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Issue 7 Volume 3

Rye Harbour Newsletter

April 2004

Compiled By & For The Residents

Special Features

- Local Events & Meetings
- Comments & Letters
- Youth Club
- Church News
- Easter Egg Hunt Centre Page
- Family News
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Tide Timetable
- Local Bus Times
- Harbour Master
- Parent & Toddler
- Shop Times
- Nature Reserve
- Neighbourhood Watch Update
- Fishing News
- Characters of Rye Harbour

Editor's Comments

Well as predicted there was going to be some major changes this year, which a lot have already happened, there is still a long way to go but things are improving but it hasn't stopped this last month being very long and very difficult at times, still it should start to settle down again soon and plans for the newsletter, maybe will come together now. Whilst we're on that subject, most of you probably realise by now, that I am, at present not a resident of Rye Harbour due to circumstances, although I'm not that far away, in Rye, however I would be very happy to continue with the newsletter, as I will still be involved with lots of things in the Harbour; but then I'm sure you'll let me know your views one way or another. Next months deadline is **Friday 16th April** so don't be late, get it in. Good luck with the egg hunt, I hope it goes well. See page 19 for full details.



**HUNT THE
EASTER EGG
COMPETITION
BUDGENS**

**See Page 19 for
Full Details**

RYE HARBOUR NEWSLETTER

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RYE HARBOUR NEWSLETTER

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Bexhill & Rother CAB will be running a regular advice session at Rye & District CVS, 25 Cinque Ports Street, Rye, every Tuesday from April, 10-30 to 12-30 & 1-30 to 3-30, with appointments available on Wednesday afternoons by prior arrangement. We have over 12000 pages of information on our electronic system, and can advise on Consumer, Employment, Benefit, Housing, Relationship and Debt Issues. Home visits are also available for people that are unable to attend sessions.

FROM THE HARBOUR MASTERS CHAIR

With the spring equinox passing on Saturday 20th March the port has been ravished by gales and heavy rain.

Little movement of boats takes place during these periods of strong winds. I pity the poor painters who are working from scaffolding giving several coats of paint to the east pier tower. It has been de-scaled of rust (approximately 1 ton!) and some four coats of "two part" paint are to be applied. Similarly the timber tripod beacon will be scrubbed, removing sea growth, prior to painting with a different material in bright red. The "front door" to the harbour will look clean and fresh. Some of you may have noticed two cameras fixed to the roof of the harbour office. These survey the chain moorings and the Rye harbour access road and slipway to the river. We are very pleased at the quality and clarity of the pictures being recorded and archived (14 days). At night the infra-red light comes on, providing 24 hour recording of harbour activities. John, the deputy, has worked hard in



designing the project and obtaining funding (£11k). The Strand Quay approach channel and the moorings are also covered by cameras with signals being sent back to the office by a telephone link. We feel sure that the introduction of these cameras and security systems will enhance the safety, and better protect boats and investments. We were saddened to learn of the death of Ken Steele, past member and chairman of the Harbour of Rye committee. A memorial service was conducted at the Lydd Church (St Anne's) where I gave a few words detailing his interest in the harbour. Another death reported is that of Clem Ramus, a former chairman of the Pilotage Sub Committee. It was Clem that interviewed me for my pilots licence some 25 years ago. During the month we received a number of visits from Environment Agency Head Office staff. These visits are important as they

raise the profile of the port within the Agency, important when bidding for funding such as the fish market project and renewal of seaward training structures. I also hosted the U.K. southern region harbour masters association meeting. Can you imagine that! 14 people just like me and John all under one roof. We have now been provided with the final emergency planning procedures, following on from the exercise held last year. Interestingly, one of the more serious difficulties is that of manning the office during an incident.(there are only two of us). It has been decided that the Coastguard staff will attend, when possible, and help with communications. Some training will be given so that they may become acquainted with the equipment in the harbour office. Following on from the New York outrage and the more recent Madrid bombings the port, in conjunction with the Rye wharf, is required to develop a security plan. This will ensure procedures in the event of a security breach at the wharf or within

Harbour Master's Comments Cont.

