

RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

Bulletin 171 November 2022



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2022 was the year when some normality returned as far as the Rye Old Scholars were concerned (despite everything else going on in this crazy place at the moment). We had our wonderful lunch and were also able to arrange a quite special day in October for the enjoyment of students from the 1960's, plus a very special evening at the Rye Secondary Modern School. A report and photos of both events are within these pages.

Our wonderful former Mayor (and Old Scholar) Cllr Rebekah Gilbert completed her year of fund raising in style with a magnificent Gala Dinner at the Mermaid Inn and a scratch Messiah, which I attended in St Marys Church in April. A total of £6,500 was raised to establish the Generation X Fund (see launch page inside), a magnificent amount. Who knows what may have happened if Covid 19 had not been around for her first year in office? Rebekah has certainly left her mark with this new and exciting fund, along with the Rye Wurlitzer

Academy who were also presented with a similar amount during this period.

Close links with the college continue, and we were pleased to see Executive Principal Barry Blakelock at our lunch. He gave a very encouraging speech on the life of the college.

I am adopting a less-is-more policy with my words as I sense we are going to have a full house of news to convey to members; the majority happy, but tinged with sadness of those we have lost during the year.

My special thanks to the Committee. We make a great team when it comes to reunions and the 15th October was no exception, not forgetting Kevin Williams who came up with the evening event that he felt passionate about. He wanted to make it happen, and it did.

Sincere regards to you all Richard Moore. Photo credit - Tony Ham

A REQUEST FOR A 90'S & 00'S REUNION

Calling all students of the 90's and 00's. We hear through the grapevine that you want to get together and we hope to arrange this. However, we need some "ring leaders" of these two decades to come forward to give a hand and to rally their contemporaries. We look forward to hearing from you to make something happen.

ROSA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2022 / 2023

President: Mr Barry Blakelock **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.

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

www.ryeoldscholars.org.uk

70'S REUNION IN OCTOBER 2023

It has been an absolute pleasure to arrange these reunions since 1985 when my contemporaries all got together at the Mermaid to remember our dear friend Tim Docksey, who was tragically killed that year. The rest is history, and we have had some special evenings ever since. As we are now part of the aging population and sadly, some of have already gone to pastures new since our last gathering, I would sincerely hope that the 70's reunion is not only well attended but highly memorable.

Since the last Reunion I am delighted to say that Kevin Moore has joined the Committee. Kevin is also a 70's Old Scholar. He would like to improve the attendance of his own year group, and he has included an appeal.

For now, make a note of the date – and throughout the months ahead Kevin and I will be rallying you all to attend. Please do not make putting a colour in your hair (if you have any left gents) an excuse, or a dental appointment, baby sitting, pruning the roses, or watching "Strictly". Circle the date and start making plans to get yourself to Rye for a few hours on Saturday 21st October 2023.

Richard Moore

Whilst we want as many as possible from that period to attend, I am in particularly keen to attract as many from my old year as possible. For the last two 1970s events I have been the sole attendee from my year! I met recently with my old friend David Gasson for a catch up, which was great. He is still in contact with many of our year and so was able to provide a potted history regarding updates on our peer group. However, there is nothing better than meeting people face to face and therefore next year's event provides us all with an outstanding opportunity to achieve this!

I recognize that school days were not necessarily a happy time for some, however I am sure most will still have fond memories of those they knew from those times. Some people are understandably slightly nervous about meeting up after such a long period of time, I guess we all are to some extent, but please don't let this stop you coming! The gains of doing so will massively outweigh those potential initial nerves.

To encourage you even more, we, your committee, are considering making it an all-day event! The day will start around late morning with tours of the school, and then a buffet lunch supported by a licensed bar.

This will be followed in the evening by live entertainment in the form of a band and a buffet, providing a chance for a dance. This, we hope, will allow plenty of time for people to have a catch up during the afternoon. Also, it will allow time for a walk around the town of Rye should you not have been back for a long time!

So, please, please make sure that you come along. It will be great to see you all. It will also save me from being "Billy No Mates"!

Kevin Moore.

RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION ADVANCE NOTIFICATION CELEBRATING THE 1970'S SATURDAY 21st OCTOBER 2023



AFTERNOON AND EVENING EVENT

Two course buffet lunch with tea/coffee

Tours of the school

1970's Memorabilia

Live Music with the Rockitmen

Licensed bar, Raffle

For more details contact:

Richard Moore r.fm@btopenworld.com



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.

GENERATION X OPPORTUNITY FUND IS LAUNCHED

We are delighted that Bulletin 171 is the launch pad for this very special and unique fund, which has been instigated by Rebekah Gilbert in her term of office as Worshipful Mayor of Rye.

Now it is in place we are determined that this is not a diminishing pot of money, but something that can be added to with donations from Old Scholars supporting it in this life (or before they go to the next) together with canvassing other organisations who have a remit of supporting such a scheme. It will be a constantly moving picture now that it is established, and something we are proud of and will keep members updated about, not only in the bulletin but on a dedicated page on the website.

The criteria are quite simple. Generation X is open to Rye Old Scholars aged 18-30 for the purposes of developing further education or assisting with career ideas and start-ups. For now, there is a limit of £300 per person and a simple application form is available for interested parties to complete. The fund is open all year and the Committee welcome applicants to put their requests forward.

There will be one small condition: that we can publicise your success with our support in a future bulletin.

WEBSITE NEWS BY WEBMASTER *TIM ROTHWELL*

The ROSA website celebrated its fifth birthday this year, having been launched in 2017.

