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# Rye Harbour Newsletter

Issue 8 Volume 3

Rye Harbour Newsletter

May 2004

Compiled By & For The Residents

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£ 1.00  
When Both

## Special Features

- Local Events & Meetings
- Comments & Letters
- Youth Club
- Church News
- Easter Egg Hunt Winners
- 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, it was a surprise when only three children from Rye Harbour wanted a FREE Easter Egg this year, maybe they've gone out of fashion or maybe I chose the wrong kind of chocolate or is it more likely, we are lacking some community spirit in certain quarters, well I'm not sure but one thing for certain, it's always the children who suffer and it's a great shame. Anyway we had three winners who enjoyed every bit of their eggs. See page 7 for details. Below is another case of no community spirit, (I think it came from the garage) ,



Janet and John were so lucky to get off so lightly. The Newsletter is late this month, due to technical problems at my end, hopefully I can get it sorted for next month because I have now created this newsletter twice. Next months deadline will be **Friday May 14th** a little early but trying to anticipate any further problems I may incur.

Good to see all the visitors coming back in their droves and the slipway being so busy at the weekends, lets hope the weather holds and we can all enjoy it.





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#### From Issue 1 Volume 3

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Web Site: <a href="http://www.ryeharbour.org">www.ryeharbour.org</a>	

## 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

A surprise visitor to the harbour office last week was the Chairman of the Environment Agency, Sir John Harman spent a day with us on a "Fact Finding" visit to see for himself the make-up of the harbour. He had previously been informed of the deteriorating state of some of the training walls etc. He left with a better idea and outlook into harbour activities. Luck was on our side as the boat trip was completed in sunny weather and even the Seal made an appearance right alongside the harbour launch. Our visiting fishermen have left the harbour returning to the Thames where fishing has once again become viable. We had four 12 metre craft at differing times during the winter berthing to the Admiralty Jetty including the redundant "Bit". This is a useful source of income to the port as they are charged on a weekly basis.. The painting of the "Front Door" structures is nearly complete. The east pier light being "Off" for a very minimal time. The Red Tripod still requires a ladder to be affixed and this is scheduled for late



May. The speed buoys will be deployed ALSO at the beginning of May with a number of them of differing colours for ease of identification (a request of the sailing club) . We are hoping for a new "Harbour Guide" to be printed and ready for the summer season. A complete revamp has been completed by a friendly boat owner who you have seen tramping around the harbour taking photo's etc. It should be available at the Harbour Office from about June onwards. The Chain Moorings on the West bank have been renewed. Henk, From the "Bosun's Bite" and his team re-laid the chain over a three day period. Those who moor their craft to this facility are invited to obtain chain tails, shackles and cordage from the harbour office. This might be the time to remind those who have boats moored in the harbour to ensure that the relevant fees are paid. The Environment Agency has stepped up its collection

and final resort to prosecution for none payers. Some 10 boat owners were prosecuted by the Agency on the river Medway for none payment with fines up to £200 pounds together with costs. A new vessel may be seen passing through the village over the next 12 months. The "Torrent" has been chartered to carry aggregates to Rye Wharf from Northern French ports calling at 3 other south coast ports. From a pilots point of view she is very manoeuvrable and easy to handle. The raft race is definitely back on following a meeting at the "Conk" between the Lions and the Bonfire Boys. A considerable amount of work is now required to ensure a good fun, family and safe day for all. I'm sure further details will be available as planning develops. A company specialising in marine instruments has requested that we put a silt measuring metre in the harbour for a period of two weeks to test a new machine. I have agreed and the frame carrying the metre will be placed in the middle of the river adjacent the tennis courts off the Military

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Harbour Master's Comments Cont.

*(Continued from page 6)*  
road. It will be marked with a buoy and as this part of the river is rarely used should not cause an annoyance to river users. We all do it and the other

day so did I. Catch a rope around the propeller. This involves waiting for the river to go out and then "Paddling" around in the mud under the keel to free the rope, which has usually

melted itself to the shaft, by cutting with a knife or hacksaw. A very muddy, painful task..

