

# RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

*Bulletin 168 December 2019*



## **A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I appear to be a floating individual from President (watch this space) to Chairman for the sixth term of office for the next three years, I don't really mind what I get up to as long as we can keep the Association moving along at a pleasant sociable pace.

Hopefully you have already noticed we have had a change again; last year's modifications were not as radical as I wanted them to be. One of the reasons is that the software I use is Publisher 2007 and unable to update immediately. Thanks goes to Darren Rogers who has printed the bulletin for several years now in assisting with the layout, which has meant I have just come up with the words and photos from hither and thither and Darren has made it look wonderful.

Representation on the ROSA Committee covers four decades which would be respectable for some groups. However, we are seriously lacking students from the 1990's & 00's. There used to be a school of thought that Students leave and go off and develop a path in life and a career; get married have kids then suddenly realise they want to get in touch with their school friends. With modern day social media, most people now keep in touch more than ever before and take photos of what they are about to eat. ROSA needs some young blood. Meetings are very civilized 2-3 times a year at the Mermaid Inn, where there is also an opportunity of fine feasting.

Although this bulletin goes out at Christmas, this year we have printed extra copies to be handed out to this year's Year 11 leavers in July at their final assembly which ROSA now sponsor. Once you leave the college today, (if you are reading this in July 2020) you are an Old Scholar and we wish you every success whether it be in further education, apprenticeship or a place of employment.

Another area of support that we are currently engaging with the college is the updating of the head Boy & Girl Boards. These will be updated in such a way that the current individuals will see their name in lights whilst they are still attending rather than wait and leave and see their name five years later. Older names are fading away (like mine). We have to amend a spelling mistake that has gone unnoticed for some 41 years. Caroline Machray attended the 1970's reunion in September she realised her name had been spelt wrong. Best not wait another 41 years before we do something about it. Thanks to Old Scholar Kelvin Care of Care Signs for his expertise in this matter.

A few words from the Chairman has already become questionable in title, but there are things I wanted to convey. 2019 followed a similar path to 2018 inasmuch that we continue to enjoy our wonderful year-round website managed by Tim Rothwell which we greatly appreciate. A wonderful lunch was held in May and a successful 1970's reunion in September. News of 2020 events are announced within this bulletin. Thank you as always to the Committee for their support it is most sincerely appreciated, and thanks to Psy-tography for this great "Drone's Eye" view of Rye.

In the report for the lunch you will see that Mr. Ray Fooks MBE attended. He was hoping to attend the 70's reunion but has had a fall this year and is now in an assisted living home. I was delighted to see that several Old Scholars and Staff have written to him in recent months and should you wish to do the same, please email me and I will gladly forward his address. I know that Ray has a real fondness for his years at Rye which he now loves sharing with people even more so since losing his dear wife Marjorie.

Finally, news just in and in time to be included in the bulletin. A letter arrived the other day. "In line with the wishes of Peter Derek Webb who sadly passed away in March, we are very happy to enclose a cheque for £1,000.00 to be used for the benefit of the Old Scholars.

Peter was very proud to be an "Old Scholar" and whenever possible attended the annual reunions. This legacy was amongst his last wishes so please use this as you see fit.

I know he would want me to say thank you for the great work you carry out to ensure that all "Old Scholars" are kept up to date with things and hopefully the members will enjoy this legacy."

Whoops, a few words have covered a whole page, luckily, I have nothing else to say.

Sincere Regards to you all, Richard Moore.

For year round news, photos, memories and more, please visit our wonderful website

**[www.ryeoldscholars.org.uk](http://www.ryeoldscholars.org.uk)**

# MEMORIES OF THE 1970'S REUNION, 21ST SEPTEMBER

## BY KEVIN MOORE (PUPIL 1968-1975)

Having very recently attended the ROSA 1970s reunion held on Saturday the 21st September 2019, I thought that I would write this whilst it is fresh in my mind. This is something that I find that I need to do these days with age creeping up on me!

The last such event was four years ago I believe, which my wife Ann, nee Muggridge (1969 – 1974) and also a former pupil, and I also attended. It was slightly different this time around as I am now a ROSA Committee member and therefore there was that added incentive to ensure that the event was a good one. I suppose it is inevitable that leading up to events such as these, many of us feel nostalgic whilst others, who perhaps have a less positive mindset regarding their school years, possibly avoid considering attending. Fortunately, in the main, my school experiences were pretty positive. The attendance this time around was reasonable but it would have been great to see even more attend.

Various groups of us attending were given the opportunity of a tour of the school. I recall the significant changes made when I last went, however, this time around, the recent structural developments meant that there was a whole lot more to see. We were all I am sure very grateful to our guides who in my case consisted of the current Head Girl and one of her colleagues. What impressed me with both young ladies was their pride in their school which was reflected in the positive way in which they spoke about the buildings themselves as well as the staff and the school's ethos. The good thing was that some of the old school had not changed and it was great to be able to recall attending lessons in the very same classrooms that exist now! Thankfully, these have benefitted from redecoration!

