

# RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN 164 DECEMBER 2015

### WELCOME

Standing room only for me in this edition of a news packed bulletin. So much to report of happenings and events. Thank you to everyone for their support for ROSA during the past 12 months, whether it be for the lunch, the reunions that have been arranged or by simply becoming a life member. Whatever kind of support you have given it is sincerely appreciated by the Committee.

2016 is looking very special already. The Annual Lunch, a Class Reunion of 1996 and a Cricket Match. Let us hope these events are supported in the same way that we so much enjoyed this year.

My space is coming to an end so it leaves me to wish you all a happy and wonderful Christmas fast approaching, followed by a healthy and peaceful New Year. The world seems a strange place at times so smile and be kind to.

### CLASS OF 1996 REUNION—SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2016

Delighted to announce that the class of 1996 are having an evening reunion at the College on Saturday 2nd July. There will be tours of the college during the early part of the evening, large screen photo presentation, video messages from people who cannot attend, two course buffet supper, raffle, background and dance music of the decade, plus, the opportunity to recreate the class photo below. Tickets are £10 per person. To reserve your place please contact Jon Colegrave at email [jon\\_colegrave@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_colegrave@hotmail.com) Money will be collected on the night; reservation is for catering and setting up purposes. All proceeds will go to the Rye Old Scholars to assist with continued support to Rye College. Jon looks forward to welcoming as many people as possible from the school photo below. On behalf of ROSA can we thank Jon for co-ordinating this evening on our behalf. At the time of writing the bulletin I know that over 100 people have already reserved their places for this very special evening.



### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

This still remains great value for money and I would encourage you all to complete the membership form on page 12 and return to our membership Secretary Judith Blincow. It would be wonderful to reach 1000 members by the end of next year. I know several attending the 1960's reunion wished to join, so here is your chance.

So if you have received the bulletin and know of someone else who was an old scholar that fancies some nostalgic reading, then simply forward it to them and encourage them to join us.

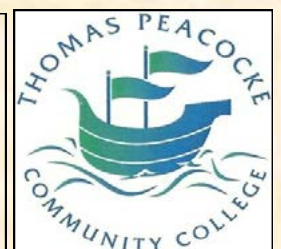
### WEBSITE PROGRESS

From our request last year for assistance we have received some from none other than pupil of the 60's and then teacher of the 70's Barry "Fred" Fuller. Barry has taken possession of our dongles and is currently collating the photos we have scanned to put them into some resemblance of order. I can think of nicer things to do, but it's winter and it will keep him off the streets. Who knows, 2016 may see the website launched - we can only hope.



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## A SUMMER GATHERING OF THE 1990'S



It had long been a thought of mine to meet up with old school friends in the school year that we turned 50. Although we are all in contact with friends we've held on to from school it won't be a large group. Following the last reunion in October 2014 where only a very small number from our particular year attended, Dave Pepper set up a Facebook Group specifically for our school year (criteria: born between September 1st 1964 and August 31st 1965) and we set about finding people through social media. We were lucky to have a head start as Dave had already compiled an extensive and almost complete list of students from memory and both he and I have a brilliant recollection of 'kids' and connections. So, we searched and searched and pried and snooped through friends' 'friends' lists and added them to our group. Various topics were discussed and pictures shared. The biggest topic was 'reunion'. Organising was actually a doddle. Social media is that easy. Raise an event and watch the numbers increase. Last minute and literally last minute change of venue to a school day favourite (honestly not underage!!) The Ypres (thank you John Shaw for sorting) was a very popular decision. The Gun Gardens are memorable for some reason! Saturday 4 July was a gorgeous day and we started meeting from 7pm. Out of the 104 members of our Facebook group 42 turned up. Most belong to the group, others turned up by invitation. A fantastic and memorable evening, some people you've only seen yesterday, some you haven't seen in 30 years. Yet all so familiar and comfortable. Hopefully friendships were renewed that night and will be again. Next year's meet is already in progress. We are still searching for those missing members and hope to increase attendees for next year. Thanks to Sarah Avery for all her efforts in this event and for the article and photos which we hope will become a regular article in future bulletins.

## Rye Cricket Club and Rye Old Scholars Association

There has always been a strong link between Rye Cricket Club and ROSA, dating back many years to the likes of Sidney Allnutt, Mr Buttery, Stan Jones and Mike Thomas. Keen enthusiasts of the greatest game, who always made special allocation for "Tuesday" afternoon requests to play at The Salts, and provided the encouragement to share their passion for the game.

Reflecting on the 2015 season, those links between ROSA and Rye Cricket Club have not diminished. Last Season Rye finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 4 of the Sussex Cricket League, its highest ever position in League cricket. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI skipper Gary Willis and Vice Captain James Hamilton are all ex Thomas Peacocks, as were five other regular players. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI led by ex teacher Martin Blincow featured ex students, including Pete Thomson who finished top run scorer in the Division. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were led by ex student James Jury, who led a team of a number of existing students from Rye College.