**Carl Bagnall**  
Harbour Master



## HUNT THE EASTER EGG COMPETITION

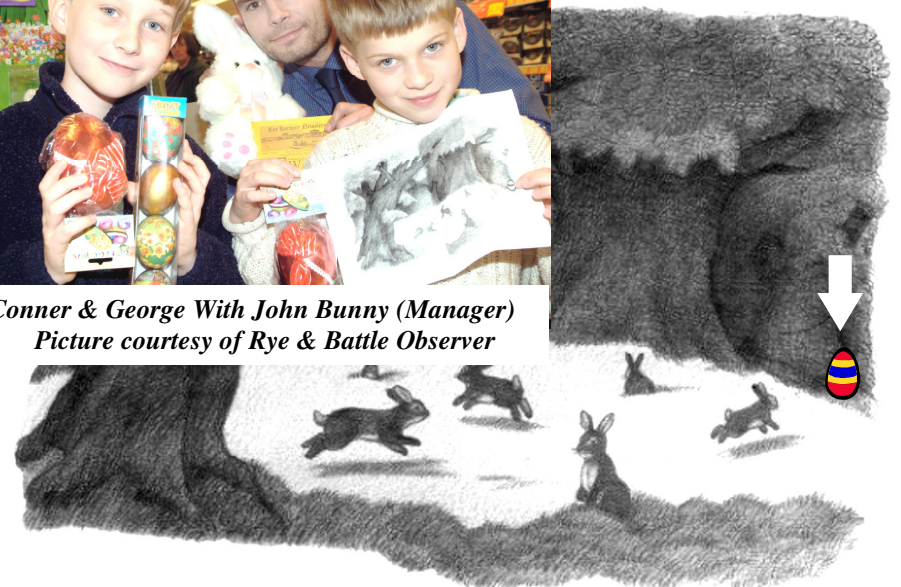
The Winners Were  
**Conner Empringham-Green**  
**George Empringham-Green**



**Keenie Mather**



*Conner & George With John Bunny (Manager)*  
*Picture courtesy of Rye & Battle Observer*



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The E-mail scheme is complementary to traditional Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

To join please send an e-mail to the following Police e-mail address:-

**[hastingsandrothernhw@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hastingsandrothernhw@sussex.pnn.police.uk)**

All messages will be sent out as “**blind copy**” which means that both your name and e-mail address will not appear or be publicised.

We also **run anti-virus systems and do not send attachments.**

**The scheme is fully supported by Sussex Police, the Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation and the Safer Hastings and Rother Crime and Disorder**

**Don't Forget To Visit  
RYE HARBOUR'S -Very Own  
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**<http://www.ryeharbour.org>**

**Featuring The Rye Harbour Newsletter**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

In reply to a Harbour Duck on Church Yard & Nature Reserve.

We as a village need to talk and act openly about problems we have with the village and come to a consensus over any problems there may be. Writing anonymous letters is not the way forward. Jill Halpin was only airing her views. As one of the unpaid volunteers who help to cut the Church yard I would like to make a couple of points.

1. The Church Yard is a place of great beauty and peace. Surely you must be moved by the mass of white daises swaying in the wind, the hum of the bees or the song of the birds in the trees. It has a large list of plants growing there some of national rarity. Cutting everything like a bowling green all the time will destroy all this for ever.  
2. On a practical point, the money and manpower is not available to cut every week, this would cost upwards of £800 per year. Just ask Richard Tollet how long it took for the Lifeboat Service clearing up. A day a week would be required to keep as tidy as you want. The volunteers who do the work have not that sort of time, however if Harbour Duck would like to give up every Saturday or Sunday to help it would be much appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you at the address below.

I have no formal connection with the nature reserve but make the following points. I have been visiting Rye Harbour for over 30 years since the beginning of the Nature Reserve. A number of times the farm land in front of the village has been owned by developers who wanted to build caravan sites or leisure parks on it. This was largely stopped due to the national and international importance of the area for nature conservation and landscape beauty. Fencing off an area in return for keeping the beach and farm free from being built on is a small price to pay. There are miles of open paths around the harbour, beach and castle, far more than I have the time to walk. With the hard work the Wardens put in to improving the reserve for the wildlife, visitors and locals alike this area is increasing in international importance all the time. We easily forget living here how beautiful, rare and unique the harbour is, but you only have to see the joy and pleasure it gives the thousands of visitors from all over the world to realise this. Let's not as a village forget this and do our best to maintain and improve what we are so lucky to have.