Since then, thanks mainly to the much valued and appreciated contributions from ROSA members, it has grown to over 20 separate sections, covering all the state schools, past and present, in Rye. It has also provided photos and information for Rye College to help with their documentation of the history of school.

In addition, it is a useful source of publicity for upcoming ROSA events.

Its new server, to which it was transferred last year, has meant it has much greater capacity, and stability, than previously.

For it to continue to be interesting, it has to be updated regularly – there have been over 30 such updates since the last Bulletin was published and ROSA members are emailed each time there is new material added. We are always very grateful for contributions – loft clearances seem to be a good source of material!

A couple of highlights from this year's contributions are memories of going after school to watch Paul McCartney and Wings rehearse in the Regent Cinema in 1986 for their Wings Over America Tour – wouldn't a photo of that have been wonderful – and School Certificate exam timetables for 1938 and 1939, along with an exam paper from the time. They looked daunting!

From time to time the website also contains the sad news of the death of old scholars and former members of staff, often with information about the funeral arrangements. Where appropriate, more detailed obituaries are later contained in the Bulletin.

A fair number of those who access the website do not live in the UK, and the feedback is that they particularly enjoy reading about the good old days and their friends as well as what is happening in the schools in Rye today.

Although I am no longer a member of the ROSA Committee, I am very grateful for their support, including the necessary financial help, to allow the website to develop and grow. My hope is that the website will continue to provide a fascinating and permanent record of education in Rye over the last 100 or so years and carry this forward into the future.

Tim Rothwell ROSA website manager.



RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION GENERATION X OPPORTUNITY FUND

**A forward-thinking fund giving opportunities to Rye Old Scholars
who have attended Rye Community College.**

Rye Studio School and Rye College and aged between 18 to 30 years old.

Grants of support up to £300 are available on application.

**We look forward to assisting with your next chapter in life,
a new opportunity, a new beginning.**

This opportunity is open all year and an application can be obtained by contacting

Richard Moore — Chairman Rye Old Scholars Association

Email r.fm@btopenworld.com

KEVIN'S CORNER *IT'S A DOGS LIFE!*

This is the story of how one pet dog became many, and at the same time led to an almost obsessional love of the Golden Retriever breed!

In early 1992, when our children were coming up to 11 and 10 years of age respectively, Ann and I decided it was high time for us to have a dog. Both of us had grown up with a dog in our respective families, and it just seemed the right thing to do. As a family we considered our options as to what breed to go for and the unanimous decision was a Golden Retriever.

It would be fair to say that we learnt a salutary lesson, as Megan our first Retriever - unknown to us at the time - came from what is now known as a "puppy farm". She had major health issues and, unlike the Golden Retriever breed traditionally, a suspect temperament. However, with the help of our vet we nursed her back to good health and we loved her.

Not long later, Ann convinced me that it would be great to have a companion for Megan. This time, Ann thoroughly researched Retriever breeders and we bought Mollie locally. The benefit of this was that we saw Mollie with her many siblings and her mother, and it was clear that she would make the perfect pet.

Roll forward a few years and we had to deal with the tragedy of Megan being so badly injured by a car that we had to have her put to sleep. It was at this point that Ann convinced me that it would be a good idea to try to breed from Mollie as she was such a wonderful dog, with the plan being to keep a puppy from her litter. A good local breeder was found and "Cuckmere Golden Retrievers" was born! To the uninitiated, any breeder has to have what is known as an affix in order to register the litter with the Kennel Club. Our affix is "Cuckmere" and then each litter normally has a theme followed by each individual puppy's name. These have to be agreed by the Kennel Club for uniqueness.

Mollie duly delivered and we kept a puppy, Ellie-May, from her litter. Ellie was to be the first of many! The next litter that Mollie had, we kept another, Sophie. There was then a break before Ann ventured back into breeding and on one occasion in 2007, we had two litters at once from each of Ellie and Sophie, a total of 19 puppies. It was a very busy time, especially as our daughter got married in the middle of all of that!

Both Ellie and Sophie had a few litters each and we grew our Retriever family with the additions of Mia and Maisie. Soon after this, our daughter Kelly had her own Golden Retriever, Jaffa and she and Ann started to go to a few dog shows. It was after Tizzie was born in 2010 that Ann really got the bit between the teeth and started

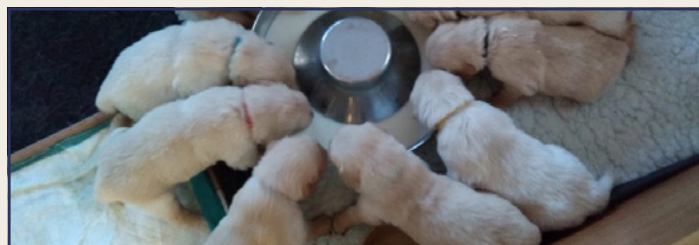
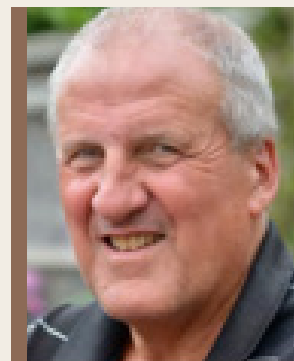
to show seriously. After some minor successes, she decided that she wanted to "buy in" a new puppy to show and breed from, and along came Florrie. Florrie was a lovely dog who was sadly to die very young with an undiagnosed sudden illness. She had success at dog shows and she qualified for Crufts. Ann was so nervous she sadly decided not to attend. However, Florrie was to give us our first "boy"

dog Dixon (Cuckmere Dixon of Dock Green – the litter theme was police related fictional programmes!). Dixon also qualified for Crufts, and on that occasion I proudly attended with Ann when she showed him at the famous event! There have also been Maisie and Mia who lived to the ripe old ages of 14 and 15 respectively.

