



news

Issue 17
April 2010

Summer Ball on New Field

In celebration of three anniversaries – page 2

Revival of Vikings Rugby

*Old link with Gogledd Cymru renewed –
pages 4 & 5*

Girls' Sport Thrives

*Four short reports –
pages 6 & 7*

Letter from the President

It is a considerable honour to be President of the Rydal Penrhos Society. This year, we mark the ten-year anniversary of Rydal Penrhos School and the Rydal Penrhos Society. It is also the 125th anniversary of the founding of Rydal School and the 130th anniversary of Penrhos College's foundation. We have much to celebrate and many events have been planned. We will try to keep you all up to date through this newsletter and the School's website (www.rydal-penrhos.com and click the RP Society tab).

Following last year's President, Mike Silcock, will be a difficult task as Mike's efforts and hard work have raised the Presidential 'bar' to a considerable height. I must take this opportunity of thanking Mike for his hard work and continued support of the Society. However, with the help, knowledge and skills of our recently appointed Society secretaries, Heidi York and Guy Watson, I shall endeavour to do

Letter from the Joint Secretaries

On 11 September 2009, 38 people attended the Chester Dinner at Delamere, following the playing of the Pochin golf cup. It was a most enjoyable occasion and fine speeches were heard by the Headmaster, Patrick Lee-Browne, the President, Mike Silcock, and John Millington. In mid-November over 50 attended the North Wales Dinner at the Royal Oak Hotel in Betws-y-Coed. After the meal, speeches were given by Patrick Lee-Browne, the Head Boy, Head Girl and Philip Reid, and Raymond Pye enchanted us with some wonderful singing. It was a memorable occasion.

This year marks three notable anniversaries: ten years since the formation of Rydal Penrhos School and 125 and 130 years respectively since the foundation of Rydal School and Penrhos College. Last September, during the Founder's Day weekend, the Society held a successful party at the St. George's Hotel, Llandudno. Following this, the main event celebrating the anniversaries will be a Summer Ball to be held on New Field on Saturday 22 May, jointly hosted by the School and the Society. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend the celebrations and in particular, support our President Neil Richards on this special occasion.

my best for the Society this year.

The Society is in fine fettle and has an impressive membership, but the success of any society rests on the ability of the society to communicate with its members. With this in mind, Heidi and Guy are updating the contact details for all our members. Please can I ask you all to contact Heidi or Guy with any up-to-date address and contact information for any friends whom you know might have lost contact with us.

The RP Society deserves and needs the support of its members more than ever in this celebration year. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at this year's events as well as renewing old friendships along the way.

My thanks to everyone involved with the Society for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Neil Richards

We are currently updating the Society's data base of former pupils. This is proving to be time-consuming but we are in no doubt the end result will be worthwhile.

On the School website (www.rydal-penrhos.com), we now have more information and photographs relating to the Society, including a calendar.

The revival of the Rydal Vikings and the strengthening of its link with Gogledd Cymru (formerly North Wales Rugby Club) has been an excellent development and received strong support from the School and Society. The Society is most grateful for the donations, large and small, which it has received from past and present Vikings towards the cost of new Vikings shirts and the Bleddyn Williams Cup.

We look forward to meeting you at future events. If you are in the area, please feel free to call us or just pop in. We are always delighted to see you.

We are very grateful to all who contribute to this newsletter; do please keep sending us your news. In order to help us avoid errors please give us dates at school. Details are especially important for births, deaths and marriages.

Heidi York and Guy Watson

Calendar ~ 2010

Anniversary Celebrations

Saturday 22 May

Informal Gathering with Coffee

10.00 am Ferguson Centre

Heritage Trail Experience Tour

10.15 am from Ferguson Centre

Cricket, Dolphins v 1st XI

11.00 am New Field

Anniversary Summer Ball

7.30 pm New Field

(Contact Richards Room 01492 539736)

Thanksgiving Service for PN McLaren

Sunday 23 May, 11.00 am Memorial Hall

Family Fun Day

Sunday 23 May, 2.00-5.00 pm New Field

Preparatory School Speech Day

Friday 28 May, 2.00 pm New Field

Chief Guests PF Watkinson &

NW Thorne

(Contact Headmaster's PA 01492 530381)

Anniversary Golf Match

Friday 28 May, 4.45 pm

For former pupils, current pupils, staff and parents

(Contact Guy Watson 01492 539736)

Senior School Speech Day

Saturday 29 May, 10.00 am New Field

Chief Guest Duncan Kenworthy OBE (OR)

(Contact Headmaster's PA 01492 530155)

Founder's Weekend

Saturday 18 September, 1.00 pm,
at School

(Contact Richards Room 01492 539736)

Chester Dinner

Friday 1 October, 7.00 for 7.30 pm

Delamere Forest GC

(Contact Ian Morris 01244 328301)

