

RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN 166 DEC. 2017

WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

When I began my term as Chairman last year, I set myself the goal of establishing a website for ROSA. I am pleased that the site has been up and running for nearly a year now, and we aim to make it more comprehensive and interesting in the coming months. I have been delighted with the many and varied contributions to the website we have received, but we could do with lots more! ROSA are especially grateful for the very generous financial contributions that a number of members have made towards the initial establishment and continued maintenance of the website – thank you so much. The website can be accessed at www.ryeoldscholars.org.uk

The other event of note this year has been the AGM and the Annual Lunch at the Mermaid Inn in May. Numbers were down this year for a variety of reasons, and the Committee hope that switching the day to a Sunday may enable more members to attend. The AGM and Annual Lunch will therefore be held at the Mermaid on **Sunday 13 May 2018**, starting at 12 noon. We will publish more details, including the menu, on the website and ROSA Facebook page in due course.

We are also holding a reunion for those who were at Rye Grammar School, Rye County Secondary Modern School and the Thomas Peacocke School during the 1960s. This is a follow-up to the successful event we held in 2015. The reunion will be held on **Saturday 22 September, 2018**, this time at the Sidney Allnutt Pavilion on the Cricket Salts in Rye. The pavilion has a bar and excellent facilities, and we are planning to hire a marquee if it looks like we will be getting a good response in terms of numbers. We hope we do.

Further details of these events will appear on the website and Facebook page in due course, plus, we will be emailing details to those who have attended in the past. Saying that, if you would like to register interest to attend, we of course welcome this.

Best wishes and thanks for your continued support for ROSA.

Tim Rothwell

(RGS 1960-1967)

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2017/2018

President Mr. Richard Moore

Chairperson Mr. Tim Rothwell

Treasurer Mrs. Susan Moore **Secretary** Mrs. Judith Blincow

Bulletin Editor Mr. Richard Moore

Press Officer Mrs. Margaret O'Neill

Overseas Correspondent Mr. Gordon Boxall

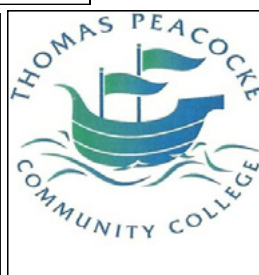
Committee Mr. John Breeds, Mrs. Ruth Palmer,
Mrs. Shirley Bannister.

Mrs. Claire Spacey & Mr. Andrew Spacey



PRESIDENTS CORNER

Previous Presidents have been supportive to ROSA in their roles as Principals of the various names that the school (now college) has evolved with over the years. This has ranged from simply attending functions or by allowing use of school premises for events. I felt it as time for a role reversal in that the President of ROSA assisted the College and this I have done recently with some success by way of acquiring £1,000 for the Music Department from the EMI Music Grant Scheme. This has allowed new Head of Music Mr Matthew Lewis to purchase equipment that will be set aside for outside performances and community related events, and in time the formation of a Key Stage 4 College Group. It is hoped that other subjects can be supported over the months to come when the opportunity arises, watch this space. Personal thanks to Chairman Tim Rothwell for the wonderful job he has done and is constantly doing with the ROSA website, something I have wanted to see happen for years and now we have one. **Richard Moore**



REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST IN 2017

Peter Dee. The Dee family moved to Udimore Road in 1936 and Peter lived in the same house for the rest of his life. Peter attended the Freda Gardham School until he left aged about 14. Peter, his mother and Denis were evacuated during the war, but were only away for 8 weeks as they missed Rye too much. Peter secured a job at the Tollgate Garage on Winchelsea Road and stayed there until he volunteered for the Royal Air Force in April 1945. After basic training at Cardington, Peter was posted to The Number 8 School of Technical Training at RAF Weeton in Blackpool where he served as a lorry mechanic. He returned to Rye and obtained a job at the seed merchants on The Strand, then to Spun Concrete in the stores. He also worked at Dean's Rag Book Company in Tower Street, and then as Camp Secretary at Pontins, Camber. From there he became caretaker at Leasam. He retired in 1992 finishing as caretaker at the Freda Gardham School. In 1953 Peter became the youngest councillor to be elected to the Borough Council at the age of 26. He served on the council for 21 years and was the chair of the Highways Committee. He was an Alderman when he resigned from the council in fact was the last surviving Alderman. In the late 80's he was Group Scout Leader and held this position for 10 years. Peter was a chorister, server, member of the Parochial Church Council and Lay Assistant for a total of 58 years. Peter became a life member of RAFA and joined the Northiam and Rye branch and a member for 68 years. He was also very proud to support the Royal British Legion. He held the position of L.E.A. Representative on the Freda Gardham Governors. He was also the Council Representative on T.P.S. Governors. His sporting passion was cricket. After returning to Rye after the RAF, he played for many years for Rye. He was a wicket keeper and captain of the 2nd XI and was made a life member in about 2010. Peter was awarded the MBE in the 1996 New Years Honours List for "services in the community of Rye" He was presented with the MBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 26th February 1996. In summary he was a true servant of Rye and a kind and caring family man.

Although he was born in Kent, he really was a true RYER! **Jill (Diane) Pope** was born in Chatham 1943 and later moved to Rye and then Winchelsea Beach with her parents. Jill left school at 16 to work in Bunty's Sweet Shop in Rye as her mum Lily was unwell so she ran the shop for her. She went on to work in the laboratory at Bexhill Dairy and Hastings High School in their laboratory. Married to Alan in 1964 with one daughter born in 1970 Jill loved the countryside and beautiful gardens. Jill and Allan were overjoyed to become grandparents. She enjoyed spending time with them reading stories and teaching them how to knit and sew. Jill had so many friends, some from childhood who she still kept in touch with, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Christine Carter passed away on 29th May 2017 aged 82. after coping admirably with failing health for the last four years. She was born at Fern Bank Maternity Home and lived in Winchelsea till her marriage to Derek Caister (R.G.S.1946 - 1953) in 1957 by which time she had qualified as a Junior School Teacher and she had a post at Woodchurch School, and they made their first home in Newhaven where she taught at the local school. After two years Derek took a post in Northampton and Christine took a break from teaching to start a family. During the following years they settled in Derby with Christine leading a very active life teaching, being an enthusiastic member of Derby Choral Union, and Treasurer of the local Gardeners Society. Derek passed away quite suddenly In November 2002 by this time Christine had two sons, a daughter and four granddaughters who all lived very near to her. Despite over fifty years away her Ashes were

