at Rye College on Sunday 15th May in aid of the Rye Memorial Care Centre and the Womens' Tower at Rye Museum (Ypres Castle) featuring music students between 1970 through to 2000. The college has a wealth of talented musicians who have gone on to excel in their chosen arenas and styles and we welcome them back for this very special event.

Performers who have agreed to date are **Catherine Collison** (Soprano), **Ann Whiteman** (Davis), **Rebekah Gilbert** (Smith) (Altos), **David Sheppard** (Counter Tenor), **Gary Marriot** (Tenor), **Jochem Van Ast**, **Jonathan Breeds**,(Baritone), **James Cruttenden** (Double Bass) **David Alexander** (Piano) and **Steven Martin** (Wurlitzer).

Lois is also try to get hold of **Jennifer Barbaro** (Adams) - Saltcote (69-71) ex Glynebourne and now the longest serving member of the BBC singers—an outstanding soprano—so Jennifer if you're reading this, your favourite music teacher needs you on May 15th. It is also hoped to squeeze **Amy Metcalf** (Saxophone) into the programme.

The concerts starts at 3.00pm Tickets available on the door. Please support this worthy cause and this very special Old Scholars related event.



RYE CASTLE, or the YPRES TOWER, built c.1249, has served Rye in several guises for defence, as a watchtower, a residence, a court hall, a gaol and a mortuary, before becoming RYE

MUSEUM. As a result of an Act of Parliament which called for better treatment of prisoners, Rye Corporation decided to build the **WOMEN'S TOWER** in the south-east corner of the Exercise Yard to house women prisoners and their children in 1837. Following the hugely successful 'drying out' work completed in the main Tower in 2007, the Museum commissioned a Report from our architects on the condition of the Women's Tower. This confirmed our fears that it needs re-roofing and drainage repairs as well as detailed investigation into some cracking and settlement. The estimated cost of these works is £73,200, which includes a temporary roof and repairs to the parapet whilst the Tower is surrounded by scaffolding. The Courtyard Walls and the roof of the Ypres Tower rear cells (presently used for storage) also need attention, but this is less urgent. The Museum intends to complete this later, together with any further matters, which the detailed investigation into the Women's Tower settlement might reveal. After restoration, it is hoped to use this rare survival of a Women's Tower to house displays showing the life of Rye's women and children in the past.

The Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital

The hospital serves the local community by providing a range of integrated health and community care services. The in-patient Medical Wing has 19 beds, the Out-Patient department offers more than two dozen different clinics, and the District and Community Nurses for the area are located here. The site and buildings are owned by a Registered Charity, so the hospital is truly a community NHS hospital. It also has a 'League of Friends' and this Concert will help to provide



FUND RAISING EVENTS AT RYE COLLEGE IN AID OF THEIR TRIP TO GHANA APRIL 2011



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Recollections of Yet Another Stone Ager 1933—1940

We had a lovely letter from Joe Mewse earlier in the year recalling his own Stone Age School Days. Joe writes as follows.....

This is a voice from the very distant past. I attended R.G.S. from 1933– 1940 and briefly, in company with head Boy Alan Smith, went with the school to Bedford in a supernumerary capacity. I am prompted to write following Medelaine Bakers interesting article. In a way this is something of a sequel or supplement to that article.

I agree that in the post Depression 1930's school excursions were of a limited nature but there was one slightly more ambitious excursion when "Jimmy" Broome (Geography Master) conducted a school party on a cruise to the Norwegian Fjords.

There was one highlight of the late 1930's that I am sure Madelaine and her friend Joyce Baddeley would have enjoyed and excelled at. That was the Rogers/Belton Ballroom Dancing Academy. An afterschool hours activity conceived by Helen Rogers (Girls P.E. & Games) and Leslie Belton (Art & Crafts—Woodwork & Metalwork) as a modest introduction for senior pupils to social graces.

In a gentle way we were led into the intricacies of the Quickstep, The Foxtrot and the Modern Waltz. By the time I left school we had not yet encountered the Latin American rhythms. Strictly Come Dancing it was not—though the music was strict tempo by Victor Silvester and his Ballroom Orchestra and for the participants a marked improvement on the normal performances at local dances.