North Wales Dinner

and RP Society AGM

Friday 19 November, AGM 6.30 pm,
Dinner 7.30 pm

Royal Oak Hotel, Betws-y-Coed

(Contact Alison Hughes 01690 710363)

Dolphins' Cricket Week

Mon 28 June to Fri 2 July

(Contact Rhys Williams 01492 860787)

R P Society Golf

Silcock Salver

Thur 15 & Fri 16 April, Maesdu &
Conwy

Grafton Morrish

Sat 8 May, Olton Golf Club, Solihull

Marsden Trophy

Tues 11 May, Brocton Hall GC Stafford

Pochin Cup

Fri 1 October, Delamere Forest GC

Welsh Public Schools Golf

Fri 8 October, Castle Combe near Bath
(Golf contact Guy Watson 01492 532230)

Headmaster's Report

In my role as Head of Rydal Penrhos School, I find myself looking backwards as well as forwards, with a responsibility to maintain the School's human and physical heritage and use it to attract the next generations of pupils to the School. It's a cliché, but the best kind of heritage is not preserved like a fly in amber, but is an evolving one, passed on (in a school) from one generation to the next, and kept vital with regular injections of contemporary practice and modern methods.

We are celebrating this year the 130th anniversary of the founding of Penrhos in 1880 and the 125th anniversary of the founding of Rydal in 1885, a salutary reminder of the presence of the schools in the town, the development of which took off from the mid-1870s onwards. The Rydal site occupies much of the area and many of the significant buildings of the Pwllcrochan Estate, the sale of which kick-started the town's growth. The School therefore has a significant link with the prosperity and the fortunes of Colwyn Bay, and I am confident that it will continue to be a significant member of the community, while remaining abreast of the need to be a modern and forward looking school that can attract pupils locally, regionally, nationally and internationally through the quality of its facilities, buildings and resources, and the ambience of the campus.

The International Baccalaureate continues to attract strong interest from overseas, as well as from UK parents and pupils. We currently have pupils from 20 nationalities, including 13 different European countries, throughout the school, and they constitute around 30% of the overall population of the senior school. We maintain an international dimension through our involvement in the Methodist World Aims Uganda project, the Comenius Project (for which we have been given European funding), a regular language exchange with a school in Bonn, cultural trips to France and

Spain as well as field trips and sports tours. We continue to offer A levels in tandem with the IB, in order to offer the widest choice of curriculum for the Sixth form, with broadly equal take-up for each programme.

Closer to home, we have entered into a partnership with the North Wales rugby team (now known as RGC 1404) to provide accommodation and an administrative base for their senior team in The Grange, on Oak Drive, and the School is an education partner of the new U18 Academy that will start in September 2010 – a number of Academy and RGC U18 players will be joining the Sixth form in this exciting development. We will be hosting the Laser Pico National Sailing Championships in June, which will be the first time that this event has taken place away from the south coast. It may not be the Olympics, but North Wales (and Rydal Penrhos School) will be hosting a national sailing event this summer, hopefully not for the last time.

At Christmas, the governors took the decision to re-name Lyndon Preparatory School, to emphasise the fact that Rydal Penrhos is one school and to allow us to communicate that message to existing and prospective parents as clearly as possible. The Prep School is therefore now Rydal Penrhos Preparatory School, but the name of Lyndon will be preserved by naming the school library in its memory, and we aim to commission a stained glass memorial for the Lyndon Library. Paul Bendall is retiring at the end of this year, after 39 year's service to Rydal School, Rydal Penrhos, Rydal Penrhos Preparatory School and Lyndon Preparatory School. He might legitimately be seen as the still point in a turning world in that respect!

We will mark the end of his career fittingly at the end of the year, and I hope that many former pupils and members of staff will be able to show their appreciation for his contribution over the years. He will be succeeded at the Prep



School by Roger McDuff, currently Head of Hazelwood School in Oxted, Surrey, who will be a worthy successor to Paul.

As the culmination of the 130/125th anniversary celebrations, there will be a Summer Ball and other events in the week leading up to Speech Day on 29 May, at which Duncan Kenworthy will be the guest speaker. I hope that as many ORPs as possible will be able to come and support some, many or all of the events, and that I have the opportunity to meet you then or at some other point in the near future. Former members of the School are always very welcome to come and visit at any time.

Patrick Lee-Browne

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hyork@rydal-penrhos.com

Births

To **Holly Soens (RS 1988–93)** and partner, Stuart Forder, a son Isaac Alan Forder, born 18/06/09.

VIKINGS v GOGLEDD CYMRU

MATCHES RESUME

An historic link with North Wales rugby was revived this season with two successful friendly matches between a newly reborn Rydal Vikings and Gogledd Cymru 1404 (formerly North Wales Rugby Club). Both games were well supported by past and present members of the School and the local rugby-playing community.

