

# RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN 172 DECEMBER 2023



### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A reflective year for many reasons, whether it be the passing of loved ones and our peers from our school days, and for some health matters have played a part in surviving and staying positive as best you can in a world that can be cruel and kind within an hour on the same day.

ROSA lost its Webmaster, and there is a tribute within for Tim Rothwell who passed suddenly just after the last bulletin went to print, in which he had given his usual upbeat report of the website and how it had progressed during the year – and that he was always wanting more news for it. Initially, Kevin, Judith & I went back to college for an hour and were trained by Olly Campion who set up the website design in the first place. We all made notes and have our own passwords. However, Kevin has taken to uploading photos and relaying news like a duck to water, and has spent many hours in the past few months getting it just so. After the last session which he spent uploading the 70's reunion photo's Kevin voted himself as the new Webmaster and the Committee feel he will make a great replacement to follow in Tim's footsteps. Kevin is also our new Social Media Officer. If you have any between bulletin news, photos that you would like to share, sad news of someone passing, etc., please direct this to Kevin on his email: [saintkev1957@outlook.com](mailto:saintkev1957@outlook.com)

We did try and have an AGM this year, but as our lunch date was moved for various reasons to June numbers were not as anticipated and a decision was made the week beforehand to cancel the event and hope that this is a mere hiccup, and we can recreate our special lunch and AGM in 2024 (See details inside).

Team ROSA were delighted to host a day long reunion in October,

which for those attending was thoroughly enjoyed. For one reason or another our list of apologies for not attending was virtually the same length as those who could make it, and we hope that in 2026 our numbers can rise once again.

Our Generation X Opportunity Fund was launched, and we have supported our first applicant who gives a short report in how this has helped her in her career path. It has also increased in value due to a legacy in memory of Derrick Baldock and we sincerely thank the family for thinking of our special fund.

I will let others now do the talking, as that is the purpose of the bulletin since the late 1920's for us all to communicate with each other. Times have certainly changed since the days of four single sheet bulletins distributed by post or hand delivered to members. Now we produce a once a year 12-page bulletin supported by a wonderful website with hundreds of photos.

One last message in 2024: we want to embrace younger Old Scholars since the gap is widening which it would obviously do, and we still have members with us that were evacuated to Bedford during the Second World War.

However, for ROSA to survive we must connect with all decades and for this reason we want to arrange an evening event for the Noughties Decade, and hope that it will be supported.

The bottom of the page is fast approaching and as usual I have said more than first intended. Thank to my fellow Committee members for their support and to all those who have contributed to this year's bulletin.

*Sincere Regards, Richard Moore Chairman. Photo credit - Tony Ham*

### ROSA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2023

**President:** Mr Barry Blakelock **Chairperson:** Mr Richard Moore **Treasurer & Secretary:** Mrs Judith Blincow **Webmaster & Social Media officer:** Kevin Moore **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.

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

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

Send you news and photos to [saintkev1957@outlook.com](mailto:saintkev1957@outlook.com)

## REMEMBERING TIM ROTHWELL



**A tribute by Caroline Turner on behalf of the Pett Village Hall Committee**

It is with great sadness I write this tribute to Tim. Many of you will have already read the hundreds of tributes on Tim's personal social media page, following the announcement by his family. I realise I cannot do justice to the contribution he made throughout his life, career and all his voluntary organisations or convey how much he meant to his friends and family. I simply wanted to acknowledge the part he played in local organisations as I know that so many of you will share my sense of appreciation and gratitude for the difference he made to the village.

### Village Hall

Tim joined as a trustee and Chairman in 2018. The new hall had opened sixteen years previously and was the product of determination and hard work by the parishioners with support and donations from residents, local councils and the Lottery Board. Building on this, Tim, along with the team, set about improving the hall and bringing it up to date by installing Wi-Fi and commissioning a website. Tim dealt with the bookings as they increased, it became an almost full time job.

We were so lucky to have Tim as our Chairman for five years. His experience of working in local Government, combined with his excellent diplomacy skills, got us through the inevitable trials and tribulations of running a village hall. The workload for Tim was massive but he took it cheerfully and professionally and he still managed time to laugh.

## WORDS FROM THE FAMILY HE SO LOVED

WWe lost our Dad, Tim Rothwell, suddenly, on December 18th 2022 – the day of the World Cup Final. Dad had a wonderful sense of humour, and as he was an avid football fan, he would have said, "Trust me to snuff it on that day of all days". He would also have apologised profusely for ruining Christmas.

We remember Dad with fondness, and particularly how he saw the world. "What on earth would Dad have made of that?", we have said on many occasions this year.

Our Mum, Libby, has lost her best friend, and her partner of 55 years, although she has dealt with her profound grief with immense

Tim was the figurehead and public face of the Village Hall in recent years and will be highly missed. I hope we can carry on his good work and maintain the standard Tim set for the community.

### Pett & Pett Level Community Group & Pett on the Net Website

Tim was webmaster for the village website and helped set up the Pett and Pett Level Community Facebook page in early 2018 establishing the successful village forum which has over 1,000 members. Tim ran the page throughout lockdown when everyone was confined to their homes and couldn't meet up in person. Tim helped the community connect with new, historical photos, memories and remind us of when the Clap for Carers was taking place. Local businesses were advertised and this was particularly useful when we needed to know who delivered groceries as we could not go shopping.

Tim was an excellent moderator and kept the page free from online hate, bad language and political posts. When Tim stepped down for a while in January 2021, there was an outpouring of thanks from the community.

### And of course The Rye Old Scholars Association

Tim was an amazing member of ROSA who wholeheartedly gave his time not only as an Old Scholars but sitting on the Committee for over 10 years and then setting up the ROSA website from scratch, building it from strength to strength. Old Scholars now located all around the world can keep in touch and enjoy stories and pictures taken throughout the decades. On an almost daily basis Tim could be found updating stories and pictures, adding to and improving the site. We are still greatly shocked by his passing and he will be sorely missed. Judith Blincow Secretary.

courage. She sent me something recently which chimed with all of us, "Do not be sad that he is gone, but be grateful that he was".

Dad's character was defined by laughter, music, and generosity. He stood against injustice, always ready to defend his moral and political beliefs. He was respected professionally, though he remained modest about his achievements. His commitment to family, friends, and community was unwavering, particularly local projects in Pett. We all miss you, Dad.

