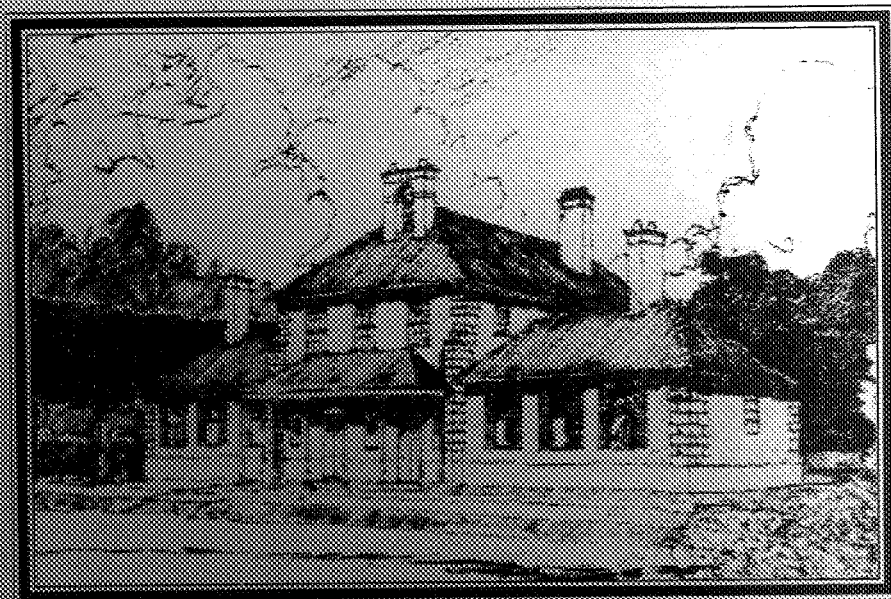
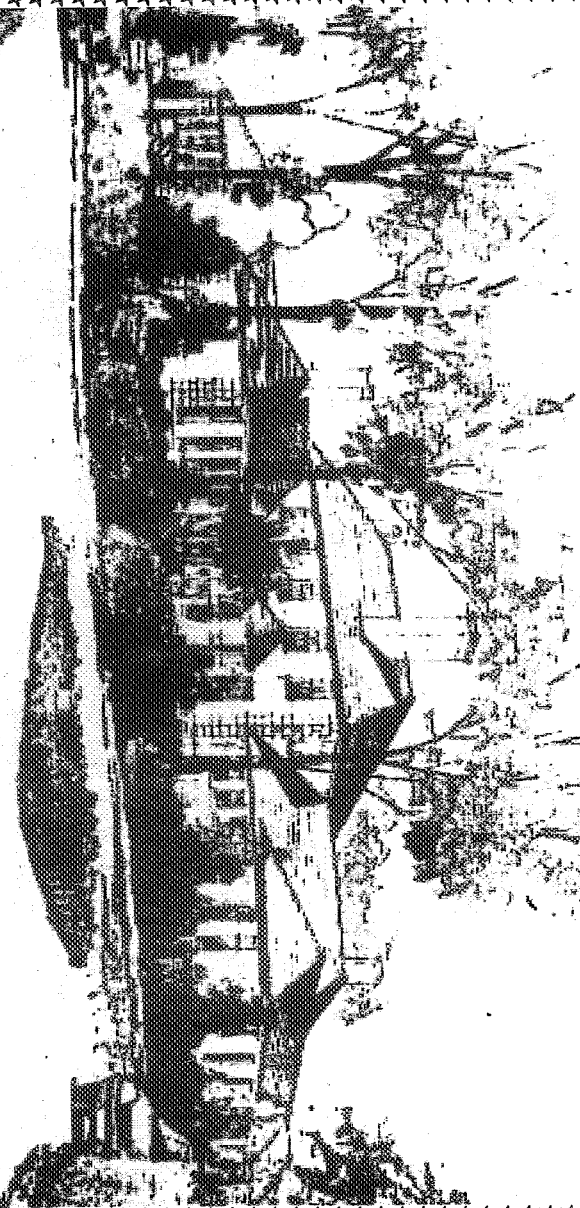


Rye Memories

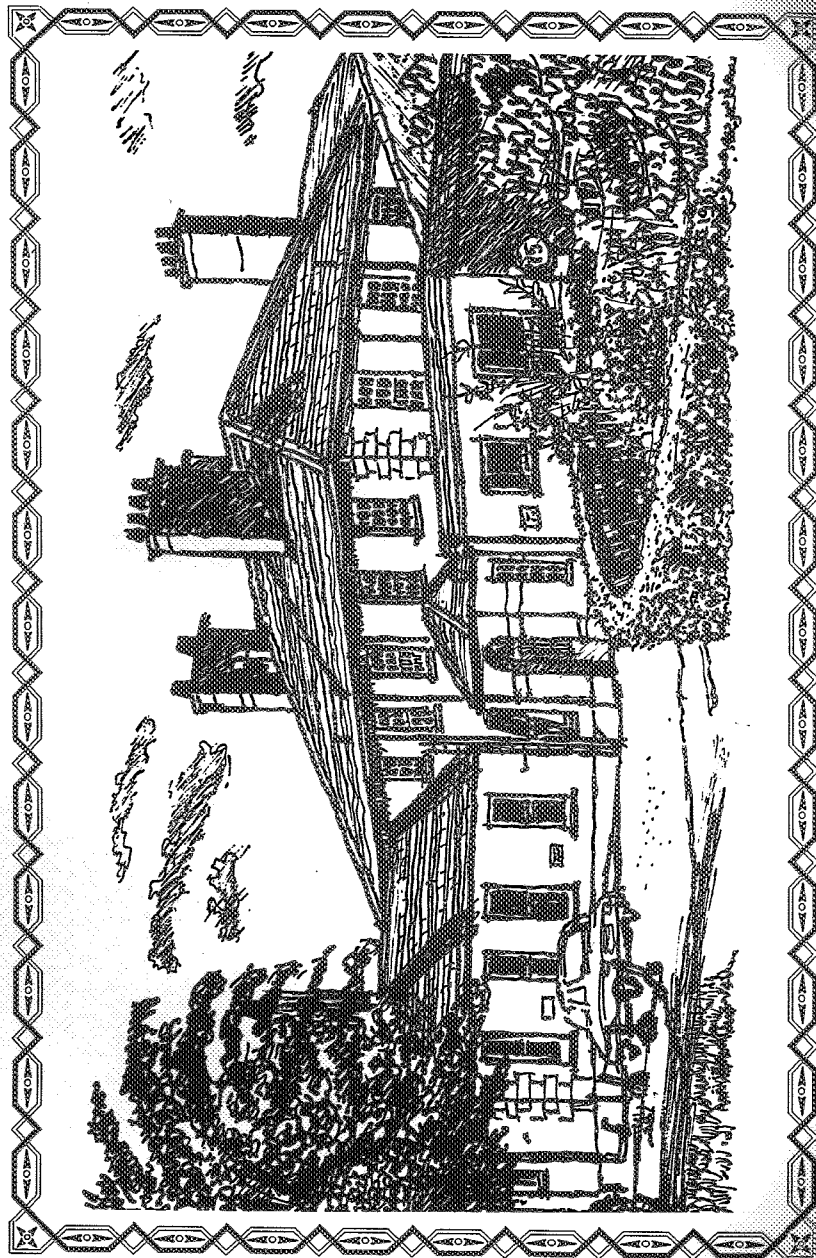


Memories of
Rye, Winchelsea and District
Memorial Hospital
Volume 23

The Memorial Care Centre, Rye



ISBN 1 870600 24 X



*Rye, Winchelsea & District
Memorial Hospital*

Rye Memories

Memorial Hospital, Rye.



Memories of the Rye & Winchelsea & District Memorial Hospital

Thomas Peacocke Community College
Local History Group
Co-Ordinator and Editor :
Mrs Jo Kirkham

This book is dedicated to the many people of Rye, Winchelsea and the Villages, who have worked to help each other for almost 1000 years on this site; from the Monks of the Abbey of Fécamp, with their local lay servants, caring for the lepers, the old and the infirm in the Middle Ages in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, through the years when the thousands of Military personnel were defending our ancestors and themselves being looked after here in Camp; from the dedicated care of the staff of The Rye and Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital, from 1921 to 1992 and, finally, to the new Memorial Care Centre, Rye, with its medical and social care for all ages, facilities for the Frail and Elderly and headquarters for Voluntary Bodies in the Community, in 1995.

We very are fortunate to live in and belong to such a caring society!

The proceeds from the sale of this booklet are to be given to the

**LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE
RYE MEMORIAL CARE CENTRE**



ISBN 1 870600 24 X

© Jo Kirkham

Thomas Peacocke Community College,
The Grove,
Rye, Sussex,
June 1995.

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group, like the rest of the College, were very distressed at the threat of closure of the RYE HOSPITAL in 1991. Many students and staff protested, went on the "March" and tried to save it. Apparent failure was not accepted and the initial despondency was soon replaced with a real fighting spirit, like that of the rest of the Townsfolk, to see just how this essential facility could be restored to the Community.

From the College's point of view, since the closure, students who have had an accident now go by Ambulance to Hastings, instead of a quick car trip up Rye Hill, taken by a member of staff. This means a great time delay before being dealt with, as well as extra public expense.

The progress of the new CARE CENTRE has been watched with keen interest and groups within the College have raised money for it. Examples are the proceeds from a "Mufti" or "Non-Uniform" Day, a sponsored swim by students and staff and Sanders House raising the money for a nebuliser to be housed in the new facility. This last, was so that the tragedy of an ex-pupil who died through lack of availability of such an instrument because the Hospital was closed - should never happen again!

Over the years of producing "THE RYE MEMORIES SERIES", it had become very clear that RYE HOSPITAL had played a much loved and vital part in the well-being of the whole area. Time after time people talked of their experiences as patients, or visitors, or staff, with such deep affection, that it seemed right to draw THESE recollections together and hence this present Volume - Number 23 in the Series. We also thought it right to depart from our normal practice of just selling our books at cost price and we hope, that by adding £1 to this initial outlay for each copy, we can raise OUR contribution to THE CAUSE.

We are very grateful to the League of Friends of the Memorial Care Centre, Rye, for helping to finance this venture with a loan for the initial printing.

We have many people to thank for helping us in the production of this book. Many individuals, including former Staff and Patients, told us about their recollections of the Hospital, and allowed us to reproduce them. Without them, it could never have been written. I want to thank Loraine Charman and Jamie Kirkham for their technical expertise and hours of help!!

Once again thanks are due to Adams of Rye, Olio Books, Rye, Rye Museum at Rye Ypres Castle and Rye Heritage Centre, who kindly sell *THE RYE MEMORIES SERIES BOOKLETS* for us, with no profit to themselves.

Jo Kirkham, Editor.

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1994-1995

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Mrs Jo Kirkham, teacher of Geography and History, and Mayor of Rye 1979-1982, is the Co-Ordinator and Editor.

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CHAPTER 1

HOW IT CAME ABOUT!

[This section owes a great deal to MONUMENTS TO MEMORY by Lynne and Peter Ewart and we thank them very much for allowing us to use it; to various extracts from Deacon's ALMANACS published during the 1920's and 1930's, and to newspaper reports. We are grateful to Mrs Igglesden, Mr K. Clarke and Mr and Mrs Remmer for their contributions inserted in the next two chapters.]

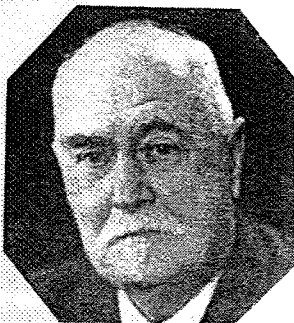
FIRST IDEAS!

One of the first events of the Mayoralty of J.L. Deacon, (elected on 9th November 1918), was to call a public meeting on Wednesday 30th December, to hear the Rye people's suggestions for a permanent memorial for those who had died in the "Great War", just ended on 11th November 1918. The Town Hall was packed - and the audience included Walter Dawes (Town Clerk); Lady Maud Warrender; Aldermen Burnham, Colebrooke, Jarrett and Masters; Councillors Ellis, Golden, Truelove, McKenzie, Sherwood; the Rev. A.P. Howes; Mrs Skinner; Capt. Dacre Vincent; R. Ernest Vidler; the Rev Guy Bates and W. Stocks, among other prominent townsfolk.

After a "Minute's Silence" for those "boys who would never return", Mayor Deacon said all could have their say "so that the best possible thing might be done in memory of the brave boys who have sacrificed their lives in saving their beloved country", and he hoped that the meeting could decide to proceed with "something which would be proof of their deep regard for those who had gone."

The Town Clerk asked for the villages and "their lost" to be remembered in any scheme.

The meeting decided to go ahead with a Memorial Cross in the Churchyard, to be designed by Mr Reginald Blomfield, (he was knighted in 1919), who had designed the Menin Gate and the Great War Cross, called the Cross of Sacrifice to mark the Flanders battlefields, for the War Graves Commission.



Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A

Dr Button then rose to speak : "Why not invite Winchelsea to co-operate in the erection of a Cottage Hospital?" This idea was enthusiastically endorsed and costs, equipment and comparison with Hastings Hospital were discussed. The large cost and whether future generations should be charged for the upkeep of the Memorial, were balanced against the idea of having an independent hospital of "our own". The Vicar thought the Government were about to take over all hospitals and recommended delay. However Alderman Masters then said, "With all due deference to the Vicar, we don't want any more 'wait and see'... the town should hit the iron whilst it is hot."

The meeting eventually agreed to both schemes and a fund raising committee was set up with the Town Clerk as Honorary Secretary.



DR.MARTIN BUTTON The Originator of the idea!

THE CHURCHYARD CROSS

The money for the Churchyard Cross, a copy of the bronze 'Cross of Sacrifice', was soon collected, and a record made of every donor, from those who gave large sums to those who could only afford a copper. Alderman Colebrooke gave a large donation in memory of his son. It was unveiled on Sunday 19th October 1919 by Lord Leconfield, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex.

PLANS FOR THE HOSPITAL

"The Hospital Scheme, meanwhile, was inaugurated on January 31st 1919, when the Mayor of Rye called a meeting for the purpose at the Town Hall, he being supported by the Mayor of Winchelsea and delegates from the surrounding villages." At this meeting Dr. Martin Button stated that Lady McIlwraith had promised to contribute £2000, Mr McGowan £500 and Mr and Mrs H.C.Noakes of Peasmarsh, £1000 to endow a bed in memory of their son, whilst Miss A.M.Curteis of Playden would give the site for the hospital.

THE SITE

"The site is at once acknowledged to be one of the healthiest for such a purpose that could be selected, it being situated on elevated ground - at the very summit of Rye Hill, and overlooking an extensive sea range and picturesque land views on all sides. The front of the Building faces due South and, during fine weather, patients will be able to rest outside under cover of the veranda and enjoy the purest air that Sussex or any Southern County can give. Beyond the Antient Town of Rye, which is immediately in front, extend the waters of the English Channel. On the East the eye can trace beyond Playden Church some of the extensive area of Romney Marsh with Lydd, Romney, and other Churches visible; whilst

further still there are glimpses of the chalk cliffs forming part of the Backbone of Kent, where are situated Dover, Folkestone and Shorncliffe. The Camber Sand Dunes with the famous Golf Links can also be seen. That is the neighbourhood of the first Winchelsea which contained one of the first Shipyards of England, and from that Town and Rye sailed the first ships of the British Navy. To the South-west lies the famous old town of Winchelsea, built by Edward I on the destruction of the original Winchelsea by the inundation of the sea. Queen Elizabeth designated this as "Little London", around the base of which, in the days of the first Edward's, flowed the tides of the English Channel extending up (what is now the Brede Valley) the Winchelsea and Odymer Bay. It was here that the great Fleet from Bordeaux which Edward III, with his son the Black Prince, attacked, sinking 14 of them and routing and cutting up the rest, capturing much of their cargo of Wines, Spirits and Silks. He afterwards spent, with his Queen Philippa, who had watched the engagement from the high cliffs of Udimore, three weeks in Odymer village. Fairlight Church is also visible. Then as the eye is guided more inland, is taken in some part of Cadboro Cliff and thence around to the North side of Udimore Road and a portion of the intervening marshes between Udimore and Peasmarsh until the trees of Rolvendene and Leasam intercept the extensive view at this angle. Behind the Hospital, however, more extensive scenery charms the eye as there lie in the distance the villages, more or less

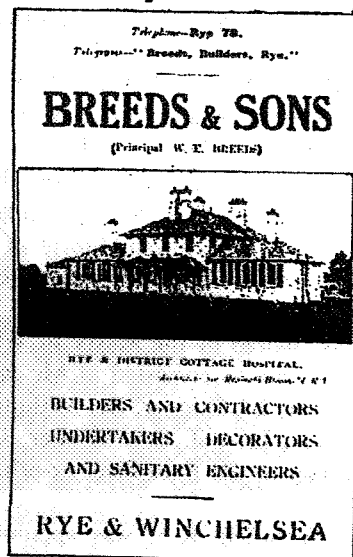
discernible, of Rye Foreign, Peasmarsh, Beckley, Northiam, Iden, Wittersham, Tenterden and Rolvenden. Surely this is sufficient to show that as far as possible those responsible for the choice and acceptance of the site were exceedingly fortunate and could not have found its equal elsewhere."

THE WORKING COMMITTEES

The executive committee was formed with the Mayor of Rye as Chairman and Mr John Bushby, of the Old Vicarage, as Hon. Secretary, the trustees being Messrs. H.C.Burra, J.P.,C.A., (Playden), Archibald Marshall (Chitcombe, Brede), J.McGowan (Mayor of Winchelsea), and W.E.Colbrooke J.P. (Rye). Mr H.Snow Ellis of Lloyds Bank Ltd., was appointed Hon. Treasurer. The Finance Committee was chaired by the Mayor of Winchelsea and the Building Committee consisted of Mr Jas. McGowan, Dr.T.T.Harratt, Dr. J.R.Skinner, Dr. M.Button, Alderman G.F.Burnham J.P., Lt.-Col. E.W.Skinner, O.B.E., M.D., and the Chairman of the Executive, ex-officio (Mayor of Rye).

"Sir Reginald Blomfield R.A. was appointed Architect, and the most careful consideration was given to the Plans of the Building that it should be in every way fully adapted to the requirements of a Hospital and free from the uninviting appearance which so many of such buildings present. Messrs. W.E.Breeds and Sons, the well-known local firm, were appointed Builders. Stipulations were made that only the best material was to be used and, under the careful and practical supervision of Alderman Burnham, who undertook the duties of Clerk of Works, the Builders carried out the work conscientiously and satisfactorily for the advisers of Lady McIlwraith and the Building Committee. Messrs. Dent and Hellyer were the Contractors chosen for the Sanitary Work, and the tender of Mr E.Sharpey, Electrical Engineer etc. of Rye, was

accepted to carry out the important installation of the Electric Plant. E.H.Monkhouse Esq., a very prominent Electrician of London, very kindly placed his services, owing to local association, at the disposal of the Committee, free of any expense." [Rye itself was not electrified until 1925. Ed.]



(Advert courtesy of Mr Roger Breeds. Ed.),

COSTS

"During 1919, plans for the Cottage Hospital were being made. Dr Button initially estimated that building costs would be £3000 and maintenance would need £400 per year. This took into account the fact Miss A.M.Curteis promised to give a plot of land at Playden and Lady McIlwraith of Winchelsea offered a large sum of money. A fund was opened and many events took place to raise sums for it over the next two years.

However the tenders for the building were so far in excess of the estimated cost that they sought to erect on a more modest plan. Lady McIlwraith then intervened and expressed a strong desire to see the Hospital built, and

offered, providing she was allowed to select her own builder and that the plans as already adopted were retained, to find the requisite amount of money.

A local resident questioned why future generations should pay for upkeep and this was answered in a letter to the press - "Why should succeeding generations not pay for the benefits they would receive?...This generation has already contributed the lion's share. If posterity proves so short-memoryed as to forget what they owe to this generation, particularly as symbolised by its thus commemorated dead, so much the worse for posterity..But I do not think posterity will be so oblivious to the past."

A new target of £25.000 was made and weekly reports of events and the running total was published in the local paper. A few of these functions were: when Lady Maud Warrender sang at several concerts at the Monastery; when "lines of pennies" were made around the town; the farmers of Rye and District raised £500 to endow a cot, and donations came from notable visitors e.g. the High Court Judge who was a golfer at Camber.

When the Cross was unveiled, the Hospital fund was nearing £8000 and the target was almost reached by autumn 1921 - by which time it had been built.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, was invited to open the Hospital in October 1921, but it became known that she would not be able to perform the ceremony on the day chosen as The Prince of Wales was to leave for India on that day. The ceremony was re-arranged for 16th November.

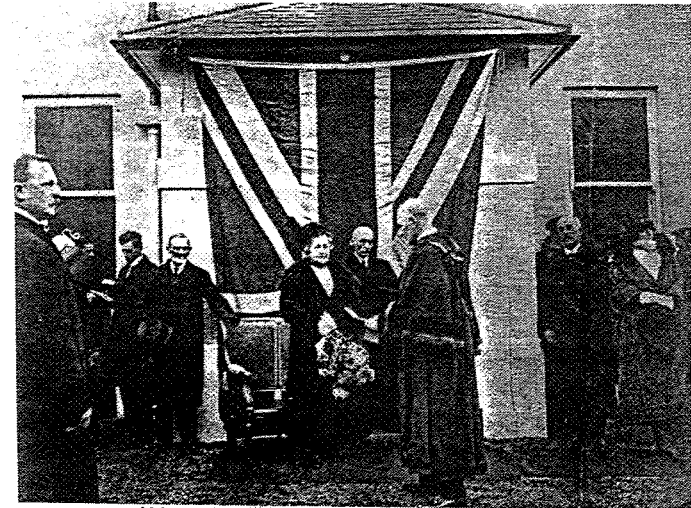
Lady McIlwraith was unable to be present on the new date, but she gave another cheque for £1000 to endow a bed and commemorate the occasion. Mr and Mrs McGowan gave £500 and endowed a cot to celebrate the day.

It was a very special day for Rye and most of the townsfolk and many from the villages came to the Hospital to see the ceremony. It had taken two years of constant money

raising and the fund was only £136 short of the £25.000 on the day.

The district had the brand new Rye and District Memorial Hospital, built on a quarter of an acre of land. "No wonder that flags and bunting decked the streets. The pavements were lined with people long before the time of HRH's expected arrival and a message was hung outside the Town Hall: 'Welcome to Rye Royal'. The special train was greeted by a small party led by Lady Maud Warrender - who probably secured this royal visit - and the Mayor, Councillor Deacon. As the Princess entered the station she was presented with a spray of chrysanthemums by little Nora Ashenden, whose father, the late ex-Councillor F. Ashenden, had been one of the first from Rye to be killed in the war. *[She later became Mrs Victor Moore Ed.]* Three cars containing the official party moved off after the Maces, to the sound of singing schoolchildren who received a royal wave.

Passing through the streets and cheered by the watching crowds, the Mayor lost no opportunity in pointing out to his guest the various places of antiquity. At the Town Hall, the Princess signed the new visitor's book. This had been presented to the town that day, together with a gold pen, by the Mayoress. The royal progress then continued via East Street, High Street and Landgate, all the while slowly following the mace-bearers, who finally stood aside for the cars to pass up Rye Hill. Here hundreds more had already gathered and a Guard of Honour was formed by the Territorials, Scouts, Guides, ex-Servicemen and the Rye Town Band, all of whom were presented to the Princess when she alighted in front of the building. Having a word with the ex-Servicemen, she stopped to speak for a few moments to one old soldier who was supported by crutches." The Bishop of Lewes, Mr & Mrs McGowan, Dr Skinner, Aldermen Jarrett and Colebrooke, Mr Bushby and the Vicar of Rye were presented and then the Mayor addressed HRH:



'May it please your Royal Highness, the inhabitants of the Antient towns of Rye and Winchelsea, which are known as the cradle of the British Navy, with the surrounding district, rejoice that your Royal Highness, so distinguished a representative of the Royal Family, has honoured us by coming to open this War Memorial Cottage Hospital. Built upon the site where King Charles II, in 1666, is said to have quartered the Royal Scots, then known as the Dumbarton's Scottish, on their return from engagements in France, it is significant that this Hospital stands upon this high and healthy situation as a War Memorial to the men who fought in the late Great War. It has been erected through the splendid liberality of Lady McIlwraith, the ground being the gift of Miss Curteis, of Playden, the furnishing and equipment met by public subscriptions, and it is hoped that the fund for endowment purposes will be sufficiently supported so as to render its maintenance free from any future financial embarrassment. It is now my great honour to

ask your Royal Highness to graciously open the Rye, Winchelsea and District War Memorial Hospital.'