The first match took place at New Field on Sunday 20 September 2009. Both teams contained a good number of young players who entertained the large crowd with some exciting running rugby. The final score was Vikings 33 Gogledd Cymru 22. Gogledd scored first after the Vikings' defence took Rhys Williams' pre-match instruction not to kick anything to heart. Instead of a routine clearance, the boys admirably opted for something much more imaginative from their own 22. Unfortunately, a loopy pass from Dave Dudley found the ground rather than Owain Miller and the Vikings found themselves 10-0 down; the Vikings responded by running the ball. Tim Downing made break after break in a Man of the Match performance and was ably supported by Jack Powell, Tom Blackwell, Dudley and Matt Carter. The back row of Christian Widdowson, Aled Zachary and Mark Sorrentino provided excellent



The Rydal Vikings team at Colwyn Bay Rugby Club, 27 December 2009

Top row, from left: Rhys Williams, David Dudley, Nathan Jones, Alex Jones, guest, Alex Fowler, guest, guest, Gareth Holgate, Lewis Maxwell.

Front row, from left: guest, Jonathan Davies, guest, Joshua Leach, Matthew Bennett, guest, Tim Downing, Lawrence Beagley, Gareth Wynn, Chris Booth.

support in attack. Craig Chester and Alex Fowler also put in some admirable physical work. Although Gogledd Cymru pressed hard for the last ten minutes, the Vikings, who had scored five times, held out to win the match.

In the second match, on 27 December 2009 at Colwyn Bay Rugby Club the teams played for the Bleddyn Williams Cup presented by the Rydal Penrhos Society in memory of the legendary player. Gogledd won this second match 29-5, after a hard-fought game in wet and

cold conditions in front of a crowd of over 300. The score was 5-3 after an hour and it was looking as if the Vikings might win. However, Gogledd were then rejuvenated by their first try from Tom Jones and quickly scored three more tries and deservedly won the match. Bleddyn Williams' daughter, Lynne Gamblin, presented the Cup and Mike Silcock, immediate Past President of the Society, gave a thank you address in which he expressed the hope that the match would become an annual fixture.



Gogledd Cymru v Rydal Vikings, 27 Dec, 09 at Colwyn Bay Rugby Club



Lynne Gamblin awards the Bleddyn Williams Cup to the Gogledd Cymru captain, Will Bowne

School collaborates with Gogledd

This year has seen a strengthening of the School's old link with North Wales rugby. As from January 2010 a presently unused school house, The Grange in Oak Drive, will be leased to Gogledd Cymru for five years. It will become the headquarters for Gogledd, providing space for meetings, offices and some living accommodation for a small number of players. Gogledd's new home pitch is Parc Eirias where new facilities are being developed for the team. In the meantime Gogledd will be able to use School's gym, sport's hall and astro pitch. Gogledd will be playing against feeder teams for Guinness Championship sides such as Worcester Warriors A team and the Sale Jets. Gareth Holgate, Josh Leach, Jonny Roberts, Gareth Miller and Lewis Maxwell are some of the ORs who have recently played for Gogledd. We hope there will be many more in the future.

Vikings' history

The Rydal Vikings Club was officially formed in 1946. Between 1946 and 1970 the Club's record was played 29, won 21, lost 5, drawn 3. Teams consisted of a mixture of Old Rydalians, staff, members

of the School XV and occasional guest players. The most memorable match was in 1951 when, thanks to Bleddyn William, a Cardiff XV played on New Field and beat the Vikings 13-17. More recently, the Vikings have played a Waterloo XV, Old Ellesmerians, the Anti Assassins and a Colwyn Bay XV.



The Rydal Vikings in 1945, featuring in the middle row, fourth from the left, Edgar Bibby DSO (Cheshire, Royal Navy and England), in the middle row, first from left, Jim Parsons (Cambridge University, Leicester, and England) and middle row, furthest right Bleddyn Williams (Royal Air Force, Cardiff, Wales and British Lions). We would be most grateful to hear from anyone who is able to identify all the players in the photo.

RP Society Golf

Marsden Trophy 2008

The Marsden Trophy had to be re-arranged in 2008 because of bad weather and was eventually played on 3 November at Sandiway. We were blessed with a warm, dry autumnal day. Thirteen ORs competed for the Trophy. John Millington played very steadily over his own course and won by one stroke from Steve Garge. John will have his name on the trophy for the third time, the last occasion being in 1971. The leading returns were: John Millington 77-10 = 67, Steve Garge 88-20 = 68, Guy Watson 79-7 = 72, Nick Gray 90-18 = 72, Mike Silcock, President elect, presented the Trophy to John after the meal in the Clubhouse.