With the tour of the school completed, it was time for socializing. The bar, thanks to Judith Blincow, was well stocked and staffed, helping to ensure that my vocal chords were well lubricated. This was just as well as there were many conversations to be held as the evening progressed. In particular, it was great to catch up with Martin Curd, Mark Easter, Dale Skinner, Vicki Rose nee Lelliott, Pete Rhodes, Paul Hodgson, Barry Duplock, Phil Vincett, Jane Blaber nee Humphrey, Dawn Bull nee Huggett, Carole Mount nee England, Raymond Carter and Bobby Morris who had come all the way from Australia! I know that there were many others that I spoke to but the memory isn't what it was and the quantity of alcohol consumed probably hasn't helped! Additionally, there were a number of former teachers present including Lois Benton, Maureen Getley and John Fletcher. I hadn't seen John since I left in 1975.

It is often much later in our lives that we actually appreciate what went before us. In my own case, I have come to realize just how much my school years laid the foundations for what was to occur down the line in terms of my successful policing career as well as my private life. School is so much more than just about academic achievement. It is also about learning to live. I couldn't have achieved what I have without the efforts made by my teachers on my behalf as well as my fellow pupils. I now know that my school years played a huge part in making me into the person that I ended up being.

It was a truly memorable evening and my grateful thanks go to Richard Moore of course who is a ROSA stalwart, as well as Judith and Martin Blincow, Claire and Andrew Spacey and also Shirley Bannister. Without their efforts, the evening would not have been the success that it was. For those that didn't come you missed out on a real treat of receiving a personalized jar of jam courtesy of Richard. Here's to the next one!

**Those attending included the following who we were very pleased to see. Teachers are included within this list by way of their title.**

Richard Moore, Vicki Rose, Mr. Chris Rose, Carole Mount, Paul Goodsell, Kevin and Anne Moore, Shirley Banister, Dawn Bull, Sarah Edgcombe, Ann Bridges, Mr. Barry Fuller, Janet Fuller, Miss Lois Benton, Tracey Jewsbury, Carolyn Purdy, Caroline Machray, Raymond Carter, Mrs Pat Bean, Mrs Wendy Jasper, Mrs Margaret Stonham, Brin Snowden, Miss Getley, Mr John Fletcher, Mr Paul Martin, Mr. Martin Blincow, Dale Skinner, Mark Easter, Sarah Wood, Jane Blaber, Gail Boustead, David Double, Mark Sherwood, Bobby Morris, Simon Cleverly, Adrian Sergeant, Dave Carey-Stuart, Roger Burrows, Barry and Jennifer Duplock, David Goodlet, Malcolm Grand, Paul Hodgson, Peter Rhodes, Philip Vincett, Martin White, Paul Springett, Toni Ripley, Denise Human, Anna Jury, Jenny Luck, Deborah Blackford, Jane Ward, Janet Wilkinson, Ann Matthews, Mr John Coles, Andrina Coles, Judith Blincow, Claire Spacey, Andrew Spacey, Emma Lynch, Sue Moore, Tony Moore, Martin Curd, Vicki Curd, Clair Blanford.

## ROSA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2019 / 2020

**President:** Mr. Richard Moore, **Acting Chairperson:** Mr. Richard Moore, **Treasurer:** Mrs. Susan Moore, **Secretary:** Mrs Judith Blincow, **Webmaster:** Mr. Tim Rothwell, **Bulletin Compiler:** Mr. Richard Moore, **Press Officer:** Mrs. Margaret O'Neil, **Overseas Correspondent:** Mr. Gordon Boxall, **Committee:** Mr. John Breeds, Mrs. Shirley Bannister, Mrs. Claire Spacey, Mr. Andrew Spacey, Mr. Kevin Moore.



