

RYE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN 173 DECEMBER 2024



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Since producing the last bulletin with the team, I have joined the retirement club and even though a new member of the regiment I am wondering how I fitted in 43 hours a week of work. Luckily, I have been able to extend time with all my hobbies and interests. So far so good and keeping busy with my family and friends. My challenges included making 2000 jars of jam, marmalade, and chutney, some of which was enjoyed? as seems to be the tradition at the Annual Lunch. At the time of the bulletin going to print the challenge has been completed with a total of 2,100 being made. As I give all the full jars away, I am grateful to all those who supplied me with empties throughout the year - I could not have done it without you. It was suggested by Roger Burrows (1970-1975) who I met after many years at a Garden Party arranged by Simon Cleverly (1971-76) and his partner Dawn that I write to British Sugar to see if they would support my jam-making activities. Words, photos and three testimonials were put together soon after and the upshot was that on September 12th 200 1kg bags of jam sugar were delivered to my house by the Silver Spoon Sugar Company with the arrangement that once I had used this, they would send some more.

Long walks have included Hove to Seaford, a very windy cliff top walk from Folkestone to Walmer, where Martin Bloomfield (1970's) came to my rescue and gave me a lift from Walmer to Sandwich to catch the return train home due to a leaking water bottle and a very wet bottom. I also enjoyed a ten-mile coastal/around the town walk in Great Yarmouth when in the area at the end of September. A River Thames walk from Hampton Court into Central London is on the cards and more coastal walks around Kent and other routes are planned for 2025. Gardening time had to be allocated but still enjoyed and more time, of course, with my wife, sons, and grandchildren. Friday and Sunday Concerts arranged for the Rye Wurlitzer Academy meant that I had more time to focus and arrange to increase our audience size again which has been a challenge since Covid-19.

ROSA has moved through 2024 quite effortlessly with everyone on the Committee knowing what they need to do. Within the bulletin

there are reports on activities and projects that are taking place during the year ahead. Sincere thanks to Kevin Moore for leading on a fundraising initiative that secured enough money to cover the cost of running the very popular website for this year. An appeal letter was prepared, and members reacted generously confirming that they enjoy and appreciate the website, and funds came in to cover the cost of running it for 2024.

With an aging population and within our own Membership it was decided at our committee meeting in October that the 1960s should be featured again as our focused decade and a date, and details are with the bulletin. However, we have set a deadline of January 31st, 2025, to see if we can get interest from at least 50 people to attend, due to the cost and effort in arranging such a day. That said, we would dearly love to assist the noughties to have a gathering, and the invitation is still on the table for those with connections to gather your peers and contemporaries.

Our Generation X Fund is still alive and in funds ready to support applicants - there have been none in the past year. However, we are delighted that the Derrick Baldock Sports Award has assisted two people and more details are within.

ROSA Celebrates its own centenary in 2029, and it would be wonderful to do something significant and the Committee welcomes any ideas and suggestions from members.

The end is near, and I leave you to enjoy the rest of the bulletin with interesting articles and pieces from members from the 1940's to the 2010s - how diverse an age range is this? My retirement meant that I could start compiling the bulletin in September without the need of the November panic and I thank all those who have contributed to enable yet another interesting read for members to enjoy.

Wishing you all the compliments of the festive season along with a happy, prosperous, and more importantly healthy year ahead.

Richard Moore – Chairperson

RYE WURLITZER CENTENARY

2025 will see the 35th year of my involvement with the Rye Wurlitzer. I can still recall saying at a ROSA Committee meeting in the summer of 1990, when there was a threat of selling the instrument to a gentleman in Cornwall for £300 after science teacher Nigel Spooner had spent time on the instrument during the 1980s, that “I will arrange a couple of concerts”.

Wurlitzer 100

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the historic Rye Wurlitzer's opening performance at the Palace Cinema, Tottenham, on 6th April 1925 with a bumper show and cream tea

All profits in aid of the Rye Wurlitzer Academy

Star Ventriloquist from ITV's Britain's Got Talent



Steve Hewlett

From the World Famous George Mitchell Minstrels with Songs from the 20s & 30s



Peter Chapman

Your Host - Orator Supreme



Richard Moore

Remembering the UK's most Popular Theatre Organist - Mr. Blackpool Reg Dixon



Cameron Lloyd

1920 Silent Film Comedy Classic
Buster Keaton's One Week with musical score played live on the Rye Wurlitzer - doing the job it was made for in 1925!

International Organist



Michael Wooldridge

From Blackpool's Empress Ballroom and Opera House Wurlitzers



The Rye Wurlitzer

Afternoon Cream Tea

★ Seats in all areas £18.00
Children £5.00 ★

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Over 300 concerts later, there has been more than £100,000 raised for its renovation and movement to the stage where it enjoys rising from “the pit”, and its specification has been extended from a two-manual six-rank instrument to a hybrid eleven rank instrument to assistance with computer generated technology.