The Hospital was then declared open by the Princess. She said:

'It gives me the greatest pleasure to be here and to have been asked by this interesting old town with so many traditions to come on this occasion to open this Hospital. What could there be better than to have a Memorial to those fine men who gave their lives in the Great War than to have a building to restore the lives of those who are still among you? I am delighted to see so many ex-Servicemen here, and I can only thank them in the name of their Country and their King for what they have done. I know they will take an interest in this Memorial. Everybody who comes by here will remember those who gave their lives. I trust the funds still to be raised will be forthcoming.'

"Mr Bushby lowered the Union Jack which covered the door and the Mayoress of Winchelsea presented the royal visitor with a gold key with which HRH opened the door. The public ceremony continued with several more speeches and prayers before the Princess was shown around the interior by the Matron, Miss L.Davies.

Tea with Lady Maud Warrender at Leasam followed, and another large crowd witnessed her departure from Rye Station, when the Princess thanked her civic hosts once more. Before she entered the train the Mayor handed her a copy of his book 'Ancient Rye' which she promised to read! A memorable, moving and historic day for Rye ended with a celebration ball held at the Monastery in the evening. "

The Princess, when writing to express her satisfaction and pleasure with the arrangements for her visit agreed to be the Patroness of the Hospital.

[A very beautiful District Guide Standard was discovered in an attic in Iden a couple of years ago. It is believed by Miss Harvey to have been the one designed for and used at the Hospital Opening in 1921. Mrs Woodland brought it to the College to show the Group. It has been registered at Guide H.Q., and she and Mrs Pat. Carter have painstakingly restored the stitching and embroidery. Ed.]

MEMORIALS IN THE HOSPITAL

A memorial plaque was erected inside the front door bearing the names of 320 men who died from Rye, Winchelsea and the other parishes of the "Rye Union" - Beckley, Brede, East Guldeford, Icklesham, Iden, Northiam, Peasmarsh, Playden, Rye Harbour and Udimore. A tablet commemorated the royal opening and the generosity of Lady McIlwraith and Miss Curteis. A portrait of the former hung nearby.

FREEDOM OF THE TOWN



"On July 8th 1922, in recognition of her benefactions to Rye, Winchelsea and District, the Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council and inhabitants of Rye, presented Lady McIlwraith with the Freedom of the Antient Town, the first lady in England to be so honoured, an act which greatly delighted every one of the inhabitants. Her ladyship is President of the Hospital."

THE ADJOINING FIELD

Lady McIlwraith continued her generosity and in 1926 she purchased the field in which the Hospital stands and presented it to the Governors.

She continued to be most generous to the whole project and eventually her contribution reached over £20,000, an enormous sum in those days.

OTHER MEMORIALS

1) The third Memorial to Rye's "Fallen" was a **BRONZE TABLET** with their names in the **Drill Hall** on Windmill Lane. It was unveiled on Remembrance Day 1923. Sadly it has disappeared since the building was demolished. *[It would be appropriate and fitting if it could be found and displayed again. Ed.]*

2) **LISTS OF PUPILS.** Wooden boards displaying those who were lost in the Great War were erected in both Rye Grammar School and the Boys' School on Mermaid Street. They have been re-erected, together with one for Grammar School losses of 20 boys in the World War II, in the Thomas Peacocke Community College. We sadly added the name of Stephen Satchell, who died in the Gulf War : 26.2.91.

Twenty three ex-pupils were noted on the Rye Grammar School Board for the Great War and ninety four Old Boys on that of the Rye Council School. The latter begins:-

"IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF THE BOYS OF THIS SCHOOL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS. THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVER MORE."

3) In November 1924 the Rye Branch of the **BRITISH LEGION** was formed with Sergeant Major Small playing an important part in the organisation. The first President was Col. E.W.Skinner and Capt. E.P.Dawes was the Chairman. The Committee was Capt. Arthur Adams,

J.Woolley, A.R.Kempton and Father Bonaventure, who was the Chaplain.

4) A **WORKING MEN'S CLUB** was later established in the Landgate called "THE RYE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB". Both of these still flourish.

5) There is a Memorial in **Rye Cemetery** to Capt. W J Foord and his crew of the steam trawler "MARGARET", blown up by a mine in Rye Bay on 17 December 1916.

6) Many villages erected **WAR MEMORIALS** where wreaths are still laid each year on Armistice Day.

7) Several **VILLAGE HALLS** were built as War Memorials including Peasmarch (opened 29th December 1921); Camber and Broomhill Club, in an army hut; and Icklesham had a "Memorial Hall Slate Club".

8) Rye Harbour erected the beautiful **LYCH-GATE** to the Churchyard as a Memorial.

CHAPTER 2

EXTRACTS FROM DEACON'S RYE DIRECTORY AND YEAR BOOK

RYE HOSPITAL

H.R. Highness, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is the **Patroness.**

It stands as a Memorial to all those who fell in the Great War, but particularly to those from the parishes of Rye, Beckley, Brede, East Guldeford, Broomhill, Rye Harbour, Iden, Icklesham, Northiam, Peasmarch, Playden, Udimore and Winchelsea. *[Note: Camber is included as a separate parish by 1939. Ed.]*

	1929	1933	1939	1940
ENDOWMENTS	£500	£560	£565	£600
PATIENTS'				
PAYMENTS	£700	£740	£530	£600
SHORTFALL	£1.200	£1.300	£1.335	£1.445

to be collected from Subscriptions, Collections and Entertainment's.

[The ditto marks read across the table. Ed.]

POSITION	1929	1933	1939	1940
<u>PRESIDENT</u>	LADY McILWRAITH	MRS McGOWAN	"	"
<u>VICE-PRESIDENTS</u>	J.L.DEACON			
	MAYOR OF RYE	"	"	"
	MAYOR OF WINCHELSEA	"	"	"
		J.BUSHBY	E.F.BENSON	"
<u>MATRON</u>	MISS DAVIES	MISS RICHARDSON	MISS RICHARDSON (acting MISS PEARSON)	MISS B. PEARSON
<u>CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS</u>	H.C.BURRA	"	"	"
<u>TREASURER</u>	H.SNOW ELLIS	"	W.G.HEPWORTH	"
<u>HON. SECRETARY</u>	J.BUSHBY	A.L.LUXMOORE	MAJ.E.DAWSON	"
<u>PRESIDENT LADIES GUILD</u>	MRS J.L. DEACON	MRS E.J. CHIPPENDALE	MRS E.W. SKINNER	"
<u>HON. SEC. LADIES GUILD</u>	MRS H.S. ELLIS	"	MRS REEVES	"
<u>SURGICAL AID AND CONVALESCENCE FUND CHAIRMAN</u>	MRS H.S. ELLIS	"		
<u>HON. SEC.</u>	MRS J.W.REID	"	LADY BRAY	"
<u>EAST SUSSEX HOSPITALS BENEVOLENT FUND</u>	C.A.GAFFORD MR LUXMOORE	" "	" MAJ.E.DAWSON	" "
	1927	1930	1933	1937
<u>PATIENTS</u>	194	241	200	201
<u>OPERATIONS</u>	150	196	178	114

"The RYE Hospital has amalgamated with the **Hospitals Benevolent Fund** for East Sussex, whereby subscribers have free treatment."

Surgical Aid and Convalescent Fund.

"This Fund was started in March, 1925, in connection with the Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital, to assist in any extreme necessitous case of convalescent patients.

Silver paper and foil is collected and is quite an asset. Parcels large and small can be left at the office of the Assistant Secretary, Mr G.F.Phipps, Landgate Chambers."

Hospital Savings Association [figures given in ordinary script are 1939 and in square brackets are 1940. Ed.]

"**Patron** - His Majesty the King. At the year ended July 1938, the number of members was over 2,000,000. [2,500,000]. This is to help the Rye Memorial, East Sussex, and the Buchanan Hospitals, the Rye Ambulance and the Rye Institution.

Contributions are 3d per week [1/1 per month] (or 12/- per annum), and on entrance to any Hospital, the contributor is provided with a "green voucher" which ensures there will be no charge for Hospital treatment and no inquiries as to means. The 3d. per week covers the contributor's wife and family. Benefits also include assistance towards cost of Dental Treatment (contributor only) and Optical Treatment (contributor and dependants) and provides Ambulance Service.

There are now three groups in Rye, viz.:-

Group S 530 (S.R.) (open to members of the Southern Railway staff only).

Group S. (Rye Town and District) - open to all residents - 2715, Chairman-R.G.W.Apps. [R.J.Winter]; Committee-W.E.Philpott, A.R.Bourne, J.Huston, A.Kent and J. Tiltman. [J.W.Foster, J.Smith]; Hon. Secretary-W.F.Allcorn, [W.Lintott.]

Group S 975 (East Kent Bus Company - staff only). Chairman-H.Hopkins. Hon.Secretary-W.F.Allcorn, Rye. "

RYE BOROUGH NURSING ASSOCIATION

Nurse Bengé, Maternity Nurse and Midwife, Ockman's Lane, East Street, Rye. [1929,1933,1939,1940].

Nurse Hutchinson [1929], Nurse Castell [1933], Queen's Nurses - E.A.Hunt and G.Hunt, both S.R.N. and Midwife [1939,1940], all residing in the house owned by the Nurses Association - Wall Cottage, Cinque Ports Street.

Particulars from Hon. Sec. Mrs Reid, [1929, 1933], Mrs Crooke [1939, 1940].

SPECIAL RESIDENT NURSES

Nurse Crawley, "Nairn", Cadborough Road, Rye. [1929, 1933].

Nurse Woods, 2 Sea View Terrace, Rye. [1929, 1933].

Nurse S.A.Smith, S.R.N.,C.N.B., (Maternity and Surgical), 2 Judge Place. [1929 but not 1933].

Nurse Brown, "Lyndhurst", 35 Ferry Road. [1939,1940].

Nurse Castell, 54, The Mint, moved from Wall Cottage. [1939,1940].

Nurse Crawley, Norman House, West Street. [1939,1940].

"Membership Fee in 1939: 6/- a year entitles member (husband and wife and children up to 16 years) to free general nursing.

Midwifery and Maternity Fees : Members £1 to £1-10-0; non Members £1-10-0 to £2-2-0.

The fees for nursing non members are 1/- to 2/6 a visit.

To meet considerable expenses not covered by the County Council grant and to cover the free nursing for Old Age Pensioners and those receiving Public Assistance, voluntary subscriptions are gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary."

Deacon's Almanac records that some villages had their own Nursing Associations - Beckley had Nurse Bicknell and Brede, Nurse Rhodes.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE (RYE DIVISION)

President- Ald. J.L.Deacon, J.P.,C.C. [1929]; Ald. J.Molyneux Jenkins [1933, 1939, 1940].

Vice-Presidents- Major Gasson and William Mellor [1939, 1940].

Divisional Surgeon- Hugh Mannington, M.B.,B.Sc. London [1939,1940].

Divisional Superintendent- G.T.Ramsden [1929], J.H.Tiltman [1933,1939,1940]. Ambulance Officer- J.H.Tiltman [1929], W.Woodgate [1933,1939,1940].

Sergeant- W.Woodgate [1929]; T.Gutsell. [1933,1939,1940].

Corporals- J.C.Pulford [1939,1940]. and A.Horner [1929,1933,1939,1940].

Divisional Sec.- R.G.W.Apps [1929], H.C'larke [1933,1939,1940].

Divisional Treas.- J.R.Barden [1929,1933], W.F.Allcorn [1939], R.Walker [1940].

Cadet Officer- W.F.Allcorn [1929,1933,1939], H.White [1940].

RYE AND DISTRICT MOTOR AMBULANCE [1939,1940]

"A new Ford Ambulance was obtained through public subscriptions and commenced running on 1st August 1937. The Ambulance is fitted with up-to-date requirements and is affiliated under the Home Service Ambulance Fund in charge of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Rye Division). It is garaged by Messrs. Wright and Pankhurst, at Tower Street, Rye. Hon. Sec. and Treasurer is William Mellor, Bank Chambers, Rye The Rye Division has, since its formation, been of great service at various public gatherings. Its members have rendered voluntary help whenever possible to assist in any case. Fully equipped Road Hut in operation during summer at Monkbretton Bridge. Ring Rye Motor Engine Co.'s Garage - Rye 84. There is a First Aid post at

Camber. It is hoped to erect headquarters on vacant site in Wish Ward."

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

1939, [1940]

RYE CENTRE - Vice President- Mrs Hole, Eight Acres, Playden; **Hon. Treas.-** Miss Tate, Hilden; **Hon. Sec. Red Cross Library-** Miss Mitchell, Green Hedges; **Voluntary Visitor Tuberculosis Prevention and Care Scheme-** Rev. John Fowler, The Vicarage.

DETACHMENT SUSSEX 206 - enrolled 1932
Commandant- Miss Duprey, Corner House, Playden [Mrs Alfred Holmes, Udimore]; **Assistant Commandant-** Miss Delves-Broughton, the Brambles, Iden [Mrs F.Burnham]; **Medical Officer-** Dr Hartley, High Street; - **Lady Superintendent-** Mrs J.Charles Williams, Tudor House, The Grove; **Anti-Gas Officer-** Mrs A.K.Holmes, the Parsonage, Udimore [Mrs F.Burnham L.A.G.C.]; **Quarter-Master-** Mrs F.Burnham, Moneypenny House, East Guldeford.[Mrs Lawrence Jones, George Hotel].

CHAPTER 3

MEMORIES OF RYE HOSPITAL BY LOCAL PEOPLE

(In alphabetical order.)

MRS A.E.ADDY

[Now living in the Orkney Islands! Ed.]

As a Girl Guide in the Brede Company, I was one of the Guards of Honour at the official opening by the Duchess of Argyll. Years later my daughter had her tonsils out, and much later, she was there for a short time, as an Auxiliary Nurse.

MRS BAILEY

I remember my son Keith was rushed into Rye Hospital in 1952, when he was two months old, as there was no room at Hastings. Dr Townsend arranged for a cot to be brought from Hill House for him and they did treat him well! My

Aunt, Miss Jones, was in several times. She had her photograph taken with a nurses hat on - we still have it!

MRS AUDREY BARTLETT

"A Worm's Eye View" or "One Patient's View of The Hospital". (1955: 3 weeks; 1957: 1 week)

In the Spring of 1955, having obtained our cottage in Mermaid Street the previous June, the first class Surgeon to the Hospital, Mr Bourke, arranged for me to go into the Cottage Hospital for him to sort out a militant appendix, about which he was rather worried, as my daughter was also on her way.

The Hospital had a God-given atmosphere, with splendid nursing and good homely cooking. Under the watchful eye of the Matron, Miss Hay, her Sisters and others, things seemed to run on oiled wheels. There were also some quite irreplaceable VADs, who helped the nurses in all manner of ways, careful bed-making or whatever. Mrs Betty Brodrick was one of these, whilst her sister-in-law, Mrs Eleanor Brodrick, was our 'Librarian' and came in, I think, once a week in a quiet, quite unhurried way. In her work she took one right away from any thought of trouble/pain etc., bringing with her some lovely books about which she was most knowledgeable. To me, her visits were like a child exploring its Christmas 'stocking'. Since I seemed to be 'resting in bed' most of the while, books and ear-phones (no loud music allowed in the Wards) reminded us of our luck, with the kindest of care meted out to us.



Mr Bourke, the Surgeon, lived in Winchelsea. (His widow still has a pied-a-terre in Rye and their two sons are both Physicians.) He was a most intelligent, spirited surgeon with a splendid sense of humour and therefore, not very

given to glum faces. One of his panaceas was to interest us lightly in the subject of 'horse-racing' and someone ran a Hospital 'sweepstake', as the Derby was about to happen, which gave us quite a lift and a sense of camaraderie.

Mr Bourke, of course, worked closely with the doctors whose patients came to the Hospital and who also were responsible for their anaesthetics. It so happened that on the day I got there and had the appendix out, my neighbour, a sweet elderly countrywoman, wife of a businessman, had her really important operation too. I couldn't help but notice the great care which her doctor, Dr. Trevor Parkes, took to check her through the first three nights, at least twice!

The food was pleasantly served. My mother turned up one day, (I'd kept the operation quiet so as not to worry her), with an offering of some lovely cold, but cooked, globe artichokes with sauce. As I was not quite up to this, the others (seeing my mother's disappointment) asked her about the flavour of an artichoke, so she was able to distribute them between the other six (not my neighbour), whose first taste of it, it was. They were a very pleasant, gentle lot.

Whilst there were 'visits', it was nothing like what appears to be encouraged in the big hospitals now. Two visitors (at the right times, except by arrangement), meant two visitors. The then Vicar of Rye, Rev. Oscar Brooks, did not, I think, care much for that visiting job, but got his friend - who was most popular and still comes to Rye when he can - Father Richard (the R.C. priest) to fill in for him. I assume this, for he often came to see me, a most kind thought.

In fact, the Ward represented a warm and well-run 'Ship'. One appreciated the fact that after our mid-day meal till about 3 pm (visiting hour), we were given a period of real quiet to rest or sleep, with no visitors present.

The idea that this wonderful LOCAL work will soon continue for recuperation, illness etc., thanks to dedicated

generosity of money and time, makes one feel tremendously appreciative that our country can be free of red tape on special occasions like this. We have many to thank!

MR KEITH BOREHAM

I worked as an Ambulance man in Rye and transferred many patients to the Hospital, mainly for respite care or patients who were terminally ill, although we did take people who had had their operations in Hastings for recuperation. It was a wonderful place to go and most had no fear at all. It was very useful to have a Mortuary on hand also - rather than have to go to Hastings each time it was needed.

MR BOURNE of Three Oaks

I had experience of Rye Hospital in 1946/47/48. After the War four doctors continued to develop Rye Hospital - Mr Bourke and Dr Kelleher of Winchelsea (after Dr Knowles retired) and Dr Button and Dr Hartley of Rye. Dr Knowles had done many operations at Newhaven on men returning from the Dieppe landings.

In October 1948, my wife walked one and a half miles from Maxfield Manor to catch the bus to Winchelsea to see the Doctor. She had acute appendicitis and Dr Kelleher and Mr Bourke were free after 9pm the same evening and they took out her appendix then, in Rye Hospital.

In November 1948 I had a grumbling appendix and I was in for 2-3 days before the same two doctors took it out. After 10 more days I was sent home. The Icklesham nurse looked after me then. While in Hospital, I received very good service. The two wards were supposed to be Men's and Women's, but were Mixed. I remember a baby with skin trouble in a cot facing me and another patient was a man from Icklesham. Nurse Pett was also a patient in my ward and my sister went in at Easter 1949. Truly a Hospital for all people and from the whole area!

MRS ELEANOR BRODRICK

Dr. Button, a marvellous doctor and the originator of the idea of Hospital and Mr Bushby, a tremendous supporter and the Secretary of the Hospital Appeal, were personal friends of my parents and we saw them a lot. Dr Button was of medium height and was very slim.

I was away at School in Bexhill, (it was my first term as a boarder), when the Hospital opened, but my parents - Mr and Mrs A.W. 'Rick' Rickards - were present and told me about the occasion.

I remember Mr Bushby gave away the original Matron at her wedding - she was a very tall, straight lady, just like a Grenadier Guard.

My Mother was a patient in Rye Hospital and died there in 1923, and she had been wonderfully looked after.



I have a note in my diary on 18th September 1950 - "**started Hospital Library**" and I ran it until the Hospital closed. I enjoyed doing the work enormously. I chose to go on a Mondays as I thought that people would need something to read on the evening before their operations - Mr Bourke operated on Tuesdays! In the early days there were quite a lot of young people as patients.

I started by having the books on a tray someone had got me, but it was too heavy. Mr Catt, the Hospital handyman and a very nice chap, eventually made me a trolley. It had shelves and a flat part to write on and I used it for 42 years. I wish I knew what had happened to it - it has disappeared! I have bought a new Library Trolley for the Care Centre and my daughter Denny hopes to carry on my tradition.

At first the books came from the Red Cross at Lewes. They were very particular, if I received twenty books, I had

to return twenty! After about 10 or 12 years, the League of Friends took over the running of the organisation. It was much better - I would drive to Rye Library and choose what I thought suitable for various patients. They were so good at Rye Library and there was no bother if I couldn't return all the books on time. The Lewes Red Cross had charged when this occurred.

I had a preponderance of requests for what we called 'Light Love' and thrillers.

I was very interested in the people and loved chatting to them and I got to know what they liked. I remember one woman in her early thirties was very battered - she looked wretched - her face was darkly bruised and cut and she had two black eyes and there were wounds on her hands. I said to her "I'm sure you don't feel at all like reading - you must have had a horrid accident." She replied "My husband beat me up! I love books like biographies and memoirs." She did not look the type, but, in fact, she was a great reader.

Another patient was a man who was in for ages. He ran the rather mysterious works, upstairs above the old cinema in the Landgate. He was very poorly and did not read, but I gradually began to leave a book on his bedside cabinet. Eventually he became a great reader too! It was most satisfactory!!

Occasionally my trolley turned over - I recall it once fell on top of a patient with me on top of it - but we were not hurt!

Sometimes Bridget Gibbs helped me and she was a good stand-in if I had to be away. I had also had Rosa Cottle's assistance, before she moved away from the area.

The Wards had both men and women patients. The smokers went into the 'Men's Ward', and non smokers into the 'Women's'.

I was a patient in the Private Ward once. I had expected to go into an ordinary Ward, but Dr Parkes had a Private Patient who required constant observation and therefore

needed to be in the main Ward. He asked if I minded going into the Private Ward as the Hospital was full otherwise. I had a lovely time, the nurses came and sat on my bed at morning coffee time and chatted to me. Ada was the most wonderful cook.

MR J.M. BUTTON

I used to go to Rye Hospital with my Father, Dr. Button, (his full name was Martin Binns Studor Button), when he did his Ward Rounds sometimes, when I was a boy, in the 1940's. He was devoted to the work of the Hospital.

MR ROBERT CHARMAN

My brother Ken and I are twins and I remember we both went into Rye Hospital when we were about four years old, to have our tonsils out. After the operation, when we were getting better, the staff didn't know what to do to occupy us, so they put marbles in two milk powder tins and gave us one each. We then rolled them up and down the Ward, making an awful noise. They called us "little monsters" and "You little horrors!" as we made such a lot of noise. When we were at the Rye Primary School, our class had ten or eleven sets of twins in it and the teachers never knew who was who. Mr Beevers had a picture taken of us all, which was put in the newspaper.



**MRS SHEILA CHILLINGWORTH. née
BACHELER**

I had just started Rye Primary School, then in Ferry Road, after Christmas 1943. At the end of School on the afternoon of 15th January 1943, I was crossing the playground to meet my Mother who was waiting outside

the Adelaide pub for me, my sister Joyce and my two brothers. Suddenly a lone German plane appeared and started machine-gunning us. We never got to the shelter, - we knelt down by the gate and we were wounded - my mother was hit with her knee cap being shattered and her hand damaged, and I was hit in the liver. I just remember the flash - remember I was only five years old - but for years I couldn't bear thunder and lightning.

We were taken to Rye Hospital, which was very busy, and Dr. Button sewed me up. My sister, who was only nine, had to look after us all when we came out of Hospital.

I used to go to see Dr. Button every week for ages, for him to press my tummy - he was so tall and thin.

MR FRANK CLARK

I became a Hairdresser on the High Street with my Father at the age of 13, after the two assistants were called up for World War I. When the Hospital opened, my Father suggested that I go up to cut the hair of regular customers who were patients there. I used to go up, often as early as 7.30am and sometimes I would cut the hair of lady patients and Nurses as well - the Eton Crop was popular with them.

Mr Bray, the then Landlord of the Ypres Castle Pub, was the first patient, when he had his appendix taken out. [This was November 28th 1921. Ed.] I saw the car with Lady McIlwraith passing the shop to go to the Town Hall to receive the Freedom of the Town.

During the Second World War, the Hospital was a Clearing Station for casualties. An American Surgeon joined Dr Button and sometimes there were so many to deal with, that operations were carried on all night, before the patients were re-directed, for example, to the Burns Unit at East Grinstead.

MR T.W. CLARK

I can well remember the Rye Memorial Hospital being built. I helped Mr Ovenden to dig the sand out from the sand pit at Sand Rock Hill, just below the Hospital. We

used his horse and cart to carry it to the site for the building of the Hospital; they mixed quick lime with it to make mortar.

Why I'm so interested to tell you all this is because, soon after the Hospital was opened, I fell from a tree and dislocated my elbow. Dr Button was the Surgeon at the time, and I had to stay the night. The Matron was a very nice old lady and very kind. I got invited to their very first Christmas party and have since heard that they had a party every Christmas.

One could say, I was the first youngest patient to be admitted to the Hospital - and the last!! This refers to when, I believe, the Hospital itself was closed but Casualty was still performing, and Dr Jeelani, who happened to be there at the time, put four stitches in my finger that I had split. There was a photographer taking pictures for the local newspaper, 'The Observer', and he took one of the doctor performing the operation and I got Paul McCartney to put his signature on the picture, when he did his protest march. The last I saw of it was when it was on the notice board in the doctor's surgery. Perhaps Dr Jeelani knows where it is?

During World War I, Dr Button used the house in East Street as a surgery, because we didn't have a Hospital then. It was used for wounded soldiers.

