

RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION



BULLETIN 162 DECEMBER 2013

RALLYING TIMES

"Every little helps" as one of the larger supermarkets states, and, this has been the case with donations since last years plea for help, it has been encouraging.

Our annual challenge is to get the bulletin out by Christmas, however with a famine of news items in early November I moved the deadline back to 30th November in the hope to capture the verbal support of anyone and everyone that had some news. This led to, in true ROSA support style, a deluge of lyrical support, so much so, that the bulletin has been reduced a font size to squeeze everything in. For those who receive the bulletin electronically this may not be a problem, but you may need a good light and a keen wind for the paper version.

The ratio of reflective news of contemporaries lost seems high again, but its a golden opportunity to celebrate their lives and to see what and how they have achieved through their "living years". Without sounding like a major toy shop and stating that ObitsRUS it is nice to receive such reports and we also welcome a photo for future life testimonials. This was one of the reasons why I reduced the font size for this bulletin as people have been sending in some touching articles and it did not seem right to edit memories that should be shared and enjoyed by those who knew the person.

The ROSA group on Facebook is slowly expanding with bodies from the early 1960's via this medium but all are welcome to share photos or news.

For those old scholars of the 1970's and 80's I draw your attention to our own special reunion in October. Please support this event, I have a feeling it will be quite memorable.

Speaking of events, for those who enjoy the annual lunch we are returning to the delightful Mermaid Inn with a wonderful menu and good quality conversation on Friday 2nd May. 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. The bulletin editor will be in attendance with complementary jars for all those attending.

The place of senior education that we all attended has changed dimension again and we welcome our President Ann Cockerhams article about the new exciting developments. If you do find the time to forward any news to make Bulletin 163 a happier item it can be received at any time of the year, you may be inspired after reading this and think "I can do so much better than this", then, your the type of person we are wanting to hear from and welcome your words and gossip. The end of the box is fast approaching so just enough space to thank fellow Committee members in bringing together some of this news and to several old scholars that I needed to talk to on this occasion in finding out information etc, it has all been appreciated.

Wishing you the compliments of the Festive Season followed by a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2104. Best Wishes, Richard Moore

A PIECE FROM CLAIRE

Hello, and welcome once again to the ROSA bulletin for 2013. This year seems to have flown by, in fact, I am not sure where the time has gone. We hope that you enjoy the news and views contained within this year's bulletin. Thanks to those who were able to attend events that we have reported on in the bulletin, although, we often hear of satellite reunions of small groups, but do not get to hear of who attended. Please feel free to send this type of news item onto us for inclusion in future bulletins.

Upcoming for 2014 is a grand reunion for those who left college during the 70's and 80's, we hope that you will all attend and if you have any friends who aren't members please let them know as well, please see details inside the bulletin.

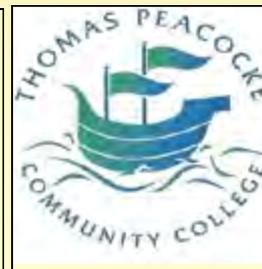
Unfortunately the website is still a work in progress but we have not given up on it. If anyone has any ideas or content please let us know. We remind members that the annual subscription for the bulletin is £5.00, alternatively we offer an incredible lifetime membership for a mere £25.00, full details of how to subscribe are on the back page.

As always we would like to extend our thanks to all our contributors and as always many thanks to Richard Moore for spending long hours collating all the news items received and producing our yearly bulletin, which I am sure would not be possible without him. Also, a big thank you to all our advertisers for their support, the proceeds of which goes towards the costs of producing the bulletin. Last but by no means least we send a big thank you to Ann Cockerham for her support together with the Governing body who work hard to continue the success of the college. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to everyone.



OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2013/2014

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NATIONAL RECOGNITION

It is always satisfying to learn of people that have given their time to the community and are recognised for their efforts over a period of time. None more so than in the New Years Honours of 2013 when two individuals known to Old Scholars were awarded the MBE.

Martin Hovenden was recognised for his services as a Special Constable clocking up some 20,000 hours. Martin has worked as a special constable since 1981 where he started in Rye, since then he has averaged 15-16 hours nearly every weekend. For the last 10 years he has been a front desk supervisor at Hastings. In addition he worked with the Police Cadets for 12 years inspiring many young people to choose policing as a career. Much of his time is spent supporting neighbourhood policing officers on regular operation in Hastings to keep the peace among those enjoying the town's night life.

Jo Kirkham On behalf of the Rye Old Scholars Association can we convey our sincere congratulations to Jo Kirkham a long standing pillar, nay column, nay huge tower of the Community in Rye for over 30 years. Jo was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours and has been a wonderful supporter of the Rye Wurlitzer and more recently the Rye Wurlitzer Academy. Jo has been Town Mayor, Town Councillor since 1971, President of the Rye Voluntary Services since founding it in 1979, Chairman of Rye Voluntary Action, Director of the Rye Partnership and member since 1998, Board member of the Wealden and Rother Rural Partnership, Community Governor at Rye College, Chairman of RGS Foundation Governors for 15 years and trustee for 33, Director of the young peoples charity "Animate", Chairman of the Rye Castle Museum Board and member of the Rye Museum Association for 43 years, Member of the Cinque Port Mayors Association since 1979, A member of Rye Singers for 40 years, Rye Conservation, Friends of Rye Library, Friends of St. Mary's and a member of their choir for 28 years, member of the Romney Marsh Research Trust and the Hastings Archaeological Group and in her spare time....!!!

A surprise gathering was organised by her daughter Tracy on January 6th at the River Haven Hotel. Family and friends were there and I just happened to make some commemorative jars of the fine sticky stuff. The award is justly deserved and Jo travelled up to Buckingham Palace on March 12th to collect her award with her supportive family



AN UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS AT RYE COLLEGE

Developments are happening at a pace in Rye, as we respond to the ever-changing landscape in education.

The Rye Academy Trust Rye College received good Ofsted reports in June 2010 and again in July 2013. The 2010 judgement meant that Rye College could convert to Academy status without a sponsor organisation. Governors took the decision to "convert" to Academy status because of the additional freedoms this gave and immediately seized upon the opportunity to set up *The Rye Multi Academy Trust* and sponsor another school in Rye for 14 – 19 Year olds, eager to pursue their dreams of a career within the creative industries.

Ann Cockerham has now taken on the role of Executive Principal, overseeing the work of Rye College and the Rye Studio School and working towards an application for a second Studio School in Rye by 2016, for young people aged 14 –19 who wish to pursue careers within the sport, leisure and tourism industries **Rye College** has grown from strength to strength.