Chris and Alex Rothwell (Tim's sons)

Reuben, Bette and Dora (Tim's Grandchildren)



## 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.

## REMEMBERING ANDREA CHAPMAN NEE LEWIS



In a macabre way it was an honour to attend the Celebration of Life of my first form teacher at Thomas Peacocke School. I had not realised until words were said that "Miss Lewis" was a local girl through and through living and working in the Hastings and Rye area all her life apart from studying to be a teacher at Saffron Walden. Hastings Crematorium was packed to bursting with her family,

long-standing work colleagues from TPS (around 20) and friends and associates she had made when she retired from Rye in 1997, after joining RSM in 1967. Andy taught Geography and History and later became Deputy Head of the Lower School.

Fond words were spoken by family and lifelong friends of a lady who loved people and her family. It is ironic that succumbed to the sepsis that ended her life so quickly and prematurely after starting to rebuild her life again after looking after her mother who had passed away last year.

In retirement she enjoyed travelling with her husband in their campervan all over France. And was an extensive collector of compact cases and gemstones.

After the service a great many people attended the Wake at the Brickwall Hotel at Sedlescombe. A delightful buffet was on offer to guests and during this time it was suggested by Lois Benton that as there were so many colleagues together in one place a photo opportunity needed to happen. I was quick to agree and

arrange and evidence of this is seen at the end of this piece. A kind and lovely lady who led a lovely life, who will be sorely missed by family and friends and remembered for always. **Richard Moore**

Just a few of the many tributes that can be found on the Facebook Page TPS – Do you Remember.

Oh, I loved Miss Lewis. She was my form tutor in 1M and then 8M (when the year numbering system changed). She used to give us a birthday card and a chocolate bar every year. I was in sixth form when she retired and there was a really lovely assembly for her. That was 1997. She really was such a lovely lady. Strict, never took any rubbish from anyone, but generous and caring, and really set us up for secondary school life I know she married Alan after this, but she will always be Miss Lewis to me! We did keep in contact for a while, wish I'd written more now. **Laura Groves**

She was so brilliant with me, always encouraged me in my work. Even when I wound her up that one lesson singing the instrumental of the Children's Ward TV theme tune all one Geography lesson (which Daniel Creton encouraged me to do!), she would next time I saw her still be the same with me the following lesson as if it never happened! She sent me over to another seat because of it!

So, so sad. She has been a teacher at the school for years, she was brilliant. RIP Marcus Jervais Lavaggi-Bowen.

Miss Lewis was one of my favourite teachers. Made Geography & History interesting.

Also, one of the few teachers who never had to send me out of the classroom. **Tristan Carter**



Left to right. Back Row Elizabeth Pamboris, Lois Benton, Barry Fuller, Dick Wright, Chris Rose, Martin Blincow, John Lovell, Kevin Hogan. Front row ladies: Pat Bean, Margaret M. Wendy Jasper.

Other staff who attended included Sue Galvin, John and Fran Crouch, Jenny Bosham, Richard Seeley, Don Beany, Ed Wiseman, David Hancock and Elizabeth Bush.



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## KEVIN'S CORNER FROM POLICING TO SHEEP FARMING

During the summer of 2017, I decided to leave policing after nearly 40 years. I would fully retire on my birthday in January 2018 at the age of 61 years. My policing career had been extremely fulfilling, but the time had come for a change of direction in my life. After all, life is not a rehearsal, and you only get one crack at it.

As a result, I started to think about all the things I could do in order to keep me busy but which I would hopefully enjoy doing. One of these was to write my autobiography, which led to three books being published! There were other things also that I got myself involved in, including serving on various committees and acting as a volunteer guide at the police museum in Brighton. However, one of the things that I had always wanted to do was to assist my cousin with lambing on his farm in Ashburnham. Many years ago, I had a grandfather and four uncles who all ran farms in the Ashburnham, Brightling and Dallington areas. My cousin Colin was the only relative I had who was still farming at this time with the farm having moved from dairy to sheep farming well over 20 years previously. His farm, known as Buckwell Farm, is part of the Ashburnham Estate.

The year 2018 was to be Colin's last one for actual lambing because, at the age of 74, he was finding it harder! Lambing for him at the time took place from the beginning of April and ran until early May. So, looking forward to this new venture, I got myself booked in soon after the start of lambing just as things were getting busy.

I was amazed how quickly I became fascinated with the whole business of lambing and how much I enjoyed the experience. I was there early each day having accomplished my earlier chores at home consisting of walking our many dogs and mucking out and feeding our horses.

The end of lambing came all too quickly for me, and so I asked Colin if there was anything that I could help him with during the rest of the year. He had by now realized that I was not just some suit-wearing, pen-pushing ex-police-officer/police employee and that I could handle the hard work involved in assisting in managing a large flock of sheep and lambs. He had between 400-500 breeding ewes and then of course their lambs until around September/October when the lambs went to market. This being his last year lambing meant that all the breeding ewes would also be sold. He agreed that he could do with the help, especially as it was free! Therefore, over the next few months for a couple of days a week, I got stuck into the worming, spraying (to prevent fly infestation and maggots), dealing with clipping feet and dagging (clipping out the rear ends of the sheep and lambs if there is too much dirty and wet wool clinging to their bottoms!). Then there was the shearing in early summer when we were assisted by a touring New Zealand

shearer and his colleague. I loved every minute of it.

By this time, Colin had decided that he could not retire yet, even at his age. Therefore, instead of having his own ewes and lambs, he would farm 'store lambs'. This involves buying in small lambs at hopefully reasonably low prices and then fattening these through the following months to be sold as hogget lambs. These are lambs aged between 1-2 years and they normally fetch good prices and hopefully considerably more than the prices they were purchased for. The meat on a hogget lamb is stronger tasting.