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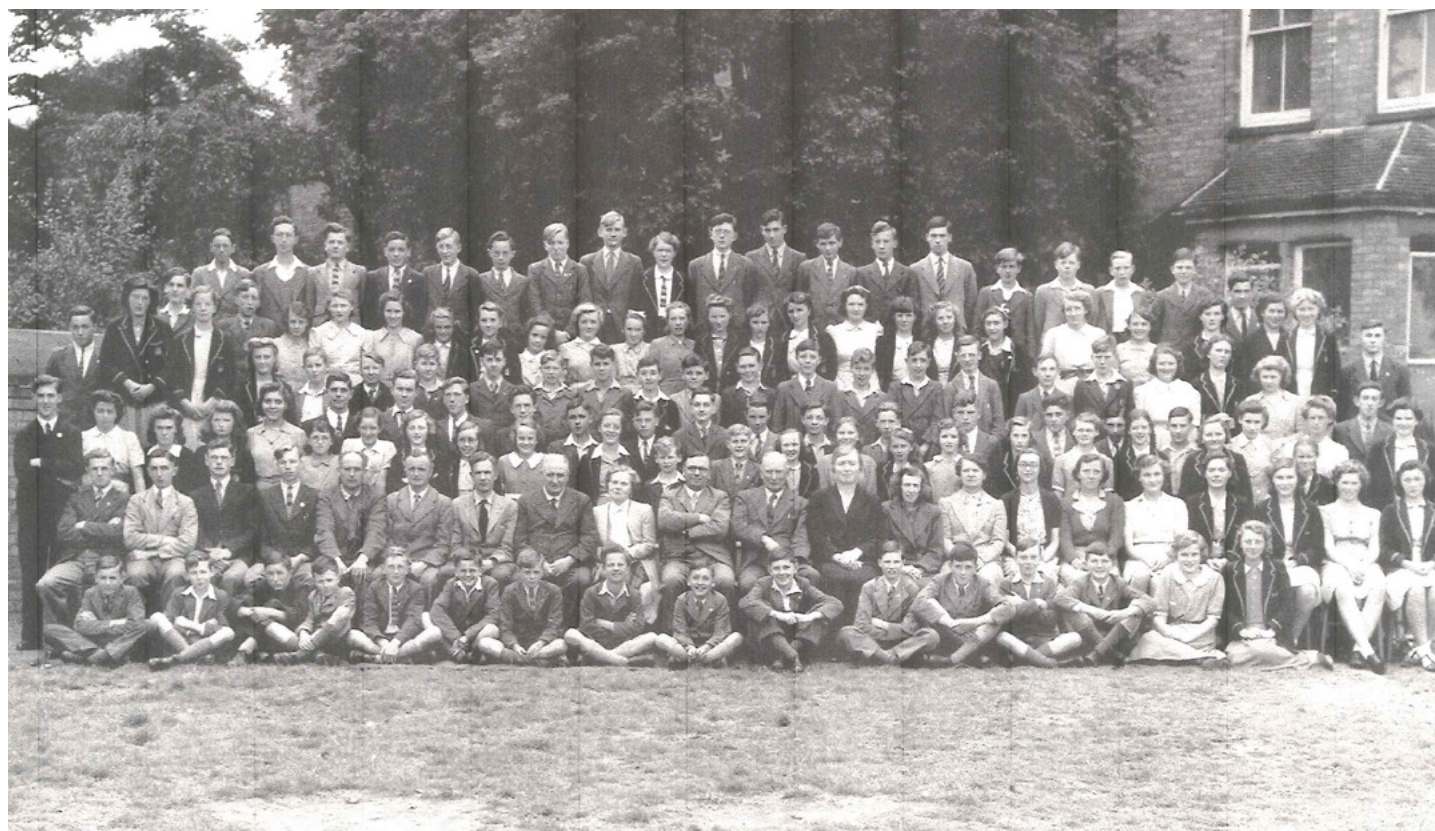
## MEMORIES OF BEDFORD BY STEPHEN WOOD

I attended R.G.S. from 1938-45. My brother Ralph joined in about 1944 and our sister Madge in about 1947, she was later head Girl. Sadly, she died about three years ago. I was a victim of the evacuation to Bedford for its whole duration.

I enclose some records which may be of interest. Even the youngest people in the photo will be in their 80's and many have left us. As you can see, I have attributed names to many of the faces, but some I cannot identify. There are also names which I would have expected to be there whose faces I do not see. Joan Hoad and her cousin Margaret (Beckley), Peter Caister, Ernie Apps, Gordon Green, Helen Mills, Maureen Samaden, Eddie Pye to name but a few. There may be a few old codgers around who can fill the gaps. Cyril Saunders whose death you have recently reported was an early pal but did not come to Bedford. I would be particularly interested to know what happened to Roy Frehner (Beckley). We spent many weekends together at Ewhurst and Beckley during the pre-Bedford era.

Like so many more I am grateful for broad education I received at RGS and remember many people with great affection. The teaching staff were very aware of their "in loco parentis" responsibilities during the Bedford exile and behaved with great sensitivity. ARJ, Miss Turner and Mr Pigrome, in particular opened the wider world of history and culture. The Philharmonic Concerts in Bedford School Hall introduced me to a lifetime of pleasure and enjoyment.

I was born 30th August 1927 in Ewhurst (not then known as Ewhurst Green). Started at RGS in September 1939. After RGS I went to several post Bedford reunions and played for Icklesham Rovers once or twice. After college (LSE) and the Army I worked for Johnsons & Johnson first at Portsmouth (1951) then at Skipton from 1955. I left them to join Leeds poly in 1968 and took early retirement in 1989. Joyce and I were married in 1958 and we have two children. Our 60th Anniversary in July last year almost coincided with my 91st birthday. Will Dunlop often visited at our Skipton house.



## RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1940-1944 EVACUEES

BACK ROW: ? Hulbert, Ron Marshall, Peter Boyce, Reg Catt, Len Allen, Gerald Burt, Geoff Payne, Jimmy Martin, ?, Brian Lupton, ?, Cyril Saunders, Les Fuggle, Jimmy Jury, ? Metianu, Martin Boyce, ? Morris, Gordon Hargrove,

SECOND ROW: John Bull, Audrey Brakesfield, Ivor Walker, Iris Leeds-George, Stephen Pritchard, ?,?, Rita Oyler, ?,?,?, Beryl Brakesfield, Doreen Standen, Stephanie Gain, ?,?, Pat Barfoot, Clare Rhind, Iris ?, Renee Farrant, Roy Frehner

THIRD ROW: Ruth Morris, ?,?, ? Watts, ?, ? Shearer,?,?,?,?, Peter Webb, ?,?,?, Ruth Oyler

FOURTH ROW: Stephen Wood, Doreen Smart, Margaret Kennedy, Cynbthia Cade, Julia Smith, Alan Shearer, Keith Bullen, Nicky Wood, ?,?, Luigi Samaden, Ivan Smith,?,?, Stan Chappell ?,,

FIFTH ROW: ?,?,?, June Terry, ? Pettigrew, Betty Ford, Judy Terry, ?, Jean Pope

SIXTH ROW: Brain Dawson, Basil Jones, Trevor Pollard, Gwilym Morgan, Gus Alnutt, Harold Douglas, Jimmy Broom, Miss Seed, A.J. Jacobs, Miss E. Turner, Mrs Broome, E.V. Letcher, D. Stevens, Helen Metianu, Pam Whiting, Rosalie Green, Kath Batehup, Daphne Breeds

FRONT ROW: ?, Lambert Parkes, Bernard ?, Willie Harthill, ?,?, Bernard Baker, ?,?,?,?,?