Pochin Trophy 2009

The Pochin Cup was played at Delamere Forest Golf Club on the afternoon of Friday 11 September 2009. It was a beautiful warm sunny day and we had a good entry of 22 players. The leading returns were: 1 Guy Watson 36 pts, 2 =

John Hollinshead, 33 pts, 2= Richard Wood 33 pts, 2= John Millington 33 pts, 2= Mike Wood 33 pts. The trophy was presented to the winner by the President, Mike Silcock, at the Chester Dinner held at the Clubhouse in the evening.

Edward Harris Cup 2009

We played in the Welsh Public Schools tournament at the Rolls of Monmouth Golf Club on Friday 2 October, hosted by Monmouth. The three pairs counting towards our team score were: John Millington and Bob Bruynooghe 41 pts, Richard Watson and Guy Watson 39 pts, David Weller and Dale Bulmer 36 pts. We finished third out of seven schools. The leading schools were: 1 Monmouth, 2 Dean Close, 3 Rydal Penrhos.

Marsden Trophy 2009

This year, the Marsden was moved from its home at Conwy to Sandiway in Cheshire in a bid to attract more players. However, only six ORs played on a warm calm day on 7 October 2009. The leading returns were: 1 Guy Watson 76-7 = 69, 2 David Abraham 83-7 = 76, 3 Richard Watson 83-7 = 76.

Rydal Penrhos to host 2010 Pico Nationals

Rydal Penrhos has been given the honour of hosting the 2010 Laser Pico Nationals on 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July. The Bay of Colwyn Sailing Club will also be offering their support along with our dedicated parents. This is a fantastic opportunity for the School, its sailors and the town. Colwyn Bay has not hosted a national sailing event since 1982. We are hoping to have at least 70 boats on the water over the weekend competing for the national title, which will be a great sight. Sailing is an important sport at the School, continuing the Rydal and Penrhos traditions.

If anyone is interested in helping with the event, please contact Miss Rosie Hearn at School, RHearn@rydal-penrhos.com or Mr Peter Weekes, spw202@talktalk.net.

GIRLS' SPORT THRIVES



Zoe Sorrentino

Lydia Parry has already been selected for the 2010 U18 North Wales Hockey Squad and is competing in the trials for the Wales squad, for which she won a place in 2009 at U16 level. Lydia was Conwy County Captain in 2009, and Captain of Rydal Penrhos U14 team who were Welsh National Champions.

Tennis

Girls' tennis continues to develop in strength and depth. The senior team performed well in last year's Aberdare Cup, beating Queen's School, Chester, in the first round and drawing against The Grange, Hartford, in the second. In the local league, the U13 and the U15 teams won both the Conwy and the Eryri competitions and went on to the North East Wales draw. In the North Wales Schools' Championships, Nadine Furtner and Caroline Froesher came second in the U18 event and Emily Harrison and Charlie Holmes, Emily Carr and



Ellie Scarf

Contrary to national statistics Rydal Penrhos girls have consistently proved that sport is as much for girls as it is for boys. Both genders make good use of the sporting opportunities available to them at both the Prep School and the Senior School, with many individuals showing impressive levels of commitment and achievement.

Hockey

In the past six years Rydal Penrhos girls' hockey teams have won the Welsh National Championships at U14, U16 and U18 levels. In 2009, the U18s lost in the final of the National Championship against Gorseinon; it was a close game with the result decided by penalty strokes. This was the fourth time in five years that the U18 team had reached the final of the Welsh National School Championships.

Natalia Holgate, Sarah Wright and Jodhi Meade came in the top four placings in the U14s.

In March 2010, Ellie Scarf was invited to train with the Lawn Tennis Association. Ellie is currently ranked No 1 in North Wales and No 12 in Wales at U12 level. Ellie, who is a keen swimmer, hockey and netball player, performs in ballet and tap as well. She is in her last year at the Prep School and has just won a Sports Scholarship to the Senior School.

Netball

Last season, the first team lost only two out of eight games played, with shooters Fiona Moss, Nyree Waters and Tara Waters scoring a total of three hundred and eight goals. Nyree and Tara Waters were selected to represent Eryri in the Welsh inter county competition. The U13 and U15 teams had successful seasons and both finished third in their age group in the Conwy Tournament.



Anna Stevenson and Catherine Davies



Olivia Ward

Skiing

The girls' ski team has enjoyed recent success. In the North Wales school races held in September, the girls won their team title, with Sophie Elliott winning a gold medal, Fiona Jamison a silver and Catherine Davies a bronze. Fiona Jamison went on to win a gold medal at the Welsh Schools Championship and the girl's title at the North Wales races. In the British Schools Championships in Edinburgh, Fiona finished 24 out of 103 girls.

Ella and Olivia Ward, daughters of Sara Evans Ward (OP), won third place and fifth place respectively at the British Inter-Schools Skiing Championships in Les Houches France in March 2010. Their success was a key contribution to a fantastic 8th place (out of 140 schools) for the Rydal Penrhos Team.