I look forward to hearing from Harbour Duck to help with the church yard and may be the work parties on the reserve to !

Peter Greenhalf. Avocet. Tram Road. Tel 223005

Dear Editor

Every month we look forward to Marcus pushing the Rye Harbour Newsletter through our letterboxes, so we can catch up with village happenings. So it is such a shame that someone can find the time to write such a personal, spiteful letter to the editor in the April issue.

Us Harbour Ducks are supposed to be a friendly breed. No wonder, there wasn't a signature at the end of the letter.

Pat Gawn



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## AGE Concern

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.



# Animals

Young People's Centre.



01797 225006

### NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2003

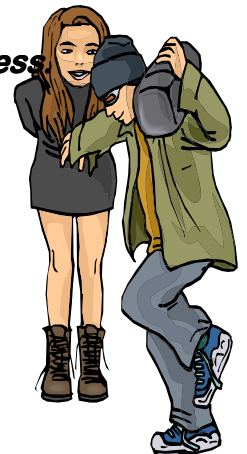
Monday	3.30-5.30pm	After-Schools Club (free) 11-14 years
Monday	7.00-9.00pm	Youth Club 11-14 years (50p)
Tuesday	10 -12.00pm	Parent and Child Group (£1.25)
Tuesday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Wednesday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Wednesday	7.0-11.00pm	Over 16's youth club (free)
Thursday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Thursday	7.00-9.30pm	Youth Club 14+ - 50p
Friday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Friday	7.00-9.00pm	Amateur Dramatics Group
Saturday	7 - 10.00pm	Young People with Learning Difficulties Disco £1.50 From 11 Upwards, No Age Limit



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



### Rye Harbour

Overnight on Sunday 11 April, between 6:30pm and 10am the next day, business premises on Rye Harbour Road, Rye, were burgled. The padlock was removed on the front gate and an office window smashed to gain entry to the building. Three Computers together with associated equipment and two Printers were stolen. Anyone with information about the burglary of whereabouts of the stolen equipment is asked to contact PC Knight at Rye Police on 0845 60 70 999  
Quoting Serial No: -382 of 12/04/2004.

### Fairlight Burglary

Police are appealing for help in recovering items of high sentimental value stolen from a house in Fairlight. The property on Smugglers Way was broken into sometime between Friday March 12 and Friday March 19 when the offenders forced open the rear Patio Door. They searched the house, leaving items strewn around the floor and they damaged Ornaments and pieces of Furniture.  
Three War Medals were stolen, two of which were the African Star and two Identity tags belonging to the victim's father were also taken. One of the tags had his surname and his ID Number 6916200 stamped on it and the other was stamped with "Stalag" and the number of the Camp where he was held prisoner for almost five years.  
Other items stolen included a Solitaire Diamond Gold Ring, which was the victim's Engagement Ring, and a Gold Ring with one Central Diamond and two on either side, which was the victim's mother's Engagement Ring.  
Other Jewellery was also taken and other items, including a three-foot high Ship's Wheel, a one-foot high Ship's Bell, a Silver Regimental Lapel Badge and a number of Royal Dalton Figurines.  
Much of what was taken is irreplaceable, so Police are asking for help in recovering them. Anyone with information, or people from the local and surrounding areas who may be offered such items, is asked to contact PC Catt at Rye Police Station on 0845 60 70 999

### Rye

At some time between Wednesday March 17 and Saturday March 27, a flat above a Shop in The Mint in Rye was burgled. Items taken include Silverware and China Plates, which were taken away in Cushion Covers and possibly Wrapped in Towels, it was all taken from the Flat. The offenders climbed onto a flat roof and broke a first floor window.  
Anyone who saw anything suspicious, or who saw discarded Cushion Covers or Towels is asked to contact Rye Police, Quoting Crime Number SR3/1780/04

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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

This time of the year is very exciting for the nature reserve, as our summer birds begin to arrive and nesting begins and the flowers and insects reappear. Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Reed Warbler can now be heard singing, and there have been the first sightings of Swallow, Cuckoo, Yellow Wagtail and Hobby. The first Whimbrel have appeared, so watch out for large flocks roosting at the Quarry.