Anybody who knows anything about sheep farming will also know that there is still a heck of a lot of work involved in addition to looking after sheep/lambs. The stores still need to be wormed, sprayed, dagged and their feet looked after. There are also the many and varied chores that need to be undertaken on a farm which cost time and money but for which there is no financial return. These include 'topping' the fields i.e., trimming the top of the pasture to encourage growth, repairs of fencing and general tidying up around farm buildings. There is also the maintenance of machinery and buildings. My cousin also has a horse livery on his farm. In this day and age, farmers have to diversify if they are to survive, especially small/tenant farmers as he is. He also has a couple of fields 'set aside' for the growth of wildflowers for which a subsidy is received. Sadly, with us leaving the EU, the Government has withdrawn many of the subsidies previously accessible to farmers. This has meant that many have had to leave farming, which is a complete nonsense as it means as a country we now have to import so many more foodstuffs than previously. This in turn means our carbon footprint is much higher. Don't even get me started on that issue!!

I consider myself to be one of the lucky ones. For two days a week I can be involved in farming as a hobby. I don't need to earn a living from it and give my time freely because I love it! I enjoy time spent outdoors on the land in superb countryside undertaking physical work which at least helps to keep me fit! I also enjoy the banter with Colin as we constantly have a laugh especially when one of us falls over or makes a complete hash of something!

Yes, there is certainly a world of difference between policing and farming! **Kevin Moore**



## JEFFREY HOAD RYE SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

**Classes 1a 2a 3a and 4a. 1953/ 1957**

Jeff first saw a ROSA Bulletin last year. This immediately got him thinking about his school friends and contemporaries and over the past few months he has compiled the following list of people. Jeff wonders how many are still with us.

**Class mates**

Cynthia Night, Janet Rook, Madge Pope, Jennifer Bailey, Linda Swan, Veronica Vincent, Pauline Parks, Evelyn Brown, Frances Brown, Derrick Pope, Gordon Marshall, Victor Booth, Teddy Fleet, Ronald Barcus, Eric Dyre, Andrew Ford, David Robus, Silvia Chantler, Johnny Wyatt, Elio Cantamessa (French student).

**Other students I knew but not class mates**

Bob Juden, Keith Crouch, Sally Sargent, Chris Ades, Tony and Terry Dennis, Trevor Marriot, John Roberts, Graham Brown, Hayden Brown, Colin Lamb, Jimmy and Johnny Soan.

**Teachers**

Head. Mr Blackman, Mr Blacker, Miss Relf, Miss Jenkinson, Mr Pearce, Mr Huckstep, Miss Merry, Mr Fullock, Miss Cornelius, Mr Care, Mr Woolley, Mr Williamson, Mr Davy, Mr Doorman, Mr Smith, Mr Les Holmes.

Apologies for anyone I missed.



## GENERATION X OPPORTUNITY FUND NEWS UPDATE

From the previous bulletins that have been distributed all over the world and of course mentioned on our wonderful website you are all aware of this special fund's existence.

In some ways, it is an extension of the good work of the RGS Foundation Governors, in supporting students whilst they are at college and I am delighted to be Vice Chairman of this Committee representing the Rye Old Scholars.

The Generation X Fund will support Rye Old Scholars between the ages of 18 to 30 with a one-off support grant, up to a maximum of £300 for all manner of things, such as tools, books, training course, uniform etc. We have designed an application form and applicants will need to follow up the support given with a piece in the ROSA Bulletin in the future of their "Success Story"

The fund exists so far, with the following donations :-

**In memory of Peter Webb**

**Events arranged by Worshipful Mayor of Rye Rebekah Gilbert**  
**Donation of support by Mr. Geoff Boxall**

**In memory of the service to the school by Mr. Ray Fooks M.B.E.**  
**In memory of the service to the school of Miss Maureen Getley**  
**Donation of support by the guy who came to the 60's Reunion**  
**In Memory of the life of Old Scholar Mr Graham Baldock**  
**Proceeds of the Raffle from the 1970's reunion**

Now the fund is established, we want it to grow so that ROSA can assist Old Scholars now and in the future. If you would like to donate to this fund (or when you are planning bequests in your will), either, send a cheque made payable to The Rye Old Scholars Association to our Secretary. Or alternatively make a bank transfer to:

Account name. Rye Old Scholars Association. Sort Code 60.18.09.A/c No.82464030

**Mrs J. Blincow , Hon. R.O.S.A. Sec.,**

**The Mermaid Inn, Mermaid Street, Rye, TN31 7EY For correspondence and more details of the fund**

Thank you for your anticipated support, now or in the future – it will be greatly appreciated by the ROSA Committee and will make a real difference to a young old scholar.

Best Wishes

**Richard Moore**

**Chairman, Rye Old Scholars Association**

## PROGRESS REPORT

The Generation X fund is about 18 months old now. We gathered a sum to get it started and look forward to applications as and when they come in. There are two things we need to consider going forward as we promote the fund. Firstly, that the pot needs to be kept topped up, so any fundraising activities, legacies, or other projects that can be run to aid this will be very positively received. The fund was set up, as part of my mayoral charitable fundraising, to help young people get a start in life. I was very lucky as a teenager that folk at Thomas Peacocke School helped me get a foot on the ladder of life as a musician and now it is a chance to reflect, and give back to this current generation.

We called it generation X for two reasons: firstly that's my generation of 70s kids, but secondly because we want it to be cross generational and for those with wisdom and experience to help engaged and energetic youngsters who show great potential to explore the world of business with some measured guidance. We are looking for a few old scholars to act as mentors to our successful applicants. Someone they can call on when they need advice or to test ideas, or just to say I'm having a bad day, help! Obviously any volunteers (and you will get paid with that warm feeling of helping someone not hard cash!) will need to be vetted and submit DBS checks, and talk with us on any mentoring training or experience you have had, plus how you feel you can add benefit through your experience in business. All top sports teams now have coaches, and all the best senior leadership teams get executive coaching, so here is a chance to filter coaching and mentoring through to this new generation of entrepreneurs.

We very much look forward to hearing from you to get this next chapter of generation x going forward. Also, for the ROSA to have a forward-looking goal for the next generation of old scholars. **Rebekah Gilbert**

## OUR FIRST AWARD RECIPIENT

I am delighted to be the first recipient of the ROSA Generation X Opportunity Fund Bursary. Having completed my degree with the Open University over the summer, I am now undertaking an Initial Teacher Training course at Rye College. The bursary was integral to allowing me to stay local, where I will be able to support students in our area.