harbour limits. Guidelines have been produced and out of necessity, certain aspects of the procedures are confidential. The port is considered low risk when you consider such ports as Dover and Southampton. We are obliged to have this plan completed by the end of July. I read that the Raft Race is back "on" under the ownership of both the Rye Lions and the Bonfire

Boys. The date fixed is the Sunday 15th August (H.W. 1155 hours BST. height = 3.1metres) The race will revert back to its original course commencing from the Rock Channel/main river confluence ending at the slipway opposite the harbour office. More next month on this. I have been invited to the naming ceremony of the new Fisheries patrol boat. She is the 18.5 metre "Watchful" built in Fin-

land. Some of you may have noticed her visiting the port, navigating as far as the fish market. The vessel has a maximum speed of 24 knots and is provided with a small "Rib" that launches from a sloping stern ramp in order to board fishing vessels at sea. She is to be named by the Duchess of Norfolk.

Carl Bagnell
Harbour Master



Don't Forget To Visit RYE HARBOUR'S -Very Own Web Site At <http://www.ryeharbour.org> Featuring The Rye Harbour Newsletter

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Rye Harbour Railway History

Way back in 1851, in a mid scenes of great public rejoicing The South Eastern Railway Company opened their new station in Rye with due ceremony and festivities. Three years later in March 1854, a branch from the

yards along from the Tillingham Bridge. Then over the Winchelsea Road where there was a siding, used at one time by rail tankers. Past the Breed sluice across the Rye Harbour Road and on to Rye harbour where a quay know as Admiralty Quay, just a little up stream from

From 1859 onwards both Admiralty Quay and the railway played an important part in the construction of both Dover and other harbours, here the track was doubled, their was a weigh bridge and turntables both on to the quay and along the entire length of Tram



main line from Rye Harbour was opened for business. This advent was however a much quieter affair than the previous event three years earlier. The Rye Harbour branch left the main line at an area that used to be known as Wenham's Marsh, a few

harbour point, formally the sight of Ma Tunbridge's café a lady treated with great awe and respect. Traces 'The Old Admiralty Quay' can still be seen in the mud, whilst the railway embankment now serves as a tide bank and viewing spot for harbour affairs.

Road, were at the upper end was a manufacture of concrete blocks of various sizes, of up to six tons. Similar blocks can be seen just past Lime Kiln cottage, formerly know as Jackson Stage.

Sir John Jackson was also

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)
a contractor engaged at Dover, Messrs Lee and Sons, were the original ones here in Rye harbour. Several of the buildings can still be seen in Tram Road, i.e. Priory Cottage, Regina Redhouse, the sortings, Dover Cottage and more. Returning to Brede Sluice, a public footpath sign points the way along the former track and a very pleasant walk it is away from the road and its traffic. Along the way evidence of the former line can be plainly seen also provision was made for doubling the track. There was some talk of a cross channel port at one time. The first siding was at the former John Cater Gravel plant, now Castle Water. From here agrogate was taken by rail to the Solent for the construction of Mulberry Harbour vital in

the D Day Landing. A few yards further on was another siding this time into the chemical works at the distillery, now SRM. Incidentally the large water tank was brought by rail from Liverpool and was formerly from Atraris Atlantic Cable laying ship. A little further on the line divided one to The Point and the other to the former Hall and Co. and Spun Concrete Works. Previous to these works, the line went almost to Winchealsea watch house and also along an embankment known as Capital Pearsons Wall to what is now the Termery Pool. Thousands of tons of sand and ballast was taken to Dover for ballasting railway tracks, bits of Rye Harbour turned up everywhere.

Towards the end of the 19th Century The Admiralty Quarry became unsafe and

another quay, The West Quay was built, a photo of the building can be seen in the Conqueror. This was used for transforming coal and other commodities from ship to rail and visa versa. The West Quay at this time extended to the slipway and closed during the late 1920s.

I could write more including a murder along the line, how it was always an unofficial public footpath and grazing area. Mean time if you have any photographs of the line in use or interesting tales I would very much like to here and take notes for posterity. It may be possible to have a small exhibition during the summer.

**Michael Alford
Tram Road**

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Due to the increase in demand, Age Concern East Sussex require more self employed gardeners to include in their gardeners register for many parts of Rother. The gardeners agree to work for no more than £7.00 per hour for the current year. They are also required to supply two references and evidence of insurance.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact the co-ordinator Age Concern East Sussex, the Almonry, High Street, Battle TN33 0EA or ring 01424 775721.



