

#### 44 FORMER COUNCILLOR JOHN IZOD

During the period following John's death, RDC removed, for repair, the two benches outside Grammar School Records. It then advised that one (on the right – opposite the junction with Lion Street) was beyond economic repair.

There had been a number of offers from parishioners to sponsor a bench in memory of John, preferably at this location (the bench on the right being John's favourite spot for engaging with passers-by – and eating ice cream!).

With RDC's agreement, RTC accepted an offer from a parishioner - also a regular user of the condemned bench – to sponsor a memorial bench. In order to recover the VAT, RTC purchased a bench and plaque on behalf of the parishioner. However, just before it was delivered, both of RDC's benches 're-appeared' outside Grammar School Records. It appears there was a communication breakdown within RDC and both benches could be repaired after all.

This left RTC with a new bench and plaque. The sponsor decided (with some understandable reluctance) that the new memorial bench could be placed in a new location, alongside the footpath between the Gibbet Marsh Car Park hard standing and the pedestrian railway crossing gate. This bench appears to have been well used since it was installed.

Earlier this year, RDC finally condemned 'the bench on the right' outside Grammar School Records – and has agreed that RTC may provide a replacement bench.

**It is therefore proposed that RTC purchases a suitable hardwood bench for this location; transfers the 'in memory of John Izod' plaque from the Gibbet March bench – and places a new 'provided by Rye Town Council' plaque on the Gibbet Marsh bench.**

*The estimated cost (bench, ground fixings and plaque) is £800.*