I cannot remember all the members of the "Academy". My immediate circle of boys included Alan Smith (sadly killed in the attack on the Gothic Line in Italy in 1944), "Dickie" Shearcraft and the late Bob Huxstep. Of course we were always outnumbered by the girls. This was something of an advantage to the boys. The girls included Head Girl Pat Green, the Darcey Busell of this enterprise, Beryl Winter, Winnie Kempton, Eve Blackmore, Esme Kerr, Pamela Dale and Joyce Carey. I apologise to any I may have missed out.

All in all this was a most enjoyable and beneficial experience. The late Bob Huxstep considered that dancing got our generation through World War II.

TWITTER

Not quite, but the ROSA version. On Nov. 13th I put out a plea for some gossip to a random selection of ROSA members that receive the bulletin. Reserve physiology in a way, as they must have thought they were getting the latest bulletin attached. I asked for four lines and this is what we got back after setting a seven day deadline.

Brin Snowdon Newbury, Berkshire, UK 1972-1977 (Came in mid-way through the 2nd year; stayed to the bitter end) Went to Mauritius and Ireland this year with my family. Mauritius was warmer. **Richard Moore** St.Leonards. (1970-77) Walked the Coastal Path from Penzance to Lands End in 6 1/2 hours during the summer.

Tracey Jewsbury (nee Foster) now living in Headcorn, Kent. At TP 1971 to 1976. Hubby has just retired so looking for a (trendy if possible) camper van - if you'd told me I'd be doing this in 1976 just would not have seemed possible!

Mick Mepham, High Halden, until 1971 (I think). Two exciting things this year:- 1) meeting a lot of old friends and spilling tea over them on a sunny day in Icklesham and 2) driving to Northern Germany and playing my stuff to a full house of people who made me feel that the journey was worth it and who made me feel right at home. **Caroline Purdy** (Ashdown) Ok it's the dogs then! I have three at the moment Cocker spaniels all:- Tilly,a blue roan who's had 21 puppies, Honey, her daughter and an orange roan, has had 12 puppies and my new baby, Caddy a chocolate roan who is 7 months old. I have a waiting list of three people for her puppies which won't happen until she is over two! Each summer we have a puppy party when the puppies come to see their mums! Approx 20 dogs in the garden was chaos this year! But musical chairs was funny! Four of the puppies returned to me for their holidays this year although not all at once! Francis and I moved to our new home near Sharpthorne, East Grinstead last May. **Jane Boiling** (now Wood). Still living in the Rye area. Finished Thomas Peacocke in 1977. Career as a Mental Health Nurse and about to start a new job in Hastings. Highlights of the year were bumping into **Sue Eldridge (Barden)** and **Janet Gill** at Icklesham beer festival and then in October getting a visit from **Julie Rushbrooke** and her family. Low-light of the year was going to a Jedward Concert with the youngest daughter (actually it wasn't that bad and they were quite entertaining) **Ken Howlett** Bexhill on Sea 1944-50 Had a Pacemaker fitted **Leslie Carmichael** 1970-75 Nothing much happening in the last year to me, life ticking along as usual over here in Florida. If I win the lottery or become head of Microsoft I'll let you know. **These little snippets of news are great to fill gaps in future editions so please keep them coming**

A RETIRING YEAR ? By

Gordon Boxall

I remember from my first trip 'down under' with Richard Moore in our formative years, that I returned full of wanting to go back and settle there. My Grandad had been a £10 Pom and he had made a good life there as a farmer and meeting James Watson on the trip and seeing how well he was doing added to the attraction. It didn't happen then although sister Gill (1974) did go a year or two later and stayed and as a proud Aussie would certainly pass the "which cricket team do you support" test having lived in Sydney for more than half her life. I have no regrets about staying and have had many wonderful opportunities to travel and the privilege to work with fantastic people in the health and social care field. But, exactly 30 years on, and at a similar age to Grandad being over 50 when he set off, I am now doing the same although, this time to New Zealand. I have taken early retirement although the southward direction of the pound and the northward direction of our house-building aspirations have combined to ensure I will need to find a job! Son Andy is joining Helen and I before Christmas and as I set off a few weeks earlier than on 3rd Dec. my first task is to find somewhere to stay before the house is finished in March. Teachers who remember me may be pleased to know that I have just finally fulfilled any potential not attained at school by completing a Masters Degree in Business Administration and Graduate on the 2nd Dec. Particular thanks to Miss Getley who did her best to encourage me at the time! I will keep in touch with Richard and hope to get to meet up with Ian Ruddock who lives on South Island. The following photo captures our love of NZ and it scarcely seems possible that we will see it every time we wake up there as it is from our land. A final thought that I will be supporting England of course in the Ashes and will be in the one country where everyone will also want to see the Aussies beaten. The real test will come next year in the Rugby World Cup...