Rye Cricket Club fields 5 Colts teams, the majority of whom are students from Rye College, with the U13 team recording a 100% record for the season in winning the Ashford & District League. For a number of years Rye Cricket Club have hosted overseas players, but this Winter, ex-student Harry Smeed, makes the return journey, as an overseas player for Port Melbourne CC in Australia. He flew out in September and returns in April. He is featuring in their 1<sup>st</sup> XI and has survived a tornado already. Rye CC is already planning for next season in the newly named, Sidney Allnutt Pavilion. Pictured at the naming of the pavilion, (L-R) Chairman Kevin Jury, Vice Chairman Mark Cook, Pavilion Chairman Darren Smith and Secretary Martin Blincow, ALL Old Scholars. It would be good if these strong links could be celebrated with a game between Rye CC and ROSA on **Sunday July 3rd 2016**. So ROSA is looking for a team manager to raise a team to play Rye CC. Please contact Martin Blincow on [blincsfamily@aol.com](mailto:blincsfamily@aol.com) to discuss.



## THE SALTCOTE GIRLS OF THE 1970'S— COMPLETE WITH NAMES & FACES (well, nearly)



Top Row: ??, Jo Coles, Lillian Skinner, ??, ??, Liz Black, ??  
 Row Two : L to R : Sue Dibden, Margaret Scott ( Matron), Lisa Gilmore-Ellis, Anne Black  
 Row Three : Amanda ?, Mrs Dickinson, ??, ??, Vicki Lelliot, Sue Batty, ??<??, Caroline Tait, Liz Tait, Tracey Foster, Jenny Allcott ??  
 Row Four: L to R: ??, ??, Sarah Blow, ??,??, Hilary Dann, Carolyn Ashdown, Caroline McCrae, ??  
 Row Five : L to R :Sarah Ayres, Andrula Morris, Alex McCrae, ?, Diane ?, Sally Blow, Sally Boustead ??

### REMEMBERING MR TONY WHITE

Mr. Tony White died suddenly on the 5th June at the age of eighty four. The funeral was at Peasmarsh Church on 2nd July and was attended by several old scholars and a number of his former colleagues including Mr. Fooks, his last headmaster. Mr. White was appointed to Rye Grammar School in September 1956 as assistant master at the newly opened boys' boarding house at Leasam. He had done his National Service in the R.E.M.E. in Germany and then did his degree at Southampton University and his teacher training at St. Catherine's College in Cambridge. He was at Leasam for four years and enjoyed the experience. He ran the school Photographic Society. He was by now not just the Physics teacher but Head of the Science Department, a post he kept when the school went comprehensive in 1968. He had to retire early in 1983 for health reasons. Leading a more leisurely life enabled him to enjoy his gardening, his holidays and his voluntary work as a hospital car driver



Thanks to **Miss Maureen Getley** for her words. Here are some messages from others who Mr White taught.

Sad new RIP Mr White, liked your lessons **PAUL TREE**. Yep, he was a good and pleasant teacher. Many thanks Mr White for setting me on the road to a Physics degree, which underpinned my most enjoyable Oceanography career. You were an example of "Teaching is a work of heart". **GRAHAM ALCOCK**. He made me polish all the desks in the physics lab over lunch break, as a punishment. But I still liked him and actually enjoyed physics some of the time. RIP. **LYNNE MORGAN**. Yes he was a really good teacher and such a gentle sort of person. I loved physics. Thanks to him and because I enjoyed it I found it easy to do well. I will always remember him with affection, **MARYCLARE LORETAN**

### RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY UPDATE

Thomas Pickering our 2014 Young Theatre Organist of the Year and Runner-Up Jamyma Hanson have played in concerts in Woking, Guildford, Ipswich, Bristol, Uckfield & Bognor Regis during the past year. Our fund raising events have been varied and well received. Donations still appear from all over the country and America. One of the highlights of this year was Los Angeles Theatre Organist Tony Wilson coming over in May at his own expense and performed two concerts on behalf of RWA; he is currently arranging a Benefit Concert in Los Angeles on our behalf in Spring 2016, plus returning in early May for another concert. Four entrants recently performed at the 2015 Young Theatre Organist of the Year Competition at the Music Museum at Kew Bridge, London. Jamyma Hanson achieved runner up and Robert Eldridge won the Christie Cup for the most promising student. For more details of our very special and unique teaching project please visit our website [www.ryewurlitzeracademy.org.uk](http://www.ryewurlitzeracademy.org.uk) OR our Facebook page.





