

RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION



BULLETIN 161 DECEMBER 2012

FRONT PAGE THOUGHT

Currently, there is enough doom and gloom circulating on the planet. So, to preach in a bulletin that you receive once a year that is supposed to be full of good cheer and gossip is unproductive. However, a comment needs to be made. ROSA are NOT in crisis but our running costs highlight the fact that we need a serious dose of support in a monetary way. Postage costs alone this year have escalated on top of printing costs for this full colour bulletin.

We look to those that paid life membership many years ago to consider a top up as a donation towards the running costs of this fine social institution that has ambled along since 1929.

There has been a distinct lack of events in the past two years but we can say with some confidence that there will be a major event in 2014 to celebrate the decades of the 70's and 80's and date and some details are featured in this bulletin. If donations are not forthcoming by this time, this event will be a pinnacle in ROSA's future. So, you have read it here first so it doesn't come as a nasty surprise in two years time.

ROSA has had endurance to stand the test of time, it has evolved with the changing face of education in Rye and withholds a membership of close to 700 around the world. Please, let us embrace this fellowship of common ground in being educated in this wonderful town in whichever building we were taught at, whether it be RGS, TPS, TPCC or now known as Rye College by supporting the future of this quite unique association.

Subscription to £5 annually was raised some years ago but we are still receiving the older price, please check your bank statement and adjust. £25 for life membership also remains unchanged and represents excellent value for money.

We look forward to your much needed support during 2013 & 2014.

A PIECE FROM CLAIRE

Well another year has flown past and all too soon. Richard, our editor, is reminding me that my little piece for the bulletin is needed again. 2012 has been a slow year for ROSA with no major events, although the committee has been having their meetings and discussing possible events for 2013 and 2014. I am sorry to say that the Website has been put on the back burner due to overwhelming events in our everyday lives. We will however, be endeavouring to get the website up and running in 2013 to enable us to promote any future events. Once again I must thank everyone on the committee for their continued support and time over the past year, with many thanks going to Richard for his time and efforts in producing a well thought out and constructed bulletin which this year, for the first time in a retro sepia effect. Also many thanks to our other contributors and our Advertisers

Wishing you all, A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

Claire Spacy—Chairperson 2011-2014

A TRANS GLOBAL PRODUCTION

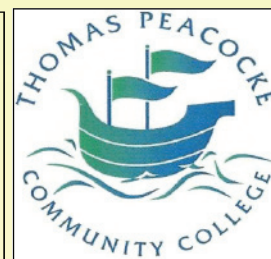
ROSA endeavour to keep bulletin costs down, even though we are now in full living colour. However, our air mile ratio is very high as each page has travelled around the planet before the bulletin was even printed due to the support of my dear friend Gordon Boxall "proof reader extraordinaire" who marks each page as they are completed, (just like being at school) from his home in New Zealand. A fine service he provides too and he is available for the read through of Parish Magazines, Flower Show Programmes and Film Scores!

At the age of 53 and my involvement at the college with the Wurlitzer for the past 22 years, I sometimes feel that I have never left the place !



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MEMORIES OF " MY BIG SISTER" PAMELA OLDFIELD 1931-2011

News of the passing of one of our celebrated Old Scholars reached the editors desk to late for a proper inclusion in the last bulletin. So it is with great pleasure that we share this page with Barbara Anthony in memory of a very talented lady.

Pamela was a whole year older than me. We lived in North London and played happily together until she went to school and I was left at home sobbing. But when she came home she announced that for her forthcoming birthday she wanted a blackboard, an easel and a big box of chalks. She then promised to teach me everything she learned each day if I just stopped grizzling. She did this so well that when I joined her a school a year later I could read, write and do basic sums. The teachers were not best pleased. The fact that I already knew the first year's work caused major problems which were finally resolved by putting me in the second year class with Pam. We stayed together throughout our three primary schools and four secondary's, a disrupted life caused by the outbreak of WW2 in 1939. Our parent's marriage became a casualty of all these war time separations and in 1946 my mother needed to find a home for us and a job for herself. A friend who lived in Rye told us that Margaret Irwin, the well know historical novelist, needed a housekeeper and that a pleasant flat, overlooking the town, went with the job. She welcomed us, and for Pamela and me it proved a valuable introduction to a professional writers' life. We both filed it away for future reference. We settled into our final school, and a year later into the Old Harbour Barn at Winchelsea Breach, which became our home for many years.

Time passed and Pam went off to do a teaching training course. Needless to say, she passed with flying colours. By this time she met Peter Oldfield who became her first husband. They married in 1952 and had two children. Some years later when they were living in West Farleigh, Pam was teaching the reception class. Finding many children nervous about starting school she decided to write a book which would reassure them. 'Melanie Brown Goes to School' was very well reviewed and thousands of anxious mothers rushed out to buy it. Her publisher, Faber, asked for more.

By this time her first marriage had come to an end leaving Pam, like our mother before her, with two children to support. She took on a secretarial job and for a while worked as a publishers rep while still writing some books for children. Then came her big chance. Her agent had been asked to find a writer for a series of four adult historical novels. He persuaded the publishers and a rather doubtful Pamela that she could do it. Nervously she signed a contract which was to shape the rest of her life.

What gave her the courage to take this giant step (she had never written a book for adult readers before) was the fact that she now had in her life the man who would become her second husband. They had met by chance when she had been on her own for quite a while after the children had left home. Joe Portsmouth was for her the perfect partner. He was always supportive, doing whatever he could to leave her free to write. He drove her wherever she need to go for research, even coast to coast by the wagon trails across Americas for the gold rush story 'Lil Golightly'. When they moved into a small colt bungalow in Appledore, he extended it to give her generous study space and storage for research books and manuscripts. When she went over to word processing, it was Joe who mastered each new instruction manual and stood by to retrieve a day's work when she accidentally lost it. With his help she wrote over 40 novels for her many fans.