Anyone who has visited Ternery Pool recently will have noticed it is resounding to the noise of several hundred Black-headed Gulls and Sandwich Terns, while the first of our Common Terns have also put in an appearance. The Little Terns (right), are on their way back to Rye Harbour as we write, are one of Britain's rarest breeding seabirds and our most important nesting bird. Last year the birds at Rye Harbour had an excellent breeding season, largely due to the new fencing, so hopefully the same will be



true this year!



Many of our special shingle plants, such as Sea Kale, Yellow-horned Poppy, Sea Pea, Viper's Bugloss and Ivy-leaved Toadflax (below) are starting to poke their heads above the ground. The plants that grow on shingle are very easily damaged by trampling, so with many birds also nesting on the shingle, please be careful when you are walking on

the reserve, and keep dogs under control.

The stone blocks mentioned in last month's newsletter have arrived and have been placed in various positions

on the road to the river mouth, while we are still carrying out small jobs on the new electric fence to further increase its effectiveness. Finishing touches to the new Crittall Hide are almost complete, largely involving the provision of displays to provide information for visitors, and by the time you read this, the hide will

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Cont.

*(Continued from page 16)*  
have been officially opened by Ben Bradshaw MP, the Minister for

Schools are becoming regular visitors to the reserve now, exploring the shingle for the special

harsh environment.

If you would like to get up close and personal with the shingle plants of the reserve, why not meet at Rye Harbour Car Park at **10am on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** to learn about **Coastal Plants at Rye Harbour**.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who helped with our spring clean up of the beach. With many volunteers, cubs and scout groups lending a hand, numerous bags were filled with rubbish of all shapes and sizes. So thanks again, the beach has never looked so clean!

**Barry, Miriam, Chris and Sam**



Nature Conservation and Fisheries and Michael Foster our MP.

plants and birds, and studying the different adaptations that enable them to survive in this

## Rye & District Age Concern

**Baptist Church  
Hall, Rye**



**Reg. Charity  
No 1039986**

**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 of 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**



## EAST SUSSEX MARITIME SEASON New Summer Events Programme Launched

What does the sea mean to you? Picnics on the beach? Rock pooling? Trips to France? Candyfloss? Coastal Walks and dramatic seascapes?

Whatever you are interested in the open 'the wet stuff', there can be no better way to get the most from this special environment than to get really close to it. Even on top of it, perhaps!

East Sussex County Council, with its 'first ever' Maritime Season free summer activity programme, features around 100 varied, often quirky, events to help locals and visitors from further afield enjoy the many faces of the County's coastal life.

You could visit a ship wreck (at low tide!), do coastal arts and crafts and activities with the kids, take part in a sea front festival, fun weekend or open day, watch a coracle-making display, learn sailing, visit a 'secret reedbed, hunt for sea creatures, go under ground to a little-known 'water world' under a replica and Napoleonic tower, sing accapella sea songs on the beach, walk or cycle by the sea side or even a rescue a dolphin – the choice is yours. And, yes, you could join up with a trip to France too...

Suggestions for places to sample delicious local food and drink, and accommodation demonstrating particular environmental qualities, are also included so that visitors can really make their outings complete.

A special section suggests four – coastally based walks, part of a newly-developed net work of path ways encouraging and enabling walkers to explore the country side while using local facilities and supporting rural business. Indeed, giving a helping hand to the County's economic prosperity is a key factor underpinning the Maritime Season initiative, which was developed with EU funding.

Call 01273 481441, E-mail [info@eastsussexcc.gov.uk](mailto:info@eastsussexcc.gov.uk), or visit [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk) if you would like a copy of the programme.



## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MAY

1 Saturday – 3	Eastbourne Harbour Fun Weekend
1 Saturday	Pevensey Bay art group exhibition
2 Sunday	Eastbourne, Sea Front Mayor's Day
2 Sunday	Eastbourne, Life Boat Station Open Day
3 Monday	Hailsham, Coracle and Prehistoric Boat
3 Monday	Hastings Shipwreck and Prehistoric Forest
3 Monday	Hastings, Coast Ramble for Charity
4 Tuesday	Newhaven, Learn Sailing
6 Thursday(s)	Seaford, Health Walks
8 Saturday	Rottingdean, LowTide Day Celebrations
8 Saturday	Lewis, meet coast line artist
10 Monday(s)	Peacehaven, Health walks
10 Monday	Eastbourne, how Sussex resorts grew
11 Tuesday(s)	Hastings, old town walks
14 Friday	Rye, guided bakery tours
14 Friday – 16	Pevensey Bay, painting and drawing
15 Saturday	Hastings, 'Secret reedbed'
16 Sunday	Alfriston taste bud temptations
18 Tuesday(s)	Hastings, Old Town Walks
19 Wednesday	Seaford, 'encounters at Cuckmere'
22 Saturday	Rye, coast guards sponsored bike ride
22 Saturday	Seaford, History of the port
22 Saturday	Rye, water festival
22 Saturday	Rye, coastal conservation specialist
23 Sunday	Camber, the beauty of underwater Sussex
29 Saturday	Camber, sands ranger
29 Saturday – 5	English Wine Week
29 Saturday – 31	Normandy, taster by bike

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# child

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## Rye Harbour Sailing Club News



**W**e had some exciting racing on Saturday

with the Short Cruising Race with winds gusting up to 24 knots. Jill did not mention unmentionables such as reefing even though the helm required all her strength to hold the course. I believe she was getting too

competitive to resort to such cowardice. We were powering along up to 7.5 knots - exciting! Poor Carey in launching the rescue boat to

act as officer of the day with Gordon slipped on the slipway and broke his ankle and before going to accident and emergency had an X-ray done by his Vet daughter-in-law so and was presented with a fait accompli diagnosis made by a Vet! I would think quite original. Gordon as the First Aider showed his

Competence, verified by his Certificate presented by Ken at the Club First Aid Course and had carefully



removed Carey's boot and applied cold compresses before informing relatives! We looked forward to the Forge Cop Race on Sunday but on listening the 05.35 Shipping forecast and watching the barometer drop to 995 and the forecast of winds on the Beaufort Scale 6-8 which are winds 22-40 knots to

severe gale which is 41 kn or over or gusts up to 52 kn we realised the race would be cancelled which it was.

We had a lovely Fitting Out Supper organised by Janet and Joan with everyone contributing a few dishes. What a friendly lively crowd of people we feel so fortunate to be part of it all. Eric Pilkington has been ill and was fortunate to be in hospital when he had 2 heart attacks and was soon transferred to Brighton where he had a stent fitted and was home next day. We do wish him well and he is

much missed around the club so cheery and friendly.

The Club has lost another member Sylvia Law who was the only woman Commodore 1974-1974. I enclose her obituary published in the Times April 14 2004.

**Ken Halpin**

## Obituary of Sylvia Law, the Times April 14 2004, first woman president of the Royal Town Planning Institute



**S**ylvia Law was a keen and well loved member of the Rye Harbour Sailing Club and was the only woman Commodore from 1973-1974.

When Sylvia Law was made President of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1974, it was regarded, not unreasonably, as an extraordinary feat. Never in the institute's 60 years had a woman been given this honor.

In addition she was only 43 and at a time when a mere 243 members of the 4,500 qualified practitioners of planning in the profession were women. She packed an immense amount into a relatively short career, increasing illness forcing retirement on her around her mid-fifties, in 1986; she was also a late starter. But she was an extremely hard worker, and had great ability and organisational flair, qualities that enabled her to see off any challenge.

She was born in Southport, Lancashire, the elder of 2 sisters and daughter of a cotton waste merchant. Much of her childhood was spent in Rochdale; she was educated at Bury Grammar School, and Lowther College, Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales. She excelled in all subjects including games, and had decided by the age of 14 that she wanted to be an architect. She was concerned that she had no natural gift for drawing and on going to read geography at Girton College, Cambridge, she found herself caught up in the postwar excitement over London's "Abercrombie Plan" and ideas for the reconstruction of cities damaged by the Blitz.

After graduating in 1952, she discovered that her MA did not represent part exemption from the planning course

she intended to do, and so she took up a teaching post at Benenden School for 3 years. From there she spent another 3 working at Unilever. This was useful in many ways: for one, it trained her in research, for another, she came across the autobiography of Frank Lloyd Wright, and the philosophy he expressed through his "prairie houses" became a source of inspiration-they were, she said, "devised as homes and not things which merely pleased architects. It was the kind of architecture I thought was very important". From Unlived she took six months off in 1958, traveling in South Africa, where by chance she met a British planner on a yacht (sailing was a favorite pastime of hers) who persuaded her to go back to planning and to complete her qualifications in it, suggesting what was then the Regent Street Polytechnic as the place to go. She enrolled in 1959 as a part-time student, going up to London from Maidstone where she was working for Kent County Council during the day on town and country planning research, to undertake 3 years of grueling evening classes.