Ann has become less involved in showing in more recent times, whilst focusing on breeding. We have one or two litters each year now. I am proud to say she has developed an excellent reputation as a breeder of wonderful pet dogs. She has a massive waiting list always and is what is known as a Kennel Club Assured Breeder. She has received amazing feedback from owners of our dogs. The Assured Breeder status is something that prospective purchasers of any breed should look for to ensure that they are buying a good quality puppy from fully health-tested parents. Sadly, too many still fall into the trap of buying poorly bred dogs and suffer the consequences as a result and this is despite all of the publicity in recent times on the subject.

At this current time we have six Goldens of our own. We now have two "boy" dogs, with Bertie, who is being used as a stud dog and has fathered some great puppies, as well as Dixon. Bertie is in fact the grandson of Crufts best of Golden Retriever breed 2019. Tizzie, Polly, Ivy and Sandie - who is the youngster! Most of our dogs do seem to live to a ripe old age thankfully!

So what is my role in all of this, you may well ask? Well, I am the dog walker and previously the chauffeur to dog shows. I love our dogs and it has given me pleasure seeing the enjoyment that Ann has had with what is now almost 30 years of involvement with our Golden Retrievers. Having dogs is a massive commitment. We have had to holiday in this country so we can take at least some of the dogs with us, and we have to take our breaks in school holiday time so that Kelly or our granddaughter Shannon can dog sit. However, we wouldn't have it any other way!



REPORT ON ROSA DINNER 2022

It was such a pleasure to welcome members back to something we had not been able to arrange for two years. Numbers were slightly down, but the fact we were all together made it a special occasion. The tradition of jars of jam or marmalade created by my own fair hand continued, and this year each guest received a jar as they were used as name places with varying scenes of Rye. This may continue for future lunches now.

It was wonderful that our president Barry Blakelock was able to attend, along with Business Manager Sally Hill. Barry gave an inspiring after-lunch speech about the progress made from the start of the college year to May, and we were all pleased that the college had turned a corner and better and improving times were ahead for the current students.

What has also become a tradition is the Group photo, which always has a special atmosphere as we gather in the Tudor Room at the Mermaid Inn.

Attendees included:

Judith Blincow, Martin Blincow, Claire Spacey, Andrew Spacey, Sue Moore, Tony Moore, Richard Moore, Kevin Moore, Anne Moore, Jim Holmes, Janet Holmes, Rebekah Gilbert, Rosemary Craggs, Jeff Craggs, Wendy Dumbleton, John Dumbleton, Ted Blundell, Fennis Blundell, John Breeds, Geraldine Breeds, Bertie Hacker, Helen Paige, Penelope Johnson, Barry Blakelock, Sally Hill, Mrs Beverley Gill, Mr Kevin Gill, Lois Benton, Peter Goodsell, Rob Kemsley.

ROSA AGM AND DINNER 2023

Our AGM and Dinner will take place on Sunday June 11th at the Mermaid Inn.

We would like to invite you to attend the AGM that will commence at 12 noon with lunch 12.45 for 1pm start.
The traditional jars of jam and marmalade as place names will continue.
(I made 1,511 this year so there is plenty to go around).





A SPECIAL DAY CELEBRATING THE 1960'S – OCTOBER 15TH

The Committee lived and breathed both events for several weeks beforehand, hoping that numbers would justify the amount of effort that goes into organisation. A month before we only had 4 people that were definitely going to attend the evening event, which was a worry. Thanks to Judith and support from the Mermaid Inn we obtained a full page colour advert in the local Rye Fixtures together with 1000 extra flyers and posters, which were distributed all over the area. At one stage we had 102 attending but then sadly illness and last-minute changes of plan stepped in so slightly less at the day time event than we had hoped for. The evening Rock, Jive and Twist also became a last-minute success with 58 people attending enjoying music of the era compiled by Kevin Williams, whose idea it was to have such an event and in a venue that was recognised by all those attending. Tours of both schools were very well received.

On the tables at the lunchtime gathering was a news slip for people to complete and write a life story in no more than 40 words. I was delighted with the pile of papers that gathered and happy to type the following little potted pieces. In no particular order:-

Kate Dilks (née Carter) RSCM 57-62. RGS 62-64. Lloyds Bank, married, farming 20 years +. Still working for Lloyds Bank, divorced. Remarried (one of my customers). Retired now living by Littlestone Golf Course, playing golf and having fun. Two boys, four grandkids. Lots of travelling.

Sylvia Capps (née Birks) RSCM 1960-1965. Secretary of own company. Doctor's receptionist for 15 years. Two daughters. Married 54 years. Golf player at Littlestone Warren.

Andy Benne 77 RSCM 1963-1968. Sales with Cadbury Schweppes – Bells Whisky. Last 20 years Global Sales Director for World Duty Free a company supplying Duty Free goods to Foreign Embassies all over the world.

Mike Fagan RSCM 1963-68. Sussex Police 1976-2006. Chief Inspector. Hastings Community Safety Manager 2006-2016.

John Luck RGS 1957-64 Dip Arch Portsmouth 1972. Dep Borough Architect Hastings Borough Council 1980-89. Designed and built several sustainable houses 2000 to present date. Rother District Councillor for the Ecology Party for Rye Ward 1976-79. Deputy Mayor of Rye 1980. Married Sheila Care 1968 and has two daughters.