Interred in her parents grave in Winchelsea Church Yard. **Cyril Saunders** was born in Rye Harbour a few months before the Mary Stanford lifeboat disaster in November 1928. Rye Harbour remained his home through out his life apart from time spent as an evacuee and during national service in the Air Force. Cyril gained a place at Rye Grammar School in September 1939, just as the Second World War started. After returning from Bedford he did well in Higher School Certificate and gained a place at Brighton to study design engineering. National Service was obligatory and he decided to do this before further study. He had enjoyed the ATC at school so chose the Air Force. He decided to do three years and had interesting experiences in many aspects of aeroplane maintenance. Despite this qualification he decided he wished to stay close to home and assist on the family farm. He was apprenticed to the shepherd and learnt sheep farming thoroughly. So began his experience which continued through the rest of his life along with younger cousin Graham. Cyril continued to live with his mother who died in 1983. In the following year he married Molly. Sadly his physical ability declined to such an extent that he spent the last three years of his life in a care home. Cyril always remembered Rye Grammar School as a very formative time in his life that he had enjoyed and valued. The evacuation years made it a special time for gratitude to the staff who met the challenges of being in a strange situation with much care for the scholars. Sheila Saunders August 2017 **Judith Agus nee**

Whyatt R.G.S. 1960-1967. Judy died of cancer after a short illness on the 14th February aged 67. Judy retired several years ago as Chief Librarian at the Royal Welsh College of Music. She and her husband decided to retire to the Lake District and spent a very happy 18 months renting a house near Penrith before eventually buying their own house. Sadly Judy passed away before she had the chance to move in. Judy and her family spent many lovely holidays visiting a wide number of countries in Europe, the last one when she retired, being a fantastic rail holiday round Scandinavia. It goes without saying that she will be greatly missed. **Graham Saunders** who was a pupil at RGS in the 1950s/early 1960s. Graham died at home on 1

November 2017, aged 74. **Tim Broderick** an RGS pupil who after study became the towns wonderful local celebrity vet for many years. **Majorie Fooks** wife of Ray who was headmaster at Rye from 1976 to 1992. A very special and gracious lady who was so supportive to Ray during his professional career in teaching and then supporting him with all his Rye town retirement activities.

Peter Caister attended Rye Grammar School in 1938. During the War Peter's father joined the RAF and was posted to Devon so the family moved away from Rye Harbour where they lived and Peter was later evacuated to Bedford. However, on his return to Rye Harbour Peter did go back to Rye Grammar School to complete his education. He attended many of the Rye Grammar School Reunions throughout the years and thoroughly enjoyed meeting old school friends. **Richard Merricks.** For a number of years as a child he received intensive therapy to learn to live with his disability at the Cerebral Palsy Unit at Carshalton Hospital, Surrey. Early schooling was not successful and he was home schooled with the aid of a tutor before he spent a happy three and a half years at Rye Grammar School (1953-57), and at the Kent Farm and Horticultural Institute (1958-59). He was a successful fruit farmer at Western Court Farm, Udimore, with his wife Vanda whom he married in 1966. Vanda sadly died in 2006. He married Jill Murphy (née Sharp), also a cricket lover, in 2007. From an early age Rick was a cricket enthusiast. It was a huge disappointment that his disability meant that playing the game was not possible for him, but for the whole of his adult life he was a passionate, knowledgeable and intelligent

follower of the game at village, town, county, national and international level.

HITHER GREEN , 50 YEARS ON. BY JOHN BREEDS

In 1955 Dianne Williams and I were in Morton Smith's class at Rye County Primary School. On one occasion, in the privacy of the store cupboard, I asked if I could kiss her. She, sensibly, refused to do so except through a long cardboard tube of the type used to store classroom posters. I can't say I blame her - I was probably not a very wholesome child.

In 1957 Diane and I were now at RGS. I still fancied her, but it was still not reciprocated. Amongst my other peers had sprung up a friendly rivalry with Ricky Spencer. We both played the piano and, in alternate years, beat each other in the piano solo section of the House Music Competition (I was in Meryon, he in Sanders). We also played duets together, our speciality being the 'Theme from Exodus'. Ricky had a transistor radio and I can remember us sitting out on the School field in the summer enjoying John Arlott's cricket commentaries. Ricky also won 7s 6d from me during a game of pontoon in the Physics prep room and, although it was my entire week's wages from washing up at the George Hotel, I eventually got over it.

1965 was our last year at RGS. One particularly memorable party that year was at my cousins' - Gay and Judith Breeds' house in Guestling. How we got there at all in Jackie Russell's old van I have no idea. However, someone had apparently issued an open invitation at the Pam d'Or coffee bar in Hastings. During the festivities a load of bikers turned up and started to trash the place. I expect Gay and Judith's parents, Ken and Mary, were rather upset but the damage to their house surely paled into insignificance compared to what they were to suffer two years later!

On 5th November 1967 at about 7pm I was in a compartment with Graham Swanton on a train travelling from Rye to Charing Cross via Ashford. We were all returning to London after enjoying the Rye Bonfire celebrations. I think it was at Headcorn we were stopped and there was an announcement that there 'has been a derailment' further up the line. We were diverted to Victoria. It could so easily have been our train that was derailed. The speed limit on that section of - as it later transpired - broken track had only been increased to 70mph a few days before.

Dianne, Ricky, Gay and Judith were four of the 49 fatalities. There were also 78 injured. Molly Hullis, also a recent pupil at RGS, and her future husband, Robin Gibb - of Bee Gees fame - escaped relatively unscathed by climbing out of a carriage window. Ricky and I were both studying at Woolwich Polytechnic. He was reading Physics and I Biology. Not many days before the crash we met up one lunchtime with a view to forming a jazz band. I was too distraught to go in to college for a couple of days. When I finally did it caused somewhat of a furore because my cousin Judith's name had been listed in the newspapers as Mr. J. Breeds and all my college pals had thought I was dead for two days. I was lucky and truly appreciate the extra 50 years I have had.