In July 2013, it secured another good Ofsted report and last summer saw Year 11 students gain the best results that the school has ever had, beating all local comprehensive schools in Hastings and the Kent Border area. **Nicola Midgely** (formerly Vice Principal at Hayesbrook School in Kent) joined Rye College as its Head of School in September and looks forward to making it an outstanding school.



The Rye Studio School On its opening in September, the Rye Studio School, under the leadership of **Jo Townshend**, became one of 28 Studio Schools in the country and the only Studio School pan Sussex Surrey and Kent – really putting Rye on the map! We have been given a £2.4 million investment in a new building to house our Studio School. Our first few months has been spent in temporary accommodation across Rye: the former Adult Education Centre in Lion Street, the basement of the Methodist Church, The Community Centre and The Rye Club! We look forward to taking over our brand new building on the Rye College campus at the end of November. The Studio school experience relies not just on input from teachers but from those who work professionally in the creative industries and this term has seen students on a shoot for a new "Dove" commercial, shadowing the lighting and sound engineers at a Stereophonics concert at the Brighton Centre and touring the sets at Shepperton Studios and seeing every aspect of work involved in the making of a film. The Studio school experience enables young people to gain traditional qualifications alongside experience in the industry, giving them an advantage in an increasingly competitive jobs market. At 18, they can go on to university, an apprenticeship within the industry or set up their own business as a freelancer. If you have experience to bring to our Studio School, we would love to hear from you! For the first time in over a decade, young people have the opportunity to stay in Rye to complete their sixth form experience within a range of subjects to include Maths, English, the Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Production Arts.

The Milligan Theatre The Rye College Hall is becoming a small theatre that can still be used for school events in the day time and evenings throughout the year but will also stage concerts, plays etc. We have dedicated it to the memory of Spike Milligan and his daughter will be opening it in the Spring 2014. If you are able or willing to help by making donations that can be used in the refurbishment of the theatre, which will be "crewed" by students from the Rye Studio School, please contact Bernard Thomson on 01797 222545.

A Mini-reunion & Social gathering report Saturday 28th September 2013

Where was it? At Adrian Gumbley's gorgeous Goldilocks-and-the-Three-Bears house in the woods, or, more precisely, in his attractive barn/marquee, where he had a pig roasting, and an astonishing spread to go with it: potatoes, stuffing, apple sauce, assorted salads and yummy desserts/fruits/cheeses. Plus, of course, a good and eclectic selection of booze, which we'd all brought along.

Who was there? Adrian and his wife Janice of course. Plus a small but extremely select band consisting of Elizabeth Price (was Lewis), Cherry Tottenham and her partner Alan, Gilly Winterbottom, Alan Webber, Rob Nye and me, Lynne Morgan.

Lots of Adrian's and Janice's friends and neighbours were also there but after an initial flurry of trying to integrate we shamefully ignored them and concentrated on each other and our shared memories and photos. Adrian assured us they knew we'd come to meet up with each other, so wouldn't be taking it personally. Apologies were received from Tim Rothwell and his wife Libby, John Apps, Jane Burkin (was Kendall), Edwina (was Cottle), Roger Huxstep, and Richard Moore.

There was a brilliant 60s soundtrack too. Gerry & the Pacemakers' *How Do You Do What You Do To Me?* - aw, it all brings back so many memories. We didn't stop talking about the teachers, absent friends, each other, who we had fancied, who they had fancied when it wasn't us, who we'd gone out with, and who we'd snogged. It was all very undignified for people in their 60s. But of course in our heads and hearts we were 16. We also talked about the reasons some of us had been boarders, and these were not always happy.

We re-lived the regular train journeys many of us did along the Sussex coast at the beginning and end of every term, between school in Rye, and our homes in Bexhill, Newhaven, Brighton, Hove & Portslade. A brief time when Saltcote girls and Leasam boys were thrown together without supervision. A couple of Adrian's friends asked if it was like the Hogwarts Express, and we thought there were indeed many similarities.... We had lots of photos of school plays: Macbeth, Androcles & the Lion, The Crucible, The Lady's Not For Burning, even if we didn't know which photos were which. Apart from the ones with a lion in. Who was inside that costume I wonder? We also had photos of the school cruise on the Dunera - remember that, those of us who were lucky enough to be able to go? Visiting the Acropolis in Athens, the Blue Mosque and the market in Istanbul, an ice cream parlour in Venice, Corfu.....

Elizabeth (Liz) and Lynne stayed in a local (delightful, quirky, beautiful views, stunning breakfast) B&B, and on the Sunday the two of us and Gilly went on to visit Sue Confavreux (was Palmer) who as many of you know, is being cared for in a nursing home. Tragically, after many years of battling with rheumatoid arthritis, but still bringing up her daughter as well as reaching the upper echelons of the nursing ladder, Sue was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease in 2010, and deteriorated rapidly, so that now she hardly moves or communicates.

After we'd visited Sue, we went back to her husband André's home, where he had made us a delicious salad lunch. He is so appreciative that Sue isn't forgotten.



Later in the week, Tim Rothwell and Libby met up with Carol Pegg (was Springford) and her husband Geoff for dinner in Richmond. So, you see, reunions can happen across a number of days and places, and between various configurations of people.

Those of you who 'do' Facebook, do join us on the Rye Old Scholars' Association page where we banter and chat and post photos and memories. Richard, any chance (as you're the Group Administrator) of re-naming this as the zappier 'ROSA'? . Would love to Lynne, please send me written instruction of how to change this.