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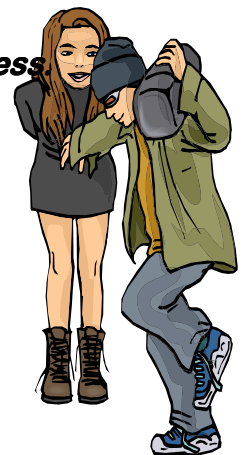
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Teenage Boy Grabbed Issue date: 1/3/2004 No: 9395

At shortly after 8:15pm on Friday, February 27 a 13 year old boy was grabbed around the neck by a man in the centre of Iden, Near Rye.

The boy was walking home, south down Main Street, from the Bell Public House.

He was approached from behind by the man, who seized him around the neck. The boy kicked the man, who then fell to the ground, and the boy was able to run away.

The 13 year old is said to have been badly shaken by the incident, but not physically injured. It is not clear what the motive was; whether the man planned to steal something or had some other reason for the attack is not known.

The man is described as being in his early 30s, 6'3" tall, wearing a Black Puffa style jacket with a hood and white trainers. It is possible he was sitting outside the pub just prior to the incident.

The boy believes the man was connected with a White Ford Escort Van with ladders on the roof. He believes there was a sign written in red on the side which said:

"something" (unknown word) Construction Ltd. The van drove off down Main Street towards Rye.

Please tell other parents and your local Schools.

If you see anything suspicious please report the Van Numbers to the Police

Police Warning Re Suspicious Van Sightings Issue Date: 18/3/2004 No: 9543

Police want to make parents aware of several incidents of two men acting suspiciously near schoolchildren in Rother Villages.

The incidents generally involve two men in a White Transit Van with ladders who appear to be watching children, usually playing sport. One man is in his 30s, possibly ginger-haired, and the other is in his 50s and of larger build. Two reports from concerned members of the public were received last Thursday March 10.

The first was near Brede Lane, Sedlescombe, at 8am and involved one man in his 30s in a White Transit Van.

The second report was of two men on this occasion in a small Blue/Black Citroen style van parked near Northiam School close to children playing rugby at about 11:30am.

Police ask for people to report any similar incidents to them immediately on 0845 60 70 999, with as much detail of the vehicles as possible, particularly Registration Numbers. Incident numbers Sedlescombe 1376, Northiam 451 both of 11/3/04

RYE HARBOUR

Serial No:-414 23/03/04 Windows were again broken at a Commercial Garage at Rye Harbour, a group of four girls were seen in the area at the time throwing stones. Please tell us if you have any names etc.

RYE AREA

Serial No:-1154 22/03/04 There have been numerous calls to the Police recently concerning youths in the Rye area having BB Guns with them in public places.

The Guns are not powerful but their actions are illegal. Please advise us of any other sightings. If anyone has any information about these or other incidents please call Sussex Police on 0845 60 70 999.



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Harbour Watch

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It's as easy as sending an e-mail to HarbourWatch-owner@yahoo.co.uk to join. Please make sure that the subject reads 'SUBSCRIBE'.

If you would like to received the NHW information at a different e-mail address, then include this in the message body.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Report

With spring getting into full swing, many migrant birds are being attracted to the reserve. Sandwich Terns (picture right) are starting to accumulate on Ternery Pool in preparation for the breeding season, and Wheatears (pictured below), with their white rumps, are being spotted on a more regular basis. With Rye Harbour being the most successful breeding area in Sussex for Wheatears, there are hopes that our homemade nest boxes will be in popular demand. The first Chiffchaffs have been heard singing around Castle Water, along with many other vocal birds.

Many of the large flocks of ducks have departed for their journey to more northern climes. We have also had our last sightings of Smew and Bittern, but we are ever hopeful that Bitterns will be breeding here soon. The nice weather has brought out many more butterflies (Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and, unusually, a few Painted



The new path to the Crittall hide is holding up well to the changeable weather we have experienced recently, and the

Lady) and moths (Common Quaker, Hebrew Character etc), with many plants on the brink of flowering to add a splash of colour to the landscape. You may have noticed that

increased number of visitors observing the activity on Ternery Pool. A new bench and bike rail help finish off the outside of the hide, with the new internal display boards



our friendly goats have been relocated yet again, but come May time, they will be back inside the fence, controlling the growth of vegetation, with bramble bushes being their favourite.

nearing completion. With the busy summer season soon upon us, there are plans for large stone blocks to be delivered to increase the number of

(Continued on page 17)

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Cont.