A blend of historical fiction and family saga for Pamela Oldfield, writing was a way of life. She researched her novels and took a keen interest in writers-to-be in this country and abroad. Pam was a residential writing tutor at Fen Farm, a speaker at Swanick (writers conference) and spoke at many literacy festivals. She helped set up a short story writing competition for the Kent Literature Festival and acted as a judge for many other groups. Pamela was a firm supporter of the liberty system and was always delighted that half a million people borrowed her books each year. Her novels still appear of course in large print and are published in Spanish, German and Russian. **"She brings history to life, because her people are real people—and she uses her skill as a master story teller to keep you wondering what's going to happen next "** *Kent Evening Post*

Her works include *The Halliday Girls, Lily Golightly, Turn of the Tide, The Gooding Girl, The Stationmasters' Daughter, A Dutiful Wife, Sweet Sally Lunn, The Passionate Exile, Long Dark Summer, String of Blue Beads, Falling from Grace, The Butterfly Box, Lady of the Night, Pieces of Silver, A Woman Alone, Yesterday's Shadow, Riding the Storm, Lost Illusions.*

Over the years Pamela worked with many publishers, among them Kingfisher, Methuen, Piccadilly Press and Hamish Hamilton. She compiled three collections of story and verse for Blackie. Ghost stories were another favourite of hers including *The Mill Pond Ghost* and *the Haunting of Wayne*

Briggs. *Barbara Anthony*



A HAPPY ENDING FOR ROS SMITH

A year ago I got in touch with Richard Moore to ask if he would be able to help at all in my search for my natural father, David Macdonald, who attended Rye Grammar school during the 1960's. Richard very kindly offered me space to write in the ROSA newsletter, and from this article I received a few emails from David's old school associates. I cannot thank you all enough for taking the time to contact me.

I found David in January this year with the help of a lady who searches on an adoption support group. I met David in June this year, as you can imagine it was a very emotional time, and we have stayed in touch. It is good to know more about my heritage and good to know more about David. Thank you Richard for your help and also thank you to everyone who contacted me, sending me stories of school days and sending me photos. I would particularly like to thank James Philips and his sister Mary Clare for their emails filled with kind words about my natural father... and also some funny stories, you are very much appreciated. Ros Smith.

1960s Reunion September 2012 - Reprise in 2013?

Thanks to the good (and wonderfully generous) auspices of Adrian Gumbley (Leasam/RGS 1962-1966), there was a small but select(!) reunion of 1960s RGS/Leasam/Saltcote students at Adrian's lovely farmhouse and barn near Dorking, Surrey, on 22nd September 2012. Adrian combined the reunion with a party for friends and neighbours and a great time was had by all.

For a number of those attending it was the first time they had met up since leaving school, so there was an evening of catching-up and reminiscing, as well as much laughter over embarrassing school photos.

From left to right those in the group photo taken at the end of the evening are: Tim Rothwell, Gilly Winterbottom, James Phillips, Cherry Tottenham, Jane Wonham (nee Cole), Adrian Gumbley and MaryClare Loretan (nee Phillips).

All those there agreed that it would be wonderful to repeat the event in 2013, and Adrian has kindly volunteered to act as host again. It would be great if we could have more people attending (partners are very welcome) next time, and if any ROSA members of 1960s vintage, including Rye County Secondary School, would be interested in attending do let Tim Rothwell know at

timrothwell9@gmail.com

MEMORIES OF A WONDERFUL EVENING



KEEPING IN TOUCH

With the merits of Facebook and Social Networking 12 individuals have enjoyed re-living their school days in the past few months with some excellent banter through the ROSA Facebook page. They herald from the 60's and would be delighted if others joined them on this page. Tim Rothwell, Cherry Pie, Adrian Gumbley, Lynne Morgan, Jane Burkin, Peta Baxter, Alan Webber, Edwina Huxstep, Jeremy Pern, John Hooper, Peter Buchan and Felicity Saunders.

During the summer months they really tried to rally the troops of their era in attending what appears to have been a great evening at Adrians house in Dorking (see this page). So, if you are of that era and want to re-connect we encourage you to get in touch with Tim Rothwell so that the 2013 event is bigger and better.

Although we all attended Rye as part of our education it does not necessarily mean that every reunion has to be featured around the place and if more central locations are favoured in the country then so be it. Bring them on.

Thanks again to the team of 12 for getting this new Facebook Page up and running, the one I started seems now to have been lost in cyberspace. So the 70 or 80 that had registered interest on this please now take a leap to this new page for it to flourish. Other pages on Facebook that have Rye school connections include Thomas Peacocke 1980's and Thomas Peacocke The Class of 2006. others that I know were quite active don't seem to be around now. If there are more, then please let us know.

Rye Country Market celebrates 40 years

I would like to express my congratulations to Rye Country Market which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. In a festive atmosphere, this significant milestone was acknowledged with a toast made by Colonel Anthony Kimber, a regular face at the market and a Rye resident. My mother, Jenny Stapley, has been the manager for more years than I can remember and whenever I am back in Rye I visit this really worthy community enterprise. Every Friday morning local people provide the very best in fresh seasonal produce, home-made cakes, savouries and preserves, plants and flowers and beautiful crafts – it is a service that the community should be proud to have on their doorstep. Like every community activity, it survives only with the support from both local residents and visitors and I recommend anyone who hasn't been to pop in and see what's on offer – the variety and quality of the fresh produce is excellent. Not only a market, it is a meeting place where customers catch up over coffee and homemade cake. This anniversary is a huge achievement from a committed and enthusiastic group. I hope they continue to see another 40 years. Jo Stapley London (1987-1992).

RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY

Completely understand the ethos of ROSA, i.e. news from Old Scholars, but please allow me a few lines to up date of something very special that is currently developing at Rye College. The Rye Wurlitzer Academy is one of only two teaching schemes in the World that offer FREE tuition and FREE practice instruments to students at Rye College and Rye Primary School. Currently 30 students are enjoying the experience. Seven enjoyed the trip of a lifetime in July when we attended the American Theatre Organ Convention in Los Angeles. They were model ambassadors and made a terrific impact on the American theatre organ fraternity. So much so, we have been invited back to take part in 2015. In August RWA was featured on the BBC Radio 2 programme the Organist Entertains for a full 30 minutes with music and interviews from the students and their teacher Michael Wooldridge, the first time in the show's 40 year history that this style of programme has been broadcast. We are taking a small group on Tour in the Spring of 2013 to Theatre Organ Installation in the Midlands and the North of England where they will not only be able to listen but play on some of the Country's finest theatre organ installations. Then in 2014 the Netherlands Organ Federation have revised their invitation for the group to visit and perform as by then there will be more instruments available to perform on. *Stop Press* as we went to print RWA was awarded £1,000 from the Cheyne Wind Farm Project, £200 from the Fidelio Trust in London and £250 from the Rye Lions Club in memory of Pam Sayell.



Join us at Rye College for our superb series of shows, evenings of top quality entertainment for all the family, with refreshments. All profits go to support our Wurlitzer students.

ITV's BRITAINS GOT TALENT
The comedian we've all been waiting for! - Piers Morgan

Friday 8th February 2013

A Modern Day Olde Time Music Hall



Join us for a packed evening of great variety entertainment, featuring top BGT Comedy Impressionist Drew Cameron, Star Singers, Music from Michael Wooldridge with his drummer and trumpeter, and your Traditional Music Hall Chairman, Richard Moore

Tickets £10, Children £5, including really nice interval refreshments
Fancy Dress Optional and Encouraged

The Many Faces of
Comedy Impressionist
Drew Cameron

Friday 15th March 2013

An Evening with BBC TV Comedy Legend 'Supersonic' Syd Little

More fun for all the family with Syd, his comedy, guitar and rock and roll songs, all accompanied by Michael Wooldridge at his electronic organ and drummer Tim Clapp



ANOTHER NIGHT AT THE SILENT MOVIES

Featuring Carl Heslop at The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ

Saturday 11th May 2013 Admission Adults £8 Children £4

All shows start at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

More information from Richard Moore on

01424 444 058 or e-mail r.fm@btopenworld.com

www.RyeWurlitzerAcademy.co.cc

Rye College, The Grove, Rye, TN31 7NQ. 01797 222 545

REMEMBERING PETER CHARLES TYLER (1960 - 2012)

Born 2nd December 1960 in Hastings, Peter went from the Rye Primary School, Ferry Road to Thomas Peacock Community College, 1972-77. He joined the ATC while still at school, then the RAF. After his Passing Out Parade from the latter, he went to Germany with the RAF. He left the RAF around 1985/86 to join the MOD Police and his Passing Out Parade here was in January 1988. Peter worked 24 years with them, latterly in their Security Section, sometimes guarding members of the Royal Family, until illness forced him to retire earlier this year.

Peter had 2 children, Lee and Jemma, by his first marriage in 1982. His plans to marry Ann on 22nd September this year had to be postponed, due to his health deteriorating and the marriage took place on October 4th in St. Michael's Hospice, a few days before his death on October 8th, aged 51 years.



MEMORIES OF ALAN STUART SINDEN (1954 - 2012)

Alan was born in the Orkney Islands on 5th March 1954. His parents moved to Rye and he started his education at the Tilling Green Infant School, moving to Rye Primary School and RGS (1964-69). He left school at 16 to study a 2-year Hotel Catering course at Hastings Technical College and began his catering management career at a hotel on Hayling Island. Alan continued working in hotels, including in Birmingham, Cornwall and at "The Cumbria", London. Some of you may remember him when he was manager at The Hope Anchor Hotel, Rye and his 2nd wife, Annie, was the Secretary there. They had two children.

From 2003-2007 Alan was married to Lynne Smith (nee Parsons, RGS 1964-70) and lived in Rye again. His main interests were music and amateur dramatics. He joined the Rye Players, was on the Committee and equally enthusiastic in front of house and helping staging. He was Pike in 'Dads Army' and one of 2 English airmen in 'Allo Allo'. He recently produced 'Stop Mucking About' and co-produced the Panto 'Treasure Island'. However, by far his most famous hit was as the slave, Cretinus, in 'Up Pompeii', where he did have us rolling in the aisles! John Izod remembers Alan being a real helping hand when he was needing assistance with the scene painting, a great conversationalist..... a real gent. With regard to music, Alan played the guitar in a band with Amy and Andy. John said he had a sophisticated sound studio with skills to match. Alan sadly died on 24th September. His mother, Lilian, said he was a popular man in the area and enjoyed living.



LES & EVE BEENEY—FAMILY, FRIENDS & FUN

2012 has seen the sad passing of two ROSA stalwarts, Les and Eve Beeney (nee Blackman, previously Rogerson). Les died on 20 January, aged 92, and Eve on 10 October, aged 91. This tribute has been drawn from the celebrations read by their families at their funerals.



Les

Les was born in Kilndown, near Goudhurst. He went to Westfield Primary School and then RGS. After leaving school, Les worked for the Post Office, where he met Doris whom he married in 1942. During the war he served in the RAF. Before the war, in 1937, Les and some friends, including the legendary Will Dunlop, former editor of the ROSA Bulletin, had met in a tea room in Rye and formed Icklesham Casuals. Les and Doris's son, Roger, is an 'old

boy' of RGS and a member of ROSA. After many happy years together, Doris fell terminally ill with cancer in the 1970s and was tenderly cared for by Les until the end.

The next chapter in Les's life started with a reunion with an old RGS friend, Eve Rogerson (nee Blackman) and they soon married. They spent over 30 wonderfully happy years at the Squirrels in Park Wood Road, Hastings, until their health sadly started to fade. Les had so many interests it is not possible to list them all here: gardening, DIY, photography, natural history, sport, jazz – the list goes on and on.

Eve

Eve was born in Hailsham and after starting school with her sister Jean in Peacehaven, eventually went to RGS as her father, AW Blackman (AWB as the family call him) had become head teacher at Rye Secondary Modern School. When she was at RGS, Eve struck up a remarkable friendship with a group of friends who stuck together for 70 years. They were in many ways the founders of the ROSA - Will Dunlop, Esme Phillips, Mary Jupp, Bunty Rook, Doris Carey, Winkle and Dick Shearcroft to name but a few. Eve's connections with RGS continued through ROSA and she became its Secretary, 'bashing out' the Old Scholars' newsletters on the dining room table.