Alison Bradbury 1972  
 Digby Hobson 1968  
 Vanessa Bourne 1966  
 Eric Bourne 1962  
 Irene Penn 1962  
 Sylvia Capps 1964  
 Sue Tompkinson 1966  
 Jen Tompkinson 1961  
 Roger Huxstep 1965  
 Geoff Hughes 1962  
 John Breeds 1965  
 Geraldine Breeds 1966  
 Joanne Burke 1974  
 Robert Carter 1966  
 Sandra Warre 1966  
 Francis Warre 1962  
 Martin Caree 1967  
 Peter Browne 1971  
 Janet Sherwood 1965  
 Sue Mendousse 1967  
 Carole Russell 1970  
 Marie Breeds 1965  
 Anthony Breeds 1966  
 Christopher Breeds 1969  
 Kay Breeds 1969  
 Adrian Gray 1964  
 Sandra Whinhurst 1968  
 Mike Weetman 1963  
 Celia Hales 1964  
 Jenny Burke 1964  
 Jeanette Smith 1970  
 Alan Carter 1965  
 Patricia Barfoot 1964  
 Peter Gasson 1965  
 Malcolm Tree 1963  
 Christine Tree 1963  
 Roy Bourne 1965  
 Cherry Tottenham 1967  
 Marion Fuchs 1964  
 Pauline Perkins 1967  
 Gilly Winterbottom 1967  
 Jonathan Austin 1967  
 Tim Rothwell 1967  
 Libby Rothwell 1967  
 Lynne Morgan 1967  
 Joyce Gustard 1966  
 Jim Holmes 1964  
 Sam Ford 1968  
 Cathy Forward 1972  
 Andy Metianu 1961  
 Timothy Grant 1967  
 Deborah Birks 1969  
 Marjorie Pankhurst 1967  
 Jacqueline Crouch 1966  
 Susie Scott 1971  
 Barry Fuller 1969  
 Heather Barnett 1968  
 Richard Eldridge 1971  
 William Eldridge 1969  
 Kelvin Care 1964  
 Shirley Care 1965  
 Peter Buchan 1965  
 Graham Alcock 1965  
 Stephen Penn 1968  
 Carolyn Moss 1973  
 Katie Courtney-Bennett  
 Fred Courtney-Bennett  
 Sam Lambourne 1964  
 Steve Howles 1963  
 Alison Cousin 1965  
 Trevor Stiles 1963  
 Tony Hall 1966  
 Des Lambert 1964  
 Dianne Pope 1959  
 Allan Pope  
 Richard Care 1971  
 Roger Wyatt 1965  
 Linda Oakman 1968  
 Mervyn Oakman 1969

Angela Oakman 1972  
 Mick Kempster 1972  
 Beverely Gill 1972  
 Peter Goodsell 1967  
 Andrain Gumbley 1966  
 John Packham 1964  
 Graham Bourne 1960  
 Jennie Light 1963  
 Maureen Sinden 1963  
 Margaret Hall 1962  
 Pamela Cox 1969  
 Bob Davies 1962  
 Peter Eade 1965  
 Margaret O'Neill 1968  
 Nigel Foy 1963  
 John Cooper 1964  
 Keith Matthews 1969  
 Geoff Boxall 1968  
 Mary Matthew 1967  
 John Matthews  
 Jane Kendall 1966  
 John Walmsley 1965  
 Alexis Walmsley  
 John Luck 1865  
 Sheila Luck  
 Nick Marshall 1966  
 Gerry Tompkins 1959  
 Godfrey Tolputt 1964  
 Jane Robinson 1973  
 Paula Barnard 1969  
 Gillian Barden 1971  
 Marylyn Bellhouse 1960  
 Patsy Farley 1962  
 Cliff Arkley 1965  
 David Cleverley 1962  
 Stuart Cleverley 1963  
 Valda Care 1964  
 Lesley care 1966  
 Alan Care 1969  
 Teresa Care 1970  
 Lynn Hills 1968  
 Colin Hills 1963  
 Sally Burke 1972  
 Jean McNaughton 1965  
 Anne Bowler 1968  
 Pam Lamb 1968  
 Elaine Gregory 1970  
 Pat Scott 1965  
 Vikki Winton 1970  
 Anne Williams 1969  
 Wendy Newble 1968  
 Mark Bianchi 1964  
 Alan Webster 1966  
 John Clay 1967  
 Jimper Sutton 1957  
 Derek Baldock  
**TEACHERS**  
**ATTENDING**  
 Mr Richard Wright  
 Miss Lois Benton  
 Miss Maureen Getley  
 Mrs Janet Jones  
 Ms Jenny Banner  
**ROSA TEAM**  
 Judith Blincow  
 Martin Blincow  
 Sue & Tony Moore  
 Clare & Andrew Spacey  
 Shirley Bannister  
 Margaret O'Neill  
 Tim Rothwell  
 Richard Moore  
 Ann Cockerham  
 Andrew Cockerham  
 THANKS TO THE KITCHEN  
 CREW & ENTERTAINMENT  
 WORKSHOP FOR RUNNING  
 THE BAR & SOUND



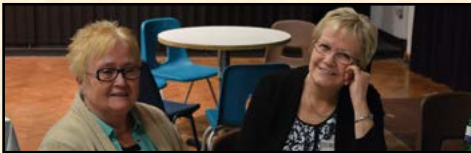
*Until the next time*



**It all began here.....**

A reminder of the photo in the last bulletin that was to encourage people to attend this years 1960's gathering. Sadly, some are no longer with us, so impossible task to re-create, which is a shame but all part of an evolving world we all enjoy, so the words and photos of this very special evening are a tribute to those who could not be there.