Here's to on-going and future friendships between those of us who shared these important and formative years and experiences. For myself, it feels very precious to be re-connecting and making new connections with those of you who shared this time with me. Many thanks to Adrian Gumbley and Janice for making this brilliant event happen. Thanks to Lynne Morgan for this piece

MEMORIES OF CYRIL BARDEN

It is with sadness we report the death of Cyril Barden of Pett, a long standing member of this Committee who passed away on 22nd July at Bury St Edmunds. Cyril was born in Pett in 1922, the eldest of three siblings, into a family who were fairly prosperous at the beginning of the 20th century. He was sent to Rye Grammar School in the early '30s (a contemporary of Winnie Allen and Will Dunlop), and in those days the only way he was expected to get there was by bike. He cycled from Pett, along the Level and across the marsh to Rye and back, every day he attended school. He was a pretty average pupil by all accounts, but fortunately he was able to join the family firm on leaving school. However, following the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the RAF in 1942 and went to South Africa for training. He travelled there by boat, so it was not until training was underway that Cyril realized he was terrified of flying – not a useful asset in the RAF. He returned to the family business in 1944 – but never, ever flew in a plane again! In 1949 he married Brenda and they had two daughters, Marilyn and Gillian, but in 1954 Cyril was diagnosed with tuberculosis, which in those days was a killer. Fortunately, the cure was timely in its discovery as far as Cyril was concerned. Although Bardens had been working in Pett and surrounding villages as wheelwrights and blacksmiths since at least 1765, Barden & Sons was only established in 1858 as builders, decorators and funeral directors. As Cyril would say 'we house them above and below ground'. Cyril and his brother and cousin were the last generation to run the family business which was sold in the 1980s. Cyril's daughters were also schooled in Rye and he was a great supporter of their school fundraising events, and following this and during retirement, he began an active role in the Old Scholar's Association. Cyril never had any real hobbies as such – he just loved being with people and was Chairman of the local branch of The Builders' Federation and President of the Rotary Club of Rye and Winchelsea where he got great pleasure from fundraising for charitable causes. He will be remembered as a charming man and for his sense of fun and wit. His last wish was to be scattered at Rye, of where he had many happy memories.



ANOTHER YEAR OF FUND RAISING BY TIM JURY

We have pleased to have reported on Tim's great charity work in the past and this year is no exception. Amongst Tim's achievements this year included a 78 mile cycle ride to London to celebrate his 60th birthday.

Other efforts included the London Marathon in a chicken outfit and running the 69 mile length of Hadrian's Wall.

Tim has spent most of his life raising money for Farm Africa and amounted the wonderful sum of £100,00 to date. He was first taken by the project after a BBC report by Michael Buerke in 1984 and since this time has worked tirelessly for the cause.

THOUGHTS FOR MARGARET

Our condolences go out to ROSA Committee member Margaret O'Neil and her family who tragically lost her husband in a house fire earlier in the year.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON SEXTON

Gordon has been a prolific supporter of ROSA over the years and as an association we must continue this enthusiasm he created by maintaining the Annual Lunch as part of our social calendar. What better way to acknowledge the passing of this wonderful character than words from his daughter Julia Green.

Friends and family have told me many different stories about my dad. From listening to them I have learnt much more about him and what he meant to different people. Many people have said the same thing that my dad had been a kind, loyal and generous gentleman whom they would miss.

As with all good stories it is best to start at the beginning. My dad was born on 16 November in 1930 and was the third of four boys born to Frederick and Winnie Sexton. He was born in 10 Gordon Square, Birchington On Sea in Kent. I had assumed that the street name had inspired what he was named but I was wrong. My grandmother had much higher aspirations for my dad. She didn't name him after a mere street name; she named him after General Gordon of Khartoum fame. Her high aspirations also influenced my dad's christening. My dad was in fact christened twice. Firstly he was "dedicated" in the Baptist church favoured by my Grandfather's mother. However my Grandmother was not sure that this was as good a start as a baptism in the Methodist church. So consequently she decided that she would have him baptised in the local Methodist church as well.

My dad claimed not to remember much about his primary education, joking that he had eliminated all his unhappy memories. What he did recall vividly of his childhood was being able to wander all over the local countryside quite freely and the adventures he and his brothers were involved in. One game he especially enjoyed playing was cricket although he admitted that the aim in this game was to hit the ball into the allotments which would then enable him to go and search for the ball whilst picking and eating the gooseberries from the allotment.

In 1939 when war was declared my grandmother packed up the whole family to stay in Bedford where she had family. This enabled her to avoid sending her boys away as evacuees. My dad by this time had a place at Rye Grammar School and continued his education there lodging with the maths teacher. He would joke that lodging with a teacher meant that he was never able to get away with not doing his homework. School friends have also commented that they remember him being a keen footballer. His associations with this school continued throughout his life and he was a key organiser for the school reunions and only recently had been in contact with his school friends about a reunion for next May.

On leaving school my dad started a career as a draughtsman for the Igranic in Bedford. This was interrupted by National Service where he served in the Royal Air force and was involved in radar, especially enjoying the privileges that radar operators were given such as lie ins and exemptions from bunk inspections.

My dad also became involved in singing in the Male Voice Evangelical choir. This was to be a lasting commitment as he was involved in singing in choirs in Bedford and in the Cotswolds.

My dad joined the National Young Life Campaign where he was to form many strong lasting friendships including meeting my mum Jean and they married in 1956. I was born in 1970 and a few years later my dad and mum moved to live in Sharnbrook in my mum's family's home. When my dad was made redundant from the Igranic he worked at Sharnbrook Upper School creatively using his practical and technical skills as part of the technician team.

In 1989 my mum died after a long battle with cancer. This hit my dad hard but he stoically carried on without her. Later dad used his experience of widowhood and coping with loss to support others going through this experience themselves.

It had been my mum and dad's dream to retire to the Cotswolds and in the early 90s my dad moved there to Shipton-Under Wychwood. Here he joined the technical team at Wood Green Secondary School and became actively involved in the local Baptist church. Recently someone from that church referred to my dad as "one of the most sincere and kindest men we have ever known in our circle." When my dad retired from Wood Green Secondary School, the Head teacher wrote that they thought that my dad had proved that the phrase "no one is indispensable" to be untrue. In fact when my dad left that job they advertised for three people to replace him to cover all the aspects of the work he had done.

In response to hearing that he was to become a granddad, in 2001 my dad decided to leave the Cotswolds and relocate to Sheffield to be nearer to myself and my husband Simon. My dad was delighted with his move to Sheffield, especially with his bungalow in Owlthorpe and the kindness of his neighbours there.

He made the most of his retirement, offering his time to support the work of Sheffield Talking News which he became passionately involved in. He attended Frecheville Methodist Church and in a recent letter to me was referred to by a member of that church as being a loyal, helpful friend and a "perfect gentleman" who would be missed very much.

My dad also made the most of his retirement in spending it with us as a family. He loved to play with his grandchildren and supported them by coming to their school assemblies, taking them to swimming lessons as well as helping me (or rather doing it for me whilst I made him a cup of tea) with D.I.Y. tasks around the house.