To celebrate my coral anniversary with the project what better way than have a series of Centenary Concerts, as on April 6th, 1925, the Wurlitzer was heard for the first time at the palace Cinema in Tottenham. We have a wonderful Variety Concert lined up that recreates the first week's programme. Please see posters for all the details of this very special afternoon. For catering purposes and seating arrangements it will be ticket only. Due to space limitations in this bulletin, we are unable to include the full schedule of concerts and events planned for 2025. However, we invite you to visit our website, www.ryewurlitzeracademy.co.uk, where you'll find complete information on all upcoming dates, event details, and ticketing options. Our website is regularly updated to ensure that you have access to the latest news about our concert series, special performances, and centenary events celebrating this extraordinary year for the Rye Wurlitzer. We look forward to welcoming you to these events and hope you'll join us in making 2025 a memorable year for the Wurlitzer community!

PAT BARFOOT (1941- 1947)

We were thrilled to receive a note from Pat Barfoot, now a remarkable 93 years old, who sends her warmest regards to any of her fellow schoolmates from those days. Pat was among the Bedford evacuees during the Second World War and recalls her school years with fondness. Now living in a care home in Mansfield, she shares that she's “being spoilt rotten” and is clearly enjoying this chapter of her life. Despite the years that have passed, Pat still looks forward to reading the bulletin each year, staying connected to old friends and memories. She wishes everyone well and cherishes the thought of reconnecting with anyone who remembers those times.



The Mermaid Inn

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AA*** AA Rosette Restaurant Supporting the Rye Old Scholars Assoc.

BERITAR (BENNY) WICKING (NEE STALLARD)

By chance I discovered these wonderful memories from Benny whilst looking for something else recently. Benny wrote this wonderful piece in January 2023 and it is now published for members to enjoy the read.

It was with a degree of sadness that I read Malcolms Nunn's posthumous letter; another of the class of 1947 gone. The last time those of us left met was at Shelagh Curran's shop in the High Street. Contrary to his belief, there are still a few of us tottering on: myself Berita (Benny) Stallard (now Wicking), Vic Goodsell in Pett and Marjory Wise in Hastings. I also read with interest his list of teachers at the time. Although I remember Miss Tunstall as a history teacher who gave me a life-long interest in the subject. I had no idea as she sat up at the front of the class wrapped in a fur coat that she was dying. She passed away during the holidays leaving, for me, quite a gap.

Miss Stevens was our Guide captain, 2nd Rye (Grammar School) called "tiger" at camp and Miss Dann was "pooh" Mr Bagley was the bane of my life since I was hopeless at Maths. During the war I had lived just north of London and had been bombed out of two primary schools ending up in a Convent Boarding School not noted for its Maths education. I really needed to start from scratch.

In 1945 we came to live at Pett Level. I went to school in Pett and from there took the 11 plus. Malcolm also left out Miss Green, cookery. However, as he started a bit later, he may have missed the term where the boys did cooking and the girls did woodwork.

We had such things as "field days" when we learnt to put up tents, tramped from Lewes to Alfriston over the South Downs with Mr Robinson and Miss Dann discovering dew ponds, barrows, and trig points. On one of those days the playground was littered with piles of potatoes, all numbered, with the school checking as to how many wire-worm holes they had. Yet another event was going into the countryside to pick as many rosehips we could find. I believe this was nationwide.

So many of our class of 1947 died young. All my friends have gone Valerie Jupp, Joy Baker, Christine Caister and Bridget Wing (the second in my patrol). Somewhere I have a picture of us all at camp. Only one is left, Ann Banger, who went to Rye Modern School. I loved guiding and when I left school, like Malcolm at 16 and with without taking exams I became a Guider and captain of the 13th Hastings (Emmanuel) Guides for 20 years, and later when I finished State registered Nursing exams I married Bill Wicking, a Scouter and remained for the rest of my career a staff nurse then sister at the local hospital.

I went back to night school to help our children with their homework and took all the exams I should have taken in 1951.

Bill and I have been married for 67 years and have had a lot of fun camping, climbing, sailing, building carnival floats and Bonfire effigies.



STEVEN MARTIN (1992-1997)

As an introduction to this next piece. I knew that Steven was now a man of the cloth and sent him a message to write some words for Grace for our 2023 lunch.

My own memories of Steven are related to the Wurlitzer and his enthusiasm with it. I recall him arranging a concert at Rye Harbour Church in aid of the Wurlitzer during 1996 and arranging a cover for the instrument which remains today, albeit patched with black gaffer tape in places.

Greetings from Sunny Devon! It is a great honour to be asked to provide a Grace for the Rye Old Scholars lunch. I cannot be with you in person but shall be with you in spirit.

I shall be here, in Colyton, chowing-down' with a visiting preacher from Christian Aid, which will be much more riotous than it sounds, as she and I were at university together.

I remember with great fondness and gratitude my time in Rye and at Thomas Peacocke School. I wasn't the best scholar, but I loved being there, and I was very fortunate to have lovely teachers. I wasn't brilliant academically, and music saved me, and what gifts I did have were nurtured and encouraged. I was at TPCC in the early 1990s, during Miss Lois Benton's time; she has inspired not only my music, but also my approach to learning and life, for which I shall always be grateful.