It was there that another influence came her way, in the form of the views of the great town planner Patrick Geddes, whose humane outlook drew her attention to the disastrous consequences of high-rise housing, the tower blocks that were a government craze just then. "I found I was growing very much more interested in human beings and society," she said, at a point marking the beginning of strong, socialist beliefs, which affected the direction and research of her work for Kent during her 6 years with the county. Concentrating on the enlargement of Ashford's center, she produced a report that revealed for the first time, to her astonishment, the extent to which working Londoners lived in Kent; that this accounted for the vast expansion of suburbia across countryside as far as Sevenoaks. It was her revelation of this that led to the county's stiffer control on speculative development. When the Greater London Council was established in 1964, she saw a further important outlet for her social concern - in 1965, the GLC was one of the first authorities to set up a section for the planning of recreational centers, a scheme after her own heart. Space for leisure, for playing games, for pure pleasure in cities was a passion. "The inhumanity of cities," she said, "is perhaps the most worrying phenomenon," quoting Houston, Texas, as a "frighteningly dehumanised city". In 1977 she was appointed OBE. She was born on March 29, 1931 and died on April 1, 2004 aged 73

## Characters Of Rye Harbour

Colin James lives in Coastguard Square with Di and Lucy. Late-ly he had a close shave with death but was saved by Di just being made redundant and spending her first morning at home when Colin collapsed in the loo with a massive hemorrhage from his stomach losing approximately 7 pints of blood. He would never have survived if Di had not been there. Colin was born in Guildford in 1938 one of 9 children and most of them now live in Portsmouth. Father was in the RAF as aircrew and was on active service during World War II. He was tall and thin with a moustache. Colin went to the local primary school and football was his great passion. He played for junior Tottenham Hotspurs and had a trial at 16 years old for Tottenham Colts Junior but sadly was not good enough to make a career out of it. He did work as a

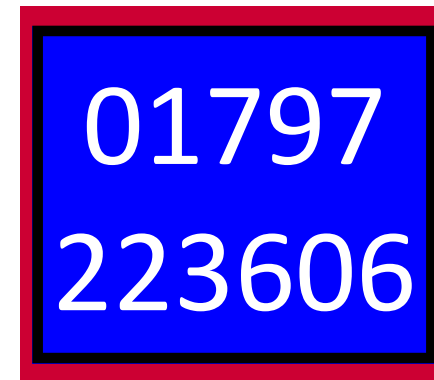
groundsman at White Hart Lane but saw no future in that job and sought instead to become an engineer. Colin played golf and still



works for Sedlescombe Golf Club. He was a service engineer for Phillips but is now definitely retired in case any of us should get ideas! Colin and Di took over the Inkerman for 5 years and instigated many of the village activities there. Di found being on her feet all day very tiring so they sold the pub and Colin embarked on a new career as a coach driver mostly

working for Shearings driving around Europe and ending up as a Tourist Guide in Paris. They now have a caravan spending sometime in the Dordogne and the winter in southern Spain. They have 2 children - Stephen lives in Hastings and is a software engineer and Nichola is a Doctor of Science in the University of Leeds working for the British Heart Foundation researching genetic aspects of heart disease, Colin was a crew member of the lifeboat and Di is still the Treasurer having taken over from Humphrey when he died. They have been and still are very busy active people and we in Rye Harbour are fortunate to have them amongst us. Thank you Colin.

Jill Halpin



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# FISHING NEWS

## ROUND RYE BAY FOR MORE



Catches through April have stayed fairly poor, with the expected increase in the plaice numbers not happening. Three boats have been using the multi rig gear, trying for the Dover Soles with not much success, with a couple staying with the single drawl, catching a bit more quantity but still not much prime fish. All the visiting scallop boats have returned home now, falling catches and the coming sole season to get ready for, has left just the Rye boats still finding just enough to perhaps finish the month. Days not at sea have seen the crews busy working on

different gear with the bigger boats getting beam trawls ready, rigged for fishing out in the channel on the rougher ground as the bay catches of Dover Sole are so low at present.