And so now to bring my dad's story to a close. It seems my grandmother was right to have high aspirations for my dad. He lived his life dynamically and with purpose and seems to have touched many people's lives in a positive way. I am glad that I got to spend so much time with him and that we were close. He helped me to remember that the precious things in life are not things.



MAYORS GALORE ROSA seem to be well represented in the field of local Mayors and dignitaries with a trio currently in office. Congratulations goes to **Shaun Rogers** and **Bernadine Fiddimore** for a second term of office at Rye. Winchelsea Mayor **Stephen Turner** took office in March. Rye boats one of the most colourful civic ceremonies in the country and Mayor Making always draws in the crowds. The ancient custom of children scrambling for hot pennies still remains popular.

NEWS OF SALLY-ANNE WILSON Music teacher supreme Lois Benton bumped into Sally whilst in the area recently and reports on her news. Studied at the University of East Anglia and still lives in East Anglia. After training in BBC radio she spent 20 years as a factual TV producer/director for the BBC, Granada and Discovery. From 1998-2001 she managed international broadcast output. Joined the CBA in 2001 to set up the CBA-DfFD Broadcast media Scheme and was project director for nine years. In October 2010 she became Secretary General of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association

A REFLECTION FROM HELEN VAUGHAN (NEE GAGE) Helen made us aware of the passing of her brother John and a tribute is included in this bulletin. However in her lovely letter Helen drafted with, I keep in touch with Sybil Burgess (nee Warner), Margery Wise and Jane Clarke. Helen enjoyed reading the 2012 bulletin and remembered names but not faces as its 60 years since she left RGS. She lost her husband in 2009 after 51 years of marriage. She retired from nursing in 1997. She has three children and six grand children.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR STUDENTS OF THE 1970 & 1980'S

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH 2014

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

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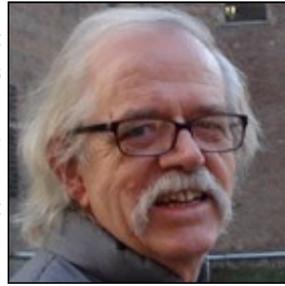
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IN AID OF THE RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

Please be there to support the future of this wonderful association

MEMORIES OF JOHN GAGE

John Gage, who has died aged 73, was an art historian whose incisive intelligence and deep commitment to exploring the significance of colour in painting made him one of the most original and important figures working in the field. His magisterial book on understandings of colour in western art, *Colour and Culture: Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction* (1993), has become a standard work of reference. The fruit of the better part of a lifetime's work, it has found a wide audience well outside the field of art history, and has been translated into five languages. John also wrote groundbreaking studies on Turner that transformed our understanding of this artist's approach to painting, showing how its vivid visual qualities do not speak just to the eye, but address both eye and mind in a way that is rich with symbolic and cultural meaning. Born in Bromley, Kent, John went to Rye grammar school, and then to Queen's College, Oxford, to study modern history. He was one of those obstinately independent students whose commitment to the life of the mind led him to neglect standard academic study, and he left with a third-class degree in 1960. His time at Oxford was interrupted by periods working as a freelance English tutor in Florence and an English assistant at a school in Hessen, Germany, experiences that shaped the European perspective he brought to the study of British Romantic art. On leaving Oxford for London, he took up the study of art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art, eventually writing a dissertation on Turner, supervised by Michael Kitson. Supporting himself on a variety of jobs, ranging from dish-washing to part-time lecturing, he completed his PhD in 1967. From 1967 until 1979, John taught in the history of art department at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. In 1978 he married Penelope Kenrick, and in 1981 they had a daughter, Charlotte. In 1979 he took up a position in the department of history of art at Cambridge, and became reader in the history of western art in 1995. In that year he was made a fellow of the British Academy. He retired from teaching, but not from scholarship, in 2000, and settled in Italy, fixing up an old farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside. He continued writing as well as curating exhibitions, and embarked on a new book on Australian Aboriginal art. He often remarked that a proper study of colour had to be anthropological as much as historical in nature. John made his mark with the book *Colour in Turner: Poetry and Truth* (1969), published shortly after completing his PhD.



Norman "Nodge" Godden was stimulated so much by a nostalgic re-read of the last bulletin that he sent through a donation—thanks Norman. Norman was an ex cricket captain and head boy in the early 1950's. The bulletin refreshes happy memories not only of fellow students John Farrow, Geoff Simmons, Bernard Baker, Dudley Clayson, Helen Page (nee Gill), Ruth Arnold, Keith Thompson but also of teaching staff such as S.H. Allnut (Sid), Headmaster A.R. Jacobs, Miss Tuner (Matt) and many more. Norman treasures the bulletin. Norman married a girl from Essex (they met on the London underground) and have five children. Norman still has a deep affection for East Sussex, especially Rye and the surrounding area, but work and business took him north and is still involved in a large manufacturing company on a five acre smallholding in Cheshire.

A SNIPPET FROM NORMAN.

Norman "Nodge" Godden was stimulated so much by a nostalgic re-read of the last bulletin that he sent through a donation—thanks Norman. Norman was an ex cricket captain and head boy in the early 1950's. The bulletin refreshes happy memories not only of fellow students John Farrow, Geoff Simmons, Bernard Baker, Dudley Clayson, Helen Page (nee Gill), Ruth Arnold, Keith Thompson but also of teaching staff such as S.H. Allnut (Sid), Headmaster A.R. Jacobs, Miss Tuner (Matt) and many more. Norman treasures the bulletin. Norman married a girl from Essex (they met on the London underground) and have five children. Norman still has a deep affection for East Sussex, especially Rye and the surrounding area, but work and business took him north and is still involved in a large manufacturing company on a five acre smallholding in Cheshire.

MEMORIES OF MARGARET BIRD NEE BOURNE 1951-1957

It is with great sadness we report the passing of our eldest sister Maggi on October 12th 2013, from cancer.

Maggi was the first of the family to join RGS in 1951 and set us all a high standard. She excelled at all sports, became Captain of Meryon House and was also a gifted mathematician, enjoying good results under the tutelage of Gus Alnutt, in the old infamous ATC hut.

Maggi left RGS in 1957 for a life long career with Arthur Guinness and United Distillers. Initially as a junior Statistician at Park Royal, progressing to Head of Department, later being promoted to Financial Director for United Distillers in Asia Pacific. Ex colleagues have written referring to Maggi as capable, professional and an influential leader.