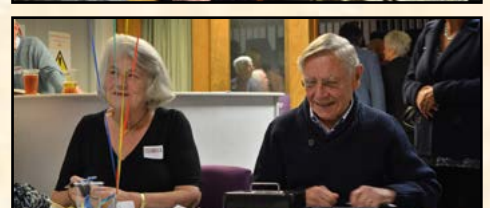
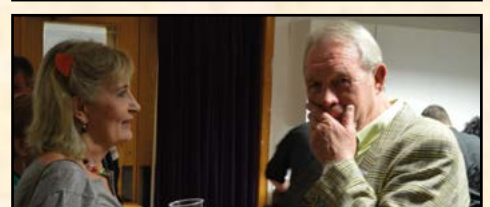
**1960 REUNION REPORT OCTOBER 3RD 2015**



A classic example of great ROSA teamwork proved a winning recipe of success for our 1960's reunion on October 3rd. It was one of those events where you were proud and pleased to be in attendance. The evening was over all too soon and it is hoped that such was the success that we will arrange an evening of this type every three years in the future before age, memory and mother nature take a hold on us all eventually. To continue in a morbid theme with regard to such a happy event, I have listed opposite those who were in attendance in no particular order - this seems to resemble a war memorial, but one listing the survivors of school in the 1960s! I hastily return to happiness on this page and thank all those who made a real effort to attend, particularly Graham Alcock from New Zealand and Roger Huxstep and Pauline (nee) Prior from Australia. Some attendees met school friends for the first time again in 50 years – memory lane was overcrowded.

I am relying on photos that surround this double page to speak a thousand words and thank Andrew Spacey for walking amongst you all capturing the moment. Thank you for the nice words of thanks after the event; they were appreciated and made all the efforts very worthwhile. Thanks to Ann Cockerham for her support by arranging tours of the college and for allowing us to hold the event there, although to capture such an atmosphere it could not have been held anywhere else. To Claire and Shirley for touting raffle tickets and promptly raising £250 in a short space of time. To Sue & Tony for handling the registration on the door and taking the money. To Tim Rothwell for arranging the continuous 1960's music, which was often drowned out by the sound of laughter and conversation.

Not only was it a wonderful social occasion but also a great fund raiser, with close on £1,400 being raised. Thanks again for your support - see you all again in 2018.





### YET ANOTHER BLAST FROM THE PAST THE R.G.S. PREFECTS 1967

**TOP ROW:** Marion Weller, David Smith, ? , Charlie Noakes, Eleanor Jarvis, Chris Williams, Norma Beaney, Colin Healey, Anna Hodgson, Tony Harwood, Judith Archer, John Clay

**MIDDLE ROW:** Cherry Bazalgette, Pam Blair, Colin Strange, ?, Eric Brooks-Dowsett, Sue Palmer, Martin Williams, Anna ?, Tom Hales, Carol Springford, Teddy Guiver, Lynne Morgan, Tim Rothwell, Fizz Eldridge

**BOTTOM ROW:** Lark Kozakevitch, Sue Sheppard, Bill Perry, Gill Winterbottom, Nick Marshall. Lynn Crosbie, Digby Hobson, Sue Ritter, Jim Phillips, Cherry Tottenham, Alan French, ?, Peter Chapman, Mary Neaves, Diana ?

### THE ARRC & LINKS TO RYE COLLEGE

The ARRC is the former RSM School site in New Road and has become a diverse cultural centre for those with physical and sensory impairments through holistic care to give a better quality of life. Many things are happening at the ARCC from art, textiles, music therapy, gardening, a wide variety of trips including fishing which I know Tim Philips gets involved with. There is even a furniture warehouse that helps with their own fund raising activities. In March former old scholar Calum Munroe held two events there. These formed part of his final project for BIMM. The first evening was supported by students at Rye College, the second was supported by former Old Scholars of his era. Both events were very well received. Former student Marina Osang, performed with the Rye College students and was quite taken with the considerable talent that is currently at Rye. For more information about this wonderful place visit their website [www.arcc.org.uk](http://www.arcc.org.uk)

### VERY RECENT LEAVERS REPORT FROM JAMYMA – MAY HANSON



Stewart Prentice attends the Brit school studying musical theatre. Luke Cooper is studying maths, physics and electronics a-levels at Welbeck Defence College and recently attended the Royal British Legion Festival. Ollie Wilson has competed in a variety of international and national chess events including the British chess championships 2015 and the Basamro international tournament.