## ANDREW STOODLEY - THIS IS YOUR LIFE

I left Thomas Peacocke School in June 1985 after taking my exams. I loved my time at the school, although losing my father in the last year made it very difficult for me. I attended his funeral on my 15th birthday which to this day is hard to think about. My behaviour in that last year's wasn't great as a result but I still did well in my exams.

I soon started a YTS course with a day release to college. I worked 4 days a week for Leo Bonasera and Mick Hodgson at the old drill hall (now the Rye fire station site). (Mick went on to form Country Pine warehouse which burnt down in Rye Harbour a few years ago. The other day was spent at college learning carpentry.

I only stayed a year as was typical of YTS schemes back then. I got a job at the Kettle of Fish in Rye. My 1st Son Greg was born in 1987 whilst I was working there aged just 17. Yes, I was very young. I got another job at Electronic Optics LTD in Rye Harbour. This company made telescopic sights for the M.O.D. Also, the mirrors for bar scanners for the new tills that were popping up over the country. I left this after just over a year and bought a soft ice cream van out of the little bit of money I'd been left by my father. I later added a burger van to this as well. A fun couple of years doing this, along with some apple picking, soft fruit picking and turkey plucking ensued before going back to Furniture making with a family friend called Tony Burt. Some great times were had with him and his family working out of Appledore railway station warehouse. My 2nd son George was born in 1994 and I parted company mutually from Tony and started working for another furniture maker called Alan Dadson. This was out of old reclaimed Pine. I started to get good at making bespoke furniture and free-standing kitchens. Alan was looking at retiring so I bought his tools and customers off him and started out on my own. I did this for the next 14 years from a workshop in Reading Street near Tenterden. My daughter Violet was born in 2006

Both my sons had a keen interest in football as I had been managing grassroots men's teams and helped coach my son Greg's team since 1993. They had both come along to watch on Saturdays and Greg played Sundays. I had been coaching at George's primary school for 2 years and won Rother area volunteer of the year in 2005. George changed teams from Rye bay to Rye United, but his coach has some personal issues so had to give in. I was asked if I would step in so agreed. I had to attend a coaching course that was delivered by BHAFC. This course altered the course my life was going as they offered me a job coaching which I gladly accepted. I gave up the furniture making, sold the tools and started working in local schools, development centres, and elite advanced centres and from time to time in the Centre of Excellence. I took my UEFA level 3 certificate in coaching and passed at the David Beckham academy in London in 2007. This opened pathways for European tours to France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden. It also opened a pathway to a full-time job at the Club working for Albion in the community. I was also scouting for the academy in East Sussex. It was an exciting time as the new AMEX stadium was taking shape and the new training ground.

I continued doing this job until Brighton & Hove Albion got promoted to the premier league before taking Voluntary redundancy from this post in 2017. I wanted to experience some different things, so I recorded two Albums and also had a spell in a 60s Rock and Roll band as lead singer. I also went to Northern Ireland and visited the Titanic Museum, the Giants Causeway and dark hedges. In the Dec of 2017, I went to Australia on the holiday of a lifetime with my Daughter Violet. We visited my best mate from School, Mark Bennett who had emigrated during our school years, swam on the Great Barrier Reef, Visited the Sydney Opera house and Sydney Harbour bridge, Bondi Beach and loads more. We also saw the fireworks on New Year's Eve.

I still do some part time work for Albion in the community, running an Invitation football development centre. I've also worked in a homeless shelter for AITC's inclusion and Albion Goals department trying to re-engage adults into society using the power of football. Last year I worked on a project trying to assist long term unemployed back into work and helping with qualifications to achieve this.

I also still deliver PE and some after school activities in some local schools. I now have 2 lovely Grandchildren to dote on too.

Life has been really kind to me generally but with some big bumps along the way the same as everyone has. Losing my Brother Brian (Ringo) in 1991 and then my Mother (Violet) to Breast Cancer in 2003. More recently losing my sister Margaret in Dec 2016 to name a few.

My children, Grandchildren and family make me very proud and I hope my parents are looking down feeling the same about me. If I had 1 bit of advice to anyone young it would be this.

Never say Never! Follow your dreams!

You are always one decision or one opportunity or even a twist of fate away from a completely new path in life. Always leave yourself open to take that opportunity. I never thought, thinking back to my school days that I would have done the things I have.







## The Mermaid Inn

Mermaid Street, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7EY Telephone: 01797 223065 Fax: 01797 225069  
 Email: info@mermaidinn.com www.mermaidinn.com  
 AA\*\*\* AA Rosette Restaurant Supporting the Rye Old Scholars Assoc.