Eve brought up her two sons Mike and Paul, both of whom went to RGS, with the considerable help from her parents AWB and Elisabeth Blackman at number 3, later 39, Udimore Road. After a brief spell with Phipps (solicitors) in the Landgate, Eve became AWB's secretary at Rye Modern School so bringing RGS and RMS closer together. Eve had many interests including gardening, music, cooking and especially having fun, all of which she shared with Les. She and Les took great pride in their combined total of five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Their lives together are neatly celebrated by a verse from a poem about gardening written by Les, read at his funeral:

Here's to you, Les and Eve, and thanks



*I do love my garden, tho' I wilt
and creak
But I'd just like to sit and relax
for a week
Still I'll dream of the winter,
and all that spare time
Sat at the fire, with Eve, and
some wine.*

Here's to you, Les and Eve, and thanks

A POTTED PIECE FROM DAVID WRIGHT

I joined RGS, aged 13, as a boarder at Leasam House in September 1960, having previously attended a secondary school in Hove where I lived. On leaving at Christmas 1963 I joined what was then the Midland Bank at their North Street Brighton Branch in January 1964. After five years I left and spent two years living and working on a farm in Devon. Returning to Hove I rejoined the same branch of the bank in 1971.

In 1973 I was moved to Chatham and this was followed by moves to Dover, Canterbury, Maidstone and then back to Brighton as I climbed up the clerical and then managerial ladder. I was offered and took early retirement in 1997 since when I have had a "portfolio" of freelance part time work including consultancy, Clerk to Employment Tribunals, and as a Registrar of Marriages and still regularly officiate at ceremonies.

Married my wife Vivien in 1974 and have one son and two grandchildren who we look after every Monday. I have always enjoyed sports and although no longer able to play football I am a life member of the local cricket club and play regularly for their Sunday team. I am involved with a local charity as their treasurer and for 25 years have been an active Freemason. Some three years ago my wife and I went on our first cruise and are now hooked on this wonderful form of holiday.

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**A NOTE FOR THE
DIARY**

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER
11TH
2014**

**A COMBINATION
REUNION OF ALL THOSE
FINE,
UPSTANDING PUPILS
THAT ATTENDED
THOMAS PEACOCKE
SCHOOL
IN THE 1970'S & 80'S**

TIME & VENUE

**MUSIC & A VERY
SPECIAL
ROSA CABARET**

**CONSTANT
REMINISCING**

FOOD & DRINKIES

COST

**ALL WILL BE REVEALED
IN THE
NEXT BULLETIN,
FOR NOW, YOU HAVE
BEEN WARNED OF A
NIGHT TO REMEMBER**

All excuses including:

**Hair washing
Hair Colouring
Hair additions**

**Hair trimming and
other bodily functions**

**Hair removing
Baby sitting**

Mowing the lawn

Walking the dog

On holiday

**Attending something far
better than this
cannot be accepted
IN AID OF THE
RYE OLD SCHOLARS
ASSOCIATION**

**A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF
MICHAEL MARTIN**

Since being involved with the bulletin after the passing of dear Win Allen in 1994 we have progressed through editorial pieces such as "potted bits" and "potted pieces" with the occasional "life chapters" thrown in for good measure. We have also seen some wonderful obituaries written but that's in the future.

For now, I thought we would develop something for people still very active in their working life, an acknowledgement of their achievements to date. We must have a wealth of former students that have gone onto to do great things in whatever career path they have chosen.



In the last bulletin we mentioned those with a musical flair that had entertained us so well at the "Where are they now" Concert in May (see follow up article). So, with this in mind who better to start this thread of articles than someone I have had the pleasure of knowing since Year 8 when we used to play re-bound against the lower school air raid shelters but has seen his career develop from photographer to world renowned illustrator of a classic British Institution that has captured the imagination of all those on the planet with a dry sense of humour. Fellow old scholars may I introduce Michael Martin illustrator of Fred Bassett for the past 21 years.

Michael heralds from Camber where his delightful parents still live (delightful but also rather batty parents celebrated 60th wedding anniversary this December!! Phew! I'm having trouble making 10!!) wife Debbie (fellow scholar too!) and their daughter live in France, their older son and two boys from Michael's previous marriage live in and around Hastings.

A typical working week consists of feeding two cats, mucking out two ponies, walking two bouncy dogs and saying hello to the neighbours (*moo..*) luckily, they moo in the same language, as my French is still rather lacking....plodding on with following the dream of renovating an old French property, in other words, living with brick rubble, temporary plumbing, leaky roofs and eating dust and that's just the fun part!...Oh, yes, and with the time I have left, I draw a bit.

I was always told at school it was not good to copy other peoples work, but here I am blah, blah years later doing exactly that! When I started Fred I had to copy the style of the original creator *Alex Graham*.

Living in France doesn't take away from Fred's suburban lifestyle, I work very 'old school' (no pun intended) a month's supply of pencilled strips including the large double Sunday strips are emailed to *the boss*. Together we chat through the 'yes's and 'no's' and when we have settled on all the 'yes's' I get to work colouring them in, just like playschool!! The only difference being I usually have Radio 2 Chris Evans blasting out in the background! When I have finished the cartoon strips (they measure 33cm x11cm and reduce nicely down to a nearly mere nothing in The Daily Mail newspaper!!)I send them by post to the UK....simple as that!

Ideas come from everyday life, past and present, watching, listening, daydreaming (my best subject! Of which I was top of my class at T.P. school!) I work closely with Alex Graham's daughter Arran (*the boss*) combining ideas and direction (should Fred enter stage right or stage left...ha ha) this partnership has worked very well over the years and hopefully will continue for many more, even though FRED will be 50 in 2013 there's still plenty of life in the old dog !! (..and me!)

P.S. almost forgot...Ideal advertising spot....Fred calendars and books can be purchased from many good bookshops and a few not so good bookshops.