(Continued from page 16)

seats/perches on the route to the river mouth.

Even though the Old Lifeboat House is

unavailable to use as a base for school groups, there are many new schools booking trips down to the reserve to explore the shingle habitat as well as to study the River Rother. Lets hope the weather is in our favour!

On Easter Sunday (11th April), why not meet at Brede Lock Car Park at **10am**, for a circular stroll to learn all about **Castle Water Wildlife and History**. You will also have the chance to explore inside Henry VIII's Camber Castle.



Rye & District Age Concern

**Baptist Church
Hall, Rye**



**Reg. Charity
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**Age concern is providing an Outreach Information Service in Rye
At Rye CVS, 25 Cinque Ports Street, Rye
On the third and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10am to 12noon**

There is a wide range information available, on subjects such as benefits, residential homes, sheltered accommodation, support services, clubs, transport and many more. Age concern factsheets are available and copies can be supplied on request.

The service aims to help older people, their families, friends and carers. Callers can drop in during the opening hours mentioned above or telephone on **01797 225466**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor

Re: Jill Halpins Letter

Hands off our churchyard, what's next? an electric fence to try and keep us Old Harbour Ducks out. We don't only go to the churchyard once a year, for a picnic, but many times to tend the graves of our loved ones, who we owe it to, to keep it neat and tidy all year round. There is a very strong movement amongst us Old Harbour Ducks for this to be so. As for getting an expert to show us around the churchyard, what a laugh! You see, us Old Harbour Ducks might be daft, but we are certainly not silly. We also have it on good authority that some of your helpers have escaped and are running around calling themselves wardens, they are even trying to tell us Old Harbour Ducks, where we can and can't walk along the foreshore, the last person to try this was Hitler, and look what happened to him. Would you please go out and re-capture your escapees and retreat with them behind your seven foot wall, please don't let them out again, as us Old Harbour Ducks object to some of our council tax going towards their upkeep.

Getting back to our Old Harbours Ducks churchyard, we feel that if it has to be tidied up for the Lifeboat service (and rightly so), that's how it should be, all of the year round.

Harbour Duck

Dear Editor

EMPTYING OF DOGS

Well, it's been some time since I last wrote about this problem but sadly I find I must do so again.

There have been several incidents of owners emptying their dogs on the footpaths in Marystanford Green and on the Main road heading towards the shop; but it would also appear that whoever is responsible is sinking to a new level of emptying their dog(s) outside of peoples gates and in the popular crossing areas of Main Road and Marystanford Green.

The sad part is that several of the people are actually Village Residents, they have been seen emptying their dog(s) and walking away without cleaning up. I'm not prepared to disclose the offenders names, so please don't ask - those responsible know who they are!

If there is a shortage of bags, perhaps we could organise a scheme where plastic bags are collected and distributed to the dog owners concerned.

I do appreciate that we do have visitors to the Village and some are also guilty of not cleaning up after their dog(s) but can we really complain when some residents are doing the same?

Steve Tollett
Parish Councillor



HUNT THE EASTER EGG COMPETITION

We are giving away to one lucky youngster between the ages of 0 to 16, inclusive, one King Size Kit Kat Egg, 20 runner up Disney Eggs & Cadbury Cream Eggs. On the official entry form you can get from the Village Shop you will have a full size picture of the one below without an egg on it, all you have to do is place one cross where you think the Easter Egg may be hidden, the closest one wins.

How to Enter:

All entrants must be between the age of nought to sixteen and must be a permanent resident in Rye Harbour.

Entry is FREE.

All entrants must have an official entry sheet, available from the Village Shop. Once completed they must be put in the Newsletter Post box located at the rear of the Village Shop by no later than 5 pm on Thursday 8th April.