REFLECTIONS OF NOVEMBER 1967 BY KEVIN WILLIAMS



I wonder if we all have the same memories of Rye's bonfire celebrations in the late 50's and 60's? The years when the whole town got involved, when the event didn't need tourists for it to succeed. Floats pulled by tractors and Land Rovers, queued along all the streets of the Tilling Green Estate. When it was an honour to be chosen to appear in a tableau, to 'balance' on a farm trailer and be applauded like a returning, all conquering Caesar, and the ultimate.....to be considered 'old enough', to be trusted to march through the town as a torch bearer!!!! What great theatre!!!

During the evening of Saturday November 4th 1967, I had no idea that it would be the last Bonfire Night I approached with any enthusiasm. The previous Saturday (28th October), my family and I set off from Rye to attend an early Saturday wedding ceremony at the Fulham Town Hall, Fulham Broadway. It had to be an early slot, as Chelsea were playing West Ham at 3 o'clock that afternoon. Everything needed to be done and dusted, photos taken, guests moved on their way to the reception at Imperial College, well before fans started to arrive for a 1-3 West Ham victory. My sister Dianne had met Bill Reid some six months earlier, just after qualifying as a Teacher, then accepted his marriage proposal in a small Enfield Italian restaurant whilst being serenaded by Nancy and Frank Sinatra singing 'Something Stupid'. How do I remember all this???? So at 22 yrs and 20 days old, Dianne was now looking forward to returning to school after her first half-term break as Mrs. Reid.

What next for the happy couple during the half-term break?.....Why not spend a few days with our Welsh relatives down in the Rhondda, then head to Rye to celebrate Bonfire Night with fellow 'old scholars'. They did both and looked forward to their future. Before heading out the door of our Rye home in The Link to sing in the Evensong service at St. Mary's, on Sunday 5th, I said goodbye to my sister as she happily ironed her husband's work shirts, without considering I would never have that opportunity again.

What happened during that 5th November night 50 years ago, was commemorated in two services this year on Sunday 5th November at Hither Green Station and at St. Mildred's Church just down the road from the site of the disaster. Attending both gatherings, I enlightened people about the wonderful Hither Green 'achieving against all odds' award, created by the Rye Old Scholars Association, in memory of Dianne Williams, Ricky Spencer and sisters Gay and Judith Breeds. All at The Hither Green Community Association and St. Mildred's Church were so pleased that their neighbourhood is and has been associated with something so positive for so many years. I promised to forward them annual photos of the presentation evening and details of the Rye College student who received the award.

May I again thank ROSA for having the compassion and imagination to create the award. Time marches on and some memories fade, but the tragedy and the above four names should never be forgotten. The School's presentation evening allows me to inform people about both. I feel very grateful and privileged to be allowed to represent the Spencer and Breeds family for this event. The fact that Ricky and Dianne were school friends, likewise, Judith and Gay were school friends of my sisters Daphne and Glynis allows me to be passionate about all four. Also, the joy the recipient displays when called forward from the audience is a joy to behold and proves that the Hither Green Cup is valued by the student and is evidence that the school acknowledges 'grit and determination' as well as academic attainment.

Some 20 years after the event, whilst carrying my PA into a London college gig, I had one of those 'I've been here before' feelings. Walking around the room, I was very quickly transported back to Dianne's reception in the same room at Imperial College. However, the room seemed much bigger than I remembered, but, halfway along the side of each wall were the same room dividing shutters still functioning.

Like seeing The Who on Hastings Pier one soggy Sunday night in August 1966, some memories never leave you.

REMEMBERING MR PETER BOYCE

Mr Peter Boyce, who was a much-respected teacher at Rye County Secondary School and then Thomas Peacocke Comprehensive, passed away on 7 March 2017. His funeral was held on Wednesday 29 March at Hastings Crematorium. Friends and family gathered afterwards at the Flackley Ash Hotel, Peasmarsh to continue their celebration of Peter's life. Barry Fuller, a former colleague of Peter's, described the occasion. 'Standing room only at Hastings Crematorium this morning, to say farewell to a properly nice man and a true gentleman. Friends and ex-colleagues turned out in number to attend. From the School, all that was required would have been Ray Fooks, (who couldn't make the ceremony in person, but made his appearance in the eulogy) then he could have called a Staff Meeting! 19 colleagues made their way there, all displaying various levels of infirmity, due to the onset of older age. Ted Taylor – CDT, Peter Jobling – Tech. Drawing, Dave Hancock – Metalwork, Seymour Leeds – Chemistry, Don Beoney – Maths. Richard Seeley - Maths, John Stewart – Art, Jo Kirkham – History, Andy Lewis – Humanities, Lois Benton – Music, George Hunt – Head of 6th Form, Norma Hunt, Martin Blincow – PE & Bus. Studies, Bryan Atkins – Bus. Stud. & Economics Ed Wiseman – EPA & Politics, Maureen Getley – History, Chris Rose – English, Graham Turner – Humanities, Barry Fuller – PE & DT. As far as these occasions can be, this was wonderful. Katherine (Eldest daughter) was overjoyed at one stage when there were many separate outbursts of laughter around the room, from people sharing various reminiscences. 'He would have wanted this, it's wonderful!'

Two more tributes

Have heard of the passing of Peter Boyce, a true legend amongst teachers and pupils in Rye. An ex-pupil, evacuated during the war, his sense of humour was drier than the Atacama desert. In front of a class of children he would hold them spell-bound. A strict disciplinarian, he, quite rightly believed that 'you can't teach a class until they're listening to what you have to say. So once you have their attention, make sure that what you say is worth listening to.' I'm sure that all who knew him will have anecdotes about the man, I have so many. 'Arriving late in my class, one of our 'rough diamonds' was asked by his friends, before I could ask the same question, 'Where've you been mate?' The gloomy reply was, 'I've just been Boyced', which went a long way to explain why he didn't immediately sit down!

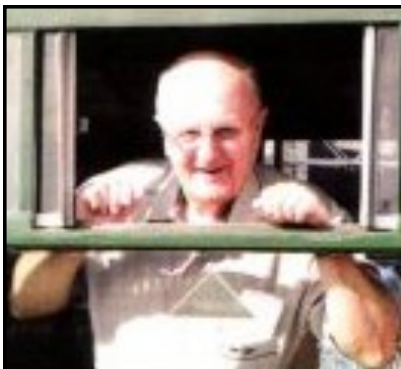
Barry Fuller

Sad news indeed (about the passing of Peter Boyce) - not many of them left. I knew his wife hadn't been well for sometime and visited him about 18 months ago. His humour was still intact. He was my nemesis during the first three years at the Sec. Mod, where ever, when ever, what ever bug...ring about I was involved in, he seemed to be there witnessing my every move.

