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## **Postponement of Annual General Meeting, the Annual Lunch and the visit to Charleston**

Because of the worsening situation arising from the coronavirus pandemic and the expected government recommendations as to social distancing and self-quarantining for those over 70 and with underlying health issues, the Executive Committee of the Society has unanimously taken the decision to postpone the Annual General Meeting that was to be held on 1 May followed by the Annual Lunch at The Mermaid Inn.

Whilst we have only just sent out the newsletter giving details of these events, circumstances have changed so rapidly over the last few days that the Committee believes it has to take this unprecedented action. I hope all members will understand the need to ensure the health and well-being of everyone through this difficult time. The cancellation also applies to the visit to Charleston.

We hope that the postponement will be for only a few months and that we will resume with the AGM in September but this must depend on how the effect of the virus develops and on government recommendations. As the Annual Report serves as the notification of the AGM, we will not be able to publish it at this time, but will use its publication later in the year to communicate the resumption of the Society's public and social activities. It will be circulated so as to give the 21 days' notice of the meeting required by our constitution, which is silent on how to proceed in these unique and unfortunate times.

One of the most important elements of the Annual Report is the publication of the audited accounts and we therefore include these so that members are aware that we continue to look after their Society.

In the meantime the work of the Society in scrutinising planning applications and commenting on issues affecting Rye will continue and our comments will be published on the Society's website. David Bookless had taken charge of the website but, due to his illness, it now needs to be brought up to date, which is underway.

I am glad to report that David is now in Rye Memorial Hospital. Again we offer our thoughts to both him and Heather for a full recovery and to all our members the best of health in the months to come.

*Julian Luckett, Vice Chairman*