D R A M A

Drama at Rydal Penrhos continues to thrive. Apart from the extra-curricular opportunities that are available to pupils, the subject is taught throughout the School and especially at GCSE, AS and A Level. A number of students pursue further training in Drama and Theatre, especially at university level.

The Drama Department has the use of the Rick Maple Drama Studio, the former Gym, which is now a fully equipped drama space with a lighting rig, sound system and control room. It was converted into its new use by the late Rick Maple, during his holidays - one of the last major projects he undertook, before his untimely passing. In appreciation of his dedicated work in support of the plays and his contribution to the conversion of the space, the studio is fittingly named after him as a lasting tribute.

The Rick Maple Drama Studio provides a large space for Drama lessons, rehearsals and workshop performances. It can be configured for promenade, end-on, traverse and in-the-round presentations. With the advent of GCSE and A Level Drama, students have to explore and present devised work and scripted performances as part of their final assessments. It is here that the Rick Maple Drama Studio has a unique place in the life of the School, providing an ideal space for GCSE and A Level Drama students to showcase their work.

For many years, the House Drama Competition was a way of encouraging pupils to get involved in theatre in a variety of capacities – acting, directing,



Helen Farquharson as the Artful Dodger

backstage, not to mention prompting, an important job in a house play! With the reorganisation of the School into four day houses, the competition waned, but this year it has been successfully reintroduced, based on the boarding houses. The Adjudicator was Mossie Smith, a professional actress who, prior to the competition in November, was touring with Max Stafford-Clark's, *Out of Joint* theatre group. Mossie has maintained close links with the School over many years; she is the sister of the late Director of Music, Robert Smith. The Price Cup for the winning house was awarded to Hathaway's version of the 'Don't tell him, Pike' episode from *Dad's Army*; Harris Ajmal of Beecholme won the Gauge Cup for the Outstanding Theatrical Achievement in Alan Ayckbourn's *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* and Rosalind Hunter of Ashcroft won a new award, the



Will Lunt as Bill Sykes

Adjudicator's Cup, for her energetic and pivotal performance as Marian in *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men*.

The Drama Department continues to present an eclectic mix of plays, such as John Godber's *Bouncers*, Ionesco's *The Lesson*, Martin McDonagh's *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and a double bill of Max Frisch's *The Fire Raisers* and Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy*. In conjunction with the Music Department, musicals continue to be popular with audiences and casts alike. Currently, we are rehearsing Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* but with a 'twist'. Instead of the top hats and long dresses of the film and the traditional West End show, *Oliver!* has been updated to the outbreak of the Second World War, where spivs and evacuees rub shoulders with the criminal underworld.

Denis Lavin

Lani Harker as Nancy



MUSIC



Amy Lord



Jamie Chan Price and Elizabeth Richards



Jack Bowley

Life is busy for both pupils and staff in the Music Department. In the Spring of 2009 the Senior Choir gave a fine performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* at St John's Church, expertly assisted by Ensemble Cymru and Amici del Canto. Later on in June, a wide variety of musical performances combined to provide a lively and entertaining summer concert to mark the end of the school year. It was particularly pleasing that performers in this concert were from all age groups in the school community.

In October 2009, during Half Term, the Jazz Band journeyed to Dublin for an energetic four days of playing and shopping. It was all in the rain of course but a great time was enjoyed by everyone. The Autumn term ended with its usual packed series of concerts, which comprised a record of six separate performances from pupils and staff towards the end of term. Starting with a lunchtime concert on 4 December, the likes of Emily Harrison, Elliott Dorricott Juniper, Georgina Kenward and the Senior Ensemble performed with style and panache to pupils and staff. The Music Concert on 9 December featured the usual suspects, with the Orchestra, Gospel Choir, Steel Band, Rock Band, Senior Choir, Senior Ensemble, Close Harmony Group and Jazz Band all playing well, and in a variety of styles to keep a large audience very well entertained. Special mentions should go to the Harp Duet by

Miss Hearn and Jenny Southern, the impressive performance by the Prep School choir, conducted by Mr Williams, and the Gospel Choir's rendition of *You Raise Me Up*. Other high points included the Rydal Penrhos Ukelele Orchestra (since renamed Anarchy in the Ukelele with a more or less chaotic (but entertaining) performance of *I'm a Believer* by Mr Ratcliffe.

On the following Saturday a special concert was given by Rydal Penrhos pupils in St Mary's Church, Trefriw, to help with fundraising for the new church organ. The Jazz Band and Senior Choir helped to raise an impressive £280 on the night, and my thanks to all who took part, especially Mr Pailthorpe, who sang an excellent Blues.