I loved being a part of the life of the music department, and when there wasn't a choir practice or a band or brass group to play in, I used to duck out of school at lunchtimes to nip up the hill to play the organ at St Mary's Church or stayed in school and tortured the occupants of the staff room by thrashing about on the Wurlitzer. My love of theatre organs began in the school hall. The Friends of Rye's Wurlitzer and Richard in particular were fantastic with me, and very supportive and encouraging. He does a superb job and if I was with you, I would buy him a drink.

I carried on with music at sixth form in Devon, then at Exeter University, then off to Bristol to complete my doctorate in music—again, all thanks to contact with dedicated and inspiring teachers. I was a choral scholar at Exeter Cathedral and director of music at Crediton, and taught music in school for a time, before following my vocation into the priesthood. I studied theology at Oxford, and I am now Rector of the Holyford Mission Community in East Devon, where I have six churches (greedy, aren't !!). I hope that your lunch hasn't gone cold by now, or that some of the Old Scholars haven't nodded off and landed head-first into their Brown Windsor.

THE POLICE & THE MEDIA BY KEVIN MOORE

The news media are probably loved or hated in equal measure by most of the public. I would have to say that the same can be said of the relationship between the police and the media!

During my policing career, I had a very widespread view of the media and in particular the news reporters. Some of my experiences have been positive but there have also been many negative ones. For example, due to some manipulation of a pre-recorded interview by the TV Company involved I was once quoted as not ruling out a potential gangland killing when, in fact, I was dealing with a straightforward but nonetheless tragic death at Beachy Head in Eastbourne! A positive example involved a case that I was involved in regarding the murder of Terry Daddow in Northiam in 1991 at the hands of his wife, her son, and an associate of his. Daddow, who was a financial advisor, had befriended several elderly women to the extent where they handed him large amounts of their savings against the wishes of their families. I worked with a reporter who covered the case and who, following the trial, published the story but used pseudonyms to protect these women and their families which I felt showed considerable sensitivity.

From a policing perspective, I have always believed the media to be a necessary evil. Often, a police investigation may rely on appeals to the public and the best way of achieving this is through media outlets. Of course, nowadays, we also have social media which can be both a hindrance and a help.

It is inevitable that during the course of the most high-profile criminal cases, especially those involving murder, there will be massive media interest. This is extremely time consuming for the police and can on many occasions be a major distraction. The media don't want to talk to a police media employee but would rather speak to a senior police officer, normally a detective. In my early days as a senior detective, press briefings would be arranged at various times of the day in the early stages of a major case, or once daily as the case progresses. The preparation for these was and still is considerable. This is because the police will wish to ensure that the messages that they wish to go out to the public do in fact get out there. This will in the main involve appeals for witnesses but can also involve a request for sightings of vehicles or mobile phone images. This needs to be carefully handled because otherwise there is a huge volume of irrelevant material received. For example, when Sarah Payne first went missing in West Sussex in July 2000 and prior to her body being found, some members of the public claimed to have seen her as far afield as Manchester. This is unhelpful because judgements will then need to be made as to whether to pursue such potential lines of enquiry and potentially, time can be wasted as a result.

During the investigation into the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in Soham near Cambridge who went missing on 4th August 2002 and led to the conviction of Ian Huntley for their murders, the police used a new tactic when dealing with the media. Cambridgeshire Police introduced for the first time a senior police officer, a 'talking head', who was not leading or indeed directly involved in the murder investigation. This took away that responsibility from the senior investigating officer who was then able to focus all his attention on leading the murder investigation. This was to become the norm in the future for the majority of high-profile police investigations.

In recent times, I have noticed a change in the relationship between the police and the media. To me there appears to be a concerted effort to undermine the police at every given opportunity. The Leveson Inquiry undoubtedly changed the mindset of the press in so many respects and the attempt to have more control over the

media has I believe impacted on the way in which things are reported now. Similarly, I believe that there is greater suspicion between the police and the media. It is noticeable for instance that nearly always now when a senior police officer gives an interview whether live or recorded, they nearly always now read from a script. I never once used a script as I always believed that if I didn't know enough about the matter for which I was being interviewed then frankly I shouldn't be doing it! I believe the reason for this is that police officers are now concerned that they may be misquoted or say something inappropriate which will be picked over subsequently and be the subject of criticism.

A really good example of how the police can be criticised in relation to their involvement with the media came with the case involving the disappearance of Nicola Bulley on 27 January 2023. Additionally, the case also highlighted the negative impact social media can have on police investigations. Nicola went missing whilst walking her dog in St Michael's on Wyre, Lancashire. The Lancashire Constabulary said that there was no evidence of either suspicious activity or third-party involvement in the disappearance and quickly stated that their working hypothesis was that she had fallen into the River Wyre. However, an extensive search of the river and surrounding land involving police divers, helicopters, sniffer dogs and drones found no body. On 19 February, her body was found in the river by a man and a woman walking in the area, about one mile downstream of St Michael's on Wyre. The subsequent inquest concluded that Nicola Bulley's death was due to accidental drowning.

The police were criticised for their handling of the case, including releasing private details of Nicola's health and poorly communicating with the media which resulted in public speculation. Members of the public, particularly users of social media, were also criticised for travelling to the area during the search and for what the police described as "playing private detectives".