David Swarbrick studies at Rye Studio school and has been involved in many projects, including producing a documentary for the Rye Wurlitzer academy and being a member of the committee for the Rye Arts Festival.  
Editor's Note

Jamyma has had a busy year herself, as runner up of the 2014 Young Theatre Organist of the Year Competition, she has played in concerts in Ipswich, Guildford, Woking & Bristol. More recently she has taken part in the 2015 Competition at the Musical Museum at Kew Bridge in London where she was awarded the runner up position again. Undeterred she is already planning her audio entry for the 2016 American Young Theatre Organist of the Year Competition. With my own involvement with the Rye Wurlitzer Academy Jamyma has been a model student and a wonderful ambassador to the project. All this, as well as taking four A levels at Highworth Grammar School in Ashford where she travels daily, a part time job in Rye and some regular voluntary work at the Rye Memorial Care Centre.



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ACHING BACK  
& SHOULDERS?



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## RYE ACADEMY TRUST NEWS

We were delighted to welcome Rye Community Primary School to the Rye Academy Trust in March and it is wonderful to be working closely as a group of three schools in one location in Rye. Sharing one campus, Rye College, Rye Community Primary School and the Rye Studio School meet the needs of learners from 2 to 19 years of age. Our staff train together and we are able to share best practice and facilities to advantage, as part of the same Trust. We call ourselves "The Rye Education Quarter" !

### Rye Community Primary School

Rye Community Primary School, which has now amalgamated with the Pugwash Nursery, was first opened in 2008 and is already so popular that it has needed to expand to take in two forms of entry. Construction work is due to start soon to provide the additional accommodation needed for September 2016.

### Rye College

Rye College grows from strength to strength and is proud of its history and tradition. However, its buildings are becoming increasingly costly to maintain and we are seeking support from the Government to rebuild the school on the former Lower School site (currently owned by Tesco and Sainsburys, who wish now to sell off the land).



### Rye Studio School

Rye Studio School is the only Studio School in the South East, preparing 14-19 year olds for careers in the creative industries. It has provided post 16 education in Rye for the first time in well over a decade. In June, the Rye Studio School was judged to be outstanding in every aspect of its work by Ofsted. Rye Studio School now offers the Level 4 Foundation degree programme too and in order to house this programme, we have taken on the rental of The Old Brewery Yard premises nearby.



If you are interested in supporting our work or in finding out more about our work within the Rye Education Quarter, we would love to hear from you!

## REMEMBERING PETER ROBINSON

Railway Historian and Campaigner for Better Public Transport.

Peter W Robinson, died suddenly on 6 August 2014, aged 74. Peter attended Rye Grammar School, where his father was Senior Master and Head of Geography, from 1951 – 1958. He was made Head Boy in 1957. He was a keen member of the Air Training Corps from 1954 – 1958 and was promoted to Flight Sergeant in 1957. On leaving school he followed in his father's footsteps and studied Geography at Sheffield University followed by a post graduate course at Manchester in Town Planning.

Most of his working life was with Cumberland/Cumbria County Planning Department where he was the Lead Officer for Cumbria in the joint County Councils' campaign for the retention of the Settle Carlisle Railway line. More recently he was the Campaign

Co-ordinator for the West Coast Rail 250 campaign, set up to upgrade the West Coast Main Line. He was a member of the Rail Passenger Committee for N W England and when it was disbanded helped to set up Travelwatch North West to replace it. In recent years, up to his death, Peter was chairman of the Furness Line Community Rail Partnership and a leading campaigner for the line with strong concerns at the impact of both the electrification of the railways northwest from Manchester and of the upcoming re-franchising proposals

He was a member of the prestigious Railway Photographic Society in steam days and subsequently joined the Railway Camera Club where he was noted for the high standard of his work. He had a huge collection of railway photographs taken both in the days of steam right up to the modern day. He was also a founder member of the Border Railway Society and the instigator of the Cumbria Railways Association, being its first chairman, then president and latterly its Archivist and Photographic Collections Manager. Peter was a passionate railway enthusiast and a highly knowledgeable one but his enthusiasm was always tempered by a wider social conscience. He saw railways as being about society. This understanding was reflected in the vital work Peter did to protect and develop rail services, particularly in Cumbria. He was a member of many other railway societies; a founder member of the Cumbria Industrial History Society; a Trustee of the Northern Viaduct Trust and an active member of the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society. He was the author of several books and an authority on the Maryport and Carlisle Railway. This was to have been his next book.

He was a competent pianist, had a great love of music and was an avid reader. Whatever Peter did he always gave it his full attention. He was a kind, gentle man who hated angry words and situations. He will be sadly missed by his friends in the railway community, the wider railway history fraternities and among the campaigners for better rail services across the country. He has been honoured by a commemorative plaque on his local railway station, Grange-over-Sands. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and daughters Louise and Amanda.