Beryl (Babs) Collyer (née Barden). RGS 1950-58. Secretary with ATV, de Havilland. Teaching. Head of Primary School.

Jonathan Austin RGS Leasam 1964-67. Variety of primarily agricultural related jobs. Became self-employed in the early 90's as a garden constructor and PA systems contractor. Now retired! Churchwarden at Warbleton involved with several community project.

Beverley Gill RGS 1964-71 (née Creed). St. Gabriels teacher training college 1971-74. Taught in Brixton 74-75, married 75 moved to Hertfordshire. Taught in a Social Preparatory School in Letchworth 75-83. Children born 83, 84 & 89. Husband died 1974 aged 42. Moved 2001 to Shrewsbury having previously specialised in Dyslexia and obtained a

M.Ed in 1997. Supply teaching in the Telford area, the last year being in special needs. Remarried in 2008.

Roy Igglesden RSCM for 5 years. 19 years on ships up to position of Captain. Lived and worked in Saudi Arabia, Angola, Nigeria, Thailand, Australia, Singapore, USA and Brazil.

Terry Tozer 1957-59. Manager Tollgate Garage. Owner of Rye Woodstore centre. 1986 onwards commercial airline pilot.

Colin Hills 1957-1963. Merchant Navy apprentice with Shell. Master Mariner. Captain on Dover /Folkestone ferries 14 years. 10 years as ship surveyor. Retired 2011.

Chris Ashbee RSCM 1958-1962. Looking after horses for Mr & Mrs Hacking. Winning Thanet Marathon, broke course record which I still hold. Playing football for Iden, Rye, Rye Athletic and Union Inn.

Hilary White (née Dann) RGS 1965-71. I changed my career and retrained as a lawyer between the ages of 45-50. I work in residential property sales and purchasing. I can't retire yet as I love my work and my clients.

Jennifer Bull (née Bull) RGS 1958-63. Hairdresser own business. Then married and had two children. Working in the fields when children were small, Then administration jobs at agricultural dealers until retirement. Now living at the seaside and active member of Littlestone Warren Golf Club.

Sam Ford (1965-68) RGS/Leasam. Farming. Hedge laying. Tree surgeon. Agricultural contractor.

Barry (Fred) Fuller RGS 1962-69. PE Teacher Steyning G.S. and Rye TPS. Publican and Restaurateur 1986-88. DT Teacher 93-2011 Harvey Grammar School. Deputy Head 2011 to retirement.

Linda Bailey (née Murray) RGS 1962-67. Finally went to University aged 50.

Richard Ball 1959/1962 RGS/Leasam. Herdsman 3 years, Milk Marketing Board 15 years, British Friesian Cattle Society 13 years.

Peter Barnett RGS 1962-68. Banking for 20 years. Software and Internet development from then onwards. Owns a music store.

Des Lambert RGS/Leasam 61-64. Wye College, Farming, teaching, Farm Management, Principal Plumpton College.

Margaret O'Neill (née Bennett) RGS 1961-68. Joined the Merchant Navy January 1973 as Lady Assistant Purser also Secretary for the Captain with Fred Olsen Lines. Promoted to Catering/Purser Officer 1974 aboard cargo ships and deep sea vessels. Made redundant. Started family and worked voluntarily in my children's schools and also for Age UK.

Robin Osborne RGS/Leasam 1959-62. Worked in South Africa for 4 years. Worked in chemical factory near Birmingham for 30 years. Married for 54 years. One daughter, one grand daughter.

Sam Lambourne RGS 1961-64, Ran 100 marathons at International level. Opened the Jog Shop in Brighton in 1965 still going.

Keith Matthews RGS 1962-69. Family haulage business. Apple buyer for 4th largest cider company in UK. Aggregate supplies. Semi professional stand up comedian.

David Moody 1965-68. Not recognised by the Queen or Parliament.

Barbara Moody (née Beeching) RGS 1962-68 P.A. Mother of two and grandmother.

Alan Webber RGS/Leasam 1961-66. Milk marketing board. Retails dairy business. Frozen food business with son. Retired (ish).

Chris Williams RGS 1965-68. Thirty four years teaching History mostly as secondary deputy. Being able to retire and set up my own agency for environment, heritage, international projects before Brexit disaster. Family, children and grandchildren. Surprisingly enjoyable I haven't been to a school event here for 55 years. Good to meet old class and teammates.

We also asked for feedback of the events which was all very favourable, and the general opinion was that the next one should be sooner than four years as "we are all getting older". Also suggested having maiden names on the name badges supplied, and bringing a photo of yourself as a student.

The ROSA team thoroughly enjoyed the day (and the day before) in setting everything up. It was a long memorable day. Here's to the next one.

Photos speak louder than words and we have made space in this bulletin for a montage of photos that captured the moment of the day.