Following retirement in 1994 Maggi took on the challenge of landscaping a large garden at her home in Hinchley Wood, learnt to play Bridge, enjoyed deep sea fishing off the Kenyan Coast and joined a walking group. Maggie's cats, Burmese and Abyssinian, were important companions in her retirement, as were her family. We were delighted she joined us at the end of August for a family party in Iden, all 90 of us. Maggi's husband David died in 2010.

Janet, Graham, Eric, Roy & Christine.





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RYE CRICKET CLUB 1754

260th Season

Last season Rye Cricket Club truly celebrated an incredible 260th season. With many in the club who were old scholars of Rye College or present day scholars. The Colts section went to Ashford Town Cricket Club, to the Ashford and District Cricket League presentation evening where the U12s finished runners up, but both the U14 Blacks and the U16s received their respective league trophies, the U14 Reds were fourth and Harry Smeed received the U16 Batting trophy. (Photo below)



On September 7th over a 100 people attended the Rye Awards evening on the Cricket Salts. There were thanks to all the helpers, in particular the sponsors of the club of which there were over forty this year. The evening reflected on the Colts triumphs and the individual awards for batting, bowling and fielding to each of the 4 colts teams. Then the Seniors celebrated the 1st XI winning Division 1 and promotion to the County League, but also on Saturday the 3rd XI defeating Seaford to win Division 12 as well. Individual awards went to; Players of the Year: 1st Alfie Weller 2nd Ben Clifton 3rd Ross Peirce 4th Joe Fraser. Individual performances were Martin Blincow the leading wicket taker in Division 1 with 41 wickets, closely followed by Harry Smeed with 38, Sandun Dias with 812 runs, James Hamilton with 717 runs and Alfie Weller with 23 catches as the leading wicket keeper in the league. Both Ben Clifton and Ed Jury hit maiden centuries and Craig Pierce the best bowling return of 8-21.

The Clubman of the Year award went to the Committee, who with the support of all the members had produced a fantastic year of cricket: The Lashings game – 210 for lunch – 1000 spectators .MCC fixture Bat & Trap night for 160 people. Over 130 games of cricket for 4 Saturday teams, a T20 team, a Midweek team, 5 Colts sides. A Winter and Summer Coaching programme for 70 colts and elevation to the County League for the first time. Pictured are the 1st XI at Hove County Ground where they competed in the Champions League Day and Martin Blincow took a hat trick.



In fact by the time this article is read the committee will already have met to plan for 2014. A season everyone is already eagerly awaiting. A season which starts on February 11th and 13th in 2014 when the Winter Coaching starts at the Rye Sports Centre.

If you would like to be involved in this community based club then look at www.ryecc.play-cricket.com for more information and contact details.

RGS FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

"Rye Grammar School Exhibition Foundation Governors" as the body is officially named meet twice a year to consider applications for assistance from individual students, groups of students and from Rye College and now Rye Studio School. The Foundation Governors have modest funds to distribute, by the constitution being the earnings from their investments on an annual basis, but would still like to see more applications for assistance to ensure as many students are offered support as possible. At their last meeting in November the Governors welcomed the support of the Rye Academy Trust to help promote the work of the Governors and widen the knowledge of their work and opportunities offered within the school community. Some old scholars indeed will remember Foundation Governors through prizes they may have won over the years for various achievements at school, but may not be aware that the body is at least over 300 years old and is managing legacies from such prominent names as Dunlop, Meryon, Jenkins, Prentice, Molyneux and Turner. Indeed in the 1800s the body was known as the Saunders and Meryon Charity.

This coming year the Foundation Governors will be reviewing the constitution, not in terms of its core support, for which they stand true to the founders wishes, but in bringing the 1930 constitution up to date in terms of the scope of the students supported, now we have the Academy Trust and two secondary age schools in Rye, but also in the constitution of the Board, to which we hope to invite the Chairman of ROSA to become a standing member. The Foundation Governors would welcome the support of ROSA to promote its work and to consider their own legacy in the future by considering prize funds or specific works of support to be managed in perpetuity in their name. This could also include donations by individuals for something which is of special interest to them. The Governors are always thrilled to hear of the achievements of our students and to support their chosen focus of study or out of school activity where otherwise lack of funds would prohibit their involvement.

Examples of financial support given are support towards travel and/or attendance costs at national or international sport events or conferences, specific pieces of equipment for a range of activities, regular grants to the LRC (Library) for specific books and learning materials, prize funds, supporting Parent and Student activities, providing a uniform fund for emergency support, etc.

For more information about the Charity please contact the Clerk to the Foundation Governors, Tracy Masters, via the College in writing, by phone on 01424 756696 or email tracy@tracymasters.com.

REMEMBERING HILDA HORTON

Hilda was born in Battle and spent a happy childhood in Rye Harbour with her parents and sister Phyllis. After attending RGS and a short stay in Birmingham she returned to Rye and worked at Winters Dairies and Rother Ironworks here she met Robert from Icklesham and were married at Rye in December 1944. Bob went overseas with the RAF. After the war and two children Hilda started work at Winchelsea Post office where she stayed until well into her 70's and was always cheerful and highly respected. They moved to Icklesham and became highly involved with the life of this village. Old Time Dancing, Cricket, Stoolball, Making Cakes kept them both busy. Sadly Bob passed away in 1989. Eventually Hilda moved to the Five Villages House and carried on being active with raffles and the Mini Bus Club. Hilda passed away on April 24th and is now reunited with Bob in Icklesham churchyard.

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2013 ANOTHER YEAR GOES BY, Tim Phillips

I can not believe another year has past by so quickly. It has been an exciting one, with some very sad moments too. One of the highlights has to be headlining for the third time, at the Hastings Beer and Music Festival in front of 6000 people, with the Hastings Round Table raising over £70.000 for local charities. Some of the old scholars met up at Rye Maritime Festival this year, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon down by the Strand, it was so nice to see Janet Barrow, haven't seen her for over 30 years, so we had lots of catching up to do. I have had some great fun fishing with friends, including the World dab fishing competition, held every year at Dungeness, in aid of the RNLI and advice from Willie Wickens did not make us World Champions.