There has been an independent person elected to check all completed entries, and they will make any final decisions, with regards to eligibility and no negotiations will be entered into, upon such matters.



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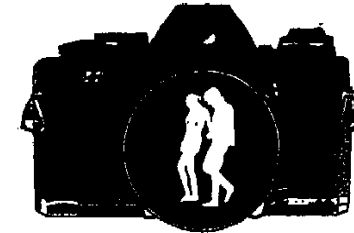
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Characters Of Rye Harbour Sailing Club

Sadly the Sailing Club has lost two of its most

purposely without a Global Positioning System using Dead Reckoning and

fisherman's pontoon with a real hooley blowing, the pontoon bouncing up and

down and Ken doing the sensible thing (of course!) sitting astride our gang-plank and shifting himself along. Later the fishermen came and

stalwart and respected members. Ken Steele died after a short illness. He had been Commodore and President of the Club and for many years taught the

shore based RYA

Yacht master course and the Celestial Navigation Course which many of us benefited from and his rigorous teaching left no stone unturned and his enthusiasm for long distance sailing was inspiring.

The Halpin's could be seen with their ancient sextant peering down the river at the horizon taking our noonday readings, struggling with tables and a scientific calculator. It all tripped off Ken's tongue as second nature! In 1987 he and Liz sailed to the Azores in Marsh Mist



Celestial Navigation and those of us having sailed those waters so wild and windy, know what a feat that was especially when the noonday sun refuses to appear. We sailed the Greek Sporades with Ken and Liz and Jeremy in October 2003 and experienced his understated seamanship with Ken on the Genoa starboard sheet dealing with the strong gusts of wind called williwaws. Another experience was a meal we had on Alonissos and coming back to our boat stern to on the

told us to up anchor and move to the ferry terminal as no ferries would be moving for 24 hours and they were worried that the pontoon would break up as it had done in a previous storm! We called Ken Steele George And Ken Halpin Drummond as these were their second names to avoid confusion. Ken was always a comforting calm presence with the clouds of smoke from his pipe casting a pleasant aroma around him, a man of few but always pertinent words

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

and twinkly brown eyes that would light up his face when he smiled. He and Liz sailed the Channel and Holland and gradually extended their sailing to round Britain, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, St. Petersburg, and Iceland via the Faroes.

Ken was born in Newport, Gwent, South Wales in 1926 and qualified as an electrical and mechanical engineer and worked at Wind scale, Cumbria before moving to Brenzett and Dungeness where he was Station Manager of Dungeness B which he was responsible for building into its present state. At the Memorial Service we heard from an employee who eventually took over as Manager what a thoughtful and intelligent employer he was always ready to listen and help workers to develop and advance their careers. Ken retired from there in 1985 but was re-employed by Nuclear Electric for two years at their Headquarters in London. He was given

the prestigious award of being made a Fellow of the Institute of Nuclear Engineers. Ken was the Sailing Club's



Commodore from 1997-1998 and he and Liz had been Club Members for 30+years and held nearly every post during that time. Ken's expertise made him particularly good at producing the increasing number of documents required by legislation such as the Club Safety Statement, the Code of Practice under the Child Protection Act and the Club 5 Year Plan. When Rear Commodore and as Chairman of the House Committee in 1993 he

organised the band of volunteers who completed the new Changing Rooms. He continued working as part of the Wednesday

Workers until just before Christmas when he was too ill to work. He was awarded the Richard Pendred Trophy for the person who makes the most outstanding contribution to the Club, and the Jack Doust Trophy for the longest trip and most interesting log more than once. In 1993 Ken became one of the RYA representatives on the Harbour of Rye Advisory

Committee (popularly known as HORAC). In 1996 he succeeded John Royal as Chairman and guided the newly formed Environment Agency by producing discussion papers on floating moorings at Strand Quay, an analysis of the basis of harbour dues and mooring fees and developing a Port Marine Safety Code for Rye Harbour. He stood down as Chairman only last year. He is missed so much by all who knew him.