Memories and attendees of "Celebrating the 60's". Day Time Reunion Jonathan & Shirley Austin, Linda Bailey (née Murray), Richard Ball, Peter Barnett, Andrew & Mary Bennett, Lois Benton, Mark & Rosemary Bianchi, Jill Black, Eric & Vanessa Bourne, John & Geraldine Breeds, Jennifer Burt (née Bull), Sylvia Capps, Richard Care, David & Stewart Cleverley, Beryl & Keith Collyer, Sandra Delemare, Colin Dickerson, Kay Dilks (née Carter), Peter Eade, Sue Etherden, Peter Ewart, Mike Fagan, Sam Ford, Marion Fuchs, Barry Fuller, Ann Gaudry, Beverley & Kevin Gill, Peter Goodsell, Tony Hall, David Howley,

Colin Hills, Rob Kemsley, Des Lambert, Sam Lambourne, Carolyn Lancaster (née Moss), Sheila Luck, Daniel Mankowitz, Phillip Martin, Keith Matthews, David & Barbara Moody, Hilary Moon-Hause (née Moon), Kevin & Ann Moore, Richard Moore, Margaret O'Neill, Judith Blineow, Shirley Bannister, Robin Osbourne, Sue Scott, Sue Smith, David & Daphne Stanton, Malcolm & Chrissie Tree, Alan Webber, Chris Williams, Kevin Williams, Carolynne Williamson, Clive Wilson, Chris Ashbee, Brian Eade, Dave Goodlett, Timothy Grant, Roy Igglesden, Andrew Keen, Steve Shoesmith, Terry Tozer, Janet Webb (née Bourne).

Apologies from:

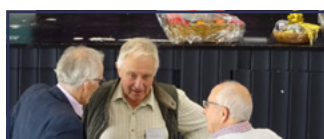
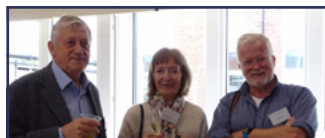
Ted & Fennis Blundell, Geoff Boxall, Jill Black, Sally Burke, Roy Forward, Martyn Gurton, Sue & Tony Moore, Shirley Russell (née Jarrold), Karen Schofield (née Ievett), Colin Swann, Richard & Yvonne Turner, John & Christine Wilson, Paula Barnard, Hilary Briggs (née Bather) Marshall, Bob Carter, Roger & Noelle Dennis, Brian Eade, Jim & Janet Homes, Nick Marshall & Heather Rendall (née Bather).

Attendees for the Evening Event "Rock, Jive & Twist"

Rita & Dean Adams, Clifford Arkley, Chris Ashbee, Peter Barnett, Andy & Mary Bennett, Steve & Daphne Blattman, Carol Bourne (née Wicken), Eric & Vanessa Bourne, Roger & Sylvia Capps, Richard Care, Beryl (Barden) and Keith Collyer, Teresa Cooper (née Crouch), Lesley Cosham, Colin Dickerson & Hilary White (née Dann), Karen Divine (née Symonds), Peter Ewart, Barry Fuller, Dave Goodlett, Michael & Valerie Holkham, Kevin & Beverley Gill (née Read), Ann Gaudry, Patricia Gerish (née Dunk), Rita Grimes (née Bearfoot), Roy Igglesden, Mike Lambert, Brian Malcolson, Malcolm Mayhew, Hilary Moon-Haase, Ann Oliver-Wonstall (née Springett), Margaret O'Neil, John Redman, Myra Say (née Smeed), Steve Smith, Sue Smith, Dave & Daphne Stanton, David & Lorraine Stoodley, Alex & Pat Tiltman, Danielle Tourneff, Sue Thatcher, Bill Waters, Chris Williams, Roger & Wendy Williams, Carolynne Williamson, Kevin Wise, Teresa Wood (née Rogers), Jackie Wrech, Martin Wright.

Apologies from:

Mark & Rosemary Bianchi, Mike Fagan, Sue Etherden, Philip Martin, Barbara & David Moody, Alan & Jan Wilson.



ROCK JIVE & TWIST NIGHT

Saturday 15th October was a monumental day for Rye's Senior School Old Scholars. The first time in the ROSA's history to achieve TWO reunion events in different venues on the same day.

The 'Rock Jive & Twist' evening event was the first to be directed at the Secondary Modern School Old Scholars for some time and seemed to be warmly received by the 60+ Sec Mods who made their way over the Monk Bretton Bridge. Aided by a playlist of hits from the 50s and 60s, some dancing and foot tapping was achieved

but mostly memories were shared and old friendships renewed, some for first time in nearly 60 years!!

Who taught you in this room? Two corridor walks took place where this question, stuck to every classroom, triggered many 'do you remember when???' memories!!! Thanks for them all!!!

Thank you to all school mates for supporting the event and the ROSA committee for running with the idea and making it happen!!!



THE ACHIEVING YEARS 2009- 2022

In the early years of this unique and special teaching project (the first in the world) I wrote something in every bulletin as I was so proud of what was happening year on year. Don't get me wrong, I am still so proud of what has been created and to save a lot of space can I suggest you go to www.ryewurlitzeracademy.co.uk to see what we have got up to. However for some Old Scholars the Wurlitzer did not arrive until the late 50's and weren't connected with it .

It's been a challenge to consistently raise the necessary £15-17,000 each year to keep the scheme running, that said, each year something quite special happens, something happens out of the blue to achieve the budget and there has been the odd time where I say to our wonderful treasurer "Don't panic, something is about to happen" and it does. The last 3 years have been a challenge for everyone and to have a teaching scheme with no college to teach students in has to have some thought outside the box . Teaching continued throughout the lockdown via Microsoft Teams and only two students did not partake, one with poor internet reception and the other chose to step aside of this style of teaching. Michael Wooldridge took some convincing that it would work but it has and the proof is that we have two brothers who we recruited before the first lockdown and both performed at our Christmas Concert last year and will be doing so again this year.

In my first page piece I have already mentioned our amazing past Mayor and herself an old Scholars generously supporting us at a time when although our fund raising concerts returned in September 2021 due to the age group of our supporters there is a reluctance to attend and all our events although showing a profit have not been the fund raisers we had hoped for.