REMEMBERING JANET NASH

Janet was born in Woodford and lived her early life in Becton, where her father worked for the Gas Board as it was then. This whole area is now under the runways of London City Airport. She suffered from poor respiratory health as a young child – she was totally deaf in one ear from early childhood - and for health reasons she went away to school, first in Norfolk and then to Rye Grammar School as a boarder. Aided no doubt by the excellent education they provided, she obtained a place at Somerville College Oxford, where she read Zoology, specialising in entomology, ecology and animal behaviour (ethology). On completing her degree she went on a field trip with the University Scientific Society, to a site on the north coast of Scotland. The purpose of the expedition was to conduct a census of Oak Eggar moth caterpillars, but, in the dry summer of 1968, it only found two, one of which was crossing the road - it nearly got run over!

Here, a mere 700 miles from the University where they had both already studied for three years, she met her future husband John. They were married the following year (1969). She completed some research on the ecology of the woodlouse, and also obtained a PGCE, which was to come in useful later.

Janet and John (yes, this combination caused endless amusement to children later) settled in Woodstock and their daughter was born. After three years there, they moved back to Oxford, their older son was born and John completed his training as a doctor and then specialist. Their younger son was born at the end of the long hot drought summer of 1976.

John obtained a tenured University Hospital post in Liverpool, and the family moved to the Wirral, accompanied by Janet's widowed father. Here Janet busied herself looking after the family and nurturing the children. Later, she put a lot of time, effort and tenderness into caring for her father as he gradually became more infirm. Eventually he needed care in a nursing home, and Janet, now with more time available, looked outside for things to exercise her mind.

She said she now wanted to do something a bit more useful (!) with her life, and for about seven years worked as a tutor in the Liverpool Medical School. She also took on duties for the Health Authority, culminating in working as a governor for Wirral Hospital School. Janet had a strong Christian faith, supported the local parish church and served as a deputy and then full churchwarden. She continued with this service ethic even as her final illness overtook her, serving on the school appeals panel only six weeks before she died. After all the children married (in reverse order of age) and grandchildren began to arrive, she showed a remarkable talent for the role of grandmother and the special way in which grandparents can play with their grandchildren. For example, on one occasion she was seen crawling around on a lead being led by a grandson, apparently playing the part of a dog.

She suspected from Spring 2010 that her illness would probably not be curable, but remained cheerful and active and determined to cram in as much as possible, including numerous visits to family at their various distant locations. As her final illness overtook her she maintained a fortitude of a quite remarkable degree, not wishing to upset her family and the professionals caring for her. She died peacefully in St. John's Hospice, Wirral in the early hours of Friday August 26th 2011.

She is survived by her husband, three children and seven grandchildren, who all miss her greatly.

THE WURLITZER 87 YEARS OLD IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

In each ROSA bulletin I cheekily mention the forthcoming concerts for the year ahead and this edition is no exception. However a request was made from a pupil of the year that first benefitted from the Wurlitzer being at the school (i.e. late 50's/early 60's) when Music Teacher Bill May and Clifford Foster spent many hours putting the organ back together from its journey from the Palace Cinema in Tottenham. Since 2007 FORW have been blessed with the expertise, commitment let alone knowledge of David Wattenbach of Folkestone, who had spent many years previously involved with the Dreamland Margate installation. Since David's involvement the improvement of the sound of the Wurlitzer has been 10 fold and despite its "small is beautiful appearance" and the restrictions we have in the chamber room, the Wurlitzer can now best be described as a 2 manual 10 rank Wurlitzer Hybrid (formerly a 2 man 6 rank)



In the last two years the organ has had installed a Musicom relay and capture system. In addition to the new system we have installed a Hauptwerk Paramount Virtual Theatre Organ. The Hauptwerk enables us to add digitally sampled extra ranks and tuned percussions. The selected extra ranks are Clarinet, Orchestral Oboe, String Celeste, Pedal Trombone 32 notes. We also have Tuned Percussions Marimba Harp, Chrysoglot, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Cathedral Chimes and Piano 16', 8' and 4' Improvements to the main organ include, all of the main chest primary motors have been replaced as well as other motors on offset chests. The pedal offset chests are now wound with their own regulator, so that they do not tremulate with the rest of the organ, making it much more stable. There is still much to do, as and when we have time, and more importantly access to the hall. It is hoped that a large maintenance programme can be undertaken during the summer holiday period of 2013. With the benefit of being a registered charity and the fortunes of Gift Aid we have allocated £7,000 for this work.

A week in the life of this muso.... ROSA's very own rocker Mick Mephram

I've never been one to keep a diary, mostly because I often can't remember on the next day what happened the day before. This isn't down to the demon alcohol or, more particularly, old age (I think), it's just the permanent fog that clouds my brain. For this exercise that Richard has asked me create I'll try to include only those bits that are slightly interesting to me.

Starting Monday then. Head completely fogged after a couple of gigs over the weekend but no time to clear it as I'm working today at a small unit at a 'business park'. Don't let anyone tell you that I, or many other musicians, am rich! That's cobblers, to be honest. I've been playing live for quite a few decades now and the one thing that has hardly gone up in that time is the money. Don't get me wrong, I'm happy to be paid for what I consider to be that which keeps me alive, sane and happy. It's just very hard to make a living from it, or in my case impossible. The expenses HAVE gone up, especially recently with fuel costs, so what is earned is eaten into in a big way by that. Who cares, "C'mon everybody".

Home after 6 and flop down with Fish and Chips. Alie, as ever, is extremely busy with online work so it's Cold Comfort Farm for me! Fell asleep (I NAP these days!!!) on the settee when even Montalbano couldn't keep me awake! On Sunday there was a gathering of the Clan Mephram for my Father's 90th birthday. Alie catered for it, I ate it!! Great cook, Alie. Fish and Chips suffers by comparison. At the party were, amongst others, 2 nieces and a nephew who are, or have been, musicians too, so lots of yakking about stuff musical and catching up on a long time not seeing each other. Woke with a start with a melody in my head which was immediately consigned to the voice recorder. Marvellous bit of kit. The Mephram memory is not what it was and the voice recorder helps me put down musical ideas which are forgotten in 3 minutes otherwise. What happens to them afterwards is up to me. For once I went to bed still remembering and humming the piece. This is good news for me as it usually means that there's something worth having there.