### HOLLY'S GAMBIAN ADVENTURE

I left Rye College in 2016 having enjoyed my education but not having a clue what I wanted to do next! I studied A levels for 2 years and then decided to do a gap year. A scheme organized by the Christian mission charity Crosslinks caught my attention, so I applied and was accepted to join the 2019 Gambia team (below).

My time in The Gambia was amazing. I was there from January to May with a team of 11 other school leavers who I got to meet 3 times before we travelled together. We all lived in one house that usually had electricity but only occasionally had running water so we had to make do with buckets and cups for washing and flushing the loo! A Sierra Leonean woman, whom we called Mama, also lived with us. She cooked for us during the week so we regularly ate traditional Gambian meals such as Yassa and Benechin, however my favourite was Domoda which is chicken or beef in a peanut based sauce served with rice.

Thankfully, English is very widely spoken so there wasn't too much of a language barrier; however, we still learnt a few local phrases in the tribal languages Wolof and Mandinka which the locals loved to hear!

The main reason we went out was to experience overseas mission. What this meant for me day to day was: teaching Maths and English in a primary school and in a nursery, working with the Gambian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (GAMFES) to help establish Christian Unions in universities, leading school assemblies, joining and serving in church and helping run a christian children's club in a mainly muslim area. We also got to see the work of the mission partners at the Servants of the Word (SoW) bible school which was very encouraging.

In amongst all this, we still had time to relax on holiday and enjoy the wonderful beaches the country has to offer! Our last of 3 holidays was a boat trip, which was incredible and so peaceful. We spent 4 days cruising down the river Gambia and even got to see wild hippos - from a safe distance! We also got to learn some of the history of the Gambia while visiting Georgetown and James Island (or Kunta Kinteh Island) - two important places during the slave trade.

If we ever had time off, one of my favourite things to do was to go to the market. I loved the colours and the business of it all! There were so many stalls selling material with amazing patterns on so when I found something I liked, I would buy it and call Bob the Tailor who would make us clothes!

Even though I generally had a brilliant time, it wasn't all plain sailing. There were times of illness and exhaustion and sometimes there were tensions in the team. Despite the majority of Gambians being very welcoming, there were some who called out "toubab" (white person) as we went past and we were often overcharged at the market because it's assumed that white equals wealth.

Nevertheless, I loved my time in the Gambia. I learnt so much and made some good friends so I would definitely go back again! Holly Eldridge.



## **MERMAID REUNION SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

### *Celebrating 600 Years!!*

The Mermaid Inn was built in 1420 and in 2020 will celebrate her 600 Year Anniversary. At present two Old Scholars own and manage the Mermaid, Judith Blincow (nee Payton) who has been on the Old Scholars committee since 1983 and Georgina Kite (nee Pinwill).

ROSA have enjoyed a close association with the Mermaid Inn for many years. I suppose one of the main reasons is that Judith Blincow, our Honorary Secretary for 36 years, is one of the owners. Our Committee Meetings are very refined where fine food is served between Apologies and Matters arising. Plus, of course our splendid Annual Lunch, held in the wonderful restaurant or historic Tudor Room.

To celebrate this wonderful occasion in their history they are planning a special event each month.

Since Judith has been at the helm they have adopted a wonderful ethos of employing local people. The majority of which has come from Rye schools whether it be R.C.S.M., R.G.S., T.P.S, T.P.C.C. and of course the present day Rye College. Whether it has been a Saturday post, part time or full time many many old Scholars have passed through their doors and long may this ethos continue. At present of the 52 current members of staff 34 are Old Scholars.

One of the events they wish to arrange is a very special Staff Reunion on Saturday 12th September. An open invitation is to all Old Scholars who have worked at the Mermaid Inn, whether you are now approaching 80 or just 18.

The Tudor Room will be open at 7.30pm, offering a free finger buffet and musical entertainment, by Old Scholars. There will be a bar and an opportunity to reminisce - whether you saw something spooky on one of your shifts, the outcome of spilling the bed chamber pot (for older employees) or even rescuing a mobile phone from the bottom of an ice bucket.

A voluntary donation on the evening for the Rye Old Scholars Association would be gratefully received. ROSA are more than delighted to accept these proceeds and from the room raffle that will benefit ROSA that assists in college support to help more Old Scholars who may in deed work at the Mermaid in the future. Isn't life just one big happy circle.

So please email Judith to give an indication if you can attend. I feel sure it will be a very special evening and look forward to meeting with you all when trying to sell you a raffle ticket.

So, calling all former Mermaidians, make a note of the date, we look forward to seeing you there.

Please RSVP to Judith Blincow, Rye Old Scholars Association – [mermaidinnn@btconnect.com](mailto:mermaidinnn@btconnect.com).

## **SHEILA BURKIN 1948-1951 A REBELLIOUS JACOBITE**

If I distinguished myself at all during my three years at RGS it was probably due to my scruffy appearance; my family were hard up agricultural workers and domestic servants, so apart from buying the official school tie, badge and the light blue gymslip girdle, my uniform was a collection of homemade and made over-garments. I regarded Headmaster Dr Jacobs and Headmistress Miss Turner (Aunt Matt) as rather intimidating, as were the other teachers; I had not previously encountered those formidable black gowns!