I can remember, as a kid, we used to play about in the Cattle Market and it was here I severed my hand between my two forefingers. It was quite a gash and so I was rushed to the surgery where Dr Button had to put nine stitches in it. He was a very intelligent doctor and just before he died, he opposed the building of the council houses in the position they are today, because it was very unhealthy, wet and marshy. He was correct, as some of the houses are subsiding.

When I was quite young, I had my tonsils taken out at the Hospital where the White Rock Pavilion stands today and I

once caught diphtheria, and had to be isolated at the sanatorium in Udimore Road, near Dumb Woman's Lane.

MRS YVONNE COTTERILL (née WATSON)

I had my tonsils out there when I was about four. I recall that Dr. Button tickled my feet as he went past - the blanket wasn't long enough to cover them. I took rather a dim view of it! I was feeling sorry for myself at the time.

MR GEORGE CUMMING

Rye Hospital was very important to the Multiple Sclerosis patients. They often went in for respite care for quite long periods, and also attended the Day Hospital regularly. The facilities were very much missed when it closed.

MRS B.S. 'RUSTY' ELLIS

My husband, Philip, ('Phil'), was the first Chairman of the Rye Hospital League of Friends. This was formed in the 1950's and the new Physiotherapy Department was the first major project in which it was involved. Further money raising allowed the Summer House and Day Room to be added, as well as many small things like linen, T.V.'s, etc. We tried very hard to build an extra Ward, but we were not allowed to do it. He resigned in about 1985 and Mrs Lawson-Tate took over, with Mrs Pearson as Secretary.

MR PETER EWART

My Uncle Cecil Rhodes' first job, at fourteen, was as apprentice for Mr Breeds, at one shilling a day, working on the Hospital. He described his 'boss' as walking "with bombastic tread!"

MR MICHAEL FANNON

In 1949 I was waiting to go to the newly rebuilt Cinema, The Regent, to see 'Sinbad the Sailor'! I was climbing on the roof of the Old Cinque Ports Hotel [now the Police Station is on the site. Ed.]. Unfortunately I fell through the skylight and was taken to Rye Hospital to be stitched up, by Dr Townsend, I think. I still have the horseshoe shaped scar on my leg - and I missed the film!!

MRS CAROL GASSON, (née BUSBRIDGE.)

My Father was loading stacks of corn onto a lorry at Wittersham, with my 'help', when I fell off. I was rushed to Rye Hospital for X-Rays and the Sister gave me a shilling. I thought it was wonderful and went home feeling very pleased with myself.

I also took my own children for accidents, I recall when Lucy drank the Windolene, she was taken there to be sorted out. She refused to drink anything when coaxed by Dr. Townsend and so he sent out for ice-cream to try to tempt her, which she also wouldn't take! We just had to wait for nature to take its course!



MRS G.I.GILL (Icklesham)

I remember going to the opening of Rye Hospital. I walked with my brothers and sisters from our home, Cleves Farm, the little five year old in a push cart because it was too far for him to walk the three miles to Peasmarsh School. Our lunch bags were on our backs, (no hot dinners in those days). Then I walked with the other children, I was eleven, to the Hospital and we lined the driveway. There were Girl Guides and a few soldiers as well. Two ladies in long dark coats and pull on hats came along, one was Princess Louise and the other Lady Maud Warrender, and they went to unlock the door and that was all! I then walked all the way home again.

Mum said "Well, did you see the Princess?" I said "I didn't see any Princess, she hadn't got a crown on." I had expected to see a sparkling crown - I was most disappointed - all that walking just for that!!

Our Dad, William John Bull, was in the Hospital once with something wrong with his foot. We all went to see him on Sunday, the only day we could go. The nurse came

in and looked around. "Oh! We can't have this, eight round the bed!!" Mum said "These are his seven daughters and there are four sons waiting outside!" The nurse just tut-tutted and went away!



Some years later, my small daughter was in there to have her tonsils out. We took her a banana, (it was quite something, just after the War). I thought it would be nice and soft for her to eat. However we got told off for giving it to her. Later on we were told she tried to climb out of the window as she wanted to go home. Perhaps it was the banana that gave her extra strength - but I didn't say anything - I thought I'd better not!

MR NORMAN GILL

In 1938, I had my tonsils out, aged 5, Dr. Mannington was the Anaesthetist and Mr Button the Surgeon.

In 1946 I was in Rye Hospital with bronchial asthma for two weeks. I was thirteen and weighed only six and a half stone. Other people I recall being in as patients were a man who gave me a bar of chocolate (just after the War remember!), who had fallen off a ladder. He was Mr Ashdown from Iden, I think. Another was Mr Igglesden from the bottom of Cadborough and Mr Hulbert, from Donkey Lane, Udimore, whose cigarette lighter had blown up in his face. Mr Band, Laurie Band's father, was also there and Janet Weller was in the other ward having had her tonsils out.

MRS ELIZABETH GOLDSWORTHY

I was asked to help with the Blood Clinic by Kay Pearson who did it with me. Vera Browning was also there and now I work with Elizabeth Ashby at the Clinic in Ferry Road.

MRS AGNES GREENHALGH

I used to go up to the old Hospital to sew. I would mend sheets, pillowcases, nighties etc. one afternoon a week.

My daughter Pat. was Sister Greenhalgh there, for a while.

MRS JOYCE GUTSELL née BATCHELER

With my two brothers and my sister Sheila, we ran to meet my Mother one afternoon in the War, after school. Our home was on West Street then. This lone German plane came shooting at us. We afterwards said they were trying to get the New Road School, which was a Naval Base. [*H.M.S. Haig. Ed.*]. We tried to run back to the shelter in the playground, but didn't have time. My Mother knelt over us, and the same bullet which went through her kneecap must have gone into Sheila. I remember Sheila turning to me saying "look at my tummy!" and it was bleeding.

They were taken to Rye Hospital and my Father was fetched from work. Dr. Button operated on Sheila and 'plugged' her liver. We could have had the bullet, but my Father refused.

Mother and Sheila were put in the same ward. Dr. Button said "push those two beds together for the Mother and Daughter". The Matron said "No! It will spoil the look of the Ward!" Dr. Button insisted.

The Hospital was very busy, with wounded soldiers etc. Dr. Button got my Dad to help him with the soldiers - perhaps it was to take his mind off his wife and daughter. I had to stay off school to look after everyone - and my grandmother too! Sheila didn't go back to school for two years afterwards.

I also remember my Mother went into Rye Hospital for Dr. Button to take her breast off as she had an 'abscess'. This must have been almost pioneer surgery as it was before the last War.

MRS N. HARTLEY

I was at the opening of Rye Hospital with my mother and elder sister when I was 12 years old. I was bored with the

speeches. We lived at Playden Cottage then, a house author A.G. Bradley had found for us when we moved from Scotland - my parents were very friendly with him. My husband, Dr. Hartley, came to be locum for Dr. Harratt, who lived in Mint House, in 1930. The Surgery was in the cottages alongside the road. We married in 1933 and moved to Point Lodge. He was very involved with the Hospital when his patients were there and we were devoted to it.

During the Second World War, I joined the St. John Ambulance and ran the Nursing Division as part of the Civil Defence and then afterwards for about twenty years. We took patients to the Hospital throughout. My husband was very busy during the War as he and Dr. Button were practically the only Doctors in Rye. Dr. Harratt had died. I have recently sold my husband's tractor and I have given the money to the new Care Centre for a bed in memory of him.

MR E. 'TED' HICKMOTT

I remember going to the Hospital for an X-Ray, when I was about 8. I took one look at the Matron, who was so tall and straight, like a soldier, that I ran off down Rye Hill. I was terrified of her. My Father gave chase, caught me and brought me back! It amused me later when she, the Matron, got married to a Commander Lyon - it seemed appropriate!

MR DENNIS AND MRS JEAN KEMP

I remember when Alison was only six weeks old, the Telephone Exchange on Eagle Road set on fire. Dennis was rushed to Rye Hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and they saved his life by pumping him out. The children went there to have their teeth taken out by the Dentist who had a surgery above Adams.

MRS JO. KIRKHAM

My first experience of Rye Hospital was taking my daughter Tracy, then aged about three, for treatment. Subsequently we all visited, myself to go to the Ante-

Natal Clinic, my husband Jim and our sons James and then William, on many occasions for stitches in heads and legs and dressings on deep cuts and visits for tetanus jabs and the Blood Clinic. The Nursing staff and Doctors, Hartley, Townsend, Palmer, Nash, Kelly and Chiswick, were all so very pleasant, helpful and comforting to deal with.

In 1979, 1980 and 1981-2, when I was Mayor of Rye, and Tracy the Mayoress, one of the regular Christmas Day engagements was to visit, after the Christmas Morning Ecumenical Service at St. Mary's Church, Hill House Hospital and the Rye Memorial Hospital. The Hospital was always beautifully decorated, especially the Day Room, and those patients who were not well enough to go home for Christmas, were really "spoiled".

"My Charity" during my three years of office was RYE HOSPITAL. The League of Friends, with Mr Phil. Ellis as Chairman, was, at that time, raising money to build a new Ward and I organised several events to support that purpose. These included two of my Mayor-Making Receptions, which were freely open to the Townsfolk and money was raised for the Hospital. The late Mrs Margaret Eddy and her daughter 'Rosemary' from "ROSEANNE" put on three WONDERFUL Fashion Shows for the "Cause" - at the Town Hall, the Hope Anchor and finally the George.



I also organised an Exhibition of Rye Documents which are now kept at the County Records Office at Lewes, in the Town Hall, over Easter 1982. Coffee Mornings and raffles all helped. Unfortunately, in about 1984, the Health Authority decided they would not allow this "New Ward" scheme to progress.

MRS EVA KNIGHT

When I was 21, in 1930, I had my tonsils out there and was in for a week. In the operating theatre, the doctor said "Do you like cats?" I really screamed at him "No, I hate cats!" and then I don't remember anything else. I remember coming around from the anaesthetic - I kept shouting at the girl in the next bed, "Grace, you are unkind, why don't you move my arm?" I was laid in bed with my arm underneath me and I couldn't move it myself. The nurse was little! I said "Oh you are a tiny little thing". The nurse replied "If you know that, you've come to!!". The ward was bright and sunny. The Men's Ward was on the same level as the Ladies, and, with the doors open, you could see the men.

My son, Terry Knight, fell off his motorbike when delivering papers. The doctor was away on holiday and he had to stay in Hospital until he came back for a gash on his leg to be dealt with.

MRS MARGARET LEOPOLD née CAREY.

When the cinema was bombed, my Mother and Brother Bill, (home on leave after a voyage to Iceland on the 'Franconia'), were trapped under the rubble. The Vicar had seen them walking past the cinema, fortunately, and they were dug out and taken to Central Garage, to be laid out as dead under a tarpaulin. Dr Button was called, realised they were **not** dead and had them taken to the Hospital where he operated on Mother's very mangled legs and feet and Bill's crushed chest. He saved their lives.

MR LUCK

Mr Luck was out shooting on Sunday November 29th 1929, with a friend. Unfortunately his friend, who was walking behind, tripped, causing his gun to fire, shooting Mr Luck in the arm. The injury was quite severe.

Mr Luck was taken to Rye Memorial Hospital at 12.30. He was visited by Dr. Button who cleaned the wound. Dr. Button operated on his arm on the Tuesday and he did a

skin graft, sticking his arm to his chest. This was to keep it still and allow the graft to heal.

After six weeks his arm was separated from his chest. The graft had taken, and it was a great success. Mr Luck remained in Rye Hospital altogether for six months.

MRS DOREEN McCLEAN, née COOKE

I had my teeth operated on at the Hospital.

MRS JOAN McCORMACK

My grandmother, Mrs Lucy Head, wife of the coxswain of the "Mary Stanford" lifeboat lost in 1928, died in Rye Hospital.

In about 1948, I was working in the Canteen at the Rother Iron Works, taking the tea money. Joan Hatter, now Mrs Sherwood, was the cook at the time. We had such fun there, but one day I slipped, fell and gashed my leg. I had to go to Rye Hospital, where Dr. Mannington stitched it.

MRS MARGARET McKECHNIE

She told us, the Local History Group, that she drove the Ambulance in Rye in the War and took many wounded Servicemen, both Allied and Enemy, as well as civilian casualties, to the Hospital.

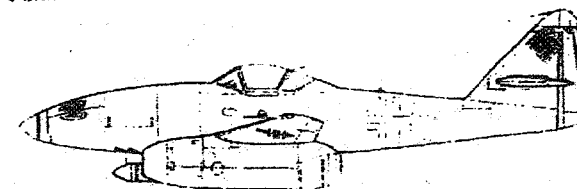
MR DAVID & MRS SUSAN MANKTELOW

David said he remembered his sister Anne having her appendix out in Sister Dear's time. Sue said Rye Hospital was wonderful to her Auntie Bess, (Mrs Pope), when she was there for respite care.

MR MOPPETT

Mr Moppett was a Police Constable in the War in Rye until he had to move to Northiam when the Police Station in Rye was bombed. He told the Group "I remember a German plane being shot down on the Marsh. The injured crew were taken to Rye Hospital and one died there. I had the job of searching his pockets. I found he had tickets for a Paris Theatre for that night!!"

A Messerschmitt 252 bomber



MRS MARIA MUFFITT (née WHITE)

When I was about eleven years old, my Mum, (now Mrs Redman), used to be the Hairdresser at the Hospital. In the holidays my sister Tina and I used to go with her and I learned crafts, such as basket weaving, there, with the patients in the Day Room. We helped to serve the tea and biscuits and lay the table for lunch. We loved it.



Our donkey used to get out of the field, (we lived at the Playden Forge), and we had to climb that hill to catch it. It always went 'up' - usually to the Hospital and Ambulance Station!

MISS JOY MURRELL

My main recollections are of going to join in the Sunday Services at the Hospital, always when it was the Methodist's turn, but often, as we lived opposite, with other denominations as well.



MRS SALLY OSBORNE

I was in Rye Hospital for three weeks after a back operation at the R.E.S.H. in 1975. I was the youngest

patient by many years and I remember being nursed by June Easter, who was in Ryesingers with me at that time, and by Linda Fairhall (née Swan) who had been at school with me. It was much more homely than the R.E.S.H., with much easier visiting for my family. The food was better too - there was a very good chef there who used to do me salads etc. for tea - many of the old people had 'sloppy meals' and I really appreciated the specially chosen food, designed to be easy to eat, as I was flat on my back.

MRL PAGE

My Mother was a nurse at Rye Hospital for many years and, as a young boy, I spent many happy days in or around the Hospital. At the time the Matron was Miss Price who, although being quite severe and formidable, always seemed to have a very caring attitude towards me, at the same time earning the respect of all her staff. This was in the days when the operating theatre was in constant use. Dr Bourke was the surgeon and Dr Parkes, the anaesthetist. I know that my Mother, Nurse Page, had a great admiration for Dr Bourke, who she thought was one of the best surgeons she had ever worked with.

As an only child with only one parent, I realise now that the Hospital, and all the staff at that time, were like a large extended family that gave me a security I would never have had otherwise. Especially at Christmas time, the whole place was decorated beautifully, and everyone made a huge effort to make all the patients feel as 'at home' as possible.

MRS BETTY PAINE (née CUTTING)

We lived in Godfrey's Row, on the corner of Ferry Road and Wish Street, during the War, until the house was bombed at lunchtime on August 18th 1940. Three people named Bumstead, who lived next door were killed. We were sheltering in the cupboard under the stairs as the planes went over and dropped a stick of bombs. I was only five, but I remember coming out covered in jam, flour and such like - it was our pantry. I looked up and saw the sky,

as upstairs and the roof had gone. My mother had a broken wrist and I had shrapnel wounds in my leg and back, (I still have the scars). My sister Sylvia was not hurt, but very badly shocked, as we all were. Her hair used to be curly, but it was instantly quite straight. Rye Hospital was full and so we were taken by car, I think, to the Infirmary at Hill House for treatment. My father was at work.

MRS WINIFRED PANKHURST

I remember the "Little Matron Price" with her faint Welsh accent, treating us very well. I was a patient several times. She did a Ward Round every morning and brought us the mail - any cards were personally delivered by her. Each afternoon we had tea - brought on a tray with tea-pot, cup and saucer, milk jug and sugar basin. Everything was done beautifully - I suppose they were not so busy as now.

MISS S.B.S. PIGROME

I have always understood that one of the reasons why Rye chose a Cottage Hospital as its War Memorial was an accident on Rye Hill in March 1905, when a young man who got off a traction engine to lead a frightened horse past it, was fatally injured when the machine fell on him: he died before they could get him to the nearest hospital in Hastings.

When I went past the Hospital on the morning of 6 May 1994, and saw the preparations for the cutting of the first turf by the McCartneys for the new Medical Centre, I was delighted to know that there really would be a successor to the Old Hospital, because it probably saved my life some 70 years ago.

It opened in 1921 and we moved into our new house in Rye Foreign just before Christmas. A few days later I got up one Sunday with a nasty pain inside, which persisted all day. For a long time I said nothing about it, but eventually admitted to my parents that there was something wrong. I was put to bed with a pack of playing cards to amuse me, and the doctor was sent for. The first

to arrive was Dr Bell, an Irish woman who rode a motorcycle, rather unusual for those days. As soon as she saw me and my cards she said "Ah, you'll never get to Heaven with the rest of us". She wasn't very happy with my condition, and called out Dr Skinner and Dr Button. I was no better next day, and by the evening, she insisted they ought to have a further opinion. So, on Monday night I was wrapped in a blanket and rushed up to the Hospital by taxi, and examined by Mr Norman Ticehurst, a surgeon from Hastings. His large white moustache drooped over me as he prodded me in various areas. "Does it hurt here? Here? and Here?" It did, it was an inflamed appendix with peritonitis and some other complication, and he operated at 11 o'clock.

No one really explained what was happening - I had been told I was there for observation - but I somehow knew, and I was very philosophical about it. I thought I might wake up, but if not, well, too bad. I had been put in the Private Ward, a little room just inside the front door (when I last saw it, it seemed to be an office) and the bed was in the middle. Matron stood on one side and held my hand, and Dr Bell sat at the other side and gave me the anaesthetic - chloroform in a kind of medicine bottle with two little antennae poking out of its neck which were pushed up my nose.

The next thing I knew it was morning. I was pleased to find I was still there, but furious to discover I wasn't wearing a proper nightie, but only a blue flannel bed jacket back to front and a very large bandage.

I was kept in bed for three weeks and had a lovely time. I was probably the youngest patient there - I was only seven years old - and was made rather a pet of. The doctors used to show me off to visitors and tease me. "What did you have for tea?" asked Dr Button. "Six boiled eggs and one piece of bread and butter!". "NO!! ONE egg and six pieces of bread and butter!!" I was given pink milk jellies too, which I liked.

A good many visitors came. Canon Fowler called, and left me his card, which made me feel very grown up, and Miss Ansell looked in, the headmistress of the school at Saltcote Place to which I should have gone that term. My new school uniform was brought up and put in the bottom drawer of the wardrobe so that I could look at it from time to time, and I was well supplied with books. The nurses were kind and friendly. Nurse Shaw was mostly on night duty, but there was Nurse Heather, and one who told me her name was Marjorie, and showed me her handkerchief with an M in the corner to prove it. The only drawback was the daily dressings, and I lived in dread of having the stitches out. "Are you going to take them out today". "No, not yet". "Are you going to take them out today?" "No, not yet". "Will you be doing it now?" "Oh, we did that yesterday!", and I hadn't felt a thing.

I was almost sorry to go home.

MRS DIANE POPE (née HAMMOND).

I remember when I was quite small, five or six years old, getting ready to go to Rye Hospital to have my adenoids and tonsils removed by Dr Bourke. We lived at the top of Udimore Road, opposite Hacking's Farm entrance and, in those days, had frequent power cuts. To my amazement, when we got to the Hospital, it was full of light from its own generator.

I was put in a little side ward at first, (where incidentally my father died in 1974 after a lot of loving kindness from Dr Nash and the staff.) The next day I was put in the Men's Ward. The only other child in the ward was a small girl in a cot. I think she was the sister of a girl I knew from Camber, Faith Paine. She cried and cried. There was a boy as well, but he was in the Ladies Ward! We were not allowed to meet.

Opposite me was the butcher, Mr Halfacree. I believe he had broken his leg. He had a large jigsaw under his bed of either the Queen Elizabeth or the Queen Mary. I crept under his bed to have a go at it!



I was not allowed to see my parents at all during the week that I was there, (risk of infection I suppose). Once I heard my father's voice in the corridor. He had bought me some chocolate as he had a sweet shop called Buntys in the High Street - a real treat, for chocolate was on ration in those days. I remember having a little cry about not seeing him.

The food was very good - except for the scrambled egg! It must have been made with powdered egg and it was horrid.

On the morning after my operation, a nurse came round with some little brown tablets, (I learned later that these were Cascara tablets, a popular laxative). I sucked mine and it tasted so awful that every day after that I pretended to take it, but stored it, and when my mother unpacked my bag on my return home, she found my hankie knotted and full of these little tablets. She was very cross!

On the day I had to go home, I remember opening the big front door of the Hospital to my parents and telling them I didn't want to go home as I had enjoyed my stay so much.

At Christmas following my stay in Rye Hospital, all the children that had been in the Hospital during the previous year, had a lovely party in the ward. Father Christmas came and we each had a present. As it was just after the Second World War had ended, and things were scarce, my present was much treasured, and I still have it. It was a text book called 'How to Study Birds'.



It had very few pictures and they were in black and white, but then books, or any present, was precious, especially as Father Christmas had actually given it!!

In 1977 I attended the Outpatients Clinic to see Mr Devas, as I had a back problem and, instead of me cycling home after the appointment, he made me go straight to bed, there and then! This time I was in the Ladies Ward, flat on my back and fitted with a corset. Every one else was geriatric and I was the only person to ask for second helpings. They were used to the elderly not eating much. I was very well cared for, especially by Mrs Hole and Bernice Haffenden, and had daily heat and physiotherapy from Mrs Jones and her staff.

One day during my stay they organised to take me, in my bed, to the Day Room for a change of scenery. I had just got settled when Sister Hall came in and decided that me in my nightie might disturb the old boys in the Day Room, so back I had to go to the Ward!

As Winchelsea had organised a celebration that week for the Silver Jubilee, Dr Townsend bent the rules and allowed me home a day early.

I also have used the Out Patients Department for various reasons, i.e. when I was expecting my daughter Astre, and for physiotherapy after two knee operations and back trouble. Once, when my husband smashed his fingers with a road roller, he was a patient.

The care and attention on all occasions has been excellent, especially when we were in pain. Rye Hospital seemed like a second home as most of the staff, over the years, either knew us or our families and were always very kind and caring.

It is sad now that when you drive by at night the hospital isn't as full of light as the very first time I visited it, all those years ago!

DAPHNE RANDS

At the end of August 1947, when staying with my Mother in Udimore Road for the week-end, I broke my leg

jumping off the returning Camber bus while it was still moving.



I still have vivid memories of several aspects of my subsequent two week stay in Rye Hospital, under the care of our family GP, Dr Mannington. As the Women's Ward was full, I was put into the Men's Ward. Such mixing, now common, was virtually unheard of at that time. However, I had only two companions: an eight year old boy recovering from bronchitis, and a young man with a broken ankle, who was employed in a local hotel. He had a walking plaster and was full of energy, but, as he 'lived in' at work, he couldn't go back to his quarters until he was fully fit. He was absolutely invaluable in running, or rather walking, errands, not merely for other patients, but for Matron.

Matron was indeed a true Mother figure, and 'helping Matron' was the aim, and pleasure, of all the patients. Among the tasks which I remember we eagerly demanded, and participated in according to our capacity, were shelling peas and darning blankets. No-one thought this extraordinary. It was the obvious and right thing to do.

After a week a vacancy occurred in the Women's Ward and I was moved in there. Among my new companions, I remember an elderly lady with a broken wrist, and another who was clearly having what we call today, 'respite care', while her family were on holiday. There was also a lady who had fairly recently moved down from London. She had some condition which necessitated her having periodic stays in hospital. She simply could not praise highly enough the care, and above all the happy and relaxed atmosphere of Rye Hospital, compared with the many large institutions of which she had experience in London. Her husband told me it had transformed both their lives,

for she now actively enjoyed her periods in hospital instead of living in dread of them. And their contacts with other patients and their visitors meant that they had come to know, and felt part of, the local community in a way which would probably have taken much longer if they had just been two isolated, healthy newcomers.

In the afternoons, local ladies came in to help on a rota basis, and I always regretted that the timetable of my stay did not allow me to tell my London office colleagues on my return that I had been given a bedpan by the Duchess of Bedford.

All this took place, of course, in the year before the National Health Service was introduced. But I still look back on it as a living illustration of the spirit in which that service was conceived, and welcomed.