A similar situation arose during the disturbances that followed the horrendous murders of the three little girls in Southport earlier this year. Arguably, the police were very slow to reveal the background of the suspect they had in custody. This led to wild speculation through social media that the individual involved had come to this country as an asylum seeker which was totally incorrect. Whilst it can never be an excuse, this then resulted in huge numbers of individuals wreaking havoc across the country linking their actions to illegal immigration.

Dealing with the media is very definitely an art and from a police perspective has become more and more difficult in recent times. They are often damned if they do and damned if they don't. Involvement with the media is certainly not for the faint hearted!

Below is a more light hearted moment captured during a press conference I was involved in regarding an event that Norman Cook, aka Fat Boy Slim, wished to hold in Brighton in 2006 when I was the Divisional Commander for Brighton & Hove.





THE SUN SHONE ON OUR 2024 LUNCH

Group photo of attendees in Mermaid Street. It was nice to have our annual lunch for 2024 and to be at the beautiful Mermaid Inn, where a sink-hole in the car park that appeared a couple of days previously did not detract from the fine food and service enjoyed from the Mermaid team. A report is on our website, but below is an exterior group photo for a change as it was such a lovely day.

Those attending were Judith & Martin Blincow, Claire & Andrew Spacey, Richard Moore, Ann & Kevin Moore, Lois Benton, Philip Le Roux, Peter Goodsell, Rob Kemsley, Beverley Gill, Jim & Janet Holmes, Rosemary & Geoff Craggs, Sue & Tony Moore, Dave Carey-Stuart, Rebekah Gilber, Christopher & Kay Breeds, John & Geraldine Breeds, Alan & Joyce Gustard, Marion & Adrian Fuchs, Peter & Gaye Bellhouse, Chris Melchers.



WESLEY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH FAMILY FIRM

Today marks an incredible milestone for our Managing Director, Wesley Bourne, celebrating 30 years with Bournes! He didn't want a fuss, but the team couldn't resist. So, naturally, we threw a mini celebration at HQ because what's 30 years without a little party, right?

Our favourite moment? Watching your father, the legendary Eric Bourne (aka Bournes' previous managing director), present you with your certificate whilst you wore your "Best Ever Managing Director" T-shirt (a gift from the team). That had to hurt.

Wesley's journey with Bournes started at a very young age, working as a removals porter and learning the ropes (or should we say, the

stairs – with that first European job hauling a washing machine to a third-floor flat in Belgium... without a lift!.

From those early days, travelling across Europe with the team, earning his HGV licence at 18, and then on to University to study Business, Wes has seen it all. He spent a valuable year at UTS HQ in Amsterdam and UniGroup HQ in St. Louis, learning about our global business, before returning to Bournes, where he climbed the ranks with the same determination he used to conquer those stairs.

Since becoming Managing Director in 2014, Wes has been the driving force behind Bournes' growth - not only as an award-winning local and international mover for private customers across the South East but as a respected Corporate Mover and trusted trade partner to our valued colleagues across the world. As we approach Bournes' 150th anniversary in 2025, Wes has truly made HIS first 30 years count - navigating the daily challenges of the industry with a mix of grit, grace, and (let's be honest) a good sense of humour.

In his own words "I don't think there has been one year that has passed that hasn't been interesting, challenging and more importantly where I haven't learnt something. Our industry is unique in that way. However, the most important thing for me within the last 30 years has not been the achievements, but the people I have been fortunate enough to work with, within and external to Bournes. Everyone I have had the pleasure to meet and work alongside has guided and influenced my career in one way or another and for that, I am truly grateful."

Here's to Wes – for three decades of dedication, and leadership, and for always making the impossible seem possible. Your passion for this business is an inspiration to us all, and we can't wait to see where you take us next.



THE DERRICK BALDOCK MEMORIAL SPORTS AWARD

We were delighted for our first recipient of support from this fund was for Braydon. We have left his very proud mother tell us the rest.

Braydon Robus, 17, whilst attending Rye College (in the middle of his GCSE exams) was selected to represent Great Britain (with his kata partner, Isabelle Everest, 18) at the European Judo Union, kata championships on 10th/11th June in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, in the first ever adaptive kata category. Braydon and Isabelle were given their GB adaptive Badges in March 2024, they are the first ever GB adaptive kata pair. Braydon and Isabelle have been adapting the kata nage-no-kata, due to both their difficulties. Isabelle has cerebral palsy and is a wheelchair user, so she is the tori, presenting the techniques of the throws, adapted as Isabelle cannot use her legs, thus replicating leg/foot movement with her hands. Braydon was born with bilateral iris colobomas, and his vision can be affected by too much light going into his eyes. Braydon has also been diagnosed with dyslexia and is on the autism and adhd pathway. These two are showing people that despite having their difficulties in life, they thrive at judo, and promoting to others that anyone can do this.

In June 2024, they competed in Sarajevo, where they scored 261.0 (the second highest score out of the 4 adaptive kata categories). They achieved 2 things, being both the first kata pair in the 16 years of the competition to achieve a medal, and the first adaptive pairing

to compete for Great Britain. They achieved Gold! This brought the Great Britain team in 6th place out of 20 countries competing. An amazing achievement from the young pair.