On reflection, I think that the local grammar school system was based on snobbery I recall Dr Jacobs referring to us as the "crème de la crème." This did not chime well with my maths teacher's habit of walking between our desks silently looking at our work, and hitting us on the head with a pencil if we had made a mistake. I believe he had been a sergeant in the RAF. At the age of 15 I fell in love with an ex-serviceman who was working on the farm that employed my mother, father and brother. From then on school was a secondary consideration for me. I left RGS aged 16 to work in a Hastings department store. On hearing what my future held, a disgusted Aunt Matt said to me, "We did not educate you to be a well-spoken shop gel." I married at 19 and disappeared into domestic obscurity, acting as my husband's secretary and hosting hundreds of overseas students. We had two daughters and a son.

My husband died in 1980 when I was 45. From then on I worked for a number of charities and helped two of my children establish businesses, which continue to be successful today. Following my retirement in 1999 my children tutored me in how to use the Internet, saying it could change my life. It certainly did. Via a chat room I met a lady from Canada who offered me a collection of letters, sent to her family from Hastings in WWII.

These letters formed the basis of my first book and fulfilled my childhood ambition to be a writer. I have now published ten books, under my new name Victoria Seymour, on the subject of 1930s-1950s local social history, given many talks on my work, appeared on TV and Radio and run writers' workshops. Now aged 85 I have an immediate and wider family of 16, among them are three teachers and two budding authors. I still think of my classmates at RGS and wonder how life has treated them. I would very much like to have news of them.

## **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 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.



## BOOK NO. 2 FOR KEVIN MOORE

“As some of you may recall, I published my first book “My Way” in August 2018. This was a memoir based on my almost 40 year police career. Encouraged by my publisher, I have now written a second book entitled “Real Murder Investigations – An Insider’s View” which was released on the 1st October 2019. This is priced £9.99 and can be purchased from a number of bookshops as well as Amazon. Once again, I have decided to donate profits from sales to the police charity COPS (Care of Police Survivors).

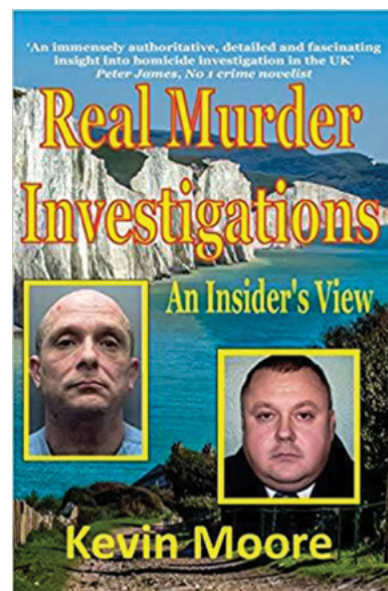
In my book I show how murder investigations have developed over the last forty years and I revisit some of the high-profile murder cases I was involved in during my career with Sussex Police.

I highlight the fact that real murder investigation is not truly like Midsomer Murders or Vera! The book identifies the professionalisation of such investigations and explains the processes involved from the finding of a body to the close of the trial. It considers why the public are seemingly obsessed with murder either in its fictional portrayal or in documentaries. What is murder in the first place? How do the police differentiate between the different levels of homicide? All of these things are covered in detail.

I also discuss the part that forensics play and the issues that the police have to consider. During my police career I was involved in many murder investigations, initially as a junior or middle ranking detective and later as the Senior Investigating Officer in charge or as the lead in reviews of such cases.

My role in cold case murder investigations is also explored. Specific cases highlighted in the book include the murders of Milly Dowler and Billie-Jo Jenkins, as well as the tragic killings of Nicola Fellows and Karen Hadaway, known as the “Babes in the Wood” murders.

There are examples of cases which show what happens when criminals fall out with one another. Other cases reveal the impact they have had on the modernisation of murder investigations and provide a true insight into real police work.”



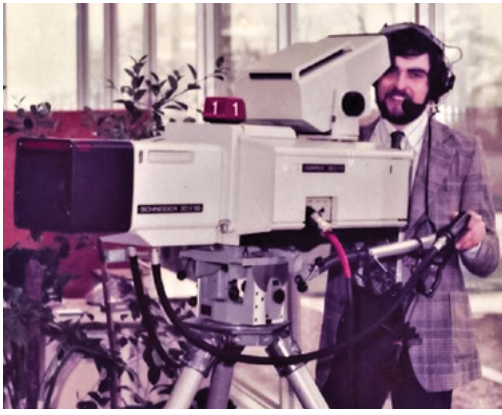
## REFLECTIONS BY BARRY BLAKELOCK, EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

For schools, a new academic year is full of energy, excitement and renewed vigour as well as a more cerebral analysis, review and reflection of the summer’s examination outcomes. Having celebrated the students’ individual successes and knowing that all our departing youngsters will again be heading-off to further education, employment or training, colleagues return to the classroom to cast a forensic eye over their own performance. Outside a banner declares “we are a rapidly improving school where students make expected progress and leave on average with a standard pass” – whilst this may sound a fairly straight forward declaration, many know it has taken two years of hard work to get to this point.