MRS KATHY REDMAN

My son Andrew had to go up to Rye Hospital so much with his asthma, that he was virtually 'adopted' by Sister Purseglove and the staff. They looked after him like family. The Health Authority actually gave him a nebuliser when the Hospital closed, as it was cheaper than his frequent in-patient stays.

MRS PRISCILLA RYAN

Grandpa, (Sir Reginald Blomfield), surveyed and dealt with the maintenance of the Hospital free of charge until his death in 1942. Rye Hospital always seemed part the life of my family.

I remember Henry Burra spending hours there - he was always popping in to see the gardener etc.

One summer, when we were spending a holiday in Rye, on Point Hill, some Americans rented the house next door. One Sunday morning one of their children was badly scalded and I put her in my car and rushed her to Rye Hospital. I am sure they saved her life.

MR EDWARD SIMMS of Udimore.

The Hill House Hospital had no mortuary and I wheeled a body, with Dr. Hartley, to the Hospital Mortuary.

MRS HEATHER SUTTON

I remember going to the Hospital for the Christmas Party when I was about seven, in the 1950's. I had visited the Hospital to have a bite treated earlier in the year and so got an invitation. We had an entertainment - I can recall a kind of stage and, just before we left, we were given a present - mine was a little green wooden chair. My father came for me in the Land Rover - it was very dark going out into the night!

I have taken my own children since - there was always 'the sweetie tin' for them - to help forget the pain!

MR JIMPER SUTTON

I had my appendix taken out at Rye Hospital in 1952. I remember going to Outpatients as a child and to the Christmas Parties. At these parties all the children got a nice present and there was a good tea laid out on fold-up wooden tables. This was followed by an entertainment on a stage/platform put up at one end of the Ward.

MRS CONSTANCE WARRENDER (née FOWLER)

I remember my Father, Canon John Fowler, the Vicar of Rye, visiting the Hospital regularly and I have a photograph of him with three nurses in 1930. On the back two of them are named as Nan and Frances Bloomer.

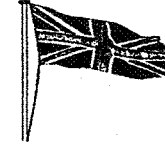


MR MICHAEL WHITEMAN

I can remember, before the Hospital was completed, it was the regular 'Sunday Walk' of 'Ryers', to go to see how much of the Hospital had been built during that week. I lived on Tillingham Avenue with my Aunt and Uncle and

can recall thinking to myself - "I've got to trail all the way up Leasam Bank again!"

I was three years old when it opened and I was taken to stand in Tower Street to see the Princess go past. I was lifted up to see and I had a little flag to wave.



My Father's name was on the tablet inside the building - he was a Brede man - but he was killed in the Great War and I never saw him.

I spent a month in Rye Hospital as a patient just before it closed. I enjoyed it - I was looked after so well and there was such a good crowd of people - it was a 'homely home' and I knew everyone.

MRS JANET WOOD née WELLER

I remember going the Hospital when I was a child for my tonsils to be taken out. It meant I was invited to the lovely children's party at Christmas - my present was a game called 'Halima'.

MR ARTHUR WOODGATE

Apart from being at the opening of the Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital, (as a Cub in the Guard of Honour), my first recollection of activity towards its existence was standing, with staff in hand and dressed in the green uniform of the Wolf Cubs. I was outside the Landgate Stores at the bottom of King Street where Mr Foord, (the father of Mrs Waters of 'milk fame'), was looking after his grocery shop. I was to guard the pennies forming part of the 'mile of pennies' being placed on the kerb of the pavements, to help pay for the maintenance of the Hospital. The coins were to be placed from where I stood, up through the Landgate and Hilders Cliff along the High Street, and although I am not quite clear on this, I believe down Tower Street as well.

An interesting, but tragic incident happened whilst I, then a boy of eight, stood at my post. Although motor traffic was not anything like it is today, a motor car hit and seriously injured a cat, and Mr Foord came out and put the poor thing out of its misery.

The 'Captain Corys Own', 1st Rye Troop of Scouts, and its Cub Pack, seemed to continue to take part in supporting the Hospital all it could, under the leadership of Mrs Cory, *[the widow of the founder Captain Cory, who had served in the Boer War with Lord Baden-Powell. Ed.]*.

The main annual function was the Open Air Market, held, appropriately, in Market Street, at the end of August. (I remember that, because 'Captain Corys Own' went off to camp immediately afterwards, and this was always the first two weeks in September). We had a hand cart which we called a track cart, and we were always made responsible for the greengrocery stall. This was pretty big because off we used to go, with our track cart, around the allotments, (which have since been 'stolen' by the Thomas Peacocke Community College!) and begged from the allotment holders all that we could. When I look now at the route from the Ferry Road end of the school to Market Street, I think it was a good job there were many of us, or we would never have made it. The gardeners were very generous, and I, even now, cannot get through the runner bean season without seeing in my mind's eye, a hand cart heaped with runner beans, and, when we put them on the stall, it was difficult to prevent them from falling off. However we always seemed to get rid of all the vegetables and do very well for the funds.

Looking back it is exciting to have seen Market Street being so used with stalls of all sorts, from the top of Lion Street to the top of East Street and some in the Lion Street school playground and under the Town Hall arches.

At this point it comes to my mind, that, as well as Lady McIlwraith and Mr Thomas Bushby, two other characters should be given places of honour in the history of the

Hospital. The greatest of these of course, (and I mean greatest) was Martin Button, Surgeon, who ran a General Practice in Rye as well as doing all the operations in the Hospital for many years. It was his idea that a Memorial to the dead should be something to save life, so from that came the effort to realise such thought into reality. In my opinion, Martin Button should be remembered somehow within the venture of the Memorial Health Centre.

The name of Alderman Jesse Louis Deacon, J.P., C.C., F.R.Hist. Socy., a very prominent Mayor and noisy member of the Council at that period in Rye's history, ought to be kept in mind. Whilst he was one of the most boring people to listen to when he was public speaking, (he nearly drove teachers crazy when he addressed classes in the old Board Schools, as a member of the Board), he had a charming manner, which was no doubt instrumental in extracting donations from those who could afford it, and he presented Lady McIlwraith with the freedom of the Borough of Rye.

Many such donations must have been made because a system developed whereby poor persons, requiring Hospital treatment, could go to Miss Lucy Proctor, who lived where the Midland Bank now is, and get a letter to cover the cost of their stay in Hospital as a result of money paid in donations to Miss Proctor.

As well as continuing efforts by the two Antient Boroughs, the eight other villages of the old Rye Union of parishes pulled their weight and the summer highlights, especially for Beckley and Brede were the annual summer parades, with brass bands leading them the length of the villages to the Church for a service, and followed by selections of music played by the bands on the village greens afterwards.

For some years through this period a Police Sergeant, Walter Anthony, was the most outstanding collector. Something of a Pickwickian character, he would move along with the procession with a large collection box and a

large smile and lively comments. What cars there were would have to slow down behind the procession or stop in front of it, and this gave him the chance to extract donations from the occupants. It was very rare that anyone ever escaped from Sergeant Anthony, and I have even seen him standing on the running boards, (which all cars had then), with his tin, head and shoulders all in the open car window, just as they were moving off. No one escaped him then, nor did they as they slowed to listen going by the band playing on the village green!

Being in the front line in the Battle of Britain, of course, our little Hospital had a big job to do, and once again the tremendous efforts of Martin Button came into play, where, together with the other local doctors, the Hospital dealt with injured friend and foe alike. Some help however, came from a small Medical Corps Advanced Dressing Station set up in Watchbell Street, and the two casualty units were in complete co-operation.

I remember manning the First Aid Post on Watchbell Street and watching, with Dr. Button, a Spitfire fly overhead and go down into the fields by Camber Castle, just as if it was going into water. Dr. Button said "It's no good going - there's nought but twisted metal there!"

We, in the St. Johns Ambulance, were called out every time the Siren sounded. Jack Tiltman was the Superintendent, my Father was the Ambulance Officer and Mrs Hartley, the Nursing Officer.

I recall the day the 'stick of bombs' was dropped on Rye [August 18th 1940. Ed.]. The German plane was shot down and the pilot was taken to Rye Hospital. He was in a bad way and he already had gangrene in his fingers - I suppose he had been needed to fly on this mission even though he was ill. Some of the victims of his bombs were also in the Hospital, and the German pilot was in the bed next to Mr J.H.Bumstead, who was dying from his wounds. Mrs Bumstead, his wife, and their son George, had been killed and he soon passed away as well. When

the pilot eventually also died, Dr. Button found two theatre tickets for a Paris Theatre in his pocket.

Other German pilots were taken to Rye Hospital and the situation got rather rough on one occasion, when soldiers from the Radar Station, which had been bombed, were also there and they were shell-shocked.

I spent a period as a patient in the Rye, Winchelsea and District War Memorial Hospital in 1953, where Dr Bourke, G. P. at Winchelsea and a surgeon, removed my appendix. He was assisted by Dr Mannington, G. P. in Rye. It was a wonderful experience where staff and patients were more like one big family. Although by then it was part of the National Health Service, the dedication still being exercised is evident by the two local medics still running the theatre.

As a member of St John's, for many years I helped to crew the Motor Ambulance, so I can testify for the work the Hospital did in dealing with casualties, especially at weekends in the summer time. There was always one of the local doctors on call so we could always go there straight from any accidents and be sure of almost immediate medical attention. The same happened with industrial accidents. There was never any resentment of the volunteers by the professional staff and we often helped with the admissions of patients. I can remember, at the request of nurses, bathing a man who had fallen from a scaffold and, although conscious, he could not get into a bath. Then, afterwards, we had a cup of tea with them. What a wonderful spirit of co-operation there was in those days.

During the making of the film "Dunkirk" at the Strand Quay, a visiting car was driven into the Tillingham. The two people in it were rescued by one of the film crew who jumped off a gantry, dived in, and brought the man and woman to the surface, but they were both not breathing. Some of our St John unit arrived with the Ambulance very quickly and started artificial respiration. Soon some more

of us turned up, so we kept the pumping going on the man whilst loading and travelling in the Ambulance to the Hospital. On arrival, we put him on the operating table and carried on with the rocking stretcher method of artificial respiration. Meanwhile the woman had recovered, but unfortunately the man didn't make it, even after an hour or two of rocking. The purpose of this story is to show how we used to use our Hospital when it really did belong to the people of the district.

MRS CORA WOOLLEY

My father, Edward Batcheler M.M., was the Foreman Decorator for William Breeds at the Hospital. It was his first big job after he came back from the Great War. (He had been awarded his Military Medal for crawling, with his mate, as stretcher bearers with the Royal West Kents, across No-Mans Land to save their officer.)

My husband's father, Harry Woolley, was a bricklayer on the Hospital project.

I was present at the opening, I am told, at the age of one. I was with my mother and brother Colin, who was aged seven. (He was a member of the 14th Army and was killed by the Japanese on 13th June 1945, i.e. after V.E. Day.)

As a patient, I had the last but one operation in the Hospital, performed by Mr Bourke, before he died. Sister Wood was so kind!

CHAPTER 4

THE TUESDAY DAY CENTRE MEMORIES

(Collated by Miss Winifred Allen.)

I.K. Found the food super and the matron very kind.

Alice F. "I loved going up to the Hospital for my bath."

Frank Clark. Thought Rye Hospital was very good. He worked there as a barber. He remembers Miss Davies, the Matron, she helped out on the wards. He also remembered that Mr Bray was the first patient to be operated on there.

Ena Reed. Found the food good and the staff kind - very much like being in a hotel. When she and her husband were there together, she was wheeled into see him.

Ciss Grove. Remembers her dog was allowed to visit her. She appreciated being looked after by local people.



Lily Hobbs. Her husband was well looked after and she appreciated the ease of visiting.

Ethel Griffiths. Found the Hospital kind and homely. She remembers going out with a collecting box and standing outside Lion Street School to raise money for it when she was a child.

The emphasis on good food lingers in most minds!!

CHAPTER 5

BADGER GATE RESIDENTS REMEMBER:-

February 1995

(Kindly collated by Mrs Marie Harris, the Warden.)

Mrs Julie Hamilton had a hip replacement operation in 1972 at the Royal East Sussex Hospital. She then recovered afterwards at Rye Hospital for two weeks. In earlier days she was a patient of Doctor Button and said her treatment was excellent.

Mrs Daphne Rolstone had her tonsils removed there in 1936.

Mrs Merie Bryant had treatment for a slipped disc and acute sciatica in Rye Hospital in 1973. She said that her stay was like "home from home".

Mr James Knight had an hernia operation there in 1954. He was treated by Doctor Bourke.

Quite a few other Badger Gate Residents were in Rye Hospital, recovering from all kinds of complaints from

pleurisy and pneumonia, to going in for a rest, and they all said that the treatment was wonderful.

CHAPTER 6

RYE MEMORIES OF RYE HOSPITAL

Extracts from the previous 22 Volumes in the Series.

MR BOB BURNETT

"When I was ill my parents asked the doctor to call, only if it was something that was difficult for my parents or the chemist to deal with. The doctor had a sliding scale and his charges were based on what he thought his patients could afford. At the age of about 8 or 9 I had to go to the Hospital, on Rye Hill. To get there, my parents had to hire a taxi - an exceptional measure!"

[from R.M. : Vol. 13 : WHEN I WAS YOUNG : Page 15.]

MR KENNETH CLARK

"From time to time before the War, I was taken to a white- elephant sale held in Market Street and the playground of the Lion Street Schools in aid of the Hospital. On one occasion I was enchanted by a very interesting large black clock with white luminous hands. No end of pestering, however, could persuade my Mother and Aunt to buy it for me. In the end, the organiser of the event, Lady Maud Warrender of Leasam, one of Rye's greatest and most noble benefactors, saw my plight and decided to take up my cause. Her intervention proved decisive and my Mother bought the clock for me for 6d. (!) and told me to take it home with me to The Mint.

On my arrival home, my Uncle, Ted. Parlett, promptly confiscated it, for he felt that it was too good to be in a young child's hands - and doubtless he was right! At the time, I was greatly upset and a family dispute arose. My Uncle received the full blast of my Mother's (and, I believe, my Aunt's) wrath, probably a little unjustly. In the end the clock was restored to me and is still (1988) in my possession, undamaged, except that a repairer (?) has

removed the luminous paint from its hands! It is prized mainly for its association with Lady Maud."

[from R.M. : RYE CHILDHOODS : Vol. 5 : Page 41.]

SICKNESS AND HEALTH : MR (BILL) WILLIAM CUTTING'S MEMORIES

"I caught T.B from my Mother when I was very young - it developed and was noticed when I was about seven years old. I was left at home and treated with tablespoons of cod liver oil and a lump of malt, (collected by Mother in 2lb Golden Syrup tins!), three times a day. I got fed up with this after three years and then the doctors replaced it with "Virol" three times a day!. On asking for another change, they gave me "Malt" again!!

I had various primitive X-Rays at Hastings Hospital - in the Outpatients' Department, which was where the White Rock Pavilion/Theatre is now. My doctor, the T.B. man, was called Dr Conway-Morgan and he lived at Ore, I think. This would be during World War I. I remember Bert Hobbs waving to me as I went with Mother to the Hospital.

Sid Tiltman, Bert Small and myself all had T.B. at the same time. Sid was taken to the Sanatorium built in the grounds of Hill House, for a time, and went to Playden School with the other children that were in there with him. I have been in Hospital twenty times since then, nine of them in Rye - and Rye Hospital is best. I still think of it as the "Cottage Hospital". Each time I was taken there by ambulance and before the war, it was manned by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. I was a member of St. John's myself for twelve years.

Wright and Pankhurst ran and housed the Ambulance in the 1930's. My son Michael fell on the ice on the Ferry Road Junior School playground and broke his hip (he was three years old). The ambulance was called and it had another patient, (a girl named Turner), to be taken to the Hospital at the same time. I, as a member of the St. John's Brigade, should have been able to use the ambulance free.

However, we got a bill for the journey. I took it round to Mr Woodgate, Senior, (Arthur's Father), and he said it was just the excuse they had been waiting for. A meeting was called and, as a result, the St. John's took over the management of the ambulance. Sid Tiltman was one of the first to drive it for the Brigade, as the "R. and D. Ambulance".

My Grandma Cutting had some favourite remedies. She got the herb "Orrown" from the beach, boiled it in water, drained the liquid and this was drunk to cure bronchitis. Ground ivy, prepared in the same way, was good for eye trouble. Grandma Apps used to make ointment from primroses, which was good for cuts. Lily leaves laid in vinegar were used too. I remember my father slit his finger right down through the nail. My Great-Aunt wrapped a leaf round the piece of flesh hanging off and in ten days it had healed together again!

[from R M : Vol. 9. Page 19.]

MISS MOLLY KIMPTON

I could almost call Rye Hospital my "second home". I was present at its opening and I spoke to Princess Louise. Most of the Rye Schoolchildren were there. I remember we had to go back to school to write poems and articles about the occasion. Miss Davies was its first Matron and Dr. Button did the operations. My first operation there was at the age of ten and I had my appendix out at twelve. It was always nice and very busy. Surgery took place on three days a week, one day was set aside for minor things like warts being taken off, and the other day the dentist worked in the theatre. In other words every day the theatre was worked flat out. Dr Bell, a lady doctor was always around in those early days.

Visiting hours were only 2-4pm on Wednesdays and Sundays and lights were out at 8pm promptly every night! In winter there were always coal fires burning in each ward to keep it warm and cheerful. You had to pay for everything privately in those days.

There were lovely gardens there - Matron had a rockery of which she was very proud and Mr Smith was the gardener. Both Wards had balconies onto which the beds were pushed when the weather was nice, if we wanted to go. We had a beautiful outlook and on the lawn was a large bird bath, and so always birds to watch. There was a very pampered ginger cat around and he jumped on your bed if he could manage it!



When Miss Davies retired to get married, Miss Richardson was Matron and things carried on as before.

The Scott family of Pelsham did a great deal for the Hospital - they used to bring in fresh fruit and vegetables every week. Many people brought in surplus vegetables, fruit and flowers from their large gardens.



Every Christmas, all the children who had been patients during the year were invited to a party on Boxing Day. The Matron and staff and later the League of Friends, organised it. We had games and entertainers like Mr Tom Longley, lovely food and crackers etc. and there were presents for everyone from the big Christmas tree. For years I went to the Hospital for the Boxing Day Party - I was a 'regular'.

As the N.H.S. started and extra buildings were constructed from donations and the League of Friends, things changed and expanded. It was very busy with clinics for out-patients. It was a great advantage not to have the long journey to Hastings.

Sadly things were closed down, but now it's the future to look to, a great many kind folks are working very hard to make it all a great success.

[Augmented Extract R M : Vol. 12 : RYERS RECALL : Pages 39,40,41]

MRS WINIFRED ETHEL LAW

I remember pushing my brother up to see the opening of the Rye Memorial Hospital by Princess Louise. The Matron and Nurses lived in the upstairs. I once had to go into the Hospital, as I got appendicitis. It was about 1923/4, as I was at school. We paid 6d (2½p) a week for Hospital Savings Society (H.S.S.), but still we needed two signatures to get me admitted - one was Mr Truelove who lived on the High Street and the other was Mrs Pemberton from Monastery House. Dr Button took me in his car and did the operation. Dr. Skinner was doing his rounds and asked the nurse for 'forceps'! An old lady in the corner shouted "For goodness sake give the doctor his corsets!" I remember the big bell on the roof, a fire bell, was rung at 11am on 11th November every year for Armistice Day.

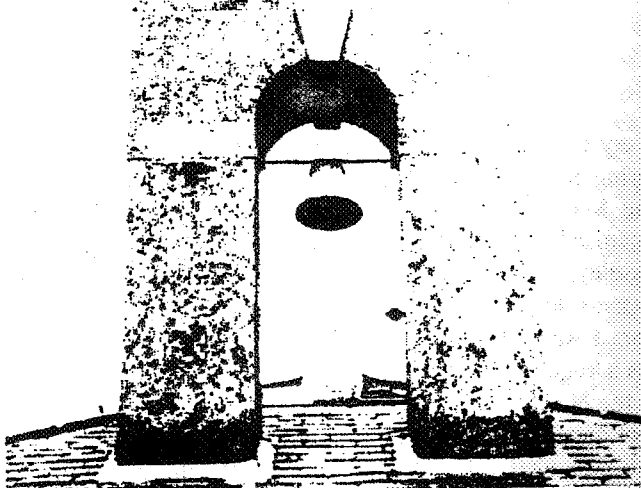


Photo: E. Wetherill

We hardly ever went to the doctor when we were ill - my mother had some remedies like lily leaves which she put on sores, camphor oil and cod liver oil. I don't know if they cured, but they didn't kill!

I brought Margaret, [now Mrs M. Blackman. Ed.], back from Bedford to have her appendix taken out in Rye by Dr Button, because we had paid for it here!

[Augmented extract R M: Vol. 13 : WHEN I WAS YOUNG : Page 37.]:

DR. CHRISTOPHER S. PITCHER

Doctors Button and Hartley attended us and I had a tonsillectomy in Rye Memorial Hospital about 1932.

[from : Vol. 13 : WHEN I WAS YOUNG : Page 56.]

MRS WINIFRED REED (nee HALES)

I just stayed in bed when I was ill and twice I went into Rye Memorial Hospital. I was one of the first patients. I think I went by taxi.

[from R M : Vol. 13 : WHEN I WAS YOUNG : Page 64.]

MR ARTHUR WOODGATE

His recollections are in Chapter 3 of this book and in [R M : Vol. 1 : "GOODBYE BLJOU" Page 72.]

CHAPTER 7

MEMORIES OF SOME OF THE STAFF OF RYE HOSPITAL

MRS JOAN BEACH

My family and I moved to Rye in January 1975 and I joined the staff at Rye Memorial Hospital in March 1975.

The Nursing Officer was Mrs Pilkington. She had come from her previous job as Ward Sister on the Orthopaedic Ward at R.E.S.H., Hastings. Also on the staff were Mrs Hale, June Easter, Margaret Hall, Anne Bruce, Gail Kingsmill, Mrs Sherwood (wife of Percy Sherwood, Town Sergeant and Town Crier at that time), Mrs Bowler, Shirley Andrews, Rose Tiltman and Bernie Knight.

The Hospital consisted of two wards of seven beds each, a male and a female, plus a side ward. We had a sluice and



Photo: MRS. KNIGHT, MRS. TILTMAN, MRS. JOAN BEACH AND MR. JEMPSON (PATIENT) : XMAS 1976



Photo: MISS BAZLEY, JOAN, SISTER BRUCE

and bathroom for each ward, sister's office, and ward kitchen. There was also a kitchen where food was prepared for the patients, with Mr Shanahan in charge.

The small Casualty Department, which was originally the Operating Theatre, was used for patients coming in to have dressings and minor casualties.

The patients' own G.P. was rung if they attended as casualties and one G.P. a day was on call for patients from outside the area.

The G.P.'s in residence in Rye during my stay were Dr. Parkes, Dr. Townsend, Dr. Nash and Dr. Kelly.

Whilst I was there, the League of Friends raised enough money to build a Day Room area. It was built so that it could be used as a ward if necessary, but it never was!

As well as our own patients using the Day Room, we had patients coming in for the day, who needed bathing with the use of our hoist and who needed dressings doing. They stayed all day and had lunch with us.

When I left in 1977, Miss Bazley was the Nursing Officer as Mrs Pilkington had retired.

We had a very small X-Ray Department with a Radiographer who lived locally on call. The Out-Patient Department was in almost daily use, with Consultants from R.E.S.H. and the Buchanan coming over to do Clinics. I myself attended the Out-Patients when I was pregnant in 1978 and 1979.

Mrs Fooks was the Secretary and she also helped out with bookings at the Clinics.

MR EGAN-BOURKE

(Mrs Egan-Bourke kindly sent us a copy of her husband's Obituary which appeared in a local paper in 1963. We reproduce a section of it.)



MR. EGAN-BOURKE

HIS UNTIRING SKILL SAVED MANY SERVICE MEN'S LIVES.

The death occurred suddenly at his home, Lines End, Winchelsea, on Saturday, of Mr Egan-Bourke, at the age of 54.

He was consultant surgeon to Rye Memorial Hospital for the past 13 years, and also had a general practice at his Winchelsea home. Born in County Limerick, he came of an old Irish family.

He leaves a widow and two sons, Miceal and Brian.

Mr Egan-Bourke had recently undergone an operation and made a splendid recovery. He had resumed light duties, and his death was an unexpected shock to his family and innumerable friends.

During the 1939-45 War he went to the Ministry of Pensions Hospital at Newquay, Cornwall, where he operated day and night to save the lives of Servicemen who were flown from the Continent.

He took all his degrees and Fellowship at Edinburgh. After taking his Fellowship, he progressed to the post of senior surgeon at Paddington Hospital. He followed this as senior surgeon at St. Leonard's Hospital, London.

He was an active member of the St. Cosman and Damian Guild in London and a member of the London-Irish Rugby and Golfing Clubs, as well as being a member of Rye Golf Club. The funeral service took place yesterday, Thursday, at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Rye.