I am based in school four days a week and then also undertake training in pedagogy and subject studies with Kent and Medway Training (KMT) one day a week. I have quickly become a part of the school community and have been made to feel so welcome and well supported by the Senior Leadership Team. The colleagues I am working alongside can be very inspirational and have made me appreciate that teaching really is an art form – and that it's not as easy as it looks!

My musical skills, honed through my time with the Rye Wurlitzer Academy, are now being put to good use, as I am excited to be involved in the new Rye College 'Production Club'. **Jamyma Hanson**

## WHAT IS THE RYE TOWN MODEL?

The Rye Town Model is a magnificent 1:100 scale model of Rye as it was in the mid 19th Century – its scale must be seen to be appreciated as it covers an area of around 15 square meters! Lovingly built by two local residents who started work on it in 1973 and first exhibited in 1976, it forms the centre piece of a sound and light show – “The Story of Rye” – presenting 750 years of history including ghosts, myths and legends.

### Who are we?

Rye Heritage Centre is a registered Charity, registration no 1187978, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The charity was formed in early 2020 to take over the running of Rye Heritage Centre and to purchase the Rye Town Model to preserve its future.

It had been announced by the previous operators, Rye Town Council (RTC) in late 2019 that the centre would be closed, and the model put into storage as they could no longer justify the subsidy needed from Council Funds to continue. A strong swell of local public opinion resulted in a campaign to retain the centre and agreements were reached with RTC to take a lease on the building and to acquire ownership of the Model. The Charity officially took over on 1st April 2020 with little or no ceremony due to the arrival of the pandemic which severely hampered intentions to re-open, finally in July 2021 with a little help from the Culture Recovery Fund and some generous local donations the centre was re-equipped with the necessities and the public were welcomed back.

### Where it all began

The famous Rye Town Model is approaching 50 years old and has been located at Rye Heritage Centre for many years in a purpose-built auditorium. Still entertaining visitors but now owned and managed by the Rye Heritage Centre charity. The rest of the building had been used as a Tourist Information Centre, a gift shop and housed some basic heritage information displays along with the Vintage Penny Arcade machines. At the time of closure Tourist Information was transferred to Rye Town Hall along with retail equipment and stock leaving the Charity with an almost

blank canvas to re-energise the centre for the future. Sadly, there is currently no Tourist Information facility in the town.

### How it's going

In November 2023, we have survived the damage done to visitor numbers over the last few years caused by the pandemic and to some degree by changes to the visitor demographic brought about by Brexit. Over the last 12 months we have been faced with the additional challenge of renewing everything electronic that runs the sound and light show, including taking the whole model apart and renewing the lighting! This winter will see us move further forward with our regeneration plans, there is still much work to be done, more volunteers will be needed and, most importantly, funds will need to be raised to achieve our goals.

### What's next

This next few months will see completion of the refurbishment of the upper floor and the creation of The Smuggler's Attic – (a new walk-through interactive experience). Work has already started on designing and producing new heritage interpretation displays and exhibits and research projects are underway.

### Who am I

I was in the first year of comprehensive education at Thomas Peacocke, went to Hastings College in 1974 to study business and after a false start in Local Government joined the construction industry as a manual worker in 1986. In 2021 arthritis was beginning to take its toll and the opportunity arose to take a part-time job managing the Heritage Centre - quite a different career. I married Lorraine Haffenden, another ex-pupil, in 1980 and haven't shaken her off yet! We have three daughters and five grandchildren and like so many others have Rye in our blood – never really having moved far away. I wish that I could say my days at Thomas Peacocke were entirely happy ones, they weren't, but it certainly gave me the strength and skills to deal with all the challenges that life has thrown at me so far! If you're in town - please do come and say hello.

**Simon Parsons.**



## REPORT & PHOTOS OF THE 70'S REUNION

October 21st was a long day for the ROSA Committee with a 14-hour day at the college. We were up and running in the hall as the evening before I had had a silent movie night in the hall for the Rye Wurlitzer Academy, so we left the chairs and tables in situ making the set up a little easier. This was the first movie night we had had in the hall since the refurb of the college as the hall had been without a full set of curtains and what remained was very tired. The Foundation Governors generously supported funds to cover the cost of installation plus servicing the tiered seating which when required gives the hall a real theatre feel.

By arrangement with the Home Economics teacher Sam Werrett, we had full use of his room and ovens, one having an erratic heat gauge which meant that the first batch of sausage rolls cooked caused the fire alarm to go off and a visit from the local brigade as we could hear the siren getting closer in the distance from the Ferry Road station. It was a highlight of the morning, and Claire and Shirley took the opportunity of having their picture taken with men in uniform (both were old scholars).



Our food budget was greatly enhanced by a generous donation by Aldington Fresh Foods who supplied meats, pies and pasties which meant

there was plenty to eat for everyone who attended both events.

The highly popular Rockitmen were our evening's entertainment. Tim Philips (another old scholar) came along in the morning with some of the equipment and we were able to make full use of the wonderful lighting rig that is now in the hall

along with a star cloth to give the stage a real classy atmosphere.

We chose to take names leading up to the event so that we had an idea for catering, perhaps we should have taken money as well as on the day we had several no shows along with the apologies received beforehand as it clashed with other personal arrangements or health issues. Overall, this led only to a very small profit for ROSA funds, the lowest since I started arranging these events in 1986 in memory of Tim Docksey. Two raffles on the day raised money for the Generation X Opportunity Fund and people were delighted with the jars of jam and marmalade that I had made for the occasion. One attendee Simon Spencer was fortunate to win two prizes on the day and went home with 19 jars, I sincerely hope he isn't diabetic.

The traditional tours of the College were arranged for the afternoon attendees and head Students Kinga and Ava made a great impact on those that chose to see what had changed over the years since leaving Thomas Peacocke.

The feedback on Social Media pages the day after was lovely and it appeared that all those who attended had a great time, it was just a great shame that numbers were not as we had hoped for despite months of canvassing by Kevin Moore, David and Angela Gasson and myself to get people to attend.

ROSA arrange reunions for varying decades, and we did this in style in a tried and tested manner which made the whole day flow well for us all. Thanks to Judith Blincow for arranging the bar - the profits helped with our loss of attendance income.

It was generally agreed that as the 70's era are now an ageing population that a three-

year interval may be wise for the next one. In this bulletin we won't set a date just yet but hope that for the next one all years of the 70's will rally around to make the 2026 event even better.