The netters have been finding more fish an a mixture of plaice and sole fairly close inshore which has made it a better month for them, with the weather not so bad and most boats have been able to put some time in at sea. All the different modes of fishing have started to see more spider crabs, which is a bit early and although not enough to course problems everyone is hoping that it wont be a repeat of last

year when the numbers made it hard work all round.

Spider crabs are not bad news for all the fisherman, one boat has started in a small way potting for whelks and it has been found that the spiders are one of the best bates to attract the whelk to the pot. A dead crab with some fish bate has started to show good results but as always the local market is very limited and the bulk of the catch has to be transported to processors.

### Boy Ashore



## NEIGHBOURHOOD ODD JOBS SCHEME

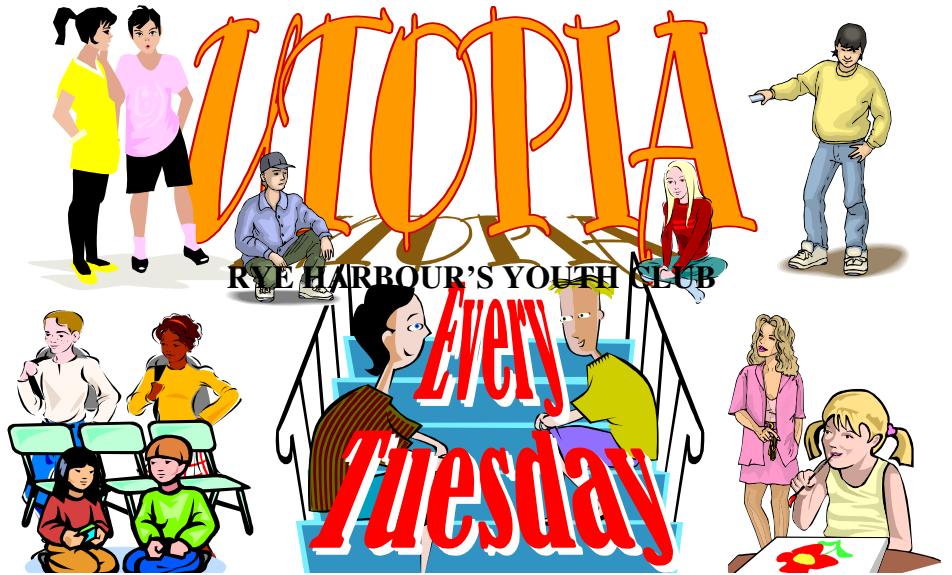


### Do You Have A 'Fix-It' Problem?

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



Volunteers Are Still Required . Please call Venessa on 01797 227817

**Children 5 yrs to 10 yrs  
Tuesday's - 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm**



**For your registration form, you can pick them up from the following outlet:  
Rye Harbour Stores Or Contact:  
Nick On 01797 227817**

**£1 per Child, 50p Siblings, Per Session, Both Age Groups**

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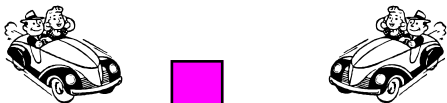
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## Rye Harbour Church News

Religions find it hard to produce absolute proof of their claims, unlike science which bases its laws on empirical evidence. It's so much easier to trust something or someone if we can be given cast-iron reasons for our faith not being misplaced. So religion is seen sometimes as an elusive business in which answers are qualified and 'facts' are insubstantial. Does God exist? Are the claims of Jesus Christ true? Is there life after death? Does life have any meaning?

But then there are no guarantees when we enter marriage, go on holiday or take a new job. Each enterprise is a matter of faith, for no one can predict marital break-down, an accident or an illness. In fact some of our most important and valued relationships and activities are based only on hope and good-will.

Religion can just point us towards clues and indicators to help us decide its worth. As regards the Christian Faith, some of the evidence is strong but not overwhelming. For instance; how could a small band of disillusioned disciples be transformed into a vibrant, irrepressible group over what we may call 'Easter' weekend? Why did they, and many since, tolerate persecution if the whole East-



them. We can make up our own minds when we read then for ourselves.

Most persuasive, I suppose, is the evidence of Jesus Christ in the lives of people we may meet.