My work with the ARRCC fishing club has been a pleasure, with plenty of great days spent by the riverside, with everyone catching plenty of fish. The year started with the sad loss of Tim Rook, a good friend and Rye face, who lost his battle to cancer, later on in the year, Tim's son Dale join us on stage at Rye College, for the Oliver Curd Trust's, Rocktober gig, he played his dad's guitar as a tribute to him, he had myself and many others in tears. Well done Dale. The band just seems to get better every year, with rehearsals starting early, for our 1970's set for HBMF, and the ever popular Beatles Days at the White Rock Theatre. Time just seems to fly by; I've had the great pleasure working with the lads who always amaze me with there knowledge of music, also Hana Smyth, Sam Calver and Brit award winner, Blair truly amazing people. The Entertainments Workshop Crew, Paul and Michael Bryns, also had us playing at their Charity Ball along side Nick Van Edd, from the Cutting Crew, and the Cheeky Girls, one of the our best nights of the year, again raising lots of money for their Charity. Back to fishing at ARRCC fishing club, had some great days out down at North Point Camber and at Iden Wood Fishery, with everyone catching plenty of fish and generally taking the Mickey out of each other, Great Time's. My own fishing has had to take a back seat for the moment, as late night finishing with the band and early morning matches do not mix too well. But the Rye and District Angling Club has never been stronger, with Derek Willis and Andy Ashdown at its helm. I have had some interesting coaching days, working with youth groups at Hailsham and at Wylands, Battle, this I found so rewarding. I was even asked to do a lecture at Hastings Collage, only last week, on the benefits of angling in the community, it went down very well, who would of thought it? And very enjoyable it was too.

My Grandchildren have keep me young, I have managed to spend a lot of the summer with them, with trips down to Pett Level, rock pooling and wood walks in Beckley, so nice to be able to share things my parents used to do with me in the good old days lol . Some of the class of 76, Maryon Luck, Julie Cox, John Masters, Hugh Bell, Mark Sherwood, Lenny Hollands, Steve Howe, Gary Walker, Nick Warne, Paul Heskett, will be meeting up soon to catch up on the year, why not join us next year at the Two Sawyers. Other highlights of the year are, Beatles Day 13, Battle Big Weekend, Fire walking for McMillan, EW Ball, Hastings Beer and Music Festival, Bexhill Carnival, Glastonferry for ARRCC, Rocktober for Oliver Curd Trust, Local gigs at The Ypres and Pipesmakers Arms in Rye, our drummers, Graham Sargent's wedding to Becky Haywood, Rick our Guitarists wedding to Heidi Mephram, and a lovely holiday in Egypt with my girlfriend Helen and her family. Being in the band means I get to meet some fantastic people, old and new friends keep popping up. I Met Debrora Meldrum, only a few weeks ago, another old school friend who will hopefully be joining us at our old git together each year, Mick Martin keeps in touch from France and hopefully will be over next year for a knees up and a few beers?

Another very good friend and Rye's own David Robertson, passed away last month. He will be dearly missed; I have so many fond memories from our younger days, playing darts in the Rye Super League, and many an hour fishing, RIP Robbo. To finish on a high note, The 1066 Rockitmen will be playing on New Years Eve at RYE COLLEGE (Milligan's Theatre). It's the party to be at, so let's see the New Year in with a bang. Tickets are on sale, £10 each from Grammar School Records, Rye High Street. As the year comes to an end, the diary is getting filled for next year (no rest for the wicked). I will ask you all please remember, to enjoy your life to the full, help others and remember you only have one life, SO LIVE IT! Best Wishes Tim Phillips.

MEMORIES OF GEORGE ROBERTS 1929—2012 IN THE EYES OF CLOSE LIFE LONG FRIEND ALAN SHEARER

The bulletin deadline and the content of this eulogy failed to be included in the last bulletin. When Alan first emailed it to me I thought I would need to edit a fair bit for it to fit, but as I read it I was intrigued with how George's life was reported and a way of life that shows true grit, determination and hard work should be an example to younger old scholars who should come across this bulletin, whether now or in the future. It also shows a true example of life long friendships that we make at school, and for those reading this bulletin we have been blessed with making these friendships at Rye, whichever decade it maybe.

George was born in Icklesham at the height of the first great depression. His father was a farm labourer and at that time a farm labourer was one of the lowest paid people in the country side and yet at the same time the most qualified. They could milk a cow, lay a hedge, work the great draught horses, thatch or build hay and corn stacks etc. So although money was very tight George thrived in this environment. He helped Reg Jury on his small dairy farm milking a few cows before school, weekends and holidays he helped his uncle Gorge Burt to make hurdles and spiles and he was even allowed to leave school early on certain occasions to help butcher Bryant when he was slaughtering an animal from the market.

George was the youngest of a double family and he had a very special relationship with his mother which was to last throughout their lives. She was determined George should go on to better things and when he passed the scholarship her dreams were realized. Working class children weren't expected to pass the eleven plus and when they did they could rarely afford to take up the opportunities. The squire of Icklesham at that time (according to George) visited the school and remonstrated with the head mistress for pushing her bright pupils, he said she was depriving the local farmers and the neighbourhood of the best of the young generation. George's Mum had no illusions however, she worked every possible hour at every available job from hop training to picking potatoes and fruit, and it was at this time that George and I first met. As the family have been told so many times by George, on the railway Station at Rye bidding farewell to our parents en route to evacuation in Bedford. We became good friends, a friendship that was to last a lifetime!!

George did well at school and especially at cricket and football, gaining his colours in both sports. He was very competitive and it sometimes made him a bit unpopular. I remember much later on when the school had returned to Rye, George and I opened the batting against Ashford Grammar School. I ran him out in the first over and he was furious, he didn't speak to me for a week. George passed his School Cert and the Headmaster realizing his potential secured him a place on the Kent River Board with the option of training to be an Engineer. George accepted day release to Brighton and this entailed arriving back in Ore Station too late for the last bus to Icklesham. He did the long walk from Ore to Icklesham for some three years and after qualifying and passing his exams he was called up for Nat. Service. He served his two years mainly in the Med. In the Royal Engineers. On his return he once again settled down in Rye as a very junior engineer. Then came a wonderful opportunity for George, the East Coast Floods.. George was seconded to help clear up the dreadful mess and build new coastal defences. He travelled daily to Birchington (seven days a week- on his motorbike) and in eighteen months he learned more about his job than most other engineers would learn in a life time. Somehow he found time to court and marry Ann and they moved into Scots Float at Playden. They had two daughters Judy and Sheila and as he earned promotion they moved to a new house at Winchelsea Beach.

