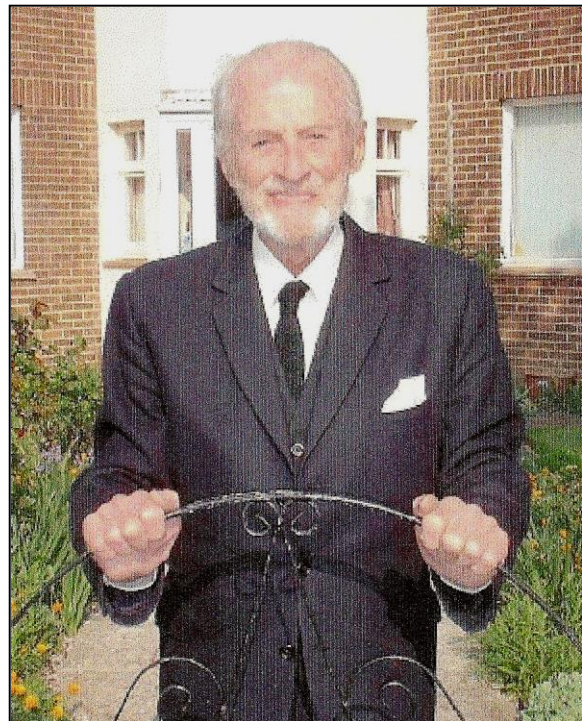


## BRUCE MARSHALL

When Bruce Marshall died in 2008 at the age of 94, he brought to a close a long connection with Birchington and King Ethelbert School. He first came here in April 1938 to join our newly opened Secondary School and was evacuated to Staffordshire with the staff and pupils in 1940. Not long after his arrival there, he was called up into the RAF and trained as a pilot, flying Lancaster bombers. He served throughout the Second World War doing more than his allotted number of sorties. Having survived these he was then sent to Rhodesia to teach flying at a training camp for the rest of the duration.

As soon as he was demobbed, he returned to Phyllis, his wife, in Birchington and lived in 32 Station Approach to begin with. He took up his old job at King Ethelbert School where he continued to teach English and games until his retirement in 1974. By 1954 he and Phyllis had moved to "Beggars Roost", the unusual house on the corner of Kent and Surrey Gardens. Here they brought up their three sons Ian, Peter & Alan. Bruce and Phyllis were to remain here for the rest of their lives.

He took parties of children on school trips to Europe after the war and organised walking tours for them. He was still in touch with some of his ex-pupils up to his death. In their free time - and especially after retiring - travel was the great passion for both Bruce and his wife and they travelled as far as the Khyber Pass in their Volkswagen caravanette. After Phyllis died he went to Australia and Namibia (a favourite haunt) among other destinations. He rode his trusty bicycle around village until just a few months ago. Bruce will be sadly missed among his friends. We shall miss that ready cup of coffee and welcome smile.



The photo on the right shows Bruce at the gate of 'Beggars Roost' in c. 1990