Ex-Chairman of ROSA - On Being Mayor



Standing outside the town hall with my Gran scrambling for pennies at the Rye Mayor-Making ceremony in the 1950s was an experience I have never forgotten. Beatrice was a dab hand at elbowing people out of the way and often collected enough funds to do her complete weekly shop! As a member of the church choir I also sang at the accompanying service and goggled at the splendour of the robes and regalia as this exalted being, the Mayor, processed to his special throne at the front of the nave.

I would not, for one moment, have dreamt that I could ever be in that position – but here I am! Since May 3rd 2010 I have occupied the privileged Office of The Right Worshipful, The Mayor of Rye (I've been called many things in my time, but only mayors of cities and member towns of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports are permitted to be addressed as 'Right' Worshipful). Geraldine and I have attended dozens of civic receptions here in Rye and also at such places as Dover Castle, Newhaven Fort, Sandwich Guildhall, The Old Palace Bromley, H.M.S. Kent etc. and have had a fascinating time - not forgetting, of course, a hugely entertaining Rye Wurlitzer concert given by John Mann. Obviously I also have to chair the full council meetings and have other more serious duties to perform.

One thing I learned very quickly was that all the mayors and other civic dignitaries I meet are just ordinary people like Geraldine and I. We support all the events we can at Rye College and it is certainly very 'odd' to be sitting in the old School hall – (the place where I received a detention from one of my favourite teachers, Mr Gaunt, for talking in assembly) - as a VIP/guest of honour! Geraldine was a 'goody-goody' at school and never had a detention. Geraldine and I met on Bonfire Night at RGS 47 years ago and celebrated our Ruby Wedding in July this year. It is not only for this reason that I have happy memories of school in Rye and would thoroughly recommend joining ROSA and supporting its activities. — John Breeds.

In the picture:

John Breeds (RGS 1957-65), Mayor of Rye and his wife, and Lady Mayoress, Geraldine, nee Miles (RGS 1961-66) at Speaker's Day in Sandwich

Rye College of Arts and Enterprise is going International.

After gaining Specialist Arts Status, Rye College is putting its efforts into expanding the talents and aspirations of its students. Standards in attainment are rising and the students are engaged in a broad range of activities – Enterprise awards, Drama performances from panto to The Vackees, Dance and Music in local schools and Art exhibitions both locally and nationally. The whole community now celebrates the carnival curriculum, from design to parade day. Building on the pilot project in 2009, the town carnival is now a huge collaboration of students with practising artists, carnival companies, partner primaries and community groups. Students have created a carnival narrative to explore these issues in dance, costume, puppetry and music. Members of the community are now coming into the college to attend seminars with Fairtrade representatives, sewing costumes for the dancers and performing in the college Bloco as drummers or in the brass section. Students are giving back to the community – helping as models, film crew and stylists at the Fairtrade Fashion Show, leading Bonfire celebrations or adding street performances to the Winter Parade and encouraging visitors to visit Rye in their thousands. These local partnerships build social cohesion and offer leadership skills and opportunities for our learners. The annual July parade will be a visual and audio delight celebrating the community of Rye. Rye College students are also looking at their role as global citizens. The Fairtrade theme has brought a focus on cooperative working and the advantages for communities involved. Ghanaian cocoa production has been highlighted and as well as the music and song of Ghana appearing in the Bloco performances, we aim to take a group of students to Ghana to meet creative peers from a different community. Our aims are to share and celebrate shared experiences culminating in a carnival parade in an international context. A pilot trip is planned for April 2011 to meet a community in Ghana, looking at education, community and creativity. Once friendships are in place we want to work with Ghanaian cooperatives and develop long term projects together, putting in place an annual cultural exchange. The aim is to open this opportunity to all students via a written application and an outstanding college report; to deliver this we need financial support. Our schedule of charity events began with the East Sussex Contemporary Art Fair April 2010. Further events vary from student led music events to a Gala Jazz Evening in March 2011. If you would like to attend any events or pledge a donation, please contact Harriet Catt at Rye College on 01797 222545 or email hcatt@ryecollege.e-sussex.sch.uk.

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A.G.M. _____ May 12th 2010
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NEWS DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN 161 November 20th 2011

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