Here is a list of attendees and those for the record who made their apologies who wished they could have attended.

Tracey Jewsbury nee Foster; Caroline Machray, Sarah Edgecumbe nee Davies, Simon Spencer, Ann Gill nee Browning Gill Leon (Lee) Williams, Debbie & Karim Brazier, Brin Snowdon, Julie Stonham nee Wood, Debbie Derbyshire nee Wood, Kevin Burgess, Jo Upton nee Glazier, Debra Van Last nee Meldrum Sarah Mitchell nee Wood, Ann Bridges nee Matthews, Paul Goodsell, Vicki Rose nee Ielliot, Chris Rose (teacher), Gail Boustead, Kevin Moore Ann Moore nee Muggeridge, Richard Moore, David Gasson, Dawn Bull nee Huggett, Janet Sinclair nee Furminger. Debbie Rey nee Butler, Mark Sherwood, Mike Sherwood, David Double, Bev Gray nee Arkley, Shirley Bannister nee Wwolett, Deborah Smith, Dave Carey- Stuart, Paul Simpson, Jane Skinner, Mandy Martin, Pam Carroll, Paul Martin, Lois Benton (Teacher), Colin Albright, Dave Little, Susan Thomas, Peter Phillips, Sandra Kelly, Paul Kelly, Richard Pearce, Julie Woodward.

### Apologies from and best Wishes from

Rupert Dale, Martin Bloomfield, Sue Dale nee Peters, Paula Gardiner nee Williamson, Denise & Les Brace nee Selmes, Ellie Kane nee Ling, Graham & Sue Fletcher nee Walker, Steve Blackman, Simon Cleverley, Alison & Hugh Rose nee Duffy, Dale Skinner, Carol Mount nee England, Michael and Sheila Caister, James Watson, Philip and Julie Law, Steve & Clare Murray nee Watson, Sandy Powell, Paul Heskett.



## 20 YEARS AT SALTCHOTE PLACE

We've been here longer than the Hennessy family. Over the past 20 years we have been in touch with a great many former staff and pupils and never tire of receiving school reports and images from the various times Saltcote transitioned into a school. In 1922 it was a girl's school for the first time. Beulah House boys' school in Tooting relocated here in 1939 before moving once more to Devon during the War and of course the infamous Saltcote Girls many of whom we have come to know. When the Hennessy family sold Saltcote Place in 1920 it "benefitted from "a company telephone in three rooms" and two radiators on upper floors! The map shows Saltcote Place has evolved as indeed we all must and in addition to being a very much-loved home it now hosts bespoke events for up to 12 adults of family and friends to have exclusive use of some rather amazing space for a few days to relax, unwind and catch-up.

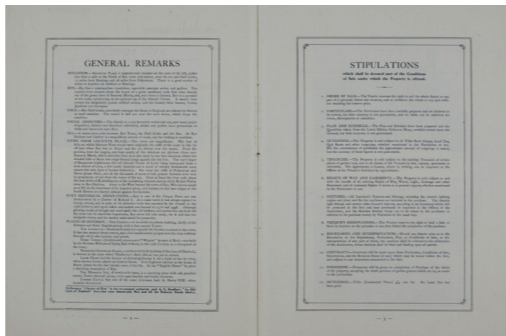
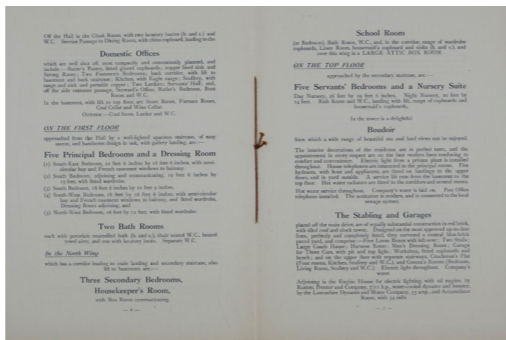
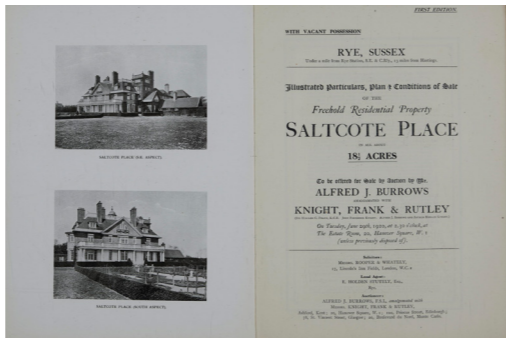
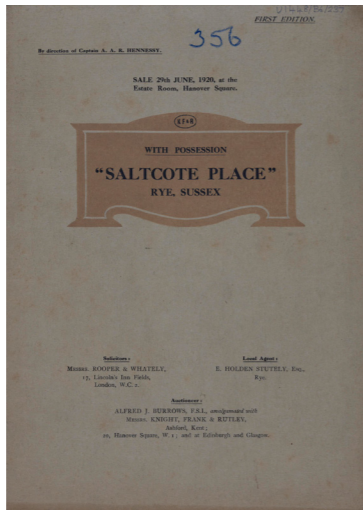
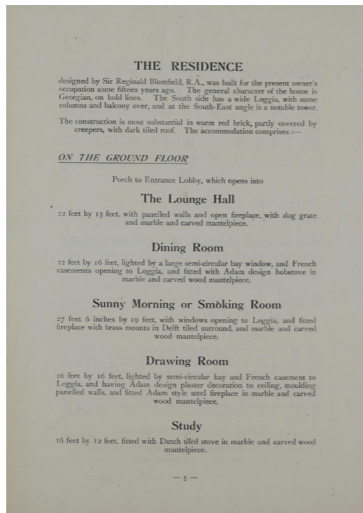
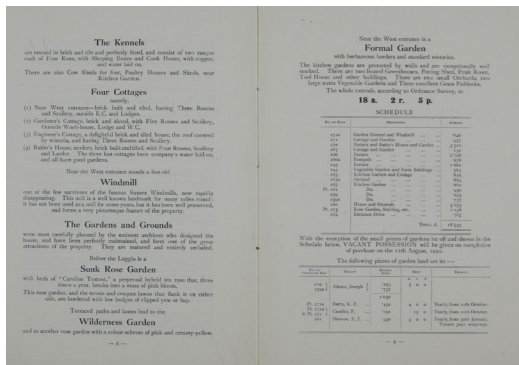
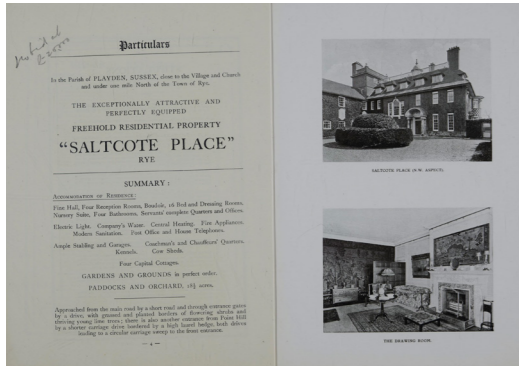