The following appreciation has been sent to the Editor of the Express-Herald:

'I feel I cannot let this occasion go without paying tribute to my friend, Mr E.E.Bourke. It is some thirteen years ago that I persuaded him to practice in Winchelsea. This practice and Rye Hospital became his absorbing interest. He was the only general surgeon we had at Rye Hospital, and he did practically all the operating there. Indeed, from a general surgical point of view, he made the Hospital.

He was one of the last general-practitioner-surgeons, and was both a competent and keen surgeon. But he also liked to meet his

patients in their own home surroundings as their personal doctor, and he knew them all intimately.

Mr Bourke had an Irishman's typical indifference for time, and never hesitated to give the whole of himself to each case as it presented itself to him. He became so absorbed in each patient that it was difficult to keep to any set timetable.

There are many people in the neighbourhood who owe their lives to his skill and their health to his care. He will be sorely missed.

He was a dedicated man.' H.M.

MEMORIES OF MRS ALISON CADE

I offered my services to Matron Penny Pilkington as Radiographer in about 1970. I was on call for doing X-Rays from then until the Hospital closed. The machine was rather old fashioned by then and only did extremities.

MRS DORIS CARREE

I first went to work at Rye Memorial Hospital in about 1976. I was transferred from Hill House Hospital and was given the post as Housekeeping Supervisor. This was a new post, as the cleaning duties had been put under a new management to relieve the Nursing Department, for them to concentrate on Nursing Duties only.

There was no longer a Matron who used to be in charge of cleaners, porters, cooks, gardeners etc. We were to be known as Auxiliary Staff. The nurses had a Nursing Officer who was Miss Bazely.

The Day Room had just been built, paid for by the League of Friends. This was a great asset to patients as they now had somewhere to sit apart from the Wards, and meals were served there. It also allowed the Hospital to have Day Patients. They came in for baths and had a lunch - it was a day out for them - especially those living on their own.

Until the late 1980's, the Hospital was very busy and it played a very large part in the life of Rye, especially for the elderly. The Physiotherapy Department was a very active and friendly department, as was the Clinic. The

Hospital was used for minor injuries - especially at weekends.

In 1986, the Hastings Health Authority asked me if I would take a course in Domestic Science to help with my job as Housekeeping Supervisor at both Hill House and Rye Memorial Hospital. I took a two year course and passed City and Guilds in Domestic and Cleaning Science with two Distinctions and two Credits. Bearing in mind my schooldays were difficult, I thought it was quite an achievement.

Until about two years before closure, all meals were cooked on site. There was a full time chef called Mrs Channon ('Cinders'). There was a porter, Mr Peter Macdonald, who also did the garden and any minor repairs. He also helped the mortician, as the Mortuary was used for outside people as well as patients.

The Community Nurses were also based at the Hospital. The upstairs was used for meetings by all sorts of Departments. The staff used some rooms as rest rooms and there was a small flat which was let out to trainee doctors attached to the local surgeries.

Although it was a small Hospital, as I said, it was always busy, with a very homely atmosphere. We all worked together.

The League of Friends was very active too. Due to the generosity of local people, they helped the Hospital to have a lot of extras - special bed covers, televisions in all rooms, nice furnishings. Christmas was well celebrated with marvellous parties - the nurses worked hard to entertain the patients themselves. No birthday was forgotten. A cake was waiting as they tried to make it a special day.



A nice hair-do for a lady or hair-cut if a man, with the nurse and patient hidden behind a door so as not to be seen having it done. Dress up and be smart was the order of the

day! How some of them loved the feeling of being important!

The threat of closure hung over our heads for a long time. The Cook was transferred to Hastings and meals came first from Hill House and then from Hastings. Patients were sent to Hastings Hospitals, except for a few. Clinics got smaller and, as the big fight was on to save our Hospital with all sorts of protests organised, the Building was generally run down.

The rundown was very depressing, the staff left were gradually transferred. The Porter was made redundant, Departments were closed and then the day came when the last two in-patients went to Battle Hospital and the last Day patients were transferred to Greyfriars, Winchelsea.

There were about eight members of staff left and we waited for the Works Department and Management from Hastings to switch off all the services and lock the doors. It was a very sad day and a piece of history was gone for ever.

Among the last staff members there were myself, Margaret Butcher, June Easter and Doreen Harman.

February 1995.

I look back at what I said in March 1992 and smile : I quote from *RYE MEMORIES : COUNTRYSIDE WAYS : Volume 17 : Page 52-3:*

"Although Hill House Hospital has now gone, I am still working at Rye Memorial Hospital and am waiting anxiously to hear what will happen to it. I have visions of me, in years to come, being pushed along the corridors of the new Rye Memorial Resource Centre saying, 'We didn't do it like that in my day!'."

MRS JUNE EASTER

I went into Rye Hospital when I was eight to have my tonsils out. I remember everyone made a fuss of me - and gave me ice cream! Mr Button used to call me 'Daddy Long Legs', as I was quite tall for my age. One night a bloke stood at the end of my bed saying "I've seen the

Lord!" I was tired and became cross. I told him "Well, go away and look for him somewhere else!"

My Father always said to go into Rye Hospital was like going home. I remember him telling me about the man in the next bed who always put his medicine in the flower water and of how he used to cover his 'bottle' with his newspaper!

I began work at the Hospital in 1967, after two years at Hastings. I loved it - I did all sorts of jobs - 'on nights', 'on days' and on the 'community'. I had some lovely 'nights' working with Sister Wood - she used to tell such wonderful stories. So many worked there - but I recall Rose Tiltman, Mrs Hole, 'Skippy' Tanner, Joan Beach, Miss Kirkland, Mrs Parkes and Doreen Harman.

I can see now, the old black iron bedsteads being changed for modern ones.

When they were closing the Hospital it was as if they were cutting off my right arm - I was so upset, I was nearly ill. Chris Butchers and I had done the Day Hospital for the last year and it was to be her job to lock the Hospital door for the last time. She very kindly let me do it with her - it was the most awful moment I ever remember! However I have been into the new building twice - and it has just the same feel as the old one!

MRS MARJORIE FOOKS

I began to work at the Hospital as Secretary in 1981 and stayed until it closed in 1992. I have so many memories. Many patients used to give the staff presents when they left, tea, coffee, biscuits, chocolates etc. Sometimes they left money and this was put into a fund and every so often, say twice a year, everybody on the staff went out for a meal. I do mean **everybody**, from the Senior Nurse to the Housekeeper and the Porter. This was one of the things that made Rye Hospital so special a place to work in.

MRS PAT GRAY née GREENHALGH.

I trained as an S.R.N. at the Hastings School of Nursing and transferred from the R.E.S.H. in 1958 to Rye

Memorial Hospital. I started as a Staff Nurse and after a year was promoted to Night Sister, but I was alone! I found the atmosphere relaxed and friendly after the big wards of various Hastings Hospitals.

I was always extra busy following operations, but the patients recovered quickly and there never seemed to be any post-operative complications.

My hours were 8.30pm - 8.30am for four nights a week and I remember doing a variety of things besides caring for patients. Many casualties were treated, Matron X-Rayed patients and the two day sisters were on call as theatre sisters, though there was never a night operation during my three years there. Each night I took Matron her bedtime drink of Horlicks and occasionally looked after resident staff if they were unwell. Upstairs, Matron, Miss Hay, had a flat above the wards and Miss Kirkland (the physiotherapist) and Ada (the cook) had their bedrooms. There were also staff dining-sitting rooms, bathroom and store rooms.

One of my memories is of a hot Sunday evening when many people who had been 'sun-worshipping' at Camber Sands arrived at the Hospital feeling unwell with varying degrees of sunburn and sunstroke. Some needed 'first aid' for blisters and headaches, others a cool bath and the worse cases were admitted, but they looked a 'sorry sight' sitting or laying down all over the hall.

Another incident occurred when I forgot to lock the front door one dark night and, hearing a noise, I found a young man in Matron's office. He said his name was 'Bill Bailey'; his explanation was vague and he wouldn't leave the building. I persuaded him to come with me into the kitchen (where I had two exits) and made him a cup of tea. I had a male patient, who happened to be awake, 'on guard', as from his bed he could see through the ward window into the kitchen window opposite. Three long rings on his bell was the emergency call to bring Matron downstairs for any emergency! After much persuasive

talking, 'the intruder' allowed me to use the phone, though he stood over me to ensure I wasn't dialling for the Police, and I phoned for a taxi and he left!

Another time a 'gentleman of the road' called and asked for help. I allowed him to sleep in the porch and gave him tea and porridge before he left next morning. It was suggested by Matron that I shouldn't show such men favours in the future. Occasionally they still turned up and, to make themselves into medical cases, they would say "I fell into a ditch" or "I've swallowed tablets or an open safety-pin"! It was left to the doctor on call and the Police to make a decision - but they were all charming men, with a tale to tell and I was not afraid of them.

When all the nurse's hours were reduced to 44 hours per week, an auxiliary joined me, Miss Joy, who was real treasure and good company. We were now allowed to each take an hour off in the night, to ensure we had a hot meal, and the cook left us lovely meals to warm up on the Aga. As night staff, in our quiet moments, we were required to prepare theatre packs, and prepare patients' breakfast trays. All patients had individual stainless steel teapots, milk jugs and sugar bowls. Every night the patients' flowers were removed to the sluice room, freshened up and returned to the ward next morning. We kept the paperwork up to date, wrote a nightly report and did items hand sewing. The main repairs needing machining etc. were carried out by a group of volunteer ladies who met weekly and my Mother, Mrs Agnes Greenhalgh, was a member of this group for years.

There was a unique family atmosphere in the Hospital, with a high standard of nursing care. I left the area when I married in 1961, but consider the three years I worked there as the happiest in my nursing life.

MRS JANET JONES.

I began work at Rye Hospital as a Physiotherapist in 1954. I was employed just to help the patients on the Wards -

and I worked in the mornings only. Miss Hay was the Matron.

In November 1956 a separate Physiotherapy Unit was built with a legacy from Mr Bowen and we were able, at last, to have an Outpatients' Department. I worked there until Christmas 1956 when I left to have my family. After about a year, Miss Kirkland came to take over the Department and she stayed for some 20 years.

In 1970 I returned to work part time. Miss Hay was still there. Miss Holmes replaced Miss Kirkland and then Mrs Quick joined us from about January 1992. In March 1992, we moved down to the Ferry Road Clinic, and we have been there ever since.

MRS ROSE TILTMAN.

I worked at Rye Hospital from 1948 on and off until 1975.

The **Linen Guild** met on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm with Lady Bray in charge. The ladies met to mend sheets, pillow cases and pyjamas etc. Junior nurses would take a tea tray up to Mrs Jennings, Mrs Hacking Sr., Mrs Reeves, Mrs Kendall, Mrs Kenward and Lady White?, who lived on Church Square.

The League of Friends. They bought lots of extras, such as more pillow cases, because the Hospital was hard up. I remember the Chairman of the Hospital, who sat on the League of Friends, saying that three pairs of pyjamas had been lost when sent to the Hastings Laundry at St Helens Hospital. Mrs Holmes then bought four pairs to replace the lost ones. (The Nurses used to sluice out the sheets first before sending them to the Laundry.)

The Sunday joint for lunch was given in turn by Lord Davenport, Robert Scott and Sir Hugh Bray.



Surgeons. All operations were carried on there, for example tonsils were taken out. Mr Bourke was the last Surgeon and Doctors Trevor Parkes, Hugh Mannington and Kellaheer, took turns in being the Anaesthetist. Doctor Hartley did not do this, I think.

Matrons and Staff. The Matron I first worked with was Dilys Price, then came Matron Hay, Penny Pilkington and finally Miss Bazely.

In 1948 there was the Matron, Sister, two Student Nurses and one Night Sister, called Sister Wildsmith, on the staff. She, Sister Wildsmith, did the flower garden and made soft toys through the winter to sell and then to buy bulbs for the Hospital gardens.

Matron Price was a great believer in Occupational Therapy for convalescence and had patients in the scullery cutting beans. Boiling and preserving fruit was normal, as was putting eggs into ising-glass. Whatever was given to the Hospital was never wasted.

Mr Catt, who lived in the cottage, was the porter, cleaner and gardener. His wife also used to clean the Hospital. I remember he used to polish the floors twice a week.

The Christmas Party. It was held on the 28th or 29th of December. The men patients pushed their beds out as far as they would go to get the Ward empty and then they were put into the Ladies Ward. Every child who had been in the Hospital during the year was invited.

1921 Opening. I was told that on the night of the opening, a Ball was held for sixty people at the Monastery. The opener of the Hospital, Princess Louise, had come and gone by train, after having had tea with Lady Maud Warrender at Leasam.

MRS JOAN VINCETT

I went to Rye Hospital in 1951, as Sister Dear, and worked there until I married in 1953. Matron Price was a terrific woman - very strict but well liked. We did all kinds of operations with Matron and myself assisting Mr Bourke.

The Red Cross came up and helped look after the Wards whilst we were in Theatre.

Sister Wildsmith was the Night Sister and Rose Tiltman was Orderly. I went back as Holiday Relief for part of 1955 and then, after having my family, I went as Clinic Nurse in Ferry Road in 1966. I then went on to be a District Nurse and Health Visitor.

MRS EDNA WISE, (née PULFORD) - of Rye and Icklesham.

I was present at the Opening of Rye Hospital, for as a Girl Guide, I formed part of the Guard of Honour.



H.R.H. Princess Louise with Lady Maud Warrender after having inspected the Guard of Honour 5th Royal Sussex (Territorial) and the Girl Guides at the Opening of the Hospital.

RED CROSS NURSES AT RYE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

I joined the Red Cross and attended classes at Guestling prior to taking my first examination in 1933, having been interested in nursing since I was a young child. (I used to watch the injured soldiers of the First World War being nursed at the Monastery.)

Red Cross training included First Aid, Home Nursing, and First Aid in Chemical Warfare training. It is interesting that Chemical Warfare training took place as early as 1934. [Mrs Wise sent us copies of all her Certificates. Ed.]

I transferred to the Winchelsea Red Cross detachment on its formation around 1937/38.

As part of Red Cross Training, I carried out nursing duty at Rye Memorial Hospital between 1941 and 1948. Our hours there were recorded and counted towards our Red Cross duty hours. Full Red Cross uniform was of course worn. I travelled to Rye on the bus. I attended on surgical operation days - Tuesdays - and my duties on my scheduled Tuesdays were to watch and monitor patients after they came back from the operating theatre. I also served teas to the patients in the wards.

The late Crommelin, Duchess of Bedford, from the Winchelsea Red Cross detachment also did Hospital duty at Rye.

I finished in 1948 when the Winchelsea detachment ceased to exist.



Red Cross nurse and civil defence units took part in the Wings for Victory March opening ceremony at Winchelsea on Sunday.

CHAPTER 8

MEMORIES OF MRS WINIFRED WOOD

I first came to Rye in 1953 from our home at Thornton-Le-Dale near Scarborough. It was a lovely day in early June when we came to look round and by the next day we had decided to live here. Rye was in those days still a rather quiet place, so much so, I felt I could come to love it as much as York, which was our first home after our marriage. We bought Elwyn Farm, Rye Foreign.

On passing the entrance to Rye Hospital, I said to my husband Frank, "What a lovely little place, I'd love to work there" - and little thought I would do so! We came on August 8th and by September I had applied for a post at the Hospital.

The Matron, Miss Price, gave me an appointment to meet her. When I arrived, Mr Catt was waiting for me to say that Miss Price was sorry, but she had had to go to a funeral. Mr Button, the Surgeon, had died, and so I returned the following Wednesday for my interview. Mr Button had worked day and night during the days of the Battle of Britain on the injured aircraft men, both German and British, at this small, busy Hospital. Miss Price was Matron and Theatre Sister etc. for him.

When I did go for my interview, Rose Tiltman, then aged about nineteen, opened the door to me with a beaming smile and gave me such a nice welcome. I was taken upstairs to the Matron's quarters. I saw, on the first landing, a painting of Scarborough Harbour and I took it for a good luck omen as it was where I had just come from! - I felt I must get the job.

During the War, as a nurse, I had had to work - I was "called up" even though I had children - and I worked in a T.B. Sanatorium and then I went as Sister in the Children's Ward in York Hospital. I was there when the Germans bombed the station and the railway. I remember hearing Lord Haw-Haw say that Hitler would be crowned in York Minster after the War!!

My children, Elvia and Ian, were 3 and 7 when we went to York Station to see my husband Frank off after embarkation leave. I then moved near to my sister in Sheffield and I turned down a job as Industrial Nurse in a pea canning factory, but took a position in Fir Vale Hospital - 1200 beds for "incurables"! 600 men and 600 women who had had strokes, fractured spines (many had been miners), paralysis and cancers. I remember a patient, who could not speak English, was dying of cancer.

Sultana Nym was his name and his friend arrived to take him home one day in a hearse - the only way he could think of transporting such a desperately ill man. I didn't allow it - it didn't seem right to put a man alive in a hearse!

I worked there for 2 years until 1946 when I went back to York to wait for Frank to be demobbed. We took a farm there and I did not return to nursing for 6 years.

When I was offered the job at Rye, I asked to go on a Refresher Course, but the reply was "We've been without a Sister for six months, you haven't the time. Just come - you'll get all the refreshing you need."

This was on the Wednesday and I started on the Friday. I was told "I'm off to Lord Davenport's for the weekend - you're in charge - you'll find where things are!" Talk about being thrown in at the deep end!

The Hospital only had a skeleton staff - Matron, a Sister, a trained Nurse for day duty, a Sister for night duty and two Orderlies. Eventually these last were changed to two 16 year old Pre-Student nurses. I must not forget the Night Relief Nurse (trained) who not only relieved the Night Sister on her off time, but who also had her own off duty and then spent the next week on day duty. It was very hard going then, but very rewarding and happy.

The two Pre-Student nurses were a 16 year old called Nurse Morris (now in Hastings) and Assistant Nurse Rose Tiltman. Two other Pre-Student nurses were Maureen Hickman, who later took her training at, I think, Charing Cross Hospital, and Ruth Leadbetter, who trained at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings. She later returned to work at Rye Hospital as Sister Purseglove until the Hospital closed.

I was on Day Duty at that time. At night there was Sister Wildsmith - and Nurse Page who was a trained mental nurse. The latter eventually became Assistant Matron at Hill House Hospital. She was a widow with a small baby. Miss Price let her bring the baby to the Hospital. She did

a lot more than she was paid for - hours and hours of extra service. She worked a rota of 1 week nights and then 1 week days. She loved working in the Theatre and on the 'Nights' week, she would come off duty at 8.30am and stay at the Hospital and sleep in the dining room until 11am. She would then work in the Theatre and go home at 3 to 3.30pm. There was no pay and no overtime. She really knew what to do in the Theatre - she had been trained at Aberdeen General Hospital. She was a wonderfully kind person.

Matron Price did the Theatre and cleaned the instruments. I remember she always had the Drug Book in her pocket and wrote notes in it. She didn't like paperwork much.

Matron Matilda Hay came in 1955, and had stayed nineteen years when she retired. She was a very good administrator. She also did all the X-Rays which was a wonderful help. Although the machine was old it took good pictures and we could take it into the theatre if hunting for things like a broken needle in a knee or leg. Also it could be taken into the wards rather than the immobile patients being taken to the X-Ray Room. Ann (Matty) became a friend of our family right up to her death a few years ago. Mr Lawrence Wright, who lived in New Winchelsea Road, was a certified Radiologist and he would come in for operations and set up all the exact measurements.

Mr and Mrs Catt lived in the Hospital cottage with their two children. As he was the only man in the establishment, he did all sorts of jobs - he was good at everything - stoking up the boiler for the heating, was handy-man, was electrician and made cupboards. Twice a week he scrubbed the Theatre walls whilst Mrs Catt scrubbed the floor and steriliser. He was a wonderful help in every way - whenever we needed an extra pair of hands, we could call on him. He would don wellingtons, cap etc. and help lift a patient in the Theatre. I worked with him for 13 years.



Where the physiotherapy corridor and examination rooms are [in the old Hospital. Ed.], was a **garden**. Mr Catt used to do the garden, growing vegetables, potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, beans, peas, lettuce, marrows, etc., for the Hospital. He had hens - the eggs were used for very sick people and we had one hen a week for special diets. He grew tomatoes in the flower borders under the ward windows.



Mrs Catt filled in for empty staff places, a cook when the cook was ill or off duty, helping on the wards where necessary and a hundred and one other jobs.

I can't remember the name of the next caretaker but Mr Hullock, who had been a policeman locally, came to be the caretaker after him.

In the Theatre was the Surgeon, Anaesthetist and the Sister, who was me. We did some good Theatre work - the 'Theatre' was part of my life for 16 years and I was very happy. Mr Bourke was a wonderful all round Surgeon - he never sent any casualties to Hastings. Theatre was on Tuesday and Thursday - we had no beds to do more days! On the other days he would go to relieve the Surgeons at Hastings. If we had no instruments for a particular operation he would say "We've a knife, fork and spoon and we'll be all right!"

Dr Parkes acted as Anaesthetist on Thursdays and Dr Kellaher and Mannington shared Tuesdays, a week at a time. They tried to arrange their own patients for 'their'

days. Dr Hartley was the Police Doctor and, with Dr Townsend and Dr Palmer, they treated their own patients. It was a '**Doctor's Hospital**' and each doctor had so many beds. If they were not occupied, they would agree for their beds to be used by another of the doctors. Each doctor came in every day to see his own patients and this made for contented patients - it really was a happy Hospital.

A lot of good work was done in this little Memorial Hospital which was much loved by the Rye people - many of whom gave **voluntary service** - a wonderful help to the few employed there. It enabled the 'days off' to be given, with help from the St. John's Ambulance and the Red Cross - they were part of the Hospital. Red Cross ladies came in the week and the older girls from the Grammar School who were in the Red Cross or St. John's would come in on Sunday afternoons to help. It also gave one of the Juniors a half a day off to add to her day off on the Monday. Many of these schoolgirls became nurses.

I remember Winnie Warren, who was so cheerful and helpful in any way she could - chatting to the patients etc. She was also a much loved member of the Church, helping in her own particular way and was respected by all. She lived and worked at Rye Hospital for many years.

Because it was such a very happy place, we had no trouble to settle the patients in. Mother's were very troubled about their families and father's about their work. Children did not seem to mind and settled in very well. I should say that there was not an organised Children's Department at Hastings in those early days, so as many **Rye and District children** as possible were treated here. They seemed to enjoy their stay at the Hospital and we enjoyed the children. I also felt that, when going in to treat a child for cuts etc., needing stitching, there was complete trust and little fear.

We did all the Casualties at Rye then.

Mr Bourke and I would do a Ward Round every day. He shared a practice with Dr Kellaher - they were both Irish.

I remember doing one Caesarean birth - Sister Campbell was the midwife - it was a boy!

Mr Bourke pushed for a **Physiotherapy Department** which eventually was built by the Hospital's "Free Monies", (it had all its beds endowed), and a bequest. Once this was open, we had **extra staff** - a trained Sister and two Orderlies and later on a Staff Nurse. This was a wonderful help, for now, when the Sister was held up in the Theatre or Clinic, one had not to worry about what might happen in the Wards as they were now well looked after.

To build this new Department, there began a **re-arrangement of the Hospital**. What had been the 'Surgery' that was used for dressings just inside the front door, was taken to be used, together with further land along the outside of this area, for the Physio Department and new Surgery. A corridor was built to allow patients to go for treatment under cover. It actually became more used for a waiting room for any Casualty treatment. This new block was opened by Mr Bagley, the Mayor.

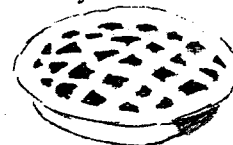
Later on, with lots of help from the League of Friends, a **summerhouse** was put up on the lawn.

The extension which was much needed was a Day Room for patients had to sit by their beds, if not in them. So eventually it was planned to be built at the end of the entrance corridor on the south side, (then forming a room which was a Ward Kitchen, where cups were washed up and drinks made - it also had a very useful steriliser where we could boil our dressing bowls and instruments without going down to the Theatre).

We also planned, within the new alterations, a new office for Matron (who was, by then, Miss Hay) and a Private Ward. The original Private Ward would become the required office and a room just along the corridor was to be a small kitchen where drinks were made and cups etc. were stored in cupboards.

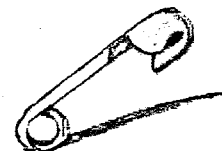
We were delighted to see the plans spring into view. Outside the Ward doors was the new corridor in which were the Private Ward and its bathroom, the Sister's office and the extra corridor leading to the **new Day Room**. It really was a lovely big room, built also by the League of Friends - Mrs Pilkington was Matron then. It meant that lots of day patients could be catered for as well as in - patients.

The story is not complete without a word about Ada who was a wonderful cook. Her meals were HOME cooking at its best, very tasty and just what the doctor ordered. I received a letter from her a few weeks before the 'closure' in which she said "I often think of you all in those happy days. I was sad to leave the Hospital but my mother needed me. It took me a long time to settle down. As you say it will be sad if it is closed. It is so needed, and it makes a mockery of 'Memorial', which once meant in memory of the dead soldiers of both the World Wars."