**BULLETIN NEWS  
FURTHER INFORMATION  
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EAST SUSSEX TN31 7NQ**

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Judith Blincow (01797)223065  
**EMAIL**  
Richard Moore r.fm@btopenworld.com

**PLEASE VISIT OUR ROSA  
FACEBOOK PAGE**

**NEWS DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN 164  
NOVEMBER 20TH 2016**

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### **JOY LOFTHOUSE GOES GLOBAL**

Joy recently hit the headlines during the 70th Anniversary of WW2 and as a former teacher at Thomas Peacock Lower School we acknowledge her achievements in this edition from two aspects. The first from one of the many media reports and the other from colleague and friend Andrea Chapman ( Miss Lewis)

Seventy years ago Joy Lofthouse was flying Spitfires over Britain during World War Two, and now she has had the chance to do it all over again. Marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War Two, Joy, who is now 92, was able to fly once again in the British air icon, the Spitfire. Joy says it brought back so many memories of her youth during the war, when her job was to fly the Spitfire across Britain delivering the aircraft to wherever they were needed. Joy was part of the Air Transport Auxiliary during World War Two, which gave mainly women the job of transporting military aircraft to air bases across the country, either to deliver newly built aircraft or to transport planes to different airbases to wherever military operations required them. Joy said that to have the opportunity to fly in a Spitfire at the age of 92 was a miracle, and she feels so lucky to be able to do it. Hundreds of Britons worked transporting aircraft across the UK during the war and ensured that the Royal Air Force had the aircraft it needed, when and where it needed them. Joy had to deliver many of the Supermarine Spitfires when they were first produced, and she recalls how ever since pilots have been envious of her. Joy's husband was also a pilot but he flew bombers over enemy territory. Joy recalls how his colleagues and pilot friends would all ask her about her exploits of flying the Supermarine Spitfire. She says that they would all say how they would have given anything for the chance to fly a Spitfire. Joy's recent flight in the Spitfire took place to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War Two and she says that while she was excited to take part in the event, she was aware that 70 years had passed since her last flight in a Spitfire. Nevertheless, once she was up in the air she says that she forgot her age and memories of 70 years ago came flooding back like it was yesterday.



*Andrea Chapman adds:* As you already know, she and her sister were in the Air Transport Auxiliary as ferry pilots during the 2nd World War. They were amazing women, ferrying aircraft from the factories to the airfields or whatever job might be required. They often flew several different aircraft in a day, from fighters to bombers, with basic instructions strapped to their knee, in all weathers, and in the early days they had no radios. Fog was their worst enemy and there were fatalities e.g. Amy Johnson. They were not always welcomed by the male RAF servicemen, who on one occasion even doubted that a slight woman pilot really WAS the pilot of the recently landed bomber. Joy really enjoyed her time as a ferry pilot and she certainly loved flying the Spitfire, calling it a plane for a lady! Incidentally, I knew little about her time in the war when we were in Rye - she never spoke much about it, very modest. I think she must have come to the Lower School for a post in the Special Needs Department in the late 70's/ early 80's perhaps. When they came to the area Joy and her late husband Charles converted the old Icklesham primary school and Charles became the Head of Winchelsea. Joy was an easy colleague to work with, reliable, and full of common sense with a no nonsense approach to both children and her work. I got to know them both quite well, particularly after they had retired to Colchester, they were good company. Joy continued teaching for a while, doing supply in a nearby school. When Charles retired he was involved in helping people find where their relatives had been shot down.



### **A POTTED PIECE BY NIGEL LEEVES (1970-77)**

It seems such a long time since I left Thomas Peacocke School and it's not surprising as it was over 38 years ago. However I can still remember many things from that time but the most important part is how the school helped set the future and in particular the teachers who inspired me. I caught the Chemistry bug, I'm not sure why but I have feeling it was partly due to it not being available until the 3<sup>rd</sup> year at school but mainly due to the chemistry teachers Mr. Halam, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Leeds who had such much enthusiasm for the subject. So it's off to read chemistry at Royal Holloway College, University of London- graduated and loved it stayed to complete a research degree. Along the way I managed to gain my University colours for Cricket and earn some money bowling off spin for a local club which seemed to mainly disappear over their bar in the evening.

Soon the real world of employment hit me with the shock of having to do regular hours but real money as well. I have spent most of my life in the health care industry working on products for heart disease, respiratory problems, mental illness and gastro intestinal issues. Working life when you see how it can help people improve their lives is very rewarding; it also allowed me to meet Debbi with us finally getting married in 1992. We have three children 20, 18 & 17, two boys are at university studying management with Ella hoping to study geography. Harry is actually doing a placement year at a Brewery and gets loads of free beer.

Debbi is leading a company who provide robotic legs for people who have suffered lower spinal injuries and are not able to walk; the legs allow them to stand up and walk naturally. It's very moving to see the videos of them walk and their reaction with their families.

I do have one final thank you and it is for Mr. Buttery the Head Teacher for most of my time at school. I had one major barrier to get into university and it was passing O level English- he spent many hours providing 1 to 1 tuition during my lower 6<sup>th</sup> year so I could scrape a pass. I found out at the age of 24 that I am dyslexic so no wonder I struggled with that subject.