### Staff and prefects in about 1953

**Back row:** Pat Forster, Margaret Twidale, Ruth Carey, Glenwyn White, Christine Vollans.

**Next row:** Miss Cashmore, Mrs Matthews, Miss Collings, Mrs Ainsworth (Brown).

**Front row:** Anthea Doust, Bracken, Andrée White.



## REMEMBERING DERRICK ALAN BALDOCK

Rye lost a well-known and well- loved son. Derrick Baldock, known affectionately as Long'un, died in the early hours of Monday 21 August at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton. He was 78 years old. Derrick lived and worked in Rye all of his life. He attended Rye Grammar School and boarded at Leasam House for some of that time. Derrick was excellent at sport and played for the school football and cricket teams, excelling at athletics as well. Later he was to play football regularly for Rye United as well as turning out for Rye at cricket. He was so popular that he was invited to play for a host of other local football and cricket teams as well as engaging in playing darts, snooker and golf. His working life took him to the Rother Iron Works, Nerus Engineering, Bourne's Removals, and Alsford's at Rye Harbour Wharf. On marrying Lena, they worked together managing the Castle Inn in Winchelsea, the Globe in Military Road and, latterly, the Hope and Anchor in

Watchbell Street. Derrick was very generous and sociable and life as a landlord suited him well. Even after retirement he could often be found on one side of the bar or another in the Hope Anchor or the Queens Head holding court and sharing amusing anecdotes with the many friends in Rye who knew and loved him.



His Thanksgiving Service at Rye Baptist Church was full to overflowing and he will be sorely missed by many. His family have invited donations, if desired, to go to the ROSA Generation X Fund. **Christopher Breeds**

## SCHOOL DAY REFLECTIONS



My time at Rye Grammar (1961-68) was dominated by my love of football and cricket but I also put in a few miles on the cross-county course and the athletics track, and will always be grateful to all the sports staff of those days, especially David "Muscles" Holness and Stan Jones. And for a small, mixed school of 450, our sports facilities at RGS were remarkably good.

Additional exercise was derived

from regular caddying at Rye Golf Club from the age of 11 to 18 years.

Just occasionally I also paid attention in class, as well as enjoying a few years in David Gaunt's school plays. Art with Kitty French and history with Maureen Getley were particular favourites and somehow, I managed to collect the school's Tunstall Memorial History prize in 1967 and a Speech Day prize in '68. Being a dunce at maths (although not at all bad at arithmetic) didn't deter me from drifting into a career with the Midland Bank in Kent, but after 22 years I'd had enough and left on the day before my 40th birthday.

In my spare time I'd already been deeply involved in local and family history research and produced a few publications on Rye, where I have over 500 years of direct ancestry, and in 1984 helped to find the Rye Local History Group, which later merged with the Rye Museum. A continued Involvement in group history projects has brought with it quite a number of chairman and editor posts, including Chairman of the Kent Family History Society. And work? After the bank I embarked on a self-employed career in historical

research and public speaking. Countless genealogical puzzles and 1,200 talks later, I've retired from professional work after 30 years of research commissions and speaking all over Kent on local, social, military and family history with a strong Kent and Sussex flavour. I still enjoy writing articles and am always involved in a number of historical projects at any given time.

I played regular cricket well into my 60s and my love of the game and its past led me to research the history of my own club, where I'm now President. After being a football referee in my 30s, when the players were convinced, I was blind, I'm now a cricket umpire in my 70s and they now think I'm deaf! My wife (maiden name Rye – of course!) comes from a sporting family and our two sons are just the same and are better than I ever was at football, cricket or golf.

But, looking back, I can see that a love of history has been the never-ending thread throughout my life. Ever since my O Level and A Level classes with Miss Getley it has never receded – quite the opposite. I've spent many years delving into Rye's history and much of the last 20 years has involved researching and writing about 19th-century Anglican missionary activity in southern Africa, as well as the history of my local church, where I'm assistant churchwarden. I'm also a founder-member and Trustee at the Ash Heritage Centre in our village. I've recently had the honour of being elected President of the Kent FHS and I trace the origins of this long journey to a very early age, when my mother instilled in me a love of my hometown; to my history lessons at RGS and then, just a little later, discovering genealogy as a very young man. And, of course, to the teacher who caught me gazing out of the window during his maths class, dreaming of football and cricket. "Pay attention, Ewart! You won't earn your living out there." How right he was." How right he was. **Peter Ewart.**

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Annual Subscription £5 or Life Membership £25.

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

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.  
Please quote your name for reference.

For items for the Annual Bulletin please email them to Richard Moore [r.f.m@btopenworld.com](mailto:r.f.m@btopenworld.com)

## SIXTY YEARS OF CHANGE?

“King, Kemsley, Robinson ...”. The voice was Donald Darby’s, English master at Rye Grammar School. “... combs; outside!” The academic year was 1964-5. The year the Beatles had number one hits with “She Loves You” and “I Wanna Hold Your Hand”. We knew the directive: a regular start to English lessons. We three were probably the first in the school to sport Beatles’ haircuts: combed forward over the forehead and sideways from the crown. In an age of short-back-and-sides and Brylcreem, this new style was outrageous! Donald – sorry – Mr Darby, required us to leave the classroom and to return pretty sharpish with our hair swept from our respective foreheads and a parting in it, but not down the middle! Heaven help us if any hairs could be seen touching our ears! That would result in a visit to deputy headmaster Eric Robinson and boys were well advised to visit the barbers ahead of that.