We had another cook called Mildred who lived at Beckley and whose bus didn't get to the Hospital until 8.30am. Sister Wildsmith used to cook the breakfast. I remember her bringing in a boiled egg in an egg cup and a man patient saying "Sister would you feed me?" Sister said "What did you say? I didn't know a haemorrhoidectomy affected your hands."

A man had swallowed a safety pin and X-Rays showed it clearly - the pointed end facing upwards.



Eventually Lawrence Wright the Radiologist, called to see how we were getting on and saw the man in the middle bed waiting for the pin to emerge. He came back to me and said he recognised him, he had x-rayed him two weeks ago at Dorking Hospital and he'd swallowed a safety pin! He was a seafaring man who did not want to pay for digs when his ship was in port and so he swallowed a pin to get free accommodation and food - he also got extra gifts of cigarettes and papers, fruit and sweets from other patients and visitors. He was out of Hospital always before his ship sailed. Mr Bourke called the man and sat him in his office before reading him the Riot Act. "Get dressed - I shall inform all hospitals about you - the pin swallower!" He certainly knew which way to swallow it without damaging himself!

Occasionally I did a bit of cooking - at Christmas my husband Frank, Matron and I did the Christmas Dinner for the staff.

The Hospital had a **religious Service** on a Sunday Night - various churches took it in turn and it lasted about half an hour. I must not forget to mention **the Chaplains**. Father Richard was a well loved visitor, especially by the children, for he had a sweet in his pocket for all. Rev. Brooks, the Rye Vicar also came. I think the patients were quite pleased at these times, if only to get a chance to sing out!

The Ladies Guild met in the Sewing Room on Wednesday with Lady White in charge. It was linked with the League of Friends and mended the sheets etc. - the Hospital had really beautiful linen. Most people brought in their own pyjamas.

There was an annual **Christmas Party** for every child 'in the book'. All got an invitation - from those who had a grazed knee to those who had had tonsils or appendix removed. Elder sisters and brothers were known to bring in little ones 'to be seen to' - then their name was 'in the book!' - really the 'Casualty Book'. We always got a few

extra casualties a couple of months before Christmas because of this.

Mr Bourke always dressed up as Father Christmas and both he and Dr Parkes would bring their children. The men were wheeled into the Women's Ward and Mr Catt would put up the tables (used for Bring and Buy Sales on the lawns in the summer). Seats for the children were planks laid on chairs. Mrs Catt made lots of cakes and buns and everything the party needed. The Wards were decorated for Christmas. When the Grammar School Art Department was asked to help, John Gage turned the Male Ward into an opium den!! We, the Staff, began it and then League of Friends took over - it was never quite the same afterwards to me.

There were two emergency beds which could be put up at the end of each ward to allow people to get over anaesthetic or rest etc. There were also three cots in the middle of each ward mostly used by smaller patients. There was one Private Ward which we could use for two more patients if not in use as a Private Ward.

The Hospital was always full - our **turn over** of beds was remarkable - as fast as a bed became empty it was reused and the emergency beds too!

Dr Bourke died very suddenly about 1963 at 54 years of age. It was a tremendous loss to us. Operations stopped then as no one wanted to do two days a week. We had just spent thousands of pounds on doing the walls and ventilation etc. in the Theatre, but it was never used properly after that time.

I was Sister and Assistant Matron, but when Sister Pearson came, I asked to be relieved of the latter post. She had been Nurse in Charge before being called up. I then became Night Sister. On some nights, I had June Easter with me and on the other nights I had Miss Joy as Assistant Nurse.

I did not state what **hours** one did work. We went on day duty for 8.30am and remained until the Night Sister

arrived. Night Duty had only a sister on duty and she had to do the Casualties that came to the Hospital as well. Duty was twelve hours for four nights and then three nights off. - (1953 until the late 1960's). The Pre-Student nurses were also on duty 8.30am - 8.30pm. We all had two hours off in the day, sometimes 2 - 4pm in the afternoon or 6 - 8 pm in the evening. We had two days off a week (increased from 1½ days). We had two weeks holiday, which became six weeks in the 1960's.

The senior staff had Saturday and Sunday off on alternate weeks, for those days had no special work or clinics unless there was an emergency and one was recalled. Many were the times we were called back about an hour after a full day on duty to prepare the Theatre - often the patient would have had a meal and we would have to wait three hours or so for the stomach to empty before the anaesthetic could be given. Many a time I returned home at 3am for bed - to be back at work at 8.30am. In those days you never expected overtime money or pay for extra hours - it seemed a pleasure to fill in when needed.

Other **staff changes** I remember were when Rose left, Kay Moore came as the first Staff Nurse and Sister Campbell was Sister for two years before she went to Canada. Sister Wildsmith was also there and Sister Greenhalgh had done Night Duty. Margaret Hall went on to Day Duty when I went onto nights. Marjorie Lloyd from Peasmarsh was on Day Duty.

Penny Pilkington came as Staff Nurse from Kenya - later went to Hastings to work in Outpatients and then Orthopaedic Departments - and then came back to Rye as Matron after Miss Hay retired. Other people I remember who worked at the Hospital were Mrs Plummer, Mrs Hole, Mrs Pellett, and Miss Kimpton as Auxiliary Nurses.

I believe the Physiotherapy Department opened with Mrs Jones working there and she was followed by Miss Kirkland with Daphne Parkes as assistant.

Mrs Brodrick from The Mount came in every week with the Library trolley.

Uniform - Hardy Amies designed a new uniform for nurses in the 1950's. Imagine three short, overweight night nurses in short skirts, black tights and Elizabethan style capes arriving instead of his shapely, long-legged models! (Dracula's sisters!!)

Hill House Hospital sometimes had trouble. Mr Bourke would see the patient and see if anything had to be done, Nurse Page would go with him. If it was a major thing, the Patient went to the big Mental Hospital (Hellingly, I think), for surgery. Nurse Page, as I said, eventually went to Hill House Hospital as Assistant Matron. I used to see to the Dressing Drum Sterilisation for Hill House regularly.

In the early days we had no **drugs**. I remember my first bit of excitement as a very Junior Nurse in Leeds. There were seventeen beds on either side of the ward and a Day Room with eight beds - all full. There was one "runner nurse" for all the wards, to help if she had time. One man was delirious with pneumonia and kept singing "Happy Days are Here Again". It was my first experience of this. The doctor had ordered two Dial tablets - the only sleeping tablets there were then. If he wasn't asleep by 12 midnight I was to give him two more.



I was scared as I had never given anyone four tablets in two hours before and I kept looking at the clock. I went across to ask the Nurse across the corridor to come and help me lift him just before midnight - when we got there he was gone! His bed was empty. Night Sister and I eventually found him in a bath chair and he was still delirious! What an experience - and I still had all those

beds to make before I went off duty on my own - and seven nurses came on for the day duty to replace me!

I recall Matron ordered mattresses to be turned every day - on the days with a "T" the straps were to be at one end and on the other days the straps at the other.

There were different beds for different illnesses - kidney complaints had blankets only with just a draw sheet - to keep them warm.

Sleeping draught smelled like turpentine. Real nursing was needed then - sponging down if the patient had a temperature etc. - no drugs!

Patients in Rye : 1) I nursed an official in the Indian Parliament - his wife rented a cottage at the bottom of Winchelsea Hill whilst he was here.

2) I was on Night Duty and a lady photographer for the Geographic Magazine was in the Private Ward. A patient in the Male Ward was dying. She said to me "You've had a man die? He's just passed through my room." It was very eerie - and in all my nursing days I never saw anything supernatural myself.

3) Mr Vidler, once Governor of Maidstone Prison, gave me a book as a present, said "Goodnight Sister" and died.

4) Stewart Grainger's son by his wife Jean Simmons came in to have his knee treated.

5) One funny incident happened. I used to go to Stone Fete to judge the baby competition year after year. One evening a little boy was brought in as a casualty having been badly savaged on his face by a dog. The little lad said to me, "Oh, it's you Sister - I'll be all right now." I said "I'm glad, but why are you so sure?" He said "Well, you gave my sister first prize at the baby show in Stone." He had to have lots of stitches.

Given plenty of time, there are lots of stories which could be told. One summer night all the patients had been settled down for the night and I was about to have a well earned cup of tea, when the front door bell rang. Standing on the step were three youths, the middle one holding a

cloth to his eyes and the other two holding him up. The courtyard was full of motor bikes and two Dormobiles, as well as about twenty or so young people, dressed cowboy fashion with frills and big hats all milling about and talking under the ward windows. I asked if they needed help and what had happened? One of the boys on the step said they had come to Camber from London to celebrate a birthday with a beach party. The middle boy with the cloth then said "I was walking on the beach and something came out of the sea and attacked me." I thought "Oh, Poor Father Neptune is in trouble again!" However, when I examined the boys eyes, he had two beautiful shiners - really black eyes.



I addressed the multitude, expecting lots of abuse. "The patients have just settled for sleep, so I wonder if you will withdraw into the lane and please do not start up your machines - they'll be much too noisy - could you push them?" "Yes Sister," they said quietly - and it was as good as done! I never feared a visit from those boys again.

On another occasion in the night, I answered the bell to a man who had had a car accident. He was rather shocked and spoke loudly. I said "Shush! don't speak so loud - just whisper." Which he did - there was nothing that a cup of tea and a little talk could not put right. About two weeks later I took a friend of mine to Dobell's in Hastings to get her ears pierced. The very nice man who was to do it said "Are you a nurse in Rye?" I agreed - He said "Do you remember opening the doors of the Hospital and saying "Shush, my patients are asleep!" ?"

On one day a man was brought in who, it was said, had fallen and broken his leg (he had had too much to drink!) After I'd got an X-Ray of his leg there was no fracture.

His sailing friends had left him behind and only came to pick him up on the way home. This meant I had no 'off duty' that day, because I had to sit with this man as we had no bed to put him in and he had to lie on the X-Ray table all day. I was not very happy with his friends when they came for him about 6.30pm!

On another occasion, a man down at Camber for the day from London, cut his hand on a sardine tin. He called an ambulance out from Rye to bring him in. I said "It will only need a dressing - it does not need stitches as it is just a slice cut." He said he needed stitches - so, as every customer must be right, I put in three unnecessary stitches in his hand and a dressing - he then had an ambulance to take him back to Camber.!! Really!!



I was greatly distressed when the Hospital closed. It seemed such a waste. However, watching the new building develop and having seen the plans, I am sure we shall have a Memorial Hospital to be proud of. Whatever they choose to call it, it will always remain Rye Hospital to me!

Sister Winnie Wood



Photos: Mrs Daisy Wood
and Colleagues, c1956



CHAPTER 2

From the TILLING SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, courtesy of Mr and Mrs A. Reavell.

[The Tilling Society was formed to promote interest and study of E.F.Benson's writings, such as the Mapp and Lucia novels. Ed.]

"But no such happy news about the friendly little Rye Hospital, which is due to be closed down as an economy measure, causing distress to local people. The redoubtable Lady Maud Warrender, a friend of Benson's, was a great fund-raiser in its early days, and Lucia herself of course was a generous benefactress to the Tilling Hospital in the 1930's. The anger of Rye inhabitants was further fuelled by a premature 'temporary' closure of the casualty department (staff shortages were given as the reason) during the 1990 summer season. This culminated in a stirring demonstration on October 15th 1990, when no fewer than two thousand people turned up to march through Rye behind pop-star resident Paul McCartney and his wife Linda."

Tilling Society.

March 4th 1994.

From a letter from Mrs Cynthia Reavell to the Editor.

'I have now got the actual quotation from LUCIA'S PROGRESS by E.F.BENSON (Chapter II), about her gift to Tilling Hospital;

"The very next week there were more of these frightful revelations (i.e. frightful as far as the envious Miss Mapp was concerned!). Again there was that headline, 'Munificent Gift, etc.' This time it was the Tilling Hospital. At a meeting of the Governors the Major announced that Mrs Lucas, (already known as Friend of the Poor), had offered to build a new operating theatre, and to furnish it with the most modern equipment according to the plan and schedule which he now laid before them."

As a result, Lucia was given a seat on the Board.!!

CHAPTER 10

RYE, WINCHELSEA AND DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL : LEISURE ACTIVITIES.

"There were at least two regular 'leisure activities' associated with it:-

1. 'The Rye Hospital Billiards Cup', for which two leagues played, and collections were taken for the Hospital during the matches. In 1940 the Chairman was Alderman C.A.Gafford and the Secretary, A.E.Horner. Winners of the 1937-38: League A - Conservative A; League B - East Kent.



2. "The Rye Carnival", called at one time the "Rye Hospital's Carnival Parade". This event has brought much pleasure to our *RYE MEMORIES* contributors. A Carnival Queen was chosen annually, (Mrs Dolly Southerden was one!), and the Rye Town Band led the procession of decorated floats around the Town. As now, prizes were given for those, and for individual fancy dress outfits. Mr L.Perugini, Mr T.Upton, Mr A.Horner and Mr A.Edwards are names mentioned as being involved. [Unfortunately the Carnival is again in abeyance - 1995. Ed.]

RYE HOSPITALS CARNIVAL PARADE

Extract from 1940 Deacon's Almanac.

Chairman and Hon. Treasurer- G.H.Hodson J.P. Vice Chairman- T.Upton; Hon. Auditor- Ben Sharpe; General Committee- A.E.Carey, J.Kennard, F.Wright, W.Cooke, J.W.A.Woolley, E.Parlett, A.Edwards, L.Edwards, B.Elliott, J.Bumstead, S.Tiltman, L.Phillips, W.A.Watson, G.Holdstock, A.Blackwell, J.Smith, B.Morphy, B.Sharpe, F.Hatter, and W.Pope.

Mistress of the Carnival Robes -Miss D.Sims.

Entertainment Committee- Ben Sharpe (Chairman), G.W.Curtis, A.Watson, F.Hatter, N.Phillips, Miss Sims, E.Parlett, F.Wright, W.Pope, and R.Apps (Hon. Secretary).

Hon. Organising Secretary - A.E.Horner, 21 Landgate.

Mr W.Cutting and his wife regularly took part, and collected "well over £300 for the 'Cause'. The Carnival's route began and ended at Rye Grammar School in those days." [from R.M. Vol. 2 : *LEISURE ACTIVITIES* : P. 89.] [The following extract is from a programme lent by Mr D.N.Smith, which we summarised in Vol. 3 : *LEISURE ACTIVITIES*.]

CONCERT FOR THE HOSPITAL

1. WHAT? : **"YE GODS!"**, a Fantastic Farce
2. WHEN? : **4TH AND 5TH APRIL 1923**
3. WHERE? : **PAVILION THEATRE, RYE**
4. WHO? : **DRAMATIS PERSONAE:**

L.Pigrome, K.F.Masters, E.Gatland, A.Longley, W.M.Walker, B.Moon, G.Longley, W.N. Masters, E.Allen, C.F. Williams, W.Sprigg Walker, L.Gatland, J.A.Pinyon, T.Longley, K.Spafford, H.Catt, G.Bates, and G.Allen.

In the interval, the Rye Orchestra played "Selections", directed by Mr C.Keeler.

5. WHAT FOR? : **The Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital.**

The programme contained this delightful page:



REQUESTS TO YE AUDIENCE

- 1 An' ye ladye in front of ye hath a large gathering of fruit and vegetables on her headpiece, thrust it not

rudely aside with thy distaff, but say softly, "Ladye, I have a weakness for seeing ye stage." She is a ladye, and will remove it.

2 An ye players do forget their lines, make not catcalls nor ribald jests. Tarry patiently, they will think on them anon.

3 Cast no rosebud nor costly jewel at ye hero. He hath much trouble already.

4 Make no unseemly remark on ye players; say not to thy neighbour "Hither cometh a man who oweth me a shilling piece," or, "This ladye doeth our washings". It is low, and sheweth an unkind spirit.

5 Take no likeness of ye devout and aged ladye, neither remark "Oh, Ah!" when she embraceth ye hero.

6 Wink not, nor wave ye umbrella to ye leading ladye.

7 Cast no orange peel nor rubbish at ye serving wench or ye man servant, lest perchance, it offendeth them, and causeth them to depart without due notice.

8 Be not over critical on ye love scenes. Perchance ye players have not had thy experience.

9 Pass no sweatmeat nor plum heavy to ye Master of ye Musick. It distracteth him.

10 Ye ladye players do entreat ye gentlemen of ye audience to tarry not for them at ye stage portals. It is ye actors privilege to escort them home safely when they leave.

NOTE - The manuscript from which these requests are taken, was discovered amongst the scenery by the stage carpenter during his preparations for this production. It was probably left behind by a company of travelling players some time during the sixteenth century. Some authorities affirm that the phraseology bears a remarkable resemblance to the original copies of Shakespeare's works!!! We leave the members of the audience to form their own opinion, and trust that it will occupy their thoughts till the curtain rises. In explanation, it should be

said that the "Pavilion" stands near the site of a much older theatre from which, perhaps, this scenery was removed.

N.B. - It is regretted that the original manuscript was burnt by a member of our company, who mistook it for a tailor's bill. Fortunately we were able to preserve the ashes, which will, perhaps, at some future date, form an object of great interest in the (proposed) Rye Museum of Antiquities.

CHAPTER 11

RECIPES

From "A CARGO OF RECIPES", published in 1936 in aid of Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital. Reprinted in Reavell & Reavell's E.F.BENSON REMEMBERED, AND THE WORLD OF TILLING".

FISH DISH (SPANISH)

Boil a nice piece of hake, cod, haddock or any nice fresh white fish. Before boiling, put into the water 2 peeled onions cut in four, a slice of lemon, a bay-leaf, salt and pepper. When cooked, flake and bone carefully and keep on one side. Make a nice stock with some Heinz's tomato puree, to which add a little flavouring of Marmite and a little cream. Salt to taste and thin a little with water. Add to this 2 tablespoonfuls of rice which has been soaked overnight in cold water. Preferably the unpolished rice. Let this cook very slowly over a slow fire until the rice has absorbed all the stock. Then add 2 teaspoonfuls of paprika. This should be cooked in an earthenware dish, because it must cook slowly. When done add the flaked fish and stir in well. Put it all in some attractive high baking dish and put in the oven for about 15 minutes until thoroughly hot and a little brown on top. Serve in this dish with a white napkin around it.

The rice must be strained and dried before putting in the soup.

Miss Gertrude Norman.

A SIMPLE RECIPE: Cod a la bourgeois

Many housewives consider boiled cod to be a very tasteless sort of dish, but if prepared according to the following simple and inexpensive recipe it will be found a very nice addition to the ordinary bill of fare in case of a friend dropping in to dinner unexpectedly.

Take a slice of cod sufficient for 3 persons and boil in the ordinary manner in slightly salted water.

While this is cooking, strip the flesh of 2 hen-lobsters, omitting the roe, and cut into small dice. Melt 1 ounce of Danish butter in a small saucepan, and when it is at framing point add to it a heaped-up spoonful of Russian caviar, stirring well to prevent it clinging to the sides of the sauce pan. When thoroughly mixed take it off the fire and plunge into it a bouquet of bay-leaf, mint and spring onions previously soaked in Tarragon vinegar. Add a small wine glass of Chateau Yquem and half that amount of old brandy, 12 heads of asparagus, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of cream and a handful of fresh truffles (if these are not procurable mushrooms will do, though the delicacy of the flavour is slightly impaired). Add pepper, salt, mustard, 1 clove and a sprinkling of nutmeg according to taste and bring to the boil. Remove the bouquet and add the 2 diced hen-lobsters, stirring well. Reduce the whole till it is of the consistency of treacle and pour it over the boiled cod. Garnish with parsley, bergamot and a few stoned olives. Squeeze over it the juice of 1 Tangerine orange and serve very hot.

Mr. E. F. Benson

FILLETED SOLE

Place the fillets in a buttered dish, salt, pepper, add juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon, slice some small mushrooms on the fish, a little onion and put small knobs of butter over, stand the dish in a tin of water, cover with a lid or paper and cook for about 30 minutes; some peeled banana cut lengthways and cooked separately are a great addition to this which makes a good dinner party dish.

Mrs Ronald Smith.

PRAWN COCKTAIL

12 PRAWNS; 1 GILL CREAM; 1 TEASPOONFUL WORCESTER SAUCE; $\frac{1}{2}$ TEASPOONFUL ANCHOVY ESSENCE; 2 TABLESPOONS TOMATO SAUCE; 2 TABLESPOONS WHITE WINE; $\frac{1}{2}$ PINT PICKED SHRIMPS; PINCH CAYENNE AND CELERY SALT.

MIX WINE AND SAUCE TOGETHER. THE CREAM MUST BE WHIPPED AND ADD MIXTURE GRADUALLY WHICH SHOULD BE FAIRLY THICK, FREEZE FOR 1 HOUR AND SERVE IN GLASSES, DECORATE WITH UNSHELLED PRAWNS, LEMON AND PARSLEY. SUFFICIENT FOR 6 PERSONS.

Miss Cohen.

FRENCH PANCAKES

Cream together 1 oz. of castor sugar and 2 ozs. butter, then add separately 2 eggs well beaten, add 2 ozs. flour, mix with $1\frac{1}{2}$ gills or less of milk. Butter some saucers, pour in the mixture and bake for about 20 minutes in a fairly hot oven, turn out on sugared paper, place some jam in each centre and fold over.

N.B. Half this quantity makes five saucers.

Miss Ida Ramus.

MY PANCAKES OR MELTING MOMENTS

1 egg; breakfastcupful of self raising flour; 1 breakfastcupful of milk or milk and water; 1 tablespoonful of granulated sugar; 2 tablespoonfuls of currants; a pinch of salt.

Break the eggs into a basin, beat well, add the milk, then the flour, beating all the time, then add the sugar, salt and currants, when it should be a nice thick batter. Have ready a very hot frying pan or griddle, grease with butter, drop in dessertspoonfuls, brown on both sides, do not overcook, dip in hot butter. Serve very hot and eat at once.

Mrs Elsby.

PANCAKES A LA BORGIA

Procure a small piece of glass (any broken window will serve) about 1 inch square. Pound this in a mortar till its consistency is of the finest dust, and thoroughly mix it with 6 or 8 times the amount of sifted sugar. Take 3 berries of deadly nightshade (belladonna), mince well and add one 1/4 ounce of foxglove seed (digitalis), a dessertspoonful of weed killer (arsenic) and mix together in sufficient jam or honey to neutralise the other ingredients. Spread this mixture over the surface of an ordinary pancake, roll it up in the usual manner, and sprinkle thickly on top of the powdered glass and sugar. Pass a salamander over it until the glass and sugar assumes the appearance and texture of caramel.

N.B. Digitalis and belladonna may be procured from any chemist, but they are not always fresh, and it is wiser for this and other reasons to pick these ingredients yourself. It is also advisable, when serving an enemy with this delicious dish, to explain that you never eat sweets yourself but that this pancake is prepared according to an old family recipe.

E.F.Benson.

OF SAVOURIES

EGG Y CHEESY HAMMY TOP-I-SIDE

(Favourite dish of the Navy)

Toast, ham, egg, cheese, sauce.

Place on a small piece of toast some cold ham, on the ham a poached egg and cover all with a thick cheese sauce.

Cheese Sauce. Make a thick white sauce and grate into it a fair amount of cheese and cook until melted.

A good lunch or supper dish

Mrs N.Luxmoore.

SAVOURY FLAPJACKS

2 tablespoonfuls flour; 2 tablespoonfuls grated cheese; 1 teaspoonful baking powder; salt and pepper to taste; fat to fry in.

Well mix ingredients, make into a smooth batter with cold water, drop into hot fat about a tablespoon at a time. Turn and fry the other side. Roll in grated cheese. Serve very hot.

Mrs Blogg.

BREAD CUTLETS

Cut white bread into slices about 3/4 inch thick and shape them as near a cutlet as possible. Then soak the slices in milk and fry until very brown. Serve on a dish surrounded with fried potatoes and a very thick gravy sauce, if possible made with glaze.

Miss Aubrey Smith.

CHAPTER 12

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SITE

We are very grateful to Mr Eric Wetherill, Mr Peter Dooley and the RYE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP, together with L.A.Vidler's accounts, left locally and those in the Sussex Archaeological Collections, together with records from Fécamp Abbey, for help with our research for the next two chapters. Ed.]

Although several Roman artefacts have been found there, the first written record of the site is that it was part of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, built to the orders of Abbot William de Ros of Fécamp, who paid a visit to the Abbey's lands, including the Town of Rye, in 1103. Rye Church was constructed at the same time. Outside the town boundaries, the Hospital was built to serve lepers (or leprosy was a disease brought back by men from the First Crusade. Ed.) - and the poor and sick of the area. The actual site of the main building has not yet been found, but we know it had its own Chaplain, with Chapel and houses for both men and women.