Rye Harbour Sailing Club News



CLEM RAMUS 1905-2004 by Carey Marsh

About thirty-five years ago I joined RHSC. At the time there was a fleet of Merlin Rockets and various other classes of dinghies as well as a cruiser section which we dinghy people knew little about. Clem had been racing his Merlin "Bramley" for several years before I arrived but his crew had left Rye and I was invited to crew for him. Nobody could say that Clem was an easy man and I was warned that the task might be very demanding – it was! But it started a friendship that has lasted these thirty-five years, which I have valued immensely, and I will miss him very much.

In those days he had a problem with a trapped nerve in his neck and found it difficult to look up at the sails, so I helmed and thereby went through a very steep learning curve

when James his son was not sailing, and when he was we would come second. Thirty-four years ago just as we were launching he told me he had collected the Old Age Pension for the first time that week, and in 1975 after capsizing in the river one cold winter's day he thought it wise to sell the Merlin and buy a small cruiser. "Hunter's Moon" was an 18 ft. cruiser with a masthead rig and sails that were much too big for the hull which was based on a squib day boat. It made for exciting sailing as we inevitably filled the non-self-draining cockpit up and would be paddling about



on how to sail racing dinghies. Never mind, we used to win quite often

in twelve inches of water trying to get the spinnaker

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26)
down that we probably should not have put up in the first place. It was the sort of sailing we both liked (if in doubt about flying the spinnaker put it up and try!).

In 1977 Clem bought the Anderson 22 "Bramley". I thought it might lead to a quieter life at sea but, as those of you who knew Clem will realise, it didn't I am pleased to say. With James helming for us sometimes or somebody crewing when James could not come we had some marvellous fun together, racing or cruising in the bay or sailing down to see the Spithead Revue for the Silver Jubilee, and the name Bramley is engraved on a lot of the club cups.

Clem went to Naval School as a boy and then joined the merchant navy but he left before he got his own command and returned to Sussex to get married and become a farmer for several years before World War II. On the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Naval Reserve as a First Lieutenant and was very much involved in the evacuation at Dunkirk, being in command of a Dutch coaster called "The Tilly". He took it into Dunkirk three times to take troops off the

mole, and on one occasion cut a large workboat called "The Queen of England" in half! Hardly surprising, considering the tides that rip through that harbour and without navigation lights whilst being shot at and dive-bombed. He later became first officer on a large armed merchantman in the Mediterranean where he was torpedoed but managed to get to Alexandria for repairs. He as in command of a tank landing ship prior to and on D-Day, and on rising to the rank of Commander he was Commodore of various convoys until the end of the war.

After demob he returned to farming and the other great love of his life, hunting and horses. He was in his time Master of Staghounds and, amongst other things, Chairman of both Beckley and Iden Parish Councils and at some time before the war a Special Constable. Cricket was also one of his sports and he was President of Iden Cricket Club for many years.

He was Chairman of Southern Water Drainage for this area for many years which involved knowing the country around here which, of course, he did because of his hunting. I

know that Southern Water thought very highly of him. He was also Chairman of Trinity House Commissioners for pilotage at the Port of Rye for many years which he gave up in 1981 when he was 76. Of course, you will remember that he was our President before Ken Steele and he must have been a club member for fifty years or so.

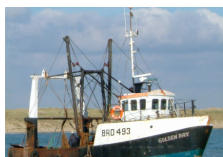
Three years ago he helmed and I crewed with him on Bramley at the end of the season which would be the last time he sailed, and I have a photo of us crossing the finishing line – he was 96.

There will be a large void where he was which will be hard to fill for all of us who knew him, and I am so pleased that he asked me to sail with him thirty-five years ago.

So goodbye old friend – it was great.

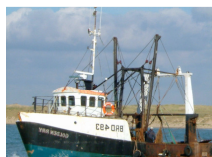
Carey

P.S. By the way, he won that last race and, as my boys would say, "Follow that"!