### *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

er story of resurrection is a fable? How can Jesus through his Spirit speak to millions of people today, 2,000 years after his death, if he truly did not rise from the dead? How has the Church spread to every land, attracting new adherents, if its Founder was just a crucified carpenter-cum-teacher? Why have books been written, churches built, schools opened, works of art created, if the basis of all this endeavour is but a lie? Is every Christian a victim of mass deception, even though many lives have been changed, many sacrifices made, many heroic deeds undertaken? And so we could go on.

One of the strongest clues is the record of those events in the Gospels. One writer, E.V. Rieu, some years ago began his work of translating the Greek into modern English as an agnostic but by the time he had finished, he was convinced of the truth of the narrative. Another writer, J.B. Phillips, said that the Gospels have the 'ring of truth' about

Malcolm Muggeridge, the cynic and writer, once met Mother Teresa of Calcutta involved with her work of caring for the poor. After that, there was no longer any doubt, only a journey of faith. That is surely the point. It is on such a journey we prove to ourselves beyond all reasonable doubt that Jesus died and rose again. For He is both my companion on the way and the one who awaits me at journey's end. Happy travelling!

**Hugh Moseley**  
**(01797 222430)**

### Services at Rye Harbour

#### Church in May

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 9.15 a.m.  
Holy Communion

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> **10.30 a.m.**  
Family Service – suitable for everyone.

Miniflower Festival for our Patronal weekend on 29th and 30th May with SONGS OF PRAISE on Sunday at 6 p.m.

MAY 29TH, 30TH, 31ST.  
WEEKEND IS OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL WHEN ALL SORTS OF EXCITING, AND PRETTY THINGS WILL BE HAPPENING INCLUDING SONGS OF PRAISE ON THE SUNDAY.



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Baby Friendly Area



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# TODDLER

Lots of fun things to do!  
Toys



Health visitor - 1st Wednesday  
Of Every Month.

For further details contact: Marcus Whitaker on 01797 227773

## Rye Harbour Parent and Toddler Group

Hi, I hope everyone had a good Easter, the four-day break is always welcome. But I think that a lot of us probably used it to do decorating or spring-cleaning instead of re-charging our batteries!

The Toddler group took a break over the school holidays, for a number of reasons and we started back on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April fresh and eager!

Marcus is taking a break from opening, setting out and locking up and we would all like to thank him for doing it for so long. We will be working on a new rotor system from now on, so any offers are welcome. But come along even if you

can only help now and again.



The health visitor will be along on the first Wednesday in May, so please come and make use of her expertise.

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> May, a speech and language therapist called Judy Avery will be coming down to visit the children and us.

Times as always 10 until 12, only £1.00 per family, what value! See you there  
Rosemary.

### **WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE GET UP TO THESE DAYS ?**

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## Family Announcements

### Congratulations

#### BIRTHDAYS



Annie Chapman was given a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party by her children, which she won't easily forget. All her nearest and dearest were there and then to top it all, Rex the Town Crier came down in all his regalia and rang his bell, making the announcement that it was Annie's Big Day. Annie's face was a sight to behold. There was enough food there to feed an army as you might have expected.

Annie made an emotional speech of thanks, we had a singsong, at the piano, and at the end of the evening a very tired but happy Annie went home thinking what a good day she had, had. After all, she has been living in Rye Harbour for 70 years.

---

Many happy returns to Ron Caister, who celebrated his birthday on April 7<sup>th</sup>. He won't say how old he is, except that he has now caught me up.

---

We all enjoyed Ben's birthday party, he was the perfect host and with Lottie by his side we were made very welcome. We all had to sing on the karaoke, which was a laugh. They are such a nice family, John on call to do odd jobs and Jane playing in the ladies darts team. We are pleased to have them living in our village and of course that includes Jake.



### Hospital

Kath Hancock has been in both Hastings and Rye Hospital, but now she is back again in her home. We hear she is doing well and we are so pleased.

---

Hookey Southerden was kept unexpectedly in hospital when he went over for a check up. After a couple of days of treatment, he is back home again and looking much better.

---

Mike Slavin has not been very well. He had a heart fright, but after extensive tests in London and a tube put in his coronary artery he is back with us, and looking fine.

Reports written By Nanny Pat



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