Braydon and Isabelle have also competed at the European Judo Union competition in Swansea (July 2024), again rising to the occasion and achieving Gold. Braydon also competed with fighting, being given the opportunity of fighting as a level 2 player in adaptive judo. He fought well, winning 3 out of 4 fights, and coming away with a silver medal. They have also been selected to compete in Venray, Holland (November 2024) at the European Judo Union, Get Together competition. This time they are competing in Kata as well as fighting in their categories.

Braydon and his sister Sophia (12, Rye College) are attending training at the national judo centre of excellence in Walsall, for adaptive judo training, supporting them with competing at these types of competitions. As Braydon and Sophia are both currently British Judo Association, British Schools Adaptive Champions, and will defend their titles in March 2025, as well as competing in London at the BJA Adaptive Competition on 10th November 2024.

We have been informed that next year the European Judo Union, kata championships are going to be in Riga, Latvia (June 2025). We are looking for anyone interested in sponsoring/supporting Braydon and Isabelle with this trip, to be able to compete to defend their EJU kata title, and to continuing promoting Judo for Everyone.



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WATSON FAMILY UPDATE

It's been a minute since I was asked for a James Watson (Swats) update. The Watson family returned to the fair isles of the UK about 14 years ago after 9 great years in New York, San Francisco and Houston.

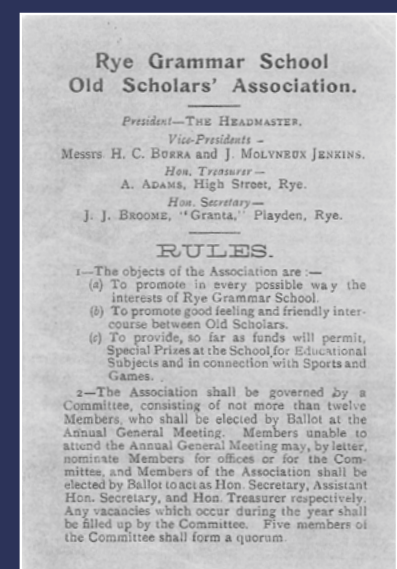
Having lived abroad for a long time, it was good to return home. Our 3 children Elle (27), Will (24) and Ben (18) are all very creative with Elle starting her own Creative Direction company whilst Will after finishing studying at Abbey Road, has signed a significant publishing deal and is making his way as a growing artist known as Humble the Great in the world of music. Ben is currently studying music production at the ELAM college. My wife Vicki and I recently celebrated 30 years of marriage and she has her own kitchen design company so the creative seam runs through the family. As to me, I continue to enjoy working in the financial services world and after 7 years at Tradition Brokerage as the global head of sales I have recently taken the role as chief revenue officer at a Portuguese based Fintech startup. We are well settled in Sevenoaks and enjoy life with our lively dog Minnie always in tow. I keep in touch with Gordon (Pixie) Boxall and Dick Moore and they remain grateful friends from school days. So that's about it and now you are up to date.

REGISTERED CHARITY

With the help and expertise from Tim Wardley, Chairman of the National Piers Society, a Trustee of the Rye Wurlitzer Academy and one of the leading lights with the Waverley Paddle Steamer for the past 40 years, Tim is currently putting together an application for Registered Charity Status which will have advantages includes Gift Aid and the Supporting Funds we are now responsible for. Tim wanted to see a copy of our original constitution. When reading it closely we discovered that one of the earliest officials - a local Alderman, and Mayor of the Borough in 1880, Barrister, Chairman of East Sussex County Council and a partner in the Rye Bank - was the father of Edward Burra, the prolific 20th artist that lived with his family at Springfield Lodge.

Edward was born in 1905 and, although he lived at Springfield Lodge, attended Northaw Place Preparatory School in Potters Bar, although he did take art classes with a Miss Bradley who lived in the town before studying at the Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art.

It is surprising what can be unearthed when seeking information and the very original front page of the original Old Scholars Association is shown here. Does anyone else know about any of the other early officials.



The original front page of the Old Scholars Association.

PAUL TREE SCHOOL MEMORIES

The best days of our lives? Yes I think they were, I grew up as a fairly solitary boy so going to Leasam at 13 years old was quite an eye opener. Especially sleeping in a dorm with eight other young lads. However I soon made several friends some who I am still in touch with after sixty years of friendship. I can still recall the first walk down to the Grammar across Mills bank and marvelling at the strange animals on the farm including ostriches and an elephant on occasions.

The first day at school was a bit of a blur but I will always remember school lunch as the table prefect...one of the Hartey boys, I think said, "Hoy you, Charlie dish out the spuds. The name followed me for the rest of my school days.

Other memories come flooding back especially presenting oneself at the door of Saltcote, suitably attired to ask Miss Nelson permission to take one of her girls out for the afternoon!!