The Wurlitzer lay still for 15 months before it was switched on again in May 2021 and it worked!, however despite the organ performing wonderfully for our Proms Concert in 2021, it failed right at the end of the show, when a major wind leak occurred, which resulted in the Wurlitzer being out of action until August 2022 due to the severity of the fault and its position in the chamber; which made it difficult to repair; along with the need to gain access to the hall and the availability of the technicians.

We were given a wonderful life-line of funding during 2020 when sadly Hailsham Organ Club decided to close due to falling numbers and an aging Committee. We were offered all the club funds as a donation, but settled for half with the rest ring fenced to run concert presentation for the remaining members but more importantly another concert platform for our students to perform at. Over the past 18 months all our students have performed in one form or another including Jamyma Hanson our senior student who has been with us since Day 1 performing a solo concert last September.

In September I took my eye off the ball and missed two funding deadlines that we have relied on each year; this would have left a hole in the current years budget but then this week, totally out of the blue a cheque has arrived from Banstead Organ Club who are sadly closing after 50 years but are aware of the good work we do with the students over the years and wished to support us when distributing

Our senior student Jamyma Hanson was engaged to perform in a number of concerts, including at the UK's largest keyboard and organ festival at Pakefield, the Horsham Organ Club , Colchester Keyboard Club , East London and Essex Organ Clubs, and on the Worthing Wurlitzer, which is renowned as one of the world's finest instruments.

We continued to enjoy good relations throughout the year with the Aquinas Trust, who run Rye College, and much appreciate the continuing support of Executive Principal Barry Blakelock and the Senior Leadership Team. It is anticipated that our "normal" recruitment presentations will continue in the new college year.

The project could not be the success it is without the continued professionalism and commitment of Principal Tutor Michael Wooldridge, who gives much of his personal time to support the whole project and who, in his professional capacity, has continued to work wonders with the students in their lessons.

Our e-newsletters continued during the year, when we had sufficient news to tell our 300+ supporters to this medium.

To conclude. Like ROSA events my jam and marmalade creations have become part of the existence and featured in all raffles. The label is not just identifying a flavour but shows special events that the students have entertained in Horsham, Barnsley, Sutton Coldfield, Ipswich, London and Bristol. 2021/22 will be remembered for a year in which we survived and continued doing what we do best in bringing high quality learning to our students, it was the least we could do in continuing "strange times".

Richard Moore
Chairman & Founder



NEWS & VIEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT – MR BARRY BLAKELOCK

It is always a pleasure to update Old Scholars on our progress and this year we begin with news that student numbers continue to grow with our increasing popularity. This September we have attracted over 130 youngsters – our highest intake for some time. No wonder we draw families given the increasing range of opportunities to enrichen the education of our young people.

A notable feature is the number of educational trips and visits undertaken to support learning. Whilst our oldest students focus on taster days at Hastings, Bexhill and Ashford Colleges other year groups make the most of fantastic local resources such as the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre.

The environment is important to us: last year we were the first stop in the UK for the 'One Earth Beat e-bike' making its way to COP26 in Glasgow – a human powered interactive experience gathering the views of young people across Europe on action needed for a sustainable future – later presented to World Leaders. This year, student voice is once again being activated and shared as the follow-

up, COP 27 in Egypt, enters the headlines once again. In a similar vein, the Student Council met local MP, Sally-Ann Hart as she visited to see how young people had been impacted by the pandemic. Although Sally-Ann Hart is a keen supporter, representatives grilled her on government support for young people and plans to help families. Although our youngsters relish speaking truth unto power – they must also deal with the realities of school life which included the return of terminal examinations after a two-year hiatus.

Whilst the college has held its own in very challenging times, and many students celebrated personal success stories, our mission of 'creating bright futures for all' remains undiminished. Realising this challenge is due in no small part to the continued support of our children, young people and their families but also the local community including Old Scholars who enable us to provide so much for our students. But also, we must thank the teachers and adults who continue to show their dedication to Rye College and work tirelessly for all who attend our fantastic school! Thank you all.

A POSTHUMOUS POTTED PIECE BY MALCOLM NUNN

The following words and photo with his own description are special, as Malcolm wanted to record something for the Bulletin he had even arranged for a family gathering at the ROSA lunch which sadly wasn't to be as he passed away in February.

Started RGS in 1947 aged 12 after one year at New Road Secondary Modern School after taking the 11 plus a second time. Amazed as most staff wore gowns and mortar boards. The headmaster A.R. Jacobs, headmistress Miss Turner (aka Auntie), Woodwork, Mr Thompson, Geography, Mr Robinson (aka Jumbo), Miss Hilda Dann French, Miss Tunstall, Divinity, Mr Bagley, Peter Mitchell P.T., Mr Douglas Biology, Mr Elliot, Physics who married Miss Stevens P.T. Mr Allnut, Maths. Left school at 15 before taking school certificate, as it was then.

First job as trainee Quantity Surveyor, then audit clerk at Hastings Corporation. National service in RAF as wireless operator in Egypt, then insurance salesman, then representative for Joinery company before working for my father at Country Joinery in Udimore - later buying and running the business for 20 odd years. Married Joan (Home Economics teacher at TPCC retired in 1994) before my retirement in 1997 having holidayed in most of Europe and travelled around the world twice whilst visiting relatives in Australia each time.

All my sons James, Robert, and Adam attended TPCC whilst we lived opposite in Love Lane in a house we built from scratch. Now aged 87 having survived cancer, aorta aneurysm, knee transplant, living in Littlestone, Kent. Not many RGS pupils still alive now, most of my contemporaries have gone.



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.

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Bank details: Sort code: 60-18-09 Account No: 59114479.