As he moved into higher circles and grew too old to play cricket he took up golf, joined Rye Golf Club and made many lasting friendships. He also gave up football but took up refereeing and knowing because of his competitive nature some of the more unsavoury aspects of playing football he made a very good ref. His elder daughter Judy took her degree in Sheffield where she met her husband. married and settled down to a teaching career in the Sheffield area. His second daughter Shelia married and produced two grandchildren Steven and Stacey. All was going well for George and he was promoted to the top job of Area Engineer the post he held for several years. Finally George retired and moved back to his native Icklesham and settled down to gardening and family life. Then disaster struck Sheila died at her home in a sudden and tragic accident. This brought George and Ann very close to their grandchildren Steven and Stacey which was to prove a god send later. Still recovering from Sheila's loss Ann's sight began to fail and within months she was declared clinically blind, although she maintained slight peripheral vision and found her way about wonderfully in familiar surroundings. George now devoted his time to looking after Ann and his garden and making things in his work shop notably three full size grand father clocks. To help things at this time they were presented with two great grandchildren which gave them great pleasure. Then came the final blow Ann was diagnosed with the big C. George and his family worked tirelessly to look after her during those last few months. It was only last August that I stood here at Ann's farewell, George sat in the front pew with new batteries in his hearing aid listening intently to insure I got every detail right Alas when he returned home he gave up on the garden and he moved into a care home where despite expert care he went steadily down hill. The arrival of a third great grandchild cheered him up considerably but not quite enough. I don't think there is any medical diagnosis for a broken heart but I am sure there is a mental attitude which breaks the spirit, George just seemed to give up as he couldn't cope without Ann.



REBEKAH VISITS ABBEY ROAD



Local songstress and now a key figure in the running of the new Studio School Rebekah Gilbert had great fun recently working with international musician and composer Michel Duvoison who now lives in Rye. They recorded the soundtrack for the autobiographical documentary of and with Tony Benn at Abbey Road Studios last month. Michel was thrilled to have Rebehak Gilbert, Sally Bayley and Caroline Jones singing on the soundtrack. This was their second such project working together, the previous having won international awards.

REMEMBERING CHRISTINE SLACK (NEE ODELL) 1943-2013

Chris's sudden death came as a huge shock to her family and friends, especially as she had been visiting her sister Margery in Rye earlier that day, appearing to be in good health. After leaving school and completing her teaching training at Salisbury, Chris married in 1967.

Following a few years of teaching, she later combined raising a family with part time work as a Playgroup Supervisor in Billericay, Essex and later in retails after a move to Cambridge. She led a full and happy life, having a wide circle of friends. Camping and caravanning holidays were fitted in whenever possible as well as overseas holidays, including several visits to her younger sister, Eileen and family in Australia. Retirement in Fakenham, Norfolk was full of fun with folk dancing a regular pastime along with grand parenting duties. Chris is survived by her husband, two children and five grandchildren and will be sadly missed by all

THE TRAGIS LOSS OF BEN CURTIS Through the bulletin school friends may like to remember Ben who gave everyone the time of day. Ben's car was found at the foot of Beachy Head at the end of July. He was living in Seaford at the time as a labourer with his girlfriend of 10 years but regularly visited his mother, brother Gary and sister Lucy. He was 33 at the time.

THE ROSA LUNCH 2013

This year's lunch was held at the delightful Mermaid Inn where Judith Blincow our fine upstanding Secretary put on a superb lunch that was enjoyed by all. The whole event flowed well, so well in fact that a photo of this auspicious occasion was not taken. Those attending included our President Ann Cockerham with husband Andrew, Richard Moore, Judith Blincow, Sue and Tony Moore, Helen Paige, Maureen Gage, Geoff Boxall, Barry Fuller, Gillian Winterbottom, Maureen Getley, Neil Perry, Jim Holmes, Janet Holmes, Tim Rothwell, Libby Rothwell Maureen Gage Alan Sheare, Prof Bellhouse, Gay Hardiman, Julia Fuggle & Bertie Hacker. Bulletin Editor made a vote of thanks to our host and presented all those attending with a jar of marmalade. The purpose of the lunch was to pickup and forgot a tradition that Gordon Sexton had arranged and been associated with for many years. It is hoped that the 2014 lunch on Friday May 2nd at the Mermaid Inn has a few more attending to secure it as an ongoing annual event.

Why not join us in the wonderful atmosphere of the **Mermaid Inn Restaurant** on **Friday 2nd May** for our **ROSA 2014 Lunch**. To register your interest and place please contact Richard Moore (01424) 444058 or email r.fm@btopenworld.com who will forward a menu to select from. **The 3 course lunch** will be **£19.95 per person. 12 noon for 12.30pm**



MEMORIES FROM ERROL GIRDLESTONE (RGS 1955- 1962)

Errol is a brilliant musician who won a place at Oxford University and, for a while afterwards, was Chorus Master at Sadler's Wells. He obtained his ARCO with distinction when in the sixth form at RGS and was one of the first to play our famous Wurlitzer. He now lives in the South of France. When the Rye Church Clock was repaired I sent him an email asking if he could remember the night the original clock works broke (I was sleeping at my gran's in Lion Street at the time and heard the Clock strike thirteen and three-quarters!)

"Of course I remember winding the church clock. In actual fact I don't think I was ever officially in charge of it (or was I?) but I do remember Charlie Knowles and Tony Pape doing it and I used to deputise. I only have a vague recollection of the incident to which you refer, but a clearer one of being frightfully late for school one morning and being met by an irate Mr. Jacobs at the school gate. Exactly what he was doing there I have absolutely no idea but it felt as though he was waiting for me with specific intent to administer immediate corrective punishment - it certainly wouldn't have been the first time I had been late : three, five minutes : but this was a stylish half an hour so I really thought I was for the chop.

"And what do you think you've been doing, Girdlestone?" "Winding the church clock, sir" says I, beaming and brandishing the substantial church key which I luckily happened to have on me. "Well, the townspeople wouldn't want the clock to stop" says Jacobs, with an even bigger smile, beaming from ear to ear. "That's a very good reason. Run along now Girdlestone. Tell your teacher you had my permission." Clearly RGS had saved the situation and the honour of Rye!