Fécamp was the first Norman Monastery to own land in England, soon after the first Duke of Normandy had an alliance with an English King. An early charter says that Ethelred II planned to give Rameslie in Sussex to the Abbey, but his death prevented it. Canute, on gaining the kingdom, carried out the intentions of his ancient enemy,

probably at the instigation of his wife Queen Emma, daughter of Duke Robert I of Normandy and Ethelred's widow, about 1017, the date of their marriage. Rameslie was extensive territory along the Sussex Coast, including the Manor, later known as Brede, Hastings, Guestling and the ports of Winchelsea and Rye, which became 'nobler members of the Cinque Ports'. Its commercial and strategic importance was considerable. Edward the Confessor later granted Steyning Manor and small port to Fécamp and so the Abbey controlled one of the principal gateways to the continent. Earl Godwin and his sons, including Harold, annexed the land in 1054 when building up their power. King William restored most of the land to the Abbey after the Conquest, (although he kept Hastings), and he brought many Fécamp monks over to reorganise the Anglo-Norman Church - Rye and Winchelsea being their port of entry. From acting as guides at the Invasion across 'their' lands, they took a leading role in England for 150 years. One of their main influences was in re-building churches and Cathedrals in the Norman manner, Rye for example. The leper Hospital of St. Bartholomew was part of this pattern.

The Hospital was important enough to be virtually self-governing, within the Fécamp freehold. A Charter of 1189 granted, among other lands and monies, that "shoulð Simon, the priest, procure the grant of a fair from the King, the Abbey shoulð receive the toll of the whole town and port while it lasted and share with the hospital the profits of the fair which was to be held on their ground" Simon was obviously successful for, in 1190, King Edward I gave permission for the Borough of Rye to hold an annual fair on 24th August on St. Bartholomew's Day.

This was held in the grounds of the Hospital, which were mainly on the west side of the London Road up Rye Hill, which was known until this century as 'Beggar's Hill'. The site of this included the FAIR FIELD (or

MEADOW!), and the bull baiting pole was still in existence until about 1925, in what is now the garden of 'Fairladies'. The fair became known as the "Beggars Bush Fair" and was stopped only in 1858 because of drunkenness and fighting.

The Hospital's main block of land was divided into the four "Spittal" Fields : The Barrack Field, Eight Acres Field, The Camp Field and King's Head Field, all to the north of the Fair Field.

The 'Resumption of Rye' by the English King from the French Abbey in 1247, left all the Hospital lands still in Fécamp's hands, as it was outside the Town's boundary, reinforcing 'The Foreign' designation. Everytime the King went to War with France he took back this 'alien' land - 1294-1301; 1324-7; 1337-60; and 1369 to Henry V's final confiscation in 1415, after the battle of Agincourt. On each previous occasion he had returned the land to Fécamp, in return for a sum equivalent to the whole annual profit from the land.

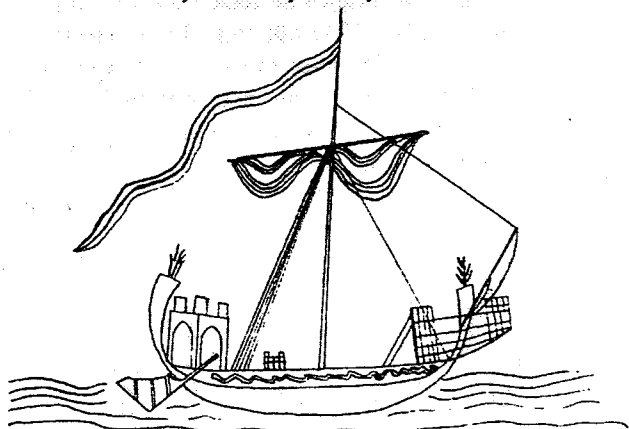
*These three drawings are taken from pottery sherds found on the lower part of the Hospital site in the 1930's by L.A.Vidler
King Henry II receiving a gift from a Baron of Rye. 13th C.*



King Edward I on 2 floor tiles : c.1290



Rye vessel on pot - early 14th C.

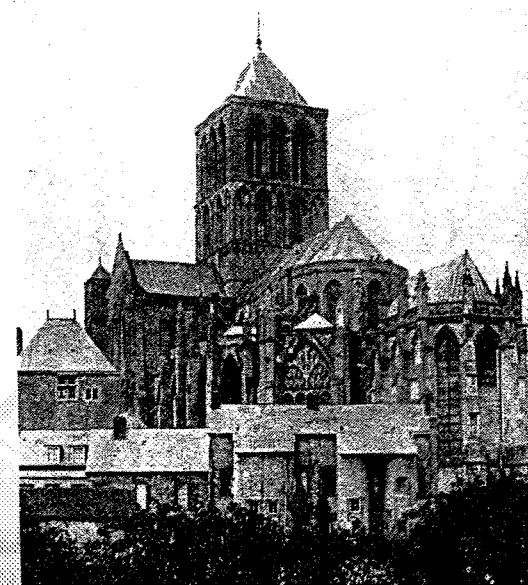


L.A.Vidler says "There is, however, reason to think that the incorporation of the Town in 1289 both increased the duties and tightened the hold of the Mayor and Commons on the Hospital, as, when the customs of the town were codified in the reign of Edward III, we find that, in addition to their right of recommendation of any new Warden, they also had the power of admission of the inmates and the auditing of accounts; also, most important of all, the custody of the seal. From the Rye Customal it also appears that both men and women, from the deserving poor of the Town,

were admitted free of charge, [*did some pay then? Ed.*] and that the number if inmates vary from time to time.... All candidates had to accept the rules and statutes of the Hospital and, before admittance, be approved by the Mayor and Commons of Rye. ...They prepared their own dinners and in times of scarcity were sent to beg in the streets of Rye.....The duties of the Warden, who was always in priest's orders, were to conduct the daily services in the chapel, preside at the common meals, keep order, collect the rents and oblations which were the income of the Hospital, manage its farms and land, take his turn as Bedell [*beadle Ed.*] at courts of the Manor of Brede...generally to superintend the running of the institution."

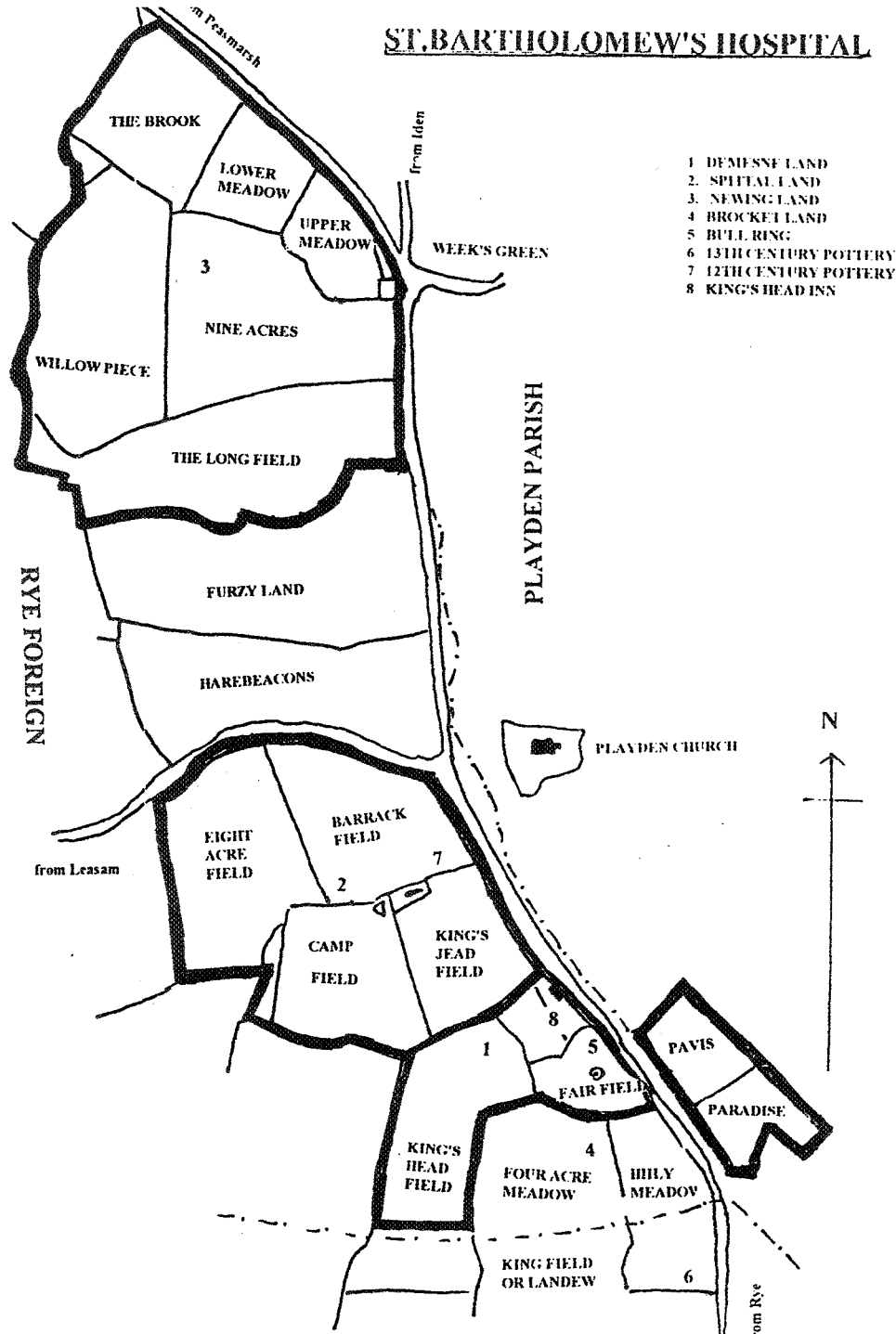
The attacks on the Town by the French and subsequent need to rebuild, especially after the destruction in 1377, appears to have caused the decline of the Hospital and

L'Abbaye Bénédictine de Fécamp



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL

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ruined its income - for example large oaks were cut down and sold too cheaply! *[There was a court case about this! Ed.]* However, the Hospital buildings were in ruins by 1435 and the site was granted by Henry VII to the Abbot of Westminster Abbey in 1504. After the Formation of the Church of England and the sale of Monastery Lands in 1538, it passed through various hands, including the Countess of Thanet in 1724, before being commandeered by the Government in 1779 and we know it belonged to J. and Edward Jeremiah Curteis in 1796.

During this long period, it was regularly used as a base for Troops. Rye was still an important Cross-Channel port throughout this time - indeed the main Postal Service from London-Rouen to Paris or Lyons and further South, South East to Italy and South West to Spain, was via Rye-Dieppe. *[See RYE MEMORIES Vol 8 POSTAL HISTORY OF RYE - information provided by Mr J. Priestley]* Charles II quartered some of his soldiers there - the Dumbarton's Scottish - in June 1666 on their return from France.

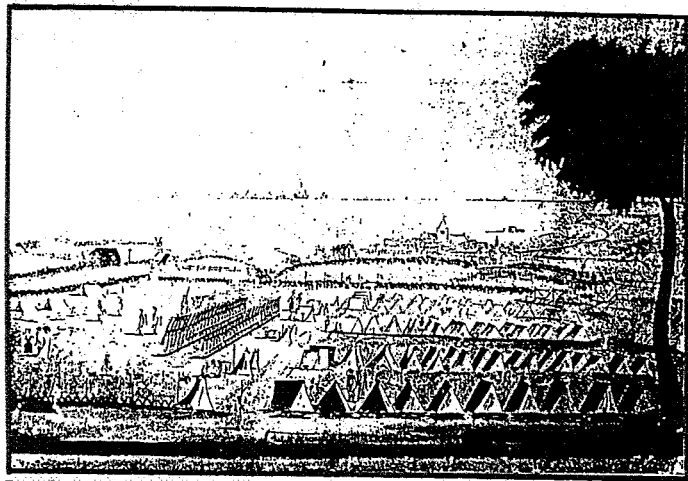
In a later period, 1779 to 1783, military men were based here in the American War of Independence. Barrack buildings were constructed for use by many Regular Army and Militia Regiments between 1796 and 1815, when they were based here to defend the country against Napoleon.

"In the height of the last French war two sets of barracks were built on Rye Hill, one at the corner of Leesham Lane, on the north side, for infantry, and the other in the field which is now occupied by the Union-House, and which was for cavalry." (*W. Holloway "History of the Town & Port of Rye" 1847*).

Mr Peter Dooley found the following quotation in a book "The Letters of Private Wheeler : 1809-1828"

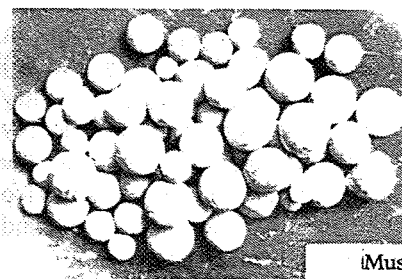
"We landed at Dover the 2nd inst., went into Barracks at the Castle. On the 5th we marched for Portsmouth. At RYE we met with an unexpected treat, the inhabitants

had entered into a subscription. The money was set apart to treat the men of every Regiment that had been at Waterloo to a quart of eightpenny stout. The day was stormy, about a mile from the town we met a farmer, 'Cheer up my lads' said he 'there is a pot of stout for every one of ye in town'. The townspeople dropped into the public houses, ours being the first Waterloo Regiment that had marched into Rye. As a matter of course a general fuddle was the consequence. The next day the route was altered"

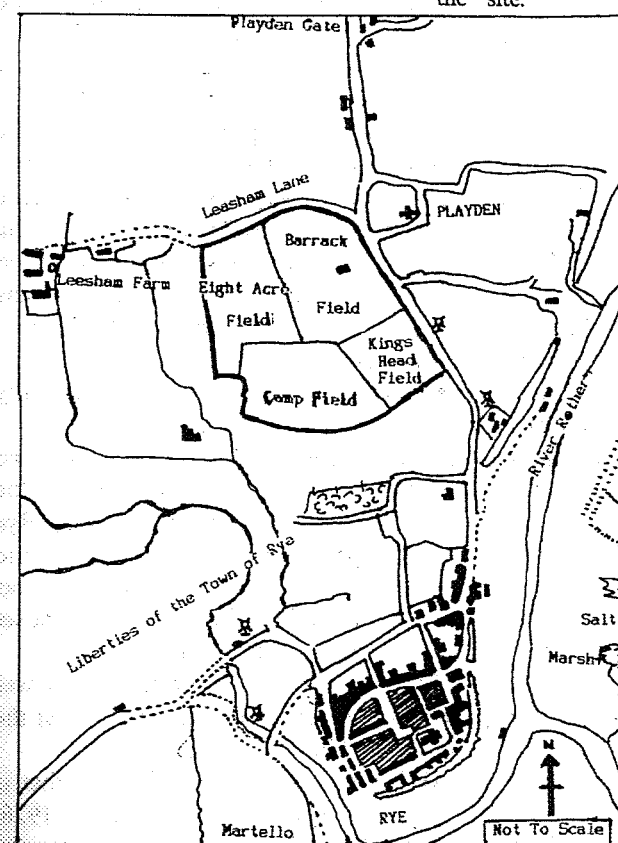


Parade of 13th Regiment on the Spittal Lands 1779
Rye and the sea are in the distance.

[The Photographs in these pages were taken by Eric Wetherill and Peter Dooley. We thank them. Ed.]



Musket balls found on the site.



JCK: 1995. Map modified from that of Lieut. R. Kearsley Dawson R.E., drawn at end 18th Century

Private Wheeler was, by this time, a Sergeant serving in the 51st Regiment of Foot (2nd Yorkshire West Riding) later to become the King's Own Light Infantry (Yorkshire). He had originally enlisted in the 2nd Surrey Militia until 1809 and he had served throughout the Spanish Peninsular Campaign and fought at Waterloo against Napoleon. Buttons from his Regiment were found on the Hospital site - where they had camped.

These buildings were demolished in 1818, except for the Barracks Hospital which was in use as a cottage in 1835.

The "Spittal Fields" were left to E.J.Curteis's eldest son Herbert Barrett Curteis who kept them until 1840. He then sold part of the land in Camp Field (8 acres) to the Rye Board of Guardians for the new Union Work-House, actually built in 1844, to house 436 inmates. This became Hill House Hospital for the mentally handicapped after the Second World War until the late 1980's, and has now been converted into a row of terraced housing within a new housing estate. (1995). There are also two Residential Homes on the site. [*The caring tradition! Ed.*]

Major E.B.Curteis bought the remainder, and eventually his grandson, Mr H.C.Burra, J.P. owned it.

The King's Head Inn, (now the 'Top of the Hill'), had been built on the site at a very early date, along the roadside, no doubt to serve the traffic struggling up Rye Hill, as well as the troops stationed next door! In mid Victorian times the large house "Fairladies" was constructed and, later in the reign, the Point Hill Houses were begun on the other side of the main road.

The rest of the old St.Bartholomew's Hospital land was used for Troops to camp in the South African Wars at the end of the last century, and in both World Wars.

In 1920, Miss A.M.Curteis gave part of this land, that is Barrack Field, for **the Hospital project** and, in 1926, Lady McIlwraith bought the field adjoining, in case the Hospital needed expansion in the future. How far sighted!!.

A line of tank traps from the Second World War still exists between what was Hill House and the Hospital.

After the new sewage system was put into Rye in the early 1960's, housing development was permitted and the Fair Meadow (and Mill Road, on the other side of Rye Hill) estates were built.

The Ambulance Station was built in the late 1970's on the southern edge of the Hospital site, after much public outcry, when it was suggested that we be served by Ambulances based in Hastings!

Finally - the northern part of the site now holds **The Memorial Care Centre!!** It is strange how things have turned out. Perhaps this site is MEANT to be the CARING CENTRE for ever!

CHAPTER 13

EXCAVATIONS ON THE SITE

Mr L.A.Vidler found the first evidence of **Medieval pottery kilns in 1931** on Rye Hill, when he was searching for the site of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Working from 1931-35, he found at least four kilns in the field north of Hillyfields and south of 'Spains', with many tiles and pots, several of which are in the Rye Museum in Rye Ypres Castle, [*see previous chapter for drawings. Ed.*]

Mr Mark Gardiner excavated a site near to the 'Top of the Hill' (formerly the King's Head) Public House in Spring 1989, searching for the same St. Bartholomew's buildings, but the only finds were two pieces of Medieval pottery.

The RYE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP were given a "watching brief" on the development at the **Memorial Care Centre** by the East Sussex County Archaeologist, Dr A. Woodcock, on 8.3.94. Work began on the site on 25.4.94 and Mr Peter Dooley, on behalf of RLHG, began his searches with his metal detector.

He has recorded **his finds** as follows:

3 Medieval horseshoes from 14th-15th century and 3 'keyhole' horseshoes from 16th-17th century;

A number of military buttons from both the Militia and Regular Regiments who had camped on the site, together with many musket balls, flints, buckles buttons and "rusty remains"; He lists them as follows:-

Buttons: 18th Century soldiers, 'Regular' buttons are usually of pewter, and 'Militia' are of brass:-



69th of FOOT.
1805.

Regular Army

13th of Foot (Somersetshire). Raised 1685. Later Somerset Light Infantry

14th of Foot (Buckinghamshire). Raised 1685 Later the West Yorkshire Regiment.

31st of Foot (Huntingdonshire). Raised 1702 Later 1st East Surrey Regiment.

52nd of Foot (Oxfordshire Light Infantry). Raised 1775. Later Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry.

69th of Foot (South Lincolnshire). Raised 1758. Later 2nd Battalion Welsh Regiment.

82nd of Foot (Prince of Wales). Raised 1793. Later 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment.

Militia Regiments.

Bank of England Volunteer Corps. Raised 1798. (450 men). Disbanded 1820.

The Gosport and Alverstoke Volunteers. Raised 1801.

The West Meath Militia. (Irish).

12th Dublin Militia.

North York Militia.

1st West Kent Militia.

2nd Surrey Militia. Later The Royal West Surrey Regiment. Disbanded 1919.

Cinque Ports Volunteers.

The Regular Army

Royal Artillery.

Sappers and Miners.

Royal Navy.

(remember the Navy would have transported the troops and stores along the Royal Military Canal) and abroad.

One button from the Coast Guard of 1812.

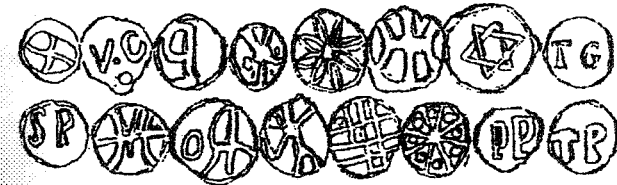
Buttons from troops based here in the South African Wars.

Buttons from the First World War.

A few cap badges from the Second War. including one from the Canadian Light Infantry;

And many .303 and 9mm bullets, and the tail fins from two inch mortars, used to give smoke screens in manoeuvre training.

Also found in the field behind the Hospital have been:- some Roman coins and pot sherds and 28 lead tokens, some with good designs on them, of 17th-18th century.



One is a 13th century example of "Abbot's Money" used to pay artisans for their work by the monks - this dates back the origin of the site and very special!! It has the rough design of a Mitre on the reverse.



ABBOT'S MONEY

Many coins, including a half 'Short Cross Silver Penny' of Richard I (1189-1199) or John (1199-1216); a King Edward IV Silver Penny (1272-1307); and a King Edward IV silver groat, dated between 1464-1470

K. Richard I (1189-1199) 'half penny': obverse.



K. Alexander II (1214-1249) silver 'half penny'.

The Medieval Pottery Dump : Timetable of excavation.

Thursday 12 May 1994: 18 sherds (pieces of pottery) were found on the area designated to be a car park. The top 9 inches of soil had been removed by excavator machine. Alert at something exciting!!

Friday 13 May: Mr Eric Wetherill, the Chairman, and the RLHG members dug a trench, and many more sherds and tiles were found. The detector found a 'Short Cross Silver Penny' of either King Richard I (1189-1199) or King John (1199-1216) - broken in half to make a 'Half Penny' in the spoil.

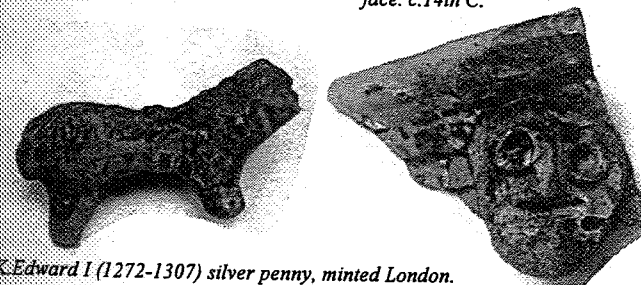
Saturday 14 May: Many more sherds found, rims, bases, sides, handles, but the 'dig' was rained off.

Sunday 15 May: Rain had filled the trench so two new trenches had to be made. Many more sherds found, including a small pottery animal, a 'Silver Penny' of King Edward I (1272-1307) discovered.

Monday 16 May: This was the day the area was to have been covered in tarmac for a car park - but fortunately for

the excavation - it was too wet. More trenches were dug and a pottery face discovered.

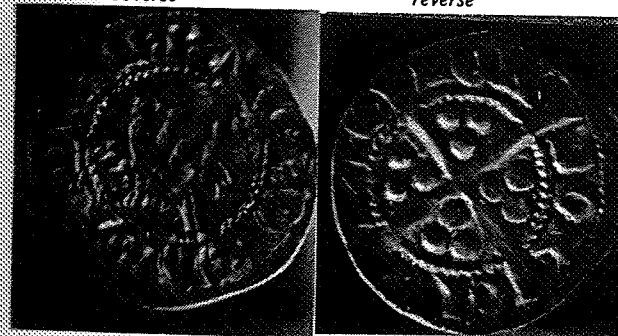
Tuesday 17 May: Very wet but more pottery appeared. *Clay pottery animal c.14th C. Fragment of pottery with medieval face. c.14th C.*



K. Edward I (1272-1307) silver penny, minted London.

obverse

reverse



King Edward IV (1461-1483), silver groat (four pence).

obverse

reverse



Monday 26 May: Remainder of spoil scraped into heap by excavator for RLHG to continue extracting artefacts.

King Henry VIII (1509-1547), silver groat, London minted.

reverse



Lead Tokens found on Hospital site.

The site was eventually covered on 1 June, when 14 trenches had been dug and 80% of the site of the car park had been surveyed. Half a ton of artefacts, with soil, were removed and, when washed, 4 cwt. of sherds were left. Some TPCC students, Nadia and Talya Bagwell with Peter Dunton, helped the Local History Group to clean the sherds at Mr Wetherill's home. These pottery remains are now being studied by Dr Malcolm Lyne and seem to come from about 1175, that is about 50-100 years before the date of the Vidler finds. It appears that this was a kiln and waste heap, and that other kilns and waste heaps, are under the Ambulance Station. There is still work in progress on the metal finds.

The TPCC Local History students, when shown sherds with "finger end patterns" impressed on them, were intrigued to think that they could put their finger into the impression made by a Ryer nearly 900 years ago!!