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REMEMBERING ANDREW LAW

Andrew was born on 9th January 1960. The second son of Harold and Joyce Law, and one of 5 brothers. He was a kind, steady and hardworking person. At 16, he famously came down from his room dressed in a suit and announced that he was going out to a job interview. This was typical of his independence and determination. When he left school he started work in a Rye Shipping Agent and continued in this career for his entire working life. He had recently become a joint director of his own company

with his long-standing colleague in Belgium, Anton. He had plans for retirement in France with his partner Abi, but he was out walking with a friend when he collapsed suddenly and died. He leaves 3 daughters and 2 granddaughters. He passed away on 20th August aged 62



REMEMBERING MAUREEN GETLEY

Maureen Getley was born in 1934, the daughter of a Baptist Minister. As a teenager she attended Bexhill Grammar School for Girls, and then completed a History Degree at London University, followed by a P.G.C.E. at Bristol University.

In 1957 she started teaching History and some Religious Education at Rye Grammar School. She soon became House Mistress of Sanders House, as well as being a First Aider, and helped run the school Camera Club.

When the school became Comprehensive, (the first Comprehensive School in East Sussex) she became Senior Mistress, and in 1984 was placed in overall charge of all the Girls' Pastoral Care. She finally retired in 1992 after a teaching career of 36 years at the school.

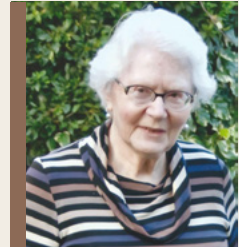
Outside school she had many interests. She was a keen recreational swimmer and was one of the very first members of Flackley Ash Leisure Centre. (Membership no. 4 or 6!?) For a long time she swam there twice a week, and was on the Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr Fooks that set up the (now endangered?) Rye Swimming Pool.

She was a keen member of the then Rye Scottish Dancing Club, which met weekly in the evening in the School Hall. With some other members of staff she went regularly to balls at other local clubs. One summer she even drove to Scotland to dance at a Summer School.

She was a very keen member of the Iden W.I. and was their Chairperson, then Secretary for many years. She was also very

involved in Iden as a member of the Parish Council, and Chair of the Village Shop Association. She also sang in a choir in the village and even attended Tai Chi classes.

She was very involved with the work of Rye Museum -- see Jo Kirkham's full account in the ROSA Obituaries section.



Throughout her life she loved travelling, and each summer went on holiday for many years with friends to the Isles of Scilly and France. She visited family in Australia and America, and in recent years went on her own on two river cruises on the Rhine, following her deep interest in the two World Wars.

A keen gardener, she found much pleasure in tending her garden, and as a member of the National Trust visited many of their gardens. She always visited many Open Gardens locally, as part of the National Garden Scheme.

A supporter of Comprehension, she had a strong sense of social justice and equal opportunities for all. A Socialist at heart, she daily read her 'Guardian' newspaper from cover to cover. A lady with firm moral standards, she was always kind and approachable, and inspired and shared her deep love of History with hundreds and hundreds of students for 36 years. A life well spent.

REUNION CATHARSIS

Don't you just dread those 'round robin' letters at Christmas? You know, the ones that tell you how fabulously they're all doing and all the exotic places they've been to on holiday.

Well -- I feel that some may be put off joining in old scholars' activities for a similar reason. Very few people really want to hear how brilliantly all their ex-classmates are doing. In sitcoms, school reunions are often depicted as an unmitigated (but amusing) disaster for the individual attending. However, us 'failures' should really feel a little better about ourselves.

I absolutely loved RGS, but I know that most of my teachers and peers didn't reciprocate. I didn't get into any of the sports teams. Mr. May threw me out of the School Choir. All my Latin teacher, Charlie Silver, once wrote on my report was: "He has bucolic imperturbability" so he obviously thought I was some kind of village idiot. "Head still in the clouds, Breeds?" was also a common comment -- and they were right!

Much to the disappointment of Miss Dann, I failed all my A levels twice. I also failed my first degree twice but, had I not done so, I wouldn't have had a fabulous two years working at St Marys

Hospital in Paddington. It was there I got to work with Lady Amalia Fleming (Sir Alexander's second wife -- an amazing woman - look her up on Google), play squash with J.P.R. Williams and have a research paper published in a medical journal.

Despite eventually scraping through a BSc and an MA, in my subsequent teaching career I was bullied, demoted and generally picked on by more senior staff and failed to be selected for the ministry. Nevertheless, after 50 years and at the age of 76 I am still teaching four days a week so I must have gone even more seriously wrong somewhere. O.K. I was Mayor of Rye for a couple of years but that was just a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I have, however, been blissfully happy with the girl I love for almost 60 years. She is the girl to whom Mr. Buttery was referring when he wrote on my report: "If he spent more time at his studies and less time with third year girls he could do a lot better".

As it turns out, he was seriously wrong!

John Breeds.

REMEMBERING TIM JONES

Tim, son of Stan Jones, sadly died in March this year.

Tim attended Thomas Peacocke between 1969 and 1976, playing both cricket and hockey for the school teams. He left school not really knowing what he wanted to do and worked on an archaeological dig in Winchelsea for a year. He then went to Portsmouth Poly and did a degree in environmental sciences. He trained as an RSPCA officer and was posted to North Wales where

he worked for more than forty years. He married a Welsh lass and they had one daughter. He played hockey and cricket for Wrexham and he was never happier than when he was walking, bird watching and enjoying the North Wales countryside.

Tim was diagnosed with a brain tumour in March 2019 and carried on as normal life as possible, until he died in March this year.