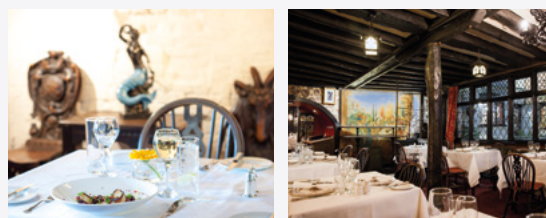
I remember the trip up the drive at Leasam hanging on the back of our Fergie 20 for grim death on the way to feed the pigs, farm duties were worked on a rota basis and I recall chicken duties were the most hated and either the pigs or cows the best. April Fools Day was always a blast...putting cattle food as a substitute for All Bran, blowing the masters' boiled eggs so there was nothing inside... and one time we substituted a master's car for an old pram. His car was placed in the piggery, we got into big trouble on that one. Saturday afternoons cuddling a girl in the back row of the Regent, going out to the feed shed for a crafty smoke, long bike rides on a Sunday around the beautiful countryside or going down to Camber or Winchelsea for a swim.

We now live in a small enclave of about 12 houses, we have wonderful Canarian neighbours and we all look out for each other.

Highlight of the week is enjoying fish and chips overlooking the sea at our local restaurant and enjoying a glass or two of vino...cheers and Happy Christmas to you all.



Save
the
Date
11 may
2025...
Annual Lunch



The Rye Old Scholars Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 12:00 noon in the Tudor Room at The Mermaid Inn.

Following the meeting, please join us for an exceptional three-course lunch, including coffee, priced at £25.00 per person. To reserve your place, kindly contact Mrs. Judith Blincow via email at judith@mermaidinn.com. Upon confirmation, she will share the menu options for your selection.



LIFE AFTER PESTALOZZI

During the 1970's Thomas Peacocke School was one of three schools (Claverham and Bexhill College being the other two) selected for students to attend from the Pestalozzi Village Trust at Sedlescombe.

Contemporaries from 1972 through to 1977 would remember with affection three Indian pupils Rajaram, Pundhari (Natt) and Arvind (Tom). Gordon Boxall and I seemed to attach ourselves to them and had many memorable happy times not only in school days but also visiting Pestalozzi during Diwali and other celebrations it was at these events I was introduced to the delights know as Gulab Jamun, we also took part in the Walk the Bridges of London walk as well as helping where we could on their Open Days at the village.

We then all went our separate ways through life but one of the benefits of social media is that you can re-connect with people, and this is what has happened during the past year.

I asked Arvind to write a piece for the bulletin.

In August 2024 I visited Hastings where I met up with my dear old friend Richard Moore, or Dick as we called him. He arranged for us to visit Thomas Peacocke School and the Pestalozzi Village where I spent most of my adolescence and young adulthood and all the memories just came rushing back.

I came to England aged 12 years in January 1972. I am from a rural part of Pune District in India. I had secured a scholarship through Pestalozzi. My background was that of a farmer's son. I was admitted to Thomas Peacocke School in the third year and was given special tuition for English by Miss Dann the head mistress.

For me coming from a rural area and not knowing where England was, Pestalozzi and Thomas Peacocke School were wonderful places for me to be part of. I got to know Richard through school. He helped me with studies, where the classrooms were for different lessons and generally keep an eye on me. During the holidays Dick used to take us to his parents' house in Northiam and other places, I never felt a foreigner and for that I appreciate not only Richard and his parents, but also Gordon and all that knew me whilst I was at Thomas Peacocke.

After school I went to Rycotewood to study Agricultural Engineering and thereafter returned to India in 1984.

In 1990 I started manufacturing agricultural trailers and small implements. This has progressed over the years, and I am now exporting agricultural trailers and implements to some of the African countries.

Through Facebook my son Tejas who helps me with the day to day running of the business messaged Richard and he quickly responded. From there we made contact after a gap of nearly 40 years.

During my short stay in the Hastings and Rye area, Richard collected us (my wife and two friends) from the station at 9pm after a delayed journey from Aviemoor at 5am that morning. Undeterred, and determined to show us as much as possible Richard took us to the school the next morning and showed us around, where I was able to show my wife, my classroom, the canteen and assembly hall. We then took a short tour around Rye and was so taken by the Mermaid Inn, so we stopped there for lunch. I would like to thank Rye College for allowing me to visit. Our return to our AirBnB was via Richard's house and garden where my wife cooked Gulab Jamun.

The next day I wanted to visit an agricultural supplier near Uckfield. Richard obliged and took me there and, on the way, back, we called into Ashburnham Place where we hastily ate a jam and cream scone as we were surrounded as were several others by swarms of wasps, a memorable visit. In the afternoon a group of us met at Pestalozzi where we were reunited with friends from Nigeria, Tibet and Vietnam who also went there whilst I was there. The new owners, the Hutterian Brethren are slowly developing it into a place of extended education from their base at Robertsbridge and in Kent. It was wonderful to see the place again, I have so many happy memories of it.

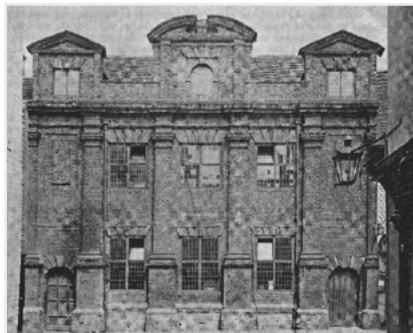
The next day it was an early start once again and Richard obliged with an early morning trip to the station for our onward journey to Heathrow and home to India.