### **CONTINUITY BY JOHN BREED**

For some of us REALLY OLD scholars, even if we are fortunate enough not to have Alzheimer's or Dementia, we do have problems in remembering where we left stuff yesterday. Such is my problem. I had a wonderful photograph of a third year class from 1927 (I think) and have mislaid it. It was to be the centrepiece of this article. The last three in the front row on the far right were Ken Breeds, Dick Burnham and John Smith. "Who were they?" I hear you ask.

Well – Ken Breeds was Roger's father and was the Postmaster at Rye in the 1980s. His wife was a laboratory technician at RGS when I was a student there in the 1960s. Perhaps some of you remember her?

Richard (Dick) Burnham I sang with in many a local choir. He was a chorister and hotelier of some renown!

John Smith was Rye Town Clerk when it ceased to become a borough in 1974. He was Chairman of the Governors at the School for many years and, at one time, Grand Master of the Wellington Lodge of Freemasons in Rye. You will see his name on a plaque in the Pugwash Nursery block.

In the library report in a bulletin of the mid 1930s, a Mrs Breeds (the wife of William Breeds the builder – Roger's grandfather - who built the School in 1908) was reported to have donated some books to the library in grateful thanks for the education of her TEN boys who attended the school in the 1910s and 1920s. Ken Breeds was one of those boys!

My father (a cousin of Ken Breeds) attended RGS from 1929 to 1936, I attended from 1957 to 1965, my sons Jonathan and Richard from 1985 to 1995, and now my granddaughter, Caterina, is in year 10 in 2015!

Continuity of care, continuity in education – these are of paramount importance to most children. They hate change. Even if they dislike a teacher they resent a supply teacher even more. I know this – I have been a supply teacher for 15 years!

One of the great things about the Rye Old Scholars Association is that, by remaining in touch with former classmates, it gives members a chance to experience something of that all-important continuity.

John Breeds.

As always, John gives us all a fair portion of local gossip from way back when. It is hoped that should he find said photo that we will at least give it some space in the next bulletin. His last paragraph though, totally portrays what ROSA strives to achieve in such a special way.

### **REMEMBERING A LOYAL SERVANT TO THE TOWN—ROGER BREEDS**

Roger Breeds died on 19th May 2015 ten days before his 74th birthday. He attended Rye Secondary School from 1952-3, then passed the 12 plus exam and spend the next four years at Rye Grammar School. After an apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery he went on to become a site agent supervising many large building projects in South East England. In 1976 he put his name forward for Rye Town Council serving until 2007. Roger was also a Rother District Councillor from 1987-95. He was Mayor of Rye and Speaker of the Cinque Ports 1984- 6. For several years he served as a governor on Thomas Peacocke School and was still a member of the Rye Grammar School Foundation Governors. Roger and his wife (Amy Yates - RGS 1957-62) celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in March this year; his daughter Joanne is an old scholar of Thomas Peacocke School.



## THE ROSA LUNCH 2015



If I wanted to be slightly lapsed in my approach to reporting on the bulletin I could easily use the same words as the 2014 Luncheon, but I won't and besides I



can't as this year we returned to the restaurant and more or less took it over. Other guests wondered why there was such excitement over jars of marmalade being presented. What was even more special was that more attended which made for more noise and merriment from start to finish.

Those attending included Mr T Rothwell Mrs L Rothwell Mr Peter Goodsell Mr J Holmes Mrs J Holmes Mr J Webb Mr B Hacker Mrs H Paige Mr T White Mr K C Thompson Ms L Benton Mrs M Getley Mr N Perry Mrs G Perry Mr A Shearer Mrs M Nettle Mrs J Kirkham Mr B Bellhouse Ms M Palmer Ms G Hardiman Mrs M O'Neill Mrs R Craggs Mr G Craggs Mr W Eldridge Mr T Moore Mrs Sue Moore Judith Blincow Richard Moore Claire & Andrew Spacey.

Such was the merriment and Richard's early exit for an evening event at the college that we did not have the heart to uplift everyone from their seats for a group photo, so, this year we have a montage of table shots. It is hoped that our numbers will increase again in



2016 and welcome all Rye Old Scholars from the 30's through to the 60's to attend this what is becoming a popular social gathering with fine food and fine company. We look forward to seeing you. Note to self, ask someone else to write this report next year



## 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. £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

### TO ORDER THE BOOKS CONTACT:

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**Friday 6th May THE R.O.S.A. LUNCH 2016**

To register your interest please contact

**Richard Moore (01424) 444058 or email  
r.fm@btopenworld.com**

who will forward a menu to select from.