Kevin Williams

Editors Comment

Such was the respect that Mr Boyce had was proven by modern day Social Media (you can just imagine the reaction if caught scrolling on your phone, whilst in the forge). On Facebook there is a page called **TPS Do You Remember**, there were 140 "Likes" and 136 Tributes for this wonderful gentlemen.



"I left Rye College in 2009. While achieving well at school academically, I found that these years began to instil important teachings in regards to relationships, morals and work ethics. These have become invaluable tools that I have carried with me both professionally and personally through life.

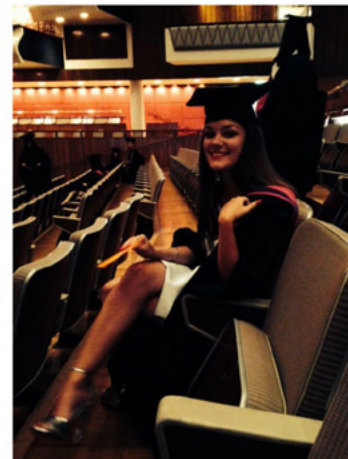
From school I went on to study Fashion & Garment Design at SCCH before leaving the coast to gain a degree in Creative Direction for Fashion at the prestigious London College of Fashion. This higher education combined with work and interning allowed me to develop a transferable skill set, and knowledge of visual communication, the importance of new media and retail; all of which lead me to my current position.

I now work in Mayfair as part of the Ecommerce & Digital Marketing team for luxury swimwear brand Melissa Odabash."

Chloe
Lyden

2005 - 2009

Rye
COLLEGE



FUTURE R.O.S.A. BULLETIN

Now we have our wonderful long awaited ROSA website the bulletin will need to change its format in future editions. If those who contributed obituaries of loved ones for instance are wondering where all their words have gone, they are now displayed in our obituary section on the website with an abridged remembrance within this bulletin.

Our website can report news and updates hourly if need be and the annual bulletin can never compete with this. Contributors to future editions will be invited to write small articles about themselves or compile news of their contemporaries that they keep in touch with, a fine example of this is Nicola Mitchells piece on page six.

There is still a place for the ROSA bulletin, a tradition we must maintain since the first one was printed in the early 30's, but like most things it will need to adapt and change.

NEWS OF AUDREY DENT 1946-1952

With husband Robin they were at R.G.S. from 1946 to 1952. They have been married for 64 years and produced their own 'dynasty' with 4 daughters, 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren so far. They live in Peasmarsh. Audrey serves on various local committees, a member of the ladies choir, swims and loves the garden and enjoys the produce from it. Robin is a campanologist and still active in the sporting shooting field. They enjoy being with their large family and manage to attend a wedding every year with the help of the Grandchildren. Sadly many of their school friends have gone to a better place but they keep in touch with one or two still who live near them.

REMEMBERING PROFESSOR BRIAN BELLHOUSE

Brian was born in Winchelsea with Nurse Flanagan in attendance and delighted his parents from that day onwards. His early schooling was at Playden primary school where the headmistress Mrs. Bideaux recognised his talent for singing and proposed him for Westminster Abbey whose choir was being re-formed after the war. He thrived there, he sang at the Queen's wedding and accumulated a vast musical and choral knowledge, leaving the position of Senior Chorister when his voice broke. Rye Grammar School became his scholastic home, excelling on the football field and cricket pitch as well as in Mathematics. He often spoke of his indebtedness to his teachers, particularly 'Gus' Allnutt. After becoming head boy, he left RGS for National Service, first with the Marines and then with the Royal Sussex regiment. It was towards the end of National Service that he met his wife Elizabeth, together they were to create a dynasty. But first, a place to read Maths at Magdalen College took Brian to Oxford and a year into his undergraduate studies he and Lizzie got married. Their early years were spent full of romance and simplicity— a tin bath in the kitchen, working as a farm hand in lieu of rent, holidays camping in a two person tent in Scotland. After a spell of teaching in Leicester, Brian returned to Oxford to do a Doctorate in Engineering Science. He went on to become a Fellow of Magdalen where he remained for 40 years. Brian & Elizabeth had seven children, six daughters and a son.



His academic achievements are a matter of public record but do not indicate how much he enjoyed teaching undergraduates or how much enthusiasm he could engender in them. Suffice it to say that, at his 80th birthday celebration dinner at Magdalen last year, ex-students and colleagues from around the world thronged to do him honour. He, in his usual self-effacing way, expected a mere handful of people to turn up! Brian's own enthusiasms included football and cricket, both of which he played for his college until he realised time was catching up with him when a fellow player shouted to him: "Pass the ball, Sir!" On retirement, he enjoyed many sailing cruises. The longest being a double crossing of the Atlantic, completed in 2004.

Brian's research and the medical Engineering Unit which he founded in Oxford were of huge importance to him. He applied his discoveries in fluid dynamics first to artificial heart valves and later dialysers and oxygenators. Brian was a pioneer in his attempts to bring university research to commercial realisation. His ambitions were modest but he was tenacious in pursuing them above all he wanted to fund his research group. The success of Powderject enabled him to do this and also become a major donor to Magdalen College, the University and the Oxford Children's hospital all of which gave him enormous pleasure.

He was out walking on Monday morning June 12 with a friend across one of his own fields near Hastings where normally docile Sussex cattle were grazing. On this occasion, he was attacked and trampled upon, without warning. His friend called the Kent Air Ambulance helicopter which arrived just before 11am, but paramedics were unable to resuscitate him.

A retired Oxford don and emeritus professor at Magdalen College, Oxford lived in Winchelsea. He became an overnight millionaire in 1997 after inventing a device for needle-free injections. He had strong associations with Rye all his life. His father at one time owned the garage immediately by Monkbretton Bridge, New Road, Rye. Brian attended Rye Grammar School and won a place at Oxford University. He was a patron of the Rye Studio School.