The fourth concert of the term was the following Monday in Trinity Church, Llandudno, where the Senior Choir contributed three carols in the CRUSE bereavement charity concert. The fifth and sixth performances of the term were the carol services where the Senior Choir sang five carols, one of which, *A Babe is Born*, had been composed specially for the occasion. All this has been in addition to regular commitments such as the Chapel Band who play the hymns, and the weekly performances from pupils during morning services. My thanks for all your hard work!

Chris Ward



Sion Elliott

OBITUARIES

In order to have as many as possible, we need to restrict the length of our obituaries, which are generally edited versions of much longer tributes given at funeral services. Members who wish to read the full version of a particular obituary should contact Heidi York, preferably by email.

Mark Andrews



Mark Andrews became Headmaster of Rydal Preparatory School in September 1994 and during the following five years was at the helm as the School went through the most dramatic changes in its history. He had only a short time to take up his position and settle into Erskine Lodge with Diana when the Governors started discussions that would lead in September 1995 to the joining of Rydal School with Penrhos College to create Rydal Penrhos School.

For Mark, this meant managing the merger of Rydal Prep with Penrhos College Junior School in Pwllcrochan together with the installation of a pre-prep department and the implementation of the change in the age of transfer from prep to senior schools at 11 instead of 13.

So the school Mark had come to suddenly merged with another, lost its top two years and gained a pre-prep department. The pupils would transfer at 11 to either the Co-educational or the Girls' Division and Mark could not be seen to favour one or the other for the girls. He rose magnificently to the challenges all this presented, carrying out the huge quantity of work involved with sensitivity, skill and integrity. Through all the turmoil of new contracts, fee structures and timetables he never lost his sense of humour.

Rydal Penrhos was very grateful to him and to Diana who helped him through it all, especially with the new school uniform.

We remember Mark's dedication to the interests of all the children and the charisma he brought to the position. He was a gifted teacher who loved language and drama and who orchestrated many Prep School productions with great skill, often writing some of the scripts himself. The production of *Jaberwocky* was perhaps the most outstanding.

When the Governors appointed a Principal for Rydal Penrhos, Mark became one of the Deputy Principals. At that time, Diana had to return to London because of family illness and Mark, after a period of commuting at weekends, followed in July 1999. We greatly missed his steady hand during a time of so much change but remain grateful for all he achieved at Rydal Penrhos.

At the time of his death, Mark was living in Rustington, West Sussex, where he had moved with Diana, Kate and Charlie, in 2007.

Jim Barry

Albert Stamp

Dr Albert Stamp MA, PhD, FRSA, FSA died October 2009 in Llandudno Hospital following a brief illness. A memorial service, conducted by the Reverend David Jacks was held at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos Parish Church on 11 November 2009. The service was attended by his many friends, neighbours and former pupils.

Albert was a man of the highest integrity, an inspirational teacher, historian and author of many books including the definitive history of Penrhyn Bay. Eulogies were given by lifelong friends Mrs H Hassan and Mrs K Johansson who spoke with affection of his many qualities and how he had enriched the lives of all those who had had the privilege of knowing him. They spoke of his kindness, generosity, sense of humour, his kindness and loyalty and his willingness at all times to encourage his pupils to succeed in their endeavours. Albert was highly respected and held in high regard by all who knew him.

Dave Allmark

As a consequence of a short and unexpected illness at the beginning of 2009, Dave passed away peacefully at home in May 2009.

In the Autumn and Spring terms throughout his time at Rydal, Dave enjoyed

his rugby: he was a redoubtable prop. In the Summer terms he showed prowess in both the athletics and sailing teams.

After Rydal, Dave joined Woodleys, the family butchers' business, before working successfully in the furniture industry. He lived in Pontypridd, Glamorgan. Dave was a most generous, likeable and honest Rydalian. He is survived by his wife Kim, daughter Emelye, son Matthew and grandson Dylan.

Keith Knowles MBE

After Rydal, Keith went to Cambridge, where he read medicine at St. John's College, where his father had also had been, and then qualified at the Middlesex. Typically, he decided to sit and pass two sets of medical examinations so that he would be able to practise in Canada.

He then did a short commission with the RAF where he took part in flying missions with the USAF during the Cold War to identify frequency of Russian radar emissions. His role was to measure the effect of stress on the pilots. He also worked on the early Meteors' ejector seats.

In 1955, after leaving the RAF with the rank of Squadron Leader he became a general practitioner in Norwich. Later, he started a solo practice in Larkman Lane Norwich and became the University of East Anglia's medical officer at Snetterton in the days when you could walk about the paddock and pits and mingle with the likes of Jim Clark, Jack Brabham and Jochen Rindt.

As the university expanded, he joined Geoff Clayton and Sheila Jackson who later opened a new surgery at Bowthorpe, in 1977, to serve both staff and students. In his 31 year career as a GP, he was also Remploy's factory doctor and a great supporter of efforts to employ disabled people. It was for his work here, with the deaf, which resulted in father being awarded the MBE.