**The three course lunch will be £19.95 per person.**

**R.O.S.A. A.G.M. 12noon ( All members welcome to attend)  
12.30pm for 12.45pm Lunch**



## RAE FESTING

After moving to Rye in 1937 Rae went first to Rye Collegiate and then RGS in 1943-46, under the headship of Mr. Jacobs. When she came to leave school, her careers' advisor suggested not Oxford or Cambridge - the advice to her friends - but said "You've got a brain Rae. Technical school will do you fine." It did and Rae embarked on a 3-year course at what is now the Central School of Fashion in Barrett Street, London, living in different boarding houses and having a lot of fun. She learnt design, fabrics, fitting and is still an expert dressmaker and seamstress. She decided to go to Canada where, in 1959, she met her husband, Conrad, an English civil engineer. After their international travels and living in London, they moved in 1984 to 11 High Street, Rye, where Rae still lives. Every year in September the Rye Arts Festival relies on her to provide B&B for some of the visiting performers. Rae has regular garden parties during the Summer for local charities to raise money and runs a lunch club for the over-65s. On 13th October this year at the Buckingham Palace garden party she was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to the community in Rye. She is now 84 and still active in the community.



## 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. We are aware that after the recent 60's reunion that there were several that wished to do this, so now is your chance to put your desire into action.

Please send a cheque payable to R.O.S.A. To:-  
Mrs Judith Blicow  
ROSA Secretary  
The Mermaid Inn, Mermaid Street,  
Rye, East Sussex. TN31 7EY

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

## STANDING ORDER INFORMATION

Make it easy for yourself & ROSA by setting up a standing order to pay your annual subs.

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BANK DETAILS**

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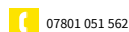
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## MEMORIES OF TERRY THOMPSON: RGS 1959-1966

Terry attended RGS, where his father, Tony Thompson, was the Woodwork teacher. During his schooldays he became a keen member of the Rye Scouts. He went to a Scout jamboree in Greece, achieved the scouts' highest award by qualifying for "The Explorer Belt", which involved hiking across Sweden & camping out under the stars and also went camping in Switzerland. His love of hiking stayed with him all his life. On leaving RGS he gained a BA at High Wycombe College of Technology & Art, then worked 21 years as a civil servant for the Crown Suppliers, until he was made redundant when the Government closed the Department of the Environment. He spent 5 years of this time assigned to the British Museum, Science Museum & the Tate Gallery and later worked for six years in the Foreign Office Procurement Group as planning officer for the interior furnishings of the new British High Commission building in Kuala Lumpur, also on-site supervisor. Terry loved his time as a civil servant and, on one occasion, had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty the Queen. After his redundancy Terry spent 2 years carrying out research for a book on Flight Lieutenant Richard Playne Stevens, (airline pilot 1938) due to be published in 2016. There is an article called "Lone Wolf: Top Blitz Fighter Ace" written by Terry and a close friend, Andy Saunders, in the Special Edition of November's 'Britain at War'. Terry worked with the Child Support Agency in Hastings and as a civil servant with the Ministry of Defence before he retired in 2009. He moved to Rye in 2012 where he became a volunteer at the Rye Art Gallery, involved himself with the building of the new scout hut and joined several rambler groups. He made contact this year with former RGS scouts and had said he would attend the 60's reunion held on 3rd October. His sudden, tragic death two days before the event was a shock to all who knew him.



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

**HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER PRAISED FOR HER PRECIOUS GIFT OF TIME**

Delighted to read in the local press recently that former German Teacher Mrs Erika Longfield was recognised at a East Sussex Healthcare Trust Annual Volunteers Celebration Event. Mrs Longfield was recognised for 20 years service at the Conquest Friends Shop. "I started volunteering in the Conquest Friends Shop on a Monday and Wednesday after I retired from teaching in 1994. I still volunteer there one day a week and do so because not only do I want to help people but it also allows me time to be among people and keeps my brain ticking over. Volunteering has been a very important part of my life and continues to be"

**FINAL REMINDER OF DATES FOR 2016**

ROSA A.G.M. 12 NOON FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT 12.45PM FRIDAY MAY 6TH MERMAID INN

\*\*\*\*\*

ROSA REUNION CLASS OF 1996 SATURDAY 2ND JULY AT RYE COLLEGE

\*\*\*\*\*

ROSA XI v RYE CRICKET CLUB XI RYE SALTS SUNDAY 3RD JULY

**CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR MAID OF ACE**



The all sister band that grew up in Hastings and attended Thomas Peacocke have performed at

Glastonbury this year on the BBC Introducing stage. The BBC website said of them: " Most bands will claim that they have a bond that is stronger than blood, forged by diversity and the trials of the road. In the case of Maid of Aces that biologically true. Alison, Anna, Abby and Amy Elliot are four sisters which makes them the full double Gallagher and every bit as troublesome"

Sharing a family taste for angry punk, the Maids first started writing snotty songs together at home, playing them at school and then anywhere that would have them, This led to gigs across the UK, Europe and even America in support of their 2013 debut album which was also called Maid of Ace. BBC Introducing picked up the song Bone Deth at the end of 2014 and were booked for the hippy festival with some rock'n'roll attitude. Which just goes to prove that the family that slays together stays together

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please print in BLOCK letters

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