FISHING NEWS

ROUND RYE BAY FOR MORE



Wind direction and the general weather pattern for the start of March really showed how it governs the fishing in local waters, more than anything else. Strong northerly winds down the country and in the north sea, set up very hard running ebb tides, funnelling through the narrow Dover straits, this in turn made the water thick and muddy, killing the fishing stone dead. Fishermen would love to see these conditions in summer time when they are fishing, usually helping with the catching of the Dover Sole even in the daylight hours. However

this time of year there has been no quantity of Sole's and the other fish have taken off elsewhere or buried up in the ground and hauls in the bay by the trawlers, who have been as slack as anybody can remember. When the weather came back, round from the West and the water cleared with the flood tide, the fishing changed just as quick and a mixture of fish appeared even with a few Squid showing. The scallopers have moved out into the channel, now the catches have dropped back on the local beds and small patches with good fishing have been found giving the boats several days until the next bed is

found. These scallop beds are never fished right out and boats soon move on when someone finds a fresh bit where the catches are better and with boats from Kent and Essex as well as the French joining in, its sometimes very hectic especially in the fog that came along during the last couple of trips. These conditions that messed up the fishing for the trawlers and netters does not have the same impact for the scollopers and their catches who carry on in dark or daylight only, the strongest of the tides sometimes reducing the catch rate.

BOY ASHORE



NEIGHBOURHOOD ODD JOBS SCHEME

Do You Have A 'Fix-It' Problem?

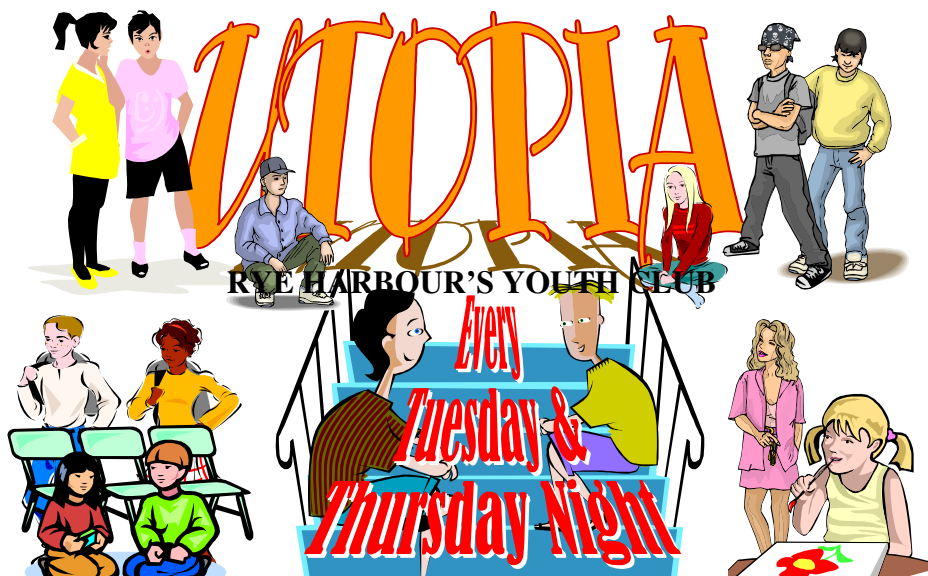
There are any number of reasons why people are unable to do quite ordinary things for themselves - age and infirmity being but two. If for any reason you should find that you need help to mend a fuse, turn a mattress, change a washer or even a light bulb and there is no one handy to do it then PLEASE contact us. If you have, or know of someone that has

a problem that our 'fix-it' team may be able to solve then please give us a shout. Contact either Allan Goffee at 3 Mary Stanford Green (225560) or Jane Babington, 5 Stoneworks Cottages (224197) and hopefully someone will be with you as soon as is possible. If on the other hand you are handy and are prepared to do the odd job (on a rota basis) then please give either Allan or Jane a ring.



RYE HARBOUR YOUTH ACTION GROUP

At The Village Hall On 01797 229164 In Session Times Only



Volunteers Are Still Required . Please call Marcus on 01797 227773

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Children 11 yrs and Upwards
Thursday's - 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm



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Rye Harbour Church News

A man on a cross. We are either repelled or intrigued. What sort of a symbol is that for a religion? Will it really attract people to follow in the steps of a crucified carpenter? Shouldn't religion emphasise love, joy and peace, not brutality and bloodshed?