His life-long passion for archaeology has left a valuable collection in the Castle Museum, Norwich, which has provided remarkable insight into the Roman era. He spent 25 years excavating the Roman town of Brampton; the entire site has since been scheduled and given protection. His early findings were published in *Britannia* in the 1970s. He was a former president of the Norfolk Archaeological Research Group and the Norwich Med Chi Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquarians.

Steve Knowles (son)

Peter McLaren



Peter McLaren arrived via the Royal Navy, Cambridge and a brief dyspeptic sojourn at Oswestry School. Old Rydalians lucky enough to be at Rydal during his era will retain lasting and many rich memories of him as a pithy teacher of history, as a dedicated team manager, as an unflappable, rigorous senior master, and as a housemaster of penetrating vision and humanity. In short, he knew everything about everybody.

But I knew him in other less familiar contexts. In the wild north eastern corner of Yorkshire I once played solo with his parents and watched him tend his obedient broody hens. Many years later he moved to Harrogate and retired there. He was ever thoroughly undomesticated. Quite the worst cook I have known, he was fortunately one of the best hosts with an intimate knowledge of the tastiest local eating houses.

I holidayed with him in Europe during the currency restrictions of the Wilson government. Like the true Yorkshireman he was, he insisted on buying one of those huge, cheap, inedible Italian watermelons and made it last to the bitter end. I have a photograph of him in straw hat and khaki shorts buying (decent) postcards in Florence.

He came down to Worcestershire to stay with me several times and especially for the Cheltenham New Year race meeting. He was as keen and knowledgeable about horseflesh as I am an innocent. He couldn't quite accept that he lost as much money as I did. On his last visit he could not resist the opportunity to go to the Millennium Stadium to see his beloved Middlesbrough beat – was it? – Blackburn in the Carling Cup Final. It was as well they did – a defeat would have been

worse than the Black Wednesday Disaster.

He was nothing if not forthright in his opinions. He had little time for Tories, political correctness, and any non-Yorkshire cricketers. He loved the theatre, horses, golf, any 'proper' sports. Surprisingly not much of a reader, he had an astute practical awareness of matters social and political. He was a loyal, traditional Anglican.

Mac was to me over many years a treasured friend.

John Darlington

Old Penrhosian Provident Fund

Message from Anne Whitby re OPPF 1 June 1009. We have received all frozen funds from the FSCS. New accounts opened earlier this year in the anticipation of being paid, are with the Charities Aid Foundation Bank.

BRANCH NEWS

Bristol & South West

We had an enjoyable meeting at Stourhead, Wiltshire in May 2009. Our next meeting will be held at Kingston Lacy near Wimborne Dorset at noon, on Thursday 6 May 2010 or arrive earlier if you would like to go round the house first. Please let us know at least a week in advance by telephoning Christine (Gething) Brown on 01202 422848 or our new Secretary Muriel (Crowther) Hackett on 01453 883612.

Yorkshire

We held our annual lunch at The Bridge Inn Hotel, Walshford, near Wetherby, on Friday 20 November. The venue is easily accessible from the A1M so members as far away as Peterborough, Middlesbrough and Oldham joined us and enjoyed a pleasant meal and amusing reminiscences. Those attending were: Sylvia (Morphy) Bennett, Lyn (Middlemas) Smith, Rosemary (Thomas) Cysarz, Nancy (Braddock) Slater, Judy (Scargill) Raby, Diana (Brocklehurst) Wetherill, Rosemary (Hinton) Mann, Angela (Wield) Hudson Peacock, Isabel (Driver) Hughes, Mary (Prytherch) Collard and Helen (Moreland) Faulkner.

DEATHS

Notification has been received of the following deaths since Issue 16 of *Rydal Penrhos Society News* and up to 20 February 2010.

Hon = Honorary Member of Rydal Penrhos Society. ** = detail unknown at time of publication. CR = Member of Common Room.

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>School dates</i>	<i>Death date</i>
(Fox) Ward, Audrey	PC	1926-30	**/**/04
(Fletcher) Hill, Dilys	PC	1926-30	**/07/09
(Fox) Wilson, Kathleen	PC	1928-32	11/11/09
(Brewster) Storey, Hulda	PC	1934-**	11/11/09
(Hammond) Tudor, Esmee	PC	1934-**	05/09/09
(Rogers) Wilkinson, Cynthia	PC	1935-**	30/04/09
Stamp, Dr Albert Horace	RS	1935-40	22/10/09
Knowles, Dr Alan Keith	RS	1935-44	04/02/10
(Hitchings) Hine, Tess Milton	PC	1940-45	29/12/09
(Toft-Smith) Louwerse, Faye	PC	1941-**	19/01/10
(Goodyear) Shaddick, Rena M	PC	1942-47	13/11/09
Bottomley, Dr Walter	RS	1944-48	**/**/02
Winkley, Michael Stuart	RS	1954-58	27/01/10
McLaren, Peter Nigel (Hon) (CR)	RS	1955-89	11/09/09
Smith, Brian Alan	RS	1959-61	13/08/09
Allmark, David Woodley	RS	1965-70	**/05/09
Andrews, Mark John Francis (Hon) (CR)	RS	1994-99	13/06/09