A LIFE IN EDUCATION

It really hadn't occurred to me that I'd had a life in education until Dickie asked me to write a piece with that title for this ROSA bulletin, but I guess that's partly what it has turned out to be!

I probably owe the careers advisors at TPS a great deal, as their sage advice, "You have no chance of becoming a teacher", made me utterly determined to achieve just that. It really was the formidable Deputy Head at Freda Gardham Primary, Miss Braeban, who told me that in her opinion, I could make it!

The route I followed was initially to do a Certificate in Education at St Katharine's College, Liverpool over three years between 1976 and 1979. This three-year period was when I discovered that learning could be enjoyable and rewarding, and long teaching practices in Liverpool inner city schools was an education in itself.

I was amazed when in 1979, I was appointed as classroom teacher, scale 1, at Lower Quinton, a village school in leafy Warwickshire. The Head, a retired army captain, was quite a character. I learned that on the first Tuesday morning of every month, his office was always "out of bounds" as he was receiving his regular haircut and eyebrow trim. I'd never seen eyebrows grow so much. After three years I gained a promotion, with a move to a larger town primary school in Stratford-upon Avon, where my appointment was to lead music development throughout the school. I thought this was pretty good, as I'd always wanted to be a rock star rather than a teacher, and this might be the path! The only problem was that my musical skills were limited to a few guitar chords and a passable singing voice. However, after a couple of years, I was conducting the only primary school orchestra in Warwickshire! During this time, I completed a "part-time B Ed degree" at Warwick University.

One dark, wet February in 1984, I was reading the ads in the Times Education Supplement, and spotted a tempting offer "Come and Teach in The Caribbean". My wife and I both applied for jobs, had very odd interviews sitting on a bed in a London hotel room, and before long we were on a plane travelling to the Dominican Republic for three years. I'd still be there now, but bizarrely grew bored with the lifestyle!!! Teaching a class of eleven, well-behaved children from 8.00 am until 1.00pm, then deciding if the rest of the day was to be spent playing sport, going to a beach, horse riding or sitting in the bar didn't feel like real life.

Returning to the UK was a bit of a culture shock as education was rapidly changing. It became highly politicised and the introduction of the National Curriculum although probably necessary, became an administrative straitjacket until things settled again. Six years in lower management posts in a Leamington Spa middle school followed, then a couple of years as Deputy Head in another Warwickshire village Primary, sort of prepared me for Headship.

I was stunned when I was appointed to the first Headship I applied for: it was a village school close to Stratford upon Avon, in Great Alne. At this time that the scourge of Ofsted was introduced and over the next twenty years of my career, it became clear that the inspection regime has little to do with the education of children! While Head at Great Alne, I was able to grow the numbers in school, largely due to the emphasis I placed on creativity and the arts. It was a bit of a surprise when I was nominated for a National Teaching Award while in this post.

My second Headship came along nine years later, when I was appointed as Head of the larger Bridgetown Primary in Stratford upon Avon. Again, despite the constraints and pressures of Ofsted inspections, I was able to significantly expand the school, and following a massive re-development of the buildings, the number of pupils increased to over 400. After nearly ten years in this post, with the school riding high in the dreaded league tables, I decided that enough was enough, and was lucky to be able to "retire" early.

My life in education was at times the best job in the world, and at other times the worst. Every day was a series of challenges. It was when, after a couple of years into the first headship, I realised headship is actually an impossible job that I started to enjoy it far more and have no regrets!

So I retired from education in December 2013, and quickly fell into another "mini-career" on the fringes of the music business....but that might be a story for another day!

Steve Blackman (Left TPS Summer 1976).



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SCHOOL DAY MEMORIES BY TREVOR PAINE FROM CANADA 1969-77

Greetings from Canada. As I approach my fortieth year in this great country I recall and remember with great affection and admiration my early years growing up in Rye and attending school at Thomas Peacocke. Wonderful teachers, wonderful friends and amazing memories, never to be forgotten. The Rye Salts, Sat and Sun Cricket, Rye Football, local Badminton club, Military Road Squash club, South Saxons Field hockey in Hastings, train trips most Saturdays to attend Bo Beep swimming pool in St Leonards. The Rye Boys club led by Mr Jenkinson. The amazing sports programme at the TP school, led by Mr Terry Spencer and Keith Gamble - what incredible times. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my dear mentor Mr Stan Jones and his family, and my old friend Martin Curd and his loving family who allowed me to billet with them for my last two years at school. Tim Jones, Martin, and Sara, Vicki and Liz from Saltcote were instrumental in making sure I headed in the right direction !

My three brothers and I grew up in Rye, and although I have been away for nearly fifty years now it remains the most beautiful

community I have ever had the pleasure to visit and 'show off' to others. Six years ago my oldest daughter Richelle was married at St Marys Church...with more than fifty family and friends from Canada welcomed by Martin and Judith at the amazing Mermaid Inn, I still smile thinking of the sheer pleasure my fellow Canadians experienced in and around our great ancient town.

After my early years in the Royal Air Force as a Physical Training Instructor, a couple of years managing a sports centre and then thirty-four years in government as a Recreation and Sport consultant, my wife Janet and I moved to Ottawa, Ontario to retire and be with our three children who all reside in this great province.

I continue to look forward to visits back home and although mum and dad are no longer with us, Rye is still the most amazing little corner of England that everyone should take the time to visit.

Thanks to ROSA for the amazing work they continue to do. Maybe one day I'll make it back to one of those famed reunions !

My sincere best wishes to all !



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print in **BLOCK** letters

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Years at School _____ To _____

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