It's amazing how a brief visit to a familiar place can unlock a flood of memories.

AN HISTORICAL PIECE

(With apologies to the late Miss Maureen Getley for coming bottom in History in 1958/59) Those of us who attended Rye Grammar or Rye County Secondary which amalgamated into the Thomas Peacocke School in 1967 must now be, at least, in our 70s and fully qualify as the 'stone age' contingent. Sadly, there are now fewer and fewer of us.

However, a few more of us will remember the house system of Meryon, Peacock and Sanders because this system continued with the Thomas Peacocke School for a while. Competition nowadays is frowned upon in many schools, even though it clearly happens with a vengeance in adult life!



Schools in Rye go back to at least 1638 when Peacocke School, a free school, was founded through a testamentary bequest by Thomas Peacocke, a jurat of Rye. The school master was appointed by the mayor and jurats with the advice of a "learned

counsel" from Hastings. The first master was Richard Hartshorne whose somewhat spicy love letters to his recently widowed paramour, Barbara Harding, still exist. The handsome brick school building, built in a flamboyant Dutch Baroque style, adorns the High Street to this day.

James Sanders of Winchelsea, who died in 1709, left his estate to fund another free charity school in Rye for the benefit of the poor children. This was then taken over by the mayor and jurats of the town council in 1720 and they concentrated their efforts on supporting this school to the detriment of Peacocke School. The masters of both schools were often past or present mayors. In 1724 the master of Sanders' School was paid £20 per annum.

Those of us who are somewhat disturbed by the changing fortunes of educational establishments today, including the more recent schools we attended, might be surprised by the depths to which Peacock's School had sunk in the mid-18th century. In 1724 Nicholas Mannoch, a former mayor, resigned as master and left, taking all the school records with him (apparently a common trait with disgruntled officials in those days). The mayor and jurats lost interest in the school and the new master eventually rented the building out for storage, there being only one student who the master taught at home. By 1746, the upper room contained old bottles, hogsheads of wine and an unsuccessful flying machine designed by Samuel Jeake III. The ground floor was used for keeping pigs!

Peacocke and Sanders' schools were finally united on 1st January 1856. A School Board for Rye was set up in 1871 when Charles Pix Meryon became mayor.

In 1893 Mr. J. M. Jenkins, master of the Rye Board School, was appointed master of Rye Grammar School. He went on to head the new School in the Grove and was also mayor from 1929 to 1933.

In 1906, the mayor, Mr Joseph Adams, received a legacy of £500 for the new Grammar School under the will of the late Dr. Trollope. Together with a generous donation from the estate of Mrs. Mary Meryon, wife of the former mayor, this provided the new building in the Grove, constructed by the firm of W.E. Breeds and Sons (whose nine sons went to the new school).

My great-grandfather, Benjamin Breeds and his brother, John Mark Breeds, arrived in Rye from Hastings in the second half of the nineteenth century. They were fishermen and had shares in at least six Rye trawlers. It is likely that, being relatively well off, they would have sent their sons to the Grammar School in the High Street. My grandfather, Frederick, was a mariner and served in the Mercantile Marine in WWI, later becoming a compositor for the Oxford University Press, living in digs in Oxford and only coming home to his house at 18 Lion Street at weekends!

John Mark's son, William, became a builder and the firm of W.E. Breeds and Sons, which was based in South Undercliff, built the new Grammar School which was opened in 1908 in The Grove. His firm also built the old Rye Regent Cinema and the Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital. He clearly paid for all his nine (yes, nine) sons to attend the new Grammar School. The Library Report in one of the early RYA magazines, written by Miss Turner, refers to a gift of books by Mrs. Breeds in thanks for the education of her sons. One of the sons, Kenneth, went on to become the Rye Postmaster and his son, Roger, was Mayor of Rye from 1984-86. Another son, Reginald, was father of Judith, Gay and Warwick Breeds. Judith Breeds was Head Girl at the County Secondary School in 1962. She and her sister, Gay, were, sadly, killed in the Hither Green Train Crash in 1967.

My father, Denis, started at RGS in 1929 and left in 1936 when he went to King Alfred's College in Winchester for teacher training. He always said that, at that time, RGS was truly mixed ability because, apart from those like him who passed an entrance exam, there were many others whose parents paid for them to attend. This tradition was continued for some time with Leasam and Saltcote. Some of my father's teachers were still at RGS when I started in 1957. Mr. Jacobs was still the Headteacher and Miss Turner was the Senior Mistress and taught me English. Mr Allnutt taught me Mathematics. Rye's small, co-educational Grammar School was something of a destination in those days and an attractive proposition for parents desiring that kind of environment for their children (Co-educational grammar schools were very rare). My friend, John Walmsley's parents moved to Rye specifically so that he could be educated at RGS.

Rye County Secondary School was also an excellent educational establishment in the 1960s in the capable hands of Roger Rothwell and the likes of Blacker, Boyce, Holmes and Huxstep. Many students with particularly good GCE results transferred to the Sixth Form at RGS. Sadly, the building (right) is probably not far off being demolished when the Eastern Rother Tidal Wall is complete. However, buildings do come and go but all the while Rye had a Sixth Form it was the complete educational package. The Sixth Form was still going strong when the School became Comprehensive in 1967 and continued to thrive at Thomas Peacocke school, as it was called then, under the superb headship of Ray Fooks.