A DAY AT CHATSWORTH WITH THE BBC



Left to right: Jose Jones, Jean Reddaway and Connie Crook

Seventy years disappeared in a flash as we three OPs stood in the Painted Hall remembering our days in the Sixth Form as sixteen year olds, when Penrhos was evacuated to Chatsworth in September 1939. Along with Connie (Llewellyn) Crook and Jean (Brett) Reddaway, I had been invited to take part in a short film about our war-time school life in this beautiful house. We had each been visited at home by the producer and her assistant to confirm that we were 'fit and able', and to lend them any photographs we had, many of which they were able to use in the programme, and here we were, many months later, about to start shooting the film for the BBC's 'The One Show'.

The night before filming we stayed at a local pub courtesy of the BBC, and dined with John Sargent, who was the presenter and director. Filming on the day was fun and exciting but also nerve-racking to start with!

As so often happens when one re-visits childhood haunts, the Main Hall of Chatsworth seemed smaller than we remembered. We recalled daily assembly in the Hall with the tightly packed rows of chairs, the choir always sitting on the stairs, the yearly recital of *Messiah*, and Speech Day with the Duchess of Devonshire as guest of honour.

Our next venue for filming was the Library where we looked at photographs of school activities taken by Mr Hovey – going in a crocodile to church at Edensor on

Sundays, skating on the lake and tobogganing down the Stable Hill in the cold winter. We recalled how freezing cold it was in the dormitories, and of the weekly rota for hair washing and baths, when only a few inches of water was allowed because of wartime regulations; also of the prefects being asked to help with fire-watching duties on the roof, and of going down to the cellars when air raid warnings sounded.

The next subject to be filmed was the lovely painting by EI Halliday showing Connie and Jean with two other girls in one of the State Rooms which had been converted into a dormitory. The picture is now on permanent display at Chatsworth. It is an interesting record of the accommodation that had to be made for the school. We became used to lying in bed surrounded by priceless paintings and now realise how lucky we were to be surrounded by such beauty, although I don't think we fully appreciated it at the time.

After an excellent lunch in the Stable Restaurant with the staff and camera crew, we walked in the gardens and were filmed by the lake. The Emperor Fountain made a stunning picture in the sunshine.

Having said goodbye to John, 'The One Show' staff, and the camera crew, we visited the shop where we bought mementos and were each given a small gift from 'The One Show' as a reminder of our TV appearance.

Jose (Mellon) Jones (PC)
(1934–1941)

THE FOXTROT IS COMING!

Rydal Penrhos will host a new Welsh Fell Race called The Foxtrot on Saturday 7 August 2010. The run will start and finish at the New Field Pavilion on Walshaw Avenue, and take in the Pwlycrochan Woods, the Nant-y-Glyn Valley, and a viewpoint at Llysfyen. The run will be about seven miles with about 1,000 feet of ascent. 95% is off-road, predominantly on woodland tracks, public footpaths and bridleways and is a really good course. Refreshments will be available at the finish followed by presentation of awards. Entry will be £5 on the day, with any profit going to a charitable cause supported by the School. The run is being organised by Richard Watson (OR) through the Welsh Fell Running Association and details will soon appear on their website (www.wfra.me.uk). Anyone interested please contact Richard Watson on: richard.watson@james-fisher.co.uk.

ARCHIVES UPDATE

Rydal Penrhos has deposited much of its film material with the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales in Aberystwyth. The material will be restored; copies will be given to Rydal Penrhos and the general public will have access to it in Aberystwyth. Most of the whole school photographs of both schools are now on display in School and a Rydal Penrhos Archives website is being developed. The School has gratefully received some accessions during the last two years; however, there are still gaps in our archives. Here are some items that are missing: most recent Penrhos uniform; Penrhos Rangers uniform; Rydal OTC and Scout uniforms; the following issues of school magazines: all Penrhos magazines before 1904, 1920 July and December, 1921 March and July, 1922 March and December, 1925 July, 1926 March, 1927 July and December, 1928 March, 1930 July and December, 1941–1946, 1950, 1968, 1970, 1975–1980. If you have any of these items (or anything else relating to the school's history including junior schools) and are happy to donate them to us, we would love to hear from you. Very many thanks to all who have already donated items. *Robert Tickner*