But the best was after old Bill May had died, and I had to play the organ for assembly every morning. Miss Dann was acting headmistress and hated the way I would sidle in during prayers always a few minutes late onto the organ bench... just in time to play the hymn. I got away with it for months until one day she confiscated the hymn-book, hoping to show me up. Unfortunately for her I knew the hymn by heart (who didn't - Dear Lord and father of mankind?) so stymied her little scheme. The only thing was I didn't know how many verses to play, so kept an eagle eye on the bored faces around me and, judging from the premature closing of books and stifled yawns, knew when to stop. She was livid and called me into the office for a dressing-down, but I sensed that despite herself she admired my gall and adroitness. **John Breeds.**

MEMORIES OF PAUL WILLIAMS

The ROSA Committee are saddened to learn of the passing of local florist and fruiter Paul Williams who along with his brother Keith have been great supporters of ROSA over the years. The Rye Observer recently reported as follows. A well loved Rye man's legacy has enabled St Michael's Hospice to fully furnish two rooms. Marie Williams and daughters Amanda and Laura, presented a cheque to the hospice for £3,556.45 in memory of Paul who ran Sweet Williams green-grocer and florist for 30 years.

Paul, who was 48 was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in March 2012. He was a real Ryer who raised money for numerous charities by running the Hastings half marathon and the local cycling 'tour de Romney Marsh'. On Christmas Day Paul would give up his morning raising money for the Rye fire brigade dressed as Father Christmas delivering presents to the children of Rye. Paul was a sports enthusiast who always kept himself fit and loved cycling, skiing, squash and circuit training.

Marie said: "Paul had such drive and determination and the fact his own customers, let alone friends and family, describe him as "funny, kind, immensely brave, enthusiastic, hard working, committed, always willing to go the extra mile, loyal and highly dependable and always smiling" clearly explains some of the reasons for his success. He has left such a legacy."



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
 - 8 Schools In Rye £3.00
 - 11 Ryers Recall (including John Smith) £3.00
 - 12 'When I was Young' (including Will Dunlop) £3.00
 - 15 Bygone Broad Oak & Brede £3.00
 - 16 Transport Around Rye £3.00
 - 17 Countryside Ways £3.00
 - 19 More About Transport Around Rye £3.00
 - 20 'Rye Shipping' £3.00
 - 21 'Wings Over Rye' 2nd Revised Ed. £3.00
 - 22 'Elastic Down!!' Rye Bloomers. £1.00
 - 23 Memories of Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital. £3.00 (Proceeds to League of Friends of the Care Centre)
 - 26 Bygone Rye Harbour New Illustrated Edition £5.00
 27. Huguenots in Rye and Winchelsea by Jo Kirkham £4.50
 28. Rye, St.Mary's & The Fecamp Connection £2.00
 29. Ghosts of Rye, and things that go bump in the night" in the 'Rye Memories' Series. £4.50
 30. The History of Rye College (From Anglos Saxon times to the present day) £5.00
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RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY

I was so tempted to make this ROSA bulletin "Wurlitzer free" as I know its not everyone's cup of tea. However, this thought was totally outweighed by the fact that the Rye Wurlitzer Academy is one of only two such projects in the world and we need to embrace this. Nine students had a wonderful four day trip to the North West of England at the end of April including a private two hour session at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom where all students had the opportunity to play. The ambience, atmosphere and the quality of their playing in a relatively short period of time made it an emotional occasion for me.

We have had some memorable fund raising events during the course of the year including a "House Full" for the Fabulous Shadows tribute band in October which raised close to £1,000. The students playing and commitment has come along in leaps and bounds and credit must go to principal tutor Michael Wooldridge for his commitment and own dedication to the project.

I really hope that I will be able to write an article about this very special and unique project next year as we have reached a cross roads with our funding in recent months, and we are currently seeking some longevity support that will secure the project for five years to which it justly deserves. We currently have 17 marvellous instruments in store that have been donated from all over the UK but no extra funding to increase our current tuition base of 28. STOP PRESS. Delighted to announce that as the bulletin went to print we have been blessed with two donations totalling £4,500 which bridges the gap whilst learning the results of our applications for five year funding for the scheme.

MORE GREAT EVENINGS OF ENTERTAINMENT IN AID OF THE RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY COMING UP IN 2014 at THE MILLIGAN THEATRE, RYE

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ANOTHER NIGHT AT THE SILENT MOVIES

Friday 28th March

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Children are free at all shows except the jazz night on 14th March, when they will be just £5.00 each to cover the cost of supper.



Photo shows students with Blackpool Tower team Organist David Lobham during our trip to the North West



Principal Tutor Michael Wooldridge seated at the Wurlitzer along with the Fabulous Shadows after their sell out concert

Please visit our page on Facebook or our website

www.ryewurlitzeracademy.org.uk
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*The Mermaid Inn, Mermaid Street, Rye, Tel: 01797 223065 Fax: 01797 225069
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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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**A NEW APPROACH TO LEAVING SCHOOL, KIWI STYLE
By our NZ Correspondent Gordon Boxall**

I have recently been appointed as Director, Enabling Good Lives (EGL), Christchurch (the one on the other side of the globe).

EGL brings together resources from the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development in a bid to shift power to the disabled student and their family so they can have more choice and control over what support they need in order to have a fulfilled life. Over time, the intention is to expand the opportunities to other disabled people.

We are still very much in the early days of rebuilding following the devastating effects of the earthquakes which were triggered over three years ago and in amongst the damaging ones we have endured 11000 after-shocks (and counting).

One challenge is that 115 schools have to be rebuilt or substantially refurbished. Many of these will be in new areas as officials try to anticipate where families will relocate from their destroyed homes. You will see the degree of logistical challenges facing us here and if you have a profound disability it just makes it harder.

Parallel to this, disabled people and their families have been saying for a long time now that they want to have "somewhere to live, someone to love and something to do" in other words the same way as everyone else. However, what we offer is often limited to a choice from a list of services rather than asking 'how can we be of service?'

Employment is crucial but for many this isn't currently felt to be attainable which leaves people further disadvantaged. EGL sets out to support people think creatively about designing what a good life would look like for them and then helps them to achieve it not just by pooling resources but also by supporting community development and promoting mainstream opportunities.

As with the Christchurch rebuild, this is not a quick fix but a starting point for what many see as a new way of designing systems that can respond to people in a personalised way. Disabled people and families are also involved in the governance of this three year demonstration which intends to develop organically based on what local people and communities are saying they want. I have some authority to do things differently and our intention is to get better outcomes for a similar amount of money to ensure the result is both successful and sustainable. All Westernised countries are facing similar challenges and it will be interesting to see if this sort of approach can lead to the transformational changes that are desired. And if we are all committed to it then why not? After all, desiring a home, a job and a social life doesn't sound too demanding an ambition to me.

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THE GROVE,
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(01797)223065**

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**NEWS DEADLINE FOR
BULLETIN 163**

November 20th 2014

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Please print in BLOCK letters

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Years at School _____ To _____

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