That was sixty years ago. How times have changed. Take, for example, how we address one another. Men, and boys over the age of 12, traditionally were known by their surname. In fact, for a previous generation, it would have been considered over-familiar or rude to do otherwise, with first names reserved for young ladies and boys under the age of 12. John, Paul, George

and Ringo – the boys who never grew up – changed all that. Then, over the decades, came similar changes of informality. Even in the workplace, where casual has now largely replaced formal. Before I retired I witnessed a CEO wearing summer shorts and sandals to work.

Auld lang syne would have it that auld acquaintance “should never be forgot.” Or should it? Perhaps as soon as the auldness wears off! Mindful of this, and after decades away from Rye, I attended the 60s reunion in 2022. Would I know anyone? Would we have anything in common (apart from auldness, that is)?

In recent times preceding that reunion, I’d corresponded with Tim Rothwell where, irrespective of the communication purpose, we regularly discussed the fortunes of Brighton and Hove Albion. Contemporaries Hilary White (née Dann) and Colin Dickerson were also at the 2022 reunion. We discovered that we are all Albion season ticket holders. We’ve stayed in frequent contact since. This season the Albion are playing in Europe for the first time ever (see photos below).

Are there more ROSA members who are Albion followers and would like to get in contact?



## RYE BONFIRE NIGHT

There is currently much debate about the need for and use of fireworks and an ever-growing lobby of those, especially pet owners, who would like to see them banned. However, they have been an integral part of festivities in Rye since time immemorial.

In the ‘old days’ organisations and establishments often spent months preparing elaborate floats for the procession. Rye businesses, scouts, guides, sea cadets, bands, women’s institutes, youth clubs and schools were amongst the many participants.

The photo shows a float from the 1950s. I was on a float with sixth formers from Rye Grammar School in 1963. I can’t remember what the float was about, but I don’t think we spent much time in preparation. It was just an excuse to have fun and raise money for charity. After a couple of circuits of the

Town we went back to School to count our ill-gotten gains. After a while back in the sixth form room I realised that, if I was not careful, I was going to miss the bonfire and the fireworks and decided to leave. As I reached the door, I turned round to the motley assembled crowd and said “I’m just going to watch the bonfire and fireworks. Does anyone want to come with me?” At this point a young girl stepped forward and indicated that she would like to come with me because she was scared of fireworks and, in particular, the antics of the crowds of revellers who used to set off fireworks in the street and in the pubs and cafes. That was on 2nd November 1963. I am still with that girl sixty years later! Geraldine Miles, as she was then, was a student at RGS from 1961-66. We have been married for 53 years. Sadly, on 5th November 1967, only four

Barry Fuller (both former pupil and staff member) canvassed a number of us at the 2022 reunion about our continuing interest in sport. With old scholars Andy Bennett, Dave Goodlett, Dave Moody and Peter Ewart among the schools’ ex-players present, might this form another interest group? Ladies surely should be included too: I recall that classmate Linda Bennett (Margaret O’Neill’s sister) and several other Rye Old Scholars played football for Iden, back in the day.

The point I’d make is that auldness is fine as long as there is a here and now. A focus of common interest in the present. And anyway, not everything changes. Rye is a place steeped in the past but very much at ease with the present. So too ROSA. How good it is always to see stalwarts like Sue Moore, who is on the committee and was in my time in the chair, and namesake Richard, the current (or recurrent?) chair. How curious that, as I write this (at Richard’s request!) The Beatles are again No. 1 in the singles charts, with a song compiled from intervening decades. And, although my hair is a whole lot greyer than it was in the 1960s, it still won’t accept the parting demanded by Mr Darby! “Sorry, sir.”

Rob Kemsley (RGS/TPS 1963-70).



years after Geraldine and I met, four of our old scholars perished in a train crash at Hither Green whilst on their way back to college from Rye Bonfire celebrations. My name was posted in the press as one of the victims. They were all friends of mine. Rye Bonfire therefore holds bittersweet memories for me.

Now in my late 70s, I am still teaching science (part time) at Homewood School in Tenterden. I am well aware that time moves on and all is not progress. However, I can still remember my school days in Rye and the excitement and anticipation of a bright and fulfilling future and earnestly wish this for all current students. John Breeds RGS 1957-65

When Richard asked me to write a piece for the bulletin about what my husband always calls ‘play acting’, better known as am-dram, I thought why not!?

I didn’t do any acting until I left school: the sub manager at the bank where I worked was a keen actor and they needed a young lady to play the part of a bride. I was initially reluctant, but he wore me down and my first stage appearance was in the Ray Cooney farce ‘There Goes the Bride’ for Beckley Players. I’d got the bug.

I then joined Rye Players, initially appearing as Angela Ripoff in the panto, ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’. That’s the thing with panto: those traditional stories offer infinite variety for local adaptations and opportunities for all sorts of people to get involved. My roles have ranged from principal boy complete with fishnets and boots, to a green faced gremlin, wicked Queens (twice!) and various other characters. Baddies are much more interesting to play, traditionally entering stage left (sinister). We also won 1st prize in the very last Rye Carnival, when I rode round on horseback as Prince Charming to publicise the upcoming panto, Cinderella.

Of course, this led on to more and more plays, too numerous to mention or even remember. Variety shows at The George and various village halls, all with different stages and backstage capacity. Plays at Playden, Rye Community Centre and the school hall. I remember doing a show at Iden, with no changing facilities apart from outside the hall on the corner. I think there were a few surprised drivers that night!

One highlight was our production of ‘Blitz!’, fund raising for Rye Hospital. Publicity included a papier mâché plane fixed to the roof of Rye Station and a huge cast featuring Ray Fooks amongst others. I must admit I found it difficult to call him Ray rather than Mr Fooks.

So began a string of plays and diverse characters; Miss Mapp in ‘Make Way for Lucia’, Madam Edith in ‘Allo ‘Allo. This was great fun: there was a publicity event the weekend before the show but no one in



## TREADING THE BOARDS BY CLARE MURRAY 1970-1977

Rye seem at all taken aback with people wandering around in Nazi uniform. That show was a great success, attracting lots of visitors from all over. A German couple were heard to remark that I was very brave to sing when I had such a bad voice, which I took as a compliment as that was Madam Edith’s ‘thing’. That was followed with Mrs Fox in ‘Dad’s Army’ and then Mistress Ammonia in the world non-professional premiere of ‘Up Pompeii’, very kindly attended by the author Miles Tredinnick.