In retirement, Brian found more time for walking, sailing and cycling and in more recent years two of his main pleasures came from his farm and his dogs. He enjoyed simple food, fine wine and a decent beer and was always on a perpetual search for the perfect pint.

In the many messages of condolence that the family received certain words or their synonyms occur repeatedly; brilliant, inspirational, jovial, charming, kind, modest, respectful, a gentleman, loyal, trusting and an irreplaceable friend. He was all of those things and many more. Brian was little changed by his success and probably happiest in his old jeans and T-shirt either walking his dogs on the farm, watching sport on T.V. Or having a good laugh in a pub. He had a lovely sense of humour and a terrific laugh.

Brian was devoted to his wife Elizabeth throughout their almost 60 years of marriage and fiercely proud of all his children and 21 grandchildren. He often spoke of them all with great affection and pride, this was seldom done directly but they all knew from his bear-hugs just how much he loved them. Brian will be hugely missed by his family and friends.

JOY LOFTHOUSE

A slither of space as we came near to our copy deadline to announce the sad passing of Joy Lofthouse. I am delighted that we honoured her life achievements in a special feature in our 2015 bulletin which can now be seen on the ROSA Website.

The photo left shows Joy enjoying an ovation from the crowd in the Royal Box at Wimbledon.

The photo shows Joy at the controls of her beloved Spitfire in 2015, now we sincerely hope her spiritual home.



THE CLASS OF '96 thanks to our roving reporter NICOLA MITCHELL (nee HODGKINSON)

It is 21 years since we sat our GCSE's in the school hall at Thomas Peacocke. Back then we had very dodgy hair cuts (extensive photographic evidence of this is available!), spots and the big wide world waiting for us. It seems that some have travelled far and wide, some staying miles away, some of us returning and some of us never leaving! Some are married, others divorced and a few still care free and single. Many of us have children, a few of us started early and now have children of our own sitting GCSE's, there are others that have started later and are embracing sleepless nights and there are those that some would say are the sensible ones who have no offspring! So now as we head towards 40 here is what some of the class of '96 are up to now.

Karen Wright nee Davey has a very successful cake decorating business called Karen's Iced Gems, married with two children.

Wayne Smith is living in New Romney, working hard as a Nuclear Waste Manager and has a son and enjoys touring the tea rooms of the South East.

Lawrence Hatter is a lecturer of History at Washington State University in the USA, he has had his first book published this year: "Citizens of Convenience: The Imperial Origins of American Nationhood on the U.S.-Canadian Border"

Carole Turner has two girls, works in a children's nursery and is planning on getting remarried next September.

Jon Colegrave married for seven years, they have a daughter and has been working as a Head Chef for the past six years.

Bonnie Minshull nee Shearer is living in Haslemere Surrey with her Husband and two children and works in the West End, not on stage but as a Chartered Surveyor.

Carly O'Keefe nee Thompson Lives in North Wales and is mum to five, yes five children! Sadly, four years ago was widowed but happily next year is getting married again, she also works a stupid amount of hours as a senior support worker which she definitely does for love and not the money!

Laura Hodges nee Giles is married, lives in Ticehurst and works in London as a Senior Brand and Marketing Manager for EY, she works on brand building programs like World Entrepreneur Of The Year and sponsorships like the Ryder Cup.

Sharron Haddock nee Busbridge is married, works as a Nursery Manager, also runs a successful children's party business and is mum to two children.

Euan McGrath has managed to stay unmarried with no children, lives in London and runs the design department at Agency in Town film biz.

Annette Jones has two children works in Hastings as a Housing Officer for Optivo Social Housing and also does some work with the RSPCA.

Laura Franks nee Bailey works part time as a Civil Servant, mum to three children.

Sam Mankelow nee Lemon has three children works for Blue Bird caring and is studying level 2, level 3 in end of life and dementia and hopes to go into nursing.

Lucy Lee nee Perry is Teaching in Hampshire, mum to three children and is recently separated.

Zara Breeds nee Williams works for Hastings and Eastbourne pupils referral unit and is an instructor of outdoor education helping young people who are not coping in mainstream school.

Beccy Holiday nee Kellham is married to Mike, together they have a Chartered Land Surveying company R.L Surveys Ltd. They live in Ashford with their two daughters, in their spare time they also have a small crafting business Boo Makes which has an Etsy Shop.

Louise Piper worked as a nurse for 12 years after leaving school, then moved into insurance for three years, after this went to Gran Canaria for a while, on returning to the U.K fell into recruitment where she has stayed for three years and is now Temps Controller for the RSE Group based in Robertsbridge and loving it.

Sabrina Louange nee McGregor spent 13 years living in a Four Star resort in the Seychelles, came home last year just in time for the reunion! Now currently living in Reading as the Duty Manager in the Best Western Calcot Hotel, however is moving on to a bigger property at the De Vere Wokefield Estate, hoping one day to own her own hotel in the Seychelles (she has promised a discount for all of the class of '96!)

MRS LONGFIELD

I had a surprise telephone call from this wonderful lady soon after the last bulletin was distributed. Believe it or not, she tried to disguise her voice! Mrs L. was delighted to receive the bulletin and commented that working at Rye were the best working years of her teaching career and remembers them with great fondness.



RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY

ROBERT ELDRIDGE

ATOS U.K. YOUNG THEATRE

ORGANIST OF THE YEAR 2017

RUNNER UP

LUCY CROUCH

RUNNER-UP IN THE SENIOR SECTION

JAMYMA HANSON

Please follow their success and fund raising events on FACEBOOK &

www.ryewurlitzeracademy.co.uk

A PLEA FOR HELP FOR THE WALL OF ASPIRATION

Recently we have put together a 'Wall of Aspiration' to show our students what has been achieved by ex-students who left in the last 15 years. We would like to add more to this. If any ROSA members fit into this bracket (we would like to keep it fairly current), and are willing to email me a photo and mini-bio, that would be fantastic. We are also moving towards delivering Careers (CEIAG) through subjects, as well as in tutor time and workshops. If anyone has a job that links to a specific subject, and would be willing to come and speak to our students, we would be very grateful.

Please feel free to contact Donna Starkey
email: donnastarkey@ryeacademytrust.org
if you feel you can help in any way.