Tuesday morning and I can't remember it now! No worries, it's on the v/r. Phew!! If only I'd had one 30 years ago! Sometimes I'd be walking along Hastings sea front and music would pop into my head and I'd be frantically trying to remember it only to forget it on my doorstep. Doh!!! How many good riffs, melodies and lyrics have I forgotten over the years? Thousands. Alright, hundreds. Certainly, plenty of those would have come to nothing or just been retreads of other things or just been plain rubbish, but there would also have been a few albums worth of decent (in my humble opinion) (imho, as I'm being hiply advised from behind) songs amongst them too. I get writers block periodically as most writers/composers do and they would have given me material to tide me over during those dark days. The "Artist as a tortured soul" is a common concept. Believe me, when one sits in front of a computer screen with nothing in one's head, it's not pleasant. Especially when last week was really productive and there wasn't time to record everything!! This is the sort of time that I wish I could write music. If something came upon me I could whizz it down in a flash but oh no, I have to think of mnemonics to help me remember. Of course I forget. It's possibly my only regret in terms of music – that I neither read nor write it. I could have done more if I'd been able to do both but then again that's no guarantee of success either. Session work would have been great. Then AGAIN, if I'd learned how to play guitar from square one up, I might have done this or that too

What is success? For me, it's a good gig and a good song writ, having reasonable health and greeting the new day. Forget the money, there are far more important things in life.

Wednesday went much the same way as Tuesday. Work, chores, no creativity. I've had many and varied jobs in my lifetime and they all have their compensations. Few, however, give me the sense of achievement that being a muso does. When I'm gigging, it's as much of a job as anything else, just starting a bit later in the day. Depending upon how far away the venue is, I'll start preparing myself for it around midday. A checklist might look like this: change strings on guitars. It's important to do this early on a gig day as the strings take ages to 'bed' themselves in and if I'm playing under lights in the evening their tuning will go out all over the place, as temperature affects them badly too. Some guitars hold their tuning better than others and sometimes I can get 3 gigs out of a set of strings, if I'm gentle with them, which I'm not. There's nothing more annoying than breaking a string in a song as it can throw one completely out of sync. That's why I take spare guitars with me, as well as having particular guitars for particular songs. Multiply it up. Minimum 3 guitars per gig. 3 sets of strings at around £5 per set. However many gigs per year. Comes to quite a bit. Eats into the profit again! Next, check on leads, cables etc and make sure that I have the necessary to be able to do the gig. Take spares in case of malfunctioning leads, which occur all too often. Make sure that batteries or mains power units work. Charge batteries because I forgot to after the previous gig! Can't remember if I charged them or not? Charge them anyway! Rehearse new songs (yes, sometimes I do have new songs) and run through ones that still, after years of playing, cause me nightmares and embarrassment. I digress. Wednesday evening I'm emailing all sorts of people to try to generate some enthusiasm for this week's gigs. I get promising replies from some so I hope that they'll follow up and actually come to the gigs, 1 in Northfleet, 1 in Tunbridge Wells. I practice some of the Stevens' Racket repertoire, which, for me, is highly demanding music. Instrumental and acoustic, it's a big challenge for me but very rewarding too. On the few occasions that we've played live so far, the audience reaction has been very positive and the feeling I get from this music is excellent. It's teaching me a lot about guitar playing and making me realise how little I know! Of course, everything I write, I write from what I know. In Stevens' Racket I'm not the writer, so I have to assimilate everything and improve my playing to cope with it. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Then I sleep!

Thursday and Friday come and go in much the same way except for my having stumbled across a couple of new guitars from eBay and Gumtree. I'll have to sell a couple of the others to pay for them. EBay, Gumtree, Friday Ad, where would we all be without them? Posters have been sent in the post (appropriately) (more expenses) and I'm thinking ahead to the weekend and in the hope that 90% Proof will yet again give me cause to be happy to be alive.

Saturday's here. I go through all the above during the day and indeed find that I haven't charged my batteries. Ha! Usually, I've eaten pasta the night before a gig for energy but last night I forgot. So, lunchtime and it's pasta and tomato sauce. Edifying. That'll keep me going until the wee small hours. Off to Northfleet with Miss Satnag. Good job she's there though as I wouldn't have found it otherwise. Venue isn't far from one of my old stomping grounds of the late 70s and I'm hoping people might come from there. Arrive at the venue to find the lads are already there and in with the gear. They're early!! I'm just on time. We're looking at the large, empty pub and thinking 'Oh no'. However, by the time we kick off the place has filled out well. It's the venue's first gig for a while so punters are maybe not aware of it but it still goes really well and everyone is

chuffed to bits, including the landlady (always good to know), so we're optimistic about going back there. As competition with the Sport on TV, we did fine. The TV stayed on though, they tend to have that habit. Back home by around 2.30 through thick fog for most of the way. Driving through that at the best of times can be tiresome and tiring but after a gig, when the energy levels drop, it's the last thing I need. Never mind, sleep.

Sunday. Dohhhhhh!!!! Woken up by the 'phone much earlier than I needed to be. This is not only annoying but my throat needs much rest these days, which is only got through sleep. Hey ho. Potter around for the first part of the day then off to Tunbridge Wells and the Royal Wells Hotel. The others look a bit bemused by the décor and ambience. After all, we are a bunch of old rockers. I reassure them that T. Wells is the place to be on a Sunday evening and, thankfully, so it proves to be. Our first gig there and probably our last too, as the venue is stopping music in the new year! A great evening with the crowd baying for more. This is what makes me and thousands of other musicians tick and keep coming back for more. The buzz lasts all the way home and then a bit. Another week looms large and then it's all over again. Home relatively early and straight to bed with a cuppa. Basil the cat jumps up on the bed and has to be forcibly removed. Nice to be wanted though innit!