So not only was it a pleasure to see our young people enjoy results day but also my colleagues as well – the students’ excitement at finding out their grades rivalled only by the animation of those that taught them. Optimism has returned to Rye College. Combine an ever-present focus on the quality of teaching with improved outcomes and a revitalised learning environment, and the college seems to have a new lease of life. Critically, we continue to invest in the professional development of our colleagues as well as our first cohort of trainee teachers through Bromley Schools’ Collegiate. Whilst new-found energy is abound, I have been impressed by my colleagues’ close scrutiny of the college’s performance; to understand, at the deepest level, what needs to be done to ensure we honour our commitment to “create bright futures for all”. This year we have taken a significant step forward; but it is the ever-growing determination of students, teachers and associates to achieving excellence that reassures me that we are well on our way. Once again, thank you to all members of our community for your continued support.







## **JOHN WALMSLEY** **19TH MAY 1947 – 8TH AUGUST 2019**

In this photo John is behind a television camera as he often was early on in his career.

I was only a close friend of John's for a few years in my mid to late 'teens but he soon became a hero of mine. Being born just after WWII, many boys like John and myself were pretty much obsessed with all things relating to war and the armed forces. Just imagine how impressed I was when I discovered that, not only did his house seem to be full of Meccano, model aircraft (made by John) and weapons, but one of his uncles was also Air Marshall Sir Hugh Sidney Porter Walmsley KCB, KCIE, CBE, MC, DFC!

The first mention of John in the RGS School magazines was in 1961 as a member of the ATC and, unsurprisingly, secretary of the aeromodelling association.

John became a senior prefect, Peacock house treasurer and an officer in the School Air Training Corps towards the end of his time at RGS. However, his outstanding achievement was being Senior Boys' Athletics Champion every year for his last three years from 1963-65. He broke the School records for both 100 yds and 220yds and represented East Sussex at the County Championships. He was also kingpin of the team that won the East Sussex Intermediate Trophy in 1964. He played one of the knights, Richard Brito, in the 1963 School production of T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* and so was able to officially wield a sword on stage! He was annoyingly good at pretty much every subject, especially Chemistry – and all this bearing in mind that he was over a year younger than almost everyone else in our form!

John and I had some extraordinary adventures together which I don't really have room to relate here but, suffice it to say, one of them involved firing a canon in his back garden in Mermaid Street and a subsequent police investigation!

When we were in the sixth form at School there were seven Johns in our form. Three of us, 'The 3 Js', formed, in retrospect, the most embarrassingly awful instrumental group in history – we did play one gig at a School dance but we only had about three numbers in our repertoire. Characteristically, John, our lead guitarist, made the guitar that he played and, also, the amplifier we used. He was to utilise this interest in electronics to great effect in his later working life.

After A-levels John went to Reading University for a year (he was interviewed by RGS old scholar Professor Percy Allen) but found his Geology course didn't suit him. He then went to Sandhurst for a while for officer training but discovered he didn't like taking orders or the idea of killing people. Next, he taught at the Prebendal School in Chichester for a couple of years and thoroughly enjoyed it. However, he finally settled for a career in broadcasting, working initially in the studio at the BBC in Bristol – he had wonderful tales of Johnny Morris (remember him?) – then, later, as an Outside Broadcast Engineer following rugby league, songs of praise etc.

After a year or so under contract in Oman he returned to the UK and, after a couple more career moves during which he designed and built outside broadcast trucks, ended up with Sony Broadcast as an OB Project Engineer. It was here that he met his future wife, Alexis, who was PA to the MD. They were together for 38 years, during the last 10 of which they ran their own company, TVBMS, providing broadcasting services worldwide.

Twelve years ago, John was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and given, at the most, seven years to live – so you can see what a fighter he was and hoping for a cure right up to the end.

Our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Alexis, and their two children, Simon and Rebecca. Memories by John Breeds.

## **A POTTED PIECE BY JOHN LAIDLAW 1972-1979**

After I left school, most of my family emigrated to Queensland in Australia, without ever having been there before to see what it was actually like. This was not a wise move for me, and I returned to England within three years, eventually finding myself back in Sussex, living in Hastings.

Mum and dad returned a couple of years after that, settling first in Fairlight, then moving to Lincolnshire, where they stayed for the rest of their lives. Kenna stayed in Australia, making her home in Canberra, where she still is, working as a sister at Calvary Hospital.

During my time in Hastings I played guitar briefly in several bands (read: I didn't like them, or they didn't like me), eventually forming a band called The Jez Gillet Band. This one actually got quite good, and I was very lucky to play with such excellent musicians.

I got married in 1987 and moved to St. Leonard's, where I lived for another fourteen years, gaining and losing weight, jobs, and cats. I also ended up playing in an original acoustic quartet (which became a trio after a while when Tony, the original guitarist, struck out on his own) called Rude Knot To.

Rude Knot To played a fair number of gigs, and also made a short trip to the Czech Republic. Quite the experience, that was – even now, if I think of Absinthe, I shudder. Then we played a week's worth of gigs in Wisconsin, USA in October of 2001.

By January of 2002 I was heading out to that same place – my first marriage had broken down, and I was moving over the water to be with the lady who is now my current wife. I've been here ever since, having got married, gained my permanent resident's card, and adopted two lovely cats. I've played in several bands in the US and Canada, and managed to support that habit by holding down a decent job to pay for everything.

I no longer play out, but amuse myself with playing various instruments at home, interspersed with building – or at least, starting to build – plastic models of various things. Occasionally, I finish one of them, then have to rest for a while to get over the shock.