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1960's REUNION 2018



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THE SALTS, RYE
7.30PM–11.45PM

LICENSED BAR, TWO COURSE BUFFET SUPPER, RAFFLE
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SCHOOL DAY REFLECTIONS FROM TED BLUNDELL

Thanks Richard for the info on attendees for the lunch held last year. I recognise some of the names, in particular Maureen Getley who was my 1st year (1956/57) form teacher. It would be nice to meet her again whilst I still have the opportunity. This was the back end of the Jacobs era of course and I remember going with my father for the school entry interview with Mr Jacobs. I was surprised at the time to find out that my father had got to know Mr Jacobs through his Boy Scouts activities following the war years.

It was of course during my time at RGS that the Wurlitzer was acquired and installed in its original balcony position in the school hall. It has received much more attention over more recent years than it did then, but I do know that music maestro Mr May was like a dog with three tails when it was up and running! Eric Girdlestone (Goggles), who was a classmate used to play it on occasions for the morning assembly.

I must say that I have very fond memories of my time at RGS and often wonder what happened to my old classmates. I do still keep in touch with two who used to live in the same village (Icklesham), Robin Balcombe (now Rye) and Brian Heighes (now Australia). I also communicated with a few others many years ago via the 'Friends United' website (Derek Padgham, Colin Newstead, John Stonestreet, and Jeanette Grout) and would like to get in touch again and with any others (particularly Peter Holmes who lived in The Grove adjacent to the school. I think his father was a teacher at RCMS) who may remember me. Perhaps you could mention along with the photo where you got it from and that I can be contacted via email available from yourself or Tim Rothwell.

Eds Note: Ted has forwarded a whole school photo in four sections which I have passed to Tim Rothwell to display on the website as space did not allow it to be shown in the bulletin.

MOLLY TOWNSEND HONOURED LOCALLY

Thanks to David Hance & The Rye News for the words & Ian Castro for the photo

On Saturday, October 14 I was privileged to attend the presentation of The Order of 1066 to Molly Townson, which took place in Hastings Town Hall. The October 14 was Hastings Bonfire day and all the civic dignitaries were there dressed in their traditional official finery.

Molly received the award chiefly for her untiring work for the Hastings Musical Festival and the Hastings Piano Concerto Competition [HIPCC] The festival is now in its 110th year and its continued success is in no small part due to Molly's efforts. Molly also heads a team that is responsible for the HIPCC in its present form. With the generous help of the Kowitz Family Foundation it has become the second most prestigious piano concerto competition in the country after Leeds. Competitors from all over the world take part and it has put Hastings on the classical music map.

Molly's connections with Rye go back a long way. Her great grandfather bought Fletcher's House, next to St Mary's Church, and converted it into a tea shop for his daughter, Lily Symmons, Molly's grandmother. Lily carried on with the business, known even to this day as Fletcher's House, until her death in 1969. Her daughter Marjorie ran the business latterly and lived there with Molly for several years. Molly attended Rye Grammar School from 1954 until 1961. Apart from a nine year spell in Horsham, she has lived in and around Guestling ever since. She started and still runs a ladies choir, Cantabile, who give several recitals through the year for charity and is also responsible for founding and running the very well attended Guestling Church choir who won their class in the Hastings Musical Festival in 2016. All in all a very well deserved award.



MEMORIES OF RYE BY RICHARD LOOSEMORE

My time living near Rye as a child was turbulent and traumatic. My family moved there a few weeks before I started as a 1st Year at Thomas Peacocke, in 1969, so I was very much an outsider. Result: a few weeks of making friends at school ... then the bullying started. Serious bullying, that caused lasting damage. But in between the fights I enjoyed that period:

Ian McLaren and I were crazy about science, so we were always building contraptions, mixing chemicals, doing ESP experiments or building circuits. We made plans to build an antigravity-powered spaceship, and set a date for our landing on Mars. (No, seriously!) I can only remember a few names. Linda Goodwin (met her on the 1971 trip to Compiègne, fell in love, never told her), and a girl whose name might have been shortened to Tilly (?).

Clive Henderson and Ian Pittock were also friends. Oh, and the American girl that I said hello to, in the lane near my house in Peasmarsch. That was love at first sight ... until I saw her face in The Daily Mirror (huh!?) and realised she was Linda McCartney.

So, what am I doing now? I married an American, have been living in the U.S. for 23 years (although we are now planning to go back to the U.K. to live), and I do research in artificial intelligence. I design friendly, useful AI systems, not the nasty kind. At least, that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

1970's REUNION September 21st 2019 ADVANCE NOTICE

It has been an absolute pleasure to be associated with the 70's reunion since arranging the first in 1985 when the Class of 76/77 got together at the Mermaid Inn to remember our dear class mate Tim Docksey. From this we have got together every five years, apart from this event as it will be that the classes of 75-77 will have reached that magical age of 60.

That said, we welcome all former students who left in the 1970's, the more the merrier as we have done so in the past.

Please email me r.fm@btopenworld.com if you are interested in attending. I have various ideas about the venue (in Rye of course) but it will depend on interest for those who wish to attend.

There won't be a Disco, there won't be live music as the volume of conversation and reminiscing will far out do this.

Please make a note in your diaries now (should you have a 2019 edition already) . Let's make this evening a memorable occasion as others have been in the past.



RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

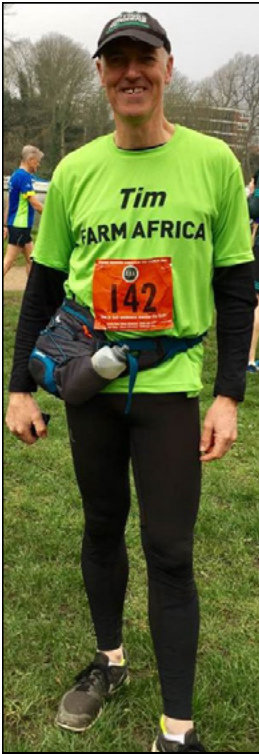
1970's REUNION
MAKE A NOTE OF
THE DATE TODAY
SATURDAY
21ST SEPTEMBER
2019



MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW
NO EXCUSE TO MISS
IF YOU ARE WASHING
YOUR HAIR THAT NIGHT



TIM JURY MARATHONS FOR FARM AFRICA



I have been working with Farm Africa for some 30 years now and have been involved in some interesting challenges mostly involving running but originally my interests in fundraising centred around local events such as barn dances, carol singing at the farm with all the animals, a sponsored horse ride to name but three. I also enjoyed speaking about Farm Africa whenever I was asked and have at some time or another visited most Rotary clubs in the area as well as many other social clubs. My wife Anne and I still hold these annual events but this year as it marked my 30 year I had to try and top all my previous challenges.