INTRODUCING THE RYE STUDIO SCHOOL

2013 promises to be an exciting one for Rye College as it will see the opening of its sister school, the Rye Studio School, on campus. One of only thirty Studio Schools in the country, the Rye Studio School will eventually welcome 300 young people aged 14-19, of all abilities, who are keen not only to gain good qualifications but to develop the skills that employers nationally say are lacking amongst 18 -24 year olds. The Rye Studio School will prepare young people for work within the creative industries. They will hope, eventually, to work within the visual arts (art, photography, film making, textiles and costume design), the performing arts (acting, dance, music) or production arts (lighting and sound engineering, stage management, set design and construction). They will work alongside people within these professions and work placements will play an important part in Studio School life. Many of our young people will choose to go on to university or into an apprenticeship or even to set up their own businesses after leaving the Studio School. Throughout their time at the Studio School, they will learn all that they need to know about running a business successfully from the organisation of tax and accounts to how to promote a new business in an increasingly competitive market place.

How are Studio Schools Different? Studio Schools are small schools and with a longer working year and a 9am-5pm working day, they feel more like a workplace than a school. Working closely with local employers, Studio Schools offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications including GCSEs A levels and BTEC qualifications.

The Studio School experience is very different from that offered by other schools or FE colleges. Learners spend time each week with a Personal Coach, who guides their success. As well as studying for core qualifications, students will be able to take part in enrichment activities to boost their attainment and broaden their skills.

Why a Studio School for Rye? The Rye Studio School will build on the strengths of its sister school, Rye College. This means that young people living in the Rye area and wishing to specialise in the arts post 16 will have a local choice. However, the Rye Studio School will serve a large catchment between Bexhill and Ashford.

The Hastings and Rother area is a hot spot for youth unemployment with a high number of 18 - 24 year olds claiming job seeker allowance. The Rye Studio School will help young people to develop the skills they need to be able to compete successfully within an increasingly competitive job market.

The creative industries are well represented in our region and are the only industries showing growth nationally. The Rye Studio School already has many arts organisations, local businesses and creative practitioners keen to be involved in its work with young people as well as our local universities. **Who will run the Rye Studio School?** The Rye Academy Trust, which already oversees the work of Rye College is the sponsor of the Rye Studio School. The Rye Studio School (like Rye College) will have its own Governing Body. The Rye Studio School will work closely with Rye College and will share some of its facilities.

Where will the Rye Studio School be situated? The Rye Studio School will be based on the campus of Rye College, alongside the Grove, on the site of the current music block. It will be given its own distinct area of the campus, fenced off from Rye College. Some additional car parking spaces will be provided on the tennis courts at the front of the school. A proposed plan of the site will be posted on this website as soon as it is available. **Calling Rye Old Scholars** If you would like to find out more about the Rye Studio School and ways in which you can contribute to our work, through mentoring or work placements or master classes, please visit our website www.ryestudioschool.co.uk. We especially welcome support for our work from Rye Old Scholars.

WEDDING CELEBRATION

Stacey Caister (nee Swaine, TPCC 2001-2006) married Gary Rens on 1st September at St. Mary's Church, Rye, followed by a reception at Udimore village hall. Gary, who is a sports coach at Buckswood School, Guestling, comes from Durban, South Africa, where they will be going in December for a belated honeymoon. Although Stacey no longer works at Buckswood, she continues her dance career and has recently re-located her dance school, Splitz Academy, to the Rye Sports Centre.

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FEBRUARY 24th KEVIN GRUNILL

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MARCH 24th JEAN MARTYN

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MAY 19th PHIL KELSALL M.B.E

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THE JACOBITE FESTIVAL OF FELLOWSHIP & FUN 2012

We gathered at the Top O' the Hill Inn, on a sunny Saturday in mid-May as we have gathered each year for lunch since 2005. We Jacobites (people of the tribe Jacob!!) are, by now, a diminishing number: a remnant from the far-off days of evacuation in Bedford. Yet those of us who are still reasonably fit and able, try to make the effort to attend the reunion, to renew friendships and to reminisce. Friendships made and retained over six or seven decades have a special quality, for we have much shared history, which we value.

Soon after 12 o'clock the bar began to fill up, as Jacobites from all points of the compass arrived and, after greetings, and lubricated by our drinks, the reminiscing and 'catching-up' began, pausing only to consult the menu and make our choice from the wide selection available.

During our conversations we heard news of contemporaries unable to be with us, but who sent greetings and good wishes. We were saddened to hear that George Roberts had recently died, his funeral having been attended two days earlier by several of those present at our reunion.

We were fewer in number this year – just 15 of us. Several 'regulars' were missing, including Len Allen, Norman Glass and Julia Fuggle. We were particularly sorry that Gordon Sexton was not with us to "whip us into line"! Unfortunately for Gordon he was unable to travel because he was recovering from hip-replacement surgery, but we remembered him and sent our best wishes for a satisfactory recovery. Barbara Anthony had hoped to be with us, but had sent apologies.

A new face at the lunch gathering was Lambert Parks. Lambert has moved back to Sussex from Cornwall, where he had lived for many years, so was able to attend. We wondered are there any others out there, who were at the school in the 40's – 50's, and who have not been to one of the Jacobite re-unions. If there are, do join us! Time passed quickly and soon it was time for the group photo, the good-byes and the promise to meet again next year on Saturday May 18th, 2013, venue to be confirmed. Those attending this year were: Peter Caister, Keith Cook, Bert Hacker, Ken and Audrey Howlett, Betty Law, Sue & Tony Moore, Helen Paige, Larry Parks, Alan Shearer, Keith Thompson, Ivor Walker, John Webb, Peter Webb



Make a note of the date Saturday May 18th 2013

Venue yet to be confirmed as the bulletin went to print

If you are interested PLEASE contact

**Gordon Sexton, 7 Kingswood Close,
Owlthorpe, Sheffield. S20 6SD.**

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Rye Memories Publication List

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

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FOLLOWING ON WITH OUR ACHIEVERS FROM THE LAST BULLETIN, HERE ARE ANOTHER TWO

Janette Lam (TPCC 2001/06) I went to Bexhill College to study 'A' level Media, IT & Photography, plus Psychology to 'AS' level, followed by a year at Hastings College for an Advanced Diploma in Travel & Tourism. In July this year I graduated from Buckinghamshire New University with a 2.1 degree in International Tourism Management in Air Travel. My placement was with Virgin Atlantic as a Customer Service Agent, which has lead to full-time employment with the airline in the same job. **Ryan O'Leary (TPCC 2001/06)** After studying 'A' level Philosophy, Psychology & English at Canterbury College, I completed a Law degree in July at Derby University. I am now going to start work experience at Maidstone Crown Prosecution Service.