## RYE OLD SCHOLARS LUNCH REPORT

There were sufficient numbers once again this year to allow us to take over the delightful Tudor Room at the Mermaid Inn. Thanks, as always to Judith Blincow for allowing us to have the meal here and putting on such a great value for money Sunday lunch.

We nearly had a guest of honour this year in the human form of Mr John Lovell who had amassed 34 years of teaching at Rye. However, at the very last minute his daughter was appearing at a National Competition in The Midlands and of course family support took preference on the day. We wish him well for his justly deserved retirement

I was personally delighted (as others were of course) to see that Mr Ray Fooks MBE was able to attend.

I am letting the power of the camera (thank you Andrew Spacey for being the official paparazzi) speak a thousand words as the format is very much the same now, and much enjoyed by all those attending. We eat, we talk and take away a jar of marmalade as a souvenir. It would be great if I had to make double the number of jars for next year's attendees.

Reservations are now being taken for the 2020 Lunch on Sunday May 17th. Guest to arrive 12.30 for 1pm. The A.G.M. will commence at 12 noon in the Tudor Room. The delicious menu is below. Please select and send your payment to Judith at the Mermaid Inn by Wednesday 13th May, we look forward to seeing you there.

### Attendees for the AGM luncheon this year:

Sue Moore, Tony Moore, Judith Blincow, Martin Blincow, Claire Spacey, Andrew Spacey, Shirley Bannister, Richard Moore, Geoffrey Craggs, Rosemary Craggs, Ray Fooks, Jim Holmes, Janet Holmes, Barry Fuller, Rebekah Gilbert, Wendy Dumbleton, John Dumbleton, Kevin Moore, Ann Moore, Jill Black, John Breeds, Geraldine Breeds, Bertie Hacker, Keith Thompson, Denise Payton, Anthony Payton, Helen Paige, Penelope Hoad, Maureen Getley, Lois Benton, Benny Wicking, Bill Wicking, Paul Payton, Will Eldridge.

## LUNCHEON MENU SELECTION

Ham Hock Terrine  
*Melba Toast and Homemade Chutney*

Potted Shrimps  
*Local Leaves and Brioche Toast*

Endive Salad  
*Pear, Blue Cheese and Walnut*

\*\*\*

Roast Striploin of Beef  
*Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes and Local Seasonal Vegetables*

Pan Fried Fillet of Salmon  
*Dauphinoise Potato and Herb Butter*

Cauliflower Wellington  
*Ras El Hanout, Wild Mushrooms, Local Leaves*  
*All Main Courses Served with Seasonal Vegetables*

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Elderflower and Lemon Posset  
*Seasonal Berries and Shortbread Biscuit*

Seasonal Fruit Salad  
*Champagne Sorbet and Baby Mint*

A Selection of Local Cheese  
*Fruit Chutney and Biscuits*

Coffee

## THE COST OF LUNCH IS £22.00 PER PERSON

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND 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. To keep our costs down we set and design the bulletin ourselves. Please send a cheque to R.O.S.A. to:-

**Mrs Judith Blincow, R.O.S.A. 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 and ROSA by setting up a standing order to pay your annual subs.

Account Name: Rye Old Scholars Bank Details: Sort code: 60-18-09 Account No: 59114479

**Please quote your name for reference.**







## REFLECTIONS ON PETER WEBB

It is hard to believe that Peter is gone, but he has left good memories. A Sussex man through and through despite being born in Kent!! Schooled in Pett and Rye and enjoying family life with his brother and sister in Pett.

Prior to his exemplary National Service in the RAF, one of his passion was running and he maintained detailed records of his performances with Bexhill Amateur Athletics Club as well as keeping his leather running shoes with metal studs. He continued his interest and support as an armchair spectator as well as giving advice to his son Nick on his efforts.

Father of three, Nicholas, Helen and Timothy, who was always there for them in good and bad times.

Whilst he moved away from the area many years ago for his work, his focus remained in Sussex, and he continued to visit on a regular basis to see family and maintain links with friends, as well as holidaying locally.

A walker, a traveller, a crossworder, a reader, a dancer, a lover of life and an inquisitive until the very end, plus a wonderful caring individual, sadly missed.



## JAYDEN HITS THE HIGH NOTES

Recent leaver Jayden Vicarey (Head Boy 2017-2018) has been putting his fine baritone voice to good use this year with an appearance at The Troxy in London as guest vocalist as part of a big band night with organist Michael Wooldridge. Jayden gave a fine performance that was very well received. Currently at Highworth Grammar studying A Levels in Maths, Computer Science & Biology which he hopes to put to good use and study Computer Science / Informatics artificial intelligence at a University still to be decided.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print in **BLOCK** letters

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Forenames \_\_\_\_\_

Years at School \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Day / Leasam / Saltcote / Rye Secondary Modern / R.G.S. / Thomas Peacocke School/ T.P.C.C. / Rye College

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque (sterling only if under £50) made payable to R.O.S.A. Being

(A) Annual Subscription (£5)

(B) Life Membership (£25)

(C) Donation/ other

(D) I have changed my standing order to the new subscription rate of £5.00 per year

(E) I have paid my annual subscription/life membership on-line into bank account:

Natwest, Hastings. **Rye Old Scholars' Association**, Sort Code: 60 18 09, Account number: 591 14479

(F) Don't forget a potted history