So, 2017 has been marathon year and I am happy to say am nearing completion of 30 of them!! At the time of writing I am on the final 2. It is not entirely selfless in fact I occasionally feel guilty trying to attract sponsors for doing something I really enjoy that's not to say it's been easy far from it, it has been tough and the legs are definitely feeling the strain. I shall have many fond memories of this years running but few will compare to the sights and sounds of my trip to India and competing in the Himalayan 100 mile stage race. The weather conditions were extreme with temperatures ranging from 20 degrees down to minus 5 also the trails were very rocky and difficult to run over hence I mostly walked add to this the very basic unheated accommodation and there you have the makings of a very challenging event but also very fulfilling.

I guess that's why many of us run. In a world where it is easy to allow yourself to be cosseted and never experience hardship, it's very rewarding to see just how far you can be pushed. I could write much more about my exploits but I prefer to use this space to reiterate how supporting Farm Africa has been a most rewarding experience and, when I have been able to meet some of the beneficiaries, a most humbling one as well. These hard working families deserve better and Farm Africa has done so much to make this happen.

INTRODUCING MR. BARRY BLAKELOCK

Barry Blakelock joined as Headteacher of Rye College and Studio School in September 2017, along with two new deputies, Jest Carpenter and Dom Downes. Barry has acquired a wealth of experience as Headteacher at Trinity Church of England Primary and a number of senior leadership roles within the Aquinas Trust. One of the attractions of the Rye College and Studio School post for Barry was the school's position in the heart of the community.

Since arriving, Barry has enjoyed getting to know the students and colleagues, working closely with them to improve the educational experience and outcome. The Open Evening for prospective students and parents was well attended and many positive comments have been received, noting in particular, the warm and friendly environment that the College and Studio School offer. Barry has a passion for education and parents have been pleased to hear that the focus is on teaching and learning, with an expectation that every student will both be challenged and will challenge themselves to aspire.



"I have enjoyed my first term in Rye – the local community has made me feel most welcome. Rye College and Studio School are full of potential and I look forward to a bright future for all our students. By placing our trust at the heart of the community, I am confident that we will deliver on exceptional education to the children and families of our town."

GORDON BOXALL Down Under (and along a bit)

As I conclude the proofing of the bulletin (so now have to own all errors and omissions!), I realise that I am doing this on The International Day of Disabled Persons. As ever, it is great to see the exploits of Old Scholars spread around the globe doing good work and living great lives. We often think of disabled people only recently being accommodated within mainstream settings so it was particularly interesting to read about Richard Merricks (p.2) who was clearly welcomed at RGS in the 1950's and went on to lead a fulfilled life. I recently received news of someone's death who we had supported since she came home to Canterbury after completing residential school. Along with her friends, with whom she then 'flatted' for the next 20 plus years, she had a profound disability with no use of words or much of her body below her neck. Yet, she was a very special person who contributed much to people's lives. She wanted to be my PA, who reminded me last week that there were times (when we were nearing a deadline of one sort or another) that she wanted her to have it too! Whilst unable to fulfil that role, we did employ her for a while as a receptionist and her smile lit up the room for anyone visiting. As I haven't spoken to her family, I have maintained her anonymity but just wanted to share how one person has inspired me to never underestimate the qualities that people have and what they can contribute to their family, their friends and their community.

HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY? HAVE YOU TOLD US?

I will admit that we are past the stage of comments that "We haven't had a bulletin since Will Dunlop died" but we still get the occasional comment that a bulletin has been missing in peoples lives for a few years. It now takes seconds to correct and at no cost as I simply (when discovered) send on back issues from 2009 to the present day when the bulletin went electronic as well as paper. If we miss you, we don't do it deliberately, we simply need to know and we will correct it. However, if you move we cannot guess your new address so please tell us for those who receive a paper copy.

NEWS FROM JAPAN FROM CLIVE COTTERELL

Hello there. My name is Clive Cotterell, I left T.P.S. in the early eighties. I've been asked to contribute a few words about my journey to where I am now as an example of a life outside of Rye. It has been a long and complicated ride full of such unbelievable coincidences that I no longer believe in them. My wife's version of the story was published as a book two years ago (she is an artist) and I am about halfway through translating it into English.

Well, I don't really know how to start but I'll just cut straight to the chase. I had a pretty good job at Shell International on the South Bank in 1989 when one day I attended my guitarist friend's wedding. Just like in "Four Weddings and a Funeral" I met someone who was so amazing that I completely forgot that I wasn't good looking, had no confidence and was shy. She was a young English artist who had grown up in Chelsea and after seeing an exhibition of Japanese lacquer ware in the Royal Academy three and a half years earlier had jumped on a plane to Japan with a one way ticket and no money. She intended to stay in London for three weeks for the wedding but (by some strange miracle) we became partners and after a year in London she had to return to Japan and she asked me whether I'd like to go with her or split up. The choice wasn't very difficult. We've been here in Japan now for 28 years living at the bottom of a mountain on the end of a peninsula. The only access to our house is along a one metre wide 200 metre long path in a sheer cliff running alongside a river so our lifestyle is basic and semi-jungle. We have no city water so I made a homemade water system from the waterfalls behind our house, I have to empty the pit toilet two or three times a year, there is no television signal. However we are surrounded by nature and wildlife and have two buildings (a house and a barn which we converted into a four-room art studio) for fifty quid a month so it has been pretty good other than several near death experiences (dealing with nine extremely poisonous snakes in a 30 minute period and falling 12 metres head first into the river with a huge rice threshing machine that nearly landed on my head.

Anyway we've managed to bring up two daughters here who are both completely bilingual and have been all over the world so I feel both grateful and very fortunate. My wife Suzanne has become pretty famous and successful as an artist and TV person and in October was asked to do a speech in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. I'm just the same old Clive working all over the place as a teacher, translator and living environment maintainer striving to become windswept and interesting. Best wishes to you all and good luck with your endeavours. I'd just like to leave you with a parting idea that came back from New York:

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is mystery, today is a gift."