WE WOULD LOVE TO DO A WHOLE PAGE FEATURE ON OUR ROSA ACHIEVERS IN THE NEXT BULLETIN, SO VERY PLEASD TO HEAR OF YOUR NEWS.

NEWS OF THE BOXALL CLAN

The Boxall family are proud to announce the arrival of Jago William Stanley Bruce, first son of Mark Bruce and Katie Bruce (nee Boxall). Katie has recently become a Doctor of Sociology and the whole family are very proud of her. This makes yours truly a Great Uncle which is marvellous but it also means my little brother, Gordon, is a Grandfather. Can you imagine Pixie as a Grandfather??

Gordon has emigrated to New Zealand (see last bulletin for his account) He is deeply embroiled in working for the New Zealand government to help those less fortunate. Thanks to the marvels of Skype he has been able to see his Grandson. My sister, Gill, another ex-scholar of RGS/Thomas Peacocke is happy and well in Australia, running a library for a school and contributing education ideas for the State of New South Wales, utilising all those years studying at school and then obtaining her Bachelor of Education degree at Eastbourne.

Meanwhile I am just wondering why my siblings have gone to the other side of the world, maybe it is my deodorant. For those interested I am still in the Timber business owning a Timber Agency in Frimley, Surrey. My favourite (and only) child is Christopher. He is now 16 and will be taking the acting world by storm in due course. He has just started 6th Form College and is enjoying studying his "A" levels, Drama, Eng Lit, Spanish and Philosophy. My wife, Catherine, works for a firm of Solicitors running their accounts department.

Wishing you all Health and Happiness, Geoff Boxall

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Ex-mayor's bit:

Having ceased to be Mayor of Rye in May, perhaps I no longer have to be a pillar of society and can let you into a few secrets about my misspent youth! Well, to be honest, not mine exactly, but those of some of my slightly older contemporaries. End-of-term rags, it seems, were pretty much an acceptable feature of school life at RGS in the 1950s but were most definitely banned after the last one in 1959.

The tradition was that a small, select group of sixth formers generally invaded the premises under cover of darkness the night before (usually after a party) and perpetrated some daring act such as placing a chamber pot or a pair of bloomers at the top of the flagpole or hanging toilet rolls to flutter from just about every projection on the School building. The object was clearly to entertain the rest of the School when they arrived for the last day of the summer term. On this last occasion they emptied every dustbin in the School, hauled them up on to the staff room roof parapet and weighted them down with bricks. A large letter was painted on each dustbin so that the whole row of bins spelled out "Room at the top" – an extremely risqué (at the time) X-rated film with a strong sexual content that was released in March that year. This caused some embarrassment to the staff but much merriment amongst the students. However, rumour has it that the main culprits were caught, caned and refused references.

It is hardly surprising that such practices were banned. I suppose the nearest thing to it nowadays is to do something silly to raise money for Comic Relief or Children in Need, both very worthy charities.

I am pleased to be able to say that over the past two or three decades the School has continued to do silly things for charity. One such event had several members of staff (including male staff) dressed as girls from St Trinians.

On the left is a picture from the Rye and Battle Observer of 14th July 1995 that shows deputy head George Hunt being pushed around the streets of Rye in an NHS hospital bed in order to raise money for the Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Care Centre.

Long may such silliness continue! Such fun, John Breeds.





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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

News and subscriptions go hand in hand in keeping the ROSA Bulletin alive. Can we remind you subscriptions are now £5.00 per annum . Life Membership at £25.00 has been maintained for many years now, which we think offers great value for money for a one-off payment

To keep our costs down we set and design the bulletin ourselves .

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

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NEWS DEADLINE FOR
BULLETIN 162
November 20th 2013

CHEERING NEWS ABOUT HOW ROSA ASSISTED WITH THE WOMEN'S TOWER PROJECT

Last Year former music students of Thomas Peacocke School held a truly wonderful concert in aid of local charities.

Half of the proceeds went to Rye Museum in what was then called the Women's Tower Appeal. The Museum was engaged in raising money to save this smaller tower in the grounds of the Castle/Ypres Tower which was in a parlous state and certainly wouldn't survive much longer. The Ypres Tower had been Rye's prison since the late fourteenth century, but a new Act of Parliament forbade the imprisoning of women with men so, in 1837, the year Queen Victoria came to the throne, a new tower was constructed for women prisoners who were sometimes accompanied by their children. With the monies collected by the Museum (which included three days of fantastic money-raising activities by students of Rye College under the direction of Mrs Chillingworth), grants were obtained from Rother District Council, Wealden and Rural Rother fund and the Heritage Lottery, in order to restore the building – as far as we know the only prison built for women still in its original form. The outside restoration of the walls and roof have just been completed and it look wonderful. Now work begins on the drainage and interior. The ground floor will be exhibition space and the upstairs will house the Museum archives.

The Museum and the Rye Partnership are in the process of providing a large education programme which was part of the bid and which will study the lives of women and children in Rye, focussing on four areas: the treatment of women and children in Victorian times, how women and children lived when the men were away at sea, the role of women and children in Rye's smuggling and understanding the experiences of women and children throughout World War II. The project will engage with the local community and visitors, old and new, in various ways.

New Volunteers are welcome and free training is available. Some of the ideas being developed are Reminiscence Workshops, Art Projects, A Recipe story book, Herb Courses, Drama workshops, Ghost Walks, Fashion Design, Traditional crafts, Museum Activities.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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