At this point, we must tell how the Hospital Bell was 'rescued' by the RLHG. On hearing a remark that "it would be worth quite a bit!", they arranged to be contacted immediately it was taken down from the old building. This happened and was taken into safe custody. It was found to have been cast by Gillett and Johnstone of

Croydon in 1920 and it has been restored by S.E.Steelworks on Rock Channel, Rye. It formed a major part in the 'Topping Out Ceremony' on 6th April 1995, when it was rung by Mr Paul McCartney,

Photo: E.Wetherill :

THE BELL AS IT WAS REMOVED!



The RLHG have paid tribute to the operatives, foremen, busy site executives, engineers and managers, without whose assistance, these artefacts would have been lost for future generations.

SUSIE WOON working in the wet and very muddy 'dig'. May 1994.





Hospital equipment in foreground!



The 'last wall' -from this rose the new Care Centre!



St.Bartholomew's Court
'The Caring Tradition!'



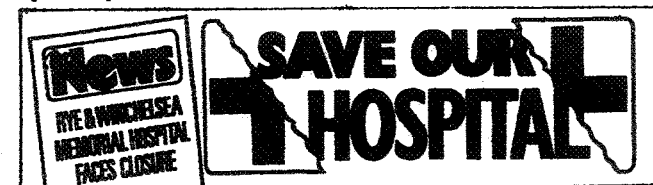
CHAPTER 14

THE MEMORIAL CARE CENTRE, RYE.

THE DEMISE OF THE OLD HOSPITAL

The story of Rye Hospital would not be complete without bringing the story up to date.

On 19.1.89, the Hastings Health Authority agreed to close Rye Hospital.



This was confirmed in 1990 and there was immediate strong local opposition to this proposal and local people formed a Steering Committee to fight the closure. In August 1990 H.H.A. closed the Casualty Department and in September 1990, they refused help from Paul McCartney.

THE FIGHT!

Led by local residents Paul and Linda McCartney, the citizens of Rye marched to the Hospital in protest, on October 15th 1990.

In June 1991 the Secretary of State confirmed the closure plan and no more in-patients were admitted after August 1991. Meanwhile the Steering Committee, with Mrs Muriel Mayer, (later awarded the M.B.E. for all her efforts), as the tireless Secretary, planned alternatives to retain local care facilities.

HACAS, Consultants in the health and care sectors, was commissioned by the Steering Committee to investigate. They reported in January 1992 and this plan was passed on to H.H.A. and E.S.C.C. Social Services Department. These Statutory Authorities accepted the Report and put its proposals to public consultation.

THE PLAN!

The Steering Committee formed a Charitable Company, **Rye Health and Care Limited** in January 1992 and a joint Commissioning Team, including both the Charity and the Statutory Bodies, began to progress the scheme - a real partnership!

In the meantime the Hospital was run down rapidly during February 1992 and the facilities to be kept in Rye began at the Ferry Road Clinic on 1st March 1992.

The cartoon below was kindly donated by **Mr John Ryan**, creator of the "**Captain Pugwash**" publications, who lives in Rye, as a motif for the first brochure published by Rye Health and Care Ltd.. Mr Ryan has raised a great deal of money for the Centre by drawing "Captain Pugwash" at the Fêtes.



RYE HEALTH AND CARE LIMITED

The Company was formed in 1992 and was granted its charitable registration in the autumn of that year. It is a company limited by guarantee no. 2740665, and its registered charity number is 1014232.

Another charitable company has been formed to run the Centre from day to day- '*The Memorial Care Centre, Rye*', Charity Number 1047060.

Rye Health and Care Limited originally consisted of :-

President : Lord Ritchie of Dundee - (Winchelsea).

Directors : Gordon Camble, Chairman - (Iden).

Michael Oliphant, Vice-Chairman - (Udimore).

J.B.L.Ainsworth - (Pett).

The Rev. W.A.G.Buxton - (Rye).

Dr. P.H.Cardew - (Udimore).

Mrs F.M.Catt - (East Guldeford).

Mrs Rae Festing - (Rye).

R.V.Fooks - (Rye).

Mrs M.Mayer MBE - (Rye).

J.M.Stevenson - (Winchelsea).

Patrons : Paul and Linda McCartney - (Peasmarsh).

This year, (1995), Dr Dewhurst of Winchelsea has taken the place of the late Dr Cardew; Mr J.Hemmings of Rye has become the Secretary and Rev. Buxton has resigned.

The Fund Raising Committee is chaired by Michael Oliphant. The committee is advised by John Lawrence from Help the Aged. Marcia Borne is the Secretary and Mrs Rosemary Bagley, Mrs Frances Catt, Mrs Betty Ellwood, Ray Fooks and Tony Fiddiam Green are members.

THE RAISING OF THE MONEY

The estimated cost of building and equipping the Memorial Centre was £5,350,000. of which the Community had to raise over one million pounds. There has been the most wonderful response and early support was given by :

Her Majesty the Queen, who received fish from the Ripiers

Ride organised by the Rotary Club.

Bournes of Rye

Budgens Supermarkets

The Children's Farm

The Company of Rye Bowmen

Viscount Devenport Trust

Rye Chamber of Trade

East Sussex County Council

East Sussex Health Authority.

Ellis Brothers

Holt Charitable Trust

The Hospital Savings Association

The Lacy Tate Trust

The League of Friends of Memorial Care Centre

The Mayor and Council of Winchelsea

The Mayor and Town Council of Rye

Paul and Linda McCartney

Midland Bank Plc

MPL Communications Ltd

Thomas Peacocke Community College

The Rotary Club of Rye and Winchelsea

Rother District Council

Rye Foreign Parish Council

Rye Golf Club

The Rye Players

Rye Rugby Club

S.E. Thames Regional Health Authority

Sussex Rural Development Commission

Trustees of the Playden Nurses' Cottage

Udimore Parish Council

The Women's Institutes Federation

- and many members of the Community.

Money has been collected in all sorts of ways and it seems right to us that we record just some of the unusual methods which raised from a few pence to thousands of pounds - but all involving the local people working for THEIR PROJECT.

Ninety Red and White Collecting Boxes around the District.

Coffee Mornings - Beckley Church; F.E. Centre.

Ultimate Claret - wine tasting organised by Miss Green.

Joan Wyndham - paintings on view at Winchelsea.

Easter Hamper and Teddy Raffle at Stafford's Stores,
Winchelsea Beach

Bridge Coffee Morning - Jill Ballantyne.

Crafts Stall - F.E. Centre.

Stalls at Rye Council for Voluntary Service Charity Fairs
on the Salts.

Sponsored Walk - Mr Barry Clarke.

Local Ride at Iden - Julie Ramus

Gymkhana - Katy Gayle.

Selling Roof Tiles for Centre - Mrs Denny Nichol.

Embroidered name tablecloth - Mrs Cora Woolley

Sponsored cycle ride - Mr George Cumming

Sale of farm goods - Farm World Resource Centre, Brede.

Open Gardens - Mrs Mary Sagar of Peasmarsh; two
Northiam ladies;

Medieval Tournament.

Beckley Children's Farm - Jenny and Roger Farrant.

Bosney Farm, Iden;

Thomas Peacocke Community College - whole College

'Non-uniform day'; 6th form and staff -

sponsored swim; Sanders House - money for
nebuliser.

Raffles at Budgens.

British Driving Society - pony and trap enthusiasts - New
Years Day Ride.

Rye and Winchelsea Rotary Club Christmas Tree
collection.

'Lights of Love' Christmas Tree in St. Mary's Church,
(with St. Michael's Hospice).

Rye and Winchelsea Rotary Club - Ripier's Ride with fresh
fish for the Queen, delivered to Buckingham
Palace in the old way, on horseback!!

Special Philatelic Cover to commemorate the Ripier's Ride.

Run in London Marathon - Susie Woon.

Rye Chamber of Trade - dinner dance and Auction of Promises.

Peasmarsh W.I. Choir - concert.

Country and Western Evening - Camber Sands Leisure Park.

Rye Players - Charity performances of 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Blitz'..

Freda Gardham Primary School, Rye - Christmas activities.

Hastings Half Marathon - Mr Chris Ashbee.

Hairdressers' Charity Days - Rye Cutters, Rye.

Sponsored Walk to Maidstone - Sarah Jempson.

Motor Cross - Charles Ramus.

Organ Recital - Camber Church.

Garden Party - Mrs Rae Festing.

Garden Bring and Buy Sale and Sale.

Brede Friendly Society Charity Evening.

Bring and Buy Sale - Strand Court, Rye.

Captain Pugwash Ball - Mr and Mrs John Ryan and others.

Iden Good Companions: Quilt & float

The Topping Out Coffee Morning.

Sponsoring trees and shrubs for the Care Centre gardens.

Other events were motor cycle rides, parachute jumps, a patchwork bedspread, an auction of promises, a golfing day, garden parties, household items sale.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, has promised to provide an altar table, to be made by a local craftsman to a design approved by Her Majesty, for the Chapel.

TARGET

Target : £5,300,000

To date (April 1995)

£2,300,000 From the Housing Corporation.

£550,000 From East Sussex County Council.

£500,000 From Regional Health Authority

£3.350,000 Total

£1,950,000 Raised by Local People

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

The League of Friends of the old Rye Hospital preserved the monies raised for the old Hospital and, now called the **LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF RYE MEMORIAL CARE CENTRE**, have donated to the new project:-

-£25.000 towards the building of the new Care Centre

- £47.000 as a gift for the Small Operations Unit.

- £33.000 as a loan.

- £1.100 to pay for the setting up costs of The Memorial Care Centre

THE BUILDING OF THE CARE CENTRE

The Tender for the new Care Centre was prepared by AYH Health and the builders Wilshires of Canterbury's tender was accepted on 29.4.94.

Work commenced on 25.4.94 and the 'Cutting of the First Turf' was by Paul and Linda McCartney on 6.5.94.

The 'Topping Out' ceremony, also by them, the ringing of newly erected 'old bell', took place on 6.4.95.

It is hoped that the building will be finished by the middle of June 1995. After the Celebration Parade and the League of Friends Fair held on July 15th 1995, on the site, the Hospital will then be fitted out and hopefully be completed ready for use and the Official Opening in November 1995.

THE NEW CARE CENTRE

The following summarises all the wonderful facilities to be on offer at the new Centre. What an achievement!

In-Patient Care - 15 GP beds in a mix of 4, 2 and single bed wards. It is anticipated that there will be 300 admissions a year.

Out-Patients Clinics and Consulting Rooms - for general surgery, medicine, homeopathy, chiropody; physiotherapy and occupational therapy clinics;

GP treatment room and minor casualty/operations; Counselling room.

It is estimated that 5000 patients will be dealt with here in the clinics and 2000 in minor casualty.

Day Centre - a 20 place centre available for 7 days a week. Personal care for the elderly, such as dressings, baths, meals, and social activities and crafts. It is projected that 6000 attendance's will be made at the Day Centre.

Community Care Offices - for staff working in the rural area, both for domiciliary care and social services.

Voluntary Services - office facilities.

Supported Housing - 30 self-contained flats on 2 floors for the frail elderly and disabled. These will be managed in partnership with Shaftesbury Housing Association, who have planned this part of the scheme.

Respite Care - 6 bed respite care unit to help carers to have a break.

Meals on Wheels - a kitchen allowing enhancement and enlargement of service.

Community Laundry - to serve needs of frail and elderly in domiciliary care.

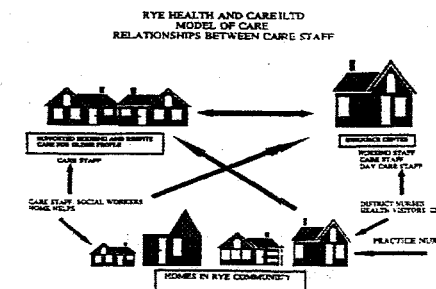
PURCHASERS of the services will include East Sussex Health Commission, East Sussex County Council Social Services, East Sussex Family Health Services and fund-holding G.P.'s.

STAFF It is estimated that the Centre will employ 80 people.

RUNNING COSTS

It is estimated that it will cost £800.000 a year to run the Centre.

The whole scheme is a pioneer project, as it will be an integrated model of care, of the Community, by the Community!



CHAPTER 15

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE MEMORIAL CAR CENTRE, RYE

Registered Charity No. 1002949

OBJECTS AND POWERS

The object of the League shall be to relieve patients and former patients of the Care Centre, former patients of the Memorial Hospital and other invalids in the community who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped, infirm or in need of financial assistance, and generally, to support the charitable work of the Care Centre. For the purpose of carrying out the above Object, but not otherwise, the League shall have the following powers:

- (a) To educate the public in the needs of the patients of the Memorial Care Centre, Rye and other invalids in the community and to mobilise, encourage, foster and maintain the interest and support of the public in the said Care Centre.
- (b) To assist with the establishment of new Leagues and to foster co-operation and inter-communication of between Leagues, other charitable institutions, Local Authorities, Hospital Authorities and National Health Service Authorities.

- (c) To give and exchange information and advice and to promote education in all matters relating to care centres, hospitals and hospital management, to promote research and to disseminate the results.
- (d) To publish, or contribute to the publication of, any papers, books, periodicals, reports or other documents.
- (e) To hold conferences, meetings, lectures, exhibitions, and discussions.
- (f) To recruit and assist in the recruitment of voluntary workers in and for the Memorial Care Centre, Rye.
- (g) To raise funds and to invite contributions from any person or persons or organisations whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise.
- (h) To take and accept gifts of property, whether subject to any special trust or not, for the Object of the League.
- (i) To supplement the service provided by the Memorial Care Centre, Rye for the health, welfare and comfort of the patients therein and other invalids in the community, by the provision of facilities, buildings and equipment which may be required for the treatments of such patients, or, for the efficient running of the Care Centre.
- (j) To provide, or assist in the provision of amenities in the Memorial Care Centre, Rye for patients and staff, including the provision and running of shops, the establishment of clubs, health and recreation centres, hostels and rest and convalescent homes for the use and benefit of such persons.
- (k) To undertake and execute any charitable Trust.
- (l) To do all such things as necessary for the attainment of the above Objects.

RYE HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

This was established in the mid 1950's, with Mr Phil. Ellis as Chairman. The League raised many thousands of

This was established in the mid 1950's, with Mr Phil. Ellis as Chairman. The League raised many thousands of pounds over the years, providing money towards the Physiotherapy Unit, building the summer house and the Day Room, as well as providing for smaller items, such as putting up the bus shelter outside the Hospital and paying the insurance on it! A large capital sum was being collected to pay for a new ward, but this was not allowed, the decision being made about 1984. Mrs Lawson Tate had been the Secretary of the League and, when Mr Ellis retired in 1985, she took over as Chairman.

This money in hand from the old Hospital League of Friends, passed over to the new one, has enabled them to donate so much to the new Care Centre, and **great tribute** must be paid to those **local people**, who, over the years so painstakingly collected it. The new League hopes to carry on in the same way.

We Fought To Save Our Hospital and We Have Won
Rye Health and Care Ltd. has worked hard to raise the money for the re-building. Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital will live on in the new Care Centre. The facilities will be available to all in the Rye area and will be FREE to the patients as before.

Now the **League of Friends of the Memorial Care Centre**, (Registered Charity : 10002949), Rye needs to raise a lot more money to assist with the equipping of the new Centre and to provide some of the extra little comforts so important to the patients and staff. £25,000 was given to the Building Fund; £47,000 has been raised to pay for and equip the Minor Operations and Casualty area, and, in addition' £33,000 has been loaned to Rye Health and Care Ltd to finish the building and £1,000 has been donated to set up the Charitable Company to run the Hospital. During 1994 membership has grown to over 1,000, subscriptions exceeded £2,000 and associated donations £8,384. £5,000 was received from the disbanded Friends

of Hill House and we have been pleased to welcome members from the Friends of Greyfriars, Winchelsea. Money has been raised so far in various ways including : by having stalls at the Rye Council For Voluntary Service Fairs in 1994 and 1995 on the Salts; by the League of Friends Fair in August 1995 on Mr Alan Catt's land at New Road; by the mammoth sale of Raffle Tickets, many sold by Mr Tony Dalgleish; by a Sponsored Walk by Mr John Wren; and many donations of both money and goods, especially those given by Mr and Mrs Handley.

Please join the Friends - just contact them through the Care Centre.

The present officers and committee are :

Chairman Mr.J.P.Priestley.

Vice Chairman Mrs.J.C.Kirkham

Treasurer Mr.B.Tuck

Secretary Mrs.D.Nicol

Membership Secretary Mrs S.Priestley

Committee Mrs.M.Mayer, Mr.G.Cumming,
Mrs.M.Oliver, Mr.R.Fooks, Mrs.T.Potts, Mrs.J.Stott, Mr J.Wren.

CHAPTER 16



LIST OF THOSE ON THE MEMORIAL TABLET IN THE OLD HOSPITAL AND THE NEW CARE CENTRE. THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR US!

RYE

Adams J	Fellows G	Mushett F
Ades A	Foord W J	Neve W F
Aitken J.S	Fowle G	Page R.F.
Allen H N	Fowle R	Page W
Allen P	Gladwish A H C	Payne H G
Ashenden	FGolden A	Peplow W
Axell G	Goodwin H W	Perrin G
Axell S	Harman A J	Phillips F
Axell W H	Heasman A A	Phillips W G

Barnes A	Hilder Jas	Pope H
Bayley W	Hilder John	Pullinger A E
Bennett W	Hoad P E	Relf R
Blackhall	Holdstock F	Rhodes B
Blackman J S G	Hook F	Rhodes G
Bone D	Hook F V	Riddle H
Boreham G T	Hook W G	Sargent C
Bourne W	Huggett A	Sexton W
Brackpool A G	Huggett G	Sherwood P
Bray J	Humphreys F	Simms V A
Brazil G	Humphreys G	Smith D
Brazil J	Jameson A	Smith E M
Breeds A	Jameson J B	Smith F
Britt A	Jarrett C	Stocks T H
Britt W	Jarrett F	Sutton H G
Brooman H	Jarrett W	Swaine T
Bull W A	Jempson W	Taylor L W
Buss H	Jewhurst A W	Temple W R
Buss J A	Jones A S	Thorpe N
Butchers E	Jones B V	Tiltman C
Care W	Jordon C J	Tiltman E
Chantler G	Jordon G H	Tiltman H
Chilton F	Joy A	Tiltman W T
Clark C G	Judge H	Tiltman W E
Clark P	Kennard H	Tomsett J
Cole H T S	Kimpton F	Trotter J P
Colebrooke W H K	Larkin P	Twort A T
Couldrey W H	Laurence H	Walker F A
Curd H	Leadbetter F G	Waters H G
Curd W		
Dungate T E	Lloyd M C	Webb F
Dunk A J	Luck P	Weeks G J
Dunk J	Magrath S	Welfare F
Dunster A F	Marsh W J	Weller A E
Eldridge W	Martin A	Weller C H
Elliott D G	Martin T W	WickershamHT
Elliott E W	McKenzie G W	Wood A
Elliott F A R	Mittell W J	Wood S

WINCHELSEA

Balding A L	Freeman W P	Griffin R
Patch H	Patch N	Penny F G
Snashall G T	Stretton M	Watson E

BECKLEY

Alexander W L	Bates A J	Bates R E
Blanche A C	Blundell R H	Blunt J T
Bryant E	Butler A	Carter C
Carter J	Catt A	Edgell R F A

Field R E
Harvey H
Playford E.

Fielder A E
Mills F
Scott C H

Goldsmith F
Phipps E
Skinner A E

BREDE

Barnes A
Bryant N L
Crouch C W
Ford F
Gutsell G
Letherby R
Osborne A
Smith R L
Whiteman A

Bartholomew W
Butler J
Dive S E
Fuller W
Gutsell J
Martin F
Pearson A
Smith W

Beeching W
Cousins T
Ellis J
Goodsell R
Kemp G
Morgan W
Pelling A W
Watson E

ICKLESHAM

Bishop J E
Coomber G E
Laurence A
Sly G

Bryant F J
Furner J L
Parkes H
Sly J

Butler A G
Kenward J A
Sargent F G

IDEN

Almond G
King A
Sandles G

Brazil J H
Larkins J
Smith A L

Coleman E H
Randolf A
Wood J

NORTHAM

Barnes P
Bean F J
Carter W
Crouch D
Goodsell F
Holdstock W P
Jarman W
Marchant F G
Playford H
Ripley G
Stace W

Bates A
Beeching G A
Collins G
Easton E
Hobden C
Holmes A A
Johnson E C
Paine W J
Playford T
Roberts J
Vidler R

Bates F C
Carter C
Cox E G
Fairbrass H W
Holdstock W A
Jarman F
Kenward J A
Parris J
Poile W
Skinner A
Waters H J

PEASMARSH

Addy A
Ashdown T
Clacy G
Dashwood C G
Field R
Holdstock F
Monk H
Newsham P
Smith A
Smith F

Apps P
Brann W
Crouch E
Etherington J
Furninger F
Huckster A
Mortley F
Offen A
Smith A
Tolhurst C

Ashdown W
Burns A
Crouch H
Gladwish A
Monk J
Murrell A
Sinclair W
Smith J
Waters H

PLAYDEN AND EAST GULDEFORD

Chapman M G H
Cooper H J
Luck P
Miller J P
Padgham A

Coleman D
Duprey S G
Leeds-George H C
Neaves G E
Penfold P J

Coleman F
Elliott H G E
Neve J

RYE HARBOUR

Aers F
Dickerson W J
Martin L
Noakes J
Watson H

Burr J
Downey H
Mesher W
Saunders H
Watson H E

Caister L J
Marshall R
Murrant C
Southerden F

UDIMORE

Holmes R B
Merricks G
Symons J A
Wing H

Jenner H
Miller C

Masters C
Merricks F
Piper G

RYE MEMORIES SERIES

the following are the books produced by the Group:-

- 1) Goodbye Bijou - Arthur Woodgate's Memories.
- 2) 3) 4) Leisure Activities - in three volumes.
- 5) Rye Childhoods - Blanche Rhodes, Kenneth Clarke, Bob Croucher, and Nicknames.
- 6) Postal History of Rye.
- 7) Memories of My Town - Ladies of the Women's Institute, Eileen Bennett, Theresa Hodgson.
- 8) Recollections of William Cutting, Dolly Beeching, and Ghosts.
- 9) Recollections of Ella Harvey, Raymond Balcomb.
- 10) In Those Days - Donald Southerden, Donald Sanderson and Herbert Wright.
- 11) Schools in the Rye Area.
- 12) Ryers Recall.
- 13) "When I was Young..."
- 14) "Wings Over Rye" - Memories of Clifford Bloomfield.
- 15) Byegone Broad Oak and Brede.
- 16) Transport Around Rye.
- 17) Countryside Ways.
- 18) Byegone Rye Harbour.

- 19) More About Transport Around Rye.
 - 20) Rye Shipping.
 - 21) "Wings Over Rye" - Second fully revised edition of Vol. 14.
 - 22) "Elastic Down" - Rye Bloomers! Recollections of some College Students 1994.
 - 23) Memories of Rye Hospital.
 - 24) Rye in 1893. (in preparation)
- Other future Titles: Rye in World War II, Ghosts, Memories of Iden and Brede Revisited.

Any help will be appreciated

LOCAL HISTORY GROUPS

1986-1987

Michelle Robus
Kay Beeching
Stephen Tollett
Dean Blanshard
Tracy Champion
Denise Cotterell
John Green
James Kemp
Marie Pawson
Sharon Vidler

1987-1988

Michelle Robus
Kay Beeching
Stephen Tollett
Keith Williams
Samantha Jones
Zenz Piggott
Louise Gilchrist
Mark Newnham
James Rosewell
Joseph Taylor
Elizabeth Cox
Joanna Petifer
Emma Ashbee

1988-1989

Mark Newnham
Nigel Hammond
Gregory Coleman
Lorraine Charman
Robert Ramsay
Barnaby Willard
Lisa Carder
Martin Phillips
Lisa Wilson
Lorraine Jury

1989-1990

Nigel Hammond
Gregory Coleman
Jonathon Breeds
James Eldridge
Christopher Apps
Tina Kennard
David Watts
Loaine Charman
Robert Ramsay
Sophie Crofts
Jane Cuthbert
David Standen
Andrew Gainsbury
Christopher Parsons

1990-1991

Lorraine Charman

Robert Ramsay

Gregory Coleman

Jonathon Breeds

Andrew Gainsbury

Phillip Pearce

1991-1992

Andrew Gainsbury
Penny Bell
Sarah Booth
Helen Robus
Donna Ripley
Matthew Collison
Steven Carter
Talya Bagwell
Helena Swaine

1992-1993

Sarah Booth

Daryl Balcombe

Steven Field

Rae Newnham

Mark Smyth
Chris Wheeler
Jo. Weekes

1993-1994

Vicky Beach
Jason Beckingham
Shelley Case
Julie Ennis
David Giles
Lisa Graham
Marie Hodgson
Jackie Lewis
Ian Potter
Hayley Rozier
Michelle Webb

Heidi Booth
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