History of the school from 1907 – 2024 – to be continued.

By John Breeds.





GENERATION X OPPORTUNITY FUND NEWS UPDATE

ROSA was formed sometime in the late 1920s or early 1930s to enable pupils of Rye Grammar School to keep in touch after they had left. In 1938, Will Dunlop became Secretary and remained involved for the rest of his life.

ROSA has since evolved with time and has seen many changes. In 1968 Rye Grammar School and Rye Secondary Modern School merged to become Thomas Peacocke School. In more recent years it became known as a Community College and was then renamed Rye College in 2008.

With the wonderful support and sheer determination to raise funds through a wide array of events by our previous Mayor Cllr Rebekah Gilbert in her second year of office, we are pleased to announce the new arrival of the **GENERATION X OPPORTUNITY FUND**.

This consists of a forward thinking fund giving opportunities to Rye Old Scholars who have attended Rye Community College, Rye Studio School and Rye College and are aged between 18 and 30 years. This fund is intended to provide assistance for further study and courses or help towards the purchase of equipment and tools. All applications will be considered where funding is required to support a new opportunity, or a new venture. Grants for support of up to £300 are available. The fund is open all year round and the ROSA Committee welcome all applications from those individuals who meet the criteria.

An application form can be obtained by emailing Richard Moore: r.fm@btopenworld.com

RYE OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION



IF YOU ATTENDED

**RYE SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL
RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

**DURING THE 1960s,
WE NEED AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE TO ATTEND A
1960'S REUNION**

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025

**PLEASE CONTACT
RICHARD MOORE BY EMAIL r.fm@btopenworld.com
TO REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT
FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENT BY
JANUARY 31ST 2025**

NAMES ON BOARDS

ROSA instructed CARE Signs Ltd (themselves Old Scholars) to add more names in two places within the college during the October Half term. In the entrance foyer by the main hall is the new head students board and this year's students have now got their names in lights or black lettering on wood.

The other area which has remained blank for many years was the Trollope Award Board situated on the half landing leading to the old Rother House Room. The 1960's head Boys and Girls with some thought and discussions by John Breeds we now have the majority of students in place apart from 1961 which remains vacant awaiting clarification of the Head Boy and Girl of that year.

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.

Account Name: Rye Old Scholars
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.fm@btopenworld.com

NEWS FROM RYE COLLEGE A REPORT BY MR DOM DOWNES



The year has started very positively with our largest Y7 in-take for over a decade, the opening of our newly refurbished Hayward block (science) and a full teaching staff complement. It is especially pleasing to note how well both the Y7s and the new staff have settled in. I am especially struck by the passion and subject expertise our new Head of History and teacher of Geography bring. Meanwhile, we are enjoying the impact of our increasingly positive reputation across the community with a well-attended Open Evening in September and Open Mornings throughout October. Families from a wide area, both within and without our catchment area, are visiting us with genuine interest. Our student ambassadors are particularly proud to show off the Hayward block and our ICT suites. The completely refurbished Science laboratories have been designed to facilitate effective learning and practical work: one half of each room provides space for more focused academic teaching while the second half creates an interactive 'wet zone' for practical.

Thinking back to the end of last year, we saw Enrichment week provide our key stage 3 students with a vast array of extra-curricular opportunities such as theatre production, STEM based activities, water sports, tree climbing and a day trip to France. With the support of the Foundation Governors, we were able to ensure that all our students could participate and engage with the exciting offer.

During the same week, the Y10s completed their Work Experience: placements included a livery yard, engineering and design workshop, museum, florist, theatre, architects and a law firm. One thing to note is the positive feedback we always get regarding our students' engagement and attitude. Several of the students received offers of employment after their experiences.

One highlight to mention is the Charlie and The Chocolate Factory performance the college proudly presented to families and local dignitaries at the end of last year. All the performers, stagehands and contributors were amazing and well received by the audiences. This has been the culmination of a huge amount of effort, and I would like to thank Mrs. Chillingworth, Mr. Harrison and everyone else involved for their dedication and enthusiasm.

We have continued to build strong relationships across our local community, developing partnerships that benefit both our students and Rye alike by utilising the skills, knowledge and expertise of our families and friends. Alongside trips to the Rye Fish Market led by Mrs. Willett, we have welcomed several representatives from the community. For example, members of the student leadership team met with Rye Town Council member Sophie Thorpe to discuss plans for the Rye Youth Zone. Similarly, we have developed the Rye College Press Club with the support of Rye News' editor James Stuart and Susan Benn. James and Susan have imparted their huge wealth of knowledge and experience to a group of budding journalists, developing their article writing skills alongside fine-tuning their noses for a story!

ROSA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2024

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. Claire Spacey, Mr. Andrew Spacey.

For year round news, photos, memories and more, please visit our wonderful website Send your news and photos to saintkev1957@outlook.com www.ryeoldscholars.org.uk

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