We are entering Passionside in the Church's calendar, the final week of Lent culminating in good Friday. Passion comes from the Latin word 'to suffer' and the Cross is at the heart of our faith. Why? Because God recognises both the causes of suffering and the fact that all humanity in one way or another is vulnerable to suffering. The Hebrew people slowly understood that the Lord was with them at a time when they were crushed by enslavement in Egypt during the days of Moses. The Lord, it was, who led them out as by a miracle, ensured their escape and went with them on their long pilgrimage from Egypt to Canaan, the Land of Promise. The realisation that God does not stand



Veni, Sancte Spiritus

outside our human lot or the pain that it inevitably brings in one way or another, was revealed at the incarnation of Jesus, the Word-made-flesh. But the full identification of God with humanity was only made brutally clear on the Cross where God, in his Son, faced the venom of sin and the desolation of rejection. Calvary can truly be seen as God taking responsibility for his own Creation and accepting the consequences of the risks inherent in bringing us into being. In Jesus we see the eternal love of a suffering God who longs with all his heart for his people to return to him in penitence and faith. Our way to life is also through the Cross, for we cannot ultimately avoid our struggle to overcome sin. It is on the Cross that light and darkness, love and hatred, good and evil collide. Jesus faced the conflict

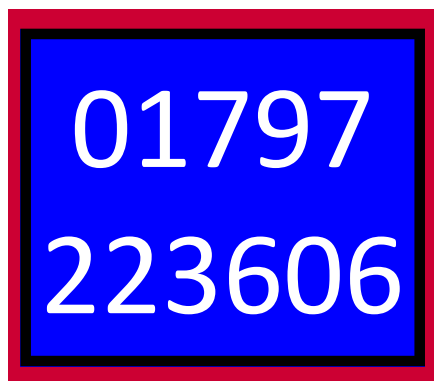
alone. The wonder is that his sacrifice has won the victory for us already. We gain the benefits of his suffering for us. That is why Christian people gather to

rejoice each Sunday and particularly on Good Friday (the day of triumph) and Easter Day (the blossoming of new life, free from sin). St. Paul, as ever, put all this in a phrase, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting our trespasses against us" (II Corinthians 5:19).

Our next Service at The Church of the Holy Spirit will be on Sunday 11th April, Easter Day, at 9.15 a.m. Don't forget that we begin Family Worship at Rye Harbour on 23rd May at 10.30 a.m. and thereafter on each 4th Sunday, in addition to the 9.15 a.m. Service of Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

May the Lord enrich you with his new life this Easter.

**Hugh Moseley
(01797222430)**



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Opening Times

Monday—Friday

8am—6pm

Saturdays

8am-3pm

Rye Harbour Parent and Toddler Group

We've been trying something new over the last few weeks at the toddler group. We found that the children all enjoyed running round when the toys were put away, so now we clear away and finish with a music and dance session. Thanks very much to Rachel who gets the children 'going'. The little ones are all different, there are the older ones who do all the actions and sing along, the 'clappers' who really enjoy the clapping

at the end of each song, the watchers and of course the ones who still just prefer to run-to-music.

Everyone seems to enjoy the session though, come along and see what you think! 10.00

am to 12.00 pm each
Wednesday – Only £1.00,
what value!

Rosemary



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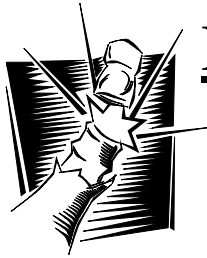
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Family Announcements

Congratulations

BIRTHDAYS



The darts season has finished again and the Rye Harbour Ladies Dart Team would like to thank Bernie for once again letting us use the "Conk" as our home base. During the winter he makes us so welcome, as well as the opposing teams and the food is delicious.

Good luck to Jodie a member of the darts team and her fiancé Mark who will soon be off to Florida to get married. We are looking forward to the knees up which is planned when they get back.

Jeanette Goodburn is now out of hospital and looking much better. We wish her many happy returns of her birthday in March.

Forty of us from age concern went to Stone in Oxney and had lunch in the village hall, then we were entertained by the Romney Marsh Warblers. All of this was arranged by the WI, a most enjoyable day.

Doris Cutting is in hospital, hopefully for just a few days. She came to the Ploughman's lunch but wasn't at all well, so was taken home. We wish her well and hope to see her home again soon.

Reports written By Nanny Pat

RYE HARBOUR 'PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES' & MONDAY CLUB DATES

	April	May	June
Ploughman's	19 th	17 th	14 th
Monday Club	5 th 26 th	10 th 24 th	7 th 21 st



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