Rye Players then went through a difficult period, and I remember being in Dunelm Mill in Hastings when I got a phone call from a fellow actor who asked, “how are you with Shakespeare?” Immediately my mind went back to doing Twelfth Night for English Literature, and although I could still recite most of Orsino’s opening speech, I couldn’t own to knowing much more about it. Anyway, I had my arm twisted and turned up to auditions for Bowler Crab’s production of Macbeth. This was a new group performing outdoors at Three Oaks. Calling on professional and amateur actors, the director really knew his stuff and made it make sense! I played 2nd witch/murderer and Lady Macduff. We spent hours marching round the cauldron to a drum beat to get the words right and on the first night there was a huge storm as Birnam Wood went on the move. The audience were very stoic sitting out in the cold and rain, but it was a success and so began my love for the works of Shakespeare.

Macbeth was followed by playing Oberon opposite a local professional actress which was a challenge for me, and the director showed great faith in me in casting and supporting me in the role. I also played Lady Capulet, Antonia (Antonio) in The Tempest, Pompey in Measure for Measure and Countess in All’s Well that Ends Well. Pompey was a bit of a change as he’s the pimp in the play. We had a Wild West setting and with heavy make-up and blacked out teeth I was unrecognisable, so much so that having removed my make up and going to get my complimentary after show drink I was challenged as to who I had

played. I also performed plays and pantos for Icklesham and Fairlight as well as taking part in the first Hastings Fringe and then a Stables production. Shared dressing rooms do cause you to be less inhibited about changing in front of others and playing a stripper in ‘Not Now Darling’ for Icklesham I had to strip to bra and knickers on stage, put on a fur coat and then remove the underwear and throw it out of the window. One of the cast was subsequently asked if I had actually removed all my clothing, to which he replied “of course” and I did get a few funny looks around the village for a while, although of course the trick was to wear 2 sets of undies!

In amongst all these there have been numerous Murder Mystery evenings, most recently In support of Rye Bonfire. These are always great fun, especially as you can read the lines rather than learning them.

So, what has “play acting” done for me. It’s given me confidence, although the audition process can be nerve wracking” but to know that I can hold my own with professionals is a huge boost. I’ve been all sorts of people in all sorts of situations. I find that it’s much easier if you can relate your character to something within yourself or identify with someone you know. For example in one play I was a busy-body neighbour, who I related to my mum’s neighbour, but who got her come-uppance by being thrown off a 6th floor balcony – actually only rolling over a thigh-high wall onto a dog bed whilst screaming!

A few photos appear below, mainly of me as I don’t have permission from others to publicise their pictures, just demonstrating the variety of roles.

I’ve made loads of friends, learned new skills, such as tap dancing for ‘Stepping Out’ and it’s a social hobby that doesn’t cost the earth. We also help the local community with fundraising and once helped Littlestone RNLI by being casualties for one their MedEx training days. The sad part is that as you get older there are fewer parts, but I guess that’s life and maybe I can emulate Glenda Jackson and play Queen Lear one day!



## LAST BUT NOT LEAST, NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

The autumn term is a significant one particularly for Year 11 students focusing on their terminal examinations. Despite the considerable challenges felt by youngsters across the country in this cohort, they are working hard to achieve their best outcomes and will soon be put to the test in their first mock examinations of the year. Year 10 students are also thinking about their future having attended a taster day at Bexhill College. As visitors, we were made most welcome and were shown around their exceptional resources for health care, music production, hairdressing as well as a range of A-level courses.

This academic year has seen another rise in the number of students choosing Rye College for their secondary education. This has necessitated an expansion of the teaching body as we grow from four to five forms of entry. We have been fortunate to recruit excellent new teachers in English, Science and Physical Education to join the experienced and dedicated colleagues already at the college.

Mrs. Willis continues to develop our reputation as a highly inclusive educational environment and runs several clubs for students including the 'Pride Group' in collaboration with an external body, 'Just Like

Us' which also provides high-quality training for colleagues. The small but dedicated group of youngsters meets every week to discuss how they can positively bring about the changes they want to see in the school.

Earlier in the year, we held our enrichment week providing younger students with new and varied opportunities. The traditional timetable was suspended so that they could engage with a range of activities including day trips to places of interest, weeklong performative projects as well as on-site team building. Activities were chosen to develop strength of character as well as enabling students to develop new passions and interests.

Finally, Rye College and Community Primary School were proud once again to come together as part of the local community for the annual service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church. Student Leaders for both schools laid a wreath in remembrance for those who have given their lives in military service. We will remember them.

Mr. Downes, Headteacher

### **PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE** **ANNUAL LUNCH 2024, SUNDAY 12TH MAY** **MERMAID INN, RYE, 12.45PM FOR 1PM**



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**THE RYE OLD SCHOLARS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE TUDOR ROOM  
AT THE MERMAID INN AT 12 NOON**



## NOUGHTIES REUNION

As we have mentioned before the current Committee is well represented from the 50's through to the 80's decade at the current time. Then the link stops. We know there is a social media page on Facebook called TPS can you remember; and we use it ourselves for ROSA events and thank those who set it up for keeping everyone informed. However, the purpose of ROSA is to keep all decades informed and united and we would dearly love to reach out to the Decade of the Noughties and arrange a reunion in 2024. The head boys and girls of that era are R Bull, S Williams, T Silvester, E Miller-Hoare, B Sinclair, H Wilson, A Jung, A Davies, S Allen,

L Kilpatrick, M Newson, S Giles, S Baker, G Vidler, L Cole, A Wood, E Woolett, J Jury, L Haffenden, T Bryan and K Tucker and we ask any of you, even better ALL of you to rally your peers and contemporaries to see if you want a gathering at the college with food and a Disco, or just to chat and reminisce with background music of that Decade.

In the first instance, please contact Richard Moore [r.fm@btopenworld.com](mailto:r.fm@btopenworld.com) to register your keenness to arrange and network with your peers.

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

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

*Send you news and photos to [saintkev1957@outlook.com](mailto:saintkev1957@outlook.com)*