This life might sound exotic or unusual but it's just another life and nothing special. You are all important and special. I cannot begin to tell you how many mistakes I have made and how much time I have wasted. I'm just a small person trying to get it together. All the best, Clive.

MEMORIES OF MARGERY NETTLE nee ODELL

As the bulletin was going to print we learnt the sad news of the passing of Margery after a short and sudden illness. Margery was a long standing member of the ROSA Committee and a supporter of many town organisations. She will be greatly missed by family, friends and all who came in touch with her down to earth, common sense approach to life. May she be at peace, without pain and in a special place now.

We sincerely thank her daughter Angela for bravely writing some words about her mother only a few days after her passing and we are delighted to pass these onto readers.

Margery Elizabeth Nettle – Mum

Mum was born on 3rd January 1940 at Cadborough Cliff, Rye. Mum attended Rye Primary School followed by Rye Secondary Modern and from the age of 13 Rye Grammar School. On leaving school aged 17 Mum went straight into her first job, a book keeper at the local dairy. In 1958 Mum enlisted in the WRAF and following clerical training was posted to Germany for 2 years. Postings to High Wycombe, Glasgow, London and a second 2 year posting to Germany followed. Mum's role being interviewing and recruitment.

Mum and Dad met in 1969. Dad was also in the RAF. Mum left the WRAF in November 1970 and found a job as an interviewer at Hastings Job Centre. Mum and Dad married on 28th February 1976 and I was born in January 1977.

From 1982-1999 Mum worked at the newsagents in Landgate. Mum loved to travel and visit new places. Family camping holidays in the West Country were taken over the years. In 1995 Mum and I travelled to Australia and 2005 Mum and Dad had a much longed for railway holiday to Switzerland. Mum cared for Dad when he became ill in 2010 until his death in 2014.

Mum was a member of the Mothers' Union for 30 years, a life member of the RAF association and a member of Rye Trefoil Guild. Mum was on various committees and societies over the years. A regular at St Mary's Church and more recently a volunteer at the Rye Community Charity Shop. Mum passed away peacefully on 27th November 2017 at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. Angela (Margery's daughter)

Memories of Margery from Sandra Lanigan I first met Margery when we moved to Rye three and a half yrs ago. She took me under her wing, at Rye Church where she was an active and very involved member, and got me to join the Mothers' Union where she was also very involved. She was very involved in the Samaras Aid Appeal at St. Mary's, sorting and packing clothes etc to go to Syria and a founder member of the Knitting Group I started to make blankets for the Appeal. She became a good friend, kind, generous and all one would want in a friend. I will really miss her, as will so many other church folk and MU members. She moved into Badgers Gate earlier this year and soon got involved in the various activities there.



I had to find space for the passing of a real gentlemen who I was proud to have known in my early years of fund raising when I was a teenager and during my days of playing in a local group. **Brian Thompson** was also so supportive in all the events I arranged whether it be through advertising or donating raffle prizes. He was a real Rye town character. We were given the sad news by Brian's daughter, Nic Cusack, that Brian died at Edendale Care Home in St Leonards-on-Sea on 28th November 2017, aged 82 years. He was a pupil at RGS in the late 1940s/early 1950s. He was married to Janet for 57 years, and lived in Icklesham for most of his married life. He was the proprietor of The Strand Garden Shop (now the Old Grain Store).

ROSA 2017 LUNCH REPORT **BY RICHARD MOORE**

The lunch and the environment we enjoyed was as pleasant as ever as what has continued to be our only annual event now. The times have passed when the lunch (or as it was then an evening dinner) acknowledged a long serving member of staff on their Retirement, that said, it is so nice to see long serving teachers attending in the form of Miss Benton, Miss Getley and Mrs Kirkham. The AGM went smoothly with Tim Rothwell in the Chair and enjoying his first year in office. It was nice to sit in the audience for a change. Despite the wonders of modern technology where everyone has a phone attached to this gadget and that we did not seem to manage to get a group photo of the attended through this year, but managed at least some table shots, thanks to Claire Spacy.

The food was its usual high standard and the service as ever first class. We enjoyed the lunch in the Mermaid's Historic Restaurant this year as numbers were slightly down for varying reasons, including a last minute bout of shingles from a long standing attendee Helen Paige who I hope will be with us for the 2018 event.

There were no speeches as such after the meal but what seems to have become another tradition varying flavours of jam and marmalade were distributed to those attending as a souvenir of the much to the bewilderment of other users of the restaurant, who, deep down, wanted a jar themselves, but, there was just enough.

Thanks to Judith and her fine team for allowing us to have this event at this very special place in Rye. The cost has remained the same for several years now and all who attended went away quite happy and contented.

Here's to the next one. In 2018 we have changed the day to a Sunday in the hope that it may encourage those who work during the week to make an appearance or find it easier to travel to Rye on a Sunday.

Let us hope so to maintain this long standing tradition of fine food and fellowship.



2017 LUNCH ATTENDEES

*Mr. T Rothwell, Mrs. L Rothwell, Mr. T Moore, Mrs. S Moore, Mr. R Moore, Mrs. J Blincow,
Mr. M Blincow, Mrs. C Spacey, Mrs. J Tomkinson, Mr. D Tomkinson, Mrs. G. Perry,
Mr. N .Perry, Miss. L. Benton, Miss. M Getley, Mr. W Eldridge, Mr. B Hacker, Mr Craggs,
Mrs Craggs, Mr. K Thompson, Mrs. M O'Neill, Ms. G Winterbottom, Mrs Fuggle,
Mrs. J Kirkham*

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EDITORS FINAL WORDS

Thank you to all those who have contributed to Bulletin No.166. Although the copy deadline for pieces is always November 20th I do collect things throughout the year, so please do send anything at any time and I set them aside for when I start putting the bulletin together at the beginning of October. It seems to be a British habit to leave things to the last minute which does not always help in this case. My thanks as always to life long friend and trans global proof reader Gordon Boxall from the idyllic Banks peninsula in New Zealand, a great partnership of words since our first attempt in 1994

LIFE MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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.

Please send a cheque payable